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## Governor blinks, says yes to Gehlot proposal for House from Aug 14

**HAMZAKHAN & LIZ MATHEW**  
JAIPUR, NEW DELHI, JULY 29

FOLLOWING A WEEK of hectic parleys, protests and exchange of letters between Raj Bhavan and the state government in Rajasthan, Governor Kalraj Mishra on Wednesday night finally agreed to call an Assembly session from August 14.

"On the new proposal sent by the state Cabinet, I am summoning the House from August 14, 2020," Mishra told *The Indian Express*. He blamed the delay in calling the session on the state Cabinet, pointing out that it was "not explaining the reasons why they want to convene the regular monsoon session on such a short notice in this period of pandemic and also in the unusual political conditions".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**KALRAJ MISHRA**  
RAJASTHAN GOVERNOR

P7



THE BIRDS HAVE LANDED SAFELY  
RAJNATH SINGH, DEFENCE MINISTER

The five Rafales are escorted by two SU30 MKIs as they enter Indian air space on Wednesday. The aircraft landed at the air base in Ambala a little past 3 pm. @DefenceMinIndia Twitter

## India gets first major fighters in 20 yrs, Rafale jets touch down in Ambala

**MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA**  
AMBALA, JULY 29

THE government hailed "a new era in our military history", as five Rafale jets landed at the air base in Ambala on Wednesday afternoon, marking the first batch of multirole combat

fighter aircraft acquired by the country in over two decades.

Considered one of the most potent combat jets globally, with a proven track record, the two trainer and three single-seat versions of the French fighter aircraft completed their 7,000 km journey from Merignac air base from France shortly after 3 pm.

The five aircraft, with seven pilots, had taken off on Monday and had a day's layover at the Al Dhafra air base in the UAE.

Welcoming the aircraft, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**SQUADRON GAP**  
PAGE 6

## CABINET CLEARS NEW EDUCATION POLICY

# Doors open for foreign univs; 4-yr UG with exit option, flexible Master's

One regulator; more porous science-humanities divide

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

PAVING THE way for foreign universities to set up campuses in India, the new National Education Policy (NEP) states that the world's top 100 universities will be "facilitated" to operate in the country through a new law. The Union Cabinet approved the NEP on Wednesday.

The government's position on foreign universities effectively reverses the BJP's earlier stand on The Foreign Educational Institutions (Regulation of Entry and Operations) Bill, 2010, brought by the UPA-2 government. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### KEY CHANGES

#### SCHOOLS

- Board exams "easier"
- Breakfast to be added to mid-day meals
- "Whenever possible", medium of instruction in mother tongue

#### HIGHER EDUCATION

- Entry of foreign universities
- Four-year Bachelor's
- Higher Education Commission of India to replace UGC, AICTE
- M.Phil to be discontinued

## For schools, 'low stake' Boards, cut in syllabus

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE NEW National Education Policy (NEP), approved by the Union Cabinet on Wednesday, focuses on overhauling the school curriculum, with "reformed" Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain "core essentials" and a thrust on "experiential learning and critical thinking".

"While the Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, the existing system of Board and entrance examinations shall be reformed to eliminate the need for undertaking coaching classes. To reverse these harmful effects of the current assessment system, Board exams will be redesigned to encourage holistic development; students will be able to choose many of the subjects in which they take Board exams, depending on their individualised interests," the policy states.

Speaking at the Cabinet CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## RSS wanted more, Govt walked the tightrope

**SHYAMLAL YADAV & RITIKA CHOPRA**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

were involved through the drafting process. There were meetings between RSS functionaries, education ministers of some BJP-ruled states, representatives of the Government and NEP drafting committee chairman K Kasturirangan.

But the final policy approved by the Union Cabinet Wednesday shows the CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED



Saifuddin Soz, Abdul Qayoom

A Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, Vineet Saran and M R Shah said it would not enter into CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Unlockdown 3: Gyms to open, no night curfew, schools still shut

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE GOVERNMENT Wednesday issued guidelines for phase 3 of its unlockdown, allowing gymnasiums and yoga institutes to restart from August 5 and revoking the night curfew that was in place since May.

However, schools and colleges, Metro rail services, cinema halls, swimming pools, entertainment parks, theatres, bars, auditoriums and assembly halls will continue to remain shut until August 31, according to the new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). "Social/ political/ sports/ entertainment/ academic/ cultural/ religious functions and other large congregations" will also not be allowed, the guidelines state. The restrictions on international air travel and rail services will continue. And, for CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SC dismisses Soz wife's plea as J&K says no detention, he says: not let out today too

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
NEW DELHI, SRINAGAR, JULY 29

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday disposed of a plea by the wife of Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Saifuddin Soz claiming that he had been illegally detained, with the government submitting that he was never detained or put under house arrest.



Saifuddin Soz, Abdul Qayoom

### EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR. AMITABHA GHOSH

NASA Planetary Scientist

#### DESTINATION MARS

Why everyone loves the red planet

EXPLAINED PAGE 13

## TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

**149** DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN  
**CASES: 15,31,669**  
**RECOVERED: 9,88,029**  
**DEATHS: 34,193**  
**TESTS: 1,77,43,740** **DOUBLING RATE: 19.81\*\***



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	3,91,440	7,717	2.60%	27.68
■ Tamil Nadu	2,27,688	6,972	3.36%	21.42
■ Delhi	1,32,275	1,056	0.80%	89.96
■ Andhra	1,10,297	7,948	9.44%	7.63
■ Karnataka	1,07,001	5,536	6.02%	11.96

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>2.41</b>	7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>8.10</b>	DETECTED TODAY: <b>48,513</b>
NOW: <b>2.23</b>	NOW: <b>8.63</b>	RECOVERED TODAY: <b>35,286</b>
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak

Data as on July 28, 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

## IPL in time of Covid: No fans, 4 tests in two weeks for players

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

NO FANS inside the stadium at least in the beginning, commentators to sit six feet apart in studios, less crowded dugouts, not more than 15 players in a dressing room, post-match award presentations to follow social distancing norms — and four Covid tests in two weeks for all players.

These are some of the key norms in the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) prepared by the Indian cricket board to be sent soon to IPL franchise owners for the T20 tournament that is expected to be held in the UAE from September to November.

While the government's approval to move IPL-13 to the UAE is awaited, the Emirates Cricket Board has confirmed its interest in hosting the event after receiving a request from the BCCI.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, a BCCI official said it's not CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

A RED initiative appears in today's edition of *The Indian Express*. The page is an initiative of the marketing solutions team of The Indian Express Group and contains content paid for by advertisers. The page should be read as an advertisement.

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Regular Batch	Weekend Batch
<b>17 July</b> 10 AM	<b>5 Aug</b> 1:30 PM
	<b>21 June</b> 9 AM

**फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन**  
▶ प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

**22 July | 1:30 PM**

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Historic Reforms in the Education Sector making it equitable and inclusive

## HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS

to Hon'ble Prime Minister

# Sh. Narendra Modi Ji

on the launch of

## NEW EDUCATION POLICY - 2020

On behalf of Higher Education Institutions, I thank Hon'ble Union Minister of Education Sh. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' Ji for initiating the path-breaking transformation of Indian education system.

The newly launched policy will not only open doors of education opportunities for all our students but also take Indian education to global standards.

This policy is an initiative to provide leadership to higher education institutes. It will also facilitate an augmented industry aligned & skills oriented curriculum for better job prospects for the youth of the country.

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National Vice President for EPSI & Chancellor, Chandigarh University

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AN ONLINE INITIATIVE IS CELEBRATING EVERYTHING CREOLE IN INDIA

In an attempt to celebrate the remarkable cultural interchanges in creolised cultures, through discussions and performances, Ananya Jahanara Kabir and Ari Gautier have launched an online initiative, 'Le thinnai kreyol'.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



MANDYA MP'S COVID RECOVERY STORY

Sumalatha Ambareesh talks about how she recovered from Covid-19

FULL COVERAGE



RAFALE IN INDIA: THE BIRDS HAVE ARRIVED

India has received its first batch of the fighter aircraft

EXPRESS AUDIO

Why Ashok Gehlot is not talking about a floor test

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we take a look at the political crisis in Rajasthan and examine the role of the governor at the centre of it.

## FROM PAGE ONE

### Cut in syllabus

briefing announcing the new policy, School Education Secretary Anita Karwal said, "Board exams will be low stake. The focus will be on testing concepts and knowledge application."

The document adds "...all students will be allowed to take Board Exams on up to two occasions during any given school year, one main examination and one for improvement, if desired."

The Cabinet also approved changing the name of the Union Human Resource Development Ministry to 'Education Ministry' to bring the "focus back on education and learning".

On medium of instruction in schools, the education policy states, "Wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be the homelanguage/ mothertongue/ local language/ regional language. Thereafter, the home/local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. This will be followed by both public and private schools."

A senior ministry official clarified to *The Indian Express* that mother tongue as medium of instruction was not compulsory for states. "Education is a concurrent subject. Which is why the policy

clearly states that kids will be taught in their mother tongue or regional language 'wherever possible,'" the officer said.

An education policy serves as a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country. It provides a broad direction and while state governments are expected to follow it, it's not mandatory to do so.

The document calls for an emphasis on mathematics and computational thinking, besides "knowledge on ancient India and its contributions to modern India". The policy advocates the introduction of "contemporary subjects such as artificial intelligence, design thinking, holistic health and organic living".

The school curriculum overhaul will come in the shape of a new National Curricular Framework for School Education (or NCFSE 2020-21), which will be undertaken by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

Textbook revisions will be undertaken based on the NCFSE. The NCERT has already undertaken two extensive revisions of school textbooks since 2014.

In a shift from the 1986 education policy, which pushed for a uniform 10+2 structure of school education, the new policy pitches for reconfiguration of curriculum

and pedagogy in a "5+3+3+4" design, with three years of pre-school, followed by Class 1 and 2 in foundational stage of 3-8 years.

Following a protest by political parties, the reference to Hindi and English in the draft NEP regarding the three-language formula has been dropped from the final policy document. "The three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and of the students, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India," it states.

### Foreign univs

A major criticism of allowing foreign universities to operate in India at the time was that they would raise the cost of education through higher tuition fees and poaching of faculty from public universities, and put it out of reach of a large section of the population.

"A legislative framework facilitating such entry (of foreign universities) will be put in place, and such universities will be given special dispensation regarding regulatory, governance, and content norms on par with other autonomous institutions of India," the new policy says.

The NEP cleared by the Cabinet is only the third major revamp of the framework of education in India since independence.

The two earlier education policies were brought in 1968 and 1986.

Besides opening up Indian higher education to foreign players, the new policy marks a significant shift in the format of undergraduate education with the reintroduction of the four-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's programme, with exit options.

While the traditional three-year BA, B.Sc, and B.Voc degrees will continue, under the four-year programme, students can exit after one year with a certificate, after two years with a diploma, and after three years with a Bachelor's degree.

"The 4-year multidisciplinary Bachelor's programme, however, shall be the preferred option since it allows the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education in addition to a focus on the chosen major and minors as per the choices of the student," the policy says.

Higher education institutions will have the flexibility to offer different designs for Master's programmes. Students with a three-year Bachelor's degree can pursue a two-year Master's programme, and for students with a four-year Bachelor's degree with Research, there could be a one-year Master's.

To enroll for a Ph.D, a Master's degree or a 4-year Bachelor's de-

gree with Research shall be required. The M.Phil programme shall be discontinued.

The NEP also paves the way for a single overarching regulator for higher education, which will replace the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council For Technical Education (AICTE). The single regulator, called the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), will have "four independent verticals" to carry out the functions of regulation, funding, accreditation, and setting standards for learning outcomes.

All universities and colleges must aim to become multidisciplinary by 2040. Even engineering institutions, such as IITs, will be expected to move towards more holistic and multidisciplinary education with more arts and humanities. "Students of arts and humanities will aim to learn more science and all will make an effort to incorporate more vocational subjects and soft skills," the document says.

The new policy talks about moving away "from high-stakes examinations towards more continuous and comprehensive evaluation" — this, even as a controversy rages over a direction by the union government to all higher education institutions to hold exams for final year students amidst the Covid-19 pandemic.

The NEP, which will replace the current policy that has been in place for 34 years now, is the product of extensive consultations with stakeholders across the country. Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare said.

"An important point is that there was a wide consultation process," Khare said. "Just to give you an idea, through the MyGov platform we approached all the 2.5 lakh gram panchayats for their suggestions. We got the draft NEP translated into 22 languages, again there was widespread consultation. There was a dialogue with MPs, and there was a special meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) on May 21, 2019."

### RSS

government has walked the political tightrope. Its biggest concession to the Sangh is more symbolic than substantive — renaming the HRD Ministry as the Ministry of Education.

On some of the RSS's key demands, the government has, as of now, kept a distance. Case in point: the new NEP's stand on the three-language formula.

The government dropped the provision that stipulated Hindi as one of the languages that students should study in Grade 6 after protests from political parties, mainly in Tamil Nadu, who saw this as "imposition" of Hindi.

The earlier version of the draft NEP, submitted by the Kasturirangan committee, uploaded on the Ministry's website on May 31 last year, read: "In keeping with the principle of flexibility, students who wish to change one of the three languages they are studying may do so in Grade 6, so long as the study of three languages by students in the Hindi-speaking states would continue to include Hindi and English and one of the modern Indian languages from other parts of India, while the study of languages by students in the non-Hindi-speaking states would include the regional language, Hindi and English."

However, the final policy approved by the Cabinet gives states greater flexibility and says that "no language will be imposed on any State".

"The three languages... will be the choices of States, regions, and of course the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India," the policy says.

The provision allowing foreign universities to set up campuses in India has been introduced despite opposition by RSS

affiliate Swadeshi Jagran Manch.

While the RSS demand on emphasizing "ancient Indian knowledge" has been included in the policy, the document states "these elements will be incorporated in an accurate and scientific manner throughout the school curriculum wherever relevant".

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, RSS affiliates said their demands were accepted and they are happy with the NEP.

Said Balmukund Pande, sangathan mantri of Akhil Bhartiya Ithas Sankalan Yojna: "Whatever suggestions I gave, more than 80 per cent of them have been accepted. I don't want to tell you which of my suggestions were not accepted."

Said Mahendra Kapoor, sangathan mantri of Akhil Bhartiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh: "Many of our suggestions are accepted. Once, the full NEP document is out, only then I will be able to say which of my suggestions are not accepted."

On the dropping of the Hindi reference in the three-language formula, RSS sources said it was done with their consent. The RSS is learned to have agreed, as a compromise, with the provision that teaching up to at least Grade 5 will be in the mother tongue/regional language and that no language will be imposed.

### Unlockdown 3

containment zones, the government has extended the severe curbs in place till August-end.

"In Unlock 3, which will come into effect from August 1, 2020, the process of phased re-opening of activities has been extended further. The new guidelines, issued today, are based on feedback received from States and UTs, and extensive consultations held with related Central Ministries and Departments," the MHA said in a statement.

"Restrictions on movement of individuals during night (Night curfew) have been removed," the statement said. The previous set of guidelines had reduced the curfew period from 9 pm-7 am to 10 pm-5 am.

While allowing gyms and yoga institutes to open, the guidelines state that they will have to adhere to a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that will be issued by the Health Ministry to ensure social distancing.

"After extensive consultation with States and UTs, it has been decided that schools, colleges and coaching institutions will remain closed till Aug 31, 2020," they say.

"International air travel of passengers has been permitted in a limited manner under the Vande Bharat mission. Further opening up will take place in a calibrated manner," the MHA said.

Within containment zones, strict perimeter control will be maintained and only essential activities allowed, the guidelines say.

### Five Rafale jets

Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted that there is no greater "punya (virtue)", "vrat (vow)" or "tapasya (worship)" than protecting the nation. "*Nabh Sparsham Deepam*" (Touch The Sky With Glory)," he added, which is also the motto of the Indian Air Force.

"The Birds have landed safely in Ambala," Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a post on Twitter. In what was seen as a veiled reference to China, Singh added, "If anyone should be worried about this new capability of the Indian Air Force, it should be those who want to threaten our territorial integrity."

The Rafale were escorted by two Sukhoi 30 MKIs after they entered the Indian air space and were given a water salute on landing. They were also greeted by the *INS Kolkata* warship in the Arabian sea. "May you touch the sky with glory," messaged the ship to the Rafale flight formation leader.

The five aircraft will be introduced into the Ambala-based

No. 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows', next month.

India's last major acquisition of fighter planes was 23 years ago, when the Sukhois were imported from Russia. The IAF is down to 31 fighter squadrons against the authorised strength of at least 42.

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhaduria and Air Officer Commanding in Chief Western Air Command Air Marshal B Suresh received the Rafale aircraft as they landed at Ambala. The crew that ferried the aircraft was led by the Commanding Officer of No. 17 Squadron, Group Captain Harkirat Singh.

### Gehlot govt

Earlier in the evening, the state government had yielded to the Governor's direction regarding a 21-day notice for calling an Assembly session, with the state Cabinet sending a fresh proposal to Raj Bhawan asking for an session on August 14.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Kumar Dhariwal told *The Indian Express* the government had chosen August 14 as the new date as it will be 21 days if counted from July 23. "Our first proposal was sent to the Governor on July 23," Dhariwal said.

Raj Bhawan spokesperson Lokesh Chandra Sharma confirmed the Governor has approved the recommendation.

On Wednesday morning, Governor Mishra said the Gehlot government had not given a clear or reasonable answer to queries raised by him, and returned the state Cabinet's recommendation — third in a week — seeking an Assembly session. He stood his ground on the need for giving a 21-day notice for calling the session, else specifying the reason for calling it on urgent notice.

The Governor also said ensuring the "free will" of MLAs being kept at resorts within and outside the state is his responsibility.

Having received the note from Raj Bhawan, Gehlot said, "Today also we have been told that we can call it (only) in 21 days... The love letter has arrived, now I am going to have tea with him (the Governor). *Ke bhai aapne prem patra teesri baar bhej diya, aap chahte kya hair*" (You have sent me a love letter for the third time, what do you want), tell us, we will work in that manner." He was speaking to party leaders and MLAs at a ceremony in the party office where Govind Singh Dotasra formally took charge as state president.

After this, Gehlot went to Raj Bhawan during the day, and later held a cabinet meeting in the evening. Speaker C P Joshi also met the Governor during the day. Sources said that these two meetings with the Governor were crucial in breaking the deadlock.

At the party office around noon, Gehlot had praised his MLAs for sitting at Fairmont for 15 days and not getting lured, saying that "history is being made... be it 21 days or 31, we will win." "The state and the country are asking the Governor, why are you creating a hurdle in calling the Assembly, this is beyond understanding," he said. **WITHENS, DELHI**

### Soz wife's plea

the question any further.

In her plea, Soz's wife Mumtazunnisa had said he had been detained since August 5 last year, when the special status of J&K was abrogated, and the grounds for his arrest had not been furnished till date. She said this amounted to "depriving the detenu of his fundamental right of making effective representation guaranteed" under the Constitution and laws.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over the phone from his house in Srinagar, Soz, 83, said he had tried to leave even on Wednesday. "I am at the gate, I wanted to visit my daughter and I am not being allowed," he said. "They say they haven't received any order (regarding let-

ting him out). When will they receive the order?"

Jammu and Kashmir High Court Bar Association chief Mian Abdul Qayoom, who has also been in detention for almost a year, is, meanwhile, set to walk free on Thursday, with the Union Territory administration assuring the Supreme Court of the same.

Issuing the order in the Qayoom case on Wednesday, the Supreme Court had a word of advice for the people of Kashmir: "So many things happened there, which should not have happened... Hope people look towards the future and stop wandering in the past," the court said.

Appearing for Mumtazunnisa, Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi said though the J&K administration affidavit claims Soz is not illegally detained, this was contrary to facts.

Calling Soz a "categorised protectee", the J&K administration said in its affidavit that Soz "never was under any detention" and that "no restriction whatsoever has been placed on (his) movement".

Disposing of Soz's wife's plea, Justice Shah drew Singhvi's attention to paragraph 10 of the document submitted by the J&K administration. As per the paragraph, "it is submitted that none of the constitutional, fundamental or statutory rights of Prof. Saifuddin Soz have been violated or infringed". It added that the claims "in respect of house arrest/detention of Prof Saifuddin Soz are false, frivolous and baseless as he has not been detained at all, let alone under provisions of Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, as alleged".

The J&K government submitted that as "a categorised protectee", Soz "is provided with round the clock armed guards and Personal Security Officers". "Further, whenever he goes out for his personal, political or official assignments, he travels in Government Bullet Resistant vehicles with other Government vehicles".

On who could visit Soz, the administration said, "There is no restriction on any guests to (the) house, subject to proper checking... by the access control security deployed at his residence."

The affidavit also submitted that Soz had travelled outside J&K "on several occasions", listing three flights — on October 20, December 15, and December 20, 2019 — between Srinagar and New Delhi.

### IPL

just the players on the field, even their wives and girlfriends (WAGs), and franchise owners, will have to follow norms for the "bio-bubble" that will be defined.

"The BCCI will not decide whether WAGs and family members can travel with the players, we have left it to the franchises. But we have put out a protocol in which everyone, even team bus drivers, can't leave the bio-bubble," the official said. "The SOP will be handed over to the franchises once we have a meeting with them next week. If they have any grievances, they can come back to the board and we will discuss it." The SOP also states that each player will undergo four Covid tests in the span of two weeks before the start of the tournament. Two tests will be held in India prior to departure and two during quarantine in the UAE.

The SOP has been prepared on the lines of norms devised by the England and Wales Cricket Board for the Test series against the West Indies.

In the past, players who represent India have joined the IPL teams separately but no such relaxation would be allowed this time. They will have to enter the bio-bubble along with the rest of their squad members.

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New Delhi





0-50 Good

ANAND VIHAR

Satisfactory



51-100 Satisfactory

SIRIFORT

Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate

SHADIPUR

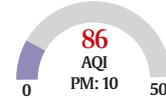
Moderate



201-300 Poor

DWARKA-SECTOR 8

Satisfactory



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

## 4.78 LAKH RAPID TESTS BETWEEN JUNE 18-JULY 29

## Comply with protocol on antigen tests: CM

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

ASKING FOR "strict compliance", Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said symptomatic people who test negative during a rapid antigen test (RAT) must be retested using RT-PCR. This came after he held a meeting with health department officials on Wednesday morning.

"Existing guidelines say that if any patient's antigen test is negative but has symptoms, RT-PCR test must be done on him. I directed officers today to ensure strict compliance of these guidelines," he tweeted.

As per Delhi Health department data, between June 18 and July 29, 4.78 lakh rapid antigen tests were carried out. Of these, over 3.9 lakh were conducted from July 1-July 29. The number of RT-PCR tests conducted in this period were 1.8 lakh, less than half of rapid antigen tests.

Till July 23, 2,818 people (showing symptoms) were re-tested through RT-PCR method, of which 404 tested positive.

Rapid antigen tests, which provide results within 30 minutes, started in Delhi on June 18. While the sensitivity of RT-PCR tests is 70%, that of antigen tests is 40%. This is why ICMR advises governments to make symptomatic patients undergoing RAT and testing negative to get retested through RT-PCR.

While sensitivity of antigen tests is lesser, they are helpful in expanding testing at a faster rate, especially in containment zones, health centres and among special surveillance groups prone to getting infected.

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL				
TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS	Total	Vacant	
1,33,310	16,038	16,038	13,080	
VENTILATORS	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Daily cases				
July 28	1,056	1,135	28	18,544
July 29	1,035	1,126	26	17,392
Total	10,770*	1,18,633	3,907	9,94,219

\*Total active cases



Sensitivity of RT-PCR tests is 70%, that of antigen tests is 40%. Abhinav Saha

on specificity and low on sensitivity, and can give false negatives. If a person has symptoms and tests negative by rapid antigen test, then he/she should be tested by RT-PCR. This is based on the fact that sensitivity of RT-PCR is higher than that of rapid test. Sensitivity is the probability that a person with disease tests positive. What we do not know yet is how infectious is a person who is rapid test negative and RT-PCR positive. Research on this would be useful for refining testing strategies."

At rapid test centres, those who test negative are handed out small slips of paper, bearing the words "this is to certify that Mr/Ms NAME has not tested positive in the Rapid Diagnostic Test for Covid 19... if you are symptomatic, then you must continue to isolate yourself and get an RT-PCR test done as this test does not rule out Covid-19 infection" in English.

On Wednesday, the city saw 1,035 new cases and 26 deaths. The total case load is now 1,33,310 and the death toll stands at 3,907.

## Smog tower project: SC warns IIT-Bombay of contempt

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday warned of contempt action against IIT-Bombay after it backed out of the proposed smog tower pilot project in the capital.

"How can they back out from a government project? We will draw contempt against them. What is this nonsense?" a bench of Justice Arun Mishra, Justice Vineet Saran and Justice MR Shah remarked after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed it about IIT's withdrawal.

"It was stated by the learned Solicitor General that they have been unable to enter into any agreement with IIT-B. IIT has now backed out. These are dilly-dallying tactics; a violation of the order passed by this court has already been committed... by IIT," the court said in its order.

The *Indian Express* had reported on July 29 that the timeline for setting up two smog towers in Delhi -- at Anand Vihar and



The Indian Express report dated July 29

Connaught Place -- will have to be revised as IIT-Bombay, which was heading the pilot project, has "backed out". Coming down heavily on the institute, the bench said, "We have to proceed against IIT-B as well as against persons concerned for violating this court's order and backing out from the basis of the order..."

The court's reference was to its January 13 direction to set up smog towers in the capital to combat increasing air pollution. "It is not expected of such in-

stitutions to act in the manner projected in a matter relating to public interest. It is shocking that such conduct is projected by such a public functionary," it said.

Stating that it is "not at all happy with the state of affairs", the court directed that its order "be complied with forthwith, otherwise it would be taken seriously". The bench asked Mehta to call the official concerned from IIT-B to explain its conduct. The SG sought a day's time, following which the court posted the matter for Thursday.

Mehta also told the bench that authorities are in talks with IIT-Delhi and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) for the project. Meanwhile, the Union Environment Ministry and Central Pollution Control Board told the court in an affidavit that they had convened a meeting on July 27 with IIT-Delhi, NEERI and NBCC Ltd and they "have agreed to take up the project". It said the further discussions were needed on available designs.

## North body sends notice to Atishi, Chadha over 'corruption' attack

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

NORTH MCD'S leader of the House Yogesh Kumar Verma served a legal notice to AAP MLAs Atishi and Raghav Chadha over their allegations that the civic body has been unable to pay salaries to healthcare workers at its hospitals because of "corruption". Both shot back at a press conference, saying they will not be silenced.

Verma threatened civil and criminal defamation proceedings against the two leaders, saying they are liable to pay Rs 1 crore if they do not issue unconditional apologies in a week. Verma, in the legal notice, claimed the MCD's earnings from property tax during the last quarter of 2019-20 reduced by over 53% compared to the corresponding quarter in 2018-19. In the notice, Verma conceded the civic body is not left with sufficient funds to pay salaries to "some doctors and



Atishi, Chadha at the press conference, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

health workers" due to the drop in income between January and June 2020 and Delhi government "withholding" its dues to the MCD. He said the statements by Atishi and Chadha contain "reckless imputations likely to affect" his reputation.

Atishi told *The Indian Express*: "He himself conceded the MCD could not pay doctors and healthcare workers. The Delhi government, in an affidavit in the HC, said it has cleared all dues; we are not saying this. Where has the money gone? Secondly, against

how many people will they file defamation notices? CAG has pointed out irregularities, a former North MCD commissioner has said so. Every citizen of Delhi holds the MCD as corrupt."

Chadha said the BJP should try and find a single person who believes the civic bodies are not dens of corruption. "BJP leaders Manoj Tiwari and Vijay Goel have also called MCD corrupt in the past. Will he (Kumar) file defamation suits against them as well? We will hit the streets and go to the people against this notice."



## TATA STEEL LIMITED

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

NOTICE OF THE 113<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, E-VOTING AND BOOK CLOSURE

NOTICE is hereby given that the 113<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Members of Tata Steel Limited (the "Company") will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. (IST) via two-way Video Conferencing ("VC facility")/Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") ONLY to transact the businesses as set out in the Notice of the AGM.

In accordance with the General Circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020 and May 5, 2020 (collectively called "MCA Circulars") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India Circular dated May 12, 2020 ("SEBI Circular"), the Company has sent the Notice of the 113<sup>th</sup> AGM along with the link for the 5<sup>th</sup> Integrated Report & 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Accounts of the Company for the Financial Year 2019-20 (the "Integrated Report") on Wednesday, July 29, 2020, through electronic mode only, to those Members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Registrars and Transfer Agent ("RTA"), TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited ("TSR")/Depositories. **The requirement of sending physical copies of the Integrated Report has been dispensed with vide MCA Circulars and SEBI Circular.**

The e-copy of the Notice of the AGM along with the Integrated Report of the Company is available on the website of the Company at <https://www.tatasteel.com/media/12381/tata-steel-ir.pdf> and may also be accessed from the relevant section of the websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively. The AGM Notice is also available on the website of National Securities Depositories Limited ("NSDL") at [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com).

## Remote E-Voting:

In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Act") read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, and the Secretarial Standard on General Meetings ("SS-2") issued by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, each as amended from time to time, the Company is providing to its Members, the facility of remote e-voting before the AGM and during the AGM in respect of the businesses to be transacted at the AGM and for this purpose, the Company has appointed NSDL to facilitate voting through electronic means.

