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JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

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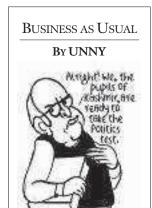
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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**NAGATALKS: BRIDGING THE** NARRATIVE DIVIDE

**BY SANJIB BARUAH** 

PAGE 8





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

### Bihar polls: In EC guidelines, last hour of voting day for

#### RITIKA CHOPRA & **SANTOSH SINGH**

Covid cases

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 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-

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 comand VVPATs, and completed training of returning officers.

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

**RJD: MAY IMPACT VOTING PAGE 5** 

## Nine killed in Telangana powerhouse fire

Five engineers among dead, survivors

Red flags raised over dam's poor say they stayed back to control fire

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, AUGUST 21

A FIRE swept through the Srisailam Left Bank Power Station on the Telangana-Andhra Pradesh border late on Thursday night, leaving nine dead, including five engineers of State Power 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 EVenkat Rao. The others who died were two TSGenco junior attendants Ram Babu and Kiran Kumar, and two employees of a company given the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

**ANIL SASI** 

THE FIRE in the underground hydroelectric power station on the left bank of the Srisailam 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

The poor financial situation of utilities also typically translates into illegular maintenance and upkeep of other parts of the

The foundation of the dam

upkeep, funds crunch in 2 states 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### **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

The note, received by the Ministry late July, states that the "Chinese government has built an outreach system comprising think tanks and business for a 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

### 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. CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### Covid effect: 61% students defer plan to study abroad, says study shared with The Indian Express.

**RITIKA CHOPRA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE COVID-19 pandemic has forced Indian students to rethink their higher education choices abroad, with 61 per cent of them deciding to defer their course of study by a year, 8 per cent choosing to study in a different country and another 7 per cent cancelling their plan survey by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a British agency that brings out the World University Rankings every year, has found.

The findings are part of an ongoing survey by QS of prospective international students and how the Covid crisis has impacted their study plans. As of August 11, the survey had 66,959 responses, of which

### **QS SURVEY**

61% plan to defer their course of study till 2021; 8% intend to study in a different country; 7% cancel plans to study abroad

82% want a tuition fee discount if they have to start their degree programme online; 5% feel tuition fee should

> Survey of 11,310 Indian students who planned to study abroad this year

11,310 are Indians. According to the segregated data on Indian students that QS almost half the respondents (49) per cent) plan to study at 'postgraduate-by-coursework' level (MBA, Master's and graduate diploma), another 19 per cent at 'postgraduate-by-research' level (Master's and PhD) and 29 per cent want to pursue undergraduate studies abroad. The remaining are planning to pursue English language studies, founeducation and training. The decision to put off higher

studies abroad by a year could be attributed to several universities moving their Fall Semester entirely online. Almost half (48%) the Indian students were not keen on studying their programme online due to the pandemic. Only 17% responded by

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE



KEYSTATES Towatch	TOTAL CASES	SURGEIN 24HOURS	7-DAYAVG 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 DAILY IN. DAILY OUT

CASE FATALITY RATIO 7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.95

1.89 Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %)

**POSITIVITY RATE** 7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.89

indicator of progress in averting deaths (in %): indicator of

8.68 Positives against number tested Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days

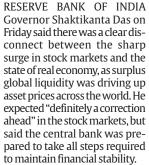
DETECTED TODAY

68,898

may signal the peal

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

### **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AUG 21



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



Disconnect between

economy and stock

Global liquidity driving up asset prices,

correction likely, says Shaktikanta Das

markets: RBI Gov

Shaktikanta

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 defi-

"Woh aage jaa ke correction toh zaroor hoga, yeh kab hoga nahin CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

nitely disconnected with the real

economy)," he said.

### 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.

REPORT, PAGE 5

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

On June 25, the court staved 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 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

### **WORLD**



U.S. 'SEASON OF DARKNESS'

### **EXPLAINED**



**DEFEAT TRUMP, END** 



**READING THE PAK-SAUDIRIFT** 

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

### **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 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



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

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

The hotel has been divided

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.

into three zones, with players

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 excluchise team.

sive use by members of the fran-

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 **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

New Delhi

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### 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

### **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.

### **BMC** revises institutional quarantine guidelines, to 'counsel' patients above 50

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

BRIHANMUMBAI Municipal Corporation revised its home isolation guidelines again Friday to allow coronavirus-afflicted patients aged above 50 years to observe quarantine at home or opt for government or private hospitals. Civic officials said they will only "counsel" patients from the age group to seek institutional isolation at Covid Care Centres, but not make it mandatory.

On Wednesday, BMC's executive health officer Dr Mangala Gomare had issued guidelines to all assistant commissioners stat $ing \verb|`no| home| isolation| should| be$ allowed" for Covid-19 patients aged above 50 years, irrespective of their symptoms and co-mor-

"A lot of people said there will be fear in getting tested if institutional quarantine is made compulsory. We have changed the wordings of the guidelines. Our health workers will try and counsel patients for institutional quarantine," Gomare said Friday.

The revised guidelines state: "Asymptomatic patients with comorbidity above the age of 50 years will be persuaded not to observe home quarantine in the interest of their own wellbeing." It states asymptomatic patients above 50 years will be allowed to observe quarantine at home "if they wish to".

Civic officials said the option of hospitalisation at Covid Care

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

KARNATAKA CONGRESS chief D

K Shivakumar Friday said he has

doubts that his phone was being

tapped and sought an investiga-

tion into it. State Home Minister

Basavarai Bommai, however, rub-

bished Shivakumar's claims and

said the BJP government would

hear the voice, all these days it was

fine.... from morning I have tried

about 20 calls, the voice is not au-

dible." Shivakumar told reporters

refused to make any direct allega-

Police Commissioner Kamal Pant,

saying during the last 2-3 days

voice cannot be heard properly

during incoming and outgoing

calls and there were "unwanted

disturbance and sounds".

The Congress leader, however,

Later, he wrote to Bengaluru

"You call my phone, you can't

not resort to such acts.

tion without evidence.

BENGALURU, AUGUST 21

Shivakumar suspects phone

tapping, govt dismisses claim

Centres, dedicated Covid-19 hospitals or dedicated Covid-19 health centres will, however, be available for all patients above 50

Municipal Additional Commissioner Suresh Kakani said the earlier decision to admit all patients above 50 years was taken to monitor them from the beginning and screen them daily. "We were noticing several patients were seeking admission when their condition turned critical. If we screen such patients early, we can save more lives." he said.

On Friday, Mumbai recorded 1,406 new Covid-19 cases, taking its total count to 1.34 lakh cases. At least 42 more deaths due to the coronavirus disease were also reported on the day. With this, the death toll in the financial capital stands at 7,356.

BMC data shows 57 per cent (or 4,175) of those who succumbed to the virus were more than 50 years old. Maximum deaths have been reported in the 50-80 age bracket, it added.

Across Maharashtra, 14,161 new cases and 339 deaths were recorded Friday. The state has recorded 6.57 lakh cases, of which 4.70 lakh have recovered. The death toll stands at 21,698.

Pune recorded 1,692 new cases on Friday to surpass Mumbai. Pimpri Chinchwad reported 946 new cases. Pune district has recorded a total of 1.44 lakh cases, of which 41,326 are active, while Mumbai currently has 18,299 active infec-

"....I have strong doubts that

my phone calls are being tapped.

So I request you to get it investi-

gated appropriately and take nec-

essary action," Shivakumar said.

Bommai, in a statement said there

was no question of tapping

"Ours is a responsible govern-

ment and will not stoop to the low

of tapping phones, also we dont

have that necessity....If he could

not speak to his party leaders

when they called, he should in-

quire with telephone companies

about it. Alleging it to be telephone

tapping is not right," the minister

vestigating the telephone tap-

ping case during the previous

Congres-IDS rule of which

Shivakumar was a part, Bommai

said, "such experiences can hap-

pen during their government.

This government is not worried

about Shivakumar's activities.

also there is no need for it.'

Noting that the CBI was in-

Shivakumar's phone.

Reacting to his remarks,

### FROM PAGE ONE

China visa

A government official told The Indian Express that tie-ups of various Indian universities and academic institutions, including IITs, BHU and JNU, are also being reviewed. According to the official, these activities are likely to be scaled down with exceptions made only for conduct of courses

The official said a "360-degree review" of ties with Beijing has been undertaken at the highest levels in the government, which identified the import of active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and drug intermediates from China for production of pharmaceuticals by India as a major area of concern. Any step by Beijing to reduce the flow of supplies of APIs can possibly lead to either shortage of certain medicines or increase in their prices, the official said.

Although recommendations made by a study group have been acted upon to reduce the API imports, it will be tough to overcome the dependency on China in the short-term, the official said. According to industry estimates, Indian drug makers source about 65 per cent of raw materials from China, worth around \$3.5 billion.

In June, the government had banned 59 mobile apps including TikTok, UC Browser and other Chinese apps, calling them "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the state and public order".

### Shaktikanta

kah sakte, lekin financial sector point of view sey usey hum regularly monitor kar rahe hain aur uska impact financial sector kis tarah se aa sakta hai uske liye steps hum definitely lenge. (There will be a correction in the future, but I can't say when. But from the financial sector point of view, we are regularly monitoring its impact and will take steps to maintain financial stability)," Das said.

Global central banks have pumped in more than \$6 trillion into financial markets and reduced interest rates to near zero to tackle the impact of Covid-29 pandemic on the global economy. The RBI has also been proactive in its liquidity injection and monetary measures – injecting close to Rs 10 lakh crore since March in the markets—since the pandemic hit economic activity across the country.

He cited the example of the Franklin Templeton debt fund issue, where RBI had to open a Rs 50,000 crore liquidity window for mutual funds as there was a need to step in from a financial sector stability point of view. "I am not saving that when there is a problem in the stock market, the RBI will give liquidity. You should not draw this conclusion. But we are regularly, very closely following market behaviour's impact on financial sector stability, and we will take whatever steps are necessary (to maintain financial sta-

Das declined to comment on a more specific query on stock market price movement trend and said Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was better equipped on these matters.

The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI also discussed the disconnect between the market and the fundamentals. "While markets and fundamentals seldom do a tango, a disconnect between the two carry the risks of disruptive market corrections," the minutes of the MPC meeting on August 6 released by the RBI on Thursday had said.

"Relatively buoyant global financial markets demonstrate not just a disconnect with underlying economic fundamentals, but also portend financial stability risks, particularly for EMEs (emerging market economies)," the RBI min-

The NSE Nifty index and the

9 killed in Telangana powerhouse fire

contract for maintenance work at the powerhouse, Vinesh Kumar and Mahesh Kumar.

The survivors said the fire spread quickly, with smoke enveloping the powerhouse as well as the 1-km-long tunnel providing access to it and the four storeys of the plant that lie underground. The engineers used extinguishers to control the flames and stayed back to try shutting down the unit that had caught fire, getting trapped in the process, the survivors said.

experts on dam safety is learnt

to have expressed concern

over "the erosion of plunge

pool located opposite fourth to

sixteenth blocks" on the natu-

ral course of the river, and en-

trusted the National Institute

of Oceanography (NIO), Goa,

with carrying out underwater

studies - a bathymetric survey

to measure the depth of the

water body and map its under-

water features, together with

teams of divers with underwa-

ter cameras filming the insides

of the plunge pool – suggested

a possible creep of the plunge

It is learnt that the NIO's

videography.

indicate the fire started from a short-circuit on the ground floor. The rescue team including the National Disaster Response Force could enter the tunnel and powerhouse only after 3 pm Friday, some 15 hours later. Apart from the smoke, the fact that the power supply to the plant was cut off to prevent more damage, leaving the tunnel in darkness, also made rescue difficult. Energy Minister G Jagdish

Reddy, who is at the spot, said,

prepare an emergency action

plan (EAP) and a dam break

analysis, along with inundation

maps - which indicates that

the panel viewed the structural

been done to address these

concerns since, officials in the

Central Electricity Authority

(CEA) said, and indicated that

over Rs 50 crore would be

needed to take up works to ar-

rest the spread of the plunge

pool both towards and away

from the dam. The CEA is the

agency that issues clearances

to large-sized hydro projects in

the country.

However, not much has

problems seriously.

survivors, we think that by the time the nine realised they couldn't control the fire, it was too late. The five Assistant Engineers, who were senior to the others by several years, ordered their juniors and others to leave.'

"As per the statements of the

Among those who escaped were four employees of the company that had been outsourced maintenance work at the powerhouse by Amaron Batteries.

side of the Srisailam reservoir and dam on the Krishna river, the 900 MW Left Bank Power House is part of a joint project of Telangana and Andhra. On the Andhra side lies half of the dam and the Right Bank Power Telangana Chief Minister K

Chandrashekar Rao expressed shock at the loss of lives and ordered a CID inquiry. The state government has announced ex-gratia of Rs 50 lakh for the kin of the engineers and Rs 20 lakh for the others.

Ministry report, with cascad-

ing impact on upstream gen-

erating companies such as the

ones operating the Srisailam

electricity generating firms

had increased 21 per cent an-

nually to Rs 40.580 crore dur-

ing H1FY19, with Telangana

and Andhra Pradesh coming

in third and fourth in the list

of discoms ranked by out-

standings to generating utili-

that the Union government

should rope in the Central

Water Commission to address

the plunge pool issue using the

World Bank's DRIP (Dam

Improvement Project) funds.

count, "the background of terror-

Interestingly, free speech was

ited by the Supreme Court on

Rehabilitation

ism in the state.'

There have been requests

The outstanding dues of

plants.

Falling on the Telangana

district and Andhra Pradesh's

Kurnool district. The reservoir

of the dam sprawls over 616 sq

km, and there are two power

plants on either side of the

station, where the accident

happened, is on the Telangana

side. It has 900MW installed

capacity for pumped-storage

operation; the right bank un-

derground power station, with

a capacity of 770MW, is on the

states are in poor financial

condition. Losses incurred by

the discoms in Telangana and

Andhra Pradesh more than

doubled during the first half

of FY'19 on a year-on-year ba-

sis, according to a Power

The power utilities in both

Andhra side.

The left bank underground

Towards the end of polling day, those in Covid-19 quarantine would also be allowed to vote. The EC has said a separate set of guidelines would be issued for voters living in areas notified as Red flags raised over dam's poor upkeep containment zones.

Friday's guidelines advise that a sufficient number of polling staff and EVMs be kept in reserve for a situation arising out of a polling personnel displaying Covid-19

would be checked before they are allowed in. The voting hours could

be extended to ensure there is no

crowding. Similarly, there could

be more rounds of counting,

above the set norms of MoHFW

(Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare) at first reading, then it

will be checked twice, and if it re-

mains (high), then the elector

shall be provided with token/cer-

tificate and will be asked to come

for voting at the last hour of poll,"

"If temperature (of a voter) is

sources said in Patna.

the guidelines state.

Earlier, Bihar Chief Electoral Officer H R Srinivas had told the EC that 33,000 additional polling booths had been planned apart from the 77,000-odd used in previous elections, to ensure social

distancing between voters. For candidates, the EC has capped the size of the campaign squad to three people for door-todoor visits and allowed just five cars, instead of 10, in a convoy for roadshows. Only two people can accompany a candidate for filing of nomination papers, while the number of attendees at a rally or a gathering cannot exceed "the limit prescribed by the State

Disaster Management Authority

for public gatherings". While the EC has said its guidelines are based on feedback received from political parties, it is silent on digital rallies, one of the main issues raised by the Opposition parties. The RJD and CPM had urged the Commission not to allow digital rallies -- a few have already been held by the BIP -- on the grounds of disruption of the level-playing field. A BJP ally, the LJP has also suggested limits on this mode of campaigning.

The BJP had recommended that the expenditure ceiling for candidates be raised to accommodate for the spending on masks, soap, PPE kits and thermal screening during campaigning amidst the coronavirus. Alternatively, it had said, such expenditure should be added to the party's account and not the candidate's. EC sources said the suggestion was under consideration.

saying they were still 'extremely' 12 per cent are unsure.

Aquarter (24%) of the respondents feel universities should offer to reduce the tuition fee by almost half, 19 per cent want a discount of up to 40 per cent, and 20 per cent want a fee discount of up to 30 per cent until they can start attending face-to-face classes.

measures they want universities to implement, prospective international students are becoming less interested in moving courses online and more interested in universities holding lectures in larger rooms to minimise contact," the survey states.

largest source of international students. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, there were nearly 7,53,000 Indian students abroad as of July 2018.

### EC guidelines

A district magistrate told The Indian Express there had been discussions on using radio frequency identification (RFID), to replace voter slips as well as register the presence of voters at a booth online. "Pressing the EVM button could be the only direct physical touch during the electoral process," the DM said.

As per the guidelines issued by the EC on Friday, not more than 1,000 voters, instead of the usual 1,500, will be assigned to a polling station. Their temperatures

shows, too. "Some workout videos where you don't need any equipment; let's see I haven't really planned as such, will just go with the flow," he had said.

For the first week – and even later - the players have to keep handy a different kind of kit, It would contain hand sanitiser, face masks, face shields, oximeter, disinfectant spray, and a temperature meter, a KKR player said.

By the end of their first week of isolation, everyone will undergo two more tests, and only if they continue to be Covid-19 negative, will they be allowed to join teammates in a bio-secure environment. According to the protocol handed to all players and support staff, they will have no contact with housekeeping and room service staff. The protocol, accessed by this newspaper, states that the hotel staff will deliver all items outside the room, ring the doorbell, and leave.

