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## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**NAGA TALKS:  
BRIDGING THE  
NARRATIVE DIVIDE**

BY SANJIB BARUAH

PAGE 8

## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

**Bihar polls: In  
EC guidelines,  
last hour of  
voting day for  
Covid cases**RITIKA CHOPRA &  
SANTOSH SINGH

NEW DELHI, PATNA, AUG 21

COVID-19 PATIENTS and suspects will be allowed to vote in the coming Bihar Assembly elections in “the last hour of poll day”, while others will have to mandatorily wear gloves before using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), as per guidelines issued by the Election Commission on Friday.

Bihar will be the first state in the country to go for polls amidst the coronavirus pandemic.

While the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), NCP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have suggested postponement of the polls, the Election Commission, by all indications, is intent on holding them on schedule, around October-November.

Sources in Patna said the polls could be held in two or three phases (the last polls were held in five phases). The technical staffers dealing with EVMs have reportedly been offered health insurance, particularly after some of them tested positive. Sources said the EC has completed a first-level check of EVMs and VVPATs, and completed training of returning officers.

On Monday, the state Chief Electoral Officer will conduct an online meeting with all state district magistrates.

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**RJD: MAY IMPACT  
VOTING**

PAGE 5

## 10 free speech cases this year: In most, no relief from SC — except when Centre did not object

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A CASE seeking enforcement of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression is a classic citizen-versus-state litigation. But a scrutiny of the 10 cases involving free speech that came before the Supreme Court since January reveals a telling pattern: in cases where the court upheld that right or gave relief, the state and the petitioner argued on the same side; in six

cases, where the state was the defendant and objected, there was no relief to the petitioner.

The first case in which the court granted relief was filed by Republic TV Editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami seeking quashing of FIRs filed in connection with a TV show on April 21 where he questioned Congress President Sonia Gandhi over the lynching of two sadhus and their driver in Palghar in Maharashtra. On May 19, the Supreme Court rejected all but one FIR and said that filing of multiple FIRs relat-

**SC HEARS DUA PLEA**

**THE SUPREME Court on Friday heard senior journalist Vinod Dua's plea seeking quashing of sedition charges filed by Himachal Pradesh police for a YouTube broadcast. The hearing will continue on September 2.**

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DEVENDRA PANDEY

MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

“LIKE SHAH Jahan, I will have to keep staring at the Burj Khalifa building outside my balcony for the next seven days,” says a cricketer after checking into his hotel room in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where the players will be based for the next 82 days to take part in the Indian Premier League (IPL).

For the first week, they will have no human contact, as they will be quarantined in their respective bio-secure rooms. They will have to wait a minute after

the bell rings, before going to collect food or toiletries left outside the door.

No contact with other players, or even the housekeeping staff, is allowed in the first week — at the end of which they will be tested for Covid-19. Only after that will they be able to meet their teammates, and start training.

The players were reminded of all these safeguards as they entered their hotels on Friday, covered in personal protective equipment (PPE). As they walked into the lobby, they were sprayed — not with the rose water that many of them are used to, but with sanitiser, which a

machine drenched them in. Of course, everyone was tested for the novel coronavirus.

The IPL is scheduled to kick off on September 19 in the UAE. Kings XI Punjab, Rajasthan Royals, Kolkata Knight Riders, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Mumbai Indians, and Chennai Super Kings reached Dubai on Friday. Delhi Capitals and Sunrisers Hyderabad will reach on Saturday. The teams will be staying in different hotels in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

One of the first things that several players checked out was the view from the room windows and balcony. While some

ing to the same incident constituted “an abuse of process and must be quashed.”

On June 25, the court stayed FIRs against journalist Amish Devgan for allegedly hurting religious sentiments in his show. The SC also suspended the investigation and transferred FIRs filed in multiple locations to Noida.

In both Goswami's and Devgan's pleas, the Central government was represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta who supported the quashing

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The fire spread quickly, with smoke enveloping the powerhouse and the four storeys of the plant that lie underground, in Srisaillam on Thursday night. PTI

## Nine killed in Telangana powerhouse fire

Five engineers among dead, survivors say they stayed back to control fire

SREENIVAS JANYALA

HYDERABAD, AUGUST 21

A FIRE swept through the Srisaillam Left Bank Power Station on the Telangana-Andhra Pradesh border late on Thursday night, leaving nine dead, including five engineers of Telangana State Power Generation Corporation (TSGenco). The 11 who survived said the engineers had stayed back to try and control the flames, urging them to leave through an emergency exit.

The bodies of the five engi-

neers, including a woman engineer, and four others were found on the ground floor of the underground powerhouse. They are believed to have died of suffocation with the thick smoke that filled the powerhouse making rescue efforts difficult till Friday afternoon.

The engineers who died were Sunder Naik, Mohan Kumar, Fatima Begum, Srinivas Goud and E Venkat Rao. The others who died were two TSGenco junior attendants Ram Babu and Kiran Kumar, and two employees of a company given the

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## Red flags raised over dam's poor upkeep, funds crunch in 2 states

ANIL SASI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE FIRE in the underground hydroelectric power station on the left bank of the Srisaillam dam came after multiple red flags were raised about the poor maintenance of accompanying structures, including the structural integrity of the dam itself, on which the plant is built.

A deepening plunge pool — created by erosion of the natural river bed downstream of the

dam due to heavy spillage of flood waters — at a distance of about 100 metres from the spillway has been flagged as a potential threat to the dam's long-term safety, even as the cash-strapped state power utilities of both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have done little over the years to address safety issues.

The poor financial situation of utilities also typically translates into irregular maintenance and upkeep of other parts of the power plant.

The foundation of the dam

could be threatened if the plunging pool of over 150 feet were to erode in the direction of the dam — that would require the structure to be repaired and reinforced.

The issue of the damage to the plunge pool and the downstream apron — layers of mesh grid covered with high-strength concrete — was flagged at the 39th meeting of the National Committee on Dam Safety (NCDS) in Bhubaneswar in February 2019. A panel of

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**TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE**172  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGANCASES:  
29,05,823RECOVERED: 21,58,946  
DEATHS: 54,849

TESTS: 3,34,67,234

DOUBLING RATE: 29.99\*\*



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING RATE**
■ Maharashtra	6,43,289	14,647	2%	36.05
■ Tamil Nadu	3,61,435	5,986	1.74%	41.41
■ Andhra	3,25,396	9,393	3.02%	23.81
■ Karnataka	2,56,975	7,385	3.41%	21.11
■ Uttar Pradesh	1,72,334	4,824	2.93%	24.56

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

**CASE FATALITY RATIO**7 DAYS EARLIER:  
1.95  
NOW:  
1.89

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

**POSITIVITY RATE**7 DAYS EARLIER:  
8.89  
NOW:  
8.68

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

**DAILY IN, DAILY OUT**DETECTED TODAY  
68,898  
RECOVERED TODAY:  
62,282

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

Data as on August 20, 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

## WORLD

**BIDEN VOWS TO DEFEAT TRUMP, END U.S. 'SEASON OF DARKNESS'**

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## EXPLAINED

**SIMPLY PUT READING THE PAK-SAUDI RIFT**

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**OFFICIAL NOTE TO MEA**

## As with Pak, select China entities face extra visa scan

Official: Tie-ups of Indian universities, institutions are also under review

SUSHANT SINGH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

AS SINO-INDIAN relations remain tense following lack of progress in talks on resolving the border situation in Ladakh, the government is placing visas for persons connected to certain Chinese think tanks, business fora and advocacy groups under the “requirement of prior screening/clearance”.

An official note received by the Ministry of External Affairs lists “Entities of Concern” and states that “in order to closely monitor the activities in India, Visas sponsored by Entities of Concern shall require prior security clearance”. The “prior security clearance” in such cases will be given by the government in Delhi.

The note, received by the Ministry late July, states that the “Chinese government has built an outreach system comprising think tanks and business fora all over the world with an objective to influence sections in countries on strategic interest”.

Some of the entities, it states, made efforts “to influence policy makers, think tanks, political parties, upcoming leaders, corporate, academics and research

EXPLAINED

**The steps, the signal**

EVER SINCE Beijing precipitated a crisis along the LAC in Ladakh, Delhi has been taking a series of measures — from reducing dependency on import of APIs to banning of Chinese apps to imposition of visa conditions. The government is sending a clear message that it cannot be business as usual if China does not back down and end the military standoff.

entities etc” and are “also known to indulge in espionage”.

Measures on grant of visas would be similar to those for Pakistan. This step is seen to be linked to deteriorating ties between Beijing and Delhi following Chinese ingress at multiple ‘friction points’ along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

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## Disconnect between economy and stock markets: RBI Gov

Global liquidity driving up asset prices, correction likely, says Shaktikanta Das

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AUG 21

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA Governor Shaktikanta Das on Friday said there was a clear disconnect between the sharp surge in stock markets and the state of real economy, as surplus global liquidity was driving up asset prices across the world. He expected “definitely a correction ahead” in the stock markets, but said the central bank was prepared to take all steps required to maintain financial stability.

This disconnect, driven by massive liquidity injected by central banks, was a global phenomenon and not peculiar to India, he said Friday in an interview with news channel CNBC Awaaz.

Responding to a query on whether there is a disconnect between markets rising sharply and the state of the real economy, Das said: “Disconnect to hai, jiske bare mein humne MPC resolution mein bhi bahut saaf kaha



Shaktikanta Das

hai, aur maine kisi speech mein bhi iske baare mein zikar kiya hai, yeh India ke liye peculiar phenomenon nahin hai, yeh saare global economy mein hai, kyunki global liquidity bahut hai jiski wajah se stock market mein bahut badhotri dikhai de rahi hai, aur real economy ke saath definitely disconnected hai. (There is a disconnect and we have spoken about it in our MPC resolution as well as some of my past speeches. This phenomenon is global in nature and not peculiar to India. The massive injection of global liquidity has driven the sharp surge in stock prices, which is definitely disconnected with the real economy),” he said.

“Woh aage jaa ke correction toh zaroor hoga, yeh kab hoga nahin

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**PAGE 1  
ANCHOR**

## In UAE for IPL, week's quarantine the first challenge for players

DEVENDRA PANDEY

MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

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One of the first things that several players checked out was the view from the room windows and balcony. While some



Kolkata Knight Rider's young star Shubman Gill enters the team hotel in Dubai on Friday. KKR Twitter

found the Burj, others saw the dazzling sea. “Much of next week will be spent just staring at the sea,” a player told *The Indian Express*.

Another player talked about the wet reception. “We thought it was rose water as we walked into the lobby, but it turned out to be sanitiser,” he said.

In a video posted on Instagram, Rajasthan Royals seamer Jaydev Unadkat said, “We are not allowed to go out of the room. We have been asked to stay inside our rooms. To kill time I have bought play FIFA games.”

The hotel has been divided

into three zones, with players plus immediate support, net bowlers, and hotel staff separated from each other. To ensure there is no trespassing, everyone at the hotel has been asked to wear a wristband tracking device. If a player has to leave the bio-bubble for personal reasons or due to illness, he will have to go into 7 days' quarantine all over again.

Team members have been allotted rooms in a separate wing of the hotel that has its own centralised air conditioning unit. Separate entry and exit gates will be made available to them, and there is a dedicated lift for exclu-

sive use by members of the franchise team.

Before he left India, Shubman Gill, who plays for Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), had spoken to *The Indian Express* about his fears around the quarantine. “It's going to be really, really difficult to be quarantined without meeting people or anyone. And being in a bio-bubble for three months will be the most challenging thing, because that's a long time,” he had said.

OTT platforms are likely to be the go-to place for most cricketers seeking entertainment, but Gill plans to watch some fitness

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WEB

EXCLUSIVE



## MUSIC PRODUCER TURNS TV SERIAL DIALOGUE INTO RAP SONG

Singer and music producer Yashraj Mukhate from Aurangabad, who often creates musical covers and spoof videos, picked up dialogues from the Star Plus show 'Saath Nibhana Saathiya' and gave them a musical twist

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



### LIKELY CONGRESS-AIUDF ALLIANCE

How it might change Assam politics ahead of 2021 Assembly polls

VIDEO



### LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Young changemakers on their achievements and challenges

# EXPRESS AUDIO

## Online pharmacies and how they are regulated in India

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY**

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about how the online pharmacy market is expected to grow and the challenges that will come with it.

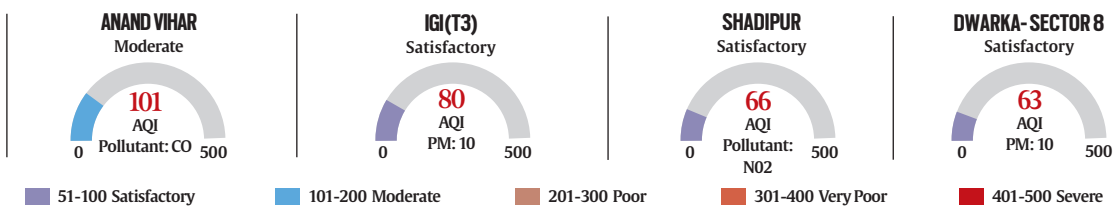
The first challenge of IPL – the first week in quarantine – has already begun for the players.



# 3 THE CITY



0-50 Good



## EACH DISTRICT TO GET 10 MACHINES

# Protocol out for oxygen concentrators at home

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DELHI government has prepared SOPs to provide oxygen concentrators to patients who have recovered from Covid-19 but continue to face breathing difficulties.

According to officials, the state health department will provide 10 oxygen concentrators — a device that makes oxygen from air — to each of the 11 districts, and two will be placed in each government-run dispensary. There are 3,000 oxygen concentrators with the state

health department, said sources.

District medical teams will be at the forefront in coordinating with patients who need the machine.

“Some district officials have already started collecting the machines. The process will start depending on requirement of patients. The machine can be provided for a maximum duration of two months, after which it has to be returned to the facility concerned,” said a senior official from the state health department.

Last week, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had stated that there have been instances where some patients lost their lives af-

## CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Aug 20	1,215	1,059	22	17,004
Aug 21	1,250	1,082	13	17,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,426*</b>	<b>1,42,908</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>13,92,928</b>

ter testing negative as their oxygen levels fell. To address the issue, he said oxygen concentrators will be sent to homes of

recovered Covid patients.

The guidelines will cover all recovered patients who were categorised as severe at the time

of admission to ICUs of any government or a private facility. It will not include patients who are already on long-term oxygen therapy before being diagnosed with Covid, or those who have coexisting pulmonary illnesses.

“The hospitals will ensure that all eligible patients, at the time of discharge, are informed about getting a pulse oximeter from the nearest government dispensary. Oxygen levels of patients are to be monitored every six hours for 14 days after discharge, and a written record has to be maintained,” the official said.

A dedicated primary care team at the dispensary will ini-

tially visit patients and assess their need for oxygen concentrators. Oxygen levels of patients will be monitored for two weeks after discharge. If oxygen saturation level is less than 93% in two consecutive readings; less than 93% after three minutes of ambulation; or if the patient has nocturnal hypoxia with saturation levels less than 93%; then the patient is eligible for short-term oxygen therapy at home.

Voter ID will be required as proof of residence of the patient. The device will be sent to a patient based on a doctor's prescription.

“The team will also follow-up

with all patients on short-term oxygen therapy by calling daily and making weekly physical visits. This will continue till the requirement or two-month period ends, whichever is earlier. If the therapy is required for more than two months, the patient will be re-evaluated by a physician and prescribed long-term oxygen therapy as per the government policy,” added the official.

Meanwhile, Delhi recorded 1,250 new coronavirus cases on Friday, taking the city's case-load to 1,58,604. The death toll rose to 4,270 with 13 more deaths reported in the last 24 hours.

## 2 donors held over shell firms, AAP says nothing amiss against party

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE ECONOMIC Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested two men for allegedly forming “shell companies using fabricated documents and photographs”.

Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) OP Mishra said that a complaint was received from the Registrar of Companies (ROC) of New Delhi against four companies, and the complaint mentioned that the companies had “donated Rs 50 lakh each to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on April 5, 2014”.

The AAP said in a statement: “We are committed to honest and transparent politics... AAP will never compromise on its integrity. This is a six-year-old case which has been investigated by almost all agencies. So far, nothing amiss has been found against AAP by any of the agencies. AAP has cooperated with all agencies and will continue to cooperate with them.”

The four companies that have been mentioned in the ROC's complaint are Goldmine Buildcon Pvt Ltd, Skyline Metal and Alloys Pvt Ltd, Sun Vision Agencies Pvt Ltd, and Infalence Software Solutions Ltd.

The two arrested men were identified as chartered accountant Sudhanshu Bansal (43) and businessman Mukesh Kumar (53). Joint CP Mishra said, “The two accused persons fraudulently procured DIN (director identification number) using fabricated documents and photos. The said DIN was then used to incorporate shell companies, which in turn did money laundering.”

As per the ROC's complaint, inquiry was taken up when the issue of donation by the four



**Sudhanshu Bansal and Mukesh Kumar**

companies to AAP was covered by the media, said Mishra. He said that in its complaint, the ROC alleged that “the four companies are bogus and are not located at the addresses as per the ROC record”. The ROC complaint also alleged that there was “huge infusion of money in these companies by way of ‘share premium amount’, but the source of money was not disclosed,” he said.

Mishra said that based on the complaint, “we checked the four companies and found that their ROC records were false. The address given was wrong”. The ROC also issued notices to the directors of the four companies, asking them about the donations. One of the directors, whose signatures and photos were used to get DIN from ROC, told the police that his signatures were forged and the photo doesn't belong to him.

Mishra said that Bansal had used this person's signature to get DIN for Skyline Metal & Alloys. Directors of the three other companies worked under Kumar. The accused used their signatures to get authorisation from ROC.

The police will now present the accused in the court and the money laundering cases will be further investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and the IT Department.

## Some discomfiture within BJP over Shaheen Bagh event

**ABHINAV RAJPUT**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE RECENT induction of over 50 people from Shaheen Bagh into the BJP, which prompted an attack on the party by the AAP, has left a section of BJP's leadership unhappy, it is learnt.

The Shaheen Bagh residents were among 100-plus people from the Muslim community who had joined the BJP on Sunday. The AAP had pointed at the event to suggest BJP had orchestrated the Shaheen Bagh anti-CAA sit-in for electoral gains before the Delhi Assembly polls. Both the BJP and the organisers of the protest deny this.

A senior BJP leader from the state unit said, “At a time when the riots are being linked to the anti-CAA protests, such an event was avoidable.” He said the central leadership has asked the state unit to be cautious with such events in the future.

Another leader said the event gave “unnecessary arsenal” to the AAP. “The issue is not with people from the minority com-



**Residents of Shaheen Bagh joined BJP in the presence of Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta and others on August 16. Abhinav Saha**

munity joining — we have a minority morcha dedicated for that. The issue is Shaheen Bagh. When we had a very clear stand about the sit-in during the polls, such an event is bound to leave our supporters confused,” he said.

The BJP had said that those who joined the party included people who earlier supported CAA as well as those who were against it. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, however, said no one is unhappy with the induction, and anyone who believes in the party's ideology can join.

Delhi BJP media head Ashok

Goel reiterated this, and said, “We believe in ‘sabka saath, sabka vishwas’ and people from all walks of life, including people from different parties, join the BJP from time to time if they have faith in our ideology.”

BJP leader Nighat Abbass, who led the joining, said, “Today also we are not endorsing the Shaheen Bagh protest. People who have joined the party understood they were being misguided, so they came to the party. BJP is a big family and if someone believes in the party's principles, they are welcome.”

## RAINY WEEKEND EXPECTED

Monsoon clouds over India Gate on Friday. The IMD has forecast a generally cloudy sky with light rain in the city till Monday. *Praveen Khanna*



## Sanitising luggage to face masks for guests and staff, hotels in capital prepare to reopen doors

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DELHI Disaster Management Authority on Friday issued standard operating procedures (SOPs) for reopening of hotels, and operation of weekly markets on a trial basis.

The order allows for hotels and hospitality units outside containment zones to reopen with “generic preventive measures” and specific safety precautions to prevent the spread of Covid-19. It states that only asymptomatic guests and staff are to be allowed, and they must wear a face cover or mask “at all times inside the hotel”. Guests will also be required to provide details of their travel history, medical condition, IDs and self-declaration forms at the hotel reception.

Hotels were allowed to reopen this week, with the Delhi government and L-G Anil Bajjal's office resolving their differences on the issue.

Addressing representatives of hotel associations in a meeting on Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, “We have two challenges — how to end the spread of the pandemic, and revive the economy of Delhi as businesses have been shut and jobs have been lost. I want to thank the entire hotel industry because when corona was at its peak in Delhi, we had attached hotels to hospitals to increase the capacity of beds... We received huge support from the hotel industry.”

He said the Centre was against reopening of hotels but this was pushed for by the Delhi government to revive the economy: “The Centre was against the idea of



**Hotels got go-ahead to open this week. Praveen Khanna**

opening hotels in Delhi. I would not blame them as the Centre must have thought cases might rise again. But I explained to them that hotels are functioning in areas where cases are rising in the country. Either the Centre should

shut hotels down across the country or open it in regions where the situation is under control.”

Among the sanitary processes that hotels will be required to follow include disinfecting luggage before sending to rooms; use of contactless processes like QR codes, online forms and digital payments; sanitising rooms and service areas after each guest leaves; regular deep cleaning of washrooms; separate entry and exit for guests, staff, and supplies.

Hotels are to encourage room service and takeaways as opposed to dining in restaurants. Specific guidelines for hotels and restaurants include socially-distanced seating, disposable menus and paper napkins, and digital payment.

If a suspected or positive Covid case is reported on the premises, they are to be isolated,

referred to the nearest medical facility, followed by a risk assessment by the designated public health authority and disinfection.

Orders were also issued to “open one weekly market per day per zone in all three municipal corporations/ New Delhi Municipal Council/ Delhi Cantonment Board on trial basis for a week” from September 24-30. They shall be allowed to operate from 4 pm to 10 pm, with a distance of six feet between two stalls and not more than two people operating one stall. Buyers will also have to bring their own bags and not more than two will be allowed to be at a stall at a time.

On Friday, the government also issued an order to wind up operations in banquet halls functioning as healthcare facilities and linked to designated Covid hospitals.

## Covid shadow, Haryana shut on weekends

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 21

AS COVID cases continue to rise, weekend restrictions are back across Haryana. The state government Friday announced closure of all offices and shops, except those dealing in essential services, on Saturday and Sunday. The restrictions will come into effect from August 22 and remain till further orders.

“All offices and shops except essential will remain closed in

Haryana every Saturday and Sunday due to Covid-19,” tweeted state Health and Home Minister Anil Vij. The state has not yet decided if there will be any restrictions on movement of people on roads.

The decision comes on a day when Haryana witnessed its biggest single-day spike of 1,203 new cases and seven deaths in the last 24 hours. At least four districts including Faridabad (127) and Gurgaon (120) reported a spike in new cases over the last 24 hours. The total count



**All shopping malls shall remain closed on weekends**

in Haryana has reached 52,129 cases and the death toll is at 585.

On Thursday, CM Manohar Lal Khattar had gone into home-quarantine as a “precautionary measure”. He tested negative for Covid.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Vij said, “Despite best efforts, cases continue to rise. There is a need to reimpose weekend restrictions. We hope that by doing this, at least the chain will be broken. There will be some impact.”

After Vij's announcement, Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora issued formal orders im-

posing restrictions. “... all public and private offices, except those dealing with essential goods and services, and all shopping malls and shops in the market area, except those dealing with essential goods and services, shall remain closed on Saturday and Sunday throughout the territory of Haryana. All other national directives and SOPs issued by National Disaster Management Authority for Covid-19 management that are currently in force shall continue to be strictly followed,” the order read.

## BRIEFLY

### MCDs to begin desealing

*New Delhi:* The three municipal corporations of Delhi — South, East and North — have decided to start the process of de-sealing over 6,000 residential properties that were sealed under the directions of the monitoring committee in the capital. The decision was taken after the Supreme Court had ordered de-sealing of a residential premises that was sealed by the SC-appointed monitoring committee for allegedly flouting norms, but not used for commercial purposes. The court had said the committee “had no power to look into the matter and to take any action”. Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta said 6,000 residential properties will get the benefit of de-sealing out of approximately 10,000 sealed properties from the decision of the SC. The BJP is in power in all the three civic bodies.

### AAP slams BJP over MCD rankings

*New Delhi:* The AAP hit out at the BJP-ruled civic bodies over their poor ranking in the recent Swachh Survekshan survey, with party spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj appealing to the people of Delhi to give the responsibility of the MCDs to them. Among the three MCD's, the East civic body ranked lowest at 46, among 47 civic bodies surveyed. BJP leader Praveen Shankar Kapoor hit back, saying, “I do not wish to get involved in dirty ranking bogey being raised by AAP leaders as I feel today is the time to respect the hard work put in by the MCD safai karamcharis during the last six months of the pandemic.”

### Zero cases in Delhi jails

*New Delhi:* With no new Covid cases among inmates in Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini jails on Friday, the situation at the prisons has improved after three months, said officials. Only two inmates from Mandoli Jail tested positive this month on August 3. DG (Delhi Prisons) Sandeep Goel said, “Both have recovered. There are no cases in the prisons now. Only two of our staffers have Covid and they are under home quarantine.” **ENS**

## ‘NHRC indicated Jamia row handled unprofessionally’

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

HEARING A batch of PILs related to the violence at Jamia Millia Islamia in December last year, the Delhi High Court told the Delhi Police that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) report into the violence does not give a clean chit to anyone, and pointed out that the report indicated the incident was not handled professionally.

Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan were hearing a batch of PILs seeking setting up of a special investigation team or a fact-finding committee as well as medical treatment, compensation and interim protection from arrest for students. It also sought registration of FIRs against erring police officers.

On December 15 last year, anti-CAA protests outside Jamia spiralled into violence, following which security personnel barged into the campus and allegedly as-

saulted students inside the library.

During the hearing, Justice Jalan told Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Aman Lekhi: “There is some finding of some avoidable beating in one of the libraries. So was any action taken?”

ASG Lekhi replied, “The findings of the human rights commission... is sufficient for dismissal of these particular petitions and so is entitlement for compensation...”

Justice Jalan said, “It says both

things. It says the law and order situation but it also says to inculcate professionalism. It indicates that it was not handled very professionally.”

Justice Jalan said, “In any case there is police action, the question remains whether the police were entitled to act at all, but the question of to what extent the action was excessive, etc., the human rights commission has come to some findings against the petitioners or against the protesters...”

The ASG said, “The commis-





## CONDOLENCES

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal meets the family of Raju, an MCD sanitation staff who died of coronavirus, Friday. He handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore to them. Prem Nath Pandey

# BIS prepares draft standard for water supply in states

SHIVAMPATEL  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE BUREAU of Indian Standards (BIS) has prepared a draft standard for the drinking water supply system, which aims to act as a "benchmark" for maintaining water quality and developing a uniform process for states opting to implement it.

BIS officials said the draft standard has been developed keeping in view the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission for providing safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households by 2024 through individual tap connections.