The detailed instruction for remote e-voting are given in the Notice of AGM. Members are requested to note the following:

- a. The remote e-voting facility would be available during the following period:

Commencement of remote e-voting	From 9:00 a.m. (IST) on Sunday, August 16, 2020
End of remote e-voting	At 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, August 19, 2020

The remote e-voting module will be disabled by NSDL thereafter and Members will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time;

- b. The voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to their share of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on **Thursday, August 13, 2020 ('Cut-Off Date')**. The facility of remote e-voting shall also be made available during the Meeting and the Members attending the Meeting, who have not already cast their vote by remote e-voting shall be able to exercise their right during the Meeting. A person whose name is recorded in the Register of Members / Register of Beneficial Owners as on the Cut-Off Date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting before / during the AGM.
- c. Any person who acquires shares and becomes a Member of the Company after the dispatch of the Notice of AGM and holds shares as of the cut-off date i.e. Thursday, August 13, 2020, may obtain the login ID and password for remote e-voting by sending a request to NSDL at [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in) or may contact the toll-free number provided by NSDL: 1800-222-990. A person who is not a Member as on the cut-off date should treat the Notice of the AGM for information purpose only.
- d. The Members who have already cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM will have right to participate at the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their votes again on such resolution(s) for which the Member has already cast the vote through remote e-voting prior to the AGM.
- e. Members who need assistance before or during the AGM can contact NSDL on [evoting@nsdl.co.in](mailto:evoting@nsdl.co.in)/1800-222-990 or contact Mr. Amit Vishal, Senior Manager – NSDL at [amitv@nsdl.co.in](mailto:amitv@nsdl.co.in)/022-24994360 or Mr. Sanjeev Yadav, Assistant Manager-NSDL at [sanjeevy@nsdl.co.in](mailto:sanjeevy@nsdl.co.in)/022-24994553.

As per the SEBI Circular, no physical copies of the Notice of the AGM and Integrated Report will be sent to Members. Members who have not registered their e-mail addresses are requested to follow the process mentioned below before 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Thursday, August 13, 2020, for registering their e-mail addresses to receive the Notice of AGM and Integrated Report electronically and to receive login ID and password for e-Voting:

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

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

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

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

## Updation of Bank account details:

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

Physical Holding	Send hard copies of the following details/documents to the Company's RTA, viz. TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited ("TSR"), (formerly TSR Darashaw Limited) at 6-10, Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate (Near Famous Studio), 20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011, latest by Friday, July 31, 2020: a. a signed request letter mentioning your name, folio number(s), complete address and following details relating to Bank Account in which the dividend is to be received: i) Name and Branch of Bank and Bank Account type; ii) Bank Account Number & Type allotted by your Bank after implementation of Core Banking Solutions; iii) 11 digit IFSC Code; b. Cancelled cheque in original bearing the name of the Member or first holder, in case shares are held jointly; c. self-attested copy of the PAN Card; and d. self-attested copy of any document (such as Aadhaar Card, Driving Licence, Election Identity Card, Passport) in support of the address of the Member as registered with the Company
Demat Holding	Members holding shares in demat form are requested to update their Electronic Bank Mandate with their respective DPs.

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

Mr. P. N. Parikh (FCS: 327) or failing him, Ms. Jigyasa Ved (Membership No. FCS 6488) and failing her, Mr. Mitesh Dhaliwala (Membership No. FCS 8331) of M/s Parikh & Associates, Practising Company Secretaries, have been appointed as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the remote e-voting process before and during the AGM in a fair and transparent manner.

The results of the remote e-voting before and during the AGM shall be declared not later than 48 hours from the conclusion of the AGM. The results declared along with Scrutinizer's Report will be placed on the Company's website [www.tatasteel.com](http://www.tatasteel.com) and on website of NSDL [www.evoting.nsdl.com](http://www.evoting.nsdl.com) and website of Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com) respectively.

## Book Closure and Dividend:

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN pursuant to Section 91 of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder, as amended from time to time, that the Register of Members and the Share Transfer Books of the Company (for both, fully paid-up and partly paid-up Ordinary Shares) will be closed from Saturday, August 8, 2020 to Thursday, August 20, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of payment of dividend for Financial Year 2019-20. The dividend of ₹10/- per fully paid-up Ordinary (equity) Share of ₹10/- each (100%) and ₹2.504 per partly paid-up Ordinary (equity) Share of ₹10/- each (paid-up ₹2.504 per share) (100%), if declared by the Members at the AGM, will be paid subject to deduction of income-tax at source ("TDS") on and from Monday, August 24, 2020 as under:

- In respect of Ordinary Shares held in physical form:**  
To all the Members, after giving effect to valid transmission and transposition in respect of valid requests lodged with the Company as on close of business hours on Friday, August 7, 2020.
- In respect of Ordinary Shares held in electronic form:**  
To all beneficial owners of the shares, as on the close of business hours on Friday, August 7, 2020, as per details furnished by the Depositories for this purpose.

Members are requested to immediately notify any change in their address and/or Bank Mandate details to their respective DPs for shares held in demat form and to the Company's RTA- TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited for shares held in physical form at the following address:

TSR Darashaw Consultants Private Limited  
Unit: Tata Steel Limited  
6-10, Haji Moosa Patrawala Industrial Estate (Near Famous Studio), 20, Dr. E. Moses Road, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai 400 011

July 29, 2020  
Mumbai

TATA STEEL

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



# 4 THE CITY

UNABLE TO AFFORD FEES, MANY LOOK TO GOVT SCHOOLS FOR ADMISSION

## Jobs shrink, some parents consider moving kids out of private schools

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

FOR KASHMIRA'S family, educating their daughter Rukhsana in an English-medium private school was an aspiration they had achieved by pulling together their income from scrap collection. But reeling under financial duress, they — like many families across Delhi — are now looking to switch to a government school.

Unable to pay fees for months because of shrinking incomes, lost jobs and reduced work, many working class and lower middle-class families across the city who had enrolled their children in low-cost private schools are discovering that paying for schooling is no longer something they can fit into their diminished household budgets.

Before the lockdown, Kashmir's husband would earn Rs 7,000-8,000 a month by collecting and selling scrap, and from that they would set aside Rs 2,135 per month to educate 10-year-old Rukhsana in an English-medium private school near their home in Seemapuri.

Since the lockdown, he has not been able to earn more than Rs 2,000 a month — even less

than the school fee. Kashmir has visited the government school near her home to enquire about admissions, but was told there are no seats in the English-medium section in class V.

"We really can't do anything right now. The school has been asking us about fees but we are barely being able to put together meals for the family. I don't think I have an option other than enrolling my daughter for a Hindi-medium seat, even though she has studied in English medium since nursery. We ourselves never studied and want her to study well and get a good job. Once she's enrolled, at least I'll have the comfort of knowing that she can continue studying," said Kashmir.

In the case of Sarla, who lives in a jhuggi in Sunder Nagri and whose husband works as a TV mechanic, it's not one but two children who she is looking to transfer.

"Luckily, my middle son is an EWS student in a prominent private school so we don't have to pay his fees. We have been paying for schooling my two other sons — Rs 500 for one in nursery and Rs 1,600 for another in class VIII — because we didn't want them to fall behind, but that has become impossible to sustain,"



Non-plan admissions usually begin in April. But it has been delayed this year. *Archive*

she said.

Despite families looking to change their children's schools, they have not yet been able to because 'non-plan admissions' in Delhi government schools have not yet begun. 'Plan admissions' — which is the mass transfer of children from feeder MCD or private schools to partner government schools at entry-level classes — began in June and is close to completion.

However, 'non-plan admission' — which is admission of individual schools at different classes — have not yet been notified. This process usually begins in April, which is when the academic session began this year in

government schools through remote learning.

In the case of Sumeet Uppal, a single mother who supports her daughter's education by taking tuition classes, this has meant that her daughter has not been part of any school since March.

"My daughter studied in a private school in Punjabi Bagh till class VIII. I had already planned to shift her to a government school in class IX because it was expensive for me, but the lockdown started in March and the transfer couldn't be done. When the school began online classes, they asked for fees. I said I can't pay because none of my tuition classes are happening anymore,

and asked for a transfer certificate. Since then, there has been no update about admissions opening in government schools. I went to the nearby one at the beginning of July to enquire, but the head of the school said they haven't received any directions. So I've been teaching her at home," she said.

This flux in schools also extends to those who have taught at Delhi government schools, like guest teachers who have not been called for duty or paid since May 8.

Sunil Shastri, who taught Sanskrit in a government school in Shastri Nagar, has been unemployed for three months because of this, and is now trying to remove his daughter from a private school in Shastri Nagar and enroll her in a government school in his village in Rajasthan's Jaipur district, where he has returned for the time being.

"I haven't been able to pay the fee of Rs 1,950 for months now. It's even difficult for me to get a school leaving certificate as they're asking me to clear two months fees before that. I don't want a year of her education to be ruined because of my employment uncertainty," said Shastri, who is a single parent.

## Doc behind '50 murders' held after skipping parole



Dr Devendra Sharma (62) is suspected to be behind 50 murders of taxi drivers in the early 2000s

JIGNASA SINHA  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AN AYURVEDA doctor, who is suspected by police to have been the mastermind behind at least 50 murders of taxi drivers in the early 2000s, and whose associates used to dump bodies in a canal infested with crocodiles to get rid of evidence, was arrested in Delhi Wednesday — six months after he jumped parole while serving a life sentence at the Central Jail in Jaipur.

According to Delhi Police, Dr Devendra Sharma (62) was arrested from his residence in Delhi's Baprola. He was also behind an illegal kidney transplant racket in the 1990s with a network spread across Jaipur, Ballabhgarh and Gurgaon, police said.

"After jumping parole in Jaipur, he went back to his native village, then moved to Delhi, where he married a widow, and started living with her in Baprola. He started a property business, and even mediated for the sale of a building in Connaught Place to a person in Jaipur. This, too, was a cheating scam," DCP (Crime Branch) Rakesh Pawariya said.

The DCP said it was while gathering information of "wanted criminals in the area" that a Delhi Police Inspector got information that Sharma was living in Baprola. "We received information about him a week

ago. A team had been deployed to search him then," said police.

Police said he was calm and didn't try to run. His interrogation started on Tuesday afternoon and lasted till the early hours of Wednesday. When asked about media reports from back in the day about him having been involved in 100 murders, he is learnt to have told police: "I lost count after 50... it might have been 100. It is not easy to remember."

"He was arrested for several murder cases in 2002-04 and was convicted in 6-7 cases. He was released on parole for 20 days after staying in Jaipur's Central Jail for 16 years," said the DCP.

He said he came to Delhi because he wanted to start a new life and live peacefully.

Sharma was handed life term for the abduction and murder of a cab driver in Gurgaon in 2002.

Malini Agarwal, Additional DG (Rajasthan Jails), told *The Indian Express*: "He was granted parole on January 28 and was

supposed to come back on February 16 but he went to Aligarh and didn't return. Parole was granted by the district collector after a lot of verification, and Sharma was released on the basis of his conduct in the jail. He has been arrested in Delhi and is in Tihar Jail."

According to a police officer in Delhi, Sharma obtained his BAMS degree in Bihar where he began running his own clinic in 1984. In 1994, he suffered a financial setback of Rs 11 lakh when he invested in a gas dealership scheme after he got scammed.

"A year later, his foray into the world of crime began when he started running a fake gas agency. Around the same time, he also began the illegal kidney transplant racket. During interrogation, he disclosed that from 1994-2004, he got more than 125 kidney transplants done illegally for which he was paid Rs 5-7 lakh each," the officer said.

The doctor ran his clinic on and off till 2003, when he got in touch with men who used to hire taxis, and kill the drivers at a secluded place.

"They used to dump the bodies on the way to Aligarh in Hazara canal, Kasganj, which had crocodiles, and hence there was no chance of retrieval. Sharma used to sell the taxis in Kasganj or dismantle them in Meerut and make about Rs 25,000 per vehicle," said an officer.

### BRIEFLY

#### Man held for threatening police team

*New Delhi:* A medical representative was arrested for allegedly robbing Rs 85 from an autorickshaw driver and later threatening police with a gun in Defence Colony. DCP (South) Atul Kumar Thakur said that the accused allegedly threatened to kill himself when police tried to nab him.

#### Govt told to release funds to pay doctors

*New Delhi:* The Delhi High Court Wednesday told the Delhi government to release the funds required to pay stipends of resident doctors in the six hospitals run by North MCD within 15 days.

#### CM, L-G meet

*New Delhi:* A day after the Delhi Cabinet rejected the panel of the Delhi Police to argue riots cases in SC and HC, CM Arvind Kejriwal met L-G Anil Bajjal. The two are learnt to have discussed the dispute over the issue. **ENS**

#### Awareness drive on quakes

*New Delhi:* As the city witnessed around 18 mild tremors since April, the Delhi government Wednesday launched an awareness campaign on steps to be taken in such a situation. **PTI**



### RAIN CHECK

At Rajghat, Wednesday. Rain lashed parts of Delhi-NCR, bringing relief from the sultry weather. *Praveen Khanna*

## Students of class 9, 11 get second shot to pass exam — via projects, assignments

SUKRITA BARUAH  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

STUDENTS IN Delhi who were unable to pass their class IX and XI final exams this year will be given "one last opportunity" to clear the grade through projects and assignments in August.

As schools across the country were closed in March, just as they were conducting or had just concluded their final exams, all students up to class VIII were promoted to the next class.

However, the CBSE had directed that all class IX and XI students who failed to clear the exams be given another oppor-

tunity to be promoted to the new grade through either internal tests, projects or assignments.

On Tuesday, the Delhi government issued a circular that its schools are to set assignments and projects for all such students, and also stated that private recognised schools, which had not conducted their re-exam so far, "may also follow the aforesaid procedure to assess students of their schools".

This provision extends to all students of these grades who could not pass — regardless of how many subjects they failed to clear, or how many times.

These assignments are to be

set digitally by subject teachers of the respective schools by August 7. The students are to submit the completed assignments by August 18. The circular is also very particular about the content of the assignments.

"While allotting the assignment/project, it must be ensured by the subject teacher that words hurting religious sentiments related to caste, contradictory statement having double meaning, and name of god/goddess, etc should not be the part of the assignment/project," it reads.

The detailed instructions for the assignments also include provisions for students who are not currently in Delhi and those

whose families do not have access to digital devices.

"Students who are not in Delhi at present can also submit their completed assignments/project reports through digital means in soft copy. All Heads of Schools must monitor and ensure that if the students have no digital device, the assignment/project to such students be allotted in hard copy by calling their parents at school," the circular says.

Like the CBSE, the Delhi government also emphasised that this provision is just a "one-time opportunity being extended only in the current year in view of the unprecedented condition of Covid-19".

SAKSHI DAYAL  
GURGAON, JULY 29

THE HARYANA Forest Department has employed aerial seeding technique to improve green cover in the Aravalli area of Faridabad. According to officials, the method involves spraying seed balls or seed pellets — seeds covered with a mixture of clay, compost, char, and other components — from the air. In Faridabad, these will be dispersed using "seeding drones" developed by a startup incubated at IIT-Kanpur.

"In the context of the Aravalli region..., this will be specially useful since there are many areas that are either difficult to reach or inaccessible altogether, making traditional methods of plantation difficult," said an official from the Faridabad forest department.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Dr Amarinder Kaur said this project is being done in Haryana on a pilot basis "to regenerate the low vegetation density or denuded areas on inaccessible or difficult sites" of Aravalli and Shivalik hills.

The method of plantation is being implemented on 100 acres of land during the pilot phase "to test efficacy of the seed dispersal mechanism and review the success rate". It was implemented in Yamunanagar and Mahendragarh earlier in July.

"It will also provide work opportunities to the local community, especially women, who can prepare the seed balls," she said.

The species that will be planted in the Aravalli areas include *Acacia senegal* (Khairi), *Ziziphus mauritiana* (Ber), and *Holarrhena* spp (Indergo), all of which have a higher chance of survival in these areas. Officials said "site specific" grass seeds will also be added to the mix as they

### INTERVENTION FROM ABOVE

#### WHAT IS AERIAL SEEDING?

A plantation technique wherein seed balls — seeds covered with mixture of clay, compost, char and other components — are sprayed using aerial devices, including planes, helicopters or drones.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Seeds balls/pellets are dispersed in a targeted area by low-flying drones, with the coating providing the required weight for seeds to airdrop on a pre-determined location rather than getting deterred by the wind. These pellets sprout when there is enough rain, with nutrients present within them helping in initial growth.

#### WHAT ARE ITS ADVANTAGES?

Areas that are inaccessible, having steep slopes or no forest routes, can be targeted using this method. The process of the seed's germination and growth is such that it requires no attention after it is dispersed — the reason why



The seeding drone has been developed by an IIT-Kanpur startup

seed pellets are known as the "fire and forget" way of plantation. They eliminate any need for ploughing and digging holes in the soil and do not need to be planted since they are already surrounded by soil, nutrients, and microorganisms. The clay shell also protects them from birds, ants and rats.

#### WHAT KIND OF SPECIES CAN BE DISPERSED?

Those native to the area and hardy, with seeds that are of an appropriate size for preparing seedballs, with a higher survival percentage. Officials say it is critical that the timing of the seeding be correct.

serve as good soil binders.

The seeding drone is capable of carrying 2 kg of seeds at a time. It is equipped with a "precise delivery mechanism" for seeds of different sizes, which it drops at predetermined intervals from a height of 25 to 50 metres. A single drone, officials said, can plant 20,000-30,000 seeds a day.

Under phase 1 of the plantation in Faridabad, a five hectare

area in the district's Badkhal area will be targetted.

"The drones will disperse 5,000 seeds per hectare. Survival rate in this sort of plantation tends to be low, less than 50%. So, the point of planting such a high quantity is that, even if the survival rate is 20%, we will have 1,000 trees," said Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Vinod Kumar.

'MUST DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO SAVE LIVES'

## From Covid ward to plasma bank, nurses in capital go the extra mile

SOMYA LAKHANI  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

A WEEK ago, when nursing officer Bhanu Sharma was on duty at Lok Nayak Hospital's Covid-19 ICU, he got a call from a young patient's husband that made the 30-year-old tear up — and sign up for plasma donation. "The patient is in her 30s... her husband requested me to somehow save her as they have a two-year-old daughter. I have a daughter of the same age too. I realised that apart from Covid duty, I must do every-

thing else possible to save lives," said Sharma, who had tested positive for the virus on June 13.

On Monday, he donated plasma for the first time at Lok Nayak, where he has been working at since 2014. "I was hospitalised as I had trouble breathing and fever... I have been on that bed so I know what it feels like. Donating plasma was the most obvious decision," said Sharma.

For the last three days, Lok Nayak's nursing officers have been donating plasma at a camp organised by the Nurses' Union, said union head Jeemol Shaji.

"Over 90 nursing officers tested positive while on duty serving Covid patients. All those who recovered and fit the donation criterion are doing their bit. We hope to inspire more people to come forward," said Shaji.

Among the donors was nursing officer Surendra Kumar Yadav (31), who was asymptomatic and recovered by mid-June. A father of two, Yadav said, "While on Covid duty, I heard of young patients succumbing to the virus, some didn't get plasma therapy... I know the success of the therapy is debatable but if my plasma can



Surendra Kumar (left) and Bhanu Sharma donate plasma

save even one life, I will consider myself lucky."



Yadav decided that as soon as he develops enough antibodies,

he would donate plasma. On Monday, he was the first in line.

On Wednesday, it was nursing officer Pradeep Barwar's turn to donate plasma. The 33-year-old had recovered mid-June but the death of a few acquaintances due to Covid shook him up: "I can't say if they would have survived if plasma was given but I had to do my bit for others. I will donate again if I get the chance."

The camp also saw a nursing officer from Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday. Athul Ravi (26) joined Safdarjung on May 30 and tested positive for the virus on June 23.

After recovering and rejoining duty, Ravi got to know of a patient — from his home state, Kerala — who needed plasma. "We have a WhatsApp group of Keralites and someone posted about the patient and asked if I could donate. So I went to donate," he said.

In a bid to bridge the gap between Covid patients and plasma donors, a WhatsApp group called 'Abhayam' (meaning 'shelter' in Malayalam), comprising 200 nursing officers and other staff at AIIMS, has come to their rescue.

Coordinator Joseph CT (41) said, "The group has been active

for a few months now and was aimed at providing help to needy patients outside AIIMS; then we realised there was a lack of blood in blood banks, so we started coordinating that. For a few weeks now, we have been helping patients get plasma."

In the group, messages of "plasma needed" are shared, and nurses who have recovered donate or spread the word. "Last week, an AIIMS nurse donated plasma and so did his brother, who is not an AIIMS employee... We want more people to come forward," said Joseph.



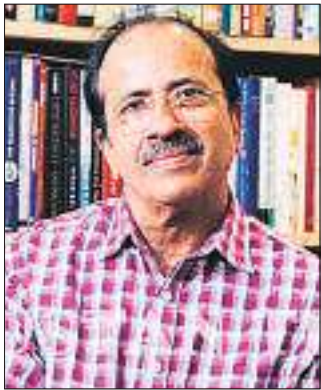


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# MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

## Impact of COVID-19 on mental health and psychological well-being

*With people staying at home in the pandemic, away from family and friends, loneliness is negatively impacting mental health of individuals. It is important to reach out now*



**Balvinder Kumar,**  
Retired. IAS & Author

**THE OLD saying,** "Change is the only constant in life," could not have been more relevant than what it is today during the COVID-19 pandemic. The change society is witnessing across the globe has far more wider ramifications than were ever visualized. The way of thinking, working, social behavior and interaction are being transformed across the globe, and we Indians are no exception. The changes are impacting not only India's socio-economic and political life but also psychological and mental well-being of its citizens.

In the absence of any effective known acquired immunity or preventive safeguard such as the anti-SARS COV-2 drug, the only available option for us to handle this pandemic is to keep each individual at a safe distance from one another through social distancing. The advisory for it has been defined by the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), USA, and recommends that people should stay at least 6 feet apart from each other.

Clearly, social distancing is pivotal to the preventive measures advocated by various academic advisories and regulatory bodies and their experts. However, these measures impact a country's economy, especially in lockdowns. Globally, a large number of people have lost their jobs and livelihoods, and are feeling a sense of deep uncertainty — how long the pandemic will last and its outcome

and the fear of getting infected with coronavirus.

Over and above the economic turmoil, people now have signs of increased psychological distress and suffering. The COVID-18 pandemic is now posing a tremendous challenge to people's mental health and well-being. The emerging crisis has triggered a wide variety of psychological problems, such as anxiety and depression. According to one study, nearly one-third of people surveyed had experienced varying degree of psychological distress due to pandemic.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, the rapid industrialization, pollution and fast pace of life were identified as the cause of the widespread problem of mental illnesses including loneliness. These illnesses spread as epidemic across the globe, including India. The Lancet, a well-regarded medical journal published from the UK, put out a report titled "The burden of mental disorders across the states in India: The Global Burden of Disease Study 1990-2017." It was released in February 2020. The authors claim that nearly 197 million Indians were suffering from mental disorders, including 45.7 million reported to have depressive disorders, and 44.9 million were suffering with anxiety disorders. Other nations reported a rise in similar mental disorders, and it is believed that today nearly 264 million of the world's population suffers from depression.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has also warned that mental health problems will be the main cause of disability in the world in 2030. Now people, already suffering from mental health conditions are being adversely affected by the emotional responses elicited by COVID-19 pandemic. This is resulting in further deterioration of their existing mental health conditions due to chronic stress, caused by economic and psychological turmoil. Besides, those people are not getting timely health services like therapy and medication because of disruption in health services across the country.

The feeling of loneliness is another se-



**GLOBALLY, A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR JOBS AND HAVE A SENSE OF DEEP UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THE FUTURE. THERE IS ALSO FEAR ABOUT GETTING INFECTED WITH CORONAVIRUS**

rious mental health issue, with a rising number of the global population becoming more isolated and lonelier. It is estimated that about 9% of the population of Japan, 22% of the population of the USA, and 23% of the UK population always or often feel lonely. Even in India where the joint family structure is still widely intact, senior citizens are now increasingly left to live alone, and hardly any relatives or anyone close to them visit. In this disintegrating society, the older generation rarely speak to their relatives on the phone and have no one to give them company or to have conversations with them.

Due to fear of being infected and getting others infected, the older generation

is forced stay alone in their homes. The worst hit is those who were largely cared for by social and voluntary services. Clearly, the feeling of loneliness, during the COVID-19 pandemic, is expected to make this vulnerable population highly susceptible to mental disorders. Unfortunately, large per cent of people dying because of COVID-19 belong to elder population already suffering from other serious illnesses like diabetes, cancer and heart ailments. Moreover, government machinery especially medical fraternity is pre-occupied with COVID-19 cases and they have no time and resources to look after the people having mental illness and other 'lonely' elders. They are getting badly neglected.

Technology and social media have brought some relief but it is a double edge weapon. For those who have access to technology and know how to use it, it can to some extent mitigate the impact of social distancing. As for the elder population, the adverse impact of social isolation can be negated by regular phone conversations and messaging by those who are perceived as close relatives. This group of people may be their siblings, children and grandchildren or friends, neighbours and caregivers. Having audio-visual communication through social platforms like Skype and Facetime and being part of a joint interest group can be useful in connecting an isolated group of people

to the rest of the world. The emergence of virtual gatherings, parties or social events is a welcome move. It is desirable and recommended that the older generation should also engage in reading, dancing, yoga and pranayama, taking relaxing baths, and learning music and new skills. Remember, no age is unsuitable for learning and gaining new experiences.

In a country like India, it is not easy for the government to provide a universal solution. However, it should be possible to develop "policy guidelines for elderly and psychological vulnerable people" and timely appropriation of resources to ensure safeguards against mental disorders/illnesses among this section of the national population.

Even till now, we don't know exactly how long the COVID-9 pandemic will last or what will be its spread and impact. It is too early to realize the aftermath of the pandemic as more efforts like coming out with antiviral vaccine or drug are needed by experts. However, one thing appears definitive that the government should enforce physical distancing and not "social distancing/ isolation", especially for highly vulnerable section of the society. If a proactive approach is not brought to address the issue of mental health, a disaster awaits the country. This could be the onset of a COVID-19 pandemic triggered widespread economic devastation and a mental health crisis in the country.



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### TALKTOANGEL: TOP ONLINE COUNSELLING & WELLBEING PLATFORM



**Dr. R. K. Suri,** Mentor - TalkToAngel



**Arpit Suri,** Co-founder - TalkToAngel

An Indian Start-up venture, TalktoAngel is an online platform where you can seek high-quality professional help and guidance to put your mental worries and anxieties at rest to live life to its fullest.

As people continue to suffer behind closed doors in the midst of global lockouts, the fear and panic arising out of the pandemic has clearly taken a toll on our mental health. Constantly increasing COVID -19 cases and with no end in sight, people are finding it harder to stay put at home amidst the feeling of fury coupled with fatigue and irritability.

With months of extended lockdown, COVID-19 has certainly upended our lives unimaginably. Our regular and usual lifestyle has been sabotaged and replaced by confinement of our homes, sans any physical and social interaction. The pandemic has also brought with itself a bouquet of negativities, including economic slowdown, business closures, loss of jobs, financial insecurity that has greatly impacted our lives.

Clearly, our minds are passing through a very turbulent phase coupled with strong negative emotional impulse. It's so easy to let negative thoughts get to you during these times, however, you're not alone – the entire globe is feeling the same. These tiring days will subside for sure, but until then you have to maintain a positive outlook. Negativity will only make your behaviour morbid filled with trepidation and anxiety. Thus, it is necessary to talk over negativities from your system to stay on the top of your health.

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With a futurist approach towards digitalization of services, TALKTOANGEL was conceived by **Mr. Arpit Suri** under the mentorship and guidance of **Dr. R K Suri, a qualified and well-trained psychologist** having an exemplary experience in the field of mental health for more than 36 years. TALKTOANGEL provides one-on-one counselling sessions, using its own inbuilt and embedded system which is HIPPA compliant, through three modes of therapy i.e., audio, video and chat, which a user can avail from any device (laptop, phone, tablet etc) from any corner of the world and at any convenient time, and keenly looks forward for further expansion of its services.

The e-platform also provides 40+ free online, research-driven and evidence-based self-assessments tests to its registered users on different aspects of day-to-day life that are meant to identify inner potential for self-development, organisational development and personal challenges. These self-assessments are primarily aimed at helping users to "introspect". For corporates and educational institutions, the e-platform also provides **Employee Happiness Program** and **School Happiness Program** to help corporates and educational institutes to up-keep their employees and students' mental well-being to ensure better performance in life and at work.

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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### BUSY AS EVER

HOSPITALISED AFTER being tested positive for Covid-19, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is not making his absence felt in daily functioning of the CMO, it seems. He has addressed Cabinet meetings on a virtual platform from the hospital and advised people not to be scared of coronavirus but instead consult doctors for any symptoms. His personal aides say Chouhan is recovering fast, and in hospital himself washes his clothes to prevent others from getting infected. In fact, this has helped Chouhan: while he could not earlier close his fist — a result of a past fracture — washing clothes these days has made it flexible and he can now close it, his aides say.

### DIGEST THE DETAILS

WHILE CABINET briefings regularly give journalists an opportunity to question the government on a range of subjects, sometimes beyond Cabinet-related issues, on Wednesday they did not get a chance to pose any question on the new education policy announced by the government. At the media briefing, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar “requested” journalists to first “digest” the details, as everyone would have questions about the policy, considering education involves every household. Since the policy has been explained by higher education and school education secretaries, and Union HRD Minister Ramesh Nishank Pokhriyal, Javadekar said, “we will take questions afterward, not today”.

### RETURN OF INDIAN IDOL

THE INDIAN High Commission in London will send home a 10th-century idol of Lord Shiv — ‘Natesh’ — which was stolen from Chateshwar Temple in Rajasthan’s Baroli in 1998. The issue has been pending for long, and after the British government’s cooperation, the idol will be returned to the Archaeological Survey of India, possibly in one of the Vande Bharat flights.

## Brinda writes to Shah, seeks action against Nageswara Rao for ‘outrageous’ remarks

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 28

SENIOR CPM leader Brinda Karat on Wednesday wrote to Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking prosecution of former interim CBI director and serving IPS officer M Nageswara Rao for his “most outrageous politically motivated statements”, which she said go against the spirit of the Constitution and incite “communal feelings”.

She also filed a complaint against Rao with the Delhi Police. Karat’s complaint comes days after Rao claimed on Twitter that Indian history had been “distorted” with the “whitewashing” of “bloody Islamic invasions/rule”, naming previous education ministers, including Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who “were in charge of Indian mind space” for 20 “out of 30 years” (1947-77).

Rao’s post alleged this system patronised pro-Left academics and sidelined pro-Hindu nationalist scholars.

In her letter to Shah, Karat said Rao, currently the Director-General of Home Guards, Fire Services and Civil Defence, has “insulted heroic freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and other notable educationists belonging mainly to the Muslim community using derogatory language against them and inciting feelings of enmity between two communities”.