The franchise support staff have planned online sessions with the players. Each player has been allotted gym time with an online trainer on call. Webinars with coaches and other specialists will be conducted until onfield training starts in the second

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

In addition, the NCDS asked the National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, to BSE Sensex have gained 37 per cent and 35 per cent, respectively,

pool towards the dam.

in a rally largely driven by non-institutional investors. After the crash in the last week of March and beginning of April, the Sensex has rallied in June and July and hit the five-month high recently following the gradual reopening of the economy and closed at 38,434.72, a gain of 214 points, on Friday. Foreign portfolio investors have made net investments of Rs 15,300 crore in equities since

March 1 this year. Rating agencies and analysts have forecast a contraction of up to 20 per cent in the GDP growth in the first quarter of 2020-21 due to the lockdown induced by the Covid pandemic.

With the moratorium on loan repayments coming to an end on August 31. Das said the Kamath committee on business loan resolution would submit its recommendations in September first week and the central bank will soon release its final guidelines by September 6. The Kamath committee will look into business loans above Rs 1,500 crore, while retail loan resolution will be taken care of by bank boards.

According to Das, banks can start the process on its own and prepare the resolution plan by the end of this month. In fact, most of the banks have started preparing the loan recast proposal for retail and small loans. "Bank moratorium was a temporary solution to respond to coronavirus lockdown but resolution framework is a permanent solution," he said. On whether there could be a spike in bad loans after August 31, Das said banks will be able to extend or provide a new moratorium to borrowers under the new plan. "We will win this war against pandemic. I don't know how much time it will take but we will definitely win this war against

On interest rates, Das said the central bank has policy space and it's wrong to say that rate cuts are over. The RBI has several conventional and unconventional policy tools which will be used judiciously to ensure its effectiveness, Das said. "Uncertainty is the biggest challenge right now and a lot depends on COVID-19 vaccine.

dles the river Krishna in a deep gorge on the border of Telangana's Mahabubnagar

The Srisailam dam strad-

The RBI is closely watching markets to ensure stability and the economy will recover soon after the COVID-19 curve flattens." "The RBI formed the resolution framework after taking into consideration financial health of banks as well as depositors. Businesses are in a lot of stress due to COVID-19 and if they fail, it will lead to financial instability.

they will repay loans and save jobs," he said. Free speech or stay of FIRs.

In Goswami's case, Mehta criticised Maharashtra police's handling of the case and even sought a transfer of investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

However, if businesses are saved.

On June 26, a two-judge vacation bench of the Supreme Court granted an ex-parte stay on multiple FIRs against journalist Nupur JSharma and three others filed by the West Bengal police and suspended any further coercive action. Although Sharma's plea listed the Centre as a respondent in the case, the court granted relief on the very first hearing without hearing its arguments.

Significantly, in six other cases that raised similar issues where the Centre raised objections, the Supreme Court gave no relief to the petitioners. In the case involving Congress

leader Pankaj Punia, the Supreme Court, on May 30, refused to intervene to quash FIRs in Harvana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh for a tweet that allegedly hurt religious sentiments.

Sharjeel Imam, a former Iawaharlal Nehru University student charged with sedition and hate speech also moved the top court over FIRs filed in at least five states: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Manipur for the same speech he made in January. On May 26, Imam sought a

transfer of his pleas to Delhi but that is yet to be decided and last week, the SC adjourned his plea again by another week. In contrast to orders in the

Goswami and Devgan and Sharma's cases, the Supreme Court also refused to stay the criminal investigation against

iournalist Vinod Dua in Himachal Pradesh in a sedition case filed by BJP leader Shyam Kumarsain.

On Friday, it adjourned the case on Solicitor General Mehta's request and only heard arguments by Dua's lawyer. Mehta had in previous hearings opposed Dua's case and said that it could not be compared with those involving Goswami and Devgan.

Again, in contrast to the order in Nupur Sharma's case, the Supreme Court on March 18 asked Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan's mother Nuzhar Perween to move the Allahabad High Court first to challenge the FIR against Khan for alleged inflammatory speech.

Khan was slapped with the National Security Act in December for an alleged inflammatory speech made criticising the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019. Despite the SC directions. Allahabad HC is yet to decide on Khan's release

Protestors in Shaheen Bagh who halted the 100-day sit-in in view of the COVID-19 pandemic had also moved the Supreme Court that the demonstration site was cleared by the police and structures were dismantled. An SC-appointed team of interlocutors held talks with the protestors and had cleared a section of the protest site. The case has not been listed since March.

Court declined to hear activist Harsh Mander in a case related to communal riots in Delhi after Solicitor General Mehta raised objections to Mander's plea and said that he was "seen instigating" people. Mander's lawyer was not allowed by the court to argue in the case. In cases relating to Kashmir

Also in March, the Supreme

challenges to the communications blockade imposed following the abrogation of special status to the state in August 2019, although the Supreme Court reiterated the inalienability of freedom of speech and expression, it did not adjudicate on the facts of the case citing national security concerns, Incidentally, Attorney General for India K K Venugopal had argued that while deciding on freedom of speech and expression, the court must take into acJuly 23, while hearing a plea relating to the disqualification of 19 rebel Congress MLAs in Raiasthan. the Supreme Court bench led by Justice Arun Mishra said that

voice of dissent cannot be suppressed in a democracy." The Congress party withdrew the plea before the Centre was made a party to that case.

### Students

or 'very interested'. The survey found that 82 per cent of students expect foreign universities to reduce their tuition fee if they are expected to study online. About 5 per cent do not have a problem paying the same tuition fee, and

"When it comes to what

India is the world's second

New Delhi

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### **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

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

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

"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 afCORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

TOTAL CASES 1,58,604			Total	Vacant
		<b>HOSPITAL BEDS</b>	14,114	10,551
		VENTILATORS	1,231	773
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Aug 20	1,215	1,059	22	17,004
Aug 21	1,250	1,082	13	17,735
Total	11,426*	1,42,908	4,270	13,92,928
			*Tota	ıl active cases

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

ernment 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 initheir 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 pre-

"The team will also follow-up

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 caseload to 1,58,604. The death toll rose to 4,270 with 13 more deaths reported in the last 24

### **BRIEFLY**

New Delhi: The three mu-

### **MCDs to** begin desealing

nicipal corporations of Delhi – South, East and North- have decided to start the process of desealing 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 desealing 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 BIP 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 surwith 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

## 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 Infolance 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 laun-

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





Sudhanshu Bansal and Mukesh Kumar

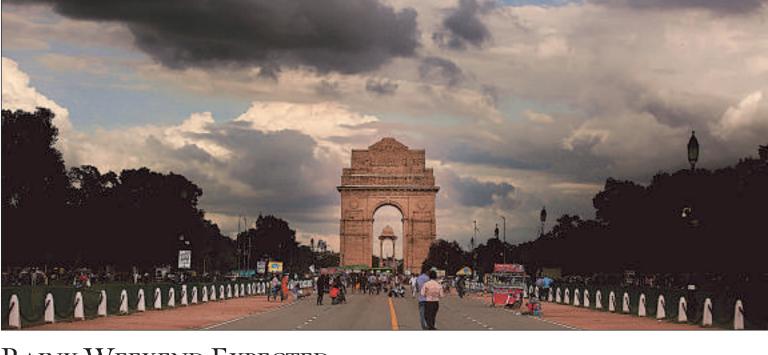
companies to AAP was covered by the media, said Mishra. He said that in its complaint, the ROC alleged that "the four companies are bogus and are not located at the addresses as per the ROC record". The ROC complaint also alleged that there was "huge infusion of money in these companies by way of 'share 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 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

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



### 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

DELHI Disaster 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 Baijal's office resolving their differences on the issue.

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. Prayeen 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,

Covid shadow, Haryana shut on weekends

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/ 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. Buvers 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.

## 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** 

### 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 BIP, 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-



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 BIP 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 induc-

tion, 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."

### **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 Harvana 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) renorted 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

ken. There will be some impact." After Vij's announcement, Chief Secretary Keshni Anand Arora issued formal orders im-

this, at least the chain will be bro-

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 Harvana. 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

## '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 assaulted students inside the li-

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 compensa-

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 guestion 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-

legitimate, but said in some instances there was excess. It was not as if the action taken as a whole was unwarranted or un-Justice Jalan said, "That part

aside, it can't be read as some kind of clean chit given to anyone either." The court said that it needed time and adjourned the matter for next Friday.

sion has found that there was vi-

olence by the students which cre-

ated a law and order problem as

to make the action by the police

New Delhi



### 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

**SHIVAM PATEL** 

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 standard that covers all aspects of wa-

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

The BIS has invited comments from water utilities, including the DIB, 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 offi-

cial 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 stan-

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

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

OPENIN DATE

CLOSING

DATE

CLOSING

DATE 27.08.2020

15.03.2020

26.08.2020

CLOSING



Devangana Kalita

visiting 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 gated 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.

## Tahir provoked his community to riot, says court

ANANDMOHANJ

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

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 largescale 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 Haseen (alias Salman), Nazim, Kasim, Sameer Khan, Anas, Firoj, Javed, Gulfam 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



**Tahir Hussain** 

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

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

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.

### '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

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

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🎑

**E-TENDER NOTICE** 

## OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL GOVT. DOON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

**Tender Information** 

NAME OF

BOARD/CORP./AUTH

CORPORATION YAPIUNANAGAR

JAGADHRI.

MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, NISSING

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAITHAL

HISAR

H.S.A.M.BOARD, JIND.

21

2

3

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

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

CONST OF STREET AND DRAIN IN CAMP NEW ABADE WARD NO, 17 YMR, + 14 OTHER WORKS

BEAUTIFICATION OF ROAD FROM GURUDIWARA CHOWK TO MUNICIPAL LIMIT ON GONDER ROAD, NISSING. (RE-TENDER)

SELECTION OF CONTRACTOR FOR REMEDIATION AND

RECLAMATION OF EXISTING DUMPSITE AT KHURANA,

KATHAL.
CONSTRUCTION OF 3 NOS, STPS ALONG WITH MAIN PUMPING

STATIONS (ON SER TECHNOLOGY) IN VILLAGE IAGDISHPUR, LINAW AND DEVRU UNDER MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SOMEPAT ALONGWITH OBM FOR 6 YEARS INCLUDING ONE

WIDENING OF MARKETING BOARD BOND AROUND THE PHEND OF VILLAMARGARH (M.C. MARWANA) + 9 OTHER WORKS

### **MATHERAN HILL STATION MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** MATHERAN-410102, TAL- KARJAT, DIST- RAIGAD TEL- 02148-230341, 230343, 230234

E-mail ID- mcomatheran@gmail.co

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, appear-

ing on behalf of Delhi Police, if po-

lice had any portion of the speech

in which she allegedly instigated

the crowd in Jafrabad. Reserving

its order on the bail plea, the court

gave both parties time till

Monday to file their written sub-

missions. Kalita has been in judi-

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 investiga-

tion. 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 tremen-

dous academic and it is her right

to participate in a protest for is-

sues she feels passionately about.

regularly instigated the protest-

ers, rioters against CAA-NRC and

also instigated to be violent and

use force... the accused started

ASG Raju told the court, "She

cial custody since May.

**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

AMOUNT /

(APPROX.)

RUPEES

BAS LACS

IG 15 LVCS

Chief Officer Matheran Hill Station Municipal Council, Matheran

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD

https://etenders.hry.nic.in/nic

https://etenders.hry.nlc.in

http://etenders.hry.nic.in

http://etenders.hry.nic.in

MANIPUR UNIVERSITY TENDER NOTICE

Dated, 21" August, 2020 No.MU/Zoology/Consum-Lab 2020/01: Manipur University nyites sealed tenders. Details available at the University vebsite www.manipuruniv.ac.in

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT

DETAILS/EHAIL

9729353353

xen.mcyrr@grail.com

01745-271608

96717-90078

himanshu\_letka@gov.in

semisonepat@gmail.com

etenders.gov.in

Purchase Office Manipur University, Canchipur

### . ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन/डब्ल्यू टी/ई.निविदा/ त्तर/27—20—21 दिनाक 20.08.2020. E-Tendei Notice No.-ECR-CAO-C-N-ETN-27-20-21 E-Tender is invited on behalf of the President of ndia for the under mentioned work.

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 Jhanjharpurconversion of Sakri-Nirmali section of work of ₹20.13.19.243.91 3 Farnest 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.ireps.gov.in. Note: In case of any descripencies found in tender notice. English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.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/Mahendrughat, Patna

Office of the Executive Engineer Construction Division, U.P. Jal Nigam, Amroha 1796/190/72

PR/0546/CON/Engg./T/20-21/44

Ro- 14-08-2020

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE Online percentage rate E tenders in two bid system by notice no. 1796 /Nivida/ 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 JJM. in District Amroha U.P. are here by invited on behalf of the Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam, from the reputed contractors having requisite work experience & financial capabilities. Tender document shall be available on eprocurement website http://etender.up.nic.in latest by 18/08/2020 Interested bidders may view and download Tender Document and upload their tender, duly filed 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 Jal Nigam website

New Delhi

### 🔊 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🌘 OPEN TENDER NOTICE

dated: 19.08.2020 "Participation in through" web portal of IREPS - www.ireps.gov.in offers are invited for supply of the following materials: The closing time for all tenders at 14.00 hr.

OPEN TENDER Batch No : 39/20

SI. No.01. Tender No.: 04195001A Brief Description: CRF Section Quantity: 106 Sets Published on/time .20 13:03:44 Closing on 14.09.20 **Fund**: Fund is available **SI**. **No.02**. **Tender No**.: 04204642 **Brief** Description: Brake Shoe Key Quantity: 77602 Nos. Published on/time: 25.07.20 14:27:32 Closing on : 14.09.20 Fund: Fund is available St. No.03. Tender No.: 06205009 Brief Description: Relay AC Immune Quantity: 4396 Nos. Published on/time: 18.08.20/11.53.13 Closing on 14.09.20 Fund: Fund is available SI.
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 SI. No.05. Tender No.: 06191234A Brief Description: Lead acld Quantity: 2461 Nos. Published on/time: 18.8.20/11.50.37 Closing on: 21.09.20 Fund: Fund is available SI. 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 SI. No.07. Tender No.: 06198869A Brief Description: Lead acid Quantity 1913 Nos. Published on/time: 18.8.20/11.48.40 Closing on: 21.09.20 Fund: Fund: savailable SI. No.08. Tender No.: 04201003 Brief Description: Bogle centre Pivot Bottom Quantity: 548 Nos. Published on/time : 18.8.20/11.49.00 Closing on: 21.09.20 Fund: Fund is available SI. 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 IREPSwww.ireps.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** 

### **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 Eas Central Railway offices at 08 (Eight locations (11 Machines) in Bilaspur for period of 24 months.

ender Value : ₹ (Rupees Sixty Two Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Only). **EMD** : ₹ **1,24,200/-** (Rupe One Lakh Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred Only). Submission of Tender: Up to 10:30 Hrs. or 11.09.2020. Opening of Tender: at

11.09.2020. Further all details are available Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in except E-Tender no other modes o submission will be accepted.

Dy. Chief Materials Manage CPR/10/217 S.E.C. Railway, Bilaspo

f South East Central Railway 🕒 @secrail

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

सं. ईसीआर/सीएओ/कॉन/डब्ल्यू टी/ई.निविदा

उत्तर/28-20-21 दिनाक 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 it's 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 or website i.e. http://www.ireps.gov.in. Note: In case of any descripencies found in tender notice, English version will be final Tenderers are requested to visit the website http://www.ireps.gov.in atleast 15 days before last date of closing for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in response to this E-tender.