It lays down the requirements for water utilities, including procurement of raw water, its treatment, distribution, quality maintenance and responsibilities of the management.

A BIS official, who did not wish to be named, said, "A standard was already in place for drinking water as a product, but in view of the Jal Jeevan Mission, we felt we should develop a stan-

dard that covers all aspects of water supply."

The official added that there are certain water supply processes being followed in rural and underdeveloped parts of the country but they are based on government circulars and orders and are not uniform.

The draft mentions that treatment of water and its distribution should be done in a manner that ensures that at the customer point of distribution, the water quality conforms to the Indian Standard (IS) 10500 developed by the BIS.

Officials from the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), which provides water to the city, said the draft standard prepared by the BIS would not cause much difference to their supply system as its water quality is "better than BIS standards".

"It would, however, make the system more uniform and would not leave room for contention over water quality," a DJB official said.

The BIS has invited comments from water utilities, including the DJB, on the draft. After it is noti-

fied, states wishing to implement the standard can approach the BIS for a license, the BIS official said. The decision on making the standard mandatory would lie with the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the official added.

Quality of drinking water became a contentious issue in November last year when a BIS report, released by Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan, found Delhi's tap water quality as the worst among 21 metros and state capitals in the country.

The report also found that tap water in 13 state capitals, including Bhopal, Chandigarh, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Chennai, did not comply with BIS standards.

In Delhi, the BIS had drawn water samples from 11 locations, including one from Paswan's official residence — something which Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said was not representative for a city like Delhi, where 2,000 water samples should have been drawn to give a comprehensive picture.

# Don't have videos of Kalita making hate speech: Police to HC

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

OPPOSING HER bail plea in connection with a Northeast Delhi riot case, Delhi Police told the Delhi High Court that they do not have videos of Pinjra Tod member Devangana Kalita making hate speeches.

The submission was made by the investigating officer of the case when Justice Suresh Kumar Kait repeatedly asked Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing on behalf of Delhi Police, if police had any portion of the speech in which she allegedly instigated the crowd in Jafraabad. Reserving its order on the bail plea, the court gave both parties time till Monday to file their written submissions. Kalita has been in judicial custody since May.

Kalita, represented by her counsel Kapil Sibal, told the court that the chargesheet has already been filed against her and she is no longer required for investigation. Sibal argued before the court, "Delhi Police has said that she doesn't appear in any CCTV footage or any other video." He contended that Kalita is a tremendous academic and it is her right to participate in a protest for issues she feels passionately about.

ASG Raju told the court, "She regularly instigated the protesters, rioters against CAA-NRC and also instigated to be violent and use force... the accused started



Devangana Kalita

violating Northeast area since December 2019 and instigated uneducated ladies and youth against CAA-NRC by giving hate speeches... They gave some speeches that CAA was anti-Muslim and would be forced to show documents, and later on Muslims would be thrown out of the country... that in Assam Muslims are treated badly, they are kept in detention centres..."

Justice Kait said, "Do you have any of the part of speech?" The ASG read a portion of a disclosure statement, when Justice Kait interrupted him and said, "Show me any portion of the speech recorded by media, recorded by anyone, that she went and instigated the mob to commit crime. You are referring to a disclosure statement and a disclosure statement is not admissible..."

The ASG said, "I am not reading the disclosure statement to tell her role. We are just showing how we zeroed in on her..."

Justice Kait said, "During this time, media was there. I want to

know what she said which instigated the mob to commit further crime." When the ASG said that as per the IO, media was not present at the time, Justice Kait said, "Was the police there? If yes, then police are supposed to record something..." The ASG said, "There were a lot of people who participated in that protest, it is not possible to expect CCTV footage to capture faces of all of them."

During the arguments, advocate Rajiv Kishan Sharma, claiming to be Special Public Prosecutor appointed by Delhi Police, appeared through video conference while standing in the middle of a road. Justice Kait pulled him up for not briefing the ASG, and asked him not to behave like this was a "television debate".

When the court asked Sharma if police have any videos, he said, "We have all the photographs and videos in this regard. The IO has them." Justice Kait then summoned the IO and asked about the video.

The IO told the court, "We have video recordings and pictures but not of hate speeches, but it confirms their presence. Before the incident, when they were instigating people, we have those videos; on (February) 22-23 when they were sitting here, we have those videos. But we don't have videos of them making hate speeches."

Following this, the IO was directed to submit the videos by Friday evening to the court.

## 'WhatsApp group worked with mob mind'

New Delhi: Members of a WhatsApp group created to avenge the attacks on Hindus lost their individuality and started working with mob minds, said a Delhi court Friday while taking cognizance of a chargesheet filed against nine persons accused in a

murder case related to the Northeast Delhi riots.

The court said some youths failed to perceive the "bottomless stupidity" of the propaganda to take revenge against the Muslims and created the WhatsApp group 'Kattar Hindu

Ekta'. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Purushottam Pathak took cognizance of the offences, including rioting, unlawful assembly, murder and criminal conspiracy, against nine persons in the murder case of Hashim Ali. ENS

# Tahir provoked his community to riot, says court

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21



Tahir Hussain

TAKING COGNIZANCE of chargesheet filed against suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, accused in the murder of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma, a Delhi court has observed that he "provoked and instigated his community against the other community with a view to promote enmity between Hindus and Muslims". Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Purushottam Pathak stated there was sufficient material on record to take cognizance.

The court directed all the accused to be produced before it on August 28 through video conferencing for further hearing.

The court said the riots took place in a "planned manner", resulting from a "well-hatched conspiracy", and it was allegedly abetted by the leader of the mob, Hussain. "Hussain also facilitated them to the rooftop of his building and provided other logistics support with a view that large-scale riots may be there, causing resultant loss to life and the property of the other community..."

Prima facie the accused Tahir Hussain was leading the mob from his house and also from the Masjid near Chand Bagh Pulia on February 24 and 25, and he was instrumental for gathering of the unlawful assembly in conspiracy with accused persons, namely Hasseen (alias Salmaan), Nazim, Kasim, Sameer Khan, Anas, Firoj, Javed, Gulam and Shoaib Alam, having common intention and unlawful object," the court said.

It further said Hussain allegedly provoked and instigated his community with a view to promote enmity on the grounds of religion between Hindus and Muslims, claiming that Hindus have killed a number of Muslims and have set their shops on fire at Sherpur Chowk and they should not let any Hindus go scot free.

"On his (Hussain's) provocation/instigation, the Muslims

turned violent and became volatile on February 24 and 25 and started burning shops and pelting stones and petrol bombs on Hindu community and also targeted their houses situated in that locality. Thereupon, the uncontrolled mob turned into rioters and in process of rioting caught hold of Ankit Sharma and dragged him to Chand Bagh Pulia and caused his death by inflicting multiple injuries using sharp and blunt objects/weapons in a brutal manner and with a view to conceal the evidence, all of them in furtherance of their common intention, threw his dead body in the drain," it said.

As per court records, Hussain has been named as one of the main accused along with nine others — Anas, Firoj, Javed, Gulam, Shoaib Alam, Salmaan, Nazim, Kasim, Sameer Khan—for the murder of Sharma. All the accused are in jail.

The chargesheet said they came from the side of Chand Bagh Pulia, caught hold of Sharma on the instigation of Hussain from the political leader's house, and dragged and beat him to death by inflicting sharp and blunt injuries. And after killing him, they threw his dead body in the drain. His body was fished out the next day.

The autopsy revealed that there were 51 sharp injuries on his body, the chargesheet said, adding that the way he was killed by the cold-blooded rioters has shaken the social fabric of the society and instilled a fear in the minds of the residents of the area.

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
**GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE,**  
PATEL NAGAR, DEHRADUN-248001 (U.K.)  
TEL: 0135-2726020, 2726021 Fax no. 2726020  
E-mail: doonmedicalcollege@gmail.com, Website: www.doonmedical.com  
Ref. No: GDMC/Tender/2020-21/4190 Date: 22.08.20

### Tender Information

Govt. Doon Medial College, Dehradun invites E-Tender for procurement of Contingency, Stationery & Computer accessory. All the information related to this tender are available on <http://uktenders.gov.in>

Principal  
Govt. Doon Medical College, Dehradun

**MATHERAN HILL STATION MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**  
MATHERAN-410102, TAL- KARJAT, DIST- RAIGAD  
TEL: 02148-230341, 230343, 230234  
E-mail ID: mcomatheran@gmail.com

OUTWORD NO- MHMC/1403/2020-21 DATE 21.8.2020

### Public Notice E-TENDER

THE Chief Officer Matheran Municipal Council, has Published the declaration on e-tender for Development of Olympia Ground. Detail information is available on the <http://mahatenders.gov.in> Website  
Sd/-  
Chief Officer  
Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council, Matheran

**MANIPUR UNIVERSITY**  
CANCHIPUR : IMPHAL-755005  
MANIPUR  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020  
No. MU/Zoology/Consum-Lab/2020/01: Manipur University invites sealed tenders. Details available at the University website [www.manipuruniv.ac.in](http://www.manipuruniv.ac.in)  
Sd/-  
Purchase Officer  
Manipur University, Cancipur

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

सं. ईसीआर/सीएजे/कोन/डब्ल्यू टी/ईनिविदा/उत्तर/27-20-21 दिनांक 20.08.2020. E-Tender Notice No.-ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-27-20-21. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with its location : Construction of Major Bridge No. 97A (2x30.5m, OWG) on well foundation, Minor Bridge No. 97B (2x5.00+1x5.00m RCC Box), Bridge No. 98 (2x4.00m RCC Box) along with construction of permanent diversion, linking of track and supply, fabrication, erection, launching of OWG, between Km 41.4 to 42.6 in Jhannharpur-Tamuria section in connection with gauge conversion of Sakri-Nirmal section of Samastipur Division. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : ₹20,13,19,243.91. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹11,56,600/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 11.09.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.  
CAO/Con/North/ECR/Mahendughat, Patna  
PR/0546/CON/Engg./T/20-21/44

Office of the Executive Engineer  
Construction Division, U.P.  
Jai Nigam, Amroha  
1796/निग/72  
Rto- 14-08-2020

**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Online percentage rate E tenders in two bid system by notice no. 1796 /निग/72, Dated 14-08-2020 for Pipeline Extension- 63mm dia to 200 mm dia, Functional House Tap Connections (FHTC) works in New/Existing W/S Lines with all materials, labour, t&p etc. Complete, and Repair of Over Head Tanks & appurtenant works in Various Village Water Supply Schemes of Various Block under J.N.M. in District Amroha U.P. are here by invited on behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jai Nigam, from the reputed contractors having requisite work experience & financial capabilities. Tender document shall be available on e-procurement website <http://tender.up.nic.in> latest by 18/08/2020 Interested bidders may view and download Tender Document and upload their tender, duly filled online latest by 31-08-2020 up to 12:00 Hrs. Uploaded Technical & Financial capacity evaluation cum technical bid shall be opened on dated 31.08.2020 day at 15:00 Hrs. The non refundable cost of e-tender document as per Tender Notice plus 18.00% GST or in accordance with GST. Details of work of e-tender will be available on U.P Jai Nigam website [www.upjn.org](http://www.upjn.org)

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**  
OPEN TENDER Batch No: 39/20 dated : 19.08.2020

E-Tender notice for supply of materials- "Preparation in through" web portal of IREPS - [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) offers are invited for supply of the following materials : The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hrs.  
Sl. No.01. Tender No. : 04195001A Brief Description : CRF Section Quantity : 106 Sels Published on time : 28.07.20 13:03:44 Closing on : 14.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.02. Tender No. : 04204642 Brief Description : Brake Shoe Key Quantity : 77602 Nos. Published on time : 25.07.20 10:42:32 Closing on : 14.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.03. Tender No. : 06205009 Brief Description : Relay AC Immune Quantity : 4396 Nos. Published on time : 18.08.2011 53:13 Closing on : 14.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.04. Tender No. : 06205125 Brief Description : Relay QNA1 Quantity : 8944 Nos. Published on time : 18.8.20/12.13.24 Closing on : 14.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.05. Tender No. : 06191234A Brief Description : Lead add Quantity : 2461 Nos. Published on time : 18.8.20/11.50.37 Closing on : 21.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.06. Tender No. : 04200470 Brief Description : Brake Cylinder Quantity : 91 Nos Published on time : 18.8.20/11.16.48 Closing on : 21.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.07. Tender No. : 0619869A Brief Description : Lead add Quantity : 1913 Nos. Published on time : 18.8.20/11.48.40 Closing on : 21.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.08. Tender No. : 04201003 Brief Description : Bogle center Pivot Bottom Quantity : 548 Nos. Published on time : 18.8.20/11.49.00 Closing on : 21.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Sl. No.09. Tender No. : 04208961 Brief Description : Poly Rings Quantity : 51069 Nos. Published on time : 18.8.20/11.46.47 Closing on : 21.09.20 Fund : Fund is available Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS- [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.  
Principal Chief Material Manager  
East Central Railway, Hajipur  
PR/540/HQ/STORE/T/20-21/72

**SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF PHOTOCOPYING SERVICES**

Tender No. S-G-Photocopy-20. Dated: 19.08.2020.  
Works : Hiring of photocopying services at the premises of South East Central Railway offices at 08 (Eight) locations (11 Machines) in Bilaspur for period of 24 months.  
Tender Value : ₹ 62,08,380/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Only). EMD : ₹ 1,24,200/- (Rupees One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only). Submission of Tender: Up to 10:30 Hrs. on 11.09.2020. Opening of Tender: at 11.09.2020.  
Further all details are available in Railway's website [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in), except E-Tender no other modes of submission will be accepted.

Dy. Chief Materials Manager  
CPR/10/217 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspur  
South East Central Railway @secrail

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E-TENDER NOTICE**

सं. ईसीआर/सीएजे/कोन/डब्ल्यू टी/ईनिविदा/उत्तर/28-20-21 दिनांक 19.08.2020. E-Tender Notice No.-ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-28-20-21. E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with its location : P-way linking work and other misc. allied works at Sarai yard (Final Phase) in connection with doubling between Hajipur-Ramdayalu Nagar. 2. Approx. cost of the work of : ₹4,04,80,927.49. 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹3,52,400/- 4. Date and time for closing of tender : 11.09.2020 at 14.30 hrs. 5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The above E-Tender, E-Tendering document alongwith full information is available on website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in>. Note : In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <http://www.irops.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.  
CAO/Con/North/ECR/Mahendughat, Patna  
PR/0542/CON/Engg./T/20-21/40

### NORTHERN RAILWAY

Invitation of Tender Through e-Tendering (E-Procurement System)			
Name of work with its location	Provision of side pathway & man-refugees on Br. no. 313 (UP&DN) & Br. no. 325 (UP&DN) on UMB-LDH section over Ambala Division in the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/LB/TKJ.		
Approx. cost of work	₹1,24,99,802.95		
Earnest Money	₹2,12,500.00		
Completion period of the work	(08) Eight Months		
Cost of Tender Form	5,000/- <b>Note: Cost of EMD &amp; Tender Form</b> should be in the form of net banking or Payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no. 2015/CE-1/C/5/1 dated 31.08.2016.		
Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Upto 15:00 hrs. 10.09.2020. Opening of tender after 15:00 hrs. on same day.		
Website particular where complete details of tender can be seen & downloaded	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. <a href="http://www.irops.gov.in">www.irops.gov.in</a>		
Tender Notice No. : 32-WBR-313-325-UMB Dated: 20.08.2020			
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			
1815/20			



# 5 GOVT & POLITICS



## OPTIONS OPEN

JITAN RAM Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) – or HAM-S – may have announced its decision to quit the RJD-led Opposition grand alliance in Bihar, but the former chief minister is still engaging the Congress. On Thursday, Manjhi told Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha that he is yet to decide on joining the NDA. Manjhi said he has announced his decision to leave the alliance because of the RJD. But the Congress believes he will either go back to the JD(U) or have an alliance with the ruling party. Congress leaders believe Chief Minister Nitish Kumar could offer Manjhi an MLC seat from the Governor quota, and possibly send him to Rajya Sabha later. Nitish, the Congress feels, could even field five or six HAM-S candidates on JD(U) ticket.

## OPPOSITION POLITICS

EVEN AS Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh arrived in New Delhi along with five former Congress MLAs who had resigned from the Assembly to join BJP, the Congress expelled Biren's son-in-law R K Imo, a Congress MLA, from the party on Thursday. Imo, who was accompanying Biren and was in New Delhi at the time of expulsion, is believed to be instrumental in the defection of the five former legislators. On Friday, Imo responded to the expulsion in a written statement, saying that things will get worse for the Congress in Manipur unless the party high command takes cognizance of the "arbitrary leadership" of former Manipur CM and Congress Legislature Party leader Okram Ibobi Singh. Laying the blame squarely at Ibobi's door, Imo urged the AICC to consider replacing a leadership, which he says is now way past its prime.

## IN GOODS WE TRUST

WITH NORMAL passenger train services disrupted due to the pandemic, the entire focus of the Railways has been on freight movement. To improve services for goods movement on trains, the Railways has announced a helpline for all freight and parcel queries. It announced that in view of the ongoing thrust on promoting freight and parcel traffic, it has come out with a single all-India contact number, which will be option 6 on the integrated railways helpline number – 139. Railways Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted about the decision: "Railways enhance ease of freight transportation! Now, businesses, traders & suppliers can dial a single all-India contact number to transport goods via Indian Railways."

## On 'bias in enforcing policy', Facebook says: Denounce hate, bigotry

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A WEEK after *The Wall Street Journal* reported that a senior public policy executive of Facebook in India had opposed applying hate speech rules to BJP-linked individuals and groups, the company on Friday stated that it "denounce(s) hate and bigotry".

Facebook said in a statement: "...[L]ike a truly diverse organization, our employees represent a varied political spectrum who have either served in many administrations or have political experience and take immense pride in being active contributors to public service. Despite hailing from diverse political affiliations and backgrounds, they perform their respective duties and interpret our policies in a fair and non-partisan way. The decisions around content escalations are not made unilaterally by just one

person; rather, they are inclusive of views from different teams and disciplines within the company."

*The Wall Street Journal* had reported that citing business imperatives, a senior public policy executive of Facebook "opposed applying hate-speech rules" to at least four individuals and groups linked with the BJP despite the fact that they were "flagged internally for promoting or participating in violence."

The company on Friday stated, "Over the last few days, we have been accused of bias in the way we enforce our policies. We take allegations of bias incredibly seriously, and want to make it clear that we denounce hate and bigotry in any form." Facebook also said that hate speech decisions are separate from their "dangerous" label on individuals, which is determined by the company's dangerous organisations teams that "solicit input from cross-functional teams internal to the company".

## EC ISSUES GUIDELINES AHEAD OF BIHAR POLLS

# Oppn parties say barriers may impact participation of voters

**MANOJ JCG**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

AS THE Election Commission came out with guidelines for conduct of elections during the Covid-19 pandemic ahead of Bihar Assembly polls, the RJD – which leads the opposition alliance in the state – on Friday said the imposition of so many "barriers" may impact "whole-some participation of voters" in the "festival of democracy".

It said the poll body should decide what is more important – saving people's lives or attending to the need of the formation of Assembly.

The Congress said the guidelines "fall far short" for the smooth conduct of elections in "free, non-partisan and fair fashion" without giving undue advantage to the ruling party.

AICC general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal said there are many "deficiencies" in the guidelines and that the EC has overlooked almost all suggestions given by the party.

The Congress, he said, had requested that EVMs be avoided, given the high chances of infection from shared use of one machine. "The ECI has completely failed to address this concern, instead opting to passively state that EVMs and VVPATs will be sanitised. As the last six months have established, this is not a fool-proof measure," he said.



K C Venugopal

Besides, the guidelines don't make any deep distinctions between the specific challenges of rural areas and urban areas which have seen the spread of Covid-19 in different ways, he said.

"The guidelines say that the relevant provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and the IPC will be invoked against anyone who violates the guidelines. However, the ECI has surprisingly missed the potential for abuse by the ruling party which controls the policing machinery," he added.

RJD leader and Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha told *The Indian Express*, "What if you end up having 30 per cent voting? My worry is that. We all love to call it the festival of democracy. But would we enjoy a festival if there are so many barriers, so many don'ts? There are less dos and more don'ts in this (guidelines) and that will impact the wholesome participation of voters."



Manoj Kumar Jha

Asked whether the RJD was still in favour of deferring elections, Jha said, "The RJD feels that the EC has a very, very difficult choice to make – saving people's lives and attending to the need of the formation of Assembly. EC should decide what is more important."

RJD spokesperson Mrityunjay Twari said: "We are not satisfied with the EC's clear hints of holding polls in time. Bihar election can turn out to be a super-spreader for Covid infection."

Bihar Congress president Madan Mohan Jha said the party had earlier asked the EC to postpone the elections by two months. "But since the EC has come out with guidelines, it seems they are in a mood to hold elections. The question is what they have said in the guidelines... how it can and will be implemented on the ground in Bihar," he said.

**WITH INPUTS FROM ENS PATNA**



Outgoing Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa calls on Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu in Delhi on Friday. Lavasa is set to take over as vice-president of Asian Development Bank. **ANI**

## Rajiv Kumar to be Election Commissioner

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FORMER FINANCE Secretary and retired IAS officer Rajiv Kumar has been appointed Election Commissioner (EC), a government order said on Friday.

Kumar, a 1984-batch Jharkhand cadre retired IAS officer, has been appointed in place of EC Ashok Lavasa who resigned from the post Tuesday, the Ministry of Law and Justice said in a notification. Outgoing EC Lavasa has been



Rajiv Kumar

appointed vice-president of Asian Development Bank. Kumar will assume charge from August 31, the day Lavasa leaves office.

Lavasa still has over two years left in his term at the Election Commission. He would have retired as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) in October 2022. As Chief Election Commissioner, he would

have conducted Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa, among other states. His premature exit – the second in the Election Commission's history – puts his colleague Sushil Chandra next in the line of succession.

Kumar, who retired as Finance Secretary on April 29 this year, was appointed Chairman of Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) for a period of three years. As Chief Election Commissioner, he is expected to oversee the next general election in 2024.

## JDU, BJP welcome guidelines

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PATNA, AUGUST 21

THE RULING alliance in Bihar on Friday welcomed the Election Commission's new guidelines for conducting elections amid a pandemic, saying that they have ended an atmosphere of uncertainty about the forthcoming polls.

Bihar Deputy CM and senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi said: "We welcome the EC guidelines on Bihar polls. The poll panel has ended an atmosphere of uncertainty about the elections with its guidelines, which clearly talk about the safety of voters in times of Covid-19."

Targeting the Opposition, he said, "The RJD had been trying to postpone the polls with the excuse of Covid. The EC move has reinstated the faith of the public in the commission's commitment to hold fair and timely polls."

JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said: "The EC guidelines clearly talk in detail about the safety of voters, and the Opposition must not now make an issue about the timing of elections. The EC guidelines should allay the fears of the public."

## SEDITION CASE OVER YOUTUBE BROADCAST

# Freedom of speech extends to social media too: Dua to SC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

SENIOR JOURNALIST Vinod Dua, who faces sedition charges filed by Himachal Pradesh police for a YouTube broadcast, on Friday told the Supreme Court that freedom of speech and expression guaranteed by the Constitution extends to citizens on social media and in the press.

Appearing for Dua, senior advocate Vikas Singh told a bench of Justices U U Lalit and Vineet Saran that the United States Bill of Rights "mentions both citizens and press", whereas Article 19(1)(a) of the Indian Constitution makes no mention of the press.

Singh said that under Article 19(1)(a), the press also enjoys whatever rights citizen enjoys, although citizens do not report on a daily basis. But with the advent of social media, citizens are also writing, he said.

The senior counsel said the absence of free press will prove detrimental to democracy.

On the FIR by Himachal Pradesh police against Dua, Singh said there is "complete distortion" in it from what was actually said. "What he said is not definitely there in the FIR," he said.

Singh referred to the 1962 SC ruling in Kedar Nath Singh vs State of Bihar and pointed out that the court laying down the law on sedition had said that dis-



Vinod Dua

loyalty to a government established by law is not the same thing as commenting in strong terms upon the measures or acts of government, or its agencies, so as to ameliorate the condition of the people.

The court, he said, had also ruled that a citizen has a right to say or write whatever he likes about the government, or its measures, by way of criticism or comment, so long as he does not incite people to violence against the government established by law, or with the intention of creating public disorder.

Therefore, any criticism of the government will not be sedition unless it instigates violence, he added.

The arguments remained incomplete and will continue on September 2.

Dua had moved the court seeking quashing of the FIR registered over remarks made by him in a YouTube broadcast. He has also prayed for certain safeguards to be laid down while registering FIRs against media-persons with at least 10 years' standing.

On June 14, the top court had granted Dua interim protection from arrest, which is continuing.

## Chinese firm sole foreign bidder, Rlys cancels tender for Vande Bharat trainsets

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

MORE THAN a month after a state-owned Chinese rolling stock major emerged as the sole foreign player to bid for the Railways' tender for its ambitious semi-high speed Train 18 project on July 10. CRRC had entered into a joint venture with a Gurgaon-based company to place its bid under the name CRRC Pioneer Electric (India) Private Limited.

It was one of the six contenders for the tender for procuring propulsion systems or electric traction kits for 44 trains – to be branded as Vande Bharat Express or Train 18.

Other contenders among the total six bidders included Bharat Hyder Electricals Ltd, Hyderabad-based Medha Group – one of the makers of the existing Vande Bharat rakes – Electrowaves Electronic Pvt Ltd and Mumbai-based Powernetics Equipments Pvt Ltd.

Officials said that going by the cost of manufacturing in the first Train 18, which was launched last year – it was Rs 100 crore, of which Rs 35 crore was for the propulsion system alone – the present tender for 44 such kits would have been worth over Rs 1,500 crore.

Major players in the industry like Bombardier, Alstom, Siemens, CAF, Talgo and Mitsubishi did not participate in the bid.

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**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IMPORTED TOYS will be allowed in the country only after they comply with a quality control order that comes into force from September 1, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan said on Friday.

Addressing the media through video conference, Paswan said officers of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) will be posted at seven Indian ports and will "take samples and test the product for quality". The Toys (Quality Control) Order, 2020, issued by the Commerce Ministry, will be applicable for both foreign and domestic toy manufacturers. BIS had asked toy manufacturers to get licence for this.

Paswan said mandatory standards are being finalised for many other sectors as well. BIS D-G Pramod Tiwari said there are about 268 mandatory standards in the country and many are in the pipeline. In reply to a question, Tiwari said BIS staff at major ports will take samples and test the product at the port itself. But shipments will not be stopped at port, and there will be two levels of quality checks, he said: first, a physical inspection of a factory location from where the imported product is sourced abroad, and checking again at ports.

## DETERMINED TO RESTRICT ALLIANCE TO 25-30 SEATS: HIMANTA

# Cong-AIUDF alliance on cards, new political contours may emerge in Assam

**ABHISHEK SAHA**  
GUWAHATI, AUGUST 21

WITH AN alliance on the cards, the Congress has said that the AIUDF believes in the Assam Accord and is opposed to the CAA, and the two parties will fight together to end the "misrule" of the BJP.