Arguing that Rao has violated service rules prohibiting government officers from making “politically motivated public statements”, Karat accused Rao of having “openly praised” the RSS and BJP for the “reinduisation of India”.

Karat said that each officer is “duty bound to protect and defend the Constitution of India”, but Rao, in his “public statement on Twitter reported in The Indian Express, dated July 27th... has made the most outrageous politically motivated statements which also go against the spirit of the Constitution”.

She added, “This is not the first time he has so violated service rules or incited communal feelings. On somewhat similar gro-



**Karat also filed a complaint against Rao with Delhi Police**

unds when he was a serving officer in the Berhampur Development Authority in Odisha in the late nineties, he made some toxic communal statements. Two official inquiries found him guilty and indicted him and took disciplinary measures. So, he is a habitual offender with a bad record.”

Stating that Rao’s comments may “make him eligible for induction into the BJP or RSS after his scheduled retirement on July 31”, Karat said since he has made these statements as a serving officer, he “must be charge sheeted for violation of service rules and also prosecuted under the relevant sections of the IPC”.

In her complaint to Delhi Police, the CPM leader sought the registration of an FIR against Rao under Sec 153A and 295A of the IPC.

In a letter to the SHO, Mandir Marg police station, Delhi Police Commissioner and DCP, New Delhi, she said Rao’s “words, language, tenor and intention is to cause enmity and hostility between communities and to incite feelings of hatred against Muslims”.

“His words amount to a criminal offence under Sec 153 A and Sec 295 (A) of the IPC. He has also referred to ‘left’ historians in the most derogatory terms. I request you to file an FIR on the basis of my complaint,” Karat wrote.



A Rafale aircraft lands at the IAF base in Ambala on Wednesday. @DefenceMinIndia Twitter

## Rafale a game changer, now IAF challenge is to boost jet strength

**SUSHANT SINGH**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE INDUCTION of five French Rafale aircraft at Ambala on Wednesday will be a game changer in many ways, but may not make up for the shortfall faced by the Indian Air Force, according to senior officers of IAF.

The Rafale aircraft’s arrival brought attention to the biggest challenge confronting the IAF: its depleting strength of fighter jets. Against an authorisation of 42 squadrons, it will have 29 squadrons in 2023. At present, its fleet comprises 30 squadrons of fighter jets.

“Is getting two squadrons of Rafale significant? Yes, it is a game changer in many ways. But does this induction make up for all the other shortfalls faced by the IAF? No, those challenges remain and will have to be tackled,” a senior IAF officer told *The Indian Express*.

The strength of 29 squadrons by 2023 includes two Rafale squadrons, one additional MiG-29 squadron and one additional squadron of indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas jets,

into the IAF fleet as per schedule. By then, the Pakistan Air Force will have 27 fighter squadrons while China’s PLA Air Force is assessed to have the capacity to bear at least 42 squadrons against India.

The shortfall in the current strength is expected to be made up over the next two decades by the proposal for acquisition of 114 foreign fighter jets under the Make in India scheme, along with the acquisition of indigenous LCA Tejas fighters.

“The squadron strength is a force structure issue and depends on a host of factors. We cannot lose sight of the developments in the North and West; with both our adversaries continuously increasing and upgrading their inventories,” IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria told *The Indian Express* in May.

Even though the IAF desires a strength of 45 fighter squadrons for a two-front challenge, the last time it had its authorised complement of 42 squadrons was in 2002, just after India had mobilised its forces against Pakistan following the terror attack on Parliament.

Since then, the numbers have steadily fallen, and the trend will

continue with five squadrons of old Russian MiG aircraft getting decommissioned in the next couple of years while IAF adds four additional squadrons.

The IAF has long been cognisant of the challenge of its depleting fighter squadron strength. In June 2017, the then IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa had told this newspaper that “one of our main focus areas is to build up to the authorised strength of fighter squadrons at the earliest”.

The IAF’s authorised strength of 42 fighter squadrons “is the minimum strength necessary to dominate a two-front conflict,” Dhanoa who saw the Balakot airstrikes as IAF Chief last year had said.

The IAF plans to procure 83 LCA Mk IAs and more than 100 LCA Mk II from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and has already raised the second squadron of Tejas against its initial order of 40 aircraft. However, the supplies from HAL are behind the scheduled induction plan, leading to discomfort within the IAF.

IAF issued a request for information for 114 multirole fighters in June 2018 to foreign manufacturers: Boeing, Lockheed Martin,

Dassault Aviation, Saab AB, Airbus Defence and Space, Russian Aircraft Corporation and Sukhoi Company. It plans to induct the aircraft within 12 years of the contract. A request for proposal is awaited.

Meanwhile, the government has decided to procure 21 MiG-29 aircraft from Russia which would be inducted into service as an additional squadron. The 12 Su-30MKIs, lost in accidents, are also being replenished by HAL through a contract with Russia, which has been approved by the government. However, the Russian connect is also limited as the IAF had earlier pulled out of the collaborative venture with Sukhoi to develop the Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) after 11 years, citing disagreements over cost sharing plans, technology transfers and the test aircraft’s technological capabilities.

France has already handed over 10 Rafale jets to India, of which five have flown to Ambala. All the 36 Rafale fighter jets from France are expected to be in India by end-2021. The fitting of additional India-specific enhancements is likely to take a few more months.

### CABINET NOD TO NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY

## CPM slams govt: Parliament has been completely bypassed

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE CPM on Wednesday hit out at the government after the Union cabinet approved the New Education Policy (NEP). Arguing that education is in the Concurrent List in the Constitution, it accused the Central government of imposing the NEP “unilaterally”, bypassing all the objections and opposition recorded by various state governments,” it added. The party demanded that a “thorough discussion” in Parliament be held before implementation of the new policy.

The CPM also hit out at the central government for taking a stand that it was not in a position to pay the GST share of the states as per the current revenue sharing formula for this financial year.

“The Finance Secretary informed the Parliamentary Standing Committee that the government is in no position to pay the GST share of the states as per the current revenue sharing formula for this financial year, 2020-21. State governments were guaranteed compensation from the Centre for the first five years of GST implementation. This compensation was in lieu of GST taking away the powers of states to levy some indirect taxes to raise revenues.”

“These funds are all the more needed now when the single-minded focus should be on combating the pandemic,” a statement said.

“This unilateral drive is to destroy the Indian education system with a policy that seeks greater centralization, communalization

## JNU, Jamia V-Cs: Move groundbreaking, positive

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE VICE-CHANCELLORS of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia on Wednesday described the new National Education Policy (NEP) approved by the Union Cabinet as a positive step.

“The approval of the NEP by the government is a positive step forward. NEP is the outcome of an extensive, highly participatory and inclusive consultation process. NEP aims at meeting existing challenges in education and building the foundation of India’s promising future. We look forward to its implementation,” said JNU V-C M Jagadeesh Kumar. Jamia V-C Najma Akhtar

called the NEP “groundbreaking”.

“Higher education in India will now be holistic and multidisciplinary with a shared focus on science, arts and humanities. The NEP will create new opportunities for students in the domain of higher education. They can pursue education with greater flexibility in a seamless learning environment. They can enter, exit and re-enter as per their convenience and career choices,” she said.

“A single regulator for all higher educational institutions is a great idea as it will bring coherence of approach and purpose. It will realise the vision of education in India,” Akhtar added.

She also said the “focus on the use of new technologies” will “ramp up digital learning”.

## 4 kg gold, 8,376 books among Jaya properties listed by TN govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHENNAI, JULY 29

Nearly 4 kg gold, 610 kg silver, 8,376 books, 38 air conditioners and 10,438 dress materials have been listed by the Tamil Nadu government as properties of former Chief Minister and AIADMK chief, late J Jayalalithaa, at her Poes Garden residence.

The state government is in the process of acquiring assets of the former Chief Minister at her three-storey Veda Nilayam residence, which was originally purchased by her late mother.

The acquisition, which has been opposed by Jayalalithaa’s legal heirs — her niece Deepa and



**J Jayalalithaa**

nephew Deepak — would include shifting her properties to the ownership of the Puratchi Thalavi Dr J Jayalalithaa Memorial Foundation headed by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami.

Eleven televisions, 10 refrig-

erators, 29 telephones and mobile phones, 394 mementos, 65 suitcases and 108 cosmetic items and six clocks have also been listed among Jayalalithaa’s assets.

Two mango trees, a jackfruit tree, five coconut and five banana trees have been listed as well.

The former Chief Minister’s residence is being acquired after an ordinance was promulgated in May to facilitate its temporary possession to convert it into a memorial. The state government deposited Rs 67.9 crore in the civil court on July 25 for acquiring Veda Nilayam. Out of this sum, Rs 36.9 crore would be paid towards I-T and wealth tax arrears and the remaining amount may go to Jayalalithaa’s legal heirs.

### MUSEUM PROJECT IN PANCHKULA

## Probe into plot sale to archaeology dept opens can of worms

**VARINDER BHATIA**  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 29

AN INVESTIGATION into Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran’s (HSVP) sale of a plot to the state archaeology department, allegedly for excess payment worth crores, to build a state-of-art museum has brought out startling facts.

The file on which HSVP claims to have taken the then chief minister’s approval for transfer of land “is untraceable”, said sources.

The then director of archaeology and museums department, S K Saxena, who took possession of the plot in Panchkula’s Sector 5, is no more. Sources said “no measurement of the site was done at the time of allotment (August 1996) or possession (May 1998) or raising of additional demand of Rs 22.88 crore (September 2016), which

was eventually paid to HSVP”.

The plot was allotted to the archaeology department on August 23, 1996, for construction of the State Archaeological Museum at the rate of Rs 185 per sq. yard (Rs 17,90,800). Payment was made to the Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA), now HSVP. On May 23, 2019, PWD (Buildings & Roads) informed the archaeology department that instead of 9,680 sq. yards, HUDA had given possession of 8,860 sq. yards. The archaeology department requested HUDA to increase the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) from 100 per cent to 150 per cent. HUDA then asked for additional payment of Rs 22.88 crore.

Principal Secretary (Archaeology and Museums Department) Ashok Khemka has demanded stern action against the erring officials and adjustment of the excess amount paid.



**The plot in Sector 5, Panchkula**

After the matter came to light, HSVP offered to cut down the road between the plot and Indradhanush stadium into half, and transfer it to the archaeology department. Khemka junked the offer. “The road width is proposed to be re-

duced from the present 12 mts to 6.7 mts by adding a 5.3 mts wide strip to the plot. Narrowing the road would render access to the museum site difficult. The archaeology department therefore agrees to take possession of the

plot as at site, that is, 1.83 acres with excess amount adjusted,” he wrote to the state government.

He added, “Possession of the plot was handed over on May 22, 1998, by a junior engineer (HUDA) to S K Saxena. The then director was negligent in taking possession of the site without actual dimensions and site plan sketch. But HSVP is not a real estate dealer, it is a planned urban agency of the state. Each and every site in a planned sector is mapped and measured before allotment. The dimensions and actual area of the site would exist in some pre-allotment HSVP record, but the record was not produced despite request and reminder to the principal secretary (town and country planning) and HSVP officers.”

“The act of HSVP to allot and hand over possession of an undersized plot to a government depart-

ment is most brazen and strains bona fide by suggesting fraud, breach of trust, and falsification of official records,” Khemka added.

Calling the earlier possession certificate dated May 22, 1998 — by way of which the land was transferred to archaeology department — a “defective certificate and no-possession”, he wrote, “HSVP must be directed to hand over proper possession of the plot with correct dimensions, area and site plan sketch and compensate the government exchequer as CM and finance department may determine for the 23-year delay in handover of proper possession of the plot for which full price was paid in 1997.” He also raised objections over the archaeology department being charged Rs 22.88 crore for additional FAR, saying, “it was an unjust enrichment of HSVP at the cost to the government exchequer”.







# 8 THE OUTBREAK

## July surge: 65% of the deceased hospitalised late in Bengaluru

**JOHNSON TA**  
BENGALURU, JULY 29

OVER 65% of Covid-19 deaths that have occurred in Bengaluru since July 1 — when cases and mortalities in the city began rocketing — happened within 24 hours of hospital admission or involved patients who were already dead when brought to hospital, an analysis of daily health bulletins put out by the Karnataka government shows.

Bengaluru saw 860 coronavirus-linked deaths between July 1 and July 28. Of these, 479 (55%) died within 24 hours of hospital admission while 94 (10%) were declared dead on arrival, shows the data, that includes date of admission in each case and date of death in case of fatalities.

The data also shows that all the patients who died within 24 hours of hospitalisation had been admitted in a state of breathlessness.

Dr K S Sathish, a pulmonologist and member of the Covid-19 state death audit panel, said patients were showing up at hospitals very late. “This is always a big issue — the patient is not diagnosed and visits the hospital at the eleventh hour,” he said.

“Out of the 50 deaths at our hospital, as many as 21 were within 12 hours of admission, including many within three hours. Five to six patients were brought dead. Nearly 70% of deaths occurred within three days of ventilation in ICU. This is a sign that patients are arriving in hospital very late,” said Dr C Nagaraja, the director of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, one of the government-run hospitals treating coro-

navirus cases. Nagaraja is also a member of the death audit panel. Of the 91 deaths reported till July 15 at the Victoria Hospital attached to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, 39 occurred within 24 hours of admission, including several within 10 hours, the nodal officer for the Covid-19 core committee at the institute, Dr Smitha Segu, said.

“Of the patients who came on time, very few went into ICU,” Dr Segu said.

Several instances of severely ill patients being turned away from hospitals have been reported in Bengaluru. While the government has put in place a central bed allocation system, there are only about 100 ICU beds available in the government sector still, against a requirement of over 500. Private medical colleges and hospitals have been roped in only recently.

Between March and July 28, Bengaluru recorded 957 deaths, 860 of them in July alone. Of its total 48,821 cases, as many as 44,266 were reported this month, of which 35,102 cases were active on July 28.

While Bengaluru’s data of 95.3 deaths per million population is nearly three times the state’s toll of 31.8 per million (the city accounts for nearly half of Karnataka’s total cases), the case fatality rate is almost the same, at 2%.

An early analysis of Covid-19 deaths in Karnataka till June had also identified late arrival at hospitals, apart from age and comorbidities, as key factors. Data between March 10 and early June of 72 deaths showed that elderly persons with Severe Acute Respiratory Infections were more likely to succumb to the novel coronavirus than other categories.



Shopping for rakhi ahead of Raksha Bandhan, in Jammu. AP

## After Jammu, weekend lockdown in Kathua

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 29

AUTHORITIES IN Kathua on Wednesday ordered weekend lockdowns for an indefinite period in the district, beginning July 31, to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

The restrictions will begin at 5 pm on all Fridays and will last till 6 am on Mondays, Kathua District Magistrate O P Bhagat said.

Kathua is the second district after Jammu to announce a weekend lockdown in Jammu and Kashmir.

The decision came on a day the district recorded 17 new cases — 12 of them were CISF personnel. Kathua has reported a to-

tal of 511 Covid-19 cases, out of which 176 are active.

An official order stated, “There shall be complete restriction on movement of individuals, vehicles and all activities within the jurisdiction of district Kathua, except the movement for emergency medical requirements, from 5 pm on all Fridays till 6 am on all Mondays”.

The statement added that the decision was taken after extensive consultations with the Chief Medical Officer of Kathua, epidemiologists and other health professionals.

Chemists, milk, curd and cheese sale counters, and vegetable/fruit sale points shall remain open during the lockdown, the order said.

## Maharashtra to start ‘largest’ plasma therapy trial across 21 medical colleges next week

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS**  
PUNE, JULY 29

MAHARASHTRA WILL start clinical trials using convalescent plasma therapy for 472 severely ill patients across 21 medical colleges next week. As an incentive to encourage donors, the state government will give Rs 2,000 to each plasma donor.

The recovery rate in Maharashtra is 59.24 per cent and till Tuesday, as many as 2.32 lakh patients in the state had recovered from the infection. The state gov-

ernment already has a list of 3,000 eligible donors and authorities are hopeful that at least 20 per cent will be ready after counselling.

The ‘Platina trial’, an initiative of the state Medical Education Department, was announced by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray a month ago. Rs 16.65 crore has been allocated for this project from the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund.

Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, who handed over charge as state secretary of medical education to Saurabh Vijay on Wednesday, told *The Indian Express* the trial would begin soon.

“This is the largest convales-

## ICMR plans national registry of Covid patients to help improve treatment

**PRABHA RAGHAVAN**  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE INDIAN Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in collaboration with the Health Ministry and All India Institute of Medical Sciences, plans to roll out a project to create a rigorous database of Covid-19 patients admitted in hospitals across the country in an effort to understand how treatment can be improved.

The project, a national clinical registry, will also serve as a crucial platform to conduct clinical trials to study the effectiveness of newer therapies being used as part of treatment for this disease.

Around 15 institutions are expected to help create this network and get hospitals and medical colleges on board as part of the exercise, which is awaiting clearances from a common ethics committee of the ICMR.

“We are starting a clinical Covid registry wherein 15 mentor institutions (across the country), which are institutes of national importance, will be helping us. The purpose of these mentor institutions is to encourage other hospitals and medical colleges to participate,” ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava told *The Indian Express*.

“We have data at the Ministry of Health, we have data at ICMR in



Health workers conduct a door-to-door survey in Chembur East area of Mumbai on Wednesday. Amit Chakravarty

terms of testing, but we would like to have hospital data so that we can get a perspective of what has happened to these patients and what is the progress. We have to get ethical clearance for this... it is a work in progress,” he added.

The registry will be actively rolled out “as a priority”, said NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul, who is also the chair of the Covid-19 National Task Force that first recommended this registry as part of its goal to promote research.

“The whole idea is that we create a network of institutions that are looking after Covid patients of various severity and from various parts of the country. The experi-

ence gained from this clinical enterprise and clinical work, collected in a systematic, structured, scientific way on a large set of variables, (would then be) available as a repository or database,” he told *The Indian Express*.

“There is a team of clinicians, scientists, analysts and biostatisticians who will run it. It will be a very vibrant (registry)... it is for a national cause (collecting this data). We will use it for understanding this disease and to learn to make better decisions,” he said.

According to him, “more than a hundred” hospitals are expected to take part in the exercise. “Centres of excellence have been

## ICMR to host symposium with international experts

*New Delhi:* In a multi-country symposium with Dr Anthony Fauci, top infectious disease expert in the US, and other major international experts, the Indian Council of Medical Research will host discussions and presentations on “Novel Ideas in Science and Ethics of Vaccines



**US expert Dr Anthony Fauci will also participate**

identified, who will then create a sub-group like one of those hub-and-spoke models,” he said.

The purpose of the database is to help understand the disease and the factors that cause adverse outcomes. It is also to understand how the same determinants may affect people based on other factors.

“The purpose is to understand the disease, to understand its determinants... why adverse outcomes happen, what therapies

against Covid-19 pandemic” on Thursday.

A series of sessions, beginning at 4.30 pm, will explore “Timely & safe — towards a Covid-19 vaccine”, “Novel ideas in vaccine development, rollout, and adopting emerging evidence in pandemic situations”, and “The ethics of different development approaches — Equity of participation in development & Community engagement and consensus”.

The symposium will be moderated by Chris Anderson, a British-American curator of TED Talks. **ENS**

## As cases surge, Bihar faces 5 key challenges

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, JULY 29

BETWEEN JULY 1 and July 29, Covid-19 cases in Bihar climbed from 10,205 to 45,919. And of the total 273 Covid-19 deaths reported in the state so far, 195 have occurred in the past 27 days. As the cases spike, the state government faces five key challenges in its fight against the virus:

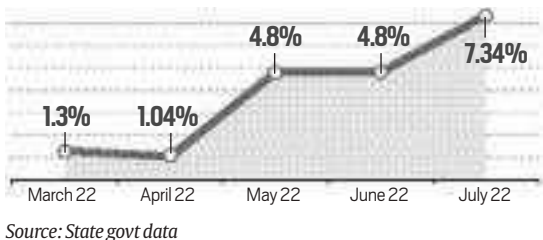
**LOW TESTING:** Though daily testing capacity has gone up from 10,000 samples to over 14,000, it has to be ramped up much more. Bihar has tested 5.04 lakh samples so far. In comparison, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have tested 24.14 lakh and 19.25 lakh samples, respectively.

The manager of a hospital said, “Unless a district is given at least 1,000 testing kits daily, it is difficult to meet the demand. We need to collect enough samples at the level of primary healthcare centres... Delay in testing means further spread.” Among the districts that have started witnessing a surge in cases are Begusarai, Munger, Bhojpur, East Champaran, West Champaran, Nawada, Nalanda and Gopalganj.



Nursing staff at Patna Medical College and Hospital protest in demand of overtime salaries. PTI

### TRACKING BIHAR'S POSITIVITY SURGE



A Bhojpur resident said, “All four members of my family have symptoms similar to Covid-19...”

Since we are not very ill, we have not felt the urgency to get tested... not enough kits are available.

## Man held for attacking Latur doctor over parent’s death, say police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

A DOCTOR was allegedly attacked with a sharp weapon by the son of a Covid-19 patient, who died at a hospital in Latur on Wednesday. While the doctor suffered a deep cut to the chest, he was said to be stable, police said.

The Indian Medical

Association (IMA) staged a protest with local doctors shutting down their clinics after the attack. Police later registered a case and arrested the 35-year-old man on charges of assault against Dr Dinesh Verma of Alfa Hospital.

According to police, a resident of Udgir was admitted to Alfa Hospital on Tuesday afternoon for treatment of Covid-19. Local IMA doctors said she died on Wednesday morning.

“Dr Verma informed her son, and together they took a lift to the ground floor. As soon as they stepped out, the patient’s son attacked him with a knife,” said Dr Avinash Bhondwe, IMA state president.

Latur SP Dr Rajendra Mane said the incident took place as the kin of the deceased were angry over her death. Police said the accused will be tested for Covid-19 before further investigation.

## Gujarat cases rise, CM says situation better than Kerala

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
RAJKOT, AHMEDABAD, VADODRA, JULY 29

ON A day when Gujarat reported 1,144 Covid-19 cases — its highest so far in May — taking the state tally to over 59,000 cases, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani during a visit to Rajkot and Vadodra on Wednesday said that the state had fewer fresh cases than Kerala on Tuesday and ranked 12 in the total number of cases in the country.

In Rajkot, Rupani told a press conference, “I am happy to share that thanks to cooperation of people, we are controlling corona situation very well. Almost 50,000 cases are reported every day in India... Kerala was, around 15 to 20 days ago, claiming that corona had been controlled fully. People were busy discussing Kerala model when it reported 1,168 cases yesterday. There are more than 10,000 active cases in Kerala. In Gujarat, the number of new cases was 1,105 yesterday.”

The CM was accompanied by Deputy CM Nitin Patel and Chief Secretary Anil Mukim, among others, during his visit to Rajkot and Vadodra to take stock of the Covid-19 situation.



**Vijay Rupani**

### Surat has become Wuhan: Chavda

*Surat:* “In the past, BJP leaders talked about turning Surat into Shanghai, but due to the inefficiency of the BJP (government), today it is nowhere near Shanghai. Because of coronavirus, what we can see is that Surat has become ‘Wuhan,’” said Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda in Surat on Wednesday. He was in the city to take stock of its Covid-19 situation.

Accompanied by Surat city BJP president Babubhai Rayka and Leader of Opposition Praful Togadiya, Chavda visited the civic-run SMIMER hospital and the state government-run New Civil Hospital. **ENS**

help healthcare workers understand what interventions may help them improve the survival rates of their patients. This includes testing the effectiveness of newer therapies by using the database as a platform for clinical trials.

“This will be a platform where, already, (we are) recording a thousand data points. Say, you have a new drug... We can choose which group to give it to (based on the data points),” said Dr Paul. “Tomorrow, we can say, if I add drug ‘x’ at this stage, will it make a difference?”

Another important purpose the registry is expected to serve is to collect data on how other approaches like changing the posture of the patient or providing oxygen at a certain time would help improve outcomes.

“For example, if the secondary infection rates are high, can we change that by doing certain things, which is not a trial in a trial sense, but is just a quality improvement pathway?” he said.

“For quality improvement studies, clinical studies and hard-core clinical trials, this becomes a platform in addition to a database which makes us understand the disease, the disease dynamic, its determinants and... the pathophysiology. And, on (all that data), do studies. That is the vision,” he added.



**VD Sharma, CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan**

## MP BJP chief, gen secy test positive: official

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BHOPAL, JULY 29

MADHYA PRADESH BJP president and Khajuraho Lok Sabha MP VD Sharma has tested positive for coronavirus, a health official said on Wednesday.

Besides Sharma, state BJP general secretary (organisation) Suhas Bhagat and another party leader have also tested positive for the coronavirus, the official said.

“Came to know that Sharma (VD Sharma) is not well and pray to God for his speedy recovery,” Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is recuperating from Covid, tweeted.

## Maharashtra to HC: May allow cast, crew aged above 65 at shooting sites

**OMKAR GOKHALE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

THE STATE government, responding to a plea filed by actor Pramod Pandey (70) seeking to quash and set aside restrictions on movement to shooting sites, on Wednesday told the Bombay High Court that its decision to bar cast and crew, including actors aged above 65, on sets of fiction or non-fiction programming, was not permanent and may change as per new unlock guidelines on July 31.

Government Pleader Purnima H Kantharia told the High Court that the decision was not arbitrary or discriminatory, but it was in the interest of senior citizens. “There may be a change. We don’t know what changes may come up on August 1. As of today, it would not be an arbitrary decision as it is of temporary nature and taken in the interest of persons above 65 years old,” Kantharia said.

A division bench of Justice SJ Kathawalla and Justice R I Chagla heard the pleas challenging the restrictions. Justice Kathawalla asked the state government to clarify if the restrictions were mandatory.







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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

# THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## WORDLY WISE

VAN GOGH WOULD'VE SOLD MORE THAN ONE  
PAINTING IF HE'D PUT TIGERS IN THEM.

—BILL WATTERSON

*The Indian* **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## OMAR'S CHOICE

He is spot on that finding a new political plank is a challenge,  
a lot depends on how he rises to it

**I**N AN EXTRAORDINARILY candid and reflective interview and a signed article in *The Indian Express*, breaking his silence since his detention last year, the former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister, Omar Abdullah, spoke of the “betrayal” of August 5, 2019, how it had destroyed the bridge between a mainstream party like the National Conference and the Centre, and reduced such parties, seen to have carried the can for Delhi, into “elements of ridicule”. He expressed doubt about whether there was any more space or scope for mainstream parties in Kashmir — “finding a political plank at this point is not going to be the easiest thing”. His own politics has become “a lot more angry and resentful” and “less trusting”, he said. But Abdullah, who was detained on the day the Centre stripped the state of its special status and bifurcated it into two union territories and released six months later, also appears to have come to terms with the fact that the decisions of that fateful August day are here to stay. He described his state of mind as somewhere between “pessimism and realism”, but it is his suggestion that it may be pointless to demand a rolling back of the decision on Article 370 that is politically significant.

The National Conference will fight it out legally, but its top leader says that he is not going to fool people into believing that J&K's special status could be brought back. This and his statement, that he would not contest elections in J&K until statehood has been restored — “then we'll go ahead from there” — have sparked some outrage in the Valley, where these remarks are being seen as an abdication by the main regional party of Kashmir from its commitment to the August 4 Gupkar Declaration. Arrived at between the leaders of all J&K parties, it said that they would remain “united in their resolve to protect and defend identity, autonomy and special status of the JK State against all attacks and on-slaughts whatsoever”.

Abdullah was careful to draw a thick line between the NC and Kashmiri separatism, asserting that while the experiences of the last year had made him distrustful of the Centre, and “Delhi did its damndest to equate us with separatists”, he was not going to come out of detention “espousing a political line that I don't believe in, because it might be popular or it might be favourable at the time”; he would not incite violent protests that end up taking the lives of more people, he said. Even as he has declared he will not participate in the electoral process of a Union Territory, he has underlined his commitment to the democratic processes. Going ahead, for him and for other politicians of the mainstream in Kashmir, the challenge, as he has admitted, will be to find the next steps in a politically denuded landscape — where the persistence of a political vacuum has always been fraught with the danger of hardliners rushing in.

## A HOME FOR TIGER

Survey shows a third of India's tiger reserves are nearing peak capacity. Creative solutions can reduce human-animal conflict

**L**AST YEAR, INDIA'S tiger census revealed that the country is home to nearly 3,000 of these big cats. That was rightly considered a significant achievement given that India's tiger population had come down to around 1,400 in 2006 and the animal had been completely wiped out of reserves such as Sariska. A survey by the Union environment ministry, whose report was released on Tuesday, also celebrates this success. But it adds a caveat: Seventeen of India's 50 tiger reserves are approaching their peak carrying capacity. In fact, nearly a third of the country's tigers today live outside protected areas (PA). As these carnivores spill out of the national parks, they come into proximity with human settlements. This is a major reason for the rise in human-animal conflicts in the past five years.

Male tigers require a range of 70-150 square km and females need about 20-60 sq km. The animal is highly territorial and does not like sharing space with even its siblings or cubs. When it is about a year-and-a-half old, a tiger begins its search for territory. When it cannot find space in a PA, the adolescent either moves out or forces an ageing tiger out of the reserve. The itinerant animal is confronted with a shortage of prey — research shows that one tiger requires a prey base of 500 animals to survive. The big cat is forced to shed its natural reticence towards humans and stalks farms and villages for livestock. Tigers do not have a natural propensity to attack humans. Even then, reports of people being mauled to death by tigers are increasingly becoming frequent. According to data presented by then minister of state for environment, forest and climate change, Mahesh Sharma, in the Lok Sabha last year, more than 100 people were killed by tigers between 2015 and 2018.

The tiger population seems to be growing in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand. Experts suggest that the problem of plenty can be solved by relocating some tigers from places whose carrying capacity is challenged to ones that have scope to host more animals. The country's conservation authorities could take a cue from last year's census which had revealed scope for improvement in the Eastern Ghats' reserves. As the country celebrates its conservation success, policymakers and scientists will have to put their heads together to devise more creative solutions and find homes for the increasing number of tigers.