East Central Railway, Haji PR/540/HQ/STORE/T/20-21/7				ECR/Mahend PR/0542/CON/Engg./T/2	drughat, Patna 20-21/40	
NORTHERN RAILWAY Invitation of Tender Through e-Tendering (E-Procurement System)						
Name of work with its (UP&DN) & Br. no. 325 (UP&DN) on UMB-LDH section over location Ambala Division in the jurisdiction of Dy. CE/BL/TKJ.						
Approx. cost	of work		₹1,24	4,99,802.95		
Earnest Mone	Earnest Money			₹2,12,500.00		
Completion pe	eriod of t	he work	(08)	(08) Eight Months		
Cost of Tender Form in the form IREPS			form of r ill not be as per	ost of EMD & Tender Fornet banking or Payment gas accepted as cost of tende Railway Board letter no 1.08.2016.	ateway only. er invited on	
				5:00 hrs.10.09.2020. Openi 6:00 hrs. on same day.	ng of tender	
				ender available on IREF ps.gov.in	'S site i.e.	
Tender Notice No.: 32-W/BR-313-325-UMB Dated: 20.08.2020 1815/20						

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

YEAR DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD" (3 MLD-2 NO, 0.5 MLD-1 16.09.2020 NO, ) ROVIDING SECURITY SERVICES FOR A PERIOD OF 2 YEARS HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR 97000/-AT HYDEL COLONY, BHUDKALAN AND HYDEL COLONY, DATE Etenders.hry.nic.in :xenproc1@yahoo.com GOBIOPURI, YAMUNA NAGAR-2021-2023 ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR HYGIENIC CLEANING OF ALL POWER HOUSES, STORES, SILT EJECTOR AND HYDEL COLONY AT WAC 24.08.2020 CLOSING DATE Etenders.hry nickt kenproct@yahoo.com YAMUNA NAGAR HE PROJECT SHUDKALAN

ELECTRICAL & INSTRUMENTATION MAINTENANCE WORK AT

WASDUS POWER HOUSES OF WYC HE PROJECT, HPGD., CLOSING DATE HPGCL YAPUNA NAGAR Etenders.hty.nic.in senprocliffyshoo.com BRUDNALAN REPAIRING OF DEPECTIVE ELECTRONICS CARDS USED IN VARIOUS SYSTEM INSTALLED IN UNIT-I, DORTOF YAMUNA 31.08.2020 Etenders.hty.nic.in senproc1@yahoo.com NAGAR 08:09.2020 CLOSING DATE 03.09.2020 HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR SUPPLY OF AIR COMPRESSOR UNIT WITH MOTOR Etendars. try nic in wenproct@yahoo.com HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR DATE 27.08.2020 30 SUPPLY OF MOTOR FOR LUBIRCATION OIL PUMP Etenders.hry.nic.in senproct@yahoo.com CLOSING HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR 11 SUPPLY OF HYDRAULIC MOTOR. DATE 180000/ 27.08.2020 CLOSING HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR 12 SUPPLY OF SAFETY DEVICE MODULE DATE Etendars.hry.nic.in venproct@yahoo.com CLOSING SUPPLY OF OUR SEALS FOR VARIOUS AND SPARES FOR ASH 13 DATE Etenders.hry.nic.in eenproct@yahoo.com YAMUNA NAGAR HANDLING PLANT SUPPLY OF PRESSURE GAUGE TEMPERATURE GAUGES AND DATE Conders.hry.nic.in serprocli@yahoo.com YAMUNA NAGAR 35 HVPNL AMBALA 30500 for https://hspril.heryaraeprocurem PROVIDING DOUBLE BUS ARRANGEMENT ALONGWITHOUS PROBHNPN.ORG.IN 03.09.2020 Co-Op 28500 for CREATION OF 2 NO. 66KV LINE BAYS ALONG WITH BUS COUPLER BAY TO ACCOMMODATE 66KV DVC. RAJON/JERI firms and 14250 for 36 HARAL AMBALA PROBHYPN.ORG.IN 01.09.2020 ent.gov.in SISTATION NESRI RESRU LINE AT 65 KV. Co-Op 33800.00 PROVIDING 1 NO. 100MVA 220/33KV T/F(HOT) PLINTH ALONG WITH COSG FOUNDATIONS AND ALLIED EQUIPMENTS AT 220KV S/STN. BASTARA (CIVIL WORKS) for General, Rs. 16900.00 for CLOSING 0172-2583789 17 DATE 07.09.2020 HYPNIL KARNAL mww/hypn.org.lit Pro@hypr.org.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in H.S.A.M. BOARD, 21:09:2020 0172-2587909 5 LACS MAINTENANCE OF TOILET & URINALS FALLING UNDER 113 06.09.2020 MARKET COMMITTEES (ZONE-WISE) OF HARYMAN STATE INNUAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS ROADS (16 NO.) IN THE N/A ( 19 MC PANCHKULA/KALKA FOR THE YEAR 2020-21 +3 OTHER-26.30 LACS EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DATE PANCHIULA WORKS 07.09.2020 HARYANA STATE **AGRICULTURAL** 20 10.50 LACS MARKETING BOARD, (GROUP-A) FOR THE YEAR 2020-21. + 1 OTHER WORK 31,03,2020 xxxhumb.hisar@gmail.com

DATE

892,73 LACS

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



### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



### **OPTIONS OPEN**

IITAN RAM Manihi'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  $he\,will\,either\,go\,back\,to\,the\,JD(U)\,or\,have\,an\,alliance\,with\,the\,rul$ ing 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 ID(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 *lournal* reported that a senior public policy executive of Facebook in India had opposed applying hate speech rules to BJPlinked 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 nonpartisan 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 BIP 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

MANOJCG

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 "wholesome 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



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."

RID 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 superspreader 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 **ENSPATNA** 

### 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,

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 mediapersons with at least 10 years'

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



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 Raiiv Kumar has 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.

### foreign bidder, Rlys cancels tender for Vande Bharat trainsets Chinese state-owned rolling **AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**

Chinese firm sole

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

MORE THAN a month after a state-owned Chinese rolling stock major emerged as the sole foreign company in the bid to manufacture 44 Vande Bharat trainsets, the tender and said a fresh tender will be called within a week as per India's revised public procurement policy. The policy took shape over the past month or so in the wake of tension with China over a border standoff.

"Fresh tender will be floated within a week as per Revised Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order," Ministry of Railways said in a statement late Friday.

Sources said this was on the cards since it emerged that none of the globally renowned rolling stock manufacturing companies from Europe had participated in the international tender.

In the meantime, the rolling stock industry had been pointing out technical issues in the tender requirements while explaining why they gave this large tender a miss, the sources said. Industry sources said they had also been seeking certain technical revisions in the tender for better participation.

stock major CRRC Corporation had emerged as the only 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 (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 Heavy Electricals 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 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.

### From Sept 1, imported toys to be let in only after quality testing: Paswan

**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

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".TheToys(QualityControl)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 126member 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 BIP 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 BIP 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. BIP 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 Kaliabor constituency. Gauray 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 AGP. BPF

and other groups representing ethnic communities. We had fought alone then. This time, we will fight in an alliance. We will form an anti-BIP 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. BIP leaders have criticised it. Himanta Biswa Sarma, senior BIP leader and minister, has said that with the alliance, the name of the state Congress headquarters in Guwahati will change from Rajiv Bhawan to Aimal Bhawan. On Thursday, he told reporters that he is determined to restrict

the alliance to 25-30 seats. Piiush 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 betraval of the interests of people of Assam, against the BIP'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

New Delhi

Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AIYCP). Asked if the new political con-

tours pose a threat to the BJP, state BJP president Ranjeet Dass 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 BIP source said: "The Congress is thinking that anti-BIP 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.

# EXPRESS NETWORK



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 oneroom 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 econd floor and the te race, 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 64were 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: SC allows three Jain Ganesh puja in the time of Covid

**MAYURA JANWALKAR** 

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 deepthroated 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

Adwait Pedhamkar, joint treasurer of the Lalbaug Sarvajanik 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 Gully pandal, Pedhamkar says, "By evening, we will have markings on the floor for social distancing, touchfree sanitiser dispensers and oximeters and thermometers. Senior citizens and children below 10 have been asked not to visit the pandal. They will be en-

couraged 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 Sarvajanik 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 resi-

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.

(WITHINPUTS FROM SANJANA BHALERAO)

# 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 threejudge 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,"

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 CII observed. Solicitor Ganpati 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 congre-

"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

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

data on health

workers, IMA

tells Centre

### Amarinder orders Sec 144 Publish Covid 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

tion 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

He appealed to all political

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 reuested 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.

(Health), SMC, Dr Ashish Naik

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.

#### Kolkata civic body to carry out health survey of elderly asthma, diabetes, COPD, and **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** The health authorities expect

An artisan in Kolkata's Kumartuli works on a Ganesh idol ahead of the festivities. This year, the coronavirus pandemic has

KOLKATA, AUGUST 21

**DIVINE TOUCH** 

hurt business in the artisan colony. Partha Paul

TWO WEEKS after the West Bengal government decided to create a database of senior citizens living on their own in highrises 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

this database to help them manage the treatment of senior citizens and bring down the CFR in Kolkata, which is 1.25 percentage 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 oc-

curred because of comorbidities. "Generally, hypertension, 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.

Singh Friday ordered imposition of Section 144 to prohibit all

the state, Punjab CM Amarinder gatherings of more than 5 persons, other than marriage and bhog ceremonies. While warning of strict ac-

August 31 if needed.

parties to avoid any gatherings, including protests. In case of any

Surat diamond workers miffed with govt reply to HC on Covid spike industries in a detailed reply that areas of Surat. Among others, the posters referred to a Gujarati news was made public earlier this week. report headlined, "Government Commissioner Deputy

> 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

> > New Delhi

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?"

#### and those who undertake clean-**KAMAAL SAIYED** SURAT, AUGUST 21 sponsible for the spread)."

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

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 ing activities (who could be re-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 municcouncillor Dinesh Kacchadiya'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 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 Kachhadiya.

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

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



### 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 cam-

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 cul-

move a police complaint. They had taken Mathai into illegal custody," said a police officer in

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

Shripad Naik

said Naik was administered the

first cycle of plasma on Monday.

With plasma, he reached satura-

tion levels of 96, allowing other

responses possible, doctors said.

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.

College (GMC), the apex hospi-

tal 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

Service (DHS) has made an ap-

peal, "taking Naik's example",

and urged recovered patients

who had suffered pneumonia-

like conditions during their in-

fection cycle to donate plasma.

www.indianexpress.com

FULL REPORT ON

The Directorate of Health

situations", officials said.

Meanwhile, Goa Medical

All three are stated to be stable.

A team of three doctors from

**SMITA NAIR** PANAJI, AUGUST 21

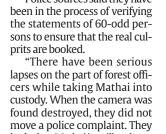
DAYS AFTER Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Naik tested positive for Covid-19, and was administered the first cycle of plasma on Monday, the Goa government on Friday admitted for the first time the critical nature of his case, calling it a return from the "doors of death".

State Health Minister low 95 per cent is said to be seri-Vishwajit Rane told the media, ous – Health Department officials "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 asymptomatically 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-



**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** 

A SPECIAL court here on Friday dismissed the bail plea of Swapna Suresh, a key accused in the Kerala gold smuggling scandal, in a case registered by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the money trail of

Suresh, the special PMLA court said prima facie there are materials on record to show her involvement in the crime.

Noting that the investigation of the case is in its preliminary stage, the court said the illegal activities of money laundering posed a great and serious threat not only to the financial system of the country, but also to its integrity and sovereignty.

The court also observed that the petitioner was an influential lady and granting her bail at this stage may affect the smooth progress of the investigation and the possibility of the petitioner influencing the witnesses and interfering with the investiga-

Earlier, opposing the bail application moved by Suresh, the ED had said that the accused had disclosed to it her association with other accused and also of some others who are involved in

## 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-

GOLD SMUGGLING CASE

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

sider 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

September 6 to 11, will recon-

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR. AUGUST 21 RAJASTHAN POLICE have registered an FIR against the husband of BJP leader and Bharatpur MP Ranjeeta Koli for

Rajasthan: BJP MP's

husband booked for

'molesting' woman

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.

allegedly molesting a 35-year-

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 moThe 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



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 had 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 Sathyanarayanan, 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 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

### **DIGITAL DIVIDE IMPACTS EDUCATION**

### Court rejects bail plea of key accused Swapna Suresh

KOCHI, AUGUST 21

Dismissing the bail plea of

tion cannot be ruled out.

Noting that the revelations made by her indicate that she had "considerable influence" in the office of Kerala Chief Minister. the FD had said if she is released on bail, there is a chance of tampering with the evidence and

also influencing the witnesses. The investigating agency also said it apprehends hurdles in the progress of investigation if the petitioner is enlarged on bail now. The investigation is progressing and persons connected with the crime and having influence have also to be questioned, the ED had said.

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



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 settingsfrom 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

Each class begins with a tenminute 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

Earlier, the state had started video lectures on local TV channels for those without smart-

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 survey 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 pos-

sible, 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.

### Traders, breeders push to sell more Uttar Pradesh mangoes abroad Dussehri with Neelum, to com-

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 Amrohabased 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

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

New Delhi

bine 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 hy-

brids 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.

### WORDLY WISE

HOMEOWNERS REFINANCE THEIR LOANS WHEN INTEREST RATES GO DOWN. BUSINESSES REFINANCE THEIR LOANS. — ELIZABETH WARREN

## The Indian EXPRESS

∞ FOUNDED By ∞ 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

HE 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

HE 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 HINI vaccine. There are indications that Delhi is alive to the perils of vaccine nationalism. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reportedly discussed vaccine cooperation 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

N 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.

## The Naga narrative divide



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

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, PB 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 RS 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 largerthan-life profile to Delhi".

Ravi's main grouse appears to be that the Manmohan 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 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 Nagainhabited 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 indepth 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



## I Do Not Ask For Mercy

Open criticism of any institution is necessary to safeguard the constitutional order

I find it hard to believe that the Court

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.

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 vi-

olence, 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 AT 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 PAC jawan 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

New Delhi

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 INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020

## THE IDEAS PAGE

### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Parliament needs to quickly rediscover its spine too. Much tougher economic conditions in the autumn should concentrate minds."

## 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

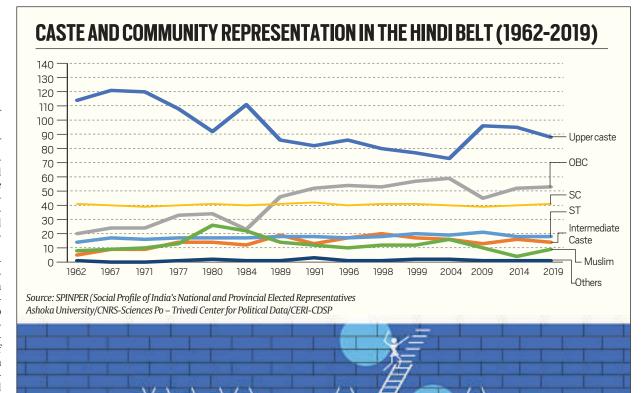
THIRTY YEARS AGO, the then prime minister, V P Singh implemented the Mandal Commission report, initiating what I have called a "silent revolution". It triggered a socio-political process that resulted in some social emancipation and the rise to political power of plebeians at the expense of the upper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

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 BIP 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



cent, on a par with its representation in the 1980s, whereas the share of OBCMPs dropped to 20 per cent, according to the database SPIN-PER (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 Hindutya. 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 counterrevolution, 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

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 Gadarivas, Kushwahas, Telis and Lodhis, who resent Yaday 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 sanskritise 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 Cworkers — 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

## When helping hurts

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



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

**IDEAS** 

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**ANITA TAGORE** 

SECULARISM IS

STILL THRIVING:

**ANOOP SADANANDAN** 

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## Pakistan and the peace deal

Mandal for the middle-class

perfect antidote to

upper castes.

It needs to grasp that pragmatism, strategic realities lie behind Arab-Israeli detente

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 "aidrecipient" 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

New Delhi

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

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

### Bengaluru doc held by NIA was among 3 friends who visited Syria in 2013-14

BENGALURU, AUGUST 21

AN OPHTHALMOLOGIST from Bengaluru, who was arrested by the NIA on August 17 for alleged involvement with activities of an Islamic State Khorasan Province unit which operates in parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan, was part of a group of youths from well-off families in Bengaluru who travelled to Syria in the early days of the formation of Islamic State in 2013-14, investigations by agencies have revealed

Abdur Rahman (28), who was taken to New Delhi on Friday on a transit warrant, was found to have been allegedly backing efforts by an Indian contact to create a software application that would help ISKP cadre in treating illnesses and wounds, and an application for management of weapons, police sources said

Investigations by the NIA and other agencies have found that Rahman travelled to Syria six years ago with two friends --- a doctor and an engineer --- when they were all in their early 20s and allegedly enamoured by the then nascent IS in Syria and Irag.

The two friends were called for investigations in Bengaluru after Rehman's arrest, and released after they were not found to be involved in illegal activities after their return from Syria in 2013 and

Police sources said that Rahman and the two others travelled secretly to Syria after reaching Dubai on six-month UAE visas. After their return to India. Rahman and one of the friends obtained

medical degrees. The other friend obtained an engineering degree and pursued a law programme.

Rahman is reported to have popped up on the radar of intelligence agencies and the NIA on the basis of analysis of overt and covert communications - including that of Jahanzaib Sami Wani, a Kashmiri man arrested with his wife Hina Basir Beigh in New Delhi in March this year for alleged association with the ISKP. According to sources, Rahman operated on social media with the moniker Dr Brave and efforts were launched to find him after investigations in Delhi and Pune - where two persons were arrested - revealed he was helping in developing applications for the ISKP.

"During interrogation, arrested accused Abdur Rahman confessed that he was conspiring with accused Jahanzaib Sami and other Syria-based ISIS operatives on secure messaging platforms to further ISIS activities," the NIA

Rahman is from a family of doctors. He was practising in an eye clinic run for several years by his father Dr Naseerullah Sharif in west Bengaluru. His older brother Mohammed Sharif is a dentist with a dental clinic.

"My father has been unwell because of all that has happened. We do not want to talk about it," said Dr Mohammed Sharif at the family's apartment in south Bengaluru. "They have been here for a long time. They are very decent people. We do not know anything about the allegations against Rahman," said an optician in the building where the family clinics

### HC grants anticipatory bail to Major in rape case

Mumai: The Bombay High Court on Friday granted anticipatory bail to an Indian Army Major in connection with the rape case registered against him at the DN Nagar police station in July. The Major had approached the HC after a lower court had rejected his anticipatory bail application.

The court, however, asked the Major to submit his laptop and mobile phone to the police station and present himself before the investigating officer of the case every Saturday for four weeks.