The AIUDF has said past differences must be forgotten to work towards securing the future of the Assamese people and Assam.

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF), which is led by perfume baron and MP Badruddin Ajmal, enjoys a large support base among Muslims of Bengali descent in Assam. The party has 14 MLAs in the 126-member Assam Assembly.

Ripun Bora, state Congress president and Rajya Sabha member, told *The Indian Express*, "The AIUDF believes in the Assam Accord and supports its implementation. The AIUDF is against the CAA. They are in the interest of the people of Assam. They are not communal – they are not anti-Hindu, but the BJP is anti-Muslim. Of course, they are working for the community they represent and that is not a crime. Assam's problem is the misrule by the BJP and we will fight to end this misrule."

The 1985 Assam Accord set a cut-off of midnight of March 24, 1971, for the detection of "illegal foreigners" in Assam – the NRC in Assam uses the same cut-off. According to the Opposition and socio-political groups in Assam,

provisions of CAA violate the Assam Accord by extending the cut-off for accepting non-Muslim migrants up to December 31, 2014.

This is the first time an official Congress-AIUDF alliance for elections is expected. In March, following anti-CAA protests, the Congress and AIUDF came together to successfully support their joint candidate – senior journalist Ajit Kumar Bhuyan – for the Rajya Sabha.

Aminul Islam, general secretary of AIUDF, is engaged in talks with the Congress leadership to finalise the alliance. Islam told *The Indian Express*, "We have to forget past differences and work towards securing the future of the Assamese people and Assam through a common minimum



Ripun Bora

programme. We are hoping that Akhil Gogoi-led Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti, the Left parties, and the new front launched by Ajit Bhuyan will come with us."

The BJP had claimed a secret Congress-AIUDF pact in Assam multiple times, and the Congress always denied it until the Rajya



Badruddin Ajmal

Sabha election. BJP leaders pointed out that in the 2019 general elections, the AIUDF did not field a candidate against Gaurav Gogoi, son of former three-time Congress CM Tarun Gogoi, in Kallabor constituency. Gaurav won the seat. He had also won the seat in 2014, when the AIUDF did

put up a candidate against him.

Bora said, "In 2016, the BJP fought in coalition with ACP, BPP and other groups representing ethnic communities. We had fought alone then. This time, we will fight in an alliance. We will form an anti-BJP front and we appeal to the Left, AIUDF and all others with whom our agenda to oppose the BJP matches."

Since talk of the Congress-AIUDF alliance began doing the rounds, BJP leaders have criticised it. Himanta Biswa Sarma, senior BJP leader and minister, has said that with the alliance, the name of the state Congress headquarters in Guwahati will change from Rajiv Bhawan to Ajmal Bhawan. On Thursday, he told reporters that he is determined to restrict

the alliance to 25-30 seats.

Pijush Hazarika, the state's junior health minister, has said that Ajmal will be the "drill master" and Tarun Gogoi and Ripun Bora will "sit or stand" according to his instructions.

Bora, however, said, "We will develop a common minimum programme and work for the interest of Assam. We will work towards completing the NRC process and scrapping the CAA. We will fight against the betrayal of the interests of people of Assam, against the BJP's false promises and anti-constitutional policies."

The Congress-AIUDF alliance comes at a time when there is high chance of the launch of a new regionalist political party, propelled by leaders of All Assam

Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyat Abadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP).

Asked if the new political contours pose a threat to the BJP, state BJP president Ranjeet Das told *The Indian Express*, "We have 42 lakh members – even if each member gets only one additional person with him or her, then we have 84 lakh votes. So, we are not worried. We are a democratic party and therefore, we welcome any new political party or formation." A BJP source said: "The Congress is thinking that anti-BJP votes will go to them. But that's not the case. The more formations come up, the more the anti-BJP votes will get divided – and that will help us."

Assembly polls in Assam are due next year.



# 6 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY



The house in Abohar's Jammu Basti. *Express*

## PUNJAB

### Two children die in Abohar roof collapse

**Ludhiana:** Two minor children were killed in a roof collapse amid heavy rainfall in Abohar, Fazilka. On the intervening night of August 20 and 21, the roof of a cobbler's one-room accommodation in Jammu basti area collapsed, killing his two children — Nisha (12) and Aman (10). The cobbler Rinku, his wife Nisha and their two other kids have been admitted to a hospital in critical condition. Local residents pulled them out of the debris and rushed them to a hospital. On Friday, Karan Narang, son of BJP MLA Arun Narang, visited Jammu colony and demanded compensation for Rinku's family. **ENS**

## MAHARASHTRA

### Six rescued as fire breaks out in Mumbai building

**Mumbai:** Six persons were rescued after a fire broke out at a seven-storey building in south Mumbai on Friday, officials said. Smoke filled up 'Raj Gour' building outside Masjid Bunder Station (east) as the fire started around 2 pm, said a Fire Brigade official. At least five fire engines reached the spot and the flames were doused within forty-five minutes, he said. Four people including a woman, who had climbed on window grills to save themselves, were rescued from the fourth floor, while a person each was rescued from the second floor and the terrace, he said. **PTI**

## UTTAR PRADESH

### Elderly couple found dead, relative arrested

**Lucknow:** Police have arrested the distant relative of an elderly couple found killed in their home in Mahoba on Friday. Police said the accused, 21, confessed to the murder as the couple came to know about his relationship with their daughter-in-law and had caught them together on Thursday night. The couple—aged 68 and 64—were found with deep wounds in their neck. "The accused claimed the daughter-in-law was present when he killed them. We are looking into her role," the SHO added. **ENS**

## Virtual prayers, sanitised pandals: Ganesh puja in the time of Covid

**MAYURA JANWALKAR**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

EVERY YEAR on Ganesh Chaturthi, when 'Mumbai cha Raja' is brought to Ganesh Gully, in Mumbai's Lalbaug area, the idol is welcomed by huge crowds of the faithful and deep-throated chants of "Ganpati Bappa Morya". Not this year.

On Friday, a day ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, the festival that kicks off the 10-day Ganeshotsav celebrations, the pandal is almost deserted, except for a few volunteers and workers milling around in masks.

Adwait Pedhamkar, joint treasurer of the Lalbaug Sarvajani Utsav Mandal, which manages the pandal, admits this has to be among the most subdued celebrations.

As the city's Covid count climbs steadily, the Ganesh pandals, a defining feature of Mumbai's streets around this time of the year, are bracing for low-key celebrations.

While the larger pandals usually see upwards of 400 visi-



At Ganesh Gully, in Mumbai's Lalbaug. *Pradip Das*

tors a day, this year, the organisers are urging devotees to stay at home, promising to live-stream proceedings on social media platforms.

Talking of the Covid protocol that will be put in place at the Ganesh Gully pandal, Pedhamkar says, "By evening, we will have markings on the floor for social distancing, touch-free sanitiser dispensers and oximeters and thermometers. Senior citizens and children below 10 have been asked not to visit the pandal. They will be encouraged to watch Bappa on-

line," he said.

This year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) received 2,350 applications for setting up Ganesh pandals — it usually gets about 3,500 to 4,000 — of which it cleared 1,820.

On July 11, the BMC issued a list of guidelines for mandals, including a cap of 4 ft on the height of Ganpati idols (2 ft for idols at home); a ban on offerings of flowers and garlands; sanitising pandals thrice a day; and ensuring only five workers are inside a pandal at any given time.

At Keshavji Naik Chawl in

Girgaum, home to Mumbai's oldest Ganesh mandal, the Shree Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Sanstha established in 1893, volunteers are putting up fairy lights on a colourful canopy below which a 2.25-ft-tall Ganesh idol will be installed on Saturday. "Ours is a small pandal. We usually get only 40-50 visitors a day, but this year, there is a risk if that number rises. That is why we will try to control the number of visitors," said Vinod Satpute, a resident.

Andheri cha Raja, another famous pandal in the city's western suburbs, usually hosts Atharvashirsha Pathan, a prayer recital session that sees at least 200-250 women on stage. This time, the prayer session will be done online and streamed live, said the mandal's secretary, Subodh Chitnis.

He said the mandal is yet to take a call on whether to distribute prasad. "We have let the prasad sit for 72 hours, hoping that will take care of the virus, but we still haven't decided if we should distribute it," he said.

(WITH INPUTS FROM SANJANA BHALERAO)



## DIVINE TOUCH

An artisan in Kolkata's Kumartuli works on a Ganesh idol ahead of the festivities. This year, the coronavirus pandemic has hurt business in the artisan colony. *Partha Paul*

## Kolkata civic body to carry out health survey of elderly

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

TWO WEEKS after the West Bengal government decided to create a database of senior citizens living on their own in high-rises in Howrah, Kolkata and Bidhannagar, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has taken the first step towards collecting the health data of elderly people living in the 144 wards in its jurisdiction. This database will be more comprehensive than the one planned earlier, and will include all areas.

Worried about the high case

### KMC's move comes amid worries over high case fatality rate

fatality rate (CFR) in the capital, Home Secretary Alapan Bandyopadhyay, who is the nodal officer for Covid-19 management in Kolkata, on Wednesday convened a meeting of municipal officials and instructed them to begin the survey. The aim of the exercise is to identify the major diseases among the elderly population, which is the most vulnerable to

Covid-19.

The health authorities expect this database to help them manage the treatment of senior citizens and bring down the CFR in Kolkata, which is 1.25 per centage points higher than the statewide figure. Till date, 1,154 people have died of Covid-19 in the city, comprising almost 43 per cent of the state's toll.

According to the latest health bulletin, the fatality rate in the 61-75 age group is 6.26 per cent, and 13.9 per cent among those who are above 75 years. Of all the deaths, 87.8 per cent have occurred because of comorbidities. "Generally, hypertension,

asthma, diabetes, COPD, and malignancy might become fatal for Covid patients. So, it is necessary to do proper mapping, and take precautions to save elderly citizens. That is why this survey is to be conducted in Kolkata," said a senior doctor at KMC.

According to sources, executive medical officers at every KMC borough will form teams comprising Asha workers, health workers, and civic volunteers. They will visit each house in the ward to collect information about elderly citizens residing there, including their health problems.

## SC allows three Jain temples in Mumbai to open for two days

**CJI: Why govt allowing activity involving money, not religion**

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE SUPREME Court Friday allowed three Jain temples in Mumbai to open for two days of the holy Paryushan season with strict adherence to Covid-19 control protocols. It wondered why the government, which is allowing activities where money is involved, has a different stand in matters of religion.

"We find it very strange that every activity they are allowing involves commercial interests. They are willing to take the risk when money is involved but when it comes to religion, they say there is Covid and we can't do this or that," Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, heading a three-judge bench, said while allowing the Jain temples in Dadar (West), Byculla and Chembur to open on August 22 and 23 "for devotees to perform the rituals connected with Paryushan".

He made the remarks as senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for petitioner Parshwatilak Shwetamber Murtipujak Jain Trust, took on Maharashtra counsel, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, for conveying the state's reservations on the opening of the temples.

Dave assured the court that only five persons will be let in at a time, and 250 a day. "Is the state policing the malls, shops, barber shops etc today? There are congregations in malls and gyms. Thousands of people are standing in line at liquor shops... When a community is saying we can police our people, then why not allow?" he said.

With the Ganesh Chaturthi season also due, the bench made it clear that it is making an exception only in this case since the prayer sought involves devotees offering prayers individually, unlike a congregation which will lead to crowds.

"Having carefully considered the rival submissions, we are of the view that a small reprieve can be granted to the petitioners, without making it a precedent. After all, the petitioners are not seeking to hold any festivities in congregation," the bench, also comprising Justices AS Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, said in an interim order.

"We make it clear that this order is not intended to be used as a precedent by other persons to seek permission to hold any festivals/festivities which would involve, by their very nature, congregation of people, such as Ganesh Festival," the bench said.

The order also recorded the petitioner's "undertaking" to limit the number of devotees and ordered that it "shall be strictly complied with".

The petitioner had earlier approached the Bombay High Court for permission to visit temples and perform puja from August 15-23. The High Court "reluctantly" declined to grant urgent relief, but kept the petition pending. The petitioner then moved the Supreme Court, saying only two more days of the Paryushan season remained.

Singhvi said the "State is opposing it because we are already in an unmanageable situation. Huge number of Covid patients in Maharashtra... It is one of the worst affected states".

He said guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs has allowed reopening of places of religious worship, but has left it to states to change rules. "They have said states can impose higher thresholds of restrictions," he said.

"We are a multi-religious, multicultural country. Several religious festivals are coming up... Many festival congregations have been cancelled this year... Other states across India have also cancelled religious festivals," he said.

The CJI said "this is a dynamic

situation", and asked why can't it be allowed if the MHA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) can be enforced and there is an undertaking.

"This is exactly the choice we were faced with in the Orissa Jagannath Yatra case... We were assured that if distance can be maintained and safeguards kept, then merely pulling the Rath will not have a detrimental effect," the CJI said, adding that the court was informed that nothing adverse happened.

Singhvi reminded the court about the Ganpati festival. The bench said the state will have to take a case-by-case decision and there can be no blanket permission or blanket ban.

"If it's a matter of only five people at a time in one temple, and this pattern can be followed in all temples, then why not allow it? If it can be followed then why just Jain temples, why not have it in Hindu temples, mosques?... The issue will be: who will implement it?... Who will police it to ensure that rules are followed?" the CJI observed.

Solicitor Ganapati Tushar Mehta said the Centre has no difficulty in permitting the prayer if the petitioner complies with the MHA SOP of June 4 which prescribes preventive measures.

Mehta said the Ganpati festival stands on a different footing because it is, by nature, a congregation.

"We were forgiven by Lord Jagannath, so we will be forgiven again... We are informed that in Jain religion, there is no God," the CJI remarked.

Making a climbdown, Singhvi said, "we can allow rituals at one or two of the temples which are managed by this Trust, so they (the Trust) can be made responsible for implementing the rules".

Dave said Covid-19 has created a huge mental stress, and allowing the rituals will help people.

## Amarinder orders Sec 144 in Punjab, says cases may cross 1 lakh by Sept 15

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 21

A DAY after ordering weekend and night curfew in all cities of the state, Punjab CM Amarinder Singh Friday ordered imposition of Section 144 to prohibit all gatherings of more than 5 persons, other than marriage and bhog ceremonies.

While warning of strict action against organisers of such gatherings, the CM made it clear that he would not hesitate to take any harsh steps necessary to save lives and indicated even more stringent measures after August 31 if needed.

He appealed to all political parties to avoid any gatherings, including protests. In case of any

violation of Section 144, the organisers who are putting people at risk by organising such gatherings or allowing people to gather without masks will be arrested, he said.

The Chief Minister also requested all religious and community leaders to ask their followers to take all precautions. He also directed the police to strictly enforce prescribed number and social distancing at marriage and bhog ceremonies.

Amarinder said the cases in Punjab are projected to go up to 64,000, and cross one lakh by September 15. "Deaths will also increase, with experts estimating over 1,500 deaths by September 3," he warned. "We don't have to let Punjab go the America way," he added.

## Publish Covid data on health workers, IMA tells Centre

**ANURADHA MASCARENHAS**  
PUNE, AUGUST 21

AS MANY as 264 doctors across the country have succumbed to Covid-19 so far, the Indian Medical Association said Friday, cautioning that its numbers may not reflect the true scale of infection in the medical community and calling on the Centre to publish data in this regard.

According to IMA's numbers, 1,953 doctors have been infected with Covid-19 till August 21. The count includes 890 practicing doctors, 767 resident doctors and 296 house surgeons.

"The government authorities may have their own data, but data on the number of infections and deaths in the medical community is based on what is voluntarily disclosed by our IMA members. Due to stigma it is likely that doctors might not have reported cases," said Dr RV Asokan, honorary secretary general of IMA (national).

For instance, Maharashtra is the state with the highest number of cases. On Friday, it reported 6.57 lakh cases and more than 21,600 deaths. So far, 17 doctor deaths have been linked to the coronavirus. State epidemiologist Dr Pradeep Awate said 2,032 doctors in the state have been infected and 1,594 of them have recovered.

Dr Asokan urged the Centre to publish data on healthcare personnel who have been infected by the coronavirus or died because of it. As cases rise the number of fatalities, too, is likely to increase by mid-October, he added.

Former IMA national president Dr Ravi Wankhedkar, now treasurer with World Medical Association, said it is likely that the number of doctors infected with Covid-19 is much higher than what the IMA data indicates.

## Surat diamond workers miffed with govt reply to HC on Covid spike

**KAMAAL SAIYED**  
SURAT, AUGUST 21

SOME TOP officer-bearers—both past and present—of Surat Diamond Association, the Diamond Workers' Union and other organisations in the city have taken umbrage to the Gujarat government's reply in High Court on the rise of Covid-19 cases in the city, ostensibly blaming diamond polishers for the spike.

Former president of Surat Diamond Association, and Gujarat region president of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Dinesh Navadia said, "We condemn the state government directly blaming diamond polishers for the rise in Covid-19 cases in Katargam and Varachha (areas of Surat) in its reply (to HC). There are other people such as office staff

and those who undertake cleaning activities (who could be responsible for the spread)."

Kanjibhai Bhalara, president of Saurashtra Patel Sewa Samaj and one of the founding-members of the Surat Diamond Association, said, "People of the diamond industry have made Gujarat and Surat atma nirbhar (self-sufficient) by setting up hospitals, schools and donating towards development works. The industry has flourished not with the help of the government, but because of the industry leaders. We condemn the state government's reply to HC..."

Minister of State for Health Kumar Kanani, who represents Varachha constituency, however, said, "The steps taken by the government as stated in its reply to the High Court are correct and everybody knows (what is going on). The opposition party is trying



Posters were put up in Surat against the state government 'blaming polishers for the spike in Covid-19 cases'. *Express*

to make an issue out of it."

Kanani was referring to Congress leader and Surat municipal councillor Dinesh Kachadiya's recent letter to Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on the issue. He had stated that the ruling party had "allowed diamond factories to start functioning after laying down norms. Diamond factory

owners had assured SMC authorities that they would follow SOPs [standard operating procedures], but they didn't. It is the diamond factory owners who did not implement SOPs, not the diamond polishers. Even government officials failed to take effective steps, as a result of which such a situation could have been averted..."

### DIAMOND POLISHER FOUND DEAD

**Surat:** A diamond polisher who recently tested positive for coronavirus during a rapid antigen testing drive at a diamond factory in Katargam area of Surat was found dead at his residence on Thursday night. Police suspect Rakesh Bariya, 38, died by suicide. His sister Sheela, who was looking after his two children following the death of his wife, reported the death to police. Amroli SI J K Barya said Bariya "broke down" mentally after testing positive.

On Friday, posters demanding an apology from Gujarat government for "insulting diamond polishers" were found in at least eight

areas of Surat. Among others, the posters referred to a Gujarati news report headlined, "Government admits to Gujarat High Court that cases went up in Surat because of diamond polishers."

The banners, *The Indian Express* has learnt, were put up by Congress corporator Kachadiya.

Earlier, the Gujarat High Court had pulled up the state government for the rising number of Covid-19 cases in Surat, especially after diamond and textile industries had reopened following Unlock-1. Last month, the HC had sought to know the steps taken to ensure safety of these workers, based on reports of "large-scale infection reported among the workers of these two industries".

Subsequently, the state government and the Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) had listed the SOPs being followed by the two

industries in a detailed reply that was made public earlier this week.

Deputy Commissioner (Health), SMC, Dr Ashish Naik told *The Indian Express*, "A total of 2,163 positive cases were found from among those associated with the diamond industry. We carried out meetings with factory owners to ensure that they are following SOPs and even sealed the factories that had failed to follow them."

President of Surat chapter of the Diamond Workers' Union Bhavesh Tank, said, "The state government should apologise for this.... The local bodies had failed in controlling the situation, and to hide their failure they are holding diamond polishers responsible (for spread of the infection). Why doesn't the state government take a stand to implement labour laws in the diamond industry?"



## Kerala HC asks CBI to probe death of farmer nabbed by forest officers

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,  
AUGUST 21

THE KERALA High Court on Friday directed the CBI to take over the probe into the alleged custodial death of a farmer, who was arrested by forest officers on the charge of destroying a camera device.

The body of 40-year-old P P Mathai, a resident of Ranni in Pathanamthitta district, was found in a well on July 28, hours after he was taken into custody.

The family has decided not to conduct Mathai's funeral till the culprits are arrested.

The bench of Justice V G Arun acted on a petition moved by Mathai's wife Sheeba, demanding a CBI probe. The state government did not object to handing over the probe to the central agency.

A group of forest officers had arrested Mathai on July 28 on charges of destroying a camera erected in a forest area bordering his farm land. Hours later, his body was found in a well. The forest officers had said Mathai escaped from their custody and died by suicide. But police investigation found that the forest officers illegally took Mathai into custody and allegedly forged documents after his death to show it as suicide.

After farmer outfits and the Opposition Congress launched an agitation, demanding action against the forest officers, the

Forest Department suspended two officers and transferred five others from the Chittar forest office in Pathanamthitta. As no officer was arrested or named in the FIR after three weeks of the incident, Mathai's wife moved the high court for a CBI probe.

She said in her plea that the police were delaying the arrest of the accused, who, according to her, have the backing of political parties and associations of forest officers.

Mathai's brother P P Wilson said, "We will not bury his body till the culprits are arrested. The body is still at a private mortuary. He was the sole breadwinner of the family. Apart from his wife and two children, Mathai had been taking care of his mother and two sisters. We will fight for justice."

The police had registered a case for culpable homicide not amounting to murder, illegal custody, forgery, abduction and destruction of evidence. However, the FIR has not named any one as the accused.

Police sources said they have been in the process of verifying the statements of 60-odd persons to ensure that the real culprits are booked.

"There have been serious lapses on the part of forest officers while taking Mathai into custody. When the camera was found destroyed, they did not move a police complaint. They had taken Mathai into illegal custody," said a police officer in Pathanamthitta.

## Govt firm on NEET, JEE (Main) in Sept

CLAT and IPMAT slated for same date: Students to govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency (NTA) is firm on holding the JEE (Main) and NEET next month as per schedule even as Rajya Sabha members Subramanian Swamy and Vivek Tankha have written to the Union government seeking their postponement.

JEE (Main) is scheduled to be held over six days – from September 1 to September 6. NEET, meant for undergraduate medical programmes, is scheduled for September 13.

According to ministry sources, the government is keen on sticking to the schedule, especially since the country's top court has endorsed its decision. This week the Supreme Court had refused to entertain a plea for further postponement of the entrance tests.

"Moreover, we are receiving representations from parents and students urging us to go ahead with the exams as sev-

eral postponements have led to further stress," a ministry official said.

Subsequently, on Friday evening, the NTA issued a press statement citing the Supreme Court order. The agency also said that 6,49,223 out of the 8,58,273 candidates registered for JEE (Main) have already downloaded their admit cards. It added that candidates have been given ample opportunity to change their examination centres and over 99% of such requests were accommodated.

Apart from NEET and JEE (Main), another set of entrance tests has been flagged by students. The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT), the Integrated Programme in Management Admission Test (IPMAT) and Delhi University Entrance Test (DUET) are all scheduled on September 7. The Education Ministry is learned to have received representations from parents and students on this.

When reached for comment, IIM Indore director Himanshi Rai told The Indian Express that the

institute had announced the revised date for IPMAT on July 27, and at that time no other entrance test was scheduled for September 7. "We were very careful to avoid a clash with other exams. The CLAT announcement came after ours on August 10," Rai said. IIM-Indore is conducting IPMAT this year, and about 20,000 candidates are registered to appear for the test on September 7.

According to sources in the Consortium of National Law Universities that conducts CLAT, a change in the date is not being considered. CLAT is the gateway exam for admission to 22 National Law Universities in the country.

NTA, which announced that it would conduct DUET from September 6 to 11, will reconsider holding the exam on September 7.

Agency director-general Vineet Joshi said that students' interests will not be hurt and the matter of overlap of dates is under "active" consideration.

## Rajasthan: BJP MP's husband booked for 'molesting' woman

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 21

RAJASTHAN POLICE have registered an FIR against the husband of BJP leader and Bharatpur MP Ranjeeta Koli for allegedly molesting a 35-year-old woman.

The woman, in her complaint, has stated that on August 11, she was at her home in Bharatpur district when Hom Chand molested her in an intoxicated state.

Later, the complainant alleged, Chand left after her mother woke up.

"On the night of August 11, Chand entered my house and molested me. He was saying that he will wrap me with gold and silver. I started screaming after which my mother woke up and Chand ran away. I want justice and demand the arrest of Chand. My family is being pressurised by the MP and her associates. We also want police protection," the complainant told *The Indian Express*.

Police said they filed the FIR on Thursday. "The complainant has alleged that Chand mo-

**The Bharatpur MP denied the allegations, claiming that they were baseless and part of a political conspiracy**

lested her after trespassing in her house on August 11. We have registered an FIR against Chand under IPC Sections 451 (house-trespass in order to commit offence punishable with imprisonment) and 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and investigation is being conducted. So far no arrest has been made," said the circle officer of the concerned police circle.

Koli, whose father-in-law is also a former MP, has denied the allegations. "These allegations against my husband are baseless and part of a political conspiracy against me. After a fair investigation, the truth will be revealed for everyone," she said.

She also said that her husband was not available for comment.



Varavara Rao

## Varavara Rao needs close monitoring: Hospital's report in HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

EVEN AS the family and lawyer of Telugu poet and activist Varavara Rao, an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, are yet to receive a medical report of the octogenarian, admitted to Nanavati hospital for Covid-19 treatment, the Bombay High Court in its recent order has noted that while Rao's electrolyte levels have been normalised, he is still disoriented and would require close monitoring.

On August 17, the HC directed the state government, depending on his condition, to allow Rao to speak to his family through videoconferencing, as per hospital protocol, and directed the court registry to provide his medical report – prepared by Nanavati hospital – to his family and National Investigation Agency (NIA).

Advocate R Sathyananarayan, appearing for Rao, told the court his family was concerned about his well-being, as they had no information about his health status since he was moved to Nanavati.

On July 28, the HC directed Nanavati Super-Specialty Hospital to submit a health report to Rao within three days from the time the hospital received communication on the court's order. Last week, another bench took Rao's medical report on record. The hospital's report stated, "As on date, considering the co-morbid factors of age, persistent hyponatraemia in Covid-19 case, the patient will require close monitoring."

In view of this report, the court said, as per to Rao's medical condition and subject to protocol, the Nanavati hospital shall provide necessary facility to Rao's family to interact with him on video.

## Uttarakhand: 3 of family killed in house collapse

*Dehradun/Pithoragarh:* A man and his two children were buried alive when their house collapsed following rains in Pithoragarh district on Friday, an official said.

Intermittent rains lashed various parts of Uttarakhand blocking several roads including those leading to the Himalayan temples. The old house collapsed following showers at around 3 am in Chaisar village of Pithoragarh district, killing its owner Kushal Nath, his four-year-old son Dhanajay and two-year-old daughter Nikita, besides leaving his wife injured, Pithoragarh District Magistrate, VK Jogdande, said.