## YOU HAVE NO MAIL

COVID-19 claims an ageing victim — the railway dak carrier  
who bore sensitive letters from the burra sahibs

**I**T'S LIKE EXECUTING a dead horse, just to make sure it stays dead. The dak carriers who bore messages across the world's biggest railway system were already superannuated as the officers they served turned to email. But now, the financial belt-tightening in response to the pandemic has closed around their throats like a noose. They have been replaced by digital communications.

The idea of a dak carrier seems impossibly quaint now, but back in the day, they served the same purpose as 128-bit encryption. We have forgotten that India's railway system was laid out after the uprising of 1857. Its first priority was rapid troop movement. Its second was the efficient carriage of goods and produce from the hinterland to industrial centres and ports. Paying passengers came a distant third. With people, the railway also carried the flu and the plague across the country. And it carried Mahatma Gandhi in third-class compartments, protesting about filthy loos and bearing word of freedom. But originally, the railway was a strategic asset of the empire, and information and orders would have had to be delivered by trusted carriers, in the interest of security.

Modernity has ended the romance of the rails, and now, privatisation looms. The drivers' running rooms with porcelain service and white linen are long forgotten. The station master is no longer a pillar of the community. The neat staff lines beside stations, with their tended gardens, wicker gates and the characteristic earthenware chimneys bent like an upside-down J, are much reduced. Only a few stations remain relatively untouched — picturesque Barog in the hills, and imperial palaces of the age of steel and steam like Howrah and VT. Amidst this general eclipse, will the loss of the dak carrier, the most obscure relic of the colonial era, be noticed very much.



VIKRAM PATEL

**FOUR MONTHS SINCE** the world's most stringent lockdown was imposed with four hours' notice on over a billion unprepared people with the promise, buttressed by scientific jargon and graphs of curves, that this extreme action would flatten the curve of infection down to zero by mid-May, we remain mired in the grip of multiple epidemics unfolding with different trajectories across our cities and towns. As I try to make sense of why things have gone so awry, one thought which troubles me the most is an honest appraisal of the contribution of science, whether in this country or globally. After all, I belong to that community. Never before has science been so much in the spotlight in global and national affairs and yet, it seems to me, we have not quite covered ourselves in glory. In particular, we have failed in our obligation to acknowledge the uncertainties in our observations, the limitations of our methods and the importance of other traditions of knowledge.

The history of this pandemic is littered with premature, and often inaccurate, scientific predictions ranging from the estimates of the numbers of people who will die unless nations impose a lockdown to the effectiveness of drug treatments. Crowning these scientific disciplines is the field of modelling, for it was its estimates of mountains of dead bodies which fuelled the panic and led to the unprecedented restrictions on public life around the world. None of these early models, however, explicitly acknowledged the huge assumptions that were made, for example that mortality was distributed evenly across the population (incorrect, because it is heavily concentrated in the elderly) or that everyone who is not infected is vulnerable (likely to be incorrect as evidence of innate immunity mounts). The assumption that the virus would rampage uniformly in all populations, which was a naïve one to begin with, for both the social conditions and human biology which influence the transmission of infectious diseases vary enormously across contexts, can be safely junked.

While it is fair to defend modelling science as just one tool intended to predict an uncertain future and guide governments, such models must never be interpreted as if they occur in a vacuum, agnostic to their historical, social, cultural and economic context. This responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of the scientific community, as much as policy

Reputation of scientists, already tainted as being elitist,  
will be further muddled by our role in this pandemic

And so here we are, after months of being tantalised by headlines of billions of dollars allocated to fund dramatic scientific discoveries which will illuminate our path to victory over the virus, implementing strategies we have known about for decades: The humble front-line worker burrowing systematically through the community to identify cases, trace their contacts, isolate them at home, and restrict movements and crowded events in areas where clusters emerge.

makers. The latest example of the myopic perspective which dominates modelling enterprises is the unpublished but publicly accessible paper authored by scientists from two Ivy League US universities which recommends the closure of red-light areas in India to dramatically reduce the number of COVID-19 deaths. The paper has, rightly, prompted fury and spurred JVR Prasada Rao, former Health Secretary and UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on AIDS, to write a letter, co-authored with India's leading activists and researchers, expressing outrage at the study's research methods and ethics. Perhaps the most egregious concern is the ludicrously naïve observation that sex workers, already amongst the most discriminated groups on the margins of society, could simply be redeployed to other vocations to stave off the hunger and violence that would befall them when the red light areas are shut.

Indeed, this kind of tunnel vision has characterised scientific proclamations from the outset of the pandemic, with little attention to their societal implications which would require a thorough assessment of the impact of policies on the most vulnerable. The fact that many lives will be lost as a result of the lockdowns is now emerging across the world, with recent reports from UNICEF documenting tens of millions of children whose routine vaccinations have been disrupted and from Oxfam that “up to 12,000 people could die from hunger every day globally — 2,000 more than died from COVID-19 each day in April”. Most of these deaths will occur in the poorest communities. It is perhaps not surprising that some scientists vociferously called for governments to act swiftly to impose lockdowns. After all, most of my community, and the government officials who conjure and implement these policies, enjoy salaried jobs which can seamlessly pivot to on-line platforms which we can operate with ease from our spacious homes in which being locked down can evolve into a rather congenial opportunity to master culinary skills and not have to commute to work. It will not surprise me if the reputation of scientists, already tainted in some quarters as being elitist, will be further muddled by our role in this pandemic.

And so here we are, after months of being tantalised by headlines of billions of dollars allocated to fund dramatic scientific discoveries, implementing strategies we have

known about for decades: The humble front-line worker burrowing systematically through the community to identify cases, trace their contacts, isolate them at home, and restrict movements in areas where clusters emerge. It is instructive that Massachusetts in the US, home to the world's leading medical school and teaching hospitals, has deployed Partners in Health, a NGO which has previously worked in the poorest countries helping contain epidemics such as Ebola through community based first-responders, to guide the state's pandemic control programme. The success stories in India, from Kerala to Dharavi, also bear the hallmarks of such a strategy.

What marks the current pandemic out as being unlike any other public health emergency that precedes it is its global stage, with the cacophony of debates and disputes between scientists played out in full public view on digital platforms. It comes as no surprise that waves of panic and anger sweep the world, as populations which were led to believe that scientific commandments were written in stone and that government leaders were responding accordingly, are coming to grips with the truth that there is much that we don't understand about the virus and the responsibility of containment has been devolved to the ordinary citizen and the local authorities. Which is, ironically, what it should have been from the start.

While science-informed policies are an aspiration, we also need to appreciate their limitations and assumptions to ensure that such policies do not lead to avoidable harms and promise unrealistic results. I hope the scientific community can emerge from this experience with more humility, to acknowledge that we don't have all the answers all the time, that other disciplines such as the humanities are just as important, that our recommendations are often founded on an incomplete understanding of the problem, that these will change as new knowledge emerges, and that it is in keeping with our tradition to admit when we are wrong and use these opportunities to refine our methods. Above all, we must be cautious when recommending any policy actions to ensure they always take into account the perspectives of the vulnerable who will be most seriously affected.

*Patel is the Pershing Square Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School*



ANIRUDH BURMAN

**INDIA IS INCREASINGLY** rushing into a licence-permit raj for the data economy. Even as the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, is being considered by Parliament, the government's (Committee of Experts on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework) has sought comments on a draft report for regulating non-personal data. If accepted in its current form, the report is likely to seriously erode, if not end, India's competitive advantage in information technology.

Unlike personal data, there is no clear rationale for why the use of non-personal data needs regulation. Most governments regulate personal data for the possibility of misuse against individuals. Non-personal data is by definition data unrelated to individuals, and no country has so far announced any concrete plans to regulate it. Since India is likely to be an exception, one would have expected a strong, evidence-based case for regulating non-personal data. Worryingly, the draft report adduces hardly any evidence.

The draft report argues first, that companies that have a first-mover advantage in data-related businesses have an enormous competitive advantage. It states that since this advantage is hard to overcome through market forces, there is a need for regulating their use of data. It does not answer why competition law and India's Competition Commission

## LICENCE RAJ FOR DATA

*Regulations proposed by draft report on non-personal data need a relook*

The draft report argues first, that companies that have a first-mover advantage in data-related businesses have an enormous competitive advantage. It states that since this advantage is hard to overcome through market forces, there is a need for regulating their use of data. It does not answer why competition law and India's Competition Commission are inadequate.

are inadequate, or how non-personal data regulation would be a better method for promoting competitiveness. Second, it provides only hypothetical examples of how anonymised personal data could be de-anonymised to target individuals or groups. However, since such de-anonymised data would become personal data, the use of such data should be governed by personal data regulation under the Personal Data Protection Bill. Third, the report argues, again without evidence, that the mandated sharing of non-personal data will lead to higher innovation. This, despite overwhelming evidence highlighting how the expropriation of private property discourages innovation and growth.

On these shaky foundations, the draft report proposes an expansive regulatory regime that would mandate data-sharing by anyone collecting data above a certain threshold, and require registration with another new data regulatory body for anyone collecting or deriving benefits from non-personal data. Also, it proposes state “beneficial ownership” of certain categories of non-personal data. For this, the report makes a specious argument — that useful data created by a business should no longer be considered property owned by it: “The term ‘ownership’ holds full meaning only in terms of physical assets.” It says that the government should be the beneficial owner

of what it calls “community non-personal data”, which is still data collected and generated by the private sector. Not only does this upend India's existing regime for intellectual property, it also goes contrary to global property rights protections India has signed up to.

If implemented, this is likely to have deleterious effects on innovation not just in the IT sector, but in any industry that uses data. The volume-based threshold for compliance is likely to have the same results that such frameworks have had in India's manufacturing sector, where firms stay small to avoid compliance.

Over decades, India has learnt hard lessons regarding the interaction between state regulation and private enterprise. The rollback of the state has led to an astonishing proportion of India's population escaping poverty in the last three decades. State regulation must identify concrete problems, not create interventionist bureaucracies based on potential ones. These lessons have made India one of the world's largest economies and enabled the present government to seek “atmanirbharta”.

By ignoring these lessons, the report proposes to replicate the failures of regulation in the industrial sector in the digital economy.

*The writer is associate fellow at Carnegie India. Views are personal*



## JULY 30, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

**ASSAM FORMULA** OFFICIAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS will begin in a day or two to give shape to the final “formula” which emerged during the negotiations held by Manipur Chief Minister Dorendra Singh with leaders of the Assam movement to find a solution to the problem of foreign nationals. After the proposals are given concrete shape they will be placed before the Prime Minister for her approval. This was indicated by the Congress (I) General Secretary S S Mahapatra, shortly after CM Singh had met the PM and Home Minister. Mahapatra was present at both meetings. Mahapatra, who heads the Northeast region cell in the AICC-I was highly optimistic about

the outcome of the effort initiated by Dorendra Singh. “If everything goes well complete peace may return to Assam” before the coming Independence day, he told reporters at an informal briefing.

**INDIA WINS GOLD** INDIA REGAINED THE Olympic hockey gold medal after a lapse of 16 years with an exciting 4-3 victory over Spain in Moscow. Surinder Singh Sodhi gave India a 2-0 half time lead in the second half. M K Kaushik and Mohammad Shaheed added two more to the tally. In between, Spain's veteran full-back Juan Amat scored a hat-trick by converting three of the five penalty corners

earned by his team in the second half. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has congratulated the Indian team for its victory. She described it as the “most creditable victory”. Union Education Minister B Shankaranand, also congratulated the Indian team on its splendid victory.

### BUND BREACHED

THE BREACH IN the Bihar bund over the river Gandak in Deoria district widened from 700 metres to 1,500 metres. An SOS has been sent to the Bihar Government, which maintains this bund to immediately take steps for plugging the breach and protecting the UP population from a deluge.



# THE IDEAS PAGE

## For the love of dog

If we can coexist with animals, we will benefit far more from our interaction with them than they with us



MANEKA GANDHI

DOGS AND INDIANS were barred from entering prominent roads during the British Raj. Killing dogs was considered part of the sanitation process. This did not reduce the population of these animals before or since Independence. In 1980, a dog count estimated 8 lakh dogs in Delhi. Thousands were killed every month in a bid to rid the city of dogs. In 1987, a MCD survey revealed that the dog population was still 8 lakh. The survey also showed that the number of people bitten by dogs actually increased when more dogs were killed.

Dogs exist in developing countries because of poor solid waste disposal systems. They must be dealt with scientifically and humanely. Otherwise we will repeat the disaster of Surat in 1994 when all dogs were removed and rats took their place immediately, creating fears of plague. I remember the masks and fear across the country.

A WHO study in the 1990s showed sterilisation and vaccination was the only way to deal with street animals and the threat of rabies from them. This survey informed an order of a lower court in Delhi that asked the government to sterilise and vaccinate dogs instead of killing them.

In 2001, the Centre notified the Animal Birth Control (ABC) rules. While local bodies were asked to execute the sterilisation programme, it was expected that the Centre and state governments would extend financial assistance. The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) was mandated to assist and monitor these drives.

Unfortunately, the government made no financial provision for sterilisation. A few municipalities have implemented this programme very effectively on their own — especially in Delhi where the dog population is now under a lakh and dog bites have come down from 72,000 a year in 2000 to 12,000. The centres which issue the anti-rabies injections in Delhi will tell you that most of these bites are from foreign pet dogs who believe they should protect their owners. But Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida do not have any animal birth control programme and Gurgaon implements such a programme irregularly, which is a waste of money.

There is confusion on which ministry should underwrite the dog sterilisation programme — the health ministry as a health programme, the urban development ministry as a programme for cities, the animal husbandry department, or the environment ministry. The AWBI, now under the aegis of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has been steadily reducing its financial aid — it was only Rs 1 crore for the entire country six years ago and is today nil.

Since 2009, the high courts of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh have attempted to reinstate the dog killing regime in one way or another, but such invasive actions have been stayed by the Supreme Court. The judiciary realised that governments were dragging their feet on the implementation of the ABC rules. The AWBI was, therefore, asked to draw out a detailed state-wise implementation framework and a module for carrying out high throughput surgeries for street dogs. This was issued to all states in 2016.

The streets of Delhi were full of diseased



CR Sasikumar

dogs till a little over a decade ago. With regular sterilisation drives conducted by the MCD, the numbers have fallen drastically and dog bites have reduced. The caregivers of street dogs have played a crucial role in befriending dogs and getting them neutered. Such interaction reduces aggression in dogs and they perceive humans as friendly and non-threatening. These caregivers get harassed over simple acts of compassion, but these are people who use their time and money to serve the community. We should be grateful to them.

Constructive measures to control the dog population need to be undertaken by the animal birth control monitoring committees in the states. Unfortunately, these committees don't meet, they have not allocated any budget for the programme and are culpable for badly executed programmes. The Uttarakhand government has set an example by establishing Animal Birth Control Campuses with adequate hospital facilities. An evaluation of the programme after two years of operation found it extremely effective in controlling both aggression in dogs and their population. Uttar Pradesh has started a similar programme in Lucknow.

Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has not acted on the SC's directive to create a scheme to support the implementation of the dog population control and rabies eradication programme. Uttarakhand's experience shows the salience of such a programme.

The Centre has banned breeders and pet shops which sell animals without licences. This rule is not being followed but it could become a significant part of a larger solution. Adoption of Indian dogs is a healthier and more practical option. They are better suited to our environment and are intelligent and friendly. If two in every hundred people adopt an Indian dog, there will be no dogs on the roads. Till then, we need a robust spay and neuter programme and community participation to keep the street animals healthy and friendly.

Most people who complain about dogs have foreign species at home — several of them could have bought the animals illegally. They are bitten by foreign dogs but take out their anger on Indian dogs. I find this attitude elitist and bizarre. I also find the use of the word rabid inappropriate. A rabid dog loses the use of his nerves — first sight, then throat, then the legs. Such dogs do not jump about, climb over walls. Rabies is now very rare in

Delhi because of the ABC programme. What the writer of a recent article in this paper (Coomi Kapoor's 'Gone to the dogs', IE, July 27) probably meant was a violent foreign dog that the owner mis-trained and then set loose. The owner should be punished.

Street dogs or colony dogs do not bite wantonly. There are three reasons for them getting aggressive. One, if the female is on heat the males will break boundaries to reach her and get aggressive because they are both sexually charged and nervous.

Two, if the female has a litter, she knows most of her babies will die and her pain and anger comes out as she tries to defend them. Anyone who feeds dogs knows that five out of six puppies will die. Three, if they are constantly hit by people, dogs become very defensive. Sterilisation takes away the first two reasons and in every colony where street animals are allowed to live and let live, there is complete harmony.

Some people use their profession and power to abuse and bully harmless dog feeders who then reach out to me. They cannot bully me, so like all bullies, they back down in private and then when the opportunity arises, they use their professional clout to attack me.

I am an eight-time MP — the longest serving MP in the current Parliament. Everything I do is based on scientific studies and out of a desire to provide solutions that serve all. I do not want a Surat again. I do not want a country which encourages violence against animals because the next step will be violence against people. I certainly do not want Indian dogs replaced with inbred foreign species who also suffer a lot. If I am wrong, are all the judges in the courts also wrong? Are the animal behaviour scientists wrong?

During the lockdown, lakhs of people, especially young people, have emerged as thoughtful, generous and brave animal carers. Many of them have been subjected to irrational abuse. But we should remember that every animal carer takes care of the people in the community by feeding the dogs.

Animals bring happiness. The word animal comes from anima — the soul. Each animal thinks, dreams and wants the same nurturing that we do. If we can coexist with them, we will benefit far more from our interaction with them than they with us. Let us be humane and kind to each other and the world around us. India will benefit.

*The writer is a former minister and BJP MP*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Washington has lost in terms of morality and justice. This will generally help China accumulate more resources to resist US suppression.”  
— GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## Caste to kisan politics

Choice of Hardik Patel as Gujarat Congress working president announces new form of an old politics



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT AND SHARIK LALIWALA

LAST MONTH, the Congress elevated Hardik Patel, 26, to the post of working president of its Gujarat unit. This strategic move, a few months before eight assembly by-polls and local elections, transfigures the state's politics and Gujarat Congress in critical ways.

Hardik Patel began his political career in 2015, attending to the Patel community's demand for recognition as an Other Backward Class (OBC). He turned against the BJP when the agitation was crushed, resulting in the death of nine young men and the arrest of about 1,500 others. Patel spent 200 days in jail before the Gujarat High Court asked him to stay out of the state for six months. During this time, he became closer to the Congress and supported the party in the 2017 election.

Gradually, he re-configured his political narrative to expand his reach beyond rural Patels. He has set aside the quota question after joining the Congress in 2019 and following the introduction of the 10 per cent reservation for economically weaker sections. He now tries to appear as a peasant and youth leader.

This evolution is in tune with the Congress's evolution in Gujarat. Patels used to support the Congress until the 1960s, when it became a safe home for Brahmins and Baniyas. From the late-1970s, the Congress turned to the OBCs, especially to the Kshatriya-Thakors and Kolis under the leadership of Madhavsinh Solanki, who was also popular among Harijans (Dalits), Adivasis and Muslims (hence the famous KHAM coalition). This caste-based coalition further alienated the Patels, who fully shifted to the BJP, as Baniyas and Brahmins had already done. The Hindu nationalist coalition was solidified under Narendra Modi in the wake of the 2002 communal violence.

The Congress has gradually realised that its old understanding of caste politics, which was devoid of caste-class interaction, would not take it far in a post-liberalisation environment. It has since established itself as a party of rural Gujarat, first in Saurashtra (as evident from the 2015 local elections), and then across the state, while the BJP remained more urban and middle-class oriented. This rural-urban dynamic became noticeable in the 2017 assembly election — 57 of the Congress's 77 MLAs came from predominantly rural constituencies, while the BJP won 46 of 56 urban seats.

The urban/rural divide is increasingly manifest in politics because of the evolution of the economy, where industry developed, to some extent, at the expense of agriculture. MSMEs have been affected by the rise of oligopolies and highly capitalistic investments have not created adequate jobs. As per the Socio-Economic Review of Gujarat (2019-20), every Rs 1 crore of investment by big industries has created little above three additional jobs from 1983 till now!

The Patels, like the Marathas and Jats, are themselves divided along the urban/rural line. A Kalaiyaran's calculations based on the Indian Human Development Survey reveal that 20 per cent of the richest among the Patels cornered 61.4 per cent of the community's total income in 2011-12 (against 52.8 per cent in 2004-5), whereas 20 per cent of the poorest got only 2.8 per cent (against 4.1 per cent seven years before). In the case of poor Patels, this socio-economic trend is even more unfavourable as they lag behind OBCs and Dalits. In 2011-12, the mean income of the bottom 20 per cent of Patels (Rs 6,978) was almost half the mean income of the second to the bottom quintile of Dalits (Rs 11,411). The closing of the gap is even more obvious between Patels and OBCs: The third quintile of the Kolis and other OBCs earn almost as much as the second to the bottom quintile of the Patels and their top 20-40 per cent earns almost as much as the third quintile of Patels. The class element among Patels coincides with the urban/rural divide, as the rich Patels are those who have successfully moved to urban Gujarat and share bonds with the wealthy Gujarati diaspora in the US. Poor Patels are still in villages and cannot find a good job in town.

These divisions are visible in Gujarat's polity. While the Congress represents the rural Patels, the BJP is more of a spokesperson of the urban ones. Only one of the 15 Patel Congress legislators hails from an urban seat, whereas over three-fourths of the 29 Patel BJP MLAs come from predominantly urban seats. Certainly, Patels run the show in Vijay Rupani's government, with half of the cabinet “reserved” for them. But, the most influential Patel ministers — Deputy CM Nitin Patel, Kaushik Patel, Saurabh Patel — represent industrial-urban interests. The OBCs, who occupy about 30 per cent of the BJP's legislative body, had just one cabinet spot until the cabinet expansion in early 2019, after which they got two additional cabinet ministers (both Congress turncoats). In contrast, the Congress is in the hands of young OBC and Patidar faces from a rural background. Besides Hardik Patel, the party's regional president, Amit Chavda is an OBC leader from central Gujarat and the opposition leader in the Vidhan Sabha, Pares Dhanani, is a Leuva Patel from Amreli.

The position of a *kisan* leader has long been vacant in Gujarat. Keshubhai Patel, Gujarat's chief minister before Modi, was the last powerful politician to canvass for farmers openly. Hardik Patel may get to don the hat of a kisan leader. In the 1980s, the Gujarat Congress initiated a new form of caste politics that announced the Mandal and Bahujan moment. Today, it may inaugurate the return of the kind of kisan politics that Charan Singh had promoted, in the backdrop of an agricultural crisis that makes the urban/rural divide even more pronounced. What remains to be seen is whether the party will stand also by those at the bottom of rural society — the landless labourers from Adivasi, lower OBC and Dalit milieus.

*Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London. Laliwala is an independent scholar on politics and history of Gujarat*



MOHAMMED AYOOB

## The government we deserve

India needs a new political culture, not a presidential system

CONGRESS MP Shashi Tharoor ('Case for presidential system', IE, July 25) has very thoughtfully reopened the debate on the parliamentary versus presidential systems that had been dormant for several decades. He makes several valid points, including the propensity of lawmakers to defect at the drop of a hat in search of perks and offices, which he blames on the parliamentary system.

Consequently, according to Tharoor, the system produces governments focused more on politics and personal aggrandisement rather than policy. The sordid spectacle in Rajasthan bears testimony to the lack of interest on the part of the executive and the legislature in policymaking and legislation, preoccupied as they are with retaining or capturing power. Unfortunately, this continues to be true even when we are in distress today because of the pandemic.

I am not certain that this is the fault of the parliamentary system. The causes for the political malaise in India are manifold and they are not limited to a particular form of government. The first is the lack of ideological commitment, with the exception of a substantial portion of the devotees of Hindutva, on the part of the political class. Devoid of

political principles many, if not most, politicians are up for sale. For these venal politicians, defection and party-hopping are not serious political maladies but essential components of their political strategy to attain or retain power.

This is unlikely to change even if India moves to a presidential system. In fact, it is probable that it will contribute hugely to an executive-legislature deadlock as a result of competitive buying or a legislature that is completely bought off by, and therefore totally subservient to, the executive by the offer of perks. The latter will completely invalidate the basic principles of separation of powers and checks and balances that are essential pre-requisites for a presidential system.

Second, caste and communal considerations play a big role in Indian elections. This is a societal virus that is unlikely to disappear by switching to a presidential system. The same considerations will apply in choosing a presidential cabinet that affects cabinet formation in a parliamentary system. It is utopian to assume that the president will choose his cabinet based primarily on considerations of merit. In fact, leaving the choice of the cabinet to the whims and fancies of

the president will additionally vitiate the process.

Third, in the absence of a viable party structure, the presidential system will encourage even more irresponsible behaviour by elected legislators, especially those belonging to opposition parties. If the current Indian legislatures are a cross between rubber-stamping bodies and those engaged in creating mayhem, legislatures in the presidential system will become infinitely worse with both these characteristics on display on a much larger scale. They are unlikely to transform themselves into genuinely deliberative bodies that Tharoor imagines they could become. It is far more likely that they will turn into highly reckless gatherings engaged in pork-barrel activities primarily for personal gains.

The problem lies not with the parliamentary system but with the political culture of the country. This is demonstrated above all by the way voters make their choices based on communal, caste and other primordial considerations and in response to emotional appeals rather than making informed choices about public needs and services. The sorry state of India's public health system

during this pandemic is clear evidence that public health was not a consideration for the voters when casting their ballots in state and parliamentary elections. The wasteful expenditure indulged in by governments is testimony to the callousness of the authorities as well as the apathy of the general public. All this proves the truth of the maxim “people get the government they deserve.”

Misplaced, indeed highly distorted, public priorities and the ingrained venality of the political class are the root causes of the malaise in the Indian polity. These twin factors and not particular forms of government are the independent variables that help explain the sorry state of democratic institutions that Tharoor laments so eloquently. I am afraid Indians will have to live with this situation until the political culture of the country at the popular level and at the level of the political class undergoes a radical transformation. Changing the parliamentary form into a presidential one is not the panacea.

*The writer is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### WHO REPRESENTS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The case for presidential system' (IE, July 25). The writer believes that in a presidential system, the head of the government can have a free hand in appointing experts as ministers. However, even in the US, nominees need the approval of the senate. The parliamentary system is based on the fact the executive derives its power from the legislature. Our present system does not ensure parliamentary representation to a party commensurate with its vote share. A representative system should be a mixture of proportional representation and first past the post system.

**Parth Nawale, Mumbai**

### BE CAUTIOUS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The lockdown advantage' (IE, July 28). PM Narendra Modi's note of extreme caution in the latest edition of *Mann ki Baat* should be heeded. India has added nearly two lakh cases in the past four days with earlier hotspots like Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai giving way to a more pan-India distribution. The pandemic is entering a phase where backward districts in Bihar, Jharkhand, UP and Bengal will start reporting more cases. The emphasis must be on reducing mortality.

**Vandana, Chandigarh**

### IDEAS ONLINE

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### Beware, bad loans

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Stress test' (IE, July 28). It is not surprising to learn about the RBI governor's warning to the country's banks. The economy is in the doldrums despite the efforts of the government. Banks and NBFCs were struggling with the economic downturn even before the pandemic because the lack of fresh credit demand. The new moratorium announcement could aggravate the bad loan problem. Barring a few select companies, most firms today do not have the cash flows to sustain business.

**Bal Govind, Noida**



# 12 EXPRESS NETWORK

**NIA arrests 3 from Dantewada in BJP MLA murder case**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, RAIPUR, JULY 29

THE NIA on Wednesday arrested three people from Chhattisgarh's Dantewada in connection with the murder case of BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi. The Dantewada legislator was killed along with four personnel of Chhattisgarh Armed Force on April 9 last year in a Maoist ambush near Shyamgiri village in the district.



**Bhima Mandavi**

Those arrested have been identified as Laxman Jaiswal (45), Ramesh Kashyap (35) and Kumari Linge Tati (25). The NIA has

accused them of providing logistical support, including IED-making material, to the attackers.

Police had earlier arrested two men in this case from Dantewada for conspiring with the Maoists, which resulted in the attack against Mandavi.

"Investigation has revealed that the arrested accused Laxman Jaiswal... who runs a grocery shop in Nakulnar, provided electric wires, explosive substances and other items for the IED blast carried out by CPI (Maoist) cadres. Accused Ramesh Kumar Kashyap alias Ramesh Hemla (ex-sarpanch of Kakadi Village) and Kumari Linge Tati were instrumental in providing logistic support to the Naxalites and were part of the conspiracy which led to the killing of Bhima Mandavi and four security personnel," the NIA said in a statement.

The accused were produced before the NIA Special Court, Jagdalpur, on Wednesday and have been taken on police remand for seven days, NIA said.

The ambush had involved an IED blast followed by indiscriminate firing by Maoists, who also took away the arms and ammunition of the killed security personnel.

**BJP worker's body found hanging in Bengal town**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, JULY 29

THE BODY of a BJP worker was found hanging at Digha town in West Bengal's East Midnapore district on Wednesday.

Pumachandra Das, 44, was the BJP booth president of ward number 41 in the Ramnagar-2 municipal area. A relative said, "He was called for a meeting by local TMC leaders in the morning. Since then, he was missing." Locals spotted the body hanging near his house at and called police. The body was sent for post-mortem.

BJP president of Kanthi (Organisation) Anup Chakraborty said, "The TMC murdered Das in a planned manner. For a long time, they were trying to frame him in false cases. He recently got bail in all cases and returned home. Local TMC leaders called him in a kangaroo court this morning. Since then, he was missing. We suspect that he was murdered before being hanged. We are demanding a transparent investigation in this case."

TMC leaders denied all allegations. A local party leader said, "The case is being investigated. The cause of the death will be clear after investigation."

Police have said the cause of the death will be revealed after the post-mortem report.

**Nashik: Suspected man-eating leopard caught**

**SANJANA BHALERAO**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

FOLLOWING A surge in man-animal conflict in Nashik farm-lands, the Maharashtra Forest Department has caught six leopards since July 2. Suspected leopard attacks have left at least five dead and as many seriously injured in a 12-km stretch in the district, since December.