An FIR had been registered at the DN Nagar police station against the Major on charges of rape, unnatural offences, cheating among other sections on July

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**E-TENDER NOTICE** 

-tender Notice No. 24 of 2020-21 (Open)

14. As per the complainant, she had come in contact with the Major through an app in August 2018. In January last year, the Major came to the city and expressed his desire to marry the victim. Following this, the complainant said, they maintained a physical relationship and she also went through an abortion.

The counsel for the Major told the court that in January this year when there was a proposal for marriage from his client, the complainant found some objectionable photographs of another woman in his mobile phone. The counsel said the woman then approached the police and an FIR was registered on July 14. ENS



Flooded streets and submerged houses after heavy rainfall at Bhestan in Surat on Friday. PTI

### **AS FLOODS WREAK HAVOC**

## Centre urges states to firm up own laws to curb flood damage

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

WITH FLOODS claiming more than 800 lives and affecting millions in many parts of the country in the ongoing monsoon season, the Centre has asked state governments to take "urgent action" for "enactment of suitable legislation", on lines of the Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill, 1975, to mitigate damage.

This has been conveyed by Jal Shakti Secretary UP Singh to chief secretaries of all states and Union Territories, it is learnt.

The subject of floodplains and protection of riverbeds come under the domain of state governments. Thus, a law on this can be made only by states. The Centre has been pursuing state governments for enactment of such laws for the last four decades, a source said.

Singh stated in his letter, dated August 19, to all chief secretaries: "As you are aware, flood plain zoning has been recognised as an effective nonstructural measure for flood management. This concept is based on the fact that the flood plain of a river [is] essentially its plain zoning legislation by the domain and any intrusion into Centre comes at a time when

state was required to introduce

'a regime of conduct with

stricter norms keeping in mind

the test of reasonable restric-

tions provided under the right

to free speech and expression to

deal with inflammatory posts

Iustice Dipankar Datta and

Justice Madhav Jamdar made

these observations in its judge-

ment on a public interest litiga-

tion (PIL) by Mumbai resident

Imran Moin Khan seeking that

allegedly communally charged

videos uploaded on social media

by a supporter of a political party

be taken down and preventive

A division bench of Chief

on social media.

**IN NUMBERS** 

₹3.47 LAKH CRORE

estimated damage to crops, houses and public utilities between 1953 and 2016 across India

₹3.43 LAKH CRORE damage out of this caused

from 1975 to 2016. This is -

lives lost between 1975 and

(Source: Central Water Commission estimation)

from 1953 to 2016

or 98% per cent of the total

people died due to floods

or development activity therein must take into account the river's 'right of way'.'

He wrote, "Demarcation of appropriate flood zones for various uses of flood plains not only helps in mitigation of flood damages, it also aids in ground water recharge, maintenance of water quality and conservation of riverine biodiversity.

"I therefore request that high priority may be accorded to the matter and urgent action may kindly be taken for enactment of suitable legislation in your state/UT."

The latest push for flood-

floods have affected several states. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had recently reviewed the situation with chief ministers of six states. The Parliamentary standing committee on water resources is also deliberating on

the issue. In 1975, the Central Water Commission (CWC) drafted the model flood plain zoning Bill and circulated it to states and UTs. Only Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand have so far enacted this legislation.

Manipur enacted the legislation in 1978, demarcation of flood zones is yet to be done, sources in the ministry said. Raiasthan enacted a law on this

in 1997 but its enforcement is yet to be done, they said.

Uttarakhand, it is learnt, is the only state to have not only legislated a law on this - in 2012 - but it also notified limits of floodplain areas in two cities:

In February 2017, then Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation minister Uma Bharti had also tried to push the legislation.

ters on February 8, 2017, she had stated, "Needless to say that demarcation of appropriate flood zones for various uses of flood plains depending upon particular frequencies of floods enormously benefits States/UTs and act as a catalyst in their efforts towards mitigation of flood damages.

She asked states to take "urgent action" for enactment of suitable legislation on the lines of the model Bill.

Haridwar (Chandighat to

Laskar) and Uttarkashi (Gangotri to Badethi Chungi).

In a letter to all chief minis-

In July 2017, the National Green Tribunal directed for demarcation of floodplains from Haridwar to Unnao and implement floodplain zoning,

**ANTI-CAA PROTESTS** 

### File documents on why bail should be cancelled, Lucknow court tells police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

A LUCKNOW court has directed the police to submit documents to back their request for cancelling the bail of four persons, including three activists, in connection with the last December's protests in the state Capital against the new citizenship law (CAA) and NRC.

The four against who the police have moved an application seeking cancellation of their bail are Congress leader and activist Sadaf Jafar, Rihai Manch founder Mohammad Shoaib, Lucknowbased activist Deepak Kabir and

"On Thursday, we were asked to provide the lawyers of the four accused a copy of the application moved for the cancellation of their bail. The court said they should be provided with the application along with the annexures which support the police's request to cancel their bail. We will provide them with a copy of the annexures on September 5 — the next date of hearing," District Government Counsel (Criminal) Manoj Tripathi said.

Jafar, Shoaib, Kabir and Shavez were summoned by the additional sessions court on Thursday after Lucknow police sought cancellation of their bail in the case lodged at Hazratganj police station. The accused have been booked for charges including for attempt to murder, rioting, damage to public property.

21 from Kanpur pay Rs 2.83L damages

Lucknow: Twenty-one people, who were issued recovery notices for the damages to properties during the anti-CAA and NRC protests in Kanpur last December, have deposited Rs 2.83 lakh to the district administration, a senior official said. This is the second instance where those who have been issued recovery notices have deposited the money. MANISH SAHU

"We sought a copy of the application moved by the police seeking cancellation of our bail. To that, the court said it must be provided a copy of the application, which we had given. But, the court said that the annexures with the application were not complete and asked the government lawyer to file the annexures on the next date of hearing. In the application, police have said that the alleged crime committed by us was serious in nature, but we were granted bail. In the application, the police have said cases have been registered at Thakurganj police station after our bail and that we are heading the anti-CAA movement even after getting bail. They have said that we are affecting harmony in the society and the city," activist Deepak Kabir told The Indian Express.

### FRONTIER GANDHI GRANDSON MOVES COURT

### HC tells Mashal Khan to file affidavit on aunt's property, family details

**OMKAR GOKHALE** 

AFTER THE Bombay High Court on Friday asked Mashal Khan, a Pakistani national and the great grandson of Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, also known as Frontier Gandhi, as to how he could be appointed as guardian of his aunt Zarin Ghani Walsh, a Canadian citizen residing in Mumbai, his lawyer submitted that Mashal filed a plea only with a view to take his ailing aunt back with him to Pakistan. Khan submitted that his other request for appointing him as her guardian in person and property could wait and requested the court to decide on his plea on an urgent basis.

The court on Friday directed Khan to file an additional affidavit listing properties of Walsh, identity details and family tree and examine remedies available to him under the Disabilities Act within ten days and posted further hearing next month.

A division bench of Justices K K Tated and Milind N Jadhav heard in brief a plea by Khan (40), seeking to be appointed as the guardian of his 76-year-old aunt -- a resident of Breach Candy Gardens in Mumbai -- on the ground that she is mentally and physically unfit to take necessary and appropriate decisions in her interest.

Advocates

Khandeparkar and Vaishali Dholakia for petitioner reiterated that as Zarin's only surviving relatives were the widow of her brother and her three sons, including Mashal, they wished to take her to Pakistan in view of her health and she can spend

rest of her life with them. When the court enquired as to how a Pakistani national could approach an Indian Court. Khandeparkar said he was entitled to seek such relief under Article 21 (Right to life with dignity) of the Constitution. The court said that while depending upon the arguments during further hearings, it could allow Khan to take Walsh back to Pakistan, another prayer for appointment as guardian in person and property could not be granted.

To this, Mashal's lawyer referred to the previous order of HC stating that it had allowed a foreigner to be appointed as guardian. The state government and central government however opposed the prayer and said that as per National Trust Act, Mashal could not be appointed as executor of Walsh's property.

After hearing submissions, the court asked Mashal to file an affidavit listing properties of Walsh in India along with other family details within ten days. The Court also asked the petitioner to examine various legal provisions including Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

### HC to Maharashtra: Introduce a regime of conduct with stricter norms for inflammatory posts on social media

**OMKAR GOKHALE** 

Engg/DDU. On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and MUMBAI, AUGUST 21 other public sector undertakings Tender No.25-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 DISPOSING OF the plea seeking Name of work with its location: TBTR on to take down communally Girder bridge No. 462 (UP & DN), 493 (UP & DN) & 509 (UP & DN), 510 (UP & DN), 520 charged video on social media, (UP & DN) under SSE(PW)/AUBR on GC the Bombay High Court on and Br. 445 (UP & DN), 406 (UP & DN), 391 Friday observed that regrettably, (UP & DN) & 383 (UP & DN) under SSE(PW)/RFJ with new channel sleepers there is clearly a discernible under Sr.DEN(II)/DDU. Approx. cost of the trend that in the name of exer-

2. Tender No.26-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 Name of work with its location: Zone No 23 Zonal Contract for all Civil repairing works etc. staff quarters and service building falling in Marshaling yard colony, including goods shed, Running Room, Cabin yard Power House, Azad Hall etc. from gate No. 1 to LC gate of PG line, B cabin, Loco east colony, Loco shed, Washing pit, Loco Pump House, OH Tank, Electric Sub-Station, Track Depot, West Cabin, Kharkhura Loco west colony, Hindley road colony. Offices and Stores of S and T. P.way works, TRD and South cabin Service building of Gaya station Platform North cabin, North Central cabin, RMS, Union Offices etc. and staff quarters of old goods shed colony and Burma shell colony under AEN/Gaya. Approx. cost of the work ₹64,65,408/-, Earnest Money: ₹1,29,300/-3. Tender No.27-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 Name of work with its location: Zone No. 21 Zonal contract for all Civil repairing works etc. within km.462.00 to 516.00 for all staff guarters and service building and Inspector Dhania Bagicha colony, Hospital and all level crossings except Gaya i.e. Station and other colonies falling under AEN/Gava. Approx. cost of the work ₹65,28,345.60, Earnest Money ₹1.30.600/-

work: ₹2,37,47,924.14, Earnest Money

Tender No.28-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 Name of work with its location: Zone No. 22 Zonal contract for pipe line, sanitary works, Road and other wood works etc. falling with Km. 516.00 to 462.00 for all staff quarters. service buildings and all Level crossings under AEN/GYA. Approx. cost of the work ₹50,29,286.40, Earnest Money

5. Date & time for submission of e-tender 10.09.2020. Up-to 12.00 hrs. 6. Website particulars of e-tendering: www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager/ ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhaya PR/0544/DDU/Engg./T/20-21/76

<u>उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसिमशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-</u> <u>निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना</u> अनुभवी फर्मों/ ठेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल मेरठ के अन्तर्गत निम्न कार्यों हेतु मोहर ई-निविदायें ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों स्वीकार की जायेगी एवं निर्धारित समय पर खोली

cise of a right, the liberty of free

speech is being abused with bad

faith and said that people may

exercise degree of restraint on

their liberty of free speech and

expression during testing times

The Court also said that the

such as Covid-19 pandemic.

में आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। ई-निविदा खुलने की तिथि पर अवकाश होने की स्थिति में ई-निविदा अगले कार्य दिवस पर निर्धारित समय तक जायेगी। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये ई-निविदाओं को अस्वीकार/ विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लौड. धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क जमा करने तथा अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में www.etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। निविदाओं का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:-ई-निविदा संख्या, कार्य का विवरण, निविदा के प्रथम भाग खुलने की दिनांक, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य (कर सहित) को क्रम में पढ़ा जाये। 1. **टी-**76/ 20-21 (अल्पकालिक): विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. मोदीपुरम- कंकरखेड़ा लाइन के टावर सं. 03 के सुदृढ़ीकरण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक

29.08.2020, হ. 2,000.00/-, হ. 590.00, 2.

टी-77/ 20-21 (अल्पकालिक): विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र चरला पर स्थापित 100 ए.वी.ए. परिवर्तक के क्षतिग्रस्त पाइपलाइन को बदलने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 29.08.2020, रु. 2,000.00/-, रु. 590.00, 3. टी-78/ 20-21 (अल्पकालिक): विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र चरला पर स्थापित 100 ए.वी.ए. परिवर्तक के पंखे, पम्प एवं मार्शिलंग बाक्स को बदलने से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 29.08.2020, रु. 2,000.00/-, रु. 590.00, 4. **टी-79**/ 20-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र रामराज के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 23.09.2020, रु. 22,000.00/-, रु. 1770.00, 5. टी-80/ 20-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-द्वितीय मेरठ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सरधना के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से सम्बन्धित कार्य। दिनांक 23.09.2020, रु. 13,000.00/-, रु. 1770.00, अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, ''पारेषण भवन'' विक्टोरिया पार्क.

मेरठ। ''राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें'' पत्रांक

2359/ वि.पा.मं./ मेरठ दिनांक 21/08/2020

action be initiated against Faizal by permanently blocking his access to social media.

The Court refused to pass directions to the Police to take any preventive action against Faizal, however directed the Nodal officer under the IT Act to decide complaint by the petitioner if it was worthy of being taken to its logical conclusion. Moreover. the Court asked the petitioner to file a fresh complaint before the Nodal officer to seek relief, if he did not wish to pursue earlier complaint.

Chief Justice Datta, who authored 22-paged judgement observed, "The right cannot be

exercised to sow seeds of hatred and to create disharmony among religious communities. Since inflammatory posts/messages have the potential of disturbing public peace and tranquillity, strong action ought to be taken against those responsible to uphold the high values aimed at by the Constitution.

CJ went on to say, "In a secular country like India, the citizens of different religions should feel assured that they can live in peace with persons practicing other religions. Regrettably, a trend is clearly discernible that in the name of exercise of a right, the liberty of

free speech is being abused with bad faith."

The Court said that freedom of speech should be exercised rationally and in an orderly manner for fair and constructive

Disposing of the PIL, CJ Dattta said, "It is time that the State introduces a regime of conduct with stricter norms but satisfying the test of reasonableness, in exercise of the power conferred by Article 19(2) of the Constitution, to deal with rapid rise of absolutely avoidable, uncalled for and unwarranted inflammatory posts/messages on the social media."

### LIMIT ON NUMBER OF CREW MEMBERS REMOVED

## Uttarakhand government relaxes Covid norms for outdoor film shoots

**LALMANI VERMA** DEHRADUN, AUGUST 21

THE UTTARAKHAND government has relaxed norms for shooting films in the state by removing the upper limit on the number of crew members for outdoor shoots and raising that limit for indoor shoots.

The amended USMDA guidelines stated that the maximum permissible capacity for indoor shoots will be 50. For indoor as well as outdoor shoots, physical distancing of at least 6 feet must be followed. "However, there shall be no restriction on the number of persons in

outdoor film shooting, subject to the above mentioned physical distancing condition and all norms of safety, social distancing and SOPs of State government, MoHFW and MHA are strictly complied with," stated the guidelines. Earlier, the SOP had permitted a

maximum of 15 crew for indoor shoots and 30 for outdoor shoots. After the unlock started, the

Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and Uttarakhand Film Development Council (UFDC) in June had issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for film shoots. Since then, the government has issued permission for 37 shoots of movies, web-series and music albums at locations in Dehradun, Rishikesh, Mussoorie and Nainital. Almost 50 per cent of permit holders have already completed their shoots. "But such restrictions on the

numbers of crew members for outdoor shoot created challenges for filmmakers as they need more staff, especially when outdoors. In films shot already in the past few weeks, crew members were called in shifts to meet social distancing norms. Removal of the upper limit on the crew will make outdoor shooting convenient for production units,' said a USDMA official.

New Delhi

A UFDC official said teams of 200-300 people are required when shooting big-budget movies. He further said that after the relaxation of norms, the Shahid Kapoor-starrer "Jersey" would be shot at various locations in Dehradun, including the campus of Forest Research Institute "Uttarakhand is a preferred des-

tination of shooting for filmmakers because of picturesque locations... A large number of Bollywood production houses are approaching for shooting in the state. It generates revenue and employment for the locals in the state," said K S Chauhan, Nodal Officer, UFDC.

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

### CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

**C<b>®VID-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-registra-

tion" of the vaccine with the

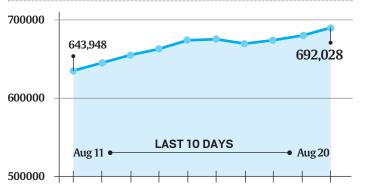
Russian drug regulator. J&J TRIALS: Johnson & Johnson has said it planned to test its candidate vaccine on about 60,000 people dur-

ing 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

Source: Ministry of Health & Family

**WORLD TOTAL CASES** 

: Johns Hopkins University

### 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 exami-

**NEW RESEARCH** nations 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



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 postmortem 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

### SIMPLY PUT

## Reading the Pakistan-Saudi rift

The long-time allies appear to be drifting apart, with Saudi Arabia preferring to build ties with India rather than criticise it over Kashmir. What are the implications for India, especially in light of Pakistan's China ties?

**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

### 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

2015. Pakistan's Parliament decided not to support the Saudi military effort to restore an internationally recognised government in Yemen.

Pakistan has been brewing for some time. In

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 belled 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

#### 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 — Rivadh 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 fu-

## 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 Noorani 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 CII 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 willand 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

ing to ignore, by a majestic liberalism, trifling

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 petu-

lance 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

**KEY VACCINE CANDIDATES, TRIAL FINDINGS** 

### **KAUNAINSHERIFFM**

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 mRNAbased 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

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

ond 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-

New Delhi

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.