The 27-year-old Nath had recently bought the house, the DM said. SDRF and police personnel have extricated the bodies from the rubble of the house and rescued Nath's wife, Jogdande said.

The state disaster management office said roads leading to Badrinath, Kedarnath and Yamunotri are blocked at several points with rocks and boulders tumbling down the hills. **PTI**

## Now stable, Ayush minister returned 'from doors of death', says Goa health minister

**SMITANAI**  
PANAJI, AUGUST 21

DAYS AFTER Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik tested positive for Covid-19, and was administered the first cycle of plasma on Monday, the Goa government on Friday admitted for the first time the critical nature of his case, calling it a return from the "doors of death".

State Health Minister Vishwajit Rane told the media, "He (Naik)...virtually had gone into the doors of death and (has) come back."

Doctors said Naik is now stable and recuperating at private Manipal Hospital, where he was admitted by August 14 – after testing positive on August 12, the minister had tweeted, "...it [test report] has turned out asymptotically positive. My vitals are within normal limits and I have opted for home isolation."

Doctors in the team treating Naik said he is one of the "first VVIPs" to be administered plasma treatment. They confirmed receiving a call from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, instructing them to "give the best medical response possible" to Naik.

Like others, Naik was first administered with a dose of remdesivir, though it didn't show the "much-needed improvement", an official said. As his condition worsened, with oxygen saturation dipping to 92 per cent and urgently dropping – saturation be-



Shripad Naik

low 95 per cent is said to be serious – Health Department officials said Naik was administered the first cycle of plasma on Monday. With plasma, he reached saturation levels of 96, allowing other responses possible, doctors said.

A team of three doctors from AIIMS in Delhi was flown in. Three other political leaders in Goa, including former CM Ravi Naik, were admitted to hospital after testing positive for Covid-19. All three are stated to be stable.

Meanwhile, Goa Medical College (GMC), the apex hospital in charge of treatment of Covid-19 in the state, has now scaled up efforts to get plasma from recovered patients, as they are facing a shortage for "similar situations", officials said.

The Directorate of Health Service (DHS) has made an appeal, "taking Naik's example", and urged recovered patients who had suffered pneumonia-like conditions during their infection cycle to donate plasma.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
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### DIGITAL DIVIDE IMPACTS EDUCATION



A teacher at Agartala's Henry Derozio school takes a class at a nearby ground. *Abhisek Saha*

## Under trees and in fields, Tripura starts classes to bridge online gap

**DEBRAJ DEB**  
AGARTALA, AUGUST 21

TRIPURA HAS started open-air classes for students of government and government-aided schools who lack access to online lessons in an attempt to bridge the digital divide in learning.

These lessons are being conducted in a range of settings—from playgrounds and fields to shady spots in the schools' vicinity—with a maximum of five students per class.

Over 1 lakh students from class III to XII of government and government-aided schools across the state turned up for the "neighbourhood classes" that commenced Thursday, said state Education Minister Ratan

Lal Nath.

Each class begins with a ten-minute introduction on Covid-19 and suggestions on precautionary measures. The students need to wear a mask throughout and carry a hand sanitizer with them, besides maintaining appropriate distance from one another.

Tripura has around 4,400 government schools where some 27,000 teachers are in service.

"The students joined the classes with the approval of their parents. We have also asked the teachers not to pressure any student into coming to the classes if their parents are not ready," said Nath.

Earlier, the state had started video lectures on local TV channels for those without smartphones.

But a survey conducted among 3,22,297 students from all eight districts of Tripura by the Education Department revealed that while around 94,000 students could not attend online classes for want of a smartphone, as many as 1.42 lakh did not possess a television set. The neighbourhood classes, many of them in remote areas, were started keeping all these students in mind, the minister said.

North Tripura district had 22,605 students without phone access—the highest in the state—followed by Sipahijala (18,833), Dhalai (13,999) and West Tripura (13,909). Khowai district, on the other hand, was found to have the highest phone penetration; only 2,173 students in the district said they didn't have a phone. The sur-

vey responses came from students enrolled in 3,974 schools.

Nath Friday added that the state has reduced the syllabus for Social Studies, Bengali and English by 50 per cent, and Environmental Studies, Science and Mathematics by 40 per cent, for classes III to VIII owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

For Classes IX-XII, NCERT has cut its syllabus by 30 per cent and a further reduction may be possible, the minister said, adding that the Tripura Board of Secondary Education is waiting for such a move before taking a call of its own.

The state government will decide on the re-opening of schools after receiving instructions from the Union Education Ministry.

### INNOVATIVE BREEDING COULD OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF SHORT SHELF LIFE AND IRREGULAR BEARING

## Traders, breeders push to sell more Uttar Pradesh mangoes abroad

**HARISH DAMODARAN**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THINK MANGO and the names that spring to mind are Dussehri, Langra and Chausa, the sweet varieties of Uttar Pradesh, which accounts for over a fifth of India's production of the fruit. But when it comes to exports, the Indian mango is synonymous with Alphonso, Kesar and Banganapalli, which are mainly grown in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

Making UP mangoes count in the international market is what some growers, traders, and breeders are now attempting. India produces around 21 million tonnes (mt) of the fruit – 40% of the world's total – and 4.5 mt comes

from UP. "The government should do more to push UP mangoes. Why can't APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) promote our varieties like it has done for Alphonso or Banganapalli?" Nadeem Siddiqui, an Amroha-based exporter, asked.

UP's indigenous mangoes include Dussehri, Lucknow Safeda, Rataul, Langra and Chausa. The total soluble solids or 'degrees Brix', a measure of sweetness, ranges from 22 to 24 for the ripe fruits; this is hardly 20 in Alphonso, and 18-19 in Kesar and Banganapalli.

Siddiqui exported about 100 tonnes of UP mangoes this May-June, more than three-fourths by sea, a first for the state.

"Last year, I did 55 tonnes entirely by air. This time, I shipped

out three reefer containers (27 tonnes each) to Oman and Dubai on a trial basis, which was successful. The sea route takes 8-9 days, as against 2 days by air. The harvested fruits have to go to the UP Mandi Parishad's facility near Lucknow for hot water treatment, air-drying, grading and packing, before the loaded container is sent to Nhava Sheva or Kandla port. But the cost (from packhouse to destination port) is only Rs 27/kg, compared to Rs 120/kg by air freight," Siddiqui, who claims that his firm Shahnaz Exports has a 90% share of UP's mango shipments, said.

Those quantities are, however, minuscule compared to India's total fresh mango exports of 49,659 tonnes valued at Rs 400.21 crore, plus 85,726 tonnes of pulp worth



Mango exporter Nadeem Siddiqui in Lucknow

Rs 584.32 crore, in 2019-20.

But UP mangoes have their issues. To begin with, trees typically yield fruit every alternate year; in Chausa, the gap can be

two years. Alphonso and Kesar are alternate-bearers as well, but most South Indian varieties such as Banganapalli, Totapuri, Neelum, and Suvarnarekha are

regular-bearing.

A second drawback is shelf life. "Alphonso can be stored for 8-12 days at room temperature after ripening, whereas 3-4 days is the maximum in Dussehri, Langra and Chausa. These mangoes can only be exported to the Middle East or Southeast Asia by air. They can also be sent by sea in refrigerated containers, but the harvested mature green fruits that would ripen during transit have to be marketed immediately on reaching the destination," S K Singh, head of the Division of Fruits & Horticultural Technology at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) said.

This is where breeding comes in. In the 1970s, IARI came out with two mango hybrids, Mallika and Amrapali, by crossing

Dussehri with Neelum, to combine the sweetness of the former and the regularity of the latter. The hybrids had 22-22.8 degree Brix, close to Dussehri, but had limited impact in UP. Out of Amrapali's total 2 lakh hectares cultivated area, the highest is in Odisha (50,000 hectares), Madhya Pradesh (25,000) and West Bengal (21,000). The 31,000 hectares under Mallika is largely in Karnataka (14,000) and West Bengal (5,000).

In 2002, IARI released Pusa Arunima, a hybrid of Amrapali and an American variety called Sensation. These mangoes had moderate sugar (19.5 degree Brix), but 10-12 days of shelf life and a red peel colour, making them suitable for exports. Subsequently, seven more Pusa hybrids that were crosses of Amrapali and

Sensation were released.

"These second-generation hybrids are regular-bearing. They are also semi-dwarf and amenable to closer planting, so you can accommodate roughly 278 trees in a hectare, as opposed to 100 or fewer in Dussehri. Fruit yields, at 14-16 tonnes per hectare, are also higher," Singh said.

Some farmers like Qazi Bilal Rasheed from Kukra village in Malihabad are willing to give the new hybrids a try. "I want to gradually replace the senile trees and go in for high-density plantation of the new hybrids. But I am also concerned whether there will be a market for these fruits. The actual performance of mango trees, including their suitability for our conditions, are known only after 5-6 years," Rasheed said.





## The Indian EXPRESS

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## WAIT AND WATCH

New external members of MPC will have to reconcile inflation targeting mandate with weak growth impulses

THE MINUTES OF the last monetary policy committee meeting, published on Thursday, underline the quandary facing the members, with the sharp spike in retail inflation restricting the space to ease monetary policy further to support growth, despite expectations that real GDP will record its “deepest contraction in history” this year. Though the committee pledged to maintain its accommodative stance “as long as it is necessary to revive growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy”, there was a marked shift in tone. In previous meetings, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee had attached primacy to addressing the growth concerns. But this time around, with retail inflation continuing to remain elevated and breaching the upper threshold of the inflation targeting framework, inflation dominated the discourse. While the individual members differed to some extent in their assessment of the situation, the broad message from the minutes of the meeting is one of wait and watch.

The minutes also reveal the committee members’ discomfiture with the inflation data at two levels. First, the manner in which inflation was estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) for the months of April and May — a period when the imposition of the national lockdown made data collection difficult. Some members have recorded their “strong reservations” in accepting these figures, and have recommended observing these readings as a break in the data series. Second, the continuing uncertainty over the impact of the COVID shock on inflation, and its trajectory going forward. Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, inched up to 6.93 per cent in July, from 6.23 per cent in June. But, as a committee member noted, “there are different inflation/deflation pressures that need to be watched carefully.” If inflation does indeed trend lower in the second half of the year, on the lines of the RBI/MPC’s expectations, then it could open up space for further easing. However, if it continues to remain elevated, then it restricts the policy choices available to the committee, despite it being driven largely by supply side shocks. “If inflation persists above the upper tolerance band for one more quarter, monetary policy will be constrained by mandate to undertake remedial action,” noted a member, signalling a distinctly hawkish stance.

The August monetary policy meeting was the last meeting for the three external members of the MPC before they complete their four-year term ending in September. Three new external members will take their place in the next policy meeting scheduled in October. Given the uncertain inflation outlook, the urgent task before the next MPC will be how to reconcile its inflation targeting mandate with the continuing weak growth impulses.

## PARTNERSHIP TEST

Science should be in the driving seat in all collaborative efforts for a vaccine for COVID-19

THE MINISTRY OF External Affairs has clarified the country’s position on collaborative efforts to develop a vaccine against COVID-19 — the call on partnerships between Indian vaccine manufacturers and foreign scientific agencies will be taken by the expert group set up for the purpose, it has said. This comes at a time when the picture of a potential joint venture between Indian companies and some foreign agencies — especially Russia’s Gamaleya Research Institute that is slated to “shortly” begin mass trials of the Sputnik-V COVID-19 vaccine — is hazy. The foreign ministry has said that any such venture will be contingent on an evaluation by the “National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19”. This sends the right message — that due processes will be followed and science, not geopolitics or ideological considerations, will be the prime mover in the country’s choice of collaborators.

Three vaccine candidates — developed by the US-based pharma major Moderna, Oxford University and AstraZeneca and China’s Sinopharm — have entered the final stage of clinical trials which will determine if these preventives are safe for mass use. These trials could take four to six months. But even as the jury is out on critical matters related to safety and efficacy, several countries, including the US, Germany, Britain and France, have entered into pre-purchase agreements with vaccine manufacturers. There are fears that such advance agreements will make the vaccines inaccessible to everyone apart from people in the First World. In fact, just about 10 years ago, the US and several European countries used their purchasing power to crowd out Third World countries from the initial supplies of the H1N1 vaccine. There are indications that Delhi is alive to the perils of vaccine nationalism. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reportedly discussed vaccine co-operation last week with his German counterpart, Heiko Maas. Bangladesh has indicated its readiness to participate in the clinical trials of a vaccine developed in India.

India caters to 60 per cent of the world’s vaccine demand. The Serum Institute of India, one of the partners of the Oxford-AstraZeneca project, is the world’s largest vaccine manufacturer. The country should leverage its manufacturing capacities to secure more collaborations — given the country’s demographics, India is very likely to need more than one vaccine. The foreign ministry has said that it will play the role of a facilitator in this endeavour. It’s up to the country’s scientific agencies to ensure that science is in the driving seat of such collaborative ventures.

## IN PRAISE OF CHITTHIS

Kamala Harris told a story in her acceptance speech — and introduced a new word to the American campaign

ON THURSDAY, TAMILS were toasting “chitthi”, following Kamala Devi Harris’s shoutout for her aunts after she accepted the Democratic Party’s nomination for US vice-president. Chitthi, a Tamil term for mother’s younger sister, trended on social media as millions scrambled to figure out this new term in the US presidential campaign. Harris has two aunts, one of them lives in Canada and was on stage when she announced her decision to run for White House in January 2019.

For the Indian American community, especially the large Tamil diaspora, this would be a seminal moment of connect with American politics. So far big achievers in professions such as healthcare, IT and academia, and in the hospitality sector, the diaspora has been largely invisible in public life. In her speech on Thursday, Harris referred to her mother Shyamala Gopalan, who raised her two daughters as a single parent. “That 25-year-old Indian woman — all of five feet tall — who gave birth to me at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, California”, Harris said, had “instilled in my sister, Maya, and me the values that would chart the course of our lives. She raised us to be proud, strong black women. And she raised us to know and be proud of our Indian heritage”.

Back in her ancestral village in Tamil Nadu, posters, hoardings and arches have celebrated the nomination. Tamils have had their share of powerful women icons, from Kannagi, the fiery heroine of Sangam epic, *Silappadikaram*, to beloved and benevolent Amma, the late Jayalalithaa. The irony is that on the day Harris stoked Tamil pride by emphasising the contribution of her mom and chitthis to her rise, BJP’s national secretary, H Raja and a state minister, D Jayakumar, were engaged in a war of words on whether or not the Tamil Nadu government was “manly” enough, in the context of its disallowing Vinayaka Chaturthi festivities because of COVID-19.



SANJIB BARUAH

IN AUGUST 2014 when the then newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi had named Ravindra Narayan Ravi as the government’s new interlocutor to the Naga talks, a number of groups, most significantly, the NSCN-IM — the government’s main negotiating partner — raised objections. The appointment as interlocutor of a person “well known for his antagonistic approach to the Naga issue”, said the NSCN-IM, casts doubts on the government’s sincerity towards the talks. It required the intervention of the Nagaland governor of that time, P B Acharya, to clear the air on the appointment. Acharya assured critics that the newspaper articles that Ravi authored, and were the source of the NSCN-IM’s ire, were written before the new government came into office, and that as interlocutor he will implement the prime minister’s vision and take the peace process forward.

In a statement issued a few days ago, the NSCN-IM blamed Ravi for destroying the momentum of the talks. It accused him of trying to turn the clock back by reframing the conflict as a law and order issue, and not a political dispute. In retrospect, those writings could have foretold the differences that have now hamstrung the negotiations.

Ravi, who has also been the Governor of Nagaland for the past year, was not a public figure until his retirement from the Indian Police Service in 2012. A 1976 batch officer, he served in the Intelligence Bureau, where he developed expertise on Northeast Indian affairs. He wrote his now famous articles on the Naga conflict during the brief time between his retirement and his assumption of post-retirement official positions.

In the articles published in 2012 and 2013 Ravi was scathing in his criticism of the peace process and of the role of two of his predecessors in the position of interlocutor: K Padmanabhaiah and R S Pandey. He called them “rent-seekers” — a term usually reserved for those seeking personal benefits from public office. By dealing with the Nagas “as if it were a homogenous collective with common aspirations”, they set the Naga talks on “a perverse trajectory”. He accused them of acting as no more than the NSCN-IM’s “marketing agents” and “selling its larger-than-life profile to Delhi”.

Ravi’s main grouse appears to be that the Mannohan Singh government was then negotiating with only the NSCN-IM — “quintessentially an entity of Tangkhul tribes of Manipur, having little resonance with other Nagas notwithstanding its pan-Naga rhetoric”. Drawing on his knowledge as an Intelligence Bureau official, he waxed eloquent on “the intricacies of the Naga polity — comprising over 25 tribes, each a proud

Question about stakeholders in the peace process needs an answer based on in-depth mapping of conflict

One can speculate that by signing on to the idea of Nagas having a ‘unique history’, officials and political leaders intended to signal acknowledgement that (a) the characterisations long favoured by security bureaucrats of the Naga political struggle as a separatist insurgency or a terrorist movement that makes false claims to Naga unity, are inaccurate and (b) rejecting those epithets is a necessary condition for negotiations based on mutual respect. Those are significant achievements that should not be allowed to wither away. In August 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, known for his keen eye for political optics, wore a Tangkhul Naga shawl to the signing ceremony of the Framework Agreement.

owner and inheritor of a distinct culture, language, tradition and geography, espousing a distinct world view, falling within the broad rubric of the Naga family”. There is, however, ample evidence that many Nagas aspire to Naga unity, and they view those tribal loyalties as residues of a premodern past and an obstacle to Naga solidarity.

Narratives of Naga nationalism have long been imbued with the idea of a Naga homeland that includes contiguous areas in a number of Northeastern states, and even parts of Myanmar. The belief that the conflict cannot be resolved without addressing the issue of integrating the Naga-inhabited areas is widely shared among Nagas, though non-Nagas living in those areas do not generally share this goal.

“The Indian government acknowledges the unique history of the Nagas and their situation,” NSCN-IM leaders have repeated this claim with remarkable frequency over the many years of the peace process. No one can claim that the meaning of the phrase “unique history” is self-explanatory. It has the kind of ambiguity associated with diplomatic language: Formulations that conflicting parties find acceptable only because they are open to more than one interpretation. But it also embodies a commitment to pursue agreement: To work together and find a common language that all sides find acceptable, which can be achieved only by resolving the conflict.

The source of the phrase can be traced back to a joint communiqué that NSCN-IM General Secretary Thuingaleng Muivah and former Home Secretary K Padmanabhaiah signed in Amsterdam on July 11, 2002. However, it became etched in Naga public memory only after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s visit to the state in October of 2003. In his speech at the civic reception held in his honour in Kohima, Vajpayee said: “It is true that, of all the states in India, Nagaland has a unique history. We are sensitive to this historical fact”.

The carefully crafted phrase serves as a reminder of the painstaking efforts of countless civil servants, and political leaders — across the party divide — as well as of leaders of various Naga organisations, to build bridges over contested narratives and create the conditions for negotiations to end India’s oldest armed conflict.

Policymakers in the 1990s appear to have concluded that the impasse in the conflict called for a shift in strategy. It was becoming more and more obvious that the NSCN-IM, the faction that declared the Shillong Accord of 1975 a sellout, and a betrayal of the Naga cause, had emerged as a serious political force precisely because it stood for Naga unity. Seen in this context, arguments that

identities centred on tribes are somehow more “real” than the Naga identity are reminiscent of colonial era intelligence reports that referred to nationalist politicians in terms of their caste status: Nehru was a “Kashmiri Brahmin”, Jinnah a “Khoja Muslim”, Malaviya a “Malwa Brahmin” etc.

One can speculate that by signing on to the idea of Nagas having a “unique history”, officials and political leaders intended to signal acknowledgement that (a) the characterisations long favoured by security bureaucrats of the Naga political struggle as a separatist insurgency or a terrorist movement that makes false claims to Naga unity, are inaccurate and (b) rejecting those epithets is a necessary condition for negotiations based on mutual respect. Those are significant achievements that should not be allowed to wither away.

In August 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, known for his keen eye for political optics, wore a Tangkhul Naga shawl to the signing ceremony of the Framework Agreement. Notwithstanding Ravi’s gripe about the NSCN-IM’s appeal being limited to the “Tangkhul tribes of Manipur”, the “unique history” formulation — with its bow to the territorial imaginary of the Naga nation — evidently was still the guidepost anchoring Indian policy.

The ground realities could not have changed so dramatically in the past five years to require the rejection of the unique history formulation. While the talk of returning to the jungle by NSCN-IM militants may be more bombast than a genuine threat, the risks of Nagaland and adjacent areas going back to a downward spiral of violence and counter-violence should not be underestimated.

At the same time, Ravi’s diatribe against the peace process was not without some empirical basis in ground realities. There were legitimate questions to be asked about the wisdom of a policy of negotiating only with the NSCN-IM, treating it as primus inter pares among Naga factions with a veto power on key issues. That a more nuanced negotiating strategy is now emerging is a positive development. But the fundamental question about who all the stakeholders in the Naga conflict are, still needs a satisfactory answer, one that is based on an in-depth mapping of the conflict. Only then can we expect peaceful dialogue and patient negotiations to end the conflict and bring about a durable peace.

*Sanjib Baruah is professor of Political Studies at Bard College, New York. He is the author, most recently, of In the Name of the Nation: India and its Northeast*



PRASHANT BHUSHAN

I HAVE GONE through the judgment of this Hon’ble Court. I am pained that I have been held guilty of committing contempt of the Court whose majesty I have tried to uphold — not as a courtier or cheerleader but as a humble guard — for over three decades, at some personal and professional cost. I am pained, not because I may be punished, but because I have been grossly misunderstood.

I am shocked that the court holds me guilty of “malicious, scurrilous, calculated attack” on the institution of administration of justice. I am dismayed that the Court has arrived at this conclusion without providing any evidence of my motives to launch such an attack. I must confess that I am disappointed that the court did not find it necessary to serve me with a copy of the complaint on the basis of which the suo motu notice was issued, nor found it necessary to respond to the specific averments made by me in my reply affidavit or the many submissions of my counsel.

### FOR THE RECORD

Indeed, public scrutiny is desirable for healthy functioning of judiciary itself. I believe that open criticism of any institution is necessary in a democracy, to safeguard the constitutional order.

I find it hard to believe that the Court finds my tweet “has the effect of destabilising the very foundation of this important pillar of Indian democracy”. I can only reiterate that these two tweets represented my bonafide beliefs, the expression of which must be permissible in any democracy. Indeed, public scrutiny is desirable for healthy functioning of judiciary itself. I believe that open criticism of any institution is necessary in a democracy, to safeguard the constitutional order. We are living through that moment in our history when higher principles must trump routine obligations, when saving the constitutional order must come before personal and professional niceties, when considerations of the present must not come in the way of discharging our responsibility towards the future. Failing to speak up would have been a dereliction of duty, especially for an officer of the court like myself.

My tweets were nothing but a small attempt to discharge what I considered to be my highest duty at this juncture in the history of our republic. I did not tweet in a fit of absent-mindedness. It would be insincere and contemptuous on my part to offer an apology for the tweets that expressed what was and continues to be my bonafide belief. Therefore, I can only humbly paraphrase what the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had said in his trial: I do not ask for mercy. I do not appeal to magnanimity. I am here, therefore, to cheerfully submit to any penalty that can lawfully be inflicted upon me for what the Court has determined to be an offence, and what appears to me to be the highest duty of a citizen.

*Bhushan is an advocate at the Supreme Court of India. This is his statement to the Court on August 20 after his conviction for contempt*

## AUGUST 22, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

UP VIOLENCE AGAIN ALLAHABAD WAS ROCKED today by fresh violence, which left five dead, leading to deployment of the army and re-imposition of curfew for an indefinite period. Violence erupted suddenly and simultaneously around 2 pm when for the first time, curfew was relaxed. When the District Magistrate S A T Rizvi was rushing to Nakhas Kona on receipt of a report of an attack on a police party, a bomb was hurled at his car. The bomb exploded near the front wheel but the District Magistrate escaped unhurt. The person who lobbed the bomb was arrested. A violent mob attacked a police party at Nakhas Kona and a PACJawan was critically injured by gunshots.

MANIPUR CM’S OFFER MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER R K Dorendra Singh may take the initiative again to break the stalemate in the talks between the Centre and the Assam agitation leaders. Dorendra Singh who had a second round of meeting with Shyam Sundar Mahapatra, AICC (I) General Secretary today said if the Central leaders desired, he would make earnest efforts again to resume talks.

NEW BONUS RULE AN ORDINANCE WAS promulgated stipulating a minimum of 8.33 per cent and a maximum of 20 per cent bonus. It allows employers and employees to enter into

agreements for payment of bonus in lieu of productivity, and not profits.

PAK PROTESTS POLICE USED RIFLE butts, batons and tear gas to break up an anti-government march by hundreds of lawyers in Karachi today. The lawyers fled to the safety of the city’s court compound as the police waded in, scattering banners demanding democracy. At least a dozen people were arrested and several injured. It was the second biggest demonstration by lawyers in three months against President Zia-ul-Haq’s military rule and against his refusal to hold a general election.





# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Mandal moment, 30 years on

Rise of Hindutva politics and contradictions within OBC spectrum have exhausted the silent political revolution. Unfulfilled promise of job quotas may lead to a revival



CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

THIRTY YEARS AGO, the then prime minister, V P Singh implemented the Mandal Commission report, initiating what I have called a “silent revolution”. It triggered a socio-political process that resulted in some social emancipation and the rise to political power of plebeians at the expense of the upper and dominant castes.

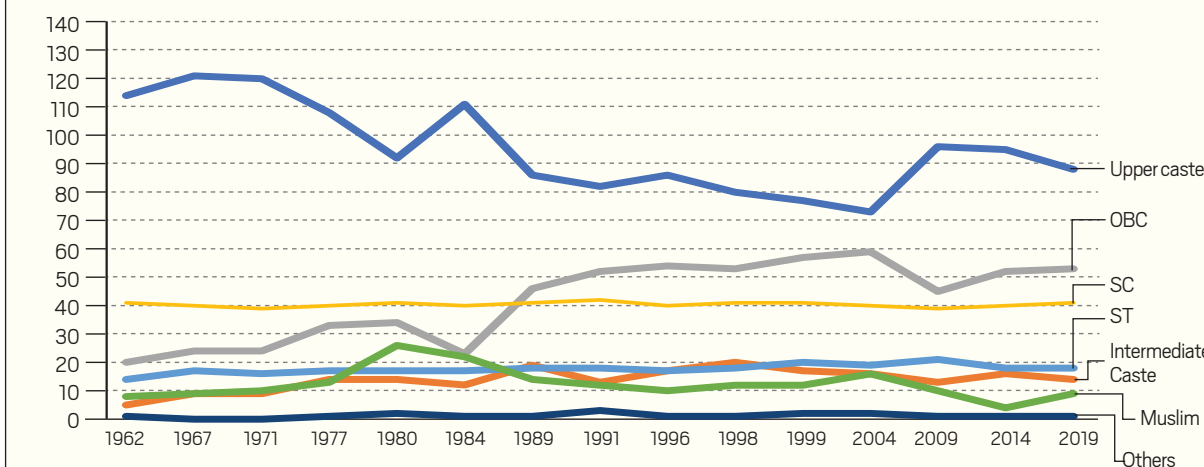
The Mandal moment was primarily political, even if what was at stake was the extension of positive discrimination through a 27 per cent quota for the OBCs in the civil service. The upper castes instantly mobilised to prevent a reform that would curb their public sector job opportunities, which was valuable prior to the economic liberalisation of 1991. Their resistance aroused indignation among the lower castes and resulted in a consolidation of OBC groups. Many OBCs stopped voting for upper-caste notables and preferred to elect representatives from their own social milieu to Parliament.