On Wednesday, an adult male leopard — the sixth in a month — was caught in a cage

**CHARGESHEET ON PALGHAR LYNCHING**

## Hours before attack, villagers decided to 'teach thieves a lesson', says CID

**SRINATH RAO**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

HOURS BEFORE three men were lynched at Gadchinchle village in Maharashtra's Palghar on April 16, a group of 10 villagers had held a meeting and allegedly decided to "teach a lesson" to thieves disguised as sadhus and doctors. A chargesheet filed by the Maharashtra CID earlier this month said the fatal attack on sadhus Mahant Kalpavruksha Giri (70) and Sushilgiri Maharaj (35) and their driver Nilesh Telgade (30) was a fallout of this meeting.

The three were driving to a funeral in Surat on April 16 when villagers in Gadchinchle stopped their car and attacked them with stones, sticks and axes.

Mahant Giri, the CID chargesheet states, was overpowered by villagers after he ran away from a police constable who was trying to help him "in an attempt to save his own life". Video clips of the incident, which form part of the evidence listed in the chargesheet, however, showed the constable had pushed Mahant Giri away to



**Police officials at the crime spot in Gadchinchle village. File**

make his own escape.

The 5,921-page chargesheet states that rumours of thieves and organ-harvesting gangs on the loose had led to panic in Gadchinchle, Divshi, Dabhadhi and Kinhavli villages in Palghar district and Rudana village in the neighbouring Union Territory of Daman & Diu. Villagers, it further states, had taken to patrolling the roads every night armed with flashlights, stones, wooden sticks, iron rods, axes, shovels, sickles and handheld slingshots. "Even after the nationwide

lockdown was announced on March 24 and citizens were ordered to stay at home, people in these villages stayed in touch and came together. Some of the accused spread rumours by phone and through word of mouth about thieves coming [in] disguised as sadhus, policemen and doctors..." the chargesheet states.

Earlier, on April 14, a group of villagers at Sami Pimpalpada, 60 km from Gadchinchle, had attacked two doctors and their driver. Mistaking the occupants of the car for thieves, the villagers

had pelted them with stones and policemen who had reached the spot to rescue them.

On April 16, the chargesheet adds, accused Rajesh Dhakal Rao held a meeting with nine other co-accused and decided to "teach a lesson" to any thieves they caught. The meeting had been termed in the chargesheet as a "premeditated criminal conspiracy", punishable under IPC Section 120 B.

Hours later, at 8.54 pm, Telgade's car, which the two sadhus had hired from Mumbai, was detained by forest department guards at a check-post in Gadchinchle. The three men were turned back by authorities at the Daman & Diu border for attempting to cross over without a valid travel pass.

After some villagers gathered around their car, forest guards called a constable at Kasa police station at 9.26 pm to inform about the tense situation.

The chargesheet claimed that the villagers were insistent on dealing with the "thieves" themselves and prevented the police from taking the injured men to the hospital. Four policemen came under attack while extracting the

two sadhus and their driver from their damaged vehicle.

Three policemen, the chargesheet states, managed to escort Sushilgiri and Telgade into a police car while Assistant Police Sub-Inspector R B Salunkhe took the elderly Mahant Giri to the forest guards' checkpoint. However, as villagers hammered on its door and windows with sticks and stones, Salunkhe and the sadhu were forced to leave the checkpoint.

Videos shot on mobile phones by locals showed both the men being attacked by villagers and Salunkhe abandoning the elderly man after being overpowered by armed men. However, the chargesheet states that Mahant Giri made a run for it "in an attempt to save his own life" but could not escape the mob.

The chargesheet, which was filed at a magistrate court in Dahanu town, includes statements of 226 witnesses, most of whom comprise the policemen injured in the attempt to shield the three victims, the forest department guards, Gadchinchle's sarpanch, her husband and other villagers.



**Hany Babu (left) is produced at the special NIA court on Wednesday. Ganesh Shirsekar**

## DU prof Hany Babu sent to seven-day NIA custody

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, JULY 29

A DAY after he was arrested in connection with the Elgar Parishad case, Delhi University associate professor Hany Babu MT was Wednesday sent to the custody of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for seven days by a special court in Mumbai.

The NIA, through special public prosecutor Prakash Shetty, sought Babu's custody for 10 days, claiming that the agency wants to question him in the case based on letters recovered from electronic articles seized during the investigation.

The NIA claimed that Babu was a "supporter of Naxal activities and Naxalite movements".

It alleged that a document was found which elaborates on his association with the banned CPI (Maoist). His custody was sought stating that it was necessary to confront the various facts revealed during the investigation of the other accused.

So far, 11 others have been arrested in the case, including Dr Anand Teltumbde and Gautam Navlakha, who were held by the NIA in April after it took over the probe from the Pune police.

Babu's lawyer R Sathyanarayanan opposed the remand plea, stating that NIA has been questioning him for the past four days after he presented himself before the agency after being summoned and hence further custodial interrogation was not required. Special Judge A T

Wankhede granted the NIA seven-day custody of Babu until August 4, considering the "nature of the allegations" against him.

Babu's wife Jenny Rowena, who teaches at Delhi University's Miranda House, had told The Indian Express on Tuesday that his arrest was a "joke and a farce".

The Pune Police had claimed that a letter was recovered from arrested accused Rona Wilson during his arrest in June 2018, which allegedly makes a mention of a "Comrade H.B" in connection with the "solidarity movement in support of Comrade Sai" (GN Saibaba). The police had said that it was suspected that the person referred to was Babu.

## Activist who filed petition against Yogi in 2007 convicted of rape, gets life term

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, JULY 29

THE DISTRICT sessions court of Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh has convicted activist Parvez Parvez, 65, in a 2018 gangrape case and sentenced him to life imprisonment along with another co-accused.

In 2007, Parvez had moved the Allahabad High Court seeking registration of an FIR against Yogi Adityanath, who was then an MP from Gorakhpur, alleging that he gave a hate speech. In 2018, after the High Court allowed the UP government to not prosecute Adityanath — now the chief minister of UP — Parvez filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the order.

Parvez was arrested in September 2018 after a 40-year-old woman accused him and Mehmood alias Jumman Baba (66) of gangrape on June 3, 2018.

In her police complaint, the woman had alleged that she had gone to the house of Jumman Baba on June 3, 2018 for "seeking remedies" for her marital problems, when he took her to an isolated place and raped her at gunpoint along with "someone who Jumman called Parvez bhai".

District and Sessions Judge Govind Vallabh Sharma on Tuesday sentenced the two accused — Parvez Parvez and Mehmood alias Jumman — to life imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 each on both and ordered that Rs 40,000 from the fine be given to the gangrape victim," government counsel Yashpal Singh said.

## Agra man accused of abducting sister-in-law held for bid to run over wife after altercation

**AMIL BHATNAGAR**  
NOIDA, JULY 29

A 25-YEAR-OLD man, wanted in a kidnapping case, was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly trying to run his SUV over his wife following an altercation with his in-laws at their residence at Fatehabad in Agra district. The woman suffered minor injuries. His three friends were also arrested.

According to police, the accused, Khetpal Singh, was wanted in a case filed by his in-laws for allegedly kidnapping his sister-in-law in March. For an out-of-court settlement, he and his three friends visited his in-laws' house where the incident occurred.

"We received information that a car had overturned at Paraoli village. When the policemen reached the spot, they found that locals had caught a man who was trying to flee. It later came to light that the accused was trying to settle a police case with his in-laws. At some point during the interac-

tion, the argument escalated and he tried to flee. It appears that the wife came in front of the car and he tried to drive past her," said Pradeep Kumar, Station House Officer of Fatehabad. The SUV had BJP flags, but SHO Kumar said, "We are not aware if he holds any position at the organisational level."

According to police, while Singh and his three friends were speaking, his in-laws threatened to call the police. They tried to flee in Singh's SUV but his wife blocked it. "He tried to run over her but the SUV hit a pole at a distance and came to a halt. Locals held the accused and tied him to a pole while waiting for the police," said a police officer. Singh has been booked under the attempt to murder charge.

The first case against Singh was registered under IPC section 366 (kidnapping). His in-laws had alleged that he coerced his sister-in-law to elope with him. She was rescued by the police earlier this month. The case is pending in the Agra District Court.

Meanwhile, the Assam State Zoo is preparing for the arrival of the rescued animals. "We have readied the enclosures, and are going to keep them quarantined for a few days," said Tejas Mariswamy, DFO, Assam State Zoo.

**RED KANGAROO, HYACINTH MACAWS AMONG THE RESCUED**

## Forest dept busts smuggling racket in Assam

**TORA AGARWALA**  
GUWAHATI, JULY 29

A RED kangaroo, the largest of all kangaroos in Australia and three pairs of hyacinth macaws, native to South America, are among the exotic animals rescued after forest department officials busted a smuggling racket at the Assam-Mizoram border on Tuesday.

The rescued animals, which also included three rare Aldabra tortoises and two capuchin monkeys, were found in plastic boxes and cartons in a vehicle that was stopped at a check post in Assam's Cachar district, authorities said.

"We are investigating the matter," said DFO, Cachar Forest Division, Sunnydeo Choudhary. "The smugglers were trying to take the animals from Mizoram to Guwahati, following which



The rescued animals were found in plastic boxes and cartons in a vehicle stopped at a check post in Cachar district.

the animals would be taken elsewhere, maybe Kolkata or another big city."

Two people, Narsimha Reddy and Navnath Tukaram Daigude, have been detained in this connection. The animals,

now at the Cachar Forest Department office, will be transferred to Assam State Zoo in Guwahati.

"These are extremely rare and exotic animals. In fact, the Aldabra tortoise, native to the

UNESCO World Heritage site of Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles, is one of the largest tortoises in the world," said Choudhary, adding that the tortoise and the macaw species were classified as 'vulnerable' in the International Union for Conservation of Nature list.

Choudhary said the animals are "healthy and safe". "They have been checked by the doctors here and we have put them on a special diet," he said.

He added that the truck was intercepted at Lailapur Forest check gate, a common trade transit route.

"At least 200 trucks pass through every night, carrying different items. When this one passed, our team detected a strange smell from the vehicle," said Choudhary. "The driver tried to pass it off as rotten fruit, but our personnel searched the vehicle and found the animals."





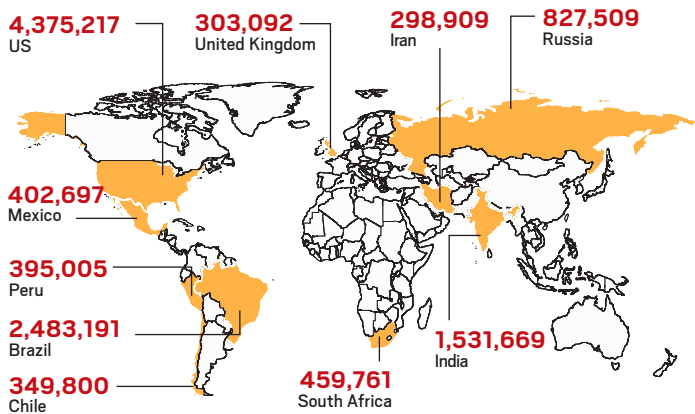
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to [explained@indianexpress.com](mailto:explained@indianexpress.com)

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

## THE WORLD



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 16,797,288

DEATH COUNT: 661,724

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on July 29. JHU's India tally and Health Ministry's tally (below) may not match if these are accounted at different times.

## Immunoprotein found to impair coronavirus-cell interaction

A NEW study has found that an endogenous protein (one that originates within the body's systems) prevents coronaviruses, including SARS-CoV-2, from fusing with host cells. The protein, called LY6e, is produced by the human immune system. Researchers from Germany, Switzerland have published their findings in the journal *Nature Microbiology*.

LY6e was discovered in 2017, during research by virologist Stephanie Pfänder (then with the Institute of Virology and Immunology in Switzerland, now with Ruhr-Universität Bochum in Germany) in



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

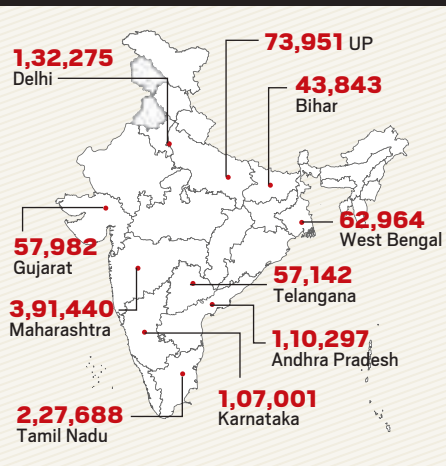
Charles Rice's lab at Rockefeller University in New York, in order to identify genes that prevent coronavirus infections. Since then, further investigations has shown that the protein exerted this inhibitory effect on all analysed coronaviruses, including Tests with different cell cultures have shown that LY6e affects the ability of the virus to fuse with the host cells.

This was validated in an animal model. Mice lacking LY6e in immune cells were found highly susceptible to a normally non-lethal mouse coronavirus and succumb to infection.

Source: Ruhr-University Bochum

## INDIA COUNT: 15,31,669 (34,193 DEATHS)

## TOP 10 STATES



## REST OF INDIA

Andaman and Nicobar Islands	363
Arunachal Pradesh	1330
Assam	34947
Chandigarh	934
Chhattisgarh	8257
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	982
Goa	5287
Haryana	32876
Himachal Pradesh	2330
Jammu and Kashmir	18879
Jharkhand	9078
Kerala	20894
Ladakh	1327
Madhya Pradesh	29217
Manipur	2317
Meghalaya	779
Mizoram	384
Nagaland	1460
Odisha	28107
Puducherry	3011
Punjab	14378
Rajasthan	38514
Sikkim	579
Tripura	4269
Uttarakhand	6587

Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, July 29. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states/UTs with at least one case listed above. **9,88,029 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 35 STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES**

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

## EXPLAINED SCI-TECH

## Destination Mars

NASA will launch its Perseverance rover to Mars today. A look at NASA's experience with previous rovers, what will be new with the fourth-generation rover, and why there is so much recent interest in Mars

## EXPERT EXPLAINS

DR AMITABHA GHOSH

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

IMAGINE DRIVING on the loneliest road in the world. For the traveller, it is a cathartic experience. One can drive for hours on end without seeing another car or human being. There is the wilderness, the landscape of mountains and valleys, the open sky above and the spectacular night bejewelled by stars. Driving on Mars is a somewhat similar experience. Except there is no road. The rover can drive anywhere it chooses to, and is able to. Except no human or machine has driven on the road before. That is the rush of operating a rover on Mars.

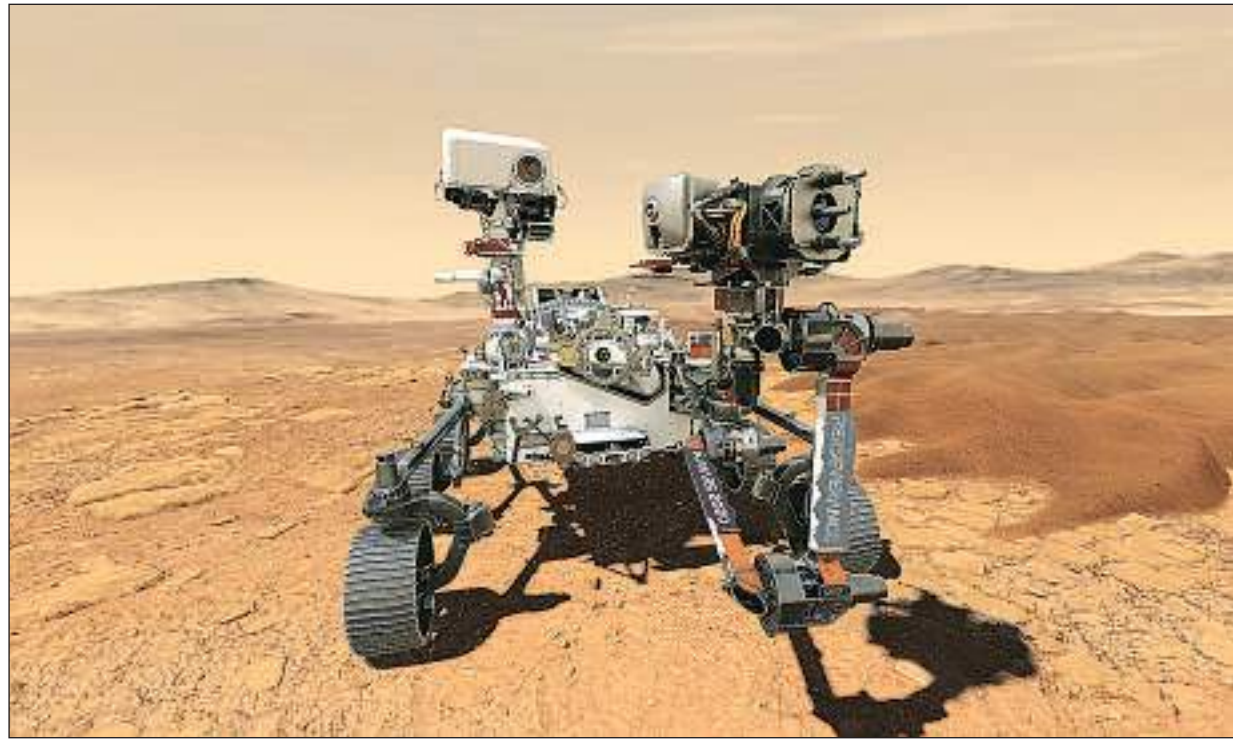
## What has NASA's experience been with multiple generations of Mars rovers?

NASA's incredible journey of driving on Mars started about 23 years ago, in 1997: when the Mars Pathfinder Mission with the Sojourner rover egressed on the Martian soil. It was an unforgettable experience to be part of the Operations team for Mars Pathfinder: a mission put together on a very tight budget that many thought would fail. However, Mars Pathfinder would succeed and in the process would change the subsequent history of Mars Exploration. Thus, NASA would go on to send the twin rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, to Mars in 2003, followed by Curiosity in 2012, followed by Perseverance that is scheduled to launch later today.

The Sojourner rover, a technology demonstration mission, lasted for 83 days. Spirit and Opportunity set a new paradigm of a long term robotic presence on Mars, lasting about 6 and 15 years, respectively. Curiosity landed in 2012: and continues to operate today. With each rover generation, the number and the complexity of scientific instruments increased. Sojourner was a small rover, almost like a toy, a couple of feet in length and width. Spirit and Opportunity were much larger: about the size of a golf cart. Curiosity and Perseverance are the size of a small car.

The science returns of exploring Mars with a rover have been very significant. Rovers provide a way to study the local area in much higher resolution than is possible from an orbiting spacecraft. In addition, rovers have a suite of instruments from drills to spectrometers to microscopic imagers: these instruments help understand the local geology much like a field geologist would study rocks on Earth. In addition, starting with Spirit and Opportunity, rovers have acted as mobile weather stations on Mars that monitor changes in the Martian atmosphere continuously over multiple years.

With each new generation of rovers, NASA has added new capabilities and a somewhat different instrument suite to answer important scientific questions. Examples would be the addition of a drill on



An illustration of NASA's Perseverance rover operating on the surface of Mars. NASA/JPL-Caltech Laboratory

Spirit and Opportunity, and a mass spectrometer, an instrument to measure isotopes of different elements, for Curiosity. With the launch of Mars Perseverance, the fourth generation of Mars rovers, NASA will take forward this tradition.

## What is new with Perseverance?

■ First, Perseverance will carry a unique instrument, MOXIE or Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment: which for the first time will manufacture molecular oxygen on Mars using carbon dioxide from the carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere.

There is the new push for ISRU at NASA: in NASA jargon, ISRU means In Situ Resource Utilization: or the use of local resources to meet human needs or requirements of the spacecraft. Without ISRU, exploration of Mars in the future decades will be incredibly expensive and thereby impossible. If astronauts have to carry oxygen or water or rocket fuel for their journey for a two-year journey to Mars and back, the cost will be undeniably excessive. In a way, this is similar to a traveller from New Delhi having to carry their own oxygen, food supplies and aircraft fuel for a two-year stay in New York: the cost per passenger will be incredibly high. If oxygen can be successfully extracted on Mars in some significant scale, this can have two direct advantages: first, the oxygen can be used for human visitors to Mars, and

second, the oxygen can be used to manufacture rocket fuel for the return journey. Thus, if the technology demonstration is successful, NASA can easily scale up the oxygen generation rate per day for MOXIE by a hundred times: this would be of great use for a future human mission to Mars.

■ Second, Perseverance will carry Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars. This is the first time NASA will fly a helicopter on another planet or satellite. Ingenuity is a technology demonstration: the challenge, of course, is to fly the helicopter in the thin atmosphere of Mars. Like a drone on Earth, a Mars helicopter can help in rover drive planning and in fetching samples from locations that the rover cannot safely drive to. If this technology demonstration is successful, we will see a greater role for such helicopters in future missions.

■ Third, Perseverance is the planned first step to bring back rock samples from Mars for analysis in sophisticated laboratories on Earth: with the goal of looking for biosignatures: or signatures of present or past life. Perseverance will collect samples and a second rover mission will fly within a decade to help transport the rock samples back to Earth. The analysis of Martian rocks on Earth will likely provide a reliable indication of whether life on Mars is feasible in the past or at present.

## TODAY'S EXPERT

**DR AMITABHA GHOSH** is a NASA Planetary Scientist based out of Washington DC. He has worked for multiple NASA Mars Missions starting with the Mars Pathfinder Mission in 1997. He served as Chair of the Science Operations Working Group for the Mars Exploration Rover Mission and was tasked with leading tactical Rover Operations on Mars for more than 10 years. He helped analysed the first rock on Mars, which incidentally happened to be the first rock analysed from another planet.

## What is the reason for the near-term interest in Mars?

Mars is a fascinating planet for humankind. Located in the very near backyard (about 200 million km away), Mars is a planet that humans can aspire to visit or to stay for a longer duration. Mars had flowing water and an atmosphere in the distant past: and perhaps conditions to support life.

But, in the near term, the increase in interest related to Mars is because of Elon Musk's plans for commercial travel. A human mission to Mars has always been an aspiration for different space agencies including NASA. Though technologically possible, the cost was known to be prohibitive: perhaps of the order of \$500 billion or 20 times NASA's budget. Hence, NASA's plans to send astronauts to Mars have been, in large part, aspirational: in other words, without adequate funding.

Musk has unveiled a new architecture to get to Mars. Musk's vision is to use a combination of cost-saving measures, like reusable launch vehicles, in-orbit refueling and manufacturing rocket fuel on Mars, to reduce the cost of a journey to Mars down by 1/1000th. Thus, the price per passenger for going to Mars on his Starship Spaceship would be on the order of \$200,000 or Rs 1.5 crore. The launch vehicle at the centre of Elon Musk's plans is the Starship Spaceship: the most powerful launch vehicle ever built, with the ability to transport 100 metric tonnes to Earth Orbit. SpaceX is scheduled to fly around the Moon with its first private passenger in 2023: and has the goal for a crewed mission to Mars as early as 2024. As we speak, the Starship is being built and tested in a sleepy South Texas town called Boca Chica. In a decade, SpaceX with its Starship Spaceship, might transform space travel and realise Musk's dream of turning humankind into a multi-planetary species.

## GST proceeds: what's due to states, and what Centre proposes

AANCHAL MAGAZINE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE DISTRIBUTION of GST proceeds has triggered a new flashpoint in Centre-state relations amid fresh indications of delayed compensation payments and dues to the states.

While the Centre on Monday released Rs 13,806 crore to the states for March 2020, wrapping up the full payout for FY20 at Rs 1.65 lakh crore, compensation payments for this financial year since April remain pending. Key Finance Ministry officials are reported to have briefed the Standing Committee on Finance Tuesday about the Centre's inability to pay states in the near future.

Punjab has responded by flagging the need for "timely GST payments", stating that four months of pending dues are equivalent to two months of salaries bills of the state. Kerala has described the reported statement by Ministry officials as a "brazen betrayal of federal trust". West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier this week, urging the Centre to release GST compensation worth Rs 4,135 crore for April and May.

## Why has GST compensation been an issue?

The concerns started surfacing in October last year, when the payments to states got delayed as GST revenues came in lower than expected. The Covid-19 pandemic has deepened the economic slowdown and impacted revenues, with GST col-

lections recording a 41% decline in the April-June quarter.

As the amount to be paid to states started rising with a compounded 14% rate even as compensation collections remained around the same level for two consecutive years, the high 14% rate has been viewed as delinked from economic realities. For instance, in the ongoing financial year, the SGST (state GST) revenue for June has been Rs 23,970 crore, while monthly protected revenue is Rs 63,706 crore, leaving a gap of Rs 39,736 crore (not taking into account settlement of IGST, the tax levied on all interstate supplies of goods and services). Only Rs 14,675 crore has been collected as compensation cess in April-June, including Rs 7,665 crore in June.

The Centre has cleared compensation dues for FY20 of Rs 1.65 lakh crore, while the collection under the compensation cess fund was only Rs 95,444 crore, implying the payments were over 70% higher than the collection. The gap was partly bridged by money from the compensation fund that had remained unutilised in the first two years of GST, along with Rs 33,412 crore that was ploughed back from Consolidated Fund of India to the compensation fund. (This was after the settlement of IGST dues had shown an excess apportionment by the Centre in FY18, due to the ad-hoc method of IGST settlement being followed in the first few months after the GST rollout in July 2017.)

Now, compensation payments to states are pending since April.



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the GST Council meeting through video conferencing on June 12. P77

## How much is transferred to the compensation fund?

In the Budget for 2020-21, while announcing the transfer of balances due from the collections for 2016-17 and 2017-18 in two instalments to the GST Compensation Fund, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that henceforth, transfers to the fund would be "limited only to collection by way of GST compensation cess".

Vijay Kelkar, former Finance Secretary and 13th Finance Commission Chairman, and Pune International Centre's Senior Fellow V Bhaskar co-authored a recent pa-

per that questioned this proposition. "While the Centre's position appears legally tenable, it does not appear ethically defensible... its decision to restrict transfer to the Fund only to compensation cess collections seems more a fiscal aspiration than a legal compulsion. Section 10(1) of the Act allows for 'other amounts' also to be credited to the Compensation fund with the approval of the GST Council," they wrote.

At present, the cess levied on sin and luxury goods such as tobacco and automobiles flows into the compensation fund. In the GST Council meetings in early 2017,

states had suggested alternative sources of revenue for the compensation fund in case of a shortfall, with borrowing among the options. Minutes of the 8th GST Council meeting state: "The Hon'ble Chairperson (then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley) that compensation to States shall be paid for 5 years in full within the stipulated period of 5 years and, in case the amount in the GST Compensation Fund fell short of the compensation payable in any bimonthly period, the GST Council shall decide the mode of raising additional resources including borrowing from the market which could be repaid by collection of cess in the sixth year or further subsequent years."

## What are the options for meeting the compensation gap?

Market borrowing has been discussed in the GST Council as one of the possible solutions, although the legality of the Council in borrowing will need to be explored. There is also an emerging view among states in favour of hiking the GST rates or restructuring the GST slabs. The states, however, agree that tinkering with the rate structure needs to be done only after the effects of the pandemic-induced slowdown wear off.

There are differing views among states on the Council itself resorting to market borrowing. While Kerala backs such a move and Bihar opposes it, all states are unanimous on sticking to the 14% assured rate for compensation. Some states are also of the view that the compensation period should be extended beyond the stated period of five years.

Hiking the cess rate or lowering of the guaranteed compensation rate have featured in the discussions of GST Council meetings, but states are not in favour of either option. As per estimates shared by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi, even if revenue collections in 2020-21 are projected at 65% of the revenues collected in 2019-20, there would be a revenue gap of Rs 2,67,000 crore for states. Even if a 5% cess is levied on high-end luxury goods, which form about 10% of the overall GST base, it would only yield about Rs 22,000-25,000 crore per annum, he had earlier said.

In their paper, Kelkar and Rao have said the Centre should promptly respond to the demand from states to pay them overdue compensation cess by borrowing from the market. "Though it does not appear to be legally liable, it has a moral imperative to do so, even if the guaranteed rate of revenue of 14% is inordinately high in the present COVID led economic downturn," the paper said, adding that a restructuring of the GST model should be considered if the losses for states continue.

## When are these issues being taken up next?

In the previous GST Council meeting in June, it was decided that the next meeting would be convened in July and will be a one-agenda meeting, focusing only on compensation. The meeting is yet to be convened.

Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac on Wednesday called for an immediate Council meeting.



## 14 THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



The US dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945

## JAPAN

## Court recognises atomic bomb 'black rain' victims

Tokyo: A Japanese court on Wednesday for the first time recognised people exposed to radioactive "black rain" that fell after the 1945 US atomic attack on Hiroshima as atomic bomb survivors, ordering the city and the prefecture to provide the same government medical benefits as given to other survivors. The Hiroshima District Court said all 84 plaintiffs who were outside of a zone previously set by the government as where radioactive rain fell also developed radiation-induced illnesses and should be certified as atomic bomb victims. All of the plaintiffs are older than their late 70s, with some in their 90s. **AP**

## PAKISTAN

## Man shot dead inside courtroom in Peshawar

Peshawar: A man from the minority Ahmadi community, facing trial for blasphemy, was shot dead on Wednesday in front of the judge in a local court situated in a high-security zone in Pakistan's Peshawar city, police said. Tahir Ahmad Naseem, who was arrested two years ago on blasphemy charges, died on the spot in the court of Additional Session Judge Shaukatullah Khan, they said. The court is situated in a high-security zone where the provincial assembly building is also situated. It was not clear how the armed attacker managed to get into the court.

## GERMANY

## Holocaust survivors urge FB to remove denials

Berlin: Holocaust survivors around the world are lending their voices to a campaign launched Wednesday targeting Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg, urging him to take action to remove denial of the Nazi genocide from the social media site. Coordinated by the New York-based Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, the #NoDenyingIt campaign uses Facebook itself to make the survivors' entreaties to Zuckerberg heard, posting one video per day urging him to remove Holocaust-denying groups, pages and posts as hate speech.