Sunita

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

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

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



## **DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

NIT OF EMPANELMENT OF ADVERTISING AGENCY AT

	DEEM PERMOLOGICAL CHIVEROFF DEEM						
ο.	Item Description	Tender ID No.	Last date & time of Submission				
	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 <u>http://www.dtu.ac.in</u> against said tender. Corrigendum if any will be issued through E-procurement portal only Concerned 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 from 20.08.2020 (10:00 hrs) to (15:00 Hrs) on 31.08.2020. Last date of closing of tender ploading 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 o Technical Bid on 16.09.2020 at 15:30 Hrs. Financial Bids of qualified bidders will b opened at a later date to be notified separately. The detailed NIT can also be viewed ownloaded from www.rrcat.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 assword & Class III DSC before last date of sale. Registered agencies only can purchase ownload & 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.

at ISBT Anand Vihar & Sarai Kale Khan

उत्तराखण्ड पेयजल सँसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम (उत्तराखण्ड रारकार का उपका) 03/1 इन्दिरा नगर देहराद्न-24801 दुरमाष/केवस: 0135-2764075, E-mail: cgmnirmanwing@Yahoo.com, gmnirmanwing@g

अनुमानित लागत

995.00 लाख

कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक (गढ़वाल), निर्माण विंग

त्तराखण्ड पेयजल निगम, 403/1, इन्दिरा नगर, देहरादूः

21.08.2020 - 17.00 बजे

24.08.2020 - 12.00 बजे

05.09.2020 - 17.00 बजे

CIVIL WORK FOR RESTORATION AND REJUVENATION OF POND AT

VILLAGE DAULTABAD BLOCK: GURUGRAM

(TENDER AMOUNT-23.00 LACS)

उत्तराखण्ड शासन ''ई'' अधिप्राप्ति निविदा सूचना

निविदा से सम्बन्धित आगामी परिशिष्ट/ शुद्धि पत्र/ निरस्तीकरण इत्यादि ई अधिप्राप्ति सम्बन्धी सूचना पोर्टल

I. NIT No. Tender ID No. Name of work

: 2020\_DTIDC\_193580\_1 : Annual Maintenance of Electrical Installations

: 18/2020-21

पत्रांक 1859/निविदा (गढ़0)/312

निविदा पूर्व बैठक की तिथि ।

कार्य का नाम

पॉलीटैक्निक . भलस्वागाज के भवन निर्माण कार्य ।

निविदा सं० १८५४/ निविदा(गढ़०)/ ३१३ दिनांक २१.०८. २०२०

जनपद हरिद्वार के विकासखण्ड भगवानपुर में राजकीय

निविदा आमन्त्रित करने वाले अधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता।

पोर्टल पर निविदा अभिलेख की उपलब्धता की तिथि एवं समय ।

ज्योर्टल पर निविदा प्राप्त करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय ।

www.uktenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है ।

SOCIETY CUM

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

GURUGRAM

14

82393/HRY

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 : 03.09.2020

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

SE/Civi DIP/Shabdarth/0246/20-21

DTIDC Ltd. ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delh

### NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

(Two Packet System)

Chief Engineer (Construction)-II posite Railway Hospital Hasanpura Road, North Western Railway, Jaipur -302006 for and on behalf of the Presiden of India invites Open E-Tender. Tenderei shall on-line submit their original/revised offer before the date and time of closing of E-tender. **E-Tender Notice No.: NWRC** RE-SDLP-C-103160503R, Name of vork with location : Construction of salance 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 o new terminal facility at Jaipur Approximate cost of work : 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 o On line E-Tender : 15.00 Hrs. or 1.09.2020 Website particulars where complete details of E- Tender can be een:www.ireps.gov.in Please join us on f 📘 /NWRailways

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Follow us on @SCRailwayindia Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our

### urement Tender No.175 Date.20.08.2020

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated hrough e-Procurement. Tenderer are requested to visit the web-site www.ireps.gov.in and submit thei offers. It may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will no pe accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:

SI No.: 1 Tender No.: TMC2019110 Description: Supply of Piston road ssembly, Vibration shaft assembly Guide column bush, Tamping an oush, Pressure disc and Clutch oupling for the use of Track nachines. Due Date: 17.09.2020

SI No.: 2 Tender No.: TMC2019117 Description: Supply of Isolato ibration Mounting pads, Rubber Nountings for the use of Track achines. Due Date: 17.09.2020

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

SI No.: 5 Tender No.: TMC2019120 Description: Supply of Engine loses and Hose Clamps for the use of rack machines. Due Date: 3.09.2020

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 plan r the use of CPOH/RYP. Due Date 28.09.2020 ssue of Corrigendum No.1 to the

tender notice no.174 (e rocurement 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 refe www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.Chief Engineer/TM/HQ/ Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / letails and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

दिनांक:- 21/08/2020

कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि

महाप्रबन्धक (गढवाल)

## Uttar Pradesh Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. ( ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Company) Visheshwaraiya Bhawan, Gomtinagar, Lucknow

#### **NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**

The General Manager, Electrical Zone-1, Lucknow invites for and on behalf o 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 vork: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of New Mortuary Cold Room at RALC Building, KGMU, Lucknow (for COVID-19), Estimated Bid Value: Rs 7.85 Lakhs+GST, Earnest Money: Rs. 0.76 Lakhs, Period of Completion 15 days, Last time and date of submission of bid; 1500 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



Ref. No. 11-2020-21/DAP/NPK NOTICE INVITING OLOBAL E-TENDER

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 and www.eprocure.gov.in. Last date of bid submission is 31st August, 2020. Corrigendum/ Addendum, if any, shall be published only on above websites.

#### **Executive Director (Materials)** NFL : FARMERS' FRIEND, NATION'S PRIDE

ttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Ager Tehseel Bhawan, Narendranagar, Tehri Gharwal, Pin-249175. Mob:7895869395,9411079047 email ureda.tehri@gmail.com Tender Notice No: 01 /UREDA/LEASE-MHP-JAKHANA/2020.dated -19Aug20 "E" Procurement Notice

Grid Synchronization Work and other Required Works on Boot Basis for Operation & Name of Work 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 Date & Time of availability of 21/08/2020 from 10:00AM Bid document in the Portal I ast Date & Time for receipt 7/09/2020 upto 5:00 PM of bids in the Portal Senior Project Officer, UREDA, Ground Floor Name & address of the Officer eel Bhawan, Narendranagar, Distt-TEHR inviting the bid. Uttarakhand

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

''स्वहित एवं राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचायें''



### **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,

Email: 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 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 corridendum/ 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 & S) OSMCL, BBSR

OIPR-10112/11/0021/2021

## SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**INVITATIONS FOR BIDS** Implementation of Smart Roads to the Maravaneri Cross street No.1 to 7 in Division No.14 & Anai Road Cross Street in Division No.11 of in Salem City Municipal Corporation (Phase - VIII) Estimate Cost Rs. 1060.00 Lakhs

Bid document and other information available at www.tntenders.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.salemcorporation.gov.in Tender document can be downloaded from the above website

Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures. - 29.09.2020 upto 3.00 P.M. Ш Submission of bids -29.09.2020 at 3.30 P.M. Opening of bids

DIPR/ 3149 /TENDER/2020

Commissioner, **Salem Corporation** 

0124-2331003

noo,lism@@grgoqbb

#### GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE (APPROX.) IN OPENING DATE NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER DEPARTMENT CLOSING DATE DEPARTMENT DETAILS/EMAIL **RUPEES** PANCHAYA'TE RAL SLOCK SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF CLOSING DATE LEVEL E-TENDRING NO. https://ebenders.hvy.nic.in 9896374741 COMMITTEE, BLOCK BLOCK SAMALISHA IN DISTT-PANIPAT. 06/09/2020 SANALISHA PANCHAYATE RAJ BLOCK SURPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS BAPOLE IN DISTT-PAWIPAT. CLOSING DATE LEVEL E-TENDERUNG MIL. 9416693369 https://etendors.hry.nic.in 08.09.2020 COMMITTEE, BLOCK BAPOL PANCHAYATI BALBIOCK SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF CLOSING DATE LEVEL E-TENDERING MIL. 9396163435 https://ebenders.hry.nic.in COMMMETTEE, BLOCK BLOCKS PANIPAT IN DISTT-PANIPAT. 08.09.2020 PANCHAYATE RAJ BLOCK LEVEL E-TENDERING COMMITTEE, BLOCK SONOLI CLOSING DATE SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF ML. 9541885999 https://ebenders.hry.nic.in BLOCKS SWICLI KHURD IN DISTT-PWIPAT. 08.09.2020 PANCHAYATE RAJ BLOCK SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING NATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF CLOSING DATE DEVEL 6-TENDERING 5 NEL. https://ebenders.hry.nic.in 9416329894 COMMITTEE, BLOCK BLOCKS HADLAUDA IN DISTT-PANIPAT. 06.09.2020 PANCHAYATT RAJ BLOCK SUPPLY OF RAW AND BUILDING MATERIAL IN VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCKS ISRAMA IN DISTI-PANIPAT. CLOSING DATE 6 MIL https://etenders.hry.nic.in 9996974547 06.09.2020 DOMINITTEE, BLOCK ISPANA PANCHWYATI RAI CONSTRUCTION OF GOVT VETY DISPENSARY AT VILLAGE GOPNLWAS -25,03,2020 1.44 CRORE etenders.hyy.nic.in. 9468050674 DEMANDED THREWOOD 7 OTHER WORKS 06.09.2020 EMPANELMENT OF SUPPLIERS FOR SUPPLY OF VEGETABLE SEEDS AS MENTIONED DV 21/08/2020 HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT PANCHKULA 8 (BOTH POLLINATED/HYBRID) DURING 2020-21 FOR SEEDLING https://ebenders.hry.ric.in Dr., Marrof Kumler JOH/PMN 31/08/2020 PRODUCTION AT GOVERNMENT CENTRES DOCUMENT CONST. GVO, GVH, B/WALL OF PLAY GROUND AND REPAIR OF 25,08,2020 8708577177 01282-260296/ 9. PANCHAYATI RAJ, NARNAUL 305.91 LAKH https://ebenders.hry.nlc.in PANCHAYAT GHAR 1 DONSTRUCTION OF JPB STREETS WITHTOE WALL AT VILLAGE 18.09.2020 prexeeng nrighty, nic.in 21,08,2020 10 SIWANKA BLOCK MUNDLANA AND 12 NOS OTHER WORKS DISTT. PANCHAYATI RAJ, SONEPAT 353.30 LAKHS Executive Engineer https://etenders.hry.nic.in 09.09.2020 THIRE CHARGES SUPPLY OF TENTTAGE ITEMS FOR ELECTION WORKLAND OTHER 1 NO WORKS 21.08,2020 11 PANCHAYATI RA), SOMPAT 12.41 LAOIS https://enerdem.hts.nic.in Executive Engineer 26.08.2020 ONIT FOR PROVIDING PUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAY CONNECTION WITH SALANCE DISTRIBUTION IN VILLAGE MATTAND TE-ISIL GO-WAN PUBLIC HEALTH https://etenders.hry.nlc.in 01263-258417 CLOSING DATE 12 ENGINEERING CIVISION DISTT. SONIPAT- "PROVIDING FUNCTIONAL HOUSEHOLD TAP 350.06 LACS / ee1gohana@gmail.com / ee1gohana@phedharyana.gov.in 31.08.2020 CONNECTION WITH DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN VILLAGE MATTAND AND ALL OTHER WIDN'S CONTINGENT THERETO. + 7 OTHER WORKS NO.1 GOHAWA 2020\_HRY\_140358\_1 CONSTRUCTION OF SUB-HEALTH CENTRE AT VILALGE HIVANA IN HISAR DISTT. (CHI ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 22796 DATED 18.08.2018) + 1 OTHER 24,08,2020 01662-239887 13 PWD BBR, HISAR 21.48 LACS https://etenders.hry.nic.in 08:09.2020 pwd-ecpd3 hissar@hry.nic.in SECRETARY GURUDAN

26.08.2020

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

23 LACS

https://etenders.hry.nic.in



### कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिविल) **उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण** निर्माण सण्ड-द्वितीय, ई०पी०आई०पी०, कासना, जिला-गौतमबुद्धनगर अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

एतदद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि प्राधिकरण के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र ईपीआईपी कासन जनपद-गौतमबुद्ध नगर में स्थित प्रशासनिक भवन के रिनोवेशन/ मरम्मत हेतु सरकार्र विमागों/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/परिवर्त/नगर निकायों में अर्ह ''बी' श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फुमों//ठेकेदारों से अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। ज दिनांक 23.08.2020 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 31.08.2020 को शाम 5.00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है. जिन्हें दिनांक 01.09.2020 को पूर्वान्ह 11.00 बजे खोला जायेगा निविदाताता द्वारा केवल शायध पत्रों की मुल प्रतियां दिनांक 65.09.2020 को शाम 6.00 बजे कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकेगी। ईं-निविदा के माध्यम से आमन्त्रित की जाने वाली निविद सम्बन्धी विवरण निम्नवत है–

क्रमांक	कार्च का नाम	कार्य की लागत रूपये (लाख में)			
	Renovation of Administrative Building at EPIP Kasna, DisttGautambudh Nagar	17.02			

नोटः निविदा दाता अपनी निविदाओं में समस्त कर एवं जी०एस०टी० सहित ही दर्रे अंकित करें। अलग से कोई कर देय नहीं होगा। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तृत जानकारी निगम की website: www. upsidc.com पर स्थित् निविदा सम्बन्धा विस्तृत जानकारा ।नगम का website: www. spoiss.so... ई-लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकर्त है। **वरिष्ठ प्रबन्ध्क (सिवित** 

2020-21, Darlort 19-09-2020, E. Tender an word by the undersigned for the following lork: Tender No.: RN-ST-84-2028-21

RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE OF TELECOMM GEARS

of Yaxacomm Gears in Ranglyn-Rangaper North-North Lakhlmour-Murkongstelek including Three branch lines (i) Rangapari North-Dekargaon (s) Balpara-Bhilgso (si) Harmuti-Nahartagun at Rangry Division: Tender Value: ₹ 56,52,736,70 arnest Manay: \$1.13.100\- Date & tim of Closing of E-tender at 55:00 hm. o 11-09-2020 and Opening of tender a 15:30 hrs. on 11-49-2020 at Sr. OSTE Rangiya's office: f'or detaits pleasavie noteze www.keps.gov.io

Divisional Signal & Telecon NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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C	နှာ င	OVERNMENT OF HAR	YANA	TEND	ER NOT	ICE -
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 ENCAGEMENT 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	www.hafed.gov.in	0172-2590520-26 hafed@hry.nic.in
2	HARYANA SEHARIVIKAS- PARDHIKARAN	JOB NO 2774 E.E. HSVP DIVN. SNP 2019-20CONSTRUCTION OF CYCLE TRACKISERVICE ROAD ALONG SECTOR DIVIDING ROAD BETWEEN SECTOR-11/12, UE, SONEPAT. "PROVIDING & LAYING OF 50MM THICK BUSG, 25MM THICK PREMIX CARPET & CLEAR-ING JUNGLE FCI. NI SECTOR-7 AND ALL D'HAEN WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO." (INCLUDING THREE YEARS MAINTENANCE FREE OF COST.) - 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2020	53.05 LACS	https://etender.hry.nic.in	0130-2233814 xensonipat@gmail.com
3	MAHARSHI DAYANAND UNIVERSITY, ROHTAK	(I) SITC OF OR NOS. B PASSENGERS (G.3) MACHINE ROOM LESS LIFTS FOR TYPE-IA, SE FAIS (JUNDER CONSTRUCTION) (II) SITC OF OR NOS. B PASSENGERS (G-2) MACHINE ROOM LESS LIFTS FOR OI NO. VIVEKANANDA LIBRARY READING HALL OI NO. FOR ENGLISH DEPT. BUILDING OI NO. FOR BY-CHOLOGY BUILDING, OI NO. FOR IMSAR, OI NO. FOR MATHEMATICS BUILDING OI NO. FOR MATHEMATICS BUILDING AND OI NO. FOR PATHEMATICS BUILDING AND OF THE OF THE OIL DING OF THE OIL DING OF THE OIL DING OIL D	20.08.2020 11.09.2020	126.60 LACS	https://mdurohtak.eten ders.hry.nic.in	01262-393175 xen.civil@mdurothak.ac.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or 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 Techno Commercial bid
1	No.CEO/MC/T. 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 or Phone:-0177-2801745.