In the Hindi belt, the percentage of OBC MPs nearly doubled from 11 per cent in 1984 to more than 20 per cent in the 1990s, whereas the proportion of upper-caste MPs dropped from 47 per cent in 1984 to below 40 in the 1990s. By 2004, upper-caste presence in the Lok Sabha had fallen to 33 per cent, while 25 per cent of MPs were OBCs. This turnaround was thanks initially to the Janata Dal, and later, to its regional offshoots, including the Samajwadi Party in UP and the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar.

Though the Janata Dal disintegrated in the early 1990s, it did not affect the dynamics of democratisation the party had set in motion. First, all parties, including the Congress, were forced to field several OBC candidates having realised that they could not rely on old clientelist mechanisms to get upper-caste notables elected. The OBCs constituted over half of the population and the new “OBC vote” could not be ignored. Second, new public policies designed for the OBCs were implemented not only by the parties representing them, but also by the Congress. When it returned to power in 2004, the Congress set a quota of 27 per cent for OBCs in public universities. This decision, known as Mandal II, once again provoked the ire of the upper castes. So what’s left of the “Mandal moment”, politically and socially, now?

This “silent revolution” brought on a counter-revolution, a revenge of the elite whose vanguard has been the BJP. The BJP’s Hindu nationalism had the advantage of transcending caste identities in the name of Hindu unity and its fight against the threat from Islam. This backlash culminated in 2014, when the Hindutva version of national-populism gained traction with some OBCs because of the alchemy achieved by Narendra Modi — for the first time, the leader of the BJP was a pure product of the RSS who belonged to an OBC caste. As Modi presented himself as a self-made man, a former chaiwallah, and did not defend positive discrimination, he was the perfect antidote to Mandal for the middle-class upper castes. By taking the BJP to its first electoral triumph, Modi also allowed upper castes to consolidate their position in the Lok Sabha at the expense of the OBCs. In 2014, the percentage of MPs from the upper castes rose to 44.5 per

### CASTE AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION IN THE HINDI BELT (1962-2019)



Source: SPINPER (Social Profile of India's National and Provincial Elected Representatives) Ashoka University/CNRS-Sciences Po – Trivedi Center for Political Data/CERI-CDSP



CR Sasikumar

cent, on a par with its representation in the 1980s, whereas the share of OBC MPs dropped to 20 per cent, according to the database SPINPER (Social Profile of India's National and Provincial Elected Representatives) built by Ashoka University and CNRS-Sciences Po.

Modi did not attract OBC voters only based on his plebeian background and Hindutva. He also submerged caste politics in the name of development and class. He presented himself as the defender of the “neo middle-class” that had come into being in the 2000s owing to the rise of OBCs who had benefited from the Mandal quotas and economic growth. Young OBCs were migrating from the village due to the attraction of jobs. Even if such jobs were unstable and badly paid, they usually enabled these former rural inhabitants to improve their living conditions. Modi’s neo middle-class discourse was class-based but had no affinity with socialism. On the contrary, instead of asking for more equality and redistribution, it made merit the number one criterion of social justice, a repertoire that had become gradually hegemonic after the 1991 reform but which the UPA government balanced with some socio-democratic policies (including Mandal II).

If Modi sealed the fate of quota politics, the “Mandal moment” was over many years earlier. OBC politics has been a victim of the success of OBC policies in two ways. A saturation point was reached when the Centre and states introduced the 27 per cent OBC quota and the judiciary refused to allow the total amount of reservation to go beyond 49 per cent. Parties representing the OBCs could no more say, “vote for me, you’ll get more reservations”.

Second, some jatis within the OBC spectrum benefitted more from the reservations than others. The Yadavs are a case in point. We can infer from the Indian Human Development Survey that they have cornered more reservations than others. In UP, 14.5 per cent of the Yadavs occupied a salaried job in 2011-12 (the last round of the survey) against 5.8 per cent for the Kurmis, 5.7 per cent for the Telis, 6.7 per cent for the Kushwahas, 3.5 per cent for the Lodhs.

The Yadavisation of UP and Bihar, during the rule of the SP and RJD respectively, has divided the OBCs. Some jatis were alienated, to

This ‘silent revolution’ brought on a counter-revolution, a revenge of the elite whose vanguard has been the BJP. The BJP’s Hindu nationalism had the advantage of transcending caste identities in the name of Hindu unity and its fight against the threat from Islam. This backlash culminated in 2014, when the Hindutva version of national-populism gained traction with some OBCs because of the alchemy achieved by Narendra Modi — for the first time, the leader of the BJP was a pure product of the RSS who belonged to an OBC caste. As Modi presented himself as a self-made man, a former chaiwallah, and did not defend positive discrimination, he was the perfect antidote to Mandal for the middle-class upper castes.

such an extent that they started not to vote along with the Yadavs. In Bihar, Kurmis followed Nitish Kumar and created a separate party as early as 1994. In UP, the BJP was shrewd enough to nominate candidates from non-Yadav jatis in order to consolidate a non-Yadav OBC vote by capitalising on the resentment of these castes vis-à-vis the Yadavs. This strategy was obvious in the 2019 elections when poor OBCs voted more for the BJP than for the BSP-SP alliance despite the elitist image of the former — 59 per cent of the “poor” OBCs supported the BJP, against 33.5 per cent who turned to the BSP-SP alliance.

The reason why the “rich” and “middle” class OBCs voted more for the BSP-SP alliance than the “poor” OBCs becomes clear the moment the jatis are factored in: The SP remains a Yadav party to a large extent and Yadavs tend to be richer than Gadariyas, Kushwahas, Telis and Lodhis, who resent Yadav domination and the way the latter has cornered a large proportion of the reservations. The unity problem affecting the OBCs is similar to the one confronting the Dalits in UP — the non-Jatav SCs resent the socio-economic rise of the Jatavs and distance themselves from the BSP, which is seen as a Jatav party. Many of the non-Jatav SCs vote for the BJP now. This push factor, however, is reinforced, in the case of the lower OBCs as well as the lower SCs, by a pull factor: By supporting the Hindutva forces, these jatis also try to sanitise themselves and be accepted by the Hindu “high tradition”.

So, is it “game over” for Mandal politics? Not necessarily, given the fact that if quotas have been granted to OBCs they are not fulfilled. In 2015, OBCs represented only 12 per cent of Class A employees in the central government services, 12.5 per cent of Class B and 19 per cent of Class C workers — which meant 18 per cent of the total workforce, almost 10 percentage points less than what they had been promised in 1990. It is a deficit OBCs may consider worth fighting for.

*The writer is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London, and non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Parliament needs to quickly rediscover its spine too. Much tougher economic conditions in the autumn should concentrate minds.” — **THE GUARDIAN**

## When helping hurts

Increasing age of marriage will be exercise of carceral power by state which will disproportionately affect Dalit, Adivasi women



SHALINI NAIR

IF PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi’s emphasis in his Independence Day speech on raising the legal age of marriage for women to 21 years is any indicator of the path the task force set up for this purpose is likely to tread, it needs to reconsider the disproportionate impact such legislation would have on marginalised rural communities.

There is enough evidence available with the government that makes a strong case for tackling early marriage by extending the right to free and compulsory education up to the age of 18 years. Before looking at those reports, it is important to understand why raising the minimum age of marriage, a seemingly progressive step, will end up criminalising and exacerbating the existing vulnerabilities of Dalit and Adivasi communities in rural India, instead of empowering its women.

The National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) data 2015-16 points to certain trends in early marriages: That rural women are likely to marry earlier than their urban counterparts; that the higher up a woman is on the wealth quintile, the later she marries. Most importantly, it establishes a direct causal link between education levels and delayed age of marriage, with the former impacting the latter, not the other way around. Women with 12 years or more of schooling are most likely to marry later.

While these in itself should be sufficient to make a case for education, a look at the disaggregated data speaks to the need to address the gendered and caste-based disparities instead of blanket laws with no considerations of the principles of social justice.

According to the wealth quintile data, the poorest households are concentrated in rural India. The lowest quintile, which is most likely to marry off their girls early out of socio-economic necessities, have 45 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) and 25.9 per cent Scheduled Caste (SC) households, as compared to only 9 per cent of the general “Others” category.

The NFHS-4 data on women aged 15-49 by number of years of schooling completed shows that 42 per cent ST women and 33 per cent SC women have received no schooling. Merely 10 per cent ST and 15 per cent SC women have completed 12-plus years of education as compared to 30 per cent women among the Others (general category) and 21 per cent among Other Backward Classes. Only 8 per cent rural girls who drop out in the age group 6 to 17 years cite marriage as the reason, fifth in the order after loss of interest in studies, prohibitive cost of education, burden of household work, and schools located far away.

While a task force for maternal and child mortality/health outcomes is a welcome move, its stated intent to examine raising

the legal age of marriage strikes a discordant note with past official reports. In September 2018, the National Human Rights Commission showed how higher education levels lead to a lower likelihood of women being married early and strongly recommended that the Right to Education Act, 2009, be amended to make it applicable up to the age of 18 years. Presently, children in the age group of 14-18 are outside the purview of RTE act and most likely to drop out. This stress on access and quality of education was backed by a report of the apex child right’s body, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, and the NGO Young Lives, which also showed how between 2005-06 and 2015-16, child marriage in 15-19 age group for girls has decreased from 26.5 per cent to 11.9 per cent.

Marriages in India are governed by various personal laws which set varying minimum ages for girls as also the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, where it is 18 years for girls and 21 for boys. Under PCMA, any man, above the age of 18 who marries a woman under 18 years, as well as the parents of minors who abet the act can be imprisoned for up to two years. This is compounded by The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, that increased the age of consent, from 16 years to 18 years.

Several studies have shown how this has criminalised self-arranged adolescent marriages as parents often misuse it to punish couples marrying without their approval, especially in cases of inter-caste marriages. The above-18 boys in such cases are liable to even face a life term. POCSO also requires healthcare providers to mandatorily report to the police any cases of under 18-year-olds who are found to be sexually active with those older.

Increasing the legal age of marriage to 21 years will add to these existing hurdles for young women’s access to reproductive and sexual healthcare. All these put SC-ST households, who have the least recourse to legal and other safeguards, at a greater risk.

Noting the law’s patriarchal underpinnings, the 18th Law Commission report (2008) asked for uniformity in the age of marriage at 18 years for both men and women and lowering the age of consent to 16 years, a recommendation also of the Justice Verma Committee.

Instead of moving in this direction, increasing the age of marriage becomes a mere exercise of carceral power by a state which, while outlawing consensual marriages, continues to look the other way when it comes to much-prevalent trafficking of child brides from SC-ST households. Efforts to address child marriage in India should be in consonance with the socio-economic realities that demand investment in education, welfare, and opportunities for women. The median age at first marriage for both men and women in India has registered a significant decadal improvement with more people now marrying later than ever before. Any attempt to leapfrog through quick-fix and ill-conceived punitive measures will only considerably reverse these gains.

*The writer is a Gender Studies PhD scholar at the University of Sussex, UK*



KHALED AHMED

THE COMMON MAN in Pakistan is jolted by the “peace deal” between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) that will “lead to a full normalisation of diplomatic relations” between the two. Israel has agreed to suspend applying sovereignty to areas of the West Bank that it was prepared to annex, but that doesn’t console the conspiracy-soaked mind of the common man in Pakistan. Most of the more “pragmatic” Arab neighbours of Israel have behaved differently towards Israel and they didn’t care that Pakistan continued to be so completely anti-Israel.

Most Pakistanis also don’t know the facts behind the current political map of the Middle East and ignore the details of how the Arab states are threatened more by their fellow-Arab states than Israel. After the sectarian wars in the Gulf and Iraq-Syria neighbourhood, this should have dawned on Pakistan but it didn’t. Pakistan is greatly perturbed by the introverted policies followed by Saudi Arabia and its neighbours with regard to India and simply can’t comprehend the inaction of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) over Kashmir. They can’t grasp the Arab inwardness that ignores Kashmir, which they often equate with the Palestinians living under “Israeli tyranny”. Saudi Arabia and the UAE feel threatened

less by Israel than by Iran, which seems to be encircling them by backing and financing the sectarian wars in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. There is nothing that Pakistan — headed by Prime Minister Imran Khan who tries naively to pose as the peacemaker between Iran and Saudi Arabia — can do about it. Saudi Arabia and the UAE together with “aid-recipient” Egypt are fighting an “unequal” war against Turkey in Libya.

Rulers in the Gulf are more scared today of fellow-Arab states like Qatar than of Israel. They are no longer consoled by the presence of the United States in the Gulf region as a guarantor of their peace. Headquartered in Qatar, America’s Central Command looks the other way as Qatar joins Turkey to support and fund the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, which had ruined the Arab Spring (2010-2012) by coming to power through elections and subsequently threatening the “kingdoms”.

The new American interest in its “global retreat”, where Pax Americana can be given over to someone else, is being felt in the Gulf region too. But before leaving, President Donald Trump wants to leave behind an order that continues to favour US global interests. In January, Trump announced a “peace plan” that would allow Israel to control a “unified” Jerusalem as its capital and “not require

it to uproot any of the settlements in the West Bank that have provoked Palestinian outrage and alienated much of the world”.

The “two nations” required by the United Nations to live in separate states will live together in “unified” Jerusalem; and security will be solely the responsibility of Israel, which means Palestinians will not have an army of their own. Israel will “regularise” the illegal settlements — one-third of West Bank — built on land belonging to the Palestinian people. And Trump promised to provide \$50 billion in international investment to build the new Palestinian entity and open an embassy in its new state.

This should have outraged the Islamic World but it did not. The UAE, Oman and Bahrain were present when Trump announced the “peace plan”, standing together with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu who was not even elected but acted merely as a caretaker PM. The plan was to be “negotiated” in four years but has been hastened by the prospect of Trump’s defeat in the coming polls in November. The plan was to allow Israel to immediately annex territories supposed to belong to the State of Palestine under the “two-states” status quo recognised by the UN. Eight months later, that annexation was postponed.

Pakistan has been in two minds about recognising Israel, especially after India revived its almost dead relationship in 1992 and proceeded to trade with it in the high-tech sector without creating any negative reaction among Pakistan’s Arab friends. Under President Pervez Musharraf, recognition of Israel was seriously considered as the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv issued “some 30,000 visas for Israeli travellers”. Pakistan’s foreign minister was “facilitated” by Turkey to discuss the possibilities of a Pak-Israel normalisation of relations with an Israeli envoy, but the move came to nought because of Pakistan’s textbook brainwash against Israel.

Then Turkey slid under the control of the Islamists under Prime Minister Recep Erdogan, who now threatens the UAE for having opened up to Israel, not knowing that one reason behind the recognition was the threat he posed to the UAE. Erdogan doesn’t care how he would look threatening the Arabs while Turkey continues to recognise Israel. He may be realising that his revival of the Ottoman Empire that controlled Western Asia and Northern Africa between the 14th and early 20th centuries threatens the Arabs once again.

*The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ELITE CONCERNS

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘In pandemic, take a break’ (IE, August 21). A sabbatical, like most other benefits, is a prerogative of the elite. India is unique, in that, 70 per cent of its population still resides in rural areas where the pandemic has hit hard, forcing migrant workers to “take a break”, and their families to starve. Due to successive lockdowns, cities too have witnessed an unprecedented unemployment crisis. The uncertainties have led to a surge in mental health issues, domestic violence and suicide rates. A stroll in the park, or a world tour would make a good “break” if one doesn’t have to worry about the next meal. A public servant would know that.

**Fatima Ghazali, Patna**

### DOING WELL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Fighting to win’ (IE, August 21). In its fight against COVID-19, India, despite its burgeoning numbers, high population density and poor health infrastructure, has been quite successful. The on-going unlock phases are witnessing sudden spurts here and there, but ramping up of tests and local administrations’ responses have kept things in check.

**Vijai Pant, Hempur**

### POLL PROBLEMS

THIS REFERS TO the article ‘The corona election’ (IE, August 21). The Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to take a call on the schedule of the upcoming Bihar assembly elections. It will have to factor in the nationwide pandemic situation in general and Bihar’s

## IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● **HER RIGHTS, CLEARLY SO:**  
**ANITA TAGORE**

● **SECULARISM IS STILL THRIVING:**  
**ANOOOP SADANANDAN**

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

unique dilemma in particular. Bihar is the state with the highest population density, and its existing health infrastructure might not be able to manage any sudden upsurge in COVID cases. The ECI, under Article 324, should take a call on either postponing the elections or conduct the polls over multiple phases spread over months.

**Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata**

### HOLISTIC RELIEF

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The new social contract’ (IE, August 21). The author indicated the slight improvement of our unemployment rate, which is expected. But the poor are still in a situation where both their lives and livelihoods are at risk. Policymakers must adopt the mechanism for relief integrating both rural and urban India.

**Tapomoy Ghosh, Katwa**



New Delhi





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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

### COVID-19 VACCINE TRACKER

## Under criticism, Russia to hold phase-3 trials for its vaccine

RUSSIA HAS said it planned to test its already-approved coronavirus vaccine, which has been named Sputnik-V, on 40,000 people in phase-3 trials. Russia had approved the vaccine developed by Moscow's Gamaleya Institute on August 11, even without phase-3 trials. The vaccine had only undergone accelerated phase-1 and phase-2 human trials.

Facing global criticism for pushing through its vaccine without testing it adequately, Russia has been on a publicity overdrive to minimise the damage. It has launched a special website for the vaccine, where it seeks to provide all information and data related to the vaccine.

On Thursday, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), a sovereign wealth fund that is supporting the development of Sputnik-V vaccine, put out a detailed statement in which it listed reasons why the questions being raised about the vaccine were unfounded and why the vaccine was safe for public use.

In the same statement, RDIF also announced that the vaccine would enter phase-3 clinical trials next week, during which it would be tested on more than 40,000 people at over 45 locations. RDIF said these trials were "previously planned" and were supposed to take place "post-registration" of the vaccine with the Russian drug regulator.

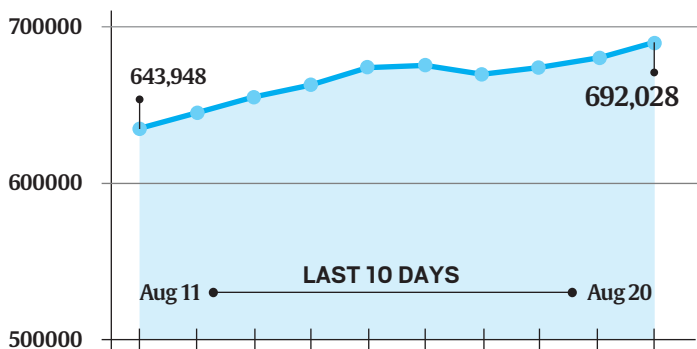
**J&J TRIALS:** Johnson & Johnson has said it planned to test its candidate vaccine on about 60,000 people during phase-3 trials. This makes it the biggest human trial planned for a potential coronavirus vaccine till now. Other leading contenders like Moderna and Pfizer plan to enrol about 30,000 volunteers for phase-3 trials of their candidate vaccines, which has already begun.

Johnson & Johnson said it hoped to begin the phase-3 trials from September.



## INDIA ACTIVE CASES

692,028



Note: The August 20 figure in this graph is based on government update on August 21

## INDIA TOTAL CASES

2,905,823

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on August 21

## WORLD TOTAL CASES

22,734,522

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on August 21

## Lung damage, clotting signs in postmortem of Covid cases

A NEW postmortem study of Covid-19 patients has found severe damage to the lungs of the deceased, and signs of blood clotting in major organs. Ten postmortem examinations were conducted. Although the numbers of patients examined is small, this is the largest study to date of post-mortem examinations on Covid-19 patients in England, said the researchers. The study was led by researchers at Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and is published in *The Lancet Microbe*.

It found that all these patients had lung injuries and early scarring of the lungs as a result of the coronavirus, as well as injury to their kidneys. Nine patients also had thrombosis (a blood clot) in at least one major organ (heart, lung or kidney).

The researchers believe that the



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

findings could help guide clinicians on treating complications as a result of Covid-19, such as using blood thinners to prevent blood clots from developing. They also hope that better understanding of the key complications in severe cases could help clinicians develop new ways to monitor and treat the disease.

The team performed full post-mortem examinations and biopsies on ten patients aged 22-97 at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust hospitals during March-June. Four of the patients were women. In the patients studied, high blood pressure and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) were the most common contributing factors to death. All patients developed a fever and had at least two respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath.

Source: Imperial College London

## SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE RIFT between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia over Jammu and Kashmir is out in the open. A delegation led by Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Saudi Arabia, but were denied a meeting with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS). Now, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has met Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to secure support.

### Saudi-Pakistan ties

The relationship between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan was most prominent during the 1971 war between India and Pakistan. According to reports of that time, Saudi Arabia had denounced the Indian action as "treacherous and contrary to all international covenants and human values" and found no justification for the Indian aggression except "India's desire to dismember Pakistan and tarnish its Islamic creed".

Saudi Arabia is also reported to have transferred arms and equipment including the loan of some 75 aircraft to Pakistan. After the war, Saudi Arabia consistently supported the call for the return of Pakistan's prisoners of war and for dropping the Dacca (Dhaka) Trial against 195 of them.

After the war, Saudi Arabia gave loans to Pakistan enabling it to buy arms worth about \$1 million by 1977, including F-16s and Harpoon missiles from the US. Saudi oil and dollars have kept Pakistan's economy on its feet after sanctions following the nuclear tests. Over the last two decades, Saudi Arabia has provided oil on deferred payments to Pakistan whenever it ran into economic difficulty.

Saudi funding of madrasas have also led to their mushrooming, later giving rise to religious extremism. In 1990, Pakistan sent its ground forces to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

### Alignment over Kashmir

The alignment over Kashmir at the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) crystallised since 1990, when insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir began. While the OIC has issued statements over the last three decades, it became a ritual of little significance to India. Last year, after India revoked Article 370 in Kashmir, Pakistan lobbied with the OIC for its condemnation of India's move. To Pakistan's surprise, Saudi Arabia and the UAE



Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman in Riyadh. Saudi Press Agency via Reuters

issued statements that were nuanced rather than harshly critical of New Delhi.

Over the last one year, Pakistan has tried to rouse the sentiments among the Islamic countries, but only a handful of them — Turkey and Malaysia — publicly criticised India.

### The Saudi perspective

Saudi Arabia's change in position has been a gradual process under Crown Prince MBS. As it seeks to diversify from its heavily oil-dependent economy, it sees India as a valuable partner in the region.

New Delhi, for its part, has wooed the Arab world over the last six years. From Saudi Arabia to the UAE, it worked the diplomatic levers through high-level visits and dangled opportunities for investment and business.

MBS, who is looking to invest in India, has taken a realistic view, along with UAE's crown prince Mohammed bin Zayed. Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trade partner (after China, US and Japan) and a major source of energy: India imports around 18% of its crude oil requirement from the Kingdom. Saudi Arabia is also a major source of LPG for India.

And, with India stopping oil imports from Iran due to threat of US sanctions, Saudi Arabia is key in this respect as well.

### Saudi-Pakistan tension

The tension between Saudi Arabia and

Pakistan has been brewing for some time. In 2015, Pakistan's Parliament decided not to support the Saudi military effort to restore an internationally recognised government in Yemen.

Later, Pakistan's then Army chief General Raheel Sharif led the Saudi-led Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism, comprising 41 Muslim countries.

In February 2019, after the Pulwama terror attack, it was Saudi Arabia and the UAE that pulled their weight to get Wing Commander Abhinandan released, apart from the US.

The Saudi Crown Prince visited Pakistan and India at that time, and made it clear that he valued economic opportunities. He did not wade into the Kashmir issue in India, or the terrorism issue in Pakistan.

A year after Article 370 was revoked, Qureshi belied the cat. His accusation that Saudi Arabia has failed to deliver on the Kashmir cause was an indication of Islamabad — and Rawalpindi's — frustration that OIC had not played a leadership role in backing Pakistan against India.

This angered Saudi Arabia, which in November 2018 had announced a \$6.2 billion loan package for Pakistan. The package included of \$3 billion in loans and an oil credit facility amounting to \$3.2 billion. Riyadh demanded the return of the \$3 billion loan and refused to sell oil to Islamabad

on deferred payment. Pakistan immediately returned \$1 billion, displaying the rift.

But, in the current economic situation, Pakistan is unable to pay the next tranche. Gen Bajwa went to Riyadh in a patch-up exercise, but MBS refused to meet him.

What has also angered Saudi Arabia is that Pakistan has been trying to pander to Turkey and Malaysia. Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is seen as trying to position himself as the new leader of Muslim world, challenging Saudi Arabia's long-held position.

### The China factor

Pakistan and China have called themselves "all-weather allies" and "iron brothers". Over the last one year, Beijing has supported Pakistan on Kashmir, raising the issue at the UN Security Council thrice.

China has also emerged as Pakistan's biggest benefactor through its funding of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Originally valued at \$46 billion, China's commitment to Pakistan now stands at \$62 billion.

Saudi Arabia too has invested in CPEC projects, to the tune of \$10 billion, but Pakistan now looks towards Beijing for both diplomatic and economic support.

Qureshi's visit to China needs to be seen in this context. Ostensibly, he has gone for strategic dialogue with the Chinese Foreign Minister in south China's Hainan province. He called his visit a "very important trip", and Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said it will "play an important role in further strengthening Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership".

### Implications for India

India, which is closely watching the developments between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, has not said anything publicly. But, Saudi's silence on J&K as well as CAA-NRC has emboldened the Indian government.

Both New Delhi and Riyadh see value in their relationship. At a time when India and China are locked in a border standoff, India would be wary of Pakistan and China teaming up. But with Saudi Arabia in its corner for now, it may have a leverage over Pakistan — Riyadh would not want a conflict and regional instability.

What is key to India's calculus is that the Pakistan-China and the Pakistan-Saudi axes are not fused together at the moment: It is not a Saudi-Pakistan-China triangle. How New Delhi leverages that may decide the future of the region.