## SCALED-DOWN HAJ

Muslim pilgrims circle the Kaaba at the Grand Mosque as they observe social distancing amid the Covid-19 pandemic in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday. Pilgrims, moving in small groups after days in isolation, arrived at Islam's holiest site in Mecca for the start of a unique and scaled-down Haj experience reshaped by the pandemic. For the first time in Saudi history, the government barred Muslims from abroad from entering to perform the Haj in order to limit exposure of the coronavirus. Instead, anywhere between 1,000 to 10,000 people already residing in Saudi Arabia were selected to take part in the Haj. **AP**

## Big Tech faces US Congress in antitrust showdown

NANDITA BOSE & DIANE BARTZ  
WASHINGTON, JULY 29

A MUCH-ANTICIPATED congressional hearing featuring the CEOs of four of America's largest tech firms kicked off on Wednesday afternoon in a confrontation that promises a healthy dose of political theater, while also offering a window into the thinking of lawmakers trying to rein in Big Tech.

Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Amazon's Jeff Bezos, Google's Sundar Pichai and Apple's Tim Cook — who together represent about \$5 trillion of the US economy — appeared via videoconference before the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust panel.

US President Donald Trump, who has clashed with several of



Sundar Pichai of Google, Jeff Bezos of Amazon, Tim Cook of Apple and Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook attended the hearing

the biggest tech companies, on Wednesday threatened to take action against them.

"If Congress doesn't bring fairness to Big Tech, which they should have done years ago, I will do it myself with Executive Orders," he said on Twitter.

US Representative David Cicilline, a Democrat and chair of the antitrust subcommittee, also pummeled the four companies.

"They have too much power," he said in opening remarks.

In their opening remarks, the CEOs defended themselves by saying they also face competition and by pushing back against claims they are dominant. The hearing marks the first time the four CEOs have appeared together before lawmakers.

A detailed report with antitrust allegations against the four firms and recommendations on how to tame their market power could be released by late summer by the committee. **REUTERS**

## Indian nurse stabbed to death outside hospital in Florida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, JULY 29

AN INDIAN nurse has been killed outside a hospital in the US after she was stabbed multiple times and struck by a vehicle, in what police in South Florida are calling an incident of domestic dispute.

Merin Joy, 26, who is from Kerala, was stabbed "multiple times" while leaving Coral Springs hospital on Tuesday.

Coral Springs Police Deputy Chief Brad McKeone said the woman was leaving Broward Health Coral Springs, where she worked, when the man "pulled up behind her and ended up attacking her".

Joy was stabbed "multiple times" and then "struck by the vehicle as the suspect fled from the scene", McKeone was quoted as saying by the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. Joy was rushed to the nearest trauma hospital in Pompano Beach where "she died a short time later".

Witnesses described the suspect's car and police found Philip Mathew, 34, of Wixom, Michigan. Police said Mathew had a self-inflicted knife wound and was transported to an area hospital for treatment. Police believe the stabbing was part of a domestic dispute between Joy and Mathew. Mathew is being charged with first degree murder. Police could not immediately confirm if the two were married. **PTI**

## Oregon governor: Feds to start leaving Portland

GILLIAN FLACCUS & JONATHAN LEMIRE  
PORTLAND, JULY 29

FEDERAL AGENTS who have clashed with protesters in Portland, Oregon, will begin a "phased withdrawal" from the city, Governor Kate Brown said Wednesday.

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said in a statement the plan negotiated with Brown over the last 24 hours includes a "robust presence" of Oregon State Police in the downtown of the state's largest city.

"State and local law enforcement

## Officials say Russian intel spreading virus disinformation in US

Moscow has refined techniques it used in 2016, experts say

JULIAN E BARNES & DAVID E SANGER  
WASHINGTON, JULY 29

RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE services have been spreading disinformation about the coronavirus pandemic, according to newly declassified intelligence, material that demonstrates how Moscow is continuing to try to influence Americans as the election draws closer.

Russian military intelligence, known as the GRU, has used its ties with a Russian government information centre, InfoRos, and other websites to push out English-language disinformation and propaganda about the pandemic, such as amplifying false Chinese arguments that the virus was created by the United States military and articles that said Russia's medical assistance could bring a new détente with Washington.

The disinformation efforts are a refinement of what Russia tried to do in 2016. The fake social media accounts and bots used by the Internet Research Agency and other Russia-backed groups to amplify false articles have proved relatively easy to stamp out. But it is far more difficult to stop the dissemination of such articles that appear on



Health care workers preparing coronavirus tests this week in Orlando, Florida. Russia has sought to amplify false arguments that the virus was created by the US military. **NYT**

websites that seem legitimate, according to outside experts.

"Russian intelligence agencies are taking a more central role in disinformation efforts that Russia is pushing now," said Laura Rosenberger, the director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy. "It is not the blunt force" of the operations mounted by the Internet Research Agency.

Two American officials who described the newly declassified intelligence but would not provide the underlying reports about the activities of the GRU and the SVR, Moscow's equivalent of the CIA. They discussed the information on the condition of anonymity. **NYT**



Trump with Fauci during a briefing in April. **Reuters**

## Trump: Fauci's high approval rating 'curious'

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JULY 29

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump groused on Tuesday about medical expert Anthony Fauci's high approval ratings and joked that "nobody likes me" as he struggles to improve his standing with voters for his handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Fauci, an infectious disease expert who is on Trump's coronavirus task force, is one of the most trusted people in government.

Trump said he deserved plaudits for his handling of the virus, not just Fauci.

"He's working with our administration and for the most part we have done pretty much what he and others... who are terrific, recommended. And he's got this high approval rating. So why don't I have a high approval rating and the administration with respect to the virus? We should have a very high (approval rating)," Trump said. "So it sort of is curious, a man works for us, and yet they're highly thought of and nobody likes me. It can only be my personality," he said.

REUTERS  
BERLIN, JULY 29

Berlin's Tegel airport began large scale coronavirus testing on Wednesday, as airports across Germany prepared for the advent of free, compulsory testing for many passengers from next week.

Two rooms were set aside for tests, but an airport spokeswoman said a larger space was being prepared, indicating that authorities are preparing for testing to remain a fixture for a long time to come.

"These rooms are of course a bit small, as you can see," said spokeswoman Sabine Deckwerth. "That is why the large Terminal D in Tegel is being prepared to host a bigger one."

## Passengers arriving from countries deemed high-risk to be tested from next week

An increase in the number of infections across Europe has dashed the hopes of airlines and tourist destinations such as Spain for a relatively quick return to mass tourism after months of lockdown.

Airports such as Frankfurt, Germany's busiest, have been offering tests over the previous weeks, but now preparations are gearing up across the country for the testing of passengers arriving from countries deemed high risk that is due to begin next week.



Federal officers push back demonstrators during a protest in Portland, Oregon, Wednesday. **AP**

ment will begin securing properties and streets, especially those surrounding federal prop-

erties, that have been under nightly attack for the past two months," Wolf said.

## HE JOINED TED TURNER TO CREATE THE CABLE NEWS NETWORK AND OVERSAW ITS GROWTH BEFORE BEING FIRED

## Reese Schonfeld, founder of CNN and a television veteran, dies at 88

RICHARD SANDOMIR  
JULY 29

REESE SCHONFELD, who founded the Cable News Network with Ted Turner in the early 1980s before developing another major cable channel, the Food Network, a decade later, died Tuesday at his home in Manhattan. He was 88.

His daughter Juliette Schonfeld Reverand said the cause was complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Schonfeld, who had years

earlier run a service that sold nightly packages of news to local television stations, was skeptical when Turner asked him in 1979 to help start a 24-hour news channel. Turner, the impetuous entrepreneur and yachtsman who owned the Atlanta Braves and the TBS channel, had expressed a dislike for news, Schonfeld said.

"He'd say, 'I hate news, I'll never do news, I don't believe in news,'" Schonfeld recalled in an oral history interview for the Television Academy in 2005. "I have entertainment programmes

stacked up in my basement."

But Turner had had a change of heart about the viability of an all-news network and was willing to put millions of dollars behind it. Schonfeld was persuaded. He became CNN's founding president, in charge of content, personnel and scheduling.

This was in the early days of basic cable, and Turner and Schonfeld were gambling that CNN could effectively challenge the three main broadcast networks in their news coverage, which at the time consisted largely of 30-minute evening



Reese Schonfeld was CNN's founding president

newscasts. In the hope of finding an audience, CNN would cover news around the world all day, with time slots for financial,

sports, entertainment and talk programming.

Schonfeld adopted the word "randomonium," first used by the

rocker Frank Zappa in 1980, to describe CNN's fluid mix of content. He hired on-air personalities like former CBS News correspondent Daniel Schorr and war reporter Peter Arnett, and brought from radio what became the long-running political debate show "Crossfire," originally a match between liberal columnist Tom Braden and conservative commentator Pat Buchanan.

But even with CNN's influence growing and its Nielsen ratings rising, Turner fired Schonfeld two years after the launch.

"If I had been working for

anyone else, given the Nielsen ratings, I would've expected a moment of congratulations, shared glory, but Ted Turner did not like to share glory," Schonfeld wrote in a memoir, *Me and Ted Against the World: The Unauthorized Story of the Founding of CNN* (2001). By his account, Turner complained that Schonfeld was too demanding of the on-air talent. Turner also disliked Schonfeld's choice of Braden and Buchanan for "Crossfire," according to the memoir.

He then worked on various projects before 1992, when he

joined an executive team that started the Food Network, which went on the air the next year. He was named its president. "I am a newsman," he told *The New York Times* in 1995. "My beat now is food."

Schonfeld left the Food Network in 1995, though he remained on its board. He sold his stake in the company in 1999, a decision that Schonfeld later regretted, feeling he had sold too soon.

He was later involved in various business ventures and investments but none involving television. **NYT**





**Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd.,**  
**Victoria Park, Meerut**

**TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE**

The Date of opening of tender specification no. P.VVNL-MT/COM/20/19-20 for supply of 500 nos. 33 KV TVM Cat-C Meter is hereby extended from 29.07.2020 to 28.08.2020. Time of opening tender and other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

For detailed information please log on [www.pvvnl.org](http://www.pvvnl.org) & E-Tendering website [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: \*1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 9412207451" Remark :- [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in)

पत्रांक 6560 दिनांक :- 29.07.2020 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Commercial)  
For Managing Director

**"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION"**



**भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान बरहामपुर**  
**Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Barhampur**  
Established by the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender No.	Date	Description	Mode of submission	Last date for submission of bids
IISERBpr/S&P/2020-21/16	29.07.2020	Supply iPad pro 11inch wi-fi(2020 latest model) Apple magic keyboard and Apple pencil 2nd generation and accessories	Online	10-08-2020

Complete detail and the tender document is available on Institute website i.e. <http://www.iiserbpr.ac.in/tender.php> and <https://eprocure.gov.in>. Any corrigendum etc will be notified on the above websites only.

क्रय एवं भण्डार अधिकारी



**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)

**Corrigendum-4 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No. : 08/BSMB, PPH Dated: 22.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BSMB (PWH), Talwara.  
Name of work: Procurement of Spares of M/S Logic Plus Plus India Ltd. make online Vibration monitoring system installed at Pong Power House for Unit No. 1 to 6.  
Document Download Start date & time 24.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Document Download End date & time 19.08.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission 01.09.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening 02.09.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BSMB website : [www.bsmb.gov.in](http://www.bsmb.gov.in) & [www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com)  
686-PR-Generation-6 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today



**UJVNL LTD.**  
H.O.:- "UJANAL", Mahatma Singh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-246006  
Telephone: 0135- 2763508, 2763566  
CIN No. U40191UP200515SGC020386 Website : [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)

**RO No.473/UJVNL NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Date: 29-07-2020  
Office of the Executive Engineer (Civil-III), Vyasi Project, Dakpathar, Dehradun invites sealed and separate tender from interested contractors/firms for the following work.  
Tender No. 07/EE(Civil-III)/VP/ITN/2020-21  
Name of Work : Annual Cleaning & upkeeping of field hostel (near Inspection house) and other associated works at Dakpathar.  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 2492160.00  
Date of Availability of bid document on website : From 30-07-2020  
Last date for submission of tender : 20.08.2020 upto 3.00 p.m.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "[www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)"  
Executive Engineer (Civil-III)  
Vyasi Project Dakpathar, Dehradun  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"



**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)

**Corrigendum-1 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No. : 16/BSMB, PPH Dated: 22.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BSMB (PWH), Talwara.  
Name of work: Procurement of Webbing Slings, Rubber O cord seal, Painting brushes, Turpentine oil, Brass Rod, Pneumatic Rubber Hose Pipe, M seal, Rust Remover, Locite M, Flexible copper wire, H55 Hesa blade, General Purpose M.S. Welding Electrodes, for Pong Power House, Talwara.  
Document Download Start date & time 24.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Document Download End date & time 19.08.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission 01.09.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening 02.09.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BSMB website : [www.bsmb.gov.in](http://www.bsmb.gov.in) & [www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com)  
687-PR-Generation-6 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today



**बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र**  
**Bank of Maharashtra**  
एक महान्, एक हीन

**Head Office :**  
"Lokmangal", 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-05.  
Credit Monitoring Dept.

**RFP FOR EMPANELMENT OF  
TEV FIRM/COMPANY/ORGANISATION**

Bank of Maharashtra Head Office, Pune invites applications in the prescribed format from the Firms/Companies/organization who are conducting TEV study and willing to have their firm / company/organization empaneled for carrying out TEV study of borrowal accounts of the Bank.

The format along with the details regarding eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions can be obtained from the Bank's website [www.bankofmaharashtra.in](http://www.bankofmaharashtra.in) under "Tender News".

The duty filled in application form in sealed cover superscribed as 'Application for empanelment for TEV Firm / Company / Organization should reach this office on or before 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 by 2:00 p.m. at the above address. Scanned copy of the application should be sent to [dgmcrem@mahabank.co.in](mailto:dgmcrem@mahabank.co.in) and [cmcremon\\_ho@mahabank.co.in](mailto:cmcremon_ho@mahabank.co.in).

Deputy General Manager, Credit Monitoring & IRM.




**DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDOR CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.**  
A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise

**Notice for Invitation of E-Tender**

Name of Work: Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance of Instruments on bridges for Structural Health Monitoring of 03 bridges (Br. No. 509, 649 & 676) of DFCCIL as Pilot Project.

E-Tender No HQENWC0BIMSBD12020 Date 16.07.2020

E-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the above work. Detailed NIT is available at [dfccil.com](http://dfccil.com). The Tender containing requisite instructions & further information for E-Tender submission are available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) with link at [dfccil.com](http://dfccil.com). Amendment/ Modification in tender, if any, will be uploaded on either/both the websites only. Bidding start date is 01.09.2020 and bidding will be closed at 15:00 Hrs of 15.09.2020.




**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy. CSTE/C/CW/Northern Railway, DRM office, 2nd floor, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under **Single Packet system** from experienced & established contractors having sufficient experience in similar nature of work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work

Name of work	*S&T work for alteration of PI at Kathua and Madhopur Punjab stations and associated telecom work at adjoining stations in c/w doubling across Rail Bridge section over Firozpur Division of Northern Railway".
Approximate cost of the work	Rs. 57.10 Lakhs
Earnest money	Rs. 114200/- (Rupees One Lakh Fourteen Thousand Two hundred only)
Completion period	06 (Six) months
Date, Time & Place for submission and opening of tender.	The tender will be available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> website from 31.07.2020 to 11.30 Hrs on 24.08.2020 and will be opened on 10.08.2020 after 11.30 hrs. Tender can be uploaded from 10.08.2020 to 11.30 hrs on 24.08.2020 and will be opened on 24.08.2020 after 11.30 hrs.
Address from where tender form can be purchased.	E-Tender document cost- Nil. The detailed e-tender notice and document will be available on Northern Railway web site i.e. on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 31.07.2020 to 11.30 hrs on 24.08.2020. bidders are advised to electronically register themselves on the above website for which, they would require to, obtain class III digital certificate (if already not obtained) issued by CCA/under IT Act-2000. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.
No. 178-Sig/CW/32/96 Dated: 29.07.2020	1663/2020

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



**Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur**

**Tender Notice**

Tender No. RTMNUP / 40PAB / 2020 / 1 Dt.29/07/2020

The University invites e-tender for the preparations of **40 Pages OMR with Barcode Answer Books along-with University Water Marks Seal Paper, 50 Lakhs copies.** The Blank e-tender form is available on Government of Maharashtra's authorized e-tendering web site [www.mahatenders.gov.in](http://www.mahatenders.gov.in). The tender document and details of tender are available on website date 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2020. The last date of submission is 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.

Dr. Niraj Khaty  
Registrar ( Officiating)



**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD**  
(Power Wing)

**Corrigendum-4 NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
E-NIT No. : 08/BSMB, PPH Dated: 22.06.2020  
Name of Office: Superintending Engineer, Pong Power House Circle, BSMB (PWH), Talwara.  
Name of work: Procurement of Spares of OTIS make Elevator No. 52 NE 02440 installed at Pong Power House, Talwara.  
Document Download Start date & time 24.06.2020 from 16.00 Hrs.  
Document Download End date & time 19.08.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Last Date & Time of Online Bid Submission 01.09.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of Online Bid Opening 02.09.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
For detailed NIT & Earnest Money to be deposited please visit BSMB website : [www.bsmb.gov.in](http://www.bsmb.gov.in) & [www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com](http://www.bsmbproc.abcpocure.com)  
686-PR-Generation-6 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**Tele : 011 26105472**

**No. 1 Delhi Air Sqn NCC (Flg) NCC Buildings B/6, Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi - 110029**

**AUCTION NOTICE**

This notice is for Auction of the state property unserviceable/ unusable misc items i.e. iron, aluminium, plastic, electric, electronic items lying in above mentioned office premises. Pay order/DD of Rs 1000/- in favour of CO No. 1 Delhi Air Sqn NCC (Flg) is essential to be deposited with the cashier of the unit to participate in the tendering. Tenders are being invited from the interested vendors. Tender must be sealed and dropped inside the tender box placed at above mentioned address upto **1300 hrs on 12 Aug 2020**. Tenders will be opened at 1600 hrs by a Board of Officers on the same day. Interested bidders can visit this unit premise for assessing the rates of condemn items from **05 Aug 2020 to 07 Aug 2020 from 0930 hrs to 1730 hrs** Competent Authority has full rights to withdraw or make changes in the tendering process.

Sd/-  
(Sumeet Malhotra)  
Wing Commander  
Commanding Officer

DIP/Shabdarth/0189/20-21

**WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION**

**VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS**

Sr. No.	e-Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate NIT Cost (₹)	EMD Cost (₹)
01	DRM-RJT-20-E-08R	Through Ballast Recoupment, deepscreening of ballast and BCM/Manual rectification of bed layouts by T-28 and renewal of rubber pads on various locations under Assistant Divisional Engineer (East) Jamnagar's Jurisdiction.	1,82,22,353.29	2,41,100.00
02	DRM-RJT-20-E-10R	Through Ballast Recoupment, deepscreening of ballast and rectification of bed layouts by T-28 on various locations under Assistant Divisional Engineer (West) Jamnagar's Jurisdiction.	1,19,05,629.80	2,09,500.00
03	DRM-RJT-20-E-24	Rajkot Division : Improvement of road surface by providing rubberized surface at Level Crossing No. 135 & 201 under the jurisdiction of Divisional Engineer (West) Rajkot.	25,51,468.00	51,000.00
04	DRM-RJT-20-E-25	Rajkot Division : Providing U-Wall / Approach and other ancillary works on RUB in connection with elimination of Level Crossing No. 137 & 149 under Divisional Engineer (West) Rajkot Jurisdiction.	3,48,24,824.87	3,24,100.00

Address of the Office & Website particulars: Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat-360 001. Website: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://facebook.com/WesternRly) - Follow us on: [twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)



**Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**

**An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi.**  
**ISBT Kashmere Gate Delhi-110006**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

The Executive Engineer, DTIDC invite tenders on behalf of MD, DTIDC Ltd for the following works through e procurement solution only.

1. NIT No. : 18/DTIDC/2020-21

Tender ID No. : 2020\_DTIDC\_193019\_1

Name of work : M/o ISBT at Kashmere Gate.

SH : Renovation of DTIDC Office at Second and Third Floor at ISBT Kashmere Gate

Estimated Cost : Rs. 79,12,896/-

Earnest Money : Rs. 1,60,000/-


Time Allowed : 45 Days

Last date of receipt of tenders : 11/08/2020

The Tender forms and other detail can be obtained from the website: <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in/>

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
DTIDC Ltd. ISBT  
Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/0190/20-21



**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER P.W.D. KANKER CIRCLE KANKER (C.G.)**

**Short e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Online tenders are invited for Construction of **Road Work**, Tender Downloaded up to Date 05/08/2020

Sr. No.	NIT No.	System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable Amount of Contract
1	2	3	4	5
01	43	64709	W.B.M. & B.T. Patch Repair work on various road under Sub Dn. Bhanupratappur.	50.00 Lakh
02	44	64710	WBM at BT Patch Repair work on Bhanupratappur Pakhanjore Bande P.V. 109 road in km 28 to 90 under PWD Sub Division Bhanupratappur & Pakhanjore. (Under P.G. work)	50.53 Lakh
03	45	64711	B.T. Patch Repair work on various road under Sub Dn. Antagarh.	60.00 Lakh
04	46	64712	W.B.M. and B.T. Patch work on Kanker Bhanupratappur Sambalpur Road (SH-6), Rajnandgaon to Bailadila Road (SH-6), Sambalpur Silpat Road (SH-6) & Bhanupratappur-Pakhanjore-Bande Road (SH-25) Under Sub Division Bhanupratappur (Length 74.40 Km.)	140.00 Lakh
05	47	64713	B.T. Patch Repair work on various road under Sub Dn. Kanker.	60.00 Lakh

All Documents related to Tender are to be submitted by Tenderers online only, failing which the tenderer can not participate in the bidding, for tender details please visit on this site <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

**Note:- CONTRACTOR SUBMIT THE CERTIFICATE REGARDING MACHINERIES & PLANTS AS PER ANNEXURE-G - 7(d) (for sr.no 01 to 05)**

**Bid Submission due Date (Online) 05.08.2020**  
**Bid Opening date (Scheduled) 10.08.2020 10.00 am**

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer  
P.W.D., Kanker Circle, Kanker

82662



**केंद्रीय भंडारण निगम**  
**CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)  
R/O: Vibhuti Khand, Central Warehouse, Lucknow. He/She should have possessed **Graduation in 'SCIENCE' (B.Sc.)** from a recognized University/Institute and also should have been retired from CWC/any other Govt. Organization from the Post of Group 'B' or equivalent. In this regard, duly filled application form shall be submitted at CWC, Regional Office, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 on or before **06.08.2020 up to 04.00 PM** by E-mail or by post/ courier. For complete details, please visit on CWC website i.e. [www.cwcawar.nic.in](http://www.cwcawar.nic.in)

**No. CWC/RO-LKO/Admn/Consultant(2020-21/)** Dated: 29.07.2020  
**NOTICE**  
Central Warehousing Corporation invites a notice for hiring of (03) **Three consultants** to undertake PCS activities at Various Central Warehouses in Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand i.e. CW, Gorakhpur, Khatima, Shahjahanpur under CWC, Regional Office, Lucknow. He/She should have possessed **Graduation in 'SCIENCE' (B.Sc.)** from a recognized University/Institute and also should have been retired from CWC/any other Govt. Organization from the Post of Group 'B' or equivalent. In this regard, duly filled application form shall be submitted at CWC, Regional Office, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 on or before **06.08.2020 up to 04.00 PM** by E-mail or by post/ courier. For complete details, please visit on CWC website i.e. [www.cwcawar.nic.in](http://www.cwcawar.nic.in)




**नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।**  
**केन्द्रीय कर्मशाला विभाग**  
**ई-निविदा सूचना**

राष्ट्रीय स्वच्छ वायु कार्यक्रम (एन.सी.ए.पी.) के अंतर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु अनुभवी निर्माता फर्मों या उनके अधिकृत विक्रेता फर्मों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है, विस्तृत विवरण निविदा प्रपत्र वेबसाइट में उपलब्ध रहेगा। निविदा प्रपत्र उत्तर प्रदेश की ई-प्रवोरमेन्ट की वेबसाइट <http://ctender.up.nic.in> से प्राप्त एवं देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा के साथ मॉग की गयी जमानत की धनराशि सी.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर. की स्कैन कॉपी के रूप में संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा, जो प्रभारी अधिकारी, कर्मशाला, नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के नाम प्लेड होगा। बिना जमानत की धनराशि के निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। निविदा प्रकाशन के निर्धारित तिथि तक निविदा शुल्क की धनराशि नगर निगम, प्रयागराज के यूको बैंक, नगर निगम शाखा में ई-टेंडर सिस्टीमेट्री के खाता संख्या- 06940110006498 व IFS Code-UCBA0000694 में जमा करना होगा। जिसकी रसीद तथा जमानत धनराशि का सी.डी.आर./एफ.डी.आर. की स्कैन कॉपी निविदा के साथ अपलोड करना अनिवार्य होगा। उक्त की अनुपस्थिति में निविदा अवैध मानी जायेगी। किसी भी समय निविदा खींच/अखींचित करने का अधिकार नगर आयुक्त महोदय को सुरक्षित होगा। निविदा खोले जाने की तिथि को किसी कारणवश अवकाश होने पर निविदा तिथि अगला कार्य-दिवस मानी जायेगी।

निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि	07/08/2020	अपराह्न 4.00 बजे से		
निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि	28/08/2020	अपराह्न 2.00 बजे तक		
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	28/08/2020	संयकाल 4.00 बजे तक		
क्र.सं.	कार्य/ वाहन का विवरण	निविदा फॉर्म का मूल्य	धरोहर की धनराशि	कार्य अवधि
1	नगर निगम द्वारा उपलब्ध करायी गयी ट्रक चेसिस पर 03 अक्षर वाटर रिजिंकल एप्लीकेशन मय एन्टी स्मॉग गन (वाटर कैनन) एवं वाटर टैंक का सम्पूर्ण फैब्रिकेशन कार्य तथा 03 वर्ष कम्पैरेन्सिबल ऑपरेशन एवं मेन्टेनेन्स का कार्य।	₹.- 10000.00 + 5 प्रतिशत जोएरसदी	2,90,000.00	01 माह

नोट:- निविदा सम्बन्धी अन्य विवरण, स्पेशिफिकेशन एवं नियम/शर्तें वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है।

हस्ता./- मुह्य अभियन्ता  
अधिशारी अभियन्ता (वि./वां.) नगर निगम, प्रयागराज।  
पत्रांक-डी-1457/ज.सम्प./अधि./2020 दिनांक-29/07/2020



**Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board**  
(Govt. of NCT of Delhi)  
9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Tel:- 28522085, 28525232 Fax:- 011-28522085, Email:- [ambdl@nic.in](mailto:ambdl@nic.in),  
Website:- [www.delagrimarket.nic.in](http://www.delagrimarket.nic.in)

**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**

The following item rate e-tenders are invited through e-tendering on behalf of Vice Chairman, DAMB.

S. No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time of compln.	Last Date & Time of receipt of tenders through e-procurement	Tender ID no / NIT No
1	Designing, Detailed Engineering, supply, Fabrication, Erection Testing and commissioning including operation and maintenance for 5 years (1 year warranty period + 4 Year operation and maintenance) of 350 KLD capacity effluent treatment plant with all interconnection piping works, Mechanical, electrical online monitoring system and its link with DPCC and PCS server on lumpsum basis at Fish Market Gazipur Delhi	Rs. 293.30 lacs	Rs. 5,86,600/-	Four months + 5 years operation and maintenance	24.07.2020	2020_DAMB_192975_1 26/DAMB/Engg/PE-II/2020-21

1. Date and time of pre bid meeting 04.08.2020 at 11:00 am at 9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058

2. Technical Bid shall be opened online on 13.08.2020 at 15:00 Hrs at 9, Institutional Area, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-110058.

3. Terms and Conditions and details can be seen at website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> (ID-2020\_DAMB\_192975\_1

Sd/-  
PE-II, DAMB

DIP/Shabdarth/0188/20-21



**झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड**  
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)  
अभियंत्रण भवन, एचओईसीओ, धुर्गा, राँची - 834 004

**दर आमंत्रण समय विस्तार सूचना**

झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, राँची के अंतर्गत विद्युत अनुसूचित दर-2020-21 (SOR-2020-21) का प्रकाशन किया जाना है। जिसके लिए सभी विद्युत सामग्री निर्माताओं, प्राधिकृत वितरकों एवं झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, राँची के निबंधित / इम्पैनेल्ड आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से विद्युत कार्यों में उपयोग होने वाले विद्युत सामग्रियों यथा Power Transformer (5 & 10 MVA), Distribution Transformer AI, Wd. BIS level-II (25, 63, 100, 200, 250 KVA), Distribution Transformer Cu. Wd. BIS level-II (315, 500 KVA), ACSR Conductor (Rabbit, Weasal, Dog, Wolf, Panther, Zebra), LT AB Cable (35x95+1x70 sq.mm, 3Cx50 + 1x35 sq.mm., 3Cx120 + 150 sq.mm) 11 KV HT AB Cable (3Cx95 + 1x70 sq.mm., 3Cx120 + 150 sq.mm., 3Cx185 + 1x210 sq.mm.) 11 KV XLPE UG Cable (240, 120, 300, 400 sq.mm.), 33 KV XLPE UG Cable (300, 400 sq.mm.), 11 KV & 33 KV Polymer Pin Insulator, 11 KV & 33 KV Polymer Disc Insulator R&S type, 11 KV VCB, 33 KV VCB, 8 Mtr. 200 Kg. W/L PSC Pole, 9 Mtr. 400 Kg. W/L PSC Pole, Rail Pole, Steel Tubular Pole (9, 11, 13 Mtr.), 11 KV AB Switch (200, 400, 630 Amp), 33 KV AB Switch (630, 800 Amp.) इत्यादि का दर तकनीकी विशिष्टियों (Technical Specification) के साथ निम्न विहित प्रपत्र में आमंत्रित किया जाता है:-

Code No.	Description	Unit	Rate without GST

निर्माताओं / प्राधिकृत वितरकों एवं झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, राँची के निबंधित / इम्पैनेल्ड आपूर्तिकर्ताओं द्वारा प्राप्त दर के आधार पर उनके सामग्रियों / उपकरणों को विभाग में सूचीबद्ध किया जा सकता है। विद्युत सामग्रियों / उपकरणों की सूची अधोहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय से किसी भी कार्य दिवस / डाइविजनल ऑफिस की वेबसाइट [www.jbvn.co.in](http://www.jbvn.co.in) अथवा ई-मेल [cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com](mailto:cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com) पर सम्यक् कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

इच्छुक निर्माता / प्राधिकृत वितरक / झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, राँची के निबंधित / इम्पैनेल्ड आपूर्तिकर्ता विद्युत सामग्रियों / उपकरणों का दर दिनांक 14.08.2020 के अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिं. राँची स्थित मुख्य अभियंता (क्र० एवं म०) के कार्यालय में अथवा ई-मेल [cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com](mailto:cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com) में जमा कर सकेंगे।

नोट :- वैसे आपूर्तिकर्ता जो इससे पूर्व प्रकाशित सूचना के आलोक में सामग्रियों का दर महाप्रबंधक (क्रय एवं भण्डार) के कार्यालय में जमा अथवा ई-मेल [cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com](mailto:cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com) पर भेज चुके हैं, उन्हें पुनः सामग्रियों का दर जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है।

हम/यों :-  
महाप्रबंधक (क्र० एवं म०)-सह-संयोजक  
कॉन्ट्रोल डाटा कर्मिटी,  
झारखण्ड बिजली वितरण निगम लिमिटेड, राँची  
PR 231297(Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd)20-21\*D



**Government of Jharkhand**  
**Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative**  
**(Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission Society)**

**Invitation of application for Audit**

After the technical evaluation of the application received against EO1 notice PR No. 229828 Agriculture (2020-21)Dated 25-06-2020, one (01) application was found to be complete in all aspects by the technical evaluation committee. The technical evaluation sheet has been uploaded on NHM website which can be viewed.

Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission (JSHM) invites application for conducting the Audit of Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission, Ranchi State office and its implementing agencies in different districts of Jharkhand.

Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission, Ranchi provides funds to the selected agencies in different NHM districts of the Jharkhand for implementing and execution of various programme. The details of programme may be seen on website [www.nhmjharkhand.org.in](http://www.nhmjharkhand.org.in)

All the implementing agencies utilizing the fund for the given project and submitting their Statements of expenditure to the JSHM, Ranchi. JSHM consolidates these Statements of expenditure received from all the districts.

Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission, Ranchi has to get account audited along with the accounts of all the implementing agencies for the financial year 2018-19 & 2019-20 for which the applications are being invited from reputed experienced and credible Chartered Accountant firms.

The following documents should be submitted along with the application:

1. Details of the firm, mentioning the detailed experience of the firm.
2. CAG Registration must be along with the certificate issued by the CAG.
3. The quotation of Audit fee carrying out the aforesaid assignment (inclusive of all admissible taxes).
4. Affidavit before the notary declaring that the company has not been blacklisted by Govt./Govt. agencies and also that no sanction against it has been passed.
5. The minimum audit fee for the whole audit work per year is Rs.9,000.00 (Nine thousand only)

Application along with the quotation must reach the office of the undersigned on or before 14.08.2020 till 4:00 PM in a sealed envelope super-scribed as application for audit. Sealed envelope will be open before the committee in the office of undersigned on 17.08.2020 at 11:00 AM. For any information or clarification the undersigned may be contacted during office hour on telephone no.-9973742076

The State Mission Director, Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission Society (JSHM), Ranchi reserves the right to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason thereof.

The State Mission Director  
Jharkhand State Horticulture Mission  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Krishi Bhawan, Kanke Road, Ranchi.  
[www.nhmjharkhand.org.in](http://www.nhmjharkhand.org.in)

Sd/-  
State Mission Director  
Jharkhand, Ranchi




**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**  
E-Tendering Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Medical), North Eastern Railway Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites Online (E-Tendering) "Open Tender" for the following work: **S.N.1- Tender reference No.: N.E.2020/Med/250/CPR. Name of work: Work related to Garbage disposal, Silo/Mahwa and dead animal etc. From CPR & CI Railway colony. Approx. Cost: ₹ 36.23,486/-, Earnest money: ₹ 72,500/-, Cost of Tender document: ₹ 3,000/-, Completion period: 36 Months, Date & time of closing tender: 18.08.2020, 15.00 PM, Date & time of opening tender: 19.08.2020, 15.00 PM, Note: Full details of E-Tendering shall be seen in Website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)**

Sr. Divl. Medical Officer (Tender) CP/RO/Misc.-19 Varanasi

About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mob.No. 09794845955

**"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"**



**North Eastern Railway**  
Open Tender Notice No. : **N-BSB05nT-OT-4-2020**

"Open Tenders" through online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.N. : 1, Tender Notice No. and Description of work : **N-BSB05**



Classifieds

PERSONAL

Anita Rikhy D/o Late Sh.Prem Sagar Seth W/o Sh.Sanjay Rikhy R/o C-9/9170, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi- 110070 have changed my name to Anita Seth Rikhy for all purposes.

0040543234-2

I Kiran Kumari alias Kiran D/o Sh.Lal Sahab Gautam W/o Sh.Dinesh Kumar Arya R/o F-1/123, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Kiran Arya for all purposes.

0040543234-1

**I,hitherto** known as Aditya S/o Nareesh Kumar residing at 5/357,Mohalla Mehram,Shahdara,Delhi-110032,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditya Raghuvanshi.

0040543218-4

**I,MINA KUMARI**(MEENA KUMARI PANDEY)Daughter of Late DWARIKA NATH PANDEY R/o C-98, Brij Vihar, P.O.Chander Nagar,Ghaziabad,Uttar-Pradesh-201011,have changed my name,from MINA KUMARI(MEENA KUMARI PANDEY)to MEENA SHARMA,for future reference.

0040543251-4

**I,Laxmi W/O-Shri Nand Ram R/O-B-345,ShakurPur, J.J.Colony,Delhi-110034,declare** that both the names LAXMI and LACHMA are one & the same person.

0040543251-9

**I,Kavita KAPOOR W/O Vicky Kapoor R/O-A-77, Vivek Vihar,Phase-1,Shahdara,Delhi-110095, have changed my name,from kanchan Kapoor to Kavita Kapoor,for all,future purposes.**

0040543218-3

**I,JAGADISH S KUMAR S/O-LATE SH.UDHA RAM R/O-A-19/20,DOUBLE-STORY MALKAGANJI,DELHI-110007,have** changed my name JAGDISH KUMAR to JAGADISH S KUMAR,for all purpose.

0040543218-5

**I,Vikash Sharma S/o Binod Sharma R/o Qtr No-55, Block-4, CISF, Family Qtr Complex, Sector-4, Bawana, Delhi-110039, have** changed my minor daughter's name from Nivika aged 8 Months to Nivika Sharma forever

0070709845-1

**I,VIDHISHA KHAITAN D/O SURESH KHAITAN** residing at-52/126, FIRST FLOOR, CHITRANJAN-PARK, DELHI-110019.have changed my name to VIDISHA KHAITAN.

0040543251-3

**I,Urvi Joseph Alias Adi Joseph D/o Joseph Varghese R/O 3097/4, Gali No-4, Ranjeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi-110008, have** changed my name to Aadi Anjali

0070709832-1

**I,Suresh H.S. alias H.S. Suresh alias Hanumanthappa Shivakumar Suresh S/o Hanumanthappa Shivakumar R/O A-1/81, Second Floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017, have** changed my name to Hanumantappa Shivakumar Suresh

0070709854-1

**I, Samson Ponselvan R/o C-245, Paramount GolfForeste,Site-C, UPSIDC, Greater Noida-201306, U.P., have** changed my name,as Jayपाल Kanagaraj Samson Ponselvan,S/o Jayपाल Kanagaraj.

0040543191-1

**I, Sahina Begum W/o Aslim Khan R/o Ward-3 Cheeka, Tehsil Guhla, Distt. Kaithal, Haryana (India) have** changed my name from Sahina Begum to Geeta Rani. Please Note.

0040543216-1

**I, Safia Salam, D/o-Abdul Salam R/o-E-172-173, 2nd-Floor, Left,Block-E,Lajpat Nagar-1, South Delhi-110024,have** changed my name to Sophia Salam Permanently.

0040543251-8

**I, Rajni Kalia D/o Vinod Kumar Kalia R/o 110/15, Vijay Colony, Shahabad Markanda, Kurukshetra, Haryana-136135, have** changed my name to Rixim Bhanot for all purpose

0070709835-1

**I, Poonam W/o Anand Balupuri R/O-B-36, St.No. 10-B, Molarband Extension, Badarpur, Delhi-110044, have** changed my name to Poonam Balupuri

0070709849-1

**I,PARDEEP SINGH,S/O MEHTAB SINGH,R/O-CB-47, NARAINA, RING-ROAD NEW DELHI-110028, changed** my name to PARDEEP SINGH CHHIKARA, permanently.

0040543251-1

**I, NIKITKA, D/O RAVI KANT MALIK, FLAT NO -243, NUOVO APPTS, SECTOR -10 PLOT NO 25 DWARKA NEW DELHI 110075. Changed** my name to NIKITA MALIK, permanently.

0040543251-2

**I, Manish Raj S/o Shambhu Prasad Verma R/o H-32, East of Bhola Takies, Dharampur Ward No-9, Samastipur, Bihar-848101, have** changed my name to Kshitij Raj Shrivastava

0070709846-1

**I, Luckmi Vashium R/o, Grantson Vashium R/o, Shreshthak Phungshon Village, P. O. & P. S. Shangshak, Ukhrul District Manipur have** changed my name to Lakmi Vashium for all purposes.

0040543217-1

**I, Jayashree Honnappanavar Alias Jayashree Suresh W/o Hanumanthappa Shivakumar Suresh R/o A-1/81, Second Floor, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017, have** changed my name to Honnappanavar Jayashree

0070709856-1

**I, Jashandeep Singh S/o Baljit Singh R/o VPO Patti, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146104, have** changed my name to Jaskeerat Singh

0070709834-1

**I, Hemant Gadhaiya S/O Shekhar Chand** residing at IX/2396,Gali No-10,Raghubar Pura No-2,Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, have changed my name to Hemant Jain vide affidavit dated 28/07/2020 at Delhi.

0050167008-1

**I, Gajender s/o amar pal wz -37 chakrhandi village, Tilak Nagar New Delhi 110018 have** changed my name to Gajender panwar.

0040543195-1

**I, Balkishan S/O, Pajana R/O S/o: Pajana, 333, Singpur Charan Pathka, Phulari, Chhatarpur, Madhya Pradesh -471501 have** changed my name to Kishan Lal Kumar for all purposes.

0040543211-1

**I, Asha Ram Nautiyal S/o Jagdish Prasad Nautiyal R/o 247, 8, B-Block, Uttarakhand Enclave, Delhi-110084, have** changed my name to Ashish Nautiyal

0070709853-1

**I, Anil Pachpande Alias Anil Pachpandey S/o Nirvutti Sadashiv Pachpande R/o P-523, Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-30, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have** changed my name to Anil Nirvutti Pachpande

0070709836-1

**I SATENDER S/O MALKHAN SINGH H.NO-557-259, NEW-SANJAY COLONY PANIPAT, HARYANA-132103 have** changed my name to SATENDER THAKUR, PERMANENTLY.

0040543218-7

**I Naresh Aggarwal S/O Ram Kumar R/O-M-196, DLF Capital Greens Moti-Nagar Delhi-110015.changed my** nameto Nareesh Chaur.

0040543218-2

**I Muhammad iqbal S/o Mohd furqan iqbal mithpohr Post Islamabad District Binjor UttarPardesh have** changed my name to IQBAL S/o Mohd furqan

0050167043-1

**I Manoj Kumar S/O, Raj Kumar R/o 32-C, Pocket E, Dilshad Garden, Delhi--110095 have** changed my name to Manoj Kakkar for all purposes.

0040542976-1

**I Manni Devi W/O Retafina R/O-B-1078, Transit Camp, Govindpuri,Kalkaji,New Delhi-110019.Have** Changed my Name to Mani Devi.

0040543218-1

**I BINDU W/O SATENDER THAKUR, H.NO-557-259, NEW SANJAY-COLONY PANIPAT, HARYANA-132103 have** changed my name to BINDU THAKUR, PERMANENTLY.

0040543218-6

**I, Nitin Kumar S/o Madan Lal Saini R/o-152,Masjid Moth, South-Ex-Part-2, New Delhi-110049,Have** Changed my name to Nitin Saini.

0040543251-7

LOST & FOUND

**My original-Documents Power of Attorney,Aggreement to Sell,Receipt Etc.Of Property.No.R-141,Mohan-Garden, Uttam Nagar,NewDelhi-110059,have** lost finder contact:Rajni Bhola W/o-Satish Bhola Mobile-No.9873758436.

0040543251-5

**I, SAT PARKASH S/O Bhagat Singh R/o-wz-122 dasghara N.D.have**lost my original certificate class-10th year-1988 RollNo-439297 CBSE-Delhi.

0040543251-6

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all Public at large that my client Mr. Jeevan Dass Mendiratta, S/o late Sh. Bell Ram R/O-C-142,Dayanand Colony, Lajpat Nagar-IV, N.D.-24 has disowned his daughter, Smt. Krishna Wadhwa W/o late Sh. Ganesh Dass Wadhwa, illegally staying at C-142, (GF), Dayanand Colony, ND-24 and has severed all his relations with her for all intents & purposes. Hence, she is disinherited and debarred from the properties (movable & Immovable) of my Client, Sons of my aforesaid client have also severed their relations with their Sister Smt. Krishna Wadhwa.  
**Gaurav Sachdeva (Advocate)**  
C-21, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-17  
Ph:- 011-41048314, 9810006297

0040543251-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Sh. Kapil Dev Dubey S/o Sh. L.T. C.P. Dubey & Smt. Satyavati Dubey W/o Kapil Dev Dubey R/O 419 First Floor, Prakash Mohalla, Near Sagnia Cinema, East of Kalash, New Delhi-110065 have served their relation and disown their son Neeraj Kumar Dubey aged about 39 for his misconduct, irresponsible and careless nature. He shall not inherit any of their property (movable or immovable) and elsewhere not be granted to be entitled to the grant of probate of their will anybody transacting any business with Neeraj Kumar Dubey in respect to them is doing that in his or her own risk. My clients will not be responsible for his act and deeds.  
**Aditya Gupta (Advocate)**  
Ch. No. 136, Saket Courts, New Delhi-17

0040543217-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to the general public at large on behalf of my client Mr. Shashi Kant Rana S/o. Late Divan Singh R/o. H.No. 35, Near Old Water Tank, P.O. Biwasan, New Delhi, is the owner of Agriculture land measuring 04 bigha 08 bawas bearing Musti No. 58, Killa No. 11/2 (1-13), 20/1 (2-15), in Khata No. 587 Min. situated in Village Biwasan, New Delhi and wants to sale the same to Smt. Krishna & Shri Ram Phal. It is intimated that the above said land is free from all dispute, court case, litigation etc. If any body involved have their interest or whatsoever may intimate the same to me within a period of 10 days from date of publication of this public notice.  
**RAKESH KR. YADAV(Advocate)**  
Shop No.4, Phase-3, Karam Market  
(Opp. Dr. Choudhary, Near West Kapashera Border, New Delhi-37

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby informed to public at large that my Client Sh. Parveen Jindal S/o. Sh. Late Sh. O.P. Jindal R/o. 12538, West Punjab Bagh, West Delhi, Delhi-110026. Father of the my Client has actual Owner of the Property Industrial Plot No. 612, MJC Bahadurgarh-124507, Dist. Jhagari, Haryana and he is died on 11.08.2020 so, this Property has been transferred in the name of Parveen Jindal. If anybody who has any objection to this effect informed my client within 10 days with documentary evidence from the date of Publication otherwise any objection or claim of any other person will be treated null and void.  
**ADVDESH NUNIWALA(Advocate)**  
Ch. No. 145C, Near Teahill Building, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054  
Mob.: 9899702900

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Jagdish Chandra and Smt. Santosh Devi both of R/o 1903, Gali No. 114, Ganeshpura, Trinagar, Delhi-110046 have disowned and debarred his son namely Yash Aggarwal and his wife namely Smt. Tanisha Rani from their entire movable and immovable properties of my client and have severed their all social relation with them due to their grave disobedience and hostile behavior towards my clients. If anyone deals with them same shall be done upon their own risks and consequences, my clients shall not be responsible for their any kind of act and deed.  
Sd/- (Meghna Adlania)  
**ADVDESH NUNIWALA(Advocate)**  
Ch. 332-A, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court Ctl-110054

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public at large is hereby informed that my client Sh. Nirmal Singh, S/o Sh. Babu Singh R/o B-153C, Vasant Kunj Enclave, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, had been working with Sh. Arun Tiwari S/o Late Sh. Vishwesar Dayal R/o D-59, Ground Floor, Nangal Devat Village, New Delhi, as Estate Manager since January 2002 till July 2020. During the course of employment my above said client entered into and signed a number of Sale-Purchase Agreements, Power of Attorney, Sale Deeds etc. in respect of various properties throughout Delhi especially Ruchi Vihar, Village Rangpuri, New Delhi on behalf of his employer, the above said Arun Tiwari. My client now has left the services of Sh. Arun Tiwari as Estate Manager and also severed all his professional and fiduciary relations from him. Any person whether known or unknown to my client deals with Sh. Arun Tiwari will do so at his risk, cost and consequences and my client will not be responsible for the same since July 2020 onwards.  
Sd/-  
**RAJAKMAL ADVOCATE**  
CHAMBER NO. 443, SAKET COURT COMPLEX NEW DELHI-110017  
MOB: 9899210094

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is brought to notice of the General Public/Individuals, group of people) and PSU/S/Government Departments/Banks/ Financial Institutions/NBFC's etc that my client has entered into a "Bayana Agreement" Agreement to sell in favour of my client/affirming the execution of Registration of below mention property in favour of my client or his transferee on or before 28.07.20. **FREE HOLD BUILDUP INDUSTRIAL PLOT/PROPERTY NO.547, BLOCK-C, AREA MEASURING 350 SQ. METERS,** situated in the layout plan of DSIIDC INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, NARULA DELHI-110040", with Sh. Rajan Madan S/o Sh. Satish Kumar Madan R/o E-184, Antriksh Apartment, Sec-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 and (2) Sh. Chandan Madan S/o Sh. Satish Kumar Madan R/o 6, Good Will Apartment, Plot No-48, Sec-13, Rohini, Delhi-110055 (Seller). Further said sellers has also vide the above Bayana Agreement / ATS received a Bayana amount against the Sale of above said property and the remaining amount was agreed in principle to be paid by my client on the date of execution of Sale Deed. That possession of above mentioned property is already handed over by seller to my client. If anybody has any claim, right or interest/ charge/ lien encumbrance etc. on the above property, then the same should be conveyed to me within 7 days, along with complete details thereof, otherwise it will imply that nobody has any claim, right or interest/ charge/ lien encumbrance etc. on the said Property & my client shall be at liberty to take any legal action against the Seller for execution of Sale Deed in my client favour.  
**Rohan Gupta (Advocate)**  
242, Vardhaman Premium Mall, Deepali Chowk, Pitampura, Delhi-24 # 9810847997

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for General Information that I, Mahesh Kumar S/o Jugal Kishor R/o P-95-A, F/F, P-Block, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi-110018, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Mahesh and Deen Dayal in my PAN Card No. AYDPM0012A. The actual name of mine and my father are Mahesh Kumar and Jugal Kishor respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General public is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Balwan Singh S/o. Jeeb Ram and his wife Smt. Bala Devi both R/o 77, Village Mohamadpur, Ramnagar, New Delhi-110036, have disowned their son namely Amit Kumar aged 25 years from their entire movable and immovable properties as he has gone out of control. My clients and their entire family have severed all the relations from him. If anybody deals with him it shall be entirely at their own risks, cost and consequences. My clients shall not be responsible in any manner for any kind of his deed, act and conduct.  
Sd/- (KRISHAN KUMAR) ADVOCATE  
CH.NO. 803, 8TH FLOOR, LAWYERS CHAMBER BLOCK DISTRICT COURT ROHINI, DELHI-110085

**"IMPORTANT"**  
Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://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://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <http://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.  
**(A) 1. 11/GM/SM(WC-7)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:-** M/o Drain (Annual Repair and Maintenance of drain of all Sector of Work Circle-7), Noida, **Cost-Rs.57.35 Lacs.**  
Which can be uploaded by date 13.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 14.08.2020 at 11.00 am.  
**(B) 1. 14/GM(R)/SM(WC-2)/ET/2020-21, Name of work:-** M/o Drain (Repair of B/W, Plaster & P/F Precast slab over drain from botanical garden bus Station Sector-38A to Electric Substation on DSC road) Noida. **Cost-Rs. 33.07 Lacs.**  
Which can be uploaded by date 06.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 07.08.2020 at 11.00 AM.  
**General Manager, NOIDA**

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**  
**Director General of Police and Director General, KARNATAKA STATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
No.1, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road, Bengaluru - 560 042.  
**No: STS/148/2019-20 Date: 28.07.2020**  
**SHORT TERM RE-TENDER ABSTRACT NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited through e-procurement for supply of **200 Nos. of Breathing Apparatus Set** as per department specifications for the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services Department, Bengaluru.  
Eligible suppliers are requested to participate through e-Procurement only.  
Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>  
Helpdesk: 080-25501216/227  
Last date & time of tender queries: **01.08.2020 upto 16:00 hrs.** Last date & time of submission of tender: **08.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.** Date & time of opening of technical bid: **10.08.2020 at 16:00 hrs.** Date & time of opening of financial bid: **Will be intimated.**  
Sd/-  
**Deputy Inspector General of Police and Tender Inviting Officer, Karnataka State Fire & Emergency Services.**  
DIPR/DDU/674/MAA Comm/2020-21

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM  
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

**SALUTE THE SOLDIER**  
  
**MARTYR OF 208 Bn, COBRA**  
CT/GD, Pranjal Pachoni, of 208, COBRA made the supreme sacrifice during an anti-maoist operation in forest area of Vill- Aitrajpad, Sukma, Chhattisgarh on 30th July 2016. The CRPF proudly remembers the braveheart who laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with maoists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the Force.  
**IG & All Ranks of COBRA**

**उ.प्र. राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
एच-1/4, लखनपुर, कानपुर

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है, कि जनपद-कानपुर देहात में "Disposal of Chromium waste dumped near village Khanchandpur, Rania" में अनुमानित रु.34.23 करोड़ धनराशि के कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक फर्म/निविदाकार, जिनके पास "Authorisation from Govt. to operate under Hazardous and other wastes (Management and Trans boundary movement) Rule-2016" प्राप्त हो, से ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।  
**वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (मु)**  
उपप्राचार्य/ऑफिसीय, कानपुर

SCHEDULE OF TENDER	
Sl. No.	Activity
1.	Period of Sale of Bidding Documents From 30.07.2020 at 11:00 AM To: 17.08.2020 at 5:00 PM
2.	Time and Date of Pre-Bid Conference 06.08.2020 at 12:30 PM
3.	Last Date and Time for Receipt of Bids 17.08.2020 at 05:00 PM
4.	Time and Date of Opening of Technical Bid 18.08.2020 at 11:00 AM

नोट:- निविदादाताओं/ फर्मों द्वारा निविदा में अंकित की गई ई-रई जीएएसओटी एवं अन्य कर्तों सहित होंगी। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निम्न की website: [www.upsidc.com](http://www.upsidc.com) पर स्थित ई-लैंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EM D (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GMDA, GURUGRAM	RESTORATION OF DAMAGED PARKING AS WELL AS FOOTPATH BY PROVIDING AND LAYING CSS, WMM, BM, BC PROVIDING AND FIXING KERB & CHANNEL INTERLOCKING TILES IN CRICKET PAVILION IN SPORTS COMPLEX SECTOR 8 GURUGRAM	28.07.2020 10.08.2020	52.43 LACS	<a href="https://www.gmda.gov.in/">https://www.gmda.gov.in/</a>	xen@nifra1@gmda.gov.in
2	J.C.ROSE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/GYMCA, FARIDABAD (HARYANA)	SUPPLY OF DESKTOP COMPUTERS AND OTHER TENDERS.(FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE REFER TO THE WEBSITE.)	29.07.2020 18.08.2020	Total Approx. Cost Rs.33962423/-	<a href="http://www.jcroseust.ac.in">www.jcroseust.ac.in</a>	0129-2310164 d.purchaser@jcroseust.ac.in
3	GMDA, GURUGRAM	(I) O&M OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN OLD GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GMDA FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021 (RE CALL) (II) O&M OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS IN NEW GURUGRAM AT VARIOUS LOCATION UNDER JURISDICTION OF GMDA FOR THE YEAR 2020-2021	30.07.2020 13.08.2020	59.28 LACS	<a href="https://www.gmda.gov.in/">https://www.gmda.gov.in/</a>	8851038654 engnobl.gmda@gmda.in

82004/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
C/o. TIRUPATI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, 13-28-M9-1-00, TILAK ROAD, EAST TIRUPATI, PIN CODE: 517601 CHITTOOR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA.  
E-MAIL: [tsct@tirupati@gmail.com](mailto:tsct@tirupati@gmail.com)

Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites Bids/ Tenders on e-Procurement platform from the "eligible contractors" for the following Works:

NIT Number: TSCCLNIT/37, Dated: July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

IFB No.:	Name of the work	Estimated Contract Value (in INR)
01/TSCCL/Projects/TO/2020-21, Dated: July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Request for Proposal for "Procurement and Maintenance of e-Bikes with GPS Tracking, Public Announcement with Siren, Blue and Red Rotating Bulbs & Helmets" under implementation of the Smart City Mission in Tirupati.	
06/20-21/Smart City/TO/ Dated: July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Tender Document for "Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation (Erection) and Commissioning of 50 TPD Organic Waste Processing Plant" under implementation of the Smart City Mission in Tirupati.	Rs.92,85,250/-
07/20-21/Smart City/TO/ Dated: July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Tender Document for "Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Installation (Erection) and Commissioning including one-year Operation and Maintenance of Resource Recovery Centre of upto 07 Tons per Hour" under implementation of the Smart City Mission in Tirupati.	Rs.1,66,46,250/-
08/20-21/Smart City/TO/ Dated: July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Tender Document for "Proposed Construction of Municipal Corporation School Campus Building at Korlagunta" under implementation of the Smart City Mission in Tirupati	Rs.1,77,13,176/-
09/20-21/Smart City/TO/ Dated: July 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020	Tender Document for "Civil Works for 50 TPD Organic Waste Processing Plant" under implementation of the Smart City Mission in Tirupati	Rs.71,07,343/-

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited hereby issued this notice for inviting Tenders / Bids for the attention of all potential bidders for the above said Tenders / RFPs to participate and for other particulars please contact Executive Engineer during office working hours and above said detailed Tenders / RFPs can be downloaded from the e-procurement market place at <https://tender.apsprocurement.gov.in>

Sd/- P.S. GIRISHA, I.A.S.,  
Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM						
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NET NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	HYPNL	03/PD&C DATED 03.03.2020	CORRIGENDUM-47 EXTENSION OF SUB DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION UPTO 10.08.2020 UPTO 17:30 HRS. (ESTIMATED COST OF WORK: 665.12 LACS)	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hypn.org.in	
2	HYPNL	1101 DATED 13.02.2020 (EPC-C-28)	CORRIGENDUM-77 EXTENSION OF SUB DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION UPTO 10.08.2020 UPTO 17:30 HRS. (ESTIMATED COST OF WORK: 109.12 LACS)	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hypn.org.in	
3	HYPNL	09/PD&C DATED 04.05.2020	CORRIGENDUM-11 EXTENSION OF SUB DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION UPTO 10.08.2020 UPTO 17:30 HRS. (ESTIMATED COST OF WORK: 674.01 LACS)	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 pro@hypn.org.in	
4	H.S.A.M. BOARD, FARIDABAD	TENDER NOTICE NO. 02/2020	THE TENDER DATED 04.05.2020 FOR SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS L&R ROADS UNDER WORK PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 GROUP-I & GROUP-II OF WORKS, RAJNAGAR DOVER, THE TIME ALLOWED FOR THE WORK OF GROUP-I & II MONTHS INSTEAD OF 4 MONTHS & THE TIME ALLOWED FOR THE WORK OF GROUP-III & IV IS NOW THE QUOTE OF 6 MONTHS. THE OTHER TERMS & CONDITIONS WILL BE REMAINING SAME.	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	anagap2019@noida@gmail.com	

82005/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HYPNL, KARNAL	DEPOSIT WORK FOR PROVIDING 2 NO. 220KV LINE BAY ( 220KV D/C MUND -30CL PAP LINE) ALONGWITH ALLIED EQUIPMENTS AT 220KV S/STN MUND. (CIVIL WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	Rs 89000.00 for General, Rs-40000.00 for Registered Society	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
2	HYPNL, KARNAL	REPAIRING OF 16 NOS SUB STATION TOWER LOCATIONS NO. 14, 34, 36 AND 40 OF 220 KV KARNAL-PTPS TRANSMISSION LINE	28.07.2020 07.08.2020	1.44 LACS	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
3	HYPNL, KARNAL	FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 33KV CAR PARK FOUNDATION (3X5.48Mx9M) ALONG WITH ALLIED EQUIPMENT AT 132 KV S/STN, RAJNAGAR. (CIVIL WORKS)	CLOSING DATE 27.08.2020	Rs 3100.00 for General, Rs-1000.00 for Registered Society	<a href="https://www.hypn.org.in">https://www.hypn.org.in</a>	0172-2583789 Pro@hypn.org.in
4	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	HQS (HUMAN CHRONIC) GONADOTROPINS FOR VETERINARY USE + 3 OTHER WORK.	28.07.2020 06.08.2020	EHD 4 LACS	<a href="http://sashvchharyana.gov.in">http://sashvchharyana.gov.in</a>	9416172558 hdb@hryindia.in
5	MC SONPAT	SUPPLY OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE SOLUTION 1% IS USE DILUTION 5% SOLUTION CONFORMING FOR SUPPL IN MC AREA.	OPENING CLOSING DATE 07.08.2020	EHD 10000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	samsonsonpat@gmail.com
6	MC SONPAT	CONGT. OF BOX TYPE DRAIN FROM SAHAGARH TO BIRWA FARM HOUSE SECTOR-3 MAIN LINE MC SONPAT	OPENING CLOSING DATE 19.08.2020	EHD 3.34 LACS	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	samsonsonpat@gmail.com
7	H.S.A.M. BOARD FARIDABAD	SPECIAL REPAIR OF WORK PLAN 2020-21 PHASE - I, GROUP-3 CONSTITUENCY - RAJNAGAR, DISTT. FARIDABAD (ROAD ID-773, 780, 799.) + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 17.08.2020	9.27 CRORE	<a href="http://etenders.hry.nic.in">http://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9971739975 work@shahdham2019@gmail.com
8	MC HISAR	CONST. OF BALANCE ROAD NEAR TKDINA PARK IN SECTION 0811 WARD NO. 12 HISAR + 13 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 13.08.2020	3.97 CRORE	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	wennicissor@gmail.com
9	MC MUNDALI	D-WATERING OF DADA BHAKTA JOHAR IN HSIDC, SEWER LINE IN MC MUNDALI + 3 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 11.08.2020	EHD 66000/-	<a href="https://etenders.hry.nic.in">https://etenders.hry.nic.in</a>	saamymundali@gmail.com
10	BOARD OF SCHOOL EDUCATION HARYANA, BILWAH	PRINTING AND SUPPLY OF 86 STATIONARY ITEMS FOR YEAR 2020				



## 17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 38,071.13 ▲ 421.82 NIFTY: 11,202.85 ▼ 97.70 NIKKEI: 22,397.11 ▼ 260.27 HANG SENG: 24,883.14 ▲ 110.38 FTSE: 6,138.45 ▲ 9.19 DAX: 12,839.76 ▲ 4.48

International market data till 1900 IST

BANKERS CAUTION SUCH A SCHEME WAS MISUSED IN THE PAST

## RBI may allow one-time loan recast in construction, real estate, tourism and aviation

SANDEEP SINGH,  
GEORGE MATHEW  
& SUNNY VERMA  
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, JULY 29

WITH BANKS pushing for a one-time restructuring of loans, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may provide this leeway for select stressed sectors. Sectors such as tourism, hospitality and real estate have been seeking this relief to tide over the business slump resulting from effects of COVID-19 pandemic induced economic downturn.