(Er. SANJEEV MARIA (Er. SANJEEV MARIA)

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

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

खण्डवा, दिनांक 20/08/2020

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

क्रमांक/वि.एवं यां./ई—टेण्डरिंग/2019-20/4<u>६</u> ई-निविदा विज्ञप्ति

निम्नलिखित कार्यो हेतु निविदाएँ ऑनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, उल्लेखित कार्य की निविदा का विस्तृत वेबसाईट

http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्य पूर्ण करने की टेंडर आई कार्य का नाम अनुमानित निविदा प्रपत्र की राशि SOR लागत <u>(लाख में)</u> राशि की श्रेणी अवधि 3 6 External Electrification लो.नि.वि. 2020 UAD 69500/ 10.000/ म.प्र.प.क्षे 92.46 नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी वि.वि.कं लि.ू के work of Proposed Transport Nagar New Krishi Mandi Indore 'स' व अधिक प्राचलित Road Khandwa SOR वेद्युत ठेकेदा लो.नि.वि. नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी 'स' व अधिक म.प्र.प.क्षे. वि.वि.क्. 2020\_UAD\_ External Electrification 164.77 82400/ 12,500/-3 माह work of Proposed Transport Nagar 33/11 प्राचलित प्राचलित KV Sub Station Construction Near New Krishi Mandi ्एवं अश्रेणी विद्युत ठेकेदाः SOR Khandwa 3 2020\_UAD\_ 102941\_1 External Electrification 106.27 53200/-12,500/ लो नि वि नवीन पद्धति पंजीयन श्रेणी वि.वि.कं लि.ूके work of Housing Unit under PMAY at Sant स' व अधिक एवं अ्श्रेणी प्राचलित SOR AHP Site Chirakhan

विद्युत ठेकेदार Khandwa 1. निविदा ऑनलाइन 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) निदिवा संबंधी समस्त जानका वेबसाइट http://www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है: नि

1 पर देखी जा सकती है; निविदा में यदि किसी क्रेया जावेगा। **्र आयुक्त** भी प्रकार का संशोधन किया जाता है तो यह केवल वेबसाईट पर ही प्रकाशित किया जावेगा।

नगर पालिक निगम, खण्डवा

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

The Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD, Dhami 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. Estimated EMD Cost of Eligible Time

No.		Cost		Tender	Class of Contractor	
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

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://hptenders.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 no obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.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.

KEY DATES:

Sr Name of Work

Г	٠	ter bareo.		
l	1.	Date of On-line Publication	03.09.2020	18.00 hrs.
	2.	Document Download Start and End Date	03.09.2020 16.09.2020	18.30 hrs. upto 17.00 hrs.
	3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	03.09.2020 16.09.2020	18.30 hrs. upto 17.00 hrs.
l	4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	17.09.2020	10.30 hrs.
	5.	Date of Technical Bid Opening, Evaluation of Technical Bid followed by Opening of Financial Bids.	17.09.2020	11.00 hrs.

4. TENDER DETAILS:

The Tender Documents shall be uploaded On-line in Two Covers:

Cover-1 shall contain Scanned Copies of "Technical Documents/Eligibility Information" Cover-2 shall contain "BOQ/Financial Bids", where Contractor will quote his offer for each item

SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draf towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (c) Form 7-8 and Affidavits to the authorized official of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.F as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non

BID OPENING DETAILS: The bids shall be opened on 17-09-2020 at 11.00 HRS by the authorized officia of Executive Engineer, Shimla Rural Division, HPPWD Dhami H.P. in the office of the Superintending Engineer, 4th Circle HPPWD Shimla-3. In their interest the tinkerers are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. If the office happens to be closed on the date of open

ing of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the dead line date for bid submission.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable fo

any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bid ders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. I is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender Eligibility Criteria: The bidders must have successfully completed similar nature of work not less than 40% of estimated cost during the last five years (without Liquidated damages or compensation) for Job No 1.

On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh **Executive Engineer,** Shimla Rural Division,

H.P.P.W.D., Dhami

New Delhi

--HIM SUCHNA AWAM JAN SAMPARK--

# 3 THE WORLD



**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.

### WORLD



Joseph James DeAngelo

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 hew 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."

### **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 welltravelled 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 bittersweet. 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

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

IN A warm, encyclopedic tribute

to her family Wednesday night, as

she formally accepted the vice-

presidential nomination, Sen.

Kamala Harris skimmed past dis-

cussion of her father, Donald

Harris, a Jamaica-born professor of

economics at Stanford University.

many of Harris' generation: She

is a child of divorce, raised by a

The reason is common to

**ELLEN BARRY** 

AUGUST 21



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 38year-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

single mother who became her

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

joking in an interview that,

growing up in a Jamaican family,

He scolded her in a letter for

their estrangement.

As Harris has stepped into the

most profound influence.

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 prioritised 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

Donald Harris holding his

daughter Kamala in 1965. AP

it was natural that she had

Despite his low profile in the

smoked marijuana.

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

MIKEISAAC& SHEERA FRENKEL

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

election cvcle. Harris is not an ob-

scure figure. He was the first Black

scholar to get tenure in Stanford's

economics department, and a

prominent critic of mainstream

He arrived at the University of

California, Berkeley, as a graduate

student in 1961. There, he met

Shyamala Gopalan, an Indian

young, Donald Harris got a series

of teaching jobs at colleges in

Illinois and Wisconsin, moving the

When the children were very

graduate student his age.

economic theory from the left.



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 postelection strategy. "We continue to plan for a

range of scenarios to make sure we are prepared for the upcoming election," he said, NYT

family repeatedly. The couple sep-

arated in 1969, when Kamala was

say, 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

Donald Harris, in his 2018 es-

5, and divorced two years later.

Harris' father, a footnote in speeches, is a leading economist

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

**Constant thorn** 

in Kremlin's side

ALEXEI NAVALNY has been

one of the biggest and most

of Putin and the Kremlin, re-

peatedly bringing up allega-

tion and mobilising protests.

He has been jailed multiple

2019, he suffered what doc-

tors said was a severe aller-

gic reaction. Navalny has

later said he was likely poi-

tor also expressed similar

views. Last December, the

office of his Anti-Corruption

Foundation was raided and

The decision came after

Navalny's wife Yulia sent a letter

to the Kremlin directly appeal-

ing for it to intervene and for it to

grant permission for him to be

head doctor at the hospital, said

earlier that Navalny had been di-

agnosed with a metabolic dis-

ease that may have been caused

by low blood sugar. He said

traces of industrial chemical sub-

Alexander Murakhovsky, the

police seized documents

and laptops.

allowed to fly out.

soned, and his personal doc-

times, and while serving a

30-day sentence in July

tions of high-level corrup-

constant thorns in the side

**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 deci-

sion that we do not object to him being transfered 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 cur-

rent 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



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.

### 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

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 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



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.

Restaurants started the movement earlier this summer, building elaborate al fresco dining areas in the streets when officials determined that indoor service would not be permitted. "This is a true surviving game," said Roberto Paciullo, owner of three Zero Otto Nove restaurants. So far, about 10,000 restaurants and bars have shifted to outdoor dining, according to the NYC Hospitality Alliance.

Just last week, Chelsea Market, the renowned (and always crowded) indoor food and retail space in Manhattan that spans over a million square feet, took over no-standing zones on 15th and 16th Streets between

socially distanced tables, and customers can order from 19 food vendors. Five restaurants are also offering table service. So far, with coronavirus levels

Ninth and Tenth Avenues. Now

wood-clad enclosures house 115

remaining low, the city's fresh-air efforts seem to be working. But Nicole Gelinas, an urban

economist who is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, said that the city needs to be doing more to make the outdoors work for New Yorkers, and not just during the pandemic.

"We need to be thinking of the parks as essential services as we head into layoffs,"

New Delhi

joint press release said. PTI

## **Classifieds**

### **PERSONAL**

R.K.P.Sharma, R/o JG-32, 2nd

Nagar, New Delhi 110017 have

0070711812-1

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0040545625-2

0070711819-

0040545606-1

0040545603-

0040545603-3

0070711824-1

0040545630-8

0070711813-1

Floor, Khirki Ext., Malviva

Rameshwar Sharma for all

, Ramesh Kumar S/o Hans Raj

R/o Behind Sugar Mill Near

my name to Ramesh Arora

I, Priya Sharma, D/o Suresh

Chand Sharma.W/o Ravi

Grover, H.No.1173, Sector-

10A.Gurgaon. (Harvana)-

to Priya Grover.

122001, have changed my name

I. Pratibha Panwar W/o Sandeep

No-99, Mansi Vihar, Sector-23,

Ghaziabad, UP-201002, declare

that name of my minor child

written as Gitansh Chaudhary

respectively in my minor son

name of my minor child and

mine is Advait Chaudhary and

Pratibha Panwar respectively

I, Pragati Giri S/o Vishwanath

Giri R/o Sai Sankalp Society,

Maharashtra-400701, have

changed my name to Pratap

Chandra Mohan Malhotra R/o

Kailash-2, New Delhi-110048.

have changed my name from

Poonam Yadav To Poonam

I, Pawan Kumari, D/o Lakh Raj

Village Patpargani, Delhi-

to Pawani Kumari.

Parveen Kapoor

to Neha Parashar

Dhake, R/O 69, Sadar

purposes.

Singh R/o-14 Main-Road Kotla

110091, have changed my name

I. Parveen Kumari W/o Sanieev

Street No-13, Kamalpur, Hoshiarpur, Punjab-146001,

have changed my name to

I, Neha Kumari D/o Jayprakash

Singh R/o Flat No-406, Techno

Colony, Ram Jaipal Path Belly

Road, Rupaspur, Patna, Bihar-

I, Paresh Dhake, S/O Prakash

have changed my name to

Paresh Prakash Dhake for all

I. Murta Bai Meena D/o Bharat

Tehsil Bonli, District-Sawai

have changed my name to

Ali R/o-478, Village & Post-

Sahibabad.Ghaziabad.have

changed my name to Farookh.

I, Minky D/o, Manak Kaushik R/o-

110009.have changed my name

I. Mahesh Kumar Alias Mahesh

Yadav S/o Hari Krishan Yadav

R/o House No-15, Ground Floor

Road No-1. West Puniabi bagh

Extn., New Delhi-110026, have

changed my name to Mahesh

I. Mandeep Kaur w/o Vikas

Kumar r/o M-33, Mohan

Nath Prasad Gupta R/o-

H.No.32, Agrasen Colony,

Garden, Delhi 110059 have

changed my Name to DIVYA

I, Krishn Kumar Gupta, S/o Baij

Bhangel Begampur-V, Noida,

GautamBudh Nagar, Phase-

2.have changed my to Krishna

Kumar Gupta for all purposes

I, Kiran Sehrawat, D/o Surender

110037.have declare that, in my

Education-record mention as

known as Kiran Sehrawat D/o

**I,** Kamlesh Meena D/o Mali Ram

No-126, Near Khushal Chowk,

Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi-

I, Kajal@Kajal Sejwar,D/o

Dalaf-Kala Chauraipur

Sh.Ashok Kumar@Ashok

Mainpuri Chauraipur,UP-

Hinduism and Embraced

Islam, for all purposes, in

I, Kailashwati Sharma, W/o

Floor, Khirki Ext., Malviya

Sharma for all purposes.

R.K.P.Sharma, R/o JG-32, 2nd

Nagar, New Delhi 110017 have

changed my name to Kailash

206303 have changed my name

to Ayesha and Also Relinquish

Kumar Sejwar, R/o-Nagala

to Komal Meena

Meena R/o 5903, B-Block, street

110084, have changed my name

Surender.,In future I,will be

Singh R/o-H.No.1182, Near

aadharcard & Pancard, my

father name mention-as

Surender Singh and.in

Surender Singh for, all

purposes.

Veerpal Atta Chakki,

Mahipalpur, New.Delhi-

B-5/13.Model Town-LDelhi-

to Tushita Kaushik, for all

purposes.

Yadav

Pasonda, Mittha Kua,

Lal Meena R/o Village-Bagdoli.

Madhopur, Raiasthan-322023.

Aaravi Beflawat for all purpose

I, Md Faruk S/o Mohd Mohabbat

Apartment, Mayur Vihar Delhi

801503, have changed my name

Residency, Arpana Bank

Kapoor R/o House Number-79,

Malhotra for all future

E-311, First Floor, Greater

Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai, Thane.

Room No-204, Sector-6,

I. Poonam Malhotra D/o

Mishra

purposes.

Advait Chaudhary aged 3 years

in his Birth Records. The actual

and mine has been wrongly

and Pratibha Chaudhary

Singh Chaudhary, R/o House

Rai Nagar, PO Kavi Nagar,

Guest House, Nawanshahar,

Punjab-144514, have changed

changed my name to

purposes.

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 0040545630-6 Rawat.

I.hitherto known as Phool Chand,S/o 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 Surender 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 0040545625-7 Purposes.

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

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 Baiai.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 0040545630-3 and purposes.

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 10-08-2020 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-L Vikramaditya Singh, s/o

Vikram Singh, r/o E-17, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065, have changed my name to Vidit Sinh Chauhaan. 0040545614-1

I, Uppu Palakondarayudu S/o Sankaraiah Uppu R/o Flat 107, SVR Pine Ridge Jakkur Lavout. Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560092, have changed my name to Arthur Lovian and I have changed only my name not my Religion

0070711848-1

L Sveda Fatma Rizvi D/o.Sved 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 0040545566-1 purposes

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

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

0040545625-4

I. Sheela Mitchell D/o Hari Prashad R/o A 304, SLV Essenza, Nehru Nagar, Jakkur Lavout, 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, Novel Public School, Keshari Nagar, Patna, Bihar-800024, have changed my

name to Sagar Jha

0070711823-1

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, Rameshwar Dayal Sharma, S/o

**I,** Harkesh Kumar S/o Madan Lal R/o House no-159A, Ward No-3, Cheema, Tehsil Sunam, Sangrur, Punjab-148029, have  $changed\,my\,minor\,son\hbox{{\it 's} name}$ from Sameer Jindal aged 14 years to Devansh Jindal forever 0070711808-1

I, Ina Ratra w/o Kartik Ratra, R/o

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 videaffidavit-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 0070711821-1

I, Gurpreet Singh Chawla S/o-Pritam Singh R/o-G-20/6A, Second-Floor, Rajouri garden New-Delhi-110027,have  $changed\,my\,name\,to\,Gurpreet$ 0040545625-3 Singh. 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

**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. Gauray Krishna Barman S/o Ashok Kumar Barman R/o J3-701, Parsvnath Prestige, Sector-934 Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my minor son's name from Ishaan Krishna Barman aged 2 years to Kriyaan Krishna Barman forever

0070711845-1

0040545566-2

Bhupinder Kaur w/o Vir Singh r/o 8/100, Ramesh Nagar, Delhi- $110015\,have\,changed\,my\,name$ 

0040545540-1

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

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

R/o B-29, Second Floor, Street No. 10, Krishna Park Extn. Tilak Nagar, West Delhi - 110018 have changed my name to Avtar Singh

I Ina Ratra W/O. Kartik Ratra, Floraville, Sector 137, Noida, Near FelixHospital, Surajpur, (UP)have changed my Name From Ina Ratra To Ina Arora for all purposes. 0070711837-1

Hemlata Mittal W/O. Suman Mittal R/o Rz-34, Naya Bazar, Najafgarh New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to

Hans Raj Khosliya,S/o Chet Ram R/o 16/830-E, Bapa Nagar Karol Bagh, Delhi-5, have

0040545625-1

Chirag Pandya R/o RZH-775, Gali No-13, Rajnagar Part2 Palam NewDelhi Have Changed Vyom To Vyom Pandya

0040545551-1

### LOST & FOUND

I Maniu W/o Ravinder Kumar R/o Ashoka CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 36/2, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-85 have lost my documents i.e 1.) Share Certificate No. 165, 2.) Allotment cum Possession Letter somewhere. If anybody found, please contact on above 0040545591-1 address.

Sh.Bhim Sain Jain R/o ZP-21, Pitampura, Delhi have lost my Original Demand Letter, Possession Letter, NOC for Electricity and Water, Sanction Plan and connected documents allotted by DDA New Delhi of Property No.56, Rajasthani Co-operative Industrial Estate Ltd., Rajasthani Udyog Nagar, G.T.K. Road, Delhi-

33. Finders may contact at above address. 0040545563-1

**PUBLIC NOTICE** ayak @ Akshay & disowned him from a amily & social relations with immediate cruelty & atrocities committed by hin gainst my client. Any person dealing w him, shall be doing so at their own risk cost & consequences. My client shall n

Advocate R. K. Dev

SITUATION VACANT

A Sr. Sec. School in Rohini Req. Exp. and **Qualified Staff:** I) Principal 2) Teacher All Subjects

) Admin/Non Teaching Staff Apply: infoschool7@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Sarla Tiwari W/o Late Sh. Ashok Kumar Tiwari R/o RZ-39K. Jalil No. 5A, Kamal Park, Sagarpur, Palam Colony, New Delhi-45 has severed all relations with her daughter-n-law Asha Tiwari W/o Late Sh. Anogo Iliwari @ Babloo and her Grandsor Ansh for all purposes and has disowned. Se deharred them from her all movable & Ansh for all purposes and has disowher & debarred them from her all movable & mmovable properties due to disobedience and my client shall not be responsible for any acts & deeds done

PUBLIC NOTICE 

Advocate Lawyers Chamber No. 636 Dwarka Courts Complex, Sec-10 Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 Mob. No. 9818463962

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

RAJIV KUMAR SHARM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice Please take notice that My Client Smt. Ranjeet Kaur W/o Late

Shri Rattan Singh, R/o C-54, DTC Colony, Hari Nagar, New Delhi -110064 Has Disowned her son Shri Inder Ra Singh and His Wife Smt. Swarnjeet Kau

ho are Residing Separately at from n

lient at Gujarat, from all her Moveable

and immovable properties and also severed all her relations with them,

any body deals with said Inder Raj Singl and His Wife Smt. Swarnjeet Kaur in an Manner Whatsoever shall do so a

His/Her/Their own Risk and my clien

shall Not be Responsible of any Acts ar ends of the Above Said persons.