# In contempt case, the 'Mulgaonkar principles'

## APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IN THE criticism against the Supreme Court's ruling that held advocate Prashant Bhushan guilty of contempt of court, his counsel has invoked the 'Mulgaonkar principles', urging the court to show restraint.

### What are the Mulgaonkar principles?

*S Mulgaonkar v Unknown* (1978) is a case that led to a landmark ruling on the subject of contempt. By a 2:1 majority, the court held Mulgaonkar, then editor of *The Indian Express*, not guilty of contempt although the same Bench had initiated the proceedings. Justices P Kailasam and Krishna Iyer formed the majority going against then Chief Justice of India M H Beg. Justice Iyer's counsel of caution in exercising the contempt jurisdiction came to be called the Mulgaonkar principles.

### What was the case about?

An article by AG Nootani in the newspa-

per about certain judicial decisions during the Emergency period, especially the Habeas Corpus case, had displeased then CJI Beg. The Habeas Corpus case, often referred to as the "Supreme Court's darkest hour" upheld the detention law, citing that even the right to life can be suspended during an emergency. Justices A N Ray, Beg, Y V Chandrachud and P N Bhagwati formed the majority while Justice H R Khanna was the sole dissenter.

Initially, the SC Registrar wrote to the editor seeking a retraction and an apology, which did not happen.

"Instead of publishing any correction of the mis-statement about the conduct of Judges of this Court, the Editor offered to publish the whole material in his possession, as though there was an issue to be tried between the Editor of the newspaper and this Court and the readers were there to try it and decide it," Justice Beg wrote in the judgment explaining why contempt proceedings were initiated.

### What did Iyer's ruling say?

Justice Iyer said he agreed to initiating



S Mulgaonkar

contempt proceedings as CJI Beg was anguished but did not agree with pursuing it. A similar case involving The Times of India was decided just days earlier, in which Justices Kailasam and N Untwalia had disagreed with CJI Beg forming the majority opinion.

Underlining his reasons for not exercising the court's power to punish for contempt, Justice Iyer said the first rule in the branch of power is a "wise economy of use by the Court of this branch of its jurisdiction".

"The Court will act with seriousness and severity where justice is jeopardized by a gross and/or unfounded attack on the judges, where the attack is calculated to obstruct or destroy the judicial process. The court is will-

ing to ignore, by a majestic liberalism, trifling and venial offenses—the dogs may bark, the caravan will pass. The court will not be prompted to act as a result of an easy irritability," he wrote.

He argued in favour of harmonising "the constitutional values of free criticism, the fourth estate included, and the need for a fearless curial process and its presiding functionary, the judge".

While CJI Beg's opinion was that Mulgaonkar's response to the Registrar was as if the case was between the newspaper and people, and not between the newspaper and the court, Justice Iyer said that the people will have the last word.

"Justice is not hubris; power is not petulance and prudence is not pusillanimity, especially when judges are themselves prosecutors and mercy is a mark of strength, not whimper of weakness. Christ and Gandhi shall not be lost on the judges at a critical time when courts are on trial and the people ('We, the People of India') pronounce the final verdict on all national institutions," he wrote.

# Pfizer vaccine: what trials have found, and the implications of the results

## KAUNAIN SHERIFF M

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

US PHARMA giant Pfizer and German biotechnology company BioNTech's, which are testing four vaccine candidates for Covid-19 as part of Project Lightspeed, released on Thursday the phase-1 data for one of these, being tested in the US. The study, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, said that across all populations, the candidate was well-tolerated and demonstrated a strong immune response, and that they are on track to seek regulatory review in October 2020.

### What is Project Lightspeed?

The project with four vaccine candidates is based on BionTech's proprietary mRNA-based technology platforms. It began in mid-January after the genetic sequence of SARS-CoV-2 was made public.

Two of these four candidates — BNT162b1 or BNT162b2 — have gone into human trials so far. Both are in Phase 1/2 human trials in

the United States and Germany.

### How have the trials progressed?

On April 23, 12 participants in Germany were dosed with either of the two vaccines. On May 5, the first participants in the United States were given a dose of either vaccine.

On July 13, BNT162b1 and BNT162b2 received a fast-track designation from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

On July 27, researchers announced that after extensive review of preclinical and clinical data and in consultation with the US FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, they have chosen to advance their BNT162b2 vaccine candidate into the Phase 2/3 study, where 30,000 participants will be taking part.

### What is BNT162b2?

It is a single nucleoside-modified messenger RNA (modRNA) vaccine candidate. It is made of a short segment of genetic material — the messenger RNA — which provides instructions for a human cell to make a harmless version of a target protein, in this case the

KEY VACCINE CANDIDATES, TRIAL FINDINGS		
VACCINE	SAFETY	IMMUNE RESPONSE
Moderna	Mild/moderate adverse events after first vaccination, no serious toxicity	Immune response in all participants; T cell response in high-dose participants
Oxford	Fatigue and headache; no serious adverse events	Antibodies in all participants given second dose; T cell response from day 7
Pfizer	Mild to moderate fever in fewer than 20% of participants	At 7 days after second dose, strong immunogenicity

spike protein of SARS-CoV-2, in order to activate an immune response against the protein.

During a clinical trial, three aspects are assessed: reactogenicity (ability to produce common, adverse reactions), immunogenicity (ability to provoke an immune response), and safety.

In phase 1 in the US, at 7 days after the second dose of 30 micrograms, the candidate

demonstrated strong immunogenicity in both younger and older adults when compared to levels found in a convalescent serum panel (the serum obtained from one who has recovered), states the study on Thursday.

### Why has this candidate been advanced into Phase 2/3 trials?

On July 20, Pfizer had announced that

BNT162b1 elicited a strong T cell response in its German trial. About BNT162b2, it said cellular immune responses "are still being studied and will be reported separately".

On Thursday, the study concluded that in both younger and older adults, by BNT162b1 and BNT162b2 elicited similar immune responses. However, BNT162b2 was associated with less systemic reactogenicity, particularly in older adults. This effectively means that BNT162b2 generates an even lower adverse reaction among the vulnerable population, making it the safer candidate of the two.

### How significant are the findings?

The findings are significant as Pfizer plans to activate its extensive manufacturing network and "invest at risk" to produce the vaccine. The company has said it will manufacture up to 100 million doses by the end of 2020 and potentially more than 1.2 billion doses by the end of 2021.

The pharmaceutical giant had already identified three US states — Massachusetts, Michigan, and Missouri — where it will man-

ufacture the vaccine in its own facilities. It will also manufacture it in Puurs, Belgium. After the results, the company said it will select more sites for production. It already has signed deals with various countries.

Simultaneously, through its existing mRNA production sites in Mainz and Idar-Oberstein in Germany, BioNTech plans to ramp up its production capacity to provide further capacities for a global supply of the potential vaccine.

### Which countries will be buying the vaccine, if cleared?

On July 20, the company announced an agreement with the UK to supply 30 million doses. Two days later, it announced that the US government has placed an initial order of 100 million doses for \$1.95 billion and can acquire up to 500 million additional doses. On July 31, the company announced an agreement with Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare to supply 120 million doses. On August 5, it announced another agreement, with the Government of Canada.



## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Sunita D/o Sh. Prakash R/o H.No. 493, Gali No. 2, Rama Block, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032** Aged-26 Years has been reported missing since 28.02.2019 from the area of P.S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi vide **DD No.30-A dated 03.03.2019** lodged at Police Station Farsh Bazar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-



Sunita

**Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Red Coloured Suit & Salwar.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Telex No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 Sd/-  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi.  
DP/963/SHD/19 Tel.: 011-21210828

**DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**  
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)  
Govt. of NCT of Delhi  
Shahbad Daultpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110 042  
Tel: 011-2739 4679, e-mail: [ga@dtu.ac.in](mailto:ga@dtu.ac.in)

**NIT OF EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCY AT DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DELHI**

S. No.	Item Description	Tender ID No.	Last date & time of Submission
1.	NIT OF EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCY	2020_DTU_193682_1	15 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 2020 till 3:00 PM

The detailed Scope of work, EMD, Tender document, Date & Time of submission/opening of bids etc. are available on the 'e-procurement' website of Govt. of NCT of Delhi <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and on university website <http://www.dtu.ac.in> against said tender. Corrigendum if any will be issued through E-procurement portal only. Interested bidders must monitor the same.

Registrar

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY**  
**RAJA RAMANNA CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY, INDORE**

Corrigendum (e-TENDER NOTICE) dated 18.08.2020

**NIT No. RRCAT/CSD/EEACS/2020/158** Dated 07.07.2020

Name of work : Operation & maintenance of central air conditioning plant and associated low side HVAC system at RRCAT

Estimated cost-Rs. 1,60,00,000, EMD-Rs. 3,20,000/- Tender Processing Fee-Rs. 5,900/-

Updated NIT, SGF, Technical specifications, Special conditions of tender with Schedule A & Schedule-B can be downloaded from the website [www.tenderwizard.com/DAE](http://www.tenderwizard.com/DAE) from 20.08.2020 (10:30 hrs) to (15:00 Hrs) on 31.08.2020. Last date of closing of tender uploading i.e. online submission is 08.09.2020 (15:00 hrs). Submission of physical EMD from 9:00 hours on 09.09.2020 to 15:15 hrs. on 16.09.2020. Online opening of Technical Bid on 16.09.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. Financial Bids of qualified bidders will be opened at a later date to be notified separately. The detailed NIT can also be viewed & downloaded from [www.rccat.gov.in](http://www.rccat.gov.in).

After free viewing of Tender documents in PDF Format, interested agency may download updated technical & financial (in excel Format) bids for participating, using their User ID / Password & Class III DSC before last date of sale. Registered agencies only can purchase / download & submit / upload tenders.

Chief Engineer, RRCAT  
For and on behalf of president of India

**Delhi Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**  
**An Enterprises of Govt. of NCT of Delhi**  
**ISBT Kashmere Gate Delhi-110006**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

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

1. NIT No.	18/2020-21
Tender ID No.	2020_DTIDC_193580_1
Name of work	Annual Maintenance of Electrical Installations at ISBT Anand Vihar & Sarai Kale Khan
SH	Annual Operation and Maintenance Contract of DG Sets, Sub Station, Pumps, Fire pump, Electrical Installation & PA System i/c Enquiry
Estimated Cost	Rs. 81,95,844/-
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,63,917/-
Time Allowed	12 Months
Last date of receipt of Tenders	03.09.2020

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

Sd/-

SE/Civil

DTIDC Ltd. ISBT

Kashmere Gate, Delhi

DIP/Shabdarth/0246/20-21

## NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Open E-Tender Notice  
(Two Packet System)

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)-III, Opposite Railway Hospital, Hasanpura Road, North Western Railway, Jaipur - 302006 for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open E-Tender. Tenderer shall on-line submit their original tender offer before the date and time of closing of E-tender. E-Tender Notice No.: NWRC-RE-SDLCP-C-103160503R, Name of work with location : Construction of Balance Civil work including Major bridge with PSC slabs on IOCL pipeline and RUB's in Rewari - Sadulpur Bye-pass and Laying and linking of Broad Gauge Main line, including points & Crossings. Supply & Spreading of ballast, Tamping of track, Transportation of P.Way Materials and other Ancillary Works in connection with Rewari - Sadulpur Bye-pass at Rewari & Khatipura - Development of new terminal facility at Jaipur. Approximate cost of work : Rs. 17,52,21,552.46, Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 10,26,100.00, Completion Period : 15 (Fifteen) Months, Closing Date & Time of submission of On line E-Tender : 15.00 Hrs. on 11.09.2020 Website particulars where complete details of E-Tender can be seen : [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) 721-SP-20 Please join us on [www.facebook.com/NWRailways](https://www.facebook.com/NWRailways)

**SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
Follow us on [www.facebook.com/SCRailway](https://www.facebook.com/SCRailway)  
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C.Railway can be seen on our website : [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

e-procurement Tender No.175  
Date:20.08.2020

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated through e-Procurement. Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in) and submit their offers. It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:

**SI No.: 1 Tender No.: TMC2019110**  
**Description :** Supply of Piston road Assembly, Vibration shaft assembly, Guide column bush, Tamping arm bush, Pressure disc and Clutch coupling for the use of Track machines. **Due Date:** 17.09.2020

**SI No.: 2 Tender No.: TMC2019117**  
**Description :** Supply of Isolator Vibration Mounting pads, Rubber Mountings for the use of Track Machines. **Due Date:** 17.09.2020

**SI No.: 3 Tender No.: TMC2019118**  
**Description :** Supply of Ball and Sockets for the use of Track Machines. **Due Date:** 21.09.2020

**SI No.: 4 Tender No.: TMC2019119**  
**Description :** Supply and Installation of Pump Station and supply of Central Lubrication System for the use of Track Machines. **Due Date:** 21.09.2020

**SI No.: 5 Tender No.: TMC2019120**  
**Description :** Supply of Engine Hoses and Hose Clamps for the use of Track machines. **Due Date:** 23.09.2020

**SI No.: 6 Tender No.: TMC2019121**  
**Description :** Supply of Puller Adopter for the use of Track machines. **Due Date:** 23.09.2020

**SI No.: 7 Tender No.: TMC2019122**  
**Description :** Supply of Welding plant for the use of CPOH/RYP. **Due Date:** 28.09.2020

**Issue of Corrigendum No.1 to the tender notice no.174 (e-Procurement Tender Notice).**

**Tender Notice No. & Date:** Tender Notice No.174 of 23.07.2020 **Tender No.: TMC2019116 Description:** Due date & Make are changed.

For complete details please refer [www.irops.gov.in](http://www.irops.gov.in)

**Dy.Chief Engineer/TM/HQ/ A0985**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.irops.gov.in> or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in)

**Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd.**  
(ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Company)  
Visheshwaraiya Bhawan, Gomia Nagar, Lucknow

## NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The General Manager, Electrical Zone-1, Lucknow invites for and on behalf of Managing Director U.P. Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd, online percentage rate bids in two bid system for the following work:

**NIT NO: 378/APM/UNIT-18/MORTUARY/RNN/20, DT. 21-08-2020, Name of work: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of New Mortuary Cold Room at RALC Building, KGMU, Lucknow (for COVID-19). Estimated Bid Value: Rs. 37.85 Lakhs+GST, Earnest Money: Rs. 0.76 Lakhs, Period of Completion: 15 days, Last time and date of submission of bid: 15:00 hrs on Dt. 25/08/2020.** The bid forms and other details can be obtained / downloaded from the website: <https://etender.up.nic.in> The NIT is also available on <http://www.uprnn.co.in>.

**NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
A-11, Sector-24, Noida-201301  
Ph.: 0120-2412294, 2412445, Fax: 0120-2412397  
(CIN:L74899DL1974GOI007417)

Ref. No. 11-2020-21/DAP/NPK Date: 22.08.2020

## NOTICE INVITING GLOBAL E-TENDER

Bids are invited for supply of loose bulk fertilizers as detailed below:

Product	Qty. (in MT)	Coast
Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP-18:46:00)	50,000	West Coast of India
Complex Fertilizer (NPK -10:26:26)	40,000	East Coast of India

For details, visit e-tender No. 2020\_NFL\_55648\_1 on websites: [www.nationalfertilizers.com](http://www.nationalfertilizers.com) and [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in). Last date of bid submission is **31<sup>st</sup> August, 2020**. Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, shall be published only on above websites. **Executive Director (Materials)**

**NFL : FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE**

**Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (URED)**  
Tehseel Bhawan, Narendranagar, Tehri Ghawal, Pin-249175, Mob:7895869395,9411079047, email [ureda.tehri@gmail.com](mailto:ureda.tehri@gmail.com)

पत्रांक सं. 130/उररेड/सोपोपाना विकास भवन दिनांक 20 अगस्त 2020  
Tender Notice No: 01 /URED/LEASE-MHP-JAKHANA/2020, dated -19August  
"E" Procurement Notice

1	Name of Work	Grid Synchronization Work and other Required Works on Boot Basis for Operation & Maintenance on Lease Basis For Five Years (by Deploying Manpower with Supply of Material and Consumables) of 2 X 50 KW Capacity Jakhana Micro Hydro Project in Distt. Tehri
2	Amount of Earnest money	Rs 1.00 Lakh
3	Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal	21/08/2020 from 10:00AM
4	Last Date & Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	7/09/2020 upto 5:00 PM
5	Name & address of the Officer inviting the bid.	Senior Project Officer, UREDA, Ground Floor, Tehseel Bhawan, Narendranagar, Distt-Tehri, Uttarakhand

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://ukitenders.gov.in>. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from this website

"स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में कर्जा बचाये"

**ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd.,

Convent Square, Bhubaneswar - 751 007, Odisha

website: [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in),  
Email: [logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in)  
Phone No: (0674) 2380608

No. 10966 Dtd.: 21.08.2020

## SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are invited from Manufacturer / Authorized Stockiest / Authorized Distributor for supply of Disposable Examination Gloves, Face shield to CDS, OSMCL, Bhubaneswar, which can be downloaded from the "notification" section of OSMCL's official website <http://osmcl.nic.in>. The sealed tender should reach to the undersigned on or before 27th August 2020 to upto 11 AM.

It is further to notify that corrigendum/ addendum, if any related to this tender shall only be uploaded in OSMCL Website and no publication shall be made in the Newspapers.

Sd/-

GM Operation (D &amp; S)

OSMCL, BBSR

OIPR-10112/11/0021/2021

**कार्यालय सचिव प्रबन्धक (सिविल)**  
**उपसिडा राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण**  
निर्माण खण्ड-दिल्ली, इंदौराओडिशा, कान्सा, बिला-गौतमबुधनगर

**अनुपकारीक ई-निविदा सूचना**

एनएडए सूचना दिया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र ईआईपी कान्सा, जयपुर-गौतमबुधन नगर में स्थित प्रशासनिक भवन के निवेशन/संरचना हेतु सरकारी निर्माण/संवर्जनक उपकरण/निर्माण/प्राधिकरण/परिचर/नगर विकास में अर्ह 'ए' व 'बी' श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्म/उद्देश्य से अत्यधिक ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जो निम्न 23.08.2020 को पूर्ण 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 31.08.2020 को शाम 5.00 बजे तक आवेदन की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 01.09.2020 को पूर्ण 11.00 बजे खोल जायेगा। निविदादाता द्वारा केवल शर्त में की गई प्रतियोगिता दिनांक 05.09.2020 को शाम 5.00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के माध्यम से आमंत्रित की जाने वाली निविदा सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत है:-

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की मात्रा एवं (लगभग)
1	Renovation of Administrative Building at EPIP Kasna, Distt.-Gautambudh Nagar	17.02

नोट: निविदा दाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जोएएसटीए सहित ही दर्श अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा।  
निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निम्न की website: [www.upsidc.com](http://www.upsidc.com) पर स्थित ई-रिक्त एवं यूएनएससी की website: <http://etender.up.nic.in> पर देखी जा सकती है।

अवगत/औपचारिक निर्माण खण्ड-2, कान्सा गौतमबुधन नगर

**RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE OF TELECOMM GEARS**

E-Tender Notice No. : RM-ST-04-2020-21, Dated: 19-08-2020, E-Tender and

Invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. : RM-ST-04-2020-21, Name of work: Restoration & Maintenance of Telecomm Gears at Rangpur-Rangpur, North-North, Lakhimpur-Mukongpuk, including Threeebh Inno) Rangpur, North-Dakshin (S) Balpara-Bhigun (S) Harnali-Naharlagun at Rangpur Division. Tender Value: ₹ 66,52,735.75; Earnest Money: ₹ 13,105.00. Date & Time of Closing of E-Tender at 15:00 hrs. on 11-09-2020 and Opening of tender at 15:30 hrs. on 11-09-2020 at S. OSTER, Rangpur office. For details please visit website to [www.keps.gov.in](http://www.keps.gov.in)

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Rangpur  
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY  
Sangrha Chakrabarti, BSc & Engg

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD / CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SPECIALIZED SERVICE PROVIDER/AGENCY/COMPANY FOR EXECUTION OF CURATIVE AND PROPHYLACTIC TREATMENT OF FOOD GRAIN STOCKS STORED AT VARIOUS STORAGE LOCATIONS IN HARYANA	21.08.2020 07.09.2020	As mentioned in the tender documents	<a href="http://www.hafed.gov.in">www.hafed.gov.in</a>	0172-259103-26 hafed@hry.nic.in
2	HARYANA SEAHARIVAS PANCHKULAS	JOB NO.274 E.E. HSNP DIV. SNP 2019-20 CONSTRUCTION OF CYCLE TRACK/SERVICE ROAD ALONG SECTOR DIVIDING ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR 111/2 U/E. SONPAT-PROVIDING LAYING OF 3MM THICK RUBB. 20MM THICK PREMIUM CARPET & CLEARING JUNGLE ETC. IN SECTOR 7 AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO. (INCLUDING THREE YEARS MAINTENANCE FREE OF COST) - 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2020	53.05 LACS	<a href="https://etender.hry.nic.in">https://etender.hry.nic.in</a>	0130-2233814 xensongal@gmail.com
3	MAHARASHTRA DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, POKHAR	(i) SITE OF 06 NOS. 8 PASSENGERS (G-2) MACHINE ROOM LESS LIFTS FOR TYPE-B FLATS UNDER CONSTRUCTION (ii) SITE OF 06 NOS. 8 PASSENGERS (G-2) MACHINE ROOM LESS LIFTS FOR D/o NO. VIVEKANANDA LIBRARY READING HALL, 01 NO. FOR ENGLISH DEPT. BUILDING 01 NO. FOR PSYCHOLOGY BUILDING, 01 NO. FOR INSR, 01 NO. FOR MATHEMATICS BUILDING AND NO. FOR PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCE BUILDING	29.08.2020 11.09.2020	126.60 LACS	<a href="https://indurastak.atehars.hry.nic.in">https://indurastak.atehars.hry.nic.in</a>	01262-392175 xen.civil@gmail.com/rothak.ac.in

82399/HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED**  
(“A State Govt. Undertaking”)  
"Short Term Press Tender Notice"  
(E-Tendering Mode Only)

Short Term Online Tenders are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, from the Original Equipment Manufacturers for the following work:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Cost of Tender Documents	Completion Period	Sale of Tender Documents	Last date of Receipt of Tender	Opening of Tender	Techno Commercial bid
1	No.06/RMU/ City/2020-21	Replacement of Damaged 3, 4 and 5 way 11kV HT-RMU SF6 panels (Indoor type) installed at various locations on Turnkey basis complete in all respect as per detail in price bid under City Electrical Division HPSEBL Shimla-01.	Rs. 62 Lacs	Rs. 1.55 Lacs	Rs. 5900.00	2 (Two) Months	From 27.08.2020 To 07.09.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	08.09.2020 (Upto 05.00 PM)	09.09.2020 (at 11:30 AM)	

The detailed tender notification can be viewed/downloaded free of cost from the website <https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. Any clarification / amendment shall be uploaded on the above website. For further details on e-tendering, please contact on Phone:- 0177-2801745.

(Er. SANJEEV MARIA)  
Chief Engineer (OP) South, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4.

## Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा  
(विद्युत एवं यांत्रिक विभाग)

क्रमांक/वि.एच. यां./ई-टेंडरिंग/2019-20/48 खण्डवा, दिनांक 20/08/2020

## ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु निविदाएं ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, उल्लेखित कार्य की निविदा का विस्तृत वेबसाइट <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

क्र.	टेंडर आई डी	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत (लाख में)	घरोहर राशि	निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि	टेंडरकार की श्रेणी	लागू SOR	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	2020_UAD_102933_1	External Electrification work of Proposed Transport Nagar New Krishi Mandi Indore Road Khandwa	92.46 लाख	69500/-	10,000/-	लो.नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी स व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत उद्देश्य	म.प्र.पक्षे. वि.वि.क. लि. के प्राचलित SOR	3 माह
2	2020_UAD_102929_1	External Electrification work of Proposed Transport Nagar 33/11 KV Sub Station Construction Near New Krishi Mandi Khandwa	164.77 लाख	82400/-	12,500/-	लो.नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी स व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत उद्देश्य	म.प्र.पक्षे. वि.वि.क. लि. के प्राचलित SOR	3 माह
3	2020_UAD_102941_1	External Electrification work of Housing Unit under PMAY at Sant Vinoba Bhawe Ward AHP Site Chirakh Khandwa	106.27 लाख	53200/-	12,500/-	लो.नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी स व अधिक एवं अ श्रेणी विद्युत उद्देश्य	म.प्र.पक्षे. वि.वि.क. लि. के प्राचलित SOR	3 माह

1. निविदा ऑनलाईन क्रय एवं प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम दिनांक : 21/09/2020 (शाम 5:30 बजे तक)

2. निविदा खोलने की दिनांक : 23/09/2020 (सुबह 10:30 बजे)

निविदा सबंधी समस्त जानकारी वेबसाइट <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर देखी जा सकती है; निविदा में यदि किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन किया जाता है तो यह केवल वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जावेगा।

नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
e-Procurement Notice  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD, Dhani on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in two Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved Contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.

Sr No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Eligible Class of Contractor	Time
1.	Restoration of Shimla Mandi road due to raising of Kol Dam Reservoir km. 51/700 to 51/880 (SH: Construction of PCC R/wall and M/T on damaged portion in km. 51/700 to 51/740 and 51/820 to 51/880.	Rs. 1,09,81,277/-	Rs. 1,42,500/-	Rs. 5,000/-	Class-B	Four Months
2.	Construction of link road from Chebri (Khaira) to Piplughat km. 0/00 to 3/870 (SH: Formation cutting 5/7 mtrs wide in km. 0/00 to 1/00 and C/o wire crate for dumping site in km. 0/00 to 1/00 in various Rds)	Rs. 20,09,027/-	Rs. 37,635/-	Rs. 500/-	Class-D	Three Months
3.	Construction of balance work Anganbari Building at Village Manderech Tehsil Sunni District Shimla (SH: Civil Work)	Rs. 6,46,743/-	Rs. 12,950/-	Rs. 500/-	Class-D	Two Months

2. Availability of Bid Document and Mode of Submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <https://tenders.gov.in>. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <https://tenders.gov.in>. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.





USA

## FIRESTORMS DISPLACE THOUSANDS

Tens of thousands of displaced Californians huddled under mass evacuation orders in the midst of a heat wave and a pandemic on Friday as lightning-sparked firestorms raged across tinder-dry landscapes in and around the greater San Francisco Bay area.

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Joseph James DeAngelo at court. AP

USA

## Golden State

## Killer sentenced to life for string of rapes and murders

A FORMER California police officer dubbed the Golden State Killer told victims Friday he was “truly sorry” before he was sentenced to multiple life prison sentences for a decade-long string of rapes and murders that terrorized a wide swath of the state. Joseph James DeAngelo, 74, pleaded guilty in June to 13 murders and 13 rape-related charges under a plea deal that avoided a possible death sentence. The punishment imposed by Sacramento County Superior Court means DeAngelo will die in prison for the crimes committed between 1975 and 1986. Before sentencing, DeAngelo said to the court: “I listened to all your statements, each one of them, and I’m truly sorry for everyone I’ve hurt.”