A senior official with a leading financial services firm said restructuring of genuine cases of non-performing loans is the need of the hour, as it will allow the system to declog and start functioning. Stating that sectors such as real estate, hospitality are in dire need of the same, he called for RBI to have a sincere look into the matter.

Citing cases where just a Rs 50-100 crore additional funding may revive the project and the loan, he said the housing finance companies (HFCs), non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and banks are not able to provide that additional funding as that too will get added to the non-performing asset (NPA) of that particular company. "The RBI needs to allow restructuring of non-performing loans and then the banks and financial institutions can analyse the cases and pick the ones that are feasible to revive. But until the RBI allows it, it is not possible to

EXPLAINED  
What is a loan recast?

INDIA INC has been pushing for extension of the moratorium further or a one-time loan restructuring plan, which would allow borrowers to renegotiate loan terms to extend the repayment cycle and cut loan rates.

clean up," he added.

He said in most of the cases, the interest is only getting accumulated and there is no resolution in sight. A senior government official said the discussions have been held with the RBI and "there is emphasis on the issue that sector specific restructuring may be needed." Finance Ministry officials did not reply to queries seeking comments for the story.

According to the RBI's systemic risk survey, the top three sectors identified as adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are: Tourism and hospitality, construction and real estate and aviation. Their prospects of recovery in the next six months appear bleak, the RBI says.

Though bankers are not in favour of continuing the moratorium, they are not sure about the need for an across-the-board loan restructuring scheme which was misused by corporates in the past. "Corporates had misused loan re-

structuring till about six years back. Bad loans were hidden under the carpet using loan recast schemes ... and helpful banks evergreened these loans by sanctioning fresh loans. The asset quality review in 2015 threw out a lot of skeletons from the cupboards of banks and corporates. The RBI will have to ensure that this doesn't happen again," said a banking source.

SBI Chairman Rajnish Kumar had already gone on record saying, "in my view, moratorium (extension) is not required. (At least) an across the board moratorium is not needed. Some sectors may need relief, that's a call the RBI will have to make." However, HDFC Chairman Deepak Parekh had said it is worth considering (loan recast scheme) to save future problems. In March, to provide relief to borrowers whose cash flows have been hurt by the Covid pandemic, the central bank had allowed a deferment of loan repayments for 3 months initially and later extended it till August 31. India Inc has been pushing for extension of the moratorium further or a one-time loan restructuring plan, which would allow borrowers to renegotiate loan terms to extend the repayment cycle and cut loan rates. The RBI had last week warned against a spike in NPAs to 14.7 per cent of advances in a worst case scenario in the current fiscal.

The RBI has already hinted that moratorium may not be extended.

## States voice concern over pending FY21 GST dues

## Seek Council meet on compensation payment

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AMID INDICATIONS of delayed compensation payments under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime by the Centre to states in the near future, states have raised concerns about the pending dues for this fiscal, citing the need for expenditure in their respective states.

Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac said any revisiting of present arrangements for GST compensation will be a betrayal of federal trust. Finance Ministry officials are reported to have briefed the Standing Committee on Finance Tuesday about the Centre's inability to pay states in

the near future.

According to sources, during a Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on Tuesday, Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said the Centre is not in the position to pay GST Compensation to states as collections have substantially fallen due to COVID-19 outbreak. His comments were in response to Opposition members' queries regarding the shortfall in the revenue in view of the pandemic, sources said. Though, the meeting of the Standing Committee on Finance, under the chairmanship of BJP member Jayant Sinha, was focused on the issues related to start-ups and innovation-oriented business enterprises, in the end some of the Opposition members started asking questions about revenue position and payment of GST compensation to states.

It is learnt when Congress party member Manish Tiwari

**Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey has said the Centre is not in a position to pay GST Compensation to states as collections have fallen due to the pandemic, sources said**

asked if the Centre was trying to go back on its commitment to the states, Finance Ministry official said there are provisions in the GST laws that allow the Centre to defer compensation payments to states when GST collections fall short.

"According to news reports the hearing before the Standing Committee on Finance, Centre has taken the stand that GST Compensation can't be paid and present arrangements be revised by Council. Such a brazen betrayal

of federal trust! Convene the Council meeting immediately as promised," Isaac said.

Revenue shortfall and the ensuing delayed compensation payments were raised in the previous GST Council meeting held in June, wherein it was decided that a Council meeting solely focused on compensation issue will be held in July. The meeting is yet to be convened.

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Tuesday said dues are pending to all states since April and timely payment is important to meet the expenditure requirements of the state. "...the compensation has only been received upto March 2020. 4 months of dues are still pending. April, May, June, and now July 2020. 4 months of pending dues is equivalent to 2 months of salary bill of all Punjab employees. Please ask your alliance partners to stop misleading, and release what is

due not just to Punjab, but all states," Badal said.

The Centre had on Monday released Rs 13,806 crore to the states for March 2020, with the full payout for FY20 at Rs 1.65 lakh crore. The compensation payments to states for this financial year beginning April are, however, still pending.

As per the GST (Compensation to States) Act, states are to be compensated for any revenue loss less than the annualised compounded growth rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 till five years transition period since the GST rollout (2017-2022). Compensation payments are getting delayed as revenue shortfall has worsened due to Covid-19 pandemic. GST collections had recorded a 41 per cent decline in the April-June quarter, falling to Rs 1.85 lakh crore from Rs 3.14 lakh crore during the same period a year ago.

## Ensure funding to bankable proposals: Banks, NBFCs told at meet with PM

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Wednesday joined a meeting with heads of banks and NBFCs, where the need for introspection among bankers in order to ensure "bankable projects" do not suffer from lack of credit in the name of past non-performing assets (NPAs) was discussed.

While the Centre emphasised it will support the banking system, it was noted that "small entrepreneurs, SHGs, farmers should be motivated to use institutional credit to meet their credit needs and grow".

"Each bank needs to introspect and take a relook at its practices to ensure stable credit growth. Banks should not treat all proposals with the same yardstick and need to distinguish and identify bankable proposals and to ensure that they get access to funding on their merit and don't suffer in the name of past NPAs," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement after Wednesday's meeting.

"It was emphasised that the government is firmly behind the banking system. The government is ready to take any steps



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with stakeholders from banks and NBFCs on Wednesday, in New Delhi. @narendramodi

necessary to support it and promote its growth," it added.

Wednesday's meeting comes amid demands by banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) seeking additional liquidity for lower rated companies, alongside one time restructuring of loans to support them during the present downturn.

The Centre has utilised the financial system to inject liquidity and a major portion of the over Rs 20 lakh crore Atmanirbhar Bharat package, comprising of banks providing loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the Reserve Bank of India providing systemic liquidity and other regulatory concessions.

The meeting discussed ways to increase credit penetration through collaborative use of digital technologies.

"Banks should adopt fintech like centralised data platforms, digital documentation and collaborative use of information to move towards digital acquisition of customers. This will help increase credit penetration, increase ease for customers, lower costs for banks and also reduce frauds," the PMO statement said.

While reviewing the existing loan schemes, the government said that banks need to be proactive and actively engage with the intended beneficiaries to ensure that the credit support reaches them in a timely manner.

## Jaypee Infra minority shareholders approach NCLAT, seek modification of NBCC proposal

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE CORPORATE insolvency resolution process of Jaypee Infratech Limited (JIL) is likely to be further delayed as a group of 30 minority shareholders of the company have moved the National Company Law

Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) challenging the approval of plan of NBCC India.

The minority shareholders have challenged the approval of the resolution plan of NBCC India, alleging that the interests of the minority shareholders had been completely ignored, even though JIL had enough assets which could be liquidated to protect the

investors' interests.

The minority shareholders have asked them NCLAT to either set aside the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)'s decision approving NBCC's resolution plan or modify it to the extent that the minority shareholders are allowed to exit the company by selling their shares at a fair market value.

## COVID-19 VACCINE CANDIDATE

## Panel studying Serum Institute's request to start late-stage human trials in India defers decision

PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AN EXPERT committee studying Serum Institute of India's request to start late-stage human trials in India for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford has deferred its decision on the matter until the Pune-headquartered firm revises its proposal. Serum has an agreement with AstraZeneca — one of the vaccine's developers — to manufacture it for low- and middle-income countries.

According to minutes of a meeting held by the Subject Expert Committee for COVID-19 on Tuesday, Serum has been told to submit a "revised protocol" for evaluation. The committee had recommended around eight amendments to the firm's proposal to conduct late stage trials.

**As per minutes of a meeting by the Subject Expert Committee for COVID-19 Tuesday, Serum has been told to submit a "revised protocol" for evaluation**

It is unclear how long Serum's request for an approval will be delayed as a result. The firm said it did not have any comments on this development as of now.

"The protocol designed by Serum proposed a phase II/III trial in around 1,600 participants," said a senior government official. "The committee is asking for additional information," the official added.

One of the revisions the SEC

has sought is a demarcation of the phase II and Phase III part of the protocol. It has also recommended that the clinical trial sites being proposed for the study be "distributed across pan-India". The SEC's other recommendations related to how the trials would test for the ability of the vaccine to invoke an immune response, Serum's calculations to determine the sample size it would be studying and the dropout rates it had proposed. It sought clarity on the role of Indian Council of Medical Research in the study, along with a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two.

Serum CEO Adar Poonawalla earlier told *The Indian Express* the firm intended to conduct phase III trials on 4,000-5,000 participants in Pune and Mumbai in August.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## COVID impact: MSIL posts ₹249-cr loss in June qtr – first time in 17 years

ENSECONOMICBUREAU  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

AS PRODUCTION and sales of cars were hit significantly following the imposition of lockdown across the country amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Maruti Suzuki India Limited — the largest passenger car manufacturer in the country — posted its first quarterly loss in 17 years, since its listing in July 2003. It announced a loss of Rs 249 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2020.

The company also announced an 80 per cent dip in revenue as it fell from Rs 18,735 crore in June 2019 to Rs 3,677 crore in June 2020. During the quarter the company sold 76,599 units — 67,027

vehicles in the domestic market and 9,572 units as exports. By comparison, the company had sold 4,02,594 units in the corresponding quarter last year.

In its statement, the company said due to the lockdown and restrictions on account of safety, "the production in the whole quarter was equivalent to just about two weeks' of regular working." It further said that owing to the global pandemic of COVID-19, "it was an unprecedented quarter in the company's history wherein a large part of the quarter had zero production and zero sales in compliance with a lockdown stipulated by the government. Production and sales started in a very small way in the month of May."

## ₹2,844 cr net loss for InterGlobe Aviation in Q1

New Delhi: IndiGo's parent company, InterGlobe Aviation Ltd, Wednesday posted a net loss of Rs 2,844 crore for April-June as its revenue from operations fell 92 per cent year-on-year but total expenses fell only by 52 per cent as against the same period last year. The April-June quarter was significantly hit by the nationwide lockdown imposed to contain the pandemic and led to domestic operations being shut till May 25.

"The aviation industry is going through a crisis of survival and therefore, our cash balance remains our number one priority. However, we also recognize that major disruptions offer companies opportunities for improvement in product, customer preference, costs and employee engagement," IndiGo CEO Ronojoy Dutta said. **ENS**

## BRIEFLY

## Sept 30: FY19 ITR deadline

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department has extended deadline for FY19 income tax returns (ITR) to September 30 from July 31.

## New deadline for BPCL bids

New Delhi: A Finance Ministry notification said the deadline for bidding for BPCL has been extended to September 30. **ENS**

## Acharya against suspending IBC

New Delhi: Former RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya, at Entrepreneur magazine awards, said suspension of IBC for a year is "too long".

## 'Review MEIS coverage'

New Delhi: The Revenue Department, sources said, has asked its commerce counterpart to review coverage of the MEIS scheme.

## \$3-mn grant gets ADB nod

New Delhi: ADB Wednesday said it has approved \$3 million grant to India to support its fight against COVID-19.

## Tech Mahindra, CyQureX pact

New Delhi: Tech Mahindra and CyQureX of Hinduja Group's have signed a global partnership to jointly offer cyber security solutions. **PTI**

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**TENDER NOTICE (E-Tendering Mode Only)**

CONCOR invites Online Open e-Tender in Two Bid system for "License out of space for ISO/DSO Container Repair Facility at (ICD/Tughlakabad, New Delhi on multi vendor facility (2 vendor basis)," only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website, [www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL).

Tender No.	CON/ICD/TKO/TECH/Cont.Repair/Multi Vendor/2019-20
Estimated Cost	Rs.69,36,380/- (Inclusive of GST)
Period of the contract	3 years (36 months)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs.1,38,728/- through e-payment.
Cost of Document	Rs.1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs.4,092/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Date of Sale (Online)	From 30.07.2020 upto 15:30 hrs. to 19.08.2020 upto 16:00 hrs.
Last Date & Time of submission of tender (Online)	20.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of Opening of tender	On 21.08.2020 at 15:30 hrs.

For eligibility criteria and other details please log onto [www.concorindia.com](http://www.concorindia.com) or [procure.gov.in](http://procure.gov.in) or [www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL](http://www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL). Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.

Executive Director/Northern Region

Government of Karnataka  
**(Department of Ports & Inland Water Transport)**  
**Office of the Marine Engineer, Department of Ports & IWT, Baithkhol,**  
**Karwar - 581302**  
NO./ME/GNL/CR-04/2020 Karwar - 581302 Date: 28.07.2020

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST / Call-2

Rates Quotations in sealed cover/e-procurement are invited by the undersigned from the reputed, bonafide, resourceful & experienced firms/contractors who are having similar nature of work experience for the details mentioned below for "Supply of boats & Manpower for operation and maintenance of pollution response equipment and combating oil pollution for 3 years and extendable up to further 2 years (as per same terms and conditions) at Karwar Port, Uttara Kannada" as per the enclosed Specification, Terms and conditions inclusive of all charges, levies & duties except GST. - Fuel and fresh water supply to the boats on Port account and nil charges towards mobilization/demobilization.

**Unit:** Per day 24 hours, **Rate(excluding GST):** in Figures.....  
**words:** .....

Submit your complete finished rates including all applicable taxes & duties excluding GST to the undersigned before **07.08.2020**. The sealed quotation rates are purely used for obtaining estimate sanction and evaluation of tender purpose only and not for awarding the contract.

For any further information please contact the following address.

(1) E-mail: [marineengineerkrw@gmail.com](mailto:marineengineerkrw@gmail.com)  
(2) Phone No.: 08382-221402, (3) [www.eproc.karantaka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karantaka.gov.in)

Sd/- Marine Engineer,  
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DIPR/KWR/MCA/235/20-21 dt. 28.7.20

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## NOTICE INVITING TENDERS July 30, 2020

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Estimated Cost/EMD (Rs.)	Availability of Bid Document	Last Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date and time of Opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001228/20-21 RC for Construction of ESS for 1 year	2.8 Cr/ 6.2 Lacs	30.07.2020 11:00 Hrs	20.08.2020;1600 Hrs/ 20.08.2020;1630 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001229/20-21 Hiring Commercial Vehicles on monthly basis for a period of Four (04) Years. w.e.f. Jan21	24.6 Cr/ 5 Lacs	30.07.2020 11:00 Hrs	20.08.2020;1500 Hrs/ 20.08.2020;1500 Hrs

## CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION

Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001221/20-21 Rfx. 5000001706 RC for Supply of LT Palm Connectors for DTs	23.05.2020	08.08.2020 at 1700 Hrs/ 08.08.2020 at 1710 Hrs
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001226/20-21 RC for supply of "Distribution Box with MCCB of various ratings"	07.07.2020	03.08.2020 at 1600 Hrs/ 03.08.2020 at 1700 Hrs

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website [www.tatapower-dcl.com](http://www.tatapower-dcl.com) → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents  
Contracts - 011-66112222



## 18 SPORT

## Why G League matters for Princepal: Playing time, scouts, top coach

SHASHANK NAIR  
NEW DELHI, JULY 29

THE SIGNING of an NBA G League contract for Princepal Singh may not be a first-time development. Rather it is the path that he has taken that may ultimately set him up for a degree of success not encountered by an Indian athlete prior to him, in any iteration of the NBA. This move now sets him on a potential one-year timeline where a marked growth in various facets of his game may enable him to be one of the names called out in the NBA's 2021 draft.

## Why is Princepal Singh's contract a big deal for Indian basketball?

As the only Indian among 12 elite international prospects on a two-year stint with the NBA Academy in Australia, Princepal Singh had already been earmarked as someone to look out for. But by signing with the NBA's Select Team on a professional contract for the G League, Princepal now stands a chance to play with a mix of top college prospects along with players who are one rung below the NBA ladder. By being a part of the G League team, Princepal is essentially being groomed to play in the NBA. He has now become the fourth Indian player to sign a contract to play in the USA. For a variety of marketing reasons, this move obviously makes sense for the NBA as well.

## Will he play with top players?

One of Singh's teammates in the Select Team will be Jalen Green, who is across the board, a Top-3 prospect in the NBA 2021 draft. So is another teammate of his, Jonathan Kuminga. Joining them will be Daishen Nix and Isaiah Todd – both of whom are five-star rated prospects as well. This means that some of the NBA's potential top players in the coming decade are going to be his teammates and if reports are to be believed, this is one of the best teams at this level assembled.

Daily practices and going up against these players will in itself be a boon to an international player who picked up the game as recently as 2014. Basic basketball IQ, toughness, a feel for the game, are some of the as-



Princepal Singh will be coached by five-time NBA champion Brian Shaw.

pects of his basketball that have the ability to go upwards when playing alongside a special group of talented players.

## What kind of games will he be a part of?

An essential point is that the NBA Select Team may play a set number of games against other G-League teams but these games and their points are not counted in the overall standings. The team is primarily a developmental squad to prepare players for the real deal. The idea is to put young prospects in a

controlled adult environment and give them a chance to pick up the game professionally and give them a year's advantage over college graduates.

## Does this mean he'll play in the NBA?

The question of whether Singh can play in the NBA through the draft route in 2021 depends upon the progress he makes in the G League. What stands him in good stead is that top scouts will be closely poring over his work, especially considering they would be present for the other prospects in the team as well.

He will be coached by five-time NBA champion Brian Shaw and the emphasis of his time in the G League will be on making him a better player as opposed to moulding his talent into actual results for the team.

As a forward/centre, a lot of his success will depend upon how much ball handling and playmaking skills he is able to work on. With the ever-changing tide of the NBA game, big men are now expected to have the skillsets of a mid-sized point guard and Singh will be evaluated on those grounds as well.

A disadvantage for Singh would be that as much as he would improve with the top prospects in the Select Team roster, chances are that those top prospects get a lot more attention all across the board. There is also the chance that Singh may not be ready for the 2021 draft and decides to abandon that path to stay longer in the G League and develop his game further.

## What kind of financial remuneration is available in the G League?

The contract cap for players in the NBA Select Team is \$500,000. According to a report in ESPN, Singh's teammate Jalen Green has been signed by the NBA for the max possible amount, that is \$500,000. Another ESPN report has also stated that another teammate of his, Isaiah Todd has signed a contract around \$250,000.

While Singh might not be earning those numbers, by benefiting from the changes in rules brought about by the G League, is eligible for a fair contract – something which was not possible earlier as high school players would go either directly to the NBA, like Kobe Bryant or LeBron James or would be a part of a college team for an year before enlisting for the draft, like Rookie of the Year candidate Ja Morant.

## Life inside the golf bubble

Shubhankar Sharma has travelled to UK for the 5-week swing of European Tour

NITIN SHARMA  
CHANDIGARH, JULY 29

STAYING AT resorts at the golf courses, daily checks for symptoms and temperature, filling a questionnaire daily apart from undergoing an antigen test before teeing off, a mobile PCR rapid test for Covid-19 on arrival at the venue, self-driving a rental car for almost five weeks.

These are parts of the protocol Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma will have to adhere to during his 32-day stay in the United Kingdom for five European Tour events. Sharma, accompanied by long-time mentor Gurbaz Mann, arrived in Birmingham on Tuesday morning and will be teeing off in the Hero Open at the Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel and Country Club on Thursday.

"I had already decided to play on the European Tour a month ago and it was always the plan that whenever competition resumes and I am able to fly to Europe, I will go. So, I was mentally prepared to play," the 24-year-old Chandigarh pro said.

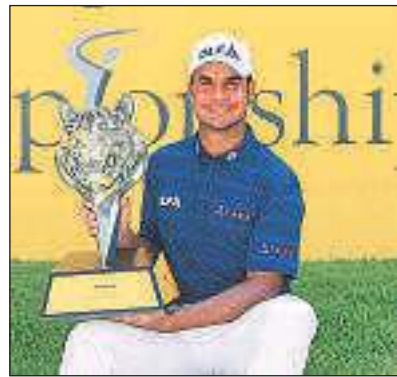
"Once it was decided, the travel part was not a big concern as we understood the precautions like wearing face shields and PPE kits on the Air India flight and submitting our test reports after the arrival here. I also packed 5-6 masks and extra sanitiser bottles for the trip. We have seen sport resuming across the world in bio-bubbles and once we landed here, all focus has been on playing some good golf," shared Sharma ahead of the one million Euro prize money event.

Earlier this month, the European Tour resumed golf action with the British Masters in Newcastle, England. The event had only one top-50 player – Lee Westwood – in the 130-strong field, and saw less than 500 people on the course but no spectators. The European Tour's tournament bio-bubble is developed by its chief medical officer Andrew Murray and the medical advisory board includes virologists and senior health officials from FIFA, World Rugby and ATP.

According to the protocol, players, caddies, hotel staff and media undergo an at-home Sure-Track test before every tournament and those testing negative have an on-site rapid testing phase at the venue.



Golfer Shubhankar Sharma wearing a face shield and mask before boarding a flight for the United Kingdom. (Top right) After winning the Maybank Championship in 2018. Twitter/File



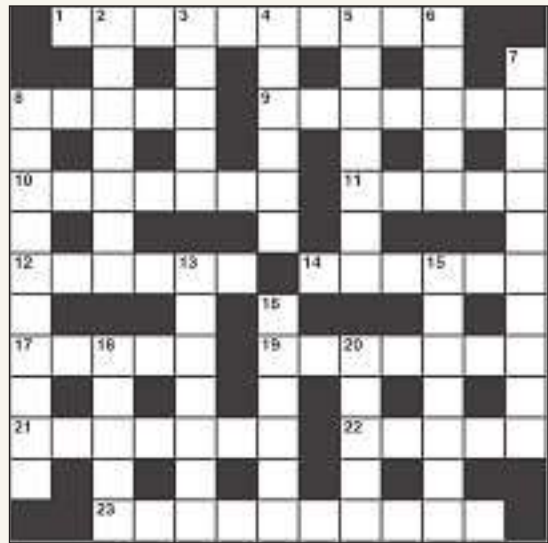
ranking of 316. He had only two top-10 finishes since March 2019 – tied-seventh finishes at Italian Masters in October and Turkish Open in November. With the Tokyo Olympics getting postponed, Sharma who is currently behind compatriots Rashid Khan, Udayan Mane and Shiv Kapur in world rankings, desperately wants to be among the top two from the country to qualify for the Games.

He will head to Hertfordshire after this week followed by two weeks at Newport, Wales and another at Sutton before returning to India. "I didn't get the best of starts last year and my world ranking has gone down. This extra year means I am still in the mix and can start afresh. Even though Olympics are still far away, playing in it remains a dream for every athlete. When practice resumed at the Chandigarh Golf Club and CGA range in May, it gave me time to work on my swing. While I have gone back to my old putter, I have got new wedges and they have got good bounce which will help me in Europe," adds Sharma.

Mann, who also modifies Sharma's equipment at the CGA range in Chandigarh, was busy making some changes to Sharma's reserve equipment in the last three months. He will also do the caddy's job, something he did for Sharma at WGC Mexico in 2018, where Sharma finished tied ninth.

"In the last three months, we got some clear idea about the changes needed in the technique and equipment. We had reserve equipment and decided to make the changes accordingly. Shubhankar's putter needed a big overhaul and we did some changes with the driver as well," said Mann.

## CROSSWORD 4183



## ACROSS

- Start of play (5,5)
- Now so upset as to faint (5)
- Calm down when you have apparent choice of evils (2,5)
- I'm bored perhaps, due to this? (7)
- Request we turn sideways (5)
- Old magistrates, unusually severe (6)
- Caught in the act of feeding something sweet (6)
- Hiding place many years to find (5)
- Toold to go in a ship, agrees (7)
- Passage out of a religious pamphlet (7)
- Going in for competition attempt (5)
- Had authority, yet prevented from skating? (4,6)

## DOWN

- Unruffled poise to make an atom of difference (7)
- Deserted area is in a bad way (5)
- Outlaw went up to bed and was arrested (6)
- Go a step towards making a secret police force (7)
- Cheat won at cards (5)
- Fly round with no regard to the rules, but perfectly (10)
- Took away bad cutters for re-setting (10)
- Globe in orbit (7)
- In fact a wild enthusiast (7)
- A beating leaves a permanent impression on one (6)
- Round fish? (5)
- Novel supporter in the flesh perhaps (5)

Solutions Crossword 4182: Across: 1 Armada, 4 Icarus, 9 Pimento, 10 Extra, 11 Crypt, 12 Terrace, 13 Good offices, 16 Chianti, 20 Limit, 22 Alibi, 23 Epsilon, 24 Limit, 25 Adores. Down: 1 Aspect, 2 Mummy, 3 Donated, 5 Clear, 6 Rat race, 7 Spaces, 8 Post offices, 14 Opinion, 15 Illused, 16 Scrawl, 17 Atones, 19 Noise, 21 Molar.

## JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

If any person wish to be idle, let them \_\_\_\_\_ - Ovid (4,2,4)

BVAEO



SYILL



EPTYLN



AORUFV



## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4185

## Difficulty Level 2s

## 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 4184



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You're entering a busy phase so you'll probably need all the help you can get. Splendid planetary indications reinforce the region of your chart ruling friends and acquaintances. You may follow your stars and build up a network of contacts for use at work as well as in your leisure life.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The period you are now entering will put amazing pressure on you to move home. I'm talking, by the way, in terms of a time-scale of at least six months, but the point is that any premature decision will either not come to pass or be severely delayed.

## GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Long-buried feelings and desires should come to the surface, and quite right, too. This is a positive phase, favouring all long-term adventures and far-flung possibilities. Integrity is a must. The moment your standards slip, then your plans will begin to come unstuck.

## CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You must be at some pains to point out that obstacles are not your responsibility. However, if you can possibly also spread the word that you are not solely to thank for a number of favourable moves, and that other people should share the credit, then your humility will eventually be rewarded.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Please don't imagine that you have been passed by. There is enough in today's stars to indicate that should you accept first that cooperation is vital, and second, that other people's feelings should be taken into account. In other words, selflessness wins the day.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

There's still no let-up at work. In fact, there is every indication that life is about to get even busier. Please don't grumble, for consciously or unconsciously, you are inviting fresh responsibilities and letting yourself in for extra hard work.

## LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Your romantic and social prospects are not perfect, but you're ninety-five percent there. Do give all personal contacts, from the most intimate liaisons right down to casual meetings, your fullest attention. The last thing you want to do now is make a slip that will upset someone who matters to you.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Everything that I have said about the potential for change at home continues, yet in a far more intense fashion. If I were you, I'd wait until the dust settles before acting on current feelings. Perhaps, though, you can press on with small and unimportant plans.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

If you're holding discussions, conducting a debate or attending an interview, well done: you are absolutely and totally in tune with your stars. In any case, please do make a point of sharing all your desires, hopes and plans with everyone who is concerned, however remotely.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The financial indications are contradictory, but I'd say you're in with a better than average chance of a windfall. The important point is not to get bound up with the details of income and expenditure, but to resolve to deal with money better. A positive attitude now equals prosperity in the future.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Get into top gear and take control. At work, at home, in love and in business, this is the day to make a fresh start. Psychological and material spring-cleaning should be comprehensive, thorough and all-embracing. Leave no stone unturned.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may try to make things easier for yourself by being as flexible as you can over long-term emotional engagements. Your standards are high and getting higher, so you must know what you want of yourself before demanding it of others. That's only fair.