Hemant Kumar (Advocate)

(E.no.D/4447/2016) Delhi High Cour Ch. No. 412, Dwarka Courts, New Delhi-110075

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Notice is hereby given to public at large that my client Smt. Ram Devi W/o Late SI Santosh Kumar R/o F-45-46, Green Avenu Vikas Nagar, New Delhi-59 has severed a her relations from her Sons 1. Sh. Paras Kumar, his wife Smt. Rukmani & 2. Sh.

larender, his wife Smt. Parvati, their leg

heirs & associates, disowned & debarre all of them from all her moveable &

att to ittell in flour att the involvable & immovable properties with immediate effect because of harassment, torture, cruelty & atrocities committed by them against my client. Any person dealing with them, shall be doing so at their own risk, cost & consequences. My client shall not

onsible in any manner for the sam

Advocate A. K. Verma 319, DC, Janakpuri

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

My client Smt. Sushila Prakas

W/o Shri K.C. Prakash R/o Flat

No. S-01,354, Niti Khand 1, India

Puram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014

s the owner of the property

pearing no. 410. D-16. Sector-7

Rohini Delhi-110085. A Civil Sui

pearing no. CS-1718/2019 is

pending at Rohini Court Delhi

Public at large is informed not to

deal with said property for any

ourpose through any person

Ch. No. 911, Chamber Block, Rohi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client Sh. Anup Singh S/o Late

Sh. Sampuran Singh and his Wife

Smt. Kanwaljeet Kaur W/o Sh. Anuj

ingh, Both R/o E-44, Ground Floo

Greater Kailash Enclave-2, New Delhi-110048, have debarred thei son Charanjit Singh, their daughter n-law Rashmeet Kaur W/o Sh

Charanjit Singh and their Grandso

Arvind Mishra, Advocate

Court Complex, Delhi-110085

to BHUPINDRA KAUR.

I, Amna Khatoon 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. Aiay 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

Shalu Sharma W/O, Hemant

I Kulrai Singh S/O, Manna Singh

0040545616-1 R/O. Hibiscus -1404, Paramount Gautam Buddha Nagar 201306

Hema Mittal 0040545618-1

changed my name to Hans Raj.

## and severed their relationship with hem due to their ill-behavior & misconduct. Anybody deals with hem in future, shall Be responsible

**PUBLIC NOTICE** ausif Usmani W/o Mr. Hasmat Husain Ismani R/o 17, Gautam Pali, ucknow, U.P. was allottee of Residential HIG Flat No. 38D, Block-A, Sector-105, NOIDA, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. She executed a registered General Power of Attorney in favour of RASHID MINHAJ S/O Late inhai Uddin R/o A-121, Johri Farm loor Nagar Extension, Jamia Nagar Okhla, New Delhi. Now the above said Ramesh Kumar Jain S/o perty is to be transferred in the mes of Mr. SANJIV KUMAR S/O

Mr. U.S. Rawat R/o 16D, Parvatity Vihar, B-6, Vasundhra Enclave Delhi-110096. DeIni-110096. Within 15 days from the publication hereof, Any claim received after the aforesaid period shall be dispatched to have waived and the sale will be completed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, shall be considered as waived

sidered as waived.

D.K. SHARMA (Advocate)
Chamber No. 28, Sub Registrar
Compound, Sector-33, NOIDA **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

it Known to public at large that ent Mrs. Kaushyala (Aadhaar 1961128765) W/o Late Shri Bhag R/o C-571, JJ Colony Phase-oi, Nilothi, West Delhi 110041. D Nangloi, Nilothi, West Delhi 110041. Do hereby disown and disinherit their son namely Sh. Brij Mohan alias Vicky, his wife Smt. Neha R/o C-571, JJ Colony Phase-2 Nangloi, Nilothi, 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 we client shall not be held liable socially.

N-212, Greater Kailas New Delhi-1100

83128

विद्याणांचल विद्युत 🚳 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🧑 वितरण निगम िळ **E-TENDER NOTICE** कर्जा भवन, 220 के.बी. विद्युत उपलेखान CAO/CON/TS/2020-21/03. E-TENDER बाई-पास रोड, सिकन्ट्स, आगता -282007 NO. 04/20/0265/TS(e-open). Sealed open (CIN No.U31200UP2003SGC027460) tender is invited on behalf of the President of (GSTIN No. 09AACCD0695D1ZS)

India for the under mentioned work.

 Name of work with it's location for OPEN TENDER NO. 04/20/0265/TS (e-open) Fabrication & Supply of assembly fo 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. 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/Mahendrughat, Patna

### BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Power Wing)

Corrigendum

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

विशिष्टीकरण सं८ डीबोबीएनएल-

<u>एगएग/3026-2020</u>: सामगी:-

Synthetic Adhesive-50,000 विशास

एनं <u>Varnish-8,000 लीटर, धरोइर राशि</u>

: <u>₹ 45,000/-,</u> निविद्या खुलने की

दिनांक: 12.09.2020, निविदा शुल्क:

₹ 3,540-, (जी.एस.टी. संदित). निविदा

शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, DVVNL,

AGRA को वेबसाइट www.dvvnl.

org के माध्यम से ही स्वीकल किया

जायेगा। विकाण के लिए कृपया विकिदा

प्रपत्र ध्यानपूर्वक पड़ से । उपरोक्त नियदा

निर्पारित दिनांक को समय 13.00 यजे तक

ऑनलाइन अपलोड की वा सकेंगी एवं

निधारित दिचांक को सांच 16-00 बजे

खोली जायेंगी । निकिदा प्रयत्न २०६० शासन

के इं-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टार https://etender

.up.nic.in पर अपलोड की जार्देगी, जारी

से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड किया जा

सकता है। हस्ताः/-अधीक्षण अधियना

(साठप्र0)-।, "राष्ट्र हित में विजली

क्वाचे पत्रक 6792/अधीवभीमव (मावप्रव)

-१/आगग/विज्ञायन/दिनांक:21.08.2020

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/Stn., BBMB Ballabgarh & Samaypur

11.09.2020 upto 17:00 hrs. Last date of submission of pre-qualification documents 18.09.2020 upto 15:00 hrs.

and www.bbmb.gov.in 1209-PR-TS-4 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

### FEDERATION LIMITED TOTU, SHIMLA-171011

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(S-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).

https://hpmilkfed.org for complete details. Bidders should visit the website from time to time to note the corrigendum, if any,

**Managing Director** 

### **NORTHERN RAILWAY**

Hiring of one number road Multi Utility Vehicle (INNOVA, SCORPIO/ERTIGA/TUV-300 OR Name of Work with its location EQUIVALENT) vehicle on monthly basis for Dy.CE/BL/TKJ for official use for a period of (02) two years. Approx. Cost of work Rs. 13,57,039.04 Earnest Money Rs. 27200.00 Completion period (24) Twenty Four months of the work Rs. 2000/- Note: - Cost of EMD & Tender Form Cost of 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 IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 2015//CE-I/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016). 6 Date & time for Upto 15.00 hrs on 10.09.2020 Opening of tende after 15.00 hrs on same day submission of tender & opening of tender

Tender Notice No: 32-W/HIRE-MUV-DLI-2020-22 Date: 20.08.2020 1823/20

### NORTHERN RAILWAY **TENDER NOTICE**

against following Tender Notice, closing date & time are mentioned against each coloumn. 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.

Name of work	crossing gates (LKO	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 CI	osing 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 S	tart Date	10.09.2020				
Tender No. 75-W/2/3/WA/DEN/HQ/T. Notice Dated : 21.08.2020. 1821/20						

### **SERVICES CHHATTISGARH** Indravati Bhawan Ground Floor, Block-3,

Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar Pin-492002 e-TENDER (SECOND) INVITATION NOTIFICATION

manufacturers, importer for supply of Veterinary

**1.** Date of Online Bid 20.08.2020 18.09.2020 **2.** Last date of Tender Submission (5.30 PM)

made available under Department-Livestock **Development Department (LDD)** on website https://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in and https://www .agriportal.cg.nic.in/ahd.

> **Director** Chhattisgarh

#### **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

(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, CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171

e-Procurement Notice

e-Tender No's.: IRCON/IRCON/NZ/CVL/US/1/2020 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 & NCF under Northern Region

₹109.22 Lakhs Estimated Cost of Work Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 12.09.2020 at 15:00 Hrs. For further details, visit website <a href="https://www.etenders.gov.in">https://www.eprocure.gov.in</a> and <a href="https://www.eprocure.gov.in">https://www.eprocure.gov.in</a>

orrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. (General Manager/Northern Region

4<sup>a</sup> Floor, Palika Bhawan, RK Puram Sec 13, New Delhi-66
e-mail: neeraj.verma@ircon.org; Tel: 011-24121632; +91-9560595073

### **HARYANA GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIES & COMMERCE DEPARTMENT**

**NOTIFICATION** No. 49/43/2015-41B1

The 14th August, 2020

Pursuant to the Notification No. 49/43/2015-41B1 Dated 14th August, 2015, the Governor of Haryana is pleased to extend applicability of 'Enterprises Promotion Policy, 2015' till 30th September, 2020.

A.K. Singh

Principal Secretary to Govt. Haryana **Industries & Commerce Department** 

### SML ISUZU LIMITED SML (Formerly known as Swarzi Wazda Limited)

Regd. Office: Wlago Asron, Dist. Statid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Navanshahr), Punjab-144533 Phone: 01881/270255, Fair: 01881/270223, GIN: LS0101PB1983PL0005516. Email: Investora@smisuzu.com Website address: www.smisuzu.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a neeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is acheduled to be held on 8th September, 2020 (Tuesday) to consider and approve the unaudited Financia Results for the first quarter ended 30th June, 2020.

The information is also available on the Company's website www.smlisuzu.com and also on the website of the Stock Exchanges viz. BSE Limited www.bseindia.com and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited www.nseindia.com

Dated: 21.08.2020

NIT No.

82379/HRY

For SML ISUZU LIMITED (PARVESH MADAN) Company Secretary

FICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PROCUREMENT, JPDCL, JAMMU, ELECTRIC CENTRAL STORES COMPLEX, RAIL HEAD, JAMMU J&K PIN -180012 PHONE NO. 0191-2473402 TELEFAX. 0191-2472350

N0: SE/PRJ/TS/75 Dated: 18.08.202 NOTICE INVITING e—TENDER

- NIT NO. SE/PRJ/09/2020-21 Dated: 18.08.2020 For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Superintending ngineer Procurement JPDCL Jammu invites online e-bids from original Govt agencies for Third Party Inspection Services for the requirement of

SE/PRJ/09/2020-21 dated 18-08-2020 Third Party Inspection Services during Procurement of various equipments/ material used in the Electrical Distribution Description Network for Two Years i.e 2020-21 & 2021-22. Detailed NIT may be downloaded from the website: http://jktenders.gov.ir upto 9th Sept. 2020 till 14.00 Hrs. The tender shall be accepted through online

node only in case, the tender process does not get completed due to any rea son, no corrigendum will be published in the newspapers. The details regarding corrigendum may be seen on the above mentioned website.

Sd/- Superintending Enginee Procurement, JPDCL, Jammu

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** 

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement system incipal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for an on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procureme system for supply of the following items:-

S. Tender No. Brief Description Closino Date INTER CAR GANGWAY MOUNTING FOR 16-09-20 COLLAR FOR DIRECT MOUNTED 8229 NOS 02 07201076 16-09-20 ROLLER BEARING 737 NOS 17-09-20 03 02201528 V-DEEP GROOVE ALTERNATOR PULLEY FLAP DOOR FRAME WITH PANEL 935 SET 04 09202545 18-09-20 COMPLETE 05 09202121 STRIKER CASTING WEAR PLATE 39619 NOS 21-09-20 DOUBLE ROW SELF ALIGNING 06 19204439 220 NOS 23-09-20 SPHERICAL ROLLER BEARING

**07 | 19200602 |** AXLE BOX BEARING CRU-150 79 SET 30-09-20 NOTE -1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. der Notice No. 18/2020-2021 Dated : 21.08.2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY voigs

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P **E-TENDER NOTICE** 

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

1. 36/SM (Jal)-II/ET/19-20, M/o W/s (Rewinding of V.T. Motor TPMO and Fuse Set at Water Supply Network Sector-70, 73) Noida. (For Two Years) **Cost** - Rs. 42.57 Lacs. **2. 28**/SM (Jal) II/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (P/F of Sewer Manholes, Raising and Cleaning of Sewer Manhole at Various Places in Village Kondli). Noida. Cost - Rs. 36.43 Lacs. 3. 33/SM (Jal)-II/ET/20-Maintenance and Development of Village (Maintenance of sewer work in village Sarfabad) Noida. (For Two yars). Cost Rs. 48.90 Lacs.

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 28.08.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 31.08.2020 at 11.00 AM.

4. 38/SM (Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o W/s (Repairing of Bowl Assly Tube Shaft and Column Pipe at Network Sector-30, 31 & 36) Noida. (For Two Years). Cost - Rs. 56.03 Lacs. 5. 39/SM (Jal) II/ET/20-21, M/o W/s (Rewinding of V.T. Motor, TPMO and Fuse Set at Water Supply Network Sector-22, 23, 24) Noida. (For Two years). Cost - Rs. 68.22 Lacs. 6. 41/SM (Jal)-II/ET/20-21, M/o W/s (S/F of Line shaft set at Network Sec-22, 23, 24 and 21A) Noida. (For Two Year). Cost - Rs. 48.48 Lacs.

The above tenders can be uploaded by date 04.09.2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 07.09.2020 at 11.00 AM. (Yogendra Kumar)

Senior Manager (Jal)-II

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

PR/0543/CON/Engg/T/20-21/48

Notice Inviting E-tender

Estimated Cost ₹ 13.01 Lacs

Last date of receipt of tender The detailed Tender may be downloaded from website https://bbmbeproc.abcprocure.com

THE H.P. STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS'

No. 433PEH-015-3XIII Short Term Tender Notice

Aspiring bidders should visit website in https://hptenders.gov.in &

Sd/-

**TENDER NOTICE** Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

Website particulars where Above tender available on IREPS site complete details of Tender i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Sr. DEN/C/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders

67-DRM-MB-20-21 dt : 18.08.2020

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE **DIRECTORATE VETERINARY**

Online Tender is invited from licensed Vaccines for Department of Veterinory Services, Chhattisgarh. The detailed schedule are as follows-

The detailed tender documents and list of item are

**Veterinary Services,** 

sd/-

Office

Sector-37

New Delhi

₹74.84

**9** \$44.06

**⊘** ₹69,262

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2300 ISI SENSEX: 38,434.72 ▲ 214.33 NIFTY: 11,371.60 ▲ 59.40 NIKKEI: 22,920.30 ▲ 39.68 HANG SENG: 25,113.84 ▲ 322.45 FTSE: 5,967.95 ▼ 45.39 DAX: 12,727.38 ▼ 102.62

### RECENT UNION CABINET NOD TO LEASING OUT OF THIRUVANANTHAPURAM AIRPORT

## Day after all-party meet seeks revocation, Puri says privatisation subject to outcome of plea in Kerala HC

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

REACTING TO the decision of the Kerala all-party meeting on Thursday seeking revocation of leasing out the Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Friday said the Union Cabinet's clearance for the airport's privatisation was subiect to the outcome of a petition at the Kerala High Court.

Then they approached Hon'ble Kerala High Court which dismissed the petition in Dec 2019. Petitioners then filed a SLP (special leave petition) in Hon'ble SC (Supreme Court). Apex Court remitted the matter back to Hon'ble ALL PARTIES, EXCEPT BJP, SUPPORT STATE GOVT MOVE

■An all-party meeting held at Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday wanted the Union government to revoke its decision to hand over the management of the international airport in the state capital to Adani Group.

Kerala High Court. There is no stay in the case either by Hon'ble SC or Hon'ble Kerala High Court," Puri said in a series of tweets.

"The Union Cabinet has given its go-ahead for awarding the airport to the private party subject to the outcome of Writ Petition & in accordance with provisions of un-

September 25. There were con-

cerns raised whether the ab-

sence of oral or physical hearing

would end scope for 'fair ex-

change of information' as only

written submission would be al-

that their written points would

be understood by the tax officer

and taken into consideration,

and therefore can the taxpayer

be assured of justice in the cur-

rent scheme," S Nageswari, tax

head, Tata Group asked tax offi-

submission made by taxpayers

would be taken into account in

sorted out via video conferenc-

ing, citing that the officials were

already using email and VC facil-

assessment regime would be ap-

proved by the CBDT, outlining

the criteria under which a re-

quest for a videoconference

could be approved. "It would ac-

tually be spelling out the param-

eter or circumstance or the kind

of cases that would warrant a

personal hearing. It would be a

guidance to the chief commis-

Assessment Centre (NeAC) while

evaluating request for a personal

hearing, but it would do well for

the assessee to know if his re-

quest for personal hearing

matches the criteria laid out for

the same," Smita Ihingran, Chief

Commissioner, Regional e-as-

sessment centre in Delhi said.

sioners and National

A new set of SOPs for faceless

ities during the pandemic.

Bhoot assured that written

and misunderstanding could be

cials at the webinar.

assessment

 $\hbox{``Can the taxpayer be assured'}\\$ 

the public sector. Chief Minister Pinarayi Viiavan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Cabinet to reconsider its decision.