MALI

## UN team meets detained President

UN HUMAN rights officials met overnight with Mali’s ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and other officials who have been held by mutineers since a military coup earlier this week, the UN mission there said on Friday. There has been no word from Keita since Tuesday, when he dissolved Parliament and then resigned after being detained at gunpoint. The human rights team was given access to Keita and other detainees, the UN peacekeeping mission said on Twitter. It provided no details on what was said or on the condition of the captives.

MAURITIUS OIL SPILL

## Ship deviated from shipping lane before impact

THE JAPANESE-OWNED bulk carrier that ran aground off Mauritius and spilled oil over pristine waters and fragile coral reefs diverted more than 100 km from a regular shipping lane, data from a maritime analysis firm showed. The *MV Wakashio*, owned by Nagashiki Shipping and chartered by Mitsui OSK Lines Ltd, struck a coral reef on Mauritius’s southeast coast on July 25 and later began leaking oil. Two of the ship’s officers have since been arrested on charges of endangering safe navigation. The iron-ore carrier deviated from a well-travelled shipping lane to head straight to the Indian Ocean, according to maritime analysis firm Windward.

## CLOSING NIGHT OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Biden accepts nomination, vows to end US ‘season of darkness’

STEVE PEOPLES & ALEXANDRA JAFFE  
WILMINGTON, AUGUST 21

JOE BIDEN accepted the Democratic presidential nomination with a vow to be a unifying “ally of the light” who would move an America in crisis past the chaos of President Donald Trump’s tenure.

In his strongest remarks of the campaign, Biden spoke Thursday night both of returning the United States to its traditional leadership role in the world and of the deeply personal challenges that shaped his life. Virtually every sentence of his 22-minute speech was designed to present a sharp, yet hopeful, contrast with the Republican incumbent.

“Here and now I give you my word: If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I’ll be an ally of the light, not the darkness,” Biden said. “Make no mistake, united we can and will overcome this season of darkness in America.”

For the 77-year-old Biden, the final night of the Democratic National Convention was bitter-sweet. He accepted a nomination that had eluded him for over three decades because of personal tragedy, political stumbles and rivals who proved more dynamic.

But the coronavirus denied him the typical celebration, complete with the customary balloon drop that both parties often use to fete their new nominees. Instead, Biden spoke to a largely empty arena near his Delaware home.

Afterward, fireworks lit the sky outside the arena, where supporters waited in a parking lot, honking horns and flashing headlights in a moment that finally lent a jovial feel to the event.

The keynote address was the speech of a lifetime for Biden, who would be the oldest president ever elected if he defeats Trump in November. Trump, who is 74, publicly doubts Biden’s mental capacity and calls him “Slow Joe,” but with the nation watching, Biden was firm and clear.

Still, the convention leaned on a younger generation earlier in the night to help energize his sprawling coalition.

Tammy Duckworth, an Illinois senator who lost her legs in Iraq and is raising two young children, said Biden has “common decency.”

Cory Booker, only the ninth



Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are applauded by their respective spouses Jill Biden and Doug Emhoff during the fourth day of the Democratic National Convention in Wilmington, Delaware, Thursday. AP

## WHAT BIDEN SAID

## ON KAMALA HARRIS

“Her story is the American story. She knows about all of the obstacles thrown in the way of so many in our country. Women, Black women, Black Americans, South Asian Americans, immigrants. The left out and the left behind.”

## PROMISE TO VOTERS

“Here and now, I give you my word: If you entrust me with the presidency, I will draw on the best of us, not the worst. I will be an ally of the light, not the darkness.”

## TO PROGRESSIVES

“One of the most powerful voices we hear in the country today is from our young people. They’re speaking to the inequity and injustice that has grown up in America. Economic injustice. Racial injustice. Environmental injustice.”

African American senator in U.S. history, said Biden believes in the dignity of all working Americans.

And Pete Buttigieg, the 38-year-old former South Bend, Indiana, mayor and a gay military veteran, noted that Biden came out in favor of same-sex marriage as vice president even before President Barack Obama. AP



Louis DeJoy testifies before a Senate panel. AP

## Postmaster says ballots No 1 priority, but details no plan

Washington: US Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, pressed by senators over campaign season mail disruptions, said Friday he was unaware of some recent changes by his agency until they sparked a public uproar. But he also said he has no plans to restore mailboxes or sorting machines that have been removed.

His testimony raised fresh questions about how the Postal Service will ensure timely delivery of ballots for the November election. DeJoy told senators that election mail would be prioritized for delivery as in years past. But he said that blue curbside collection boxes and sorting equipment that have been removed are “not needed.”

DeJoy distanced himself from President Donald Trump’s complaints about mail-in ballots that are expected to surge in the coronavirus pandemic. AP

## FB makes plans in case Trump casts doubt on result of Nov election

MIKE ISAAC & SHEERA FRENKEL  
SAN FRANCISCO, AUGUST 21

FACEBOOK SPENT years preparing to ward off any tampering on its site before November’s US presidential election. Now the social network is getting ready in case President Donald Trump interferes once the vote is over.

Employees at the Silicon Valley company are laying out contingency plans and walking through postelection scenarios that include attempts by Trump or his campaign to use the platform to delegitimize the results, people with knowledge of Facebook’s plans said.

Facebook is preparing steps to take should Trump wrongly claim on the site that he won another four-year term, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. Facebook is also working through how it might act if Trump tries to invalidate the results by declaring that the Postal Service lost mail-in ballots or that other groups meddled with the vote, the people said.

Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook’s chief executive, and some of his lieutenants have started holding



Trump at a campaign rally in Old Forge, Pennsylvania. NYT

daily meetings about minimizing how the platform can be used to dispute the election, the people said. They have discussed a “kill switch” to shut off political advertising after Election Day since the ads, which Facebook does not police for truthfulness, could be used to spread misinformation, the people said.

YouTube and Twitter have also discussed plans for action if the postelection period becomes complicated, according to disinformation researchers who have advised the firms.

A spokesman for Facebook declined to comment on its post-election strategy.

“We continue to plan for a range of scenarios to make sure we are prepared for the upcoming election,” he said. NYT

election cycle, Harris is not an obscure figure. He was the first Black scholar to get tenure in Stanford’s economics department, and a prominent critic of mainstream economic theory from the left.

He arrived at the University of California, Berkeley, as a graduate student in 1961. There, he met Shyamala Gopalan, an Indian graduate student his age.

When the children were very young, Donald Harris got a series of teaching jobs at colleges in Illinois and Wisconsin, moving the

family repeatedly. The couple separated in 1969, when Kamala was 5, and divorced two years later.

Donald Harris, in his 2018 essay, said his early, close contact with his daughters “came to an abrupt halt” after a contentious custody battle. This friction did not slow his professional rise, and he was granted tenure first at the University of Wisconsin and then at Stanford University. Harris’ 1978 book, *Capital Accumulation and Income Distribution*, is dedicated “to Kamala and Maya.” NYT

## Harris’ father, a footnote in speeches, is a leading economist

ELLEN BARRY  
AUGUST 21

IN A warm, encyclopedic tribute to her family Wednesday night, as she formally accepted the vice-presidential nomination, Sen. Kamala Harris skimmed past discussion of her father, Donald Harris, a Jamaica-born professor of economics at Stanford University.

The reason is common to many of Harris’ generation: She is a child of divorce, raised by a

single mother who became her most profound influence.

As Harris has stepped into the national spotlight, Donald Harris, now 81 and long retired from teaching, has remained mostly silent. His only recent comments about her, published on a Jamaican website run by an acquaintance, express a combination of pride in his daughter and bitterness over their estrangement.

He scolded her in a letter for joking in an interview that, growing up in a Jamaican family,



Donald Harris holding his daughter Kamala in 1965. AP

it was natural that she had smoked marijuana.

Despite his low profile in the



Diners sit street-side. NYT

set up shop on rooftops, hair stylists are seeing clients in parks and under bridges, museums are

curating shows in their courtyards, and an indoor cycling studio has relocated to an empty lot.

## THE SKYSCRAPERS ARE EMPTY, BUT THE STREETS AND PARKS ARE FULL

## Hottest commodity in New York amid Covid? Fresh air

JANE MARGOLIES  
NEW YORK, AUGUST 21

BY LATE summer, New Yorkers are usually feeling grateful for the air-conditioned offices, gyms, restaurants, community centers, theaters and museums that abound in this vertical city.

Things are a little different

this year.

The more we know about the coronavirus — that it’s airborne, that it can float for hours in enclosed, poorly ventilated spaces — the more New Yorkers have embraced the outdoors, any way possible. There is also the simple fact that after the claustrophobic

quarantine this past spring — and with the possibility of a second wave shutting the city down again — New York’s fresh air has become a hot commodity.

The parks are lively, the bike paths teeming. Streets newly blocked off to traffic are filled with people seemingly having just discovered the pleasure of the stroll.

True, certain open-air rituals — baseball games at Citi Field and Yankee Stadium, Shakespeare in the Park — are gone, at least for now. Instead, we have socially distant porch concerts and outdoor comedy.

Many businesses have proved themselves to be endlessly creative. Companies have



Top doctors of the Omsk Ambulance Hospital No 1 in Omsk, Russia, speak to the media on Friday. The doctors had initially refused permission to transport Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny out of Russia, saying he was too ill. AP

## Russia allows gravely ill Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny to be airlifted to Germany

ANTON ZVEREV  
OMSK, AUGUST 21

RUSSIAN DOCTORS said on Friday gravely ill Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny could be flown to Germany to receive medical attention after the politician’s allies accused the Russian authorities of deliberately trying to stop his evacuation.

Navalny, a long-time opponent of President Vladimir Putin and his lieutenants and a campaigner against corruption, collapsed on a plane on Thursday after drinking tea that his allies believe was laced with poison.

German doctors flew in to evacuate Navalny, 44, at the request of his wife and supporters who said they feared authorities might try to cover up clues as to how he fell ill, and said the hospital treating him was badly equipped.

Russian medical staff at the hospital in Omsk, Siberia initially said on Friday Navalny’s condition had improved slightly overnight but that he was in too unstable a state to be safely transported out of the country.

But on Friday evening they said they would not object to him being moved after the German doctors were granted access to Navalny and said they thought he was fit to travel.

A senior doctor at the hospital, Anatoly Kalinichenko, said the hospital could help transport Navalny to the airport and that he would be moved within several hours.

“...We have taken the decision that we do not object to him being transferred to a different hospital,” Kalinichenko said.

## Foreign ministers of Pak, China discuss Kashmir, CPEC during strategic dialogue

KJM VARMA  
BEIJING, AUGUST 21

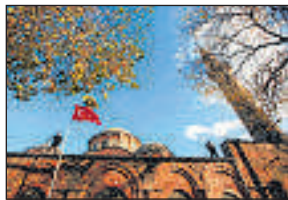
THE FOREIGN ministers of China and Pakistan held their second annual strategic dialogue on Friday, during which they discussed ways to enhance their all-weather bilateral ties, the Kashmir issue, progress on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the Afghan peace process.

Billed as “highly relevant” and “very important” by both countries ahead of the meeting held in the southern Chinese island resort of Hainan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi discussed a host of bilateral, regional and international issues.

A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting said “both sides underlined that a peaceful, stable, cooperative and prosperous South Asia was in common interest of all parties.”

“The Pakistani side briefed the Chinese side on the situation in Jammu & Kashmir, including its concerns, position and current urgent issues,” it said.

“The Chinese side reiterated that the Kashmir issue is a dispute left over from history between India and Pakistan... and that the dispute should be resolved peacefully and properly through the UN Charter, relevant Security Council resolutions and bilateral agreements. China opposes any unilateral actions that complicate the situation,” the joint press release said. PTI



The mediaeval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora. Reuters

## After Hagia Sophia, Turkey’s historic Chora church changed to a mosque

REUTERS  
ANKARA, AUGUST 21

TURKISH PRESIDENT Tayyip Erdogan reconverted the historic Chora church, one of Istanbul’s most celebrated Byzantine buildings, into a mosque on Friday, a month after opening the famed Hagia Sophia to Muslim worship.

The mediaeval Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, built near the ancient city walls of Constantinople, contains 14th century Byzantine mosaics and frescoes showing scenes from biblical stories.

They were plastered over after the city was conquered by the Muslim Ottomans in 1453, but brought to light again when — like Hagia Sophia — the building was converted to a museum by Turkey’s secular republic more than 70 years ago.

Erdogan, whose AK Party is rooted in political Islam, has positioned himself as a champion of Turkey’s pious Muslims and last month joined tens of thousands of worshippers in the first prayers at Hagia Sophia in 86 years.



Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I,Tarun Aggarwal,S/o Vishnu Kumar Aggarwal,R/O P-12,Gali.No.1,Shankar-Nagar-Ext.,Delhi-110051,inform that name of my-father hasbeen written as Vishnu Aggarwal in my DL.No.-DL1320100045365, Passport-No.-H8078443,Election-Voter ID-Card No.RRP1867927,Birth-Certificate and Educational-Documents.The actual name of my father is Vishnu Kumar Aggarwal which may be amended accordingly

0040545630-7

**I,hitherto** known as Ramesh Kumar,Son of Sh.Mangal Singh Employed Delhi-Police PIS.No.28941450,Residing at,B-904,9th-Floor,Flat-B,Police Housing-Complex, Rohini, Sector-11-Extension, Delhi-110085,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ramesh Singh Rawat. 0040545630-6

**I,hitherto** known as Phool Chand,S/o of Ramesh Kumar,Residing at,H.No.727,G-Block,Jahangirpuri,Delhi-110033,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vishal. 0040545630-5

**I,Nitisha** Sehrawat D/o Surendr Singh R/o H.No.1182, Near Veerpal Atta Chakki, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037, have declare that,in my school record my name mention-as Nitisha and in my Aadhar Card,Pancard my name mention-as Nitisha Sehrawat,.In future I,will be known as Nitisha Sehrawat for,all purposes.

0040545603-2

**I,Mohammad** Junad Siddiqui S/O-Mohammad Tahir Siddiqui R/O-P-84,Second Floor,Pocket-P,C.R.Park, New Delhi-110019, Have Changed My Name To Mohammad Juned Siddiqui,For All,Future Purposes. 0040545625-7

**I,Anju** Gupta,D/o Raghu Nandan Gupta and W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o-K-1/30,Budh-Vihar,Phase-1,Delhi-110086,after marriage,have changed my name to Anju Mahajan, for all purposes. 0040545625-5

**I,Akshay** Nagia,S/O-Sanjay Kumar R/O-House.No-RZF-760/2,Gali.No-3,RAJ Nagar-II,Palam Colony,New Delhi-110077,Have Changed My Minor Son's Name Prithvik Nagia To Panshul Nagia,For All,Future Purposes. 0040545625-6

**I,Aastha** Bajaj,W/o Ankit Kamra,D/o Late,Rajan Bajaj R/O-A-1/99,Sector-8,Rohini,Delhi-110085,have changed my name after marriage,from Aastha Bajaj to Anaisha Kamra,for all intent and purposes. 0040545630-3

**I,Virender** Singh S/O Surjeet Singh, R/O D-1005, Ajnara Daffodil, Sector-137, NOIDA-201305, have changed my name to Viren S Chaudhary vide affidavit dated 10-09-2020 at Noida. 0050167926-1

**I,Veena** Kumari W/o Ramesh Arora R/o Behind Sugar Mill Near Guest House, Nawanshahar, Punjab-144514, have changed my name to Veena Arora 0070711830-1

**I,Vikramaditya** Singh, s/o Vikram Singh, r/o E-17, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Vidit Singh Chauhan, 0040545614-1

**I,Uppu** Palakondaryadus S/o Sankaraiyah Uppu R/o Flat 107, SVR Pine Ridge Jakkur Layout, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560092, have changed my name to Arthur Lovian and I have changed only my name not my Religion 0070711848-1

**I,Syeda** Fatma Rizvi D/o,Syed Ghulam Hussain Rizvi R/O-E-225,Ist-Floor, Flat.No-16, Abul Fazal Enclave-2,Shaheen Bagh,Jamia-Nagar, New Delhi-110025,have changed my name to Syeda Tehseen Fatima for all purposes 0040545566-1

**I,Swati** Choudhary W/o Kaushal Kumar Singh R/o 712, Avas Vikas Model Colony, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand-249407, have changed my name to Swati Singh 0070711810-1

**I,Swarn** Kaur,w/o Late.Pala Singh R/o-F1/254,D.D.A-Flats,Near Gurdwara,Sunder Nagari,Delhi-110093,have changed my name to Sawaran Kaur permanently. 0040545625-4

**I,Sheela** Mitchell D/o Hari Prashad R/O A 304, SLV Essenza, Nehru Nagar, Jakkur Layout, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064, have changed my name to Sheelu S for all purpose 0070711843-1

**I,Shaggun** Kapoor W/o Vikas Kapoor R/O-RZ-121-A, Indra Park, Uttam Nagar,N.Delhi-59,have changed my name to Shagun Kapoor. 0040545630-1

**I,Sayani** Pal D/o Debashish Goswami R/O AC/30/10/1, Das Para, Rajarhat Gopalpur, North 24 Paraganas, WB-700059, have changed my name to Sayani Goswami 0070711807-1

**I,Sagar** S/o Pankaj Kumar R/O Baba Chowk, Bank Colony, Patel Nagar, Povel Public School, Keshari Nagar, Patna, Bihar-800024, have changed my name to Sagar Jha 0070711823-1

**I,Rameshwar** Dayal Sharma,S/O R.K.P.Sharma, R/O JG-32, 2nd Floor, Khirki Ext., Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017 have changed my name to Rameshwar Sharma for all purposes. 0070711812-1

**I,Ramesh** Kumar S/O Hans Raj R/O Behind Sugar Mill Near Guest House, Nawanshahar, Punjab-144514, have changed my name to Ramesh Arora 0070711826-1

**I,Priya** Sharma,D/o Suresh Chand Sharma,W/o Ravi Grover,H.No.1173, Sector-10A,Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122001,have changed my name to Priya Grover. 0040545630-4

**I,Pratibha** Panwar W/o Sandeep Singh Chaudhary, R/O House No-99, Mansi Vihar, Sector-23, Raj Nagar, PO Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP-201002, declare that name of my minor child and mine has been wrongly written as Gitansh Chaudhary and Pratibha Chaudhary respectively in my minor son Advait Chaudhary aged 3 years in his Birth Records. The actual name of my minor child and mine is Advait Chaudhary and Pratibha Panwar respectively 0070711846-1

**I,Pragati** Giri S/o Vishwanath Giri R/O Sai Sankalp Society, Room No-204, Sector-6, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Maharashtra-400701, have changed my name to Pratip Mishra 0070711811-1

**I,Poonam** Malhotra D/o Chandra Mohan Malhotra R/O E-311, First Floor, Greater Kailash-2, New Delhi-110048, have changed my name from Poonam Yadav To Poonam Malhotra for all future purposes. 0040545611-1

**I,Pawan** Kumari,D/o Lakh Raj Singh R/O-14 Main-Road Kotla Village Patparganj,Delhi-110091, have changed my name to Pawani Kumari. 0040545630-9

**I,Parveen** Kumari W/o Sanjeev Kapoor R/O House Number-79, Street No-13, Kamalpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146001, have changed my name to Parveen Kapoor 0070711825-1

**I,Neha** Kumari D/o Jayprakash Singh R/O Flat No-406, Techno Residency, Arpana Bank Colony, Ram Jaipal Path Belly Road, Rupaspur, Patna, Bihar-801503, have changed my name to Neha Parashar 0070711815-1

**I,Paresh** Dhake, S/O Prakash Dhake, R/O 69, Sadar Apartment, Mayur Vihar Delhi, have changed my name to Paresh Prakash Dhake for all purposes. 0040545585-1

**I,Murta** Bai Meena D/o Bharat Lal Meena R/O Village-Bagdoli. Tehsil Bonli, District-Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan-322023, have changed my name to Aaravi Beflawat for all purpose 0070711803-1

**I,Md** Faruk S/o Mohd Mohabbat Ali R/O-478,Village & Post-Pasonda, Mittha Kua, Sahibabad,Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Farookh. 0040545630-2

**I,Minky** D/o,Manak Kaushik R/O-B-5/13,Model Town-I,Delhi-110009,have changed my name to Tushita Kaushik,for all purposes. 0040545625-2

**I,Mahesh** Kumar Alias Mahesh Yadav S/o Hari Krishan Yadav R/O House No-15, Ground Floor, Road No-1, West Punjabi bagh Extn., New Delhi-110026, have changed my name to Mahesh Yadav 0070711819-1

**I,Mandeep** Kaur w/o Vikas Kumar r/o M-33, Mohan Garden, Delhi 110059 have changed my Name to DIVYA KUMARI. 0040545606-1

**I,Krishn** Kumar Gupta,S/o Baij Nath Prasad Gupta R/O-H.No.32, Agrasen Colony, Bhangel Begampur-V, Noida, GautamBudh Nagar, Phase-2,have changed my to Krishna Kumar Gupta for all purposes infuture 0040545603-1

**I,Kiran** Sehrawat,D/o Surendr Singh R/o H.No.1182, Near Veerpal Atta Chakki, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037, have declare that,in my addharcard & Pancard, my father name mention-as Surender Singh and,in Education-record mention as Surender,.In future ,I will be known as Kiran Sehrawat D/o Surender Singh for all purposes. 0040545603-3

**I,Kamlesh** Meena D/o Mali Ram Meena R/O 5903, B-Block, street No-126, Near Khushal Chowk, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to Komal Meena 0070711824-1

**I,Kajal**@Kajal Sejwar,D/o Sh.Ashok Kumar@Ashok Kumar Sejwar,R/O-Nagala Dalaf-Kala Chauraupur Mainpuri Chauraupur,UP-206303 have changed my name to Ayesha and Also Relinquish Hinduism and Embraced Islam,for all purposes,in future. 0040545630-8

**I,Kailashwati** Sharma, W/o R.K.P.Sharma, R/O JG-32, 2nd Floor, Khirki Ext., Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017 have changed my name to Kailash Sharma for all purposes. 0070711813-1

I, Ina Ratra w/o Kartik Ratra, R/o Hibiscus 1404, Paramount Floraville, Noida sector-137, nr Felix hospital, Surajpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, 201306 (UP) have changed my name to Ina Arora permanently.

0040545554-1

I, Harkesh Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/O House no-159A, Ward No-3, Cheema, Tehsil Sunam, Sangrur, Punjab-148029, have changed my minor son's name from Sameer Jindal aged 14 years to Devansh Jindal forever

0070711808-1

I, Har Swroop S/o Jagdish Singh at 503SU,Air-Force-Station Arjangarh,New-Delhi-110047, have change my name,from Har Swroop to Harswaroop Singh vide-affidavit-date-18/07/2020

0040545640-1

I, Manikant Jhariya S/o Shashi Kumar R/O 971/10, Nanda Nagar, Indore, MP-452001, have changed my name to Naman Mehra 0070711821-1

I, Gurpreet Singh Chawla S/o-Pritam Singh R/O-G-20/6A, Second-Floor, Rajouri garden New-Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Gurpreet Singh. 0040545625-3

I, Gurpreet Kaur W/o Surinder Singh R/O-H.No.-60 Kh.No.123/2,Cross-Road Sant Nagar-Burari North Delhi-110084,Gurmeet Kaur My Correct name is Gurpreet Kaur same and one person

0040545566-2

I, Guddi Devi W/o Rajbir Singh R/o House No-96, SOS Wali Gali, Indraj Colony, Bawana, Delhi-110039, have changed my name to Urmila Devi 0070711809-1

I, Gaurav Krishna Barman S/O Ashok Kumar Barman R/O J3-701, Parsvnath Prestige, Sector-93A, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my minor son's name from Ishaan Krishna Barman aged 2 years to Kriyaaan Krishna Barman forever

0070711845-1

I, Bhupinder Kaur w/o Vir Singh R/O 8/100, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi-110015 have changed my name to BHUPINDRA KAUR.

0040545540-1

I, Amna Khatoun w/o Mohsin Khan R/O-Flat.No-13,Block-68, Sec-1,Pushp Vihar, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Amna Samad, permanently.

0040545625-8

I, Ajay Kumar Uppal s/o Atma Ram Uppal r/o BG-6/240-C, DDA flats, Paschim Vihar, ND-110063 have changed my name to AJAY UPPAL. 0040545546-1

I,hitherto Known as Ruchika Singh wife of Rohit Malyan R/o WP-402, Wazirpur Village, Ashok Vihar, Delhi -110052 have changed my name and shall hereafter known as RUCHIKA SINGH MALYAN. 0040545528-1

I,Shalu Sharma W/O, Hemant Kumar R/O H No-40, T/f, F/s, Vipin Garden, Uttam Nagar, Delhi - 110059 have changed my name to Shalu Bhardwaj for all purposes. 0040545620-1

I Kulraj Singh S/O, Manna Singh R/O B-29, Second Floor, Street No. 10, Krishna Park Extn. Tilak Nagar, West Delhi - 110018. have changed my name to Avtar Singh 0040545616-1

I,Ina Ratra W/O, Kartik Ratra, R/O. Hibiscus -1404,Paramount Floraville, Sector 137, Noida, Near FelixHospital, Surajpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, 201306 (UP)have changed my Name From Ina Ratra To Ina Arora for all purposes. 0070711837-1

I,Hemlata Mittal W/O, Suman Mittal R/O Rz-34, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Hema Mittal 0040545618-1

I Hans Raj Khosliya,S/o Chet Ram R/o 16/830-E, Bapa Nagar Karol Bagh,Delhi-5,have changed my name to Hans Raj. 0040545625-1

I Chirag Pandya R/o RZH-775, Gali No-13, Rajnagar Part2 Palam New Delhi Have Changed My Minor Son Name From Vyom To Vyom Pandya

0040545551-1

I, Krishn Kumar Gupta,S/o Baij Nath Prasad Gupta R/O-H.No.32, Agrasen Colony, Bhangel Begampur-V, Noida, GautamBudh Nagar, Phase-2,have changed my to Krishna Kumar Gupta for all purposes infuture 0040545603-1

I, Kiran Sehrawat,D/o Surendr Singh R/o H.No.1182, Near Veerpal Atta Chakki, Mahipalpur, New Delhi-110037, have declare that,in my addharcard & Pancard, my father name mention-as Surender Singh and,in Education-record mention as Surender,.In future ,I will be known as Kiran Sehrawat D/o Surender Singh for all purposes. 0040545603-3

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0070711813-1

SITUATION VACANT

A Sr. Sec. School in Rohini Req. Exp and Qualified Staff:

1) Principal

2) Teacher All Subjects

3) Admin/Non Teaching Staff

Apply: infooschool7@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sarfa Tiwari W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Tiwari R/o RZ-39K, Gali No. 5A, Kamal Park, Sagarpur, Palam Colony, New Delhi-45 has severed all relations with her daughter-in-law Asha Tiwari W/o Late Sh. Anoop Tiwari @ Babloo and her Grandson Ansh for all purposes and has disowned & debarred them from her all movable & immovable properties due to disobedience and my client shall not be responsible for any acts & deeds done by them.