■ All parties, except BJP,

wanted it to be retained in

dertaking given by the Concessionaire. If the petitioners succeed & outcome of litigation leads to annulment/cancellation of bidding process then the Concessionaire will handover the possession of airport to AAI. They will be entitled to refund of

investments made in the assets.The Concessionaire will also not demand any damages from AAI," he added. An all-party meeting held at

Thiruvananthapuram Thursday wanted that the Union government revoke its decision to hand over the management of the international airport in the state capital to Adani Group. All political parties, except BJP, wanted that the Thiruvananthapuram airport be retained in the public sector. Reflecting the views of the allparty meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan sent another letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the Union Cabinet to reconsider its decision to hand over the airport to Adani Group, "The overwhelming view of the all-party meeting is that the operation and management of the airport should be vested with the state," the letter noted

"Now, Kerala Government, running two very successful airports in PPP mode, is opposing the handing over of Thiruvananthapuram airport under PPP mode. It has come to my knowledge that an all-party meeting in Kerala has opposed the PPP model at Thiruvananthapuram airport ... If Kerala Govt is against privatisation, then why did it participate in the bidding process? State Govt was given a fair chance & Right of First Refusal (RoFR) if their bid was within 10% below the range of highest bid. However, they bid 19.64 % below," Puri tweeted.

### **BIHAR ELECTIONS DUE IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER**

### Govt likely to allow sale of electoral bonds in October

**SUNNY VERMA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

AHEAD OF Assembly elections in Bihar in next few months, the government is expected to allow sale of electoral bonds in October. Even as the Election Commission of India has not made any official an-

nouncement yet about the poll

schedule in the state, elections in

Bihar are due in October-

"The structure of the scheme allows periodic issuances. Fresh subscription will most likely happen in October as of now, this is as per the periodicity specified in scheme itself," a senior government official told The Indian

As per the Electoral Bond Scheme, 2018 notified in the offi-

cial gazette on January 2, 2018, "the bonds under this Scheme shall be available for purchase by any person for a period of ten days each in the months of January. April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government."

In the year of general elections, the central government may specify an additional period of thirty days for sale of these bonds. The finance ministry is not expected to make any changes to the structure of the scheme as of now, the official indicated. The thirteenth tranche of these bonds were issued from January 13-22,

There have been some occasions when government has deviated from the specified periodicity for issuance of these bonds. The sixth tranche of electoral bonds, for instance, were issued from November 1-10, 2018. During 2019 general elections, electoral bonds were sold in the months of March, April and May.

The minimum amount for donation in electoral bonds is Rs

accounts of political parties till March 31, 2019, BJP received Rs 1660.89 crore through electoral bonds, followed by Congress party's collection of Rs 388.26 crore, out of total collections of Rs 2753.67 crore by national and state political parties. This is based on data provided by finance ministry in Parliament.

### Faceless assessment: Video interaction option in specific cases, SOP to be prepared

provide an option of interaction between taxpavers and tax officials through videoconferencing in some specific cases of tax assessments under the faceless assessment scheme, senior tax officials said Friday. The Department will prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) for such an option, but it would be exercised cautiously so as not to jeopardise the faceless nature of the scheme, Rajesh Kumar Bhoot, Joint Secretary, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said in a webinar.

understandings, then there is no closure of the door as there is a provision of video conferencing also ... Earlier, the scheme was very open type. Anybody could ask for video conferencing but there was a genuine concern that this would be used to jeopardise the faceless nature of the scheme. So we thought we would come with the SOP as to in which cases VCs would be allowed which would be approved by the board," he said, while adig a webinar organised by Dhruva Advisors and FICCI on faceless assessment.

national tax cases.

### amount paid to AAI & additional

#### **HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

EXPORTS TO China have jumped about 31 per cent to \$7,29 billion during April-July 2020, despite a slump in the economy.

While overall exports have registered a negative growth of (-) 29.99 per cent in the first four months (April-July) of 2020-21, exports to China have increased by 30.71 per cent, shows an analysis of the monthly trade data available on the Commerce Ministry's portal.

It shows that during April-July this year, exports to China increased to \$7.29 billion — 30.71 per cent up from \$5.57 billion in the same period of last year. However, in this period, the country's overall exports contracted by 29.99 per cent to \$75.01 billion from \$107.14 billion in the same period last year.

AMID COVID

8-10% Annual growth in

loan-loss provisions are

cent in FY20

buffers

provided, faster than 4 per

₹1.9-2.1 lakh crore: External

capital needed by PSBs to

restore loss-absorbing

Moody's Investors Service said

### **TOP 5 EXPORTS TO CHINA IN APR-JUL**

Exports to China jump about 31% in April-July

■Agglomerated iron ore pellets (\$0.632 bn) ■55% FE or more but below 58% FE (\$0.432 bn) ■ P-xylene (\$0.378 bn) ■Mild steel (m.s.) billets

(\$0.351 bn) Strips of flat-rolled products in coils of a thickness<3 mm hot-rolled, excl.pickl (\$0.251 bn)

Exports to China during April-July 2020-21 is the highest since 2007-08 — the year since monthly trade figures are available online. With the latest surge, share of exports to China in India's total ex-

ports have climbed to nearly dou-

ble digits — 9.71 per cent — dur-

ing April-July this year, as against

'PSBs need capital up to ₹2.1 lakh cr over next 2 yrs'

₹1 lakh crore: Share of total

about 70 per cent of NPLs

to build loan-loss provisions to

external capital needed by PSBs

**RISK FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY:** 

India's banking system, any failure

could jeopardise financial stability

Source: Moody's Investor Service/PTI

As state-owned banks dominate

Public sector banks (PSBs) will need external capital of up to Rs 2.1 lakh crore over the

next two years, with government support the most likely source to plug this shortfall,

5.2 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. Annually, the share of exports

to China in India's total exports has been rising very slowly, but this year it has gone up sharply. For instance, the share of exports to China in India's total exports was 5.3 per cent in 2019-20 and 5.03 per cent in 2018-19.

In the last financial year, China was the third largest importer of Indian goods, with the United States (accounting for 16.94 per cent of exports) being the largest importer, and the United Arab Emirates (9.21 per cent) second.

While there is no specific reason given for the jump in Indian exports to China during April-July 2020, it can be due to old pre-contracted orders being shipped once port operations resumed after the COVID-19 lockdown.

The pandemic outbreak was reported early in China, and trade activities were disrupted there during January-March 2020. While in India, the impact became more visible in April after the country went into lockdown on March 24, However, on March 25, the Home Ministry issued an addendum to lockdown guidelines, allowing operations of railways, airports and seaports for "cargo movement" and "inter-state movement of goods/cargo for inland and exports".

The data also shows that in calendar year 2020, there was an increase of 23.15 per cent in exports to China in January this year, in comparison to the same month of last year.

However, following three months - February (-13.62 per cent), March (36.66 per cent) and April (-20.69 per cent) — saw a dip in exports over the corresponding months of last year. This period of slump was followed by a sharp jump in exports during May, June and July.

### Benchmark bond vield rises 14 bps to cross 6% on rising retail inflation

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

HIGHER RETAIL inflation is pushon the benchmark 10-year government bonds on Friday rose by 14 basis points to 6.09 per cent, the highest level since early May.

The rise on Friday followed concerns raised by members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) over the elevated inflation which was at 6.93 per cent in July.

### Direct tax refunds worth ₹88,652 cr issued to over 24L taxpayers: I-T Dept

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI. AUGUST 21

DIRECT TAX refunds worth Rs 88.652 crore have been issued to over 24 lakh taxpayers so far in this financial year, the Incometax Department said on Friday. This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds of Rs 28,180 crore issued to over 23.05 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds amounting to Rs 60,472 crore to over 1.58 lakh taxpayers during this period.

The department, however, did not release the comparative year-ago figures. "CBDT has, so far, issued re-

funds of over Rs 88,652 crore to more than 24.64 lakh taxpayers from 1st April, 2020 onwards. Income tax refunds of Rs 28.180 crore have been issued in 23,05,726 cases & corporate tax refunds of Rs 60,472 crore have been issued in 1,58,280 cases," the I-T department posted on Twitter.

The tax department had earlier on July 17 stated that it has issued refunds worth Rs 71,229 crore in more than 21.24 lakh till July 11, implying issuance of refunds of Rs 18.423 crore in last one month.

### THE BREAK-UP

■ The amount

includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds of Rs 28,180 crore issued to over 23.05 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds amounting to Rs 60,472 crore to over 1.58 lakh taxpayers during this period.

■ The department, however, did not release the comparative year-ago

On April 8, as part of the measures in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the government had announced immediate issuance of all pending income-tax refunds up to Rs 5 lakh, estimating it to benefit around 14 lakh taxpayers.

The government had also stated it will issue all pending GST and custom refunds which would provide benefit to around 1 lakh business entities, including Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

**Director,** College of Engineering, Pune

### **ESIC claims**

of application.

### **GST** registration New Delhi: Businesses regis-

tering under GST can opt for Aadhaar authentication, else physical verification would be the only option, CBIC said.

### Yes Bank MF biz

subsidiaries.

### Flipkart deal

Nepal's e-commerce. **PTI** 

### Personal insolvency process against Anil Ambani: Why has NCLT allowed it and what are the implications?

EXPLAINE

**AASHISHARYAN** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE MI IMBAI Bench of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

has allowed initiation of insolvency proceedings against Anil Ambani after two companies promoted by him failed to pay dues of Rs 1,200 crore that they had borrowed from State Bank of India (SBI).

Is this a case of personal insolvency against Ambani?

The case is significant as it is one of the first cases of insolvency against a major business group head. In 2015, Reliance Communications Limited (RCom) and Reliance Infratel Limited (RITL) both promoted by Anil Ambani –

had approached SBI, and sought loans of Rs 565 crore, and Rs 635 crore, respectively. Ambani had then given a personal guarantee

equal to the loan of Rs 1,200.

On failure to repay the credit extended to RCom and RITL, the stateowned bank invoked the personal guarantee given by Ambani. However, before the same could be enforced, both his companies were admit-

ted into insolvency, based on an plea by Ericsson India Pvt Ltd.

as a personal guarantee. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

### **EPIC SYSTEMS CASE**

US court held punitive damages award of \$280 mn as 'excessive': TCS

**PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

TATA CONSULTANCY Services (TCS) Friday said a US Court of Appeals has held that the punitive damages award of \$280 million (around Rs 2,098 crore) on the IT company in an intellectual property rights case with Epic Systems was "constitutionally excessive".

"In the EPIC Systems Corporation matter, the US Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit, Chicago, returned a verdict on the appeal filed by TCS, reducing the damages award. The Court held that the punitive damages award of USD 280 million is constitutionally excessive and directed the Trial Court to reassess the punitive damages,"TCS said in a regulatory filing.

held the compensatory damages award of \$140 million (approx Rs 1,049 crore), the filing added.

## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PATNA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Tender No. NITP/Proc./2020-21/05

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible firms for Providing One Gbps (1:1 uncompressed and unshared) Internet Leased Line Connectivity in NIT Patna The detailed tender document is available at Institute website: www.nitp.ac.in and CCP Portal http://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app Last date of submission of bid: 14.09.2020. at 01:00 PM

Advt. No.: NITP/Tender / 2020-21/05

### Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited ( A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise )

Corporate office-4, Meera Marg, Udaipur (Raj)- 313001 Phone-0294-2428768, 2428763-67, Fax-0294-2428768, 2428770 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NIT No. & Dat - NIT No.12/2020-2 Supply of Conveyor belts of various size & specification to ou SBU PC (RP), Jhamar Kotra Mines & SBU & PC (LS),

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at o website <a href="www.rsmm.com">www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in</a> or <a href="www.eproc.gov.in">www.eproc.gov.in</a> or cont Sr. Mgr. (MM) on above address. Raj.samwad/C/20/3741

## OSLC

ML2021GLOB00090

### **PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**

Jaisalmer. Approx Qty As per tender, Bid Security

Rs. 1,70,000 Tender Document Fee Rs. 1180/-

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033814, Website: www.pstcl.org
O/o SE/TS (D), Telefax: 0175-2207774
E-mail: se-trd@pstcl.org **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER** Open Tender

The Chief Engineer/TS

of Office giving Tender	3rd Floor, Shakti Sadan, PSTCL, Patiala
Tender Enquiry No.	STQ-2046
Scope of Work	Specification for Design, Manufacture, Testing & Supply of Line Fitting, Earthwire Fitting for 132/220KV Transmission Lines and Bus Bar Spacer for the Year 2020-21
Starting Date of Downloading	Date of Publication
Last Date of Downloading	18.09.2020 upto 11.00 hrs.
Last Date/Time for Bid Submission	21.09.2020 upto 11.00 hrs.

Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from PSTCL e-Tendering Website <a href="https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app">https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.nicgep/app</a>. in Newspapers. As such the web

SE/TS (Design), PSTCL, Patiala.

### **O**SBI

to submit the proposal by 12.30 pm on 31.08.2020

Sustainability Department, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, 9th Floor, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400 021.

Phone: 25507043 Fax: 020-25507299 www.coep.org.in
TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No. COEP/PEC/Tender/2020

College of Engineering, Pune invites online tender Construction of Library

and Computer IT Building at COEP. The Details are uploaded on https://mahatenders.gov.in The interested parties / bidders are requested

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING PUNE (COEP)** 

Shivajinagar, Pune - 411005

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

State Bank of India (SBI) invites applications from interested parties for engagement as consultant for preparation of Bank's Sustainability Report for the FY. 2020-21. Proposals are invited by 17.30 hours (IST on 10.09.2020 from reputed firms/companies to undertake the assignment. For further details, interested parties may visit our website https://www.sbl.co.in or https://bank.sbl Sd/-

Deputy General Manager Place: Mumbai Date: 22.08.2020

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद मकरोनिया, जिला सागर क./लोक निर्माण/निविदा/2020/581 मकरोनिया, दिनांक 19.68.2026

### प्रथम निविदा जामंत्रण सुचना

समस्त रेकेदारी एवं पंजीकृत एन:बी.ओ. से निम्नसिखित निर्माण कार्यी हेतु ऑनसदन निर्दि रामिया की जाती है। मिविदा कर विस्तृत विवरण वैदसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in प ला जा रूकता है

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निविदा तमदावधि

तशि प्रपत्र वद्यक्तिल (लाध्य में) (रुपये में) का मुख्य सहित

कार्य का नान पर्व

मफरोनिया भीताहे पर 405.50 202700/- 15000/- 12 HT मन्दीयन पार्कित निर्माण UAD

निविदा प्रयप्त केवन अनिनाइन वेयसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर दिनां

20.08.2020 की प्रात: 10:30 बाते में दिगांक 25.09.2020 की शाम 01:30 बाते तर क्रम दिवे जा रुक्तो हैं अनिलाइन निविदा 25.09.2020 महे शाम 05:50 वर्ग तक जमा पर सकते हैं। आनशहन निविदा दिनांक 25.09.2020 की छोली लावेंगे। 2. निविदाकार अपन जिजीकत दस्तावेजों का सिफायर स्पीड पोस्ट द्वारा अववा स्वयं निकाय कार्यालय अध कार्यराजन वंत्री नगरीय प्रशानन वर्ष विकास मागर मंभाग मागर के कार्यालय में दिना 28,09.2(20) को आम 65-50 करे तक जमा करा सकते हैं। 3. किसी भी प्रकार क मंश्रायम केवल वेबमाइट पर प्रदर्शित किया जावेगा, किमी मनाचार पत्र में कीई संशोध प्रकाशित नहीं किया जांगा। 4. निविद्य की समान अमें निविद्य प्रपत्र अनुसार होगी एवं किर भी निविदा को कारण वा विमा किसी कारण के स्वीकृत अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार निका को होगा। 5. निविद्याकार कलोक्त कार्यी हेतु वर्क कडिक्ट पर मानू औ.एस.टी. राजि को शीवकर अपने विलीध प्रम्ताव प्रेषित करें। देशक पर जी.एस.दी. राज्ञि का भूगतान पृथक र्र किया जावेगा । ६, निविदासार से पास भवन निर्माण हेतु संबंधित कार्य का अनुभव होन

भीमति सुशीना संतोध गेहित)

मुख्य नगर पालिका अफिकारी

(आर.सी. अहिरवार)

#### operator has acquired spectrum through trading from another operator then past dues need to be cleared. If the seller of spectrum does not clear the dues then the buver has to clear them.

of Reliance Communications for the spectrum which it bought from it, but even Bharti Airtel may have to pay a portion of dues of Aircel and Videocon as it bought spectrum in 2,300 and 1,800 MHz bands from them. **FE** 

#### What is the process for personal insolvency? SBI will now approach the in-

terim resolution professional with a list of assets provided by Ambani

and Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade

(DPIIT) to introduce a single onli-

ne window for compliance-re-

with regulators for single window New Delhi: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has begun consultations with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)

Easier compliance: MCA in talks

"The aim is to ensure similar kind of information is not duplicated on multiple forms for separate regulators," said the official. ENS

#### The Court has however, up-Type of Tender Name of Complete Address of Office giving Tender

lated filings, as part of efforts to lower compliance burden on companies and improve ease of doing business, a government official said.

Date/Time for Opening of Bids 23.09.2020 at 11.00 hrs

New Delhi