MAHENDER SINGH YADAV Advocate

Lawyers Chamber No. 636 Dwarika Cross Street, Sec-10 Dwarika, New Delhi-110075 Mob. No. 981463962

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public is hereby informed that my client Sh. VINOD KUMAR S/O Late H.S. & H.S. WIFE SARMA JAHAN, BOTH R/O K-18, Gali No.5, Gangpur Vihar, Ghosia, DAVAPUR, DISTT. NORTH-EAST, DELHI-11004 have severed all their relations from their four daughters namely, (1) MST ANNA W/O INDRKA, (2) MST MEHAR W/O SHYAM, (3) MST ANJALI S/O W/O BHASKAR, BOTH R/O ANAND S/O W/OARIF R/O H.NO.429 K-BLOCK, SUNDER NAGAR, DELHI-110053 and (4) MST W/O SALIM R/O H.NO.85 5TH FLOOR, I-BLOCK, SUNDER NAGAR, DELHI-110053 have severed their above said four daughters from all their movable & immovable properties. My clients hereby further restrain their above said four daughters from visiting them at their residence.

Davinder Kumar (Advocate)

Ch. No. K-66, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054 (M): 9868162370

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that my clients Sh. Vinod Kumar S/o Sh. Rampraj Singh and Smt. Rajesh W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar both R/O K-18, Gali No.5, Gangpur Vihar, Ghosia, Delhi-110053 have disinherited and abandoned their son Sh. Rohit and their Daughter-in-law Smt. Ajay W/o Sh. Rohit Chh Sh. Kavya Singh from the inheritance of all their movable & immovable properties. My clients hereby further restrain their above said son & daughter from visiting them at their residence.

Sd/- RAJIV KUMAR SHARMA 60401 Ch. No. 52-A (Basement), Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Please take notice that My Client Smt. Ranjeet Kaur W/o Late Sh. Rattan Singh, R/O C-54, DTC Colony, Har Nagar, New Delhi-110054, Has Disowned her son Shri Indraj Singh and His Wife Smt. Swarnjeet Kaur who are Residing Separately at from my client at Gurgaon, from all her Moveable & immovable properties and also severed all her relations with them, if any body deals with said Indraj Raj Singh and His Wife Smt. Swarnjeet Kaur in any Manner Whatsoever shall do so at His/Her/Their Own Risk and my client shall not be Responsible for acts and deeds of the Above Said persons.

Hemant Kumar (Advocate)

(Eno.D4447/2016) Delhi High Court Ch. No. 412, Dwarika Courts, New Delhi-110075

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Ram Devi W/o Late Sh. Santosh Kumar R/o T-43-44 Green Avenue, Vikas Nagar, New Delhi-59 has severed all her relations from her Sons 1. Sh. Paras Kumar, his wife Smt. Rokmani & 2. Sh. Narendra, his wife Smt. Parvati, their legal heirs & associates, disowned & debarred all of them from all her movable & immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment and abuse, cruelty & atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

Advocate A. K. Verma 319, DC, Janakpuri

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sushila Prakash Singh, Smt. C.K. Prakash R/o Flat No. S-01,354, Niti Khand 1, Indira Puram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 is the owner of the property bearing no. 410, D-16, Sector-7, Rohini Delhi-110085. A Civil Suit bearing no. CS-1718/2019 is pending at Rohini Court Delhi. Public at large is informed not to deal with said property for any purpose through any person.

Arvind Mishra, Advocate

Ch.No. 911, Chamber Block, Rohini Court Complex, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client Sh. Anup Singh S/o Late Sh. Sampurnan Singh R/o 17, Gautam Vihar Smt. Kamawleet R/o W/o Sh. Anup Singh, Both R/O E-44, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash Enclave-2, New Delhi-110048, have debarred their son Charanjit Singh, their daughter-in-law Rashmeet Kaur W/o Sh. Charanjit Singh and their Grandson Manraj Singh, from their all movable-immovable properties and severed their relationship with them due to their ill-behavior & misconduct. Anybody deals with them in future, shall Be Responsible Him/her self.

Veeni Bansal (Advocate)

Enrl.No. D-1749/2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client Sh. Anup Singh S/o Late Sh. Sampurnan Singh R/o 17, Gautam Vihar Smt. Kamawleet R/o W/o Sh. Anup Singh, Both R/O E-44, Ground Floor, Greater Kailash Enclave-2, New Delhi-110048, have debarred their son Charanjit Singh, their daughter-in-law Rashmeet Kaur W/o Sh. Charanjit Singh and their Grandson Manraj Singh, from their all movable-immovable properties and severed their relationship with them due to their ill-behavior & misconduct. Anybody deals with them in future, shall Be Responsible Him/her self.

Veeni Bansal (Advocate)

Enrl.No. D-1749/2005

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Supriya Devi W/o Late Sh. Govind Ram R/o T-783/A, Gali No. 6, Prem Nagar Road, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-8 has severed all her relations from her Grand Son Ashish Nayak @ Akshay & disowned him from all her movable & immovable properties, family & social relations with immediate effect because of his involvement in illegal & criminal activities, harassment, torture, cruelty & atrocities committed by him against my client. Any person dealing with him, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not be responsible in any manner for the same.

Sd/- VIKRAM VISHAL MINHAS ADVOCATE

N-212, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it Known to public at large that my client Mrs. Kaushalya (Aadhaar No. 461961128765) W/o Late Shri Bhagwan Das R/o C-571, JI Colony Phase-2 Nangloi, Niothi, West Delhi 110041. Do hereby disown and disinherit their son Sh. Brij Mohan Singh, their daughter-in-law Smt. Neha R/o C-571, JI Colony Phase-2 Nangloi, Niothi, West Delhi 110041 as they are no more faithful to my client and beyond their control. They shall have no right whatsoever to claim any share in the movable and immovable properties of my client and anybody dealing with them in respect to my client's properties, business or in any manner whatsoever shall be doing so at his/her own cost and risk for which my client shall not be held liable socially, morally or legally for any of their act.

Sd/- VIKRAM VISHAL MINHAS ADVOCATE

N-212, Greater Kailash-I, New Delhi-110048

दक्षिणावर्त सिन्थेटिक ग्लू एडिशन नोडल लिमिटेड

ई-टेंडर नोटिस

E-OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. ECR/CAO/CON/TS/2020-21/03. E-TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open). Sealed open tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the under mentioned work.

1. Name of work with it's location for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) : Fabrication & Supply of assembly for Improved Switch Expansion Joint (ISEJ) to RDSO Drg. No. T-6902 (Alteration-3) for long welded Rail with 80 mm max. gap BG, 60 Kg, UIC on PSC Sleepers. Conforming to IRS Specification No. T-10-2000 with Corrigendum no. 1 of Dec-2016 and Technical specification for Improved SEJ: Provisional 2008. Corrigendum No. 1 of Dec-2016 Complete in all respect with Fittings as per drawing. (Fittings List as per Annexure - A. Latest alternation to RDSO Drg No. T-6902 and latest corrigendum to IRS specification/Technical specification as applicable 10 days before the date of closing of e-tender will be applicable.)

2. Approx cost of the work for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) : ₹7,20,72,731.50.

3. Earnest money to be deposited for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) : ₹14,41,460/-

4. Date & time of closing of e-tender : At 15.00 hrs. on 09.09.2020.

5. Website particular, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and addressed of the office from where the tender form be purchased etc. : The complete details of tender document is available on website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

CAO/Con/South/ECR/Mahendrugahat, Patna

PR/0543/CON/Engg/T/20-21/48

दक्षिणावर्त सिन्थेटिक ग्लू एडिशन नोडल लिमिटेड

ई-टेंडर नोटिस

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CAO/Con/South/ECR/Mahendrugahat, Patna

PR/0543/CON/Engg/T/20-21/48

BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD

(Power Wing)

Corrigendum Notice Inviting E-tender

Tender reference No.: ENIT-2/2020-21/BLB

Name of Office: Addl. Superintending Engineer, BBMB, Ballabgarh, Sector-25 (Faridabad)

Name of work: Supply of D.C. Distribution Board for 220KV S/S/in., BBMB, Ballabgarh & Samaypur

Estimated Cost ₹ 13.01 Lacs

Last date of submission of pre-qualification documents 11.09.2020 upto 17:00 hrs.

Last date of receipt of tender 18.09.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.

The detailed Tender may be downloaded from website <https://bbmbproc.abcpbprocure.com> and [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)

1209-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA-171011

No: 432PM/4915-XCII

Short Term Tender Notice

HP Milkfed invites the online bids on item wise, in electronic tendering system, in 2 cover system for the following item on FOR basis:- 01, Black Gram=700 qtls, Soyabean(Yellow)=1050 qtls, Ground Nut Seed=250 qtls, Sugar(3-30)=2100qtls, Cotton Seed Refined Oil (Branded 15kg Tin Packing)=175 Qtls.

The Bid document is available/published online on dt. 22-08-2020 upto 03:00PM. Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission on bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate(DSC) from one of the authorized certifying Authorities (CA).

Aspiring bidders should visit website in <https://bptenders.gov.in> & <https://bpmilkfed.org> for complete details. Bidders should visit the website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any.

Sd/- Managing Director

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

1 Name of Work with its location Hiring of one number road Multi Utility Vehicle (INNOVA, SCORPIO/ERTIGA/TUV-300 OR EQUIVALENT) vehicle on monthly basis for Dy.CE/B/UTKJ for official use for a period of (02) two years.

2 Approx. Cost of work Rs. 13,57,039.04

3 Earnest Money Rs. 27200.00

4 Completion period of the work (24) Twenty Four months

5 Cost of Tender form Rs. 2000/- Note: - Cost of EMD & Tender Form should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on REPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016).

6 Date & time for submission of tender & opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 10.09.2020 Opening of tender after 15.00 hrs on same day

7 Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded Above tender available on IREPS site <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Tender Notice No: 32/WHIRE-MUV-DLI-2020-22 Date: 20.08.2020 1823/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEN/CMB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each column. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No. 67-DRM-MB-20-21 dt : 18.08.2020

Name of work Shifting of Cabins of 10 level crossings gates out of 16 Nos level crossing gates (LKO-MB 263, 268, 272, 312, 329, 348, MB-SRE 438, 487, 498, 508, MB-GZB 38, 91, 96, BE-CH-22, 23 & MB-CH-16).

Contract Type Works

Tender Closing Date 24.09.2020

Tender Closing Time 16:00 hrs.

Advertised Value (Rs.) Rs. 48,40,517.19

Earnest Money (Rs.) Rs. 96,800/-

Tender Doc. Cost (Rs.) Rs. 3000/-

Period of Completion 06 months

Bidding Start Date 10.09.2020

Tender No. 75-W/2/3/WA/DEN/HQ/T. Notice Dated : 21.08.2020. 1821/20

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

DIRECTORATE VETERINARY SERVICES CHHATTISGARH

Indravati Bhawan Ground Floor, Block-3, Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar Pin-492002

e-TENDER (SECOND) INVITATION NOTIFICATION

Online Tender is invited from licensed manufacturers, importer for supply of Veterinary Vaccines for Department of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh. The detailed schedule are as follows-

1. Date of Online Bid 20.08.2020

2. Last date of Tender Submission 18.09.2020 (5.30 PM)

The detailed tender documents and list of item are made available under Department-Livestock Development Department (LDD) on website <https://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in> and <https://www.agriportal.cg.nic.in/ahd>.

sd/- Director

Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh

83128

DELHI STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY

Dr. BSA Hospital, Sec-6, Rohini, Delhi-110085

Email: delhisacs1@gmail.com

Applications are invited by Delhi State AIDS Control Society to fill vacancies of Senior Medical Officer, Medical Officer, Counsellor, Data Manager, Pharmacist, ANM etc. at ART/OST centres under National AIDS Control Program. Interested candidates may visit DSACS website [http://web.delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit\\_dsacs/DSACS/Home](http://web.delhi.gov.in/wps/wcm/connect/doit_dsacs/DSACS/Home) (Vacancies and results) for details.

Dip/Shabdarth/0249/20-21 Addl. Project Director

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Website: [www.ircon.org](http://www.ircon.org), CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

Dated : 21.08.2020

e-Tenders in single packet system are invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of 'Hiring of Agency for Providing Utility Services for IRCON's premises in Delhi & NCR under Northern Region'.

Estimated Cost of Work ₹ 109







# 16 SPORT

## DON'T USE THE WORD 'RETIREMENT': PM MODI TO RAINA

"I do not want to use the word 'retirement' because you are too young and energetic to 'retire'," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a two-page note to Suresh Raina. This comes a day after PM Modi had written a similar note of appreciation to MSDhoni. PTI

# In non-Olympic year, Olympic-sized awards list

National awards: Sports ministry goes against own guidelines by announcing 74 winners

MIHIR VASAVDA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

RULE 10 in the entry form of India's two highest sporting honours – the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna and Arjuna Awards – lays down a fundamental principle.

"There will be only one award every year to be given to an individual sportsperson," reads point number 10.1 in the Khel Ratna invitation form. Rule 10.2 of the Arjuna Award states, "Normally not more than 15 awards could be given in any calendar year." In both cases, it is specified that the condition will be relaxed only in exceptional circumstances'.

On Friday, the sports ministry announced that for the first time, five athletes – cricketer Rohit Sharma, wrestler Vinesh Phogat, table tennis player Manika Batra, India women's hockey captain Rani Rampal and Paralympian Mariyappan T – will be conferred the Khel Ratna. And for the Arjuna Awards, a jumbo list of 27 athletes has been approved.

As per the sports ministry's guidelines, there should be a total of 32 awardees across the seven categories, with a few exceptions allowed in each. This year, however, the government announced there will be an unprecedented 74 awardees. "It is important to maintain the dignity of these awards," said two-time Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar, who won the Khel Ratna in 2009 and Arjuna in 2005. "This isn't even an Olympic year."

An Olympic year, or other years when a multi-discipline event is held, is an exception when government rules allow the number of awardees to exceed the prescribed limit. Rule 10.2 of the Arjuna Award continues: "Keeping in view the performance of Indian sportspersons in the Commonwealth, Asian Games and Olympic Games during a particular year... Arjuna Awards exceeding 15 in number may be allowed with proper justification and approval of Minister-in-charge for Youth Affairs & Sports."

This was one of the reasons why, in 2016, there were four Khel Ratnas – Rio medallists PV Sindhu and Sakshi Malik, gymnast Dipa Karmakar who exceeded most expectations to finish fourth at the Games and Jitu Rai, who flopped at the Olympics but received the award for a string of standout perform-



Manika Batra will be the first table tennis player to receive the Khel Ratna. *PTI*

ances in the preceding two years.

Before 2016, there had been just one Khel Ratna every year, barring a couple of exceptions (like in 2002, when KM Beenamol and Anjali Bhagwat were named joint winners amidst a lot of controversy). After 2016, there have been two winners each year. This time, the number is five.

Paddler Batra, who is among the awardees, is a rare case when an athlete has been conferred the Khel Ratna based largely on gold medals won at the Commonwealth Games. Batra is the first table tennis player to receive this award, for which performances between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2019, were considered.

In 2018, Batra became the first Indian woman to win a table tennis title at the Commonwealth Games. At Gold Coast, she won four medals, including two gold. Later that year, she partnered Sharath Kamal – a trailblazer for Indian table tennis – to win

the mixed doubles bronze medal at the Asian Games. Batra was feted with the Arjuna Award in 2018 for these performances. For the same achievements, the paddler currently ranked 63rd in the world will now get the Khel Ratna.

Rohit Sharma is only the fourth cricketer to be honoured with this award after Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni and Virat Kohli. While nominating him, former India captain and cricket board president Sourav Ganguly, who received the Arjuna Award but not the Khel Ratna, said the batsman 'is worthy of getting the prestigious Khel Ratna award for his commitment, conduct, consistency and his leadership skills.'

As per the rules, 'for cricket and indigenous games, not included in Olympic/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games disciplines, the selection committee will take into consideration their individual performances.' In the past, several cricketers, including former

MEET THE KHEL RATNAS

VINESH PHOGAT

■ Won back-to-back gold medals in 2018 at the Commonwealth and Asian Games. She followed that stellar run with two bronze medals in 2019 – at the Asian Championship and World Championship, where she sealed her quota for the Tokyo Olympics.

ROHIT SHARMA

■ Since the beginning of 2017, he has scored more ODI centuries than anyone else – 18. In 2019 alone, he scored 556 runs at an average of 92.66 in five Test matches and 1,657 ODI runs at 57.30. He also scored five centuries at the 2019 World Cup.

MARIYAPPAN THANGAVELU

■ Won a gold medal at the Rio Paralympics, India's first at the Games since 2004. In 2019, Thangavelu – who competes in the high jump – won a bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championship. In 2017, he was accused of killing a youth who collided with his car. The case, however, was dismissed by the Madras High Court.

RANI RAMPAL

■ At the Rio Olympics, the Indian women's hockey team finished 12th out of 12 teams. It finished fourth at the 2018 Commonwealth Games but managed to win the silver medal at the Asian Games. In 2019, the team defeated the USA in the qualifiers to secure their place at the Tokyo Olympics. Throughout this period, Rani was the team's captain.

MANIKA BATRA

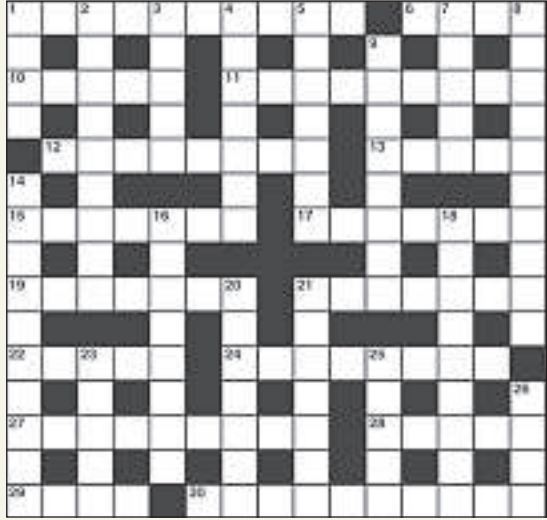
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*\* Performances between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2019, taken into consideration*

the committee that selected the awardees.

**ARJUNA AWARDEES:** Atanu Das (Archery), Dutee Chand (Athletics), Satwik Sairaj Rankireddy (Badminton), Chirag Chandrasekhar Shetty (Badminton), Vishesh Bhriguvanshi (Basketball), Subedar Manish Kaushik (Boxing), Lovlina Borgohain (Boxing), Ishant Sharma (Cricket), Deepti Sharma (Cricket), Sawant Ajay Anant (Equestrian), Sandesh Jhingam (Football), Aditi Ashok (Golf), Akashdeep Singh (Hockey), Deepika (Hockey), Deepak (Kabaddi), Kale Sarika Sudhakar (Kho Kho), Dattu Baban Bhokanal (Rowing), Manu Bhaker (Shooting), Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting), Madhurika Suhas Patkar (Table Tennis), Divij Sharan (Tennis), Shiva Keshavan (Winter Sports), Divya Kakran (Wrestling), Rahul Aware (Wrestling), Suyash Narayan Jadhav (Para Swimming), Sandeep Para (Athletics) Manish Narwal (Para Shooting).

## CROSSWORD 4204



### ACROSS

- Tina in mood that's awkward gets a warning (10)
- Career people (4)
- A reflective attitude taken by a storyteller (5)
- There are strong links between its members (5,4)
- Spring after spring, it never fails to surprise me (4,4)
- Trainee acted badly (5)
- Looks at with an expression of friendliness (7)
- Skill taught in laboratories (7)
- Improvised score? (7)
- Beginning again, we learn afresh (7)
- Highest form of wit? (5)
- Attacked as the ship left port (8)
- Agitated like the farm animal that is in the net perhaps (9)
- Dad set out with stick (5)
- May be sent home (4)
- He goes riding after the ball (4,6)

### Down

- Open with a shock (4)
- Germs seen to be spread by a carrier (9)
- Plane crash in Asia (5)
- They admit they're often punched (7)
- They gave advice so wise and so clear, perhaps (7)
- A minor prize (5)
- Sound indication that a watch is fully wound up? (5,5)
- Idleness indeed (8)
- He's a hard case (10)
- Line of sight? (8)
- State of recently purchased garment? (3,6)
- He gets a countermand to stop at sea (5,2)
- Italian dish Rex is to turn to (7)
- Takes a trip round French city (5)
- Drive for mile trip round Polish capital (5)
- Stern breed? (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4203:** Across: 1 Package, 5 Husky, 8 Rush order, 9 Ire, 10 Efts, 12 One-sided, 14 Touchy, 15 Pitted, 17 Subtract, 18 Etna, 21 Lea, 22 Twentieth, 24 Dylan, 25 Simpsters. Down: 1 Purse, 2 Cos, 3 Amos, 4 Ending, 5 Hardship, 6 Spindrift, 7 Yielded, 11 Thumbnaill, 13 Sheraton, 14 Tussled, 16 Octets, 19 Athos, 20 Item, 23 Ewe.

## JUMBLER 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.

You're never \_\_\_\_ to become \_\_\_\_ – Mae West (3,3,,7)

WEOOR



UNREAL



RROOT

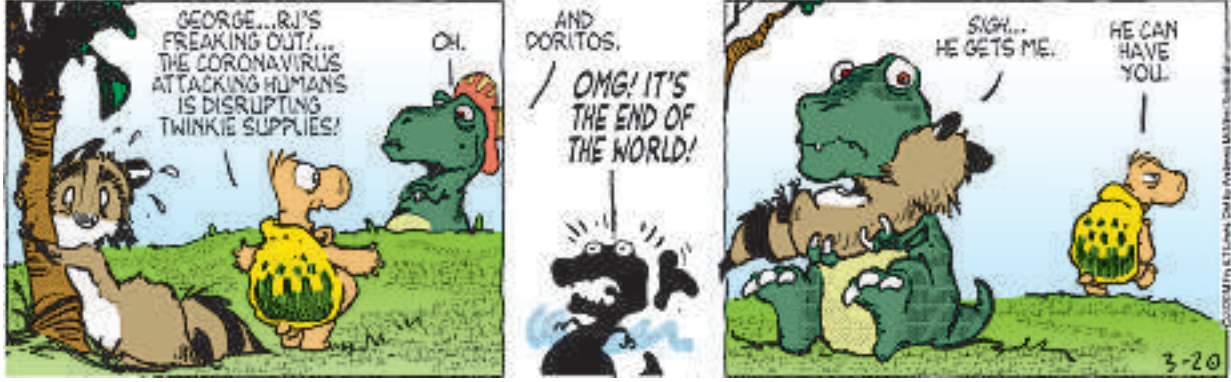


AFLDGY



ANSWER: You're never **too old** to become **younger** – Mae West

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4208

### Difficulty Level 3s

#### Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

### Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4207



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

It is very pleasant indeed to report that the stars are making life a great deal simpler. Don't take everything at face value though, or other people may find it easier to pull the wool over your eyes. It's fine to be naive, but not if you allow yourself to be exploited.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The most simple reading of your chart indicates nothing more than pleasant shopping trips. I have a feeling that superficial pursuits suit you best at the moment, partly because relationships have been so intense that you could do with a break.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Partnership and matrimonial questions should be given a priority today. There are few indications of stress, which is precisely why it is useful to make certain positive moves to head off problems. You'd be so happy if people put you under less pressure.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Before very much longer you will have to deal with someone who seems to be in a perpetual state of emotional tension. This is doing nobody any good, but it may be up to you, as a compassionate Cancer, to step in and help to heal personal hurts and upsets.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Decisive action is called for, but may not be possible. Actually, this looks like one of those days when you may duck out of all your commitments and dedicate your life to self-indulgence. Perhaps partners will agree that it's all for the best.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The general state of the stars is deeply intense, and somewhat crisis-prone. I would not be surprised to see a number of Virgos walking around with feet firmly placed in their mouths, saying the wrong thing without meaning to. Helpful talks with relatives should straighten you out.

### LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

A set of serious financial influences has been sending cash matters into a spin. Try to stop caring so much about money, and you might find that some difficulties are exacerbated by your own failure to get personal and professional priorities in order.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

It's well-known that spending money cheers people up! This is just what I'd prescribe for you right now. Don't take risks, though, because an air of complacency suggests that you'll overlook certain essential details. You don't want to throw good money after bad, now, do you?

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

Within twenty-four hours you will experience a planetary combination that conclusively ties professional and public prestige to financial prosperity. This is part of a five-year cycle dealing with deep, but positive, undercurrents, so don't expect instant results.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

If you're not sure what's going on, it's because you're looking in the wrong place. This is a day to welcome mystery and intrigue. In the final analysis your day-dreams may mean more to you than so-called 'real-life'. They might even reveal the answers to tired old problems.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Professionals are still so intense that many of you may be unable to relax sufficiently to enjoy the Moon's sociable functions. Even leisure pursuits will need to be competitive and ambitious. Whatever you do, whoever you do it with, you'll want to come top.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Venus is one of those fortunate planets that guarantees financial success well, almost! First, you will have to grapple with a legal question or moral issue that seems to be troubling your conscience. As you know, some values are much more important than whether you make a profit or not.

## Crawley's ton makes it England's day

SANDIPG  
AUGUST 21

THE FIRST day of the final Test could not have gone better for England, nor could it have gone much worse for Pakistan. Zak Crawley scored an unbeaten 171, his maiden Test century, and Jos Buttler rattled out a blazing 87, as England ended the day on 332/4 and Pakistan sunk without a trace. From the moment Crawley dispatched his first ball from Shaheen to the mid-wicket boundary, there was a calm authority about him throughout his 269-ball stay. A cracking pull shot off Naseem Shah showed he's not daunted by pace.

Neither he is by spin. For a tall batsman, he was remarkably lithe against Yasir Shah, whose variations he read adroitly. Surprisingly, his arch-nemesis are the medium pacers, line-and-length metronomes like Mohammad Abbas. The latter has troubled him in the county circuit, but he dealt him expertly by batting outside the crease to counter the movement. At times he even walked down to the track to work him off the legs. Like the brace that took him to 99. In the same over, he completed his hundred with a punch through covers.

Like most tall players—he is six feet five inches—he is supremely strong off the back-foot. As his innings unfolded, he demonstrated his front-foot prowess too, languidly striding to the pitch of the ball and cajoling the ball through covers or extra cover, like the one crunched to complete his half-century. He made the supremely-talented brigade of Pakistan fast-bowling look pedestrian.

So did Buttler, whose spot was under scrutiny until the Old Trafford chase. His confidence unshackled, he batted with a streak of freedom that defines his limited-overs game. As a result, England accelerated. From the 65th to 75th over, they plundered 53 runs, and most of the runs flew from Buttler's blade, who blended aggression with judiciousness.

He was masterful in demolishing Yasir, who he punished for 16 runs in an over including two mammoth sixes back over his head. Together, they allayed fears of a collapse after England plunged to 127/4.

**BRIEFS SCORES:** England 332/4 (Z Crawley 171 not out, J Buttler 87 not out) vs Pakistan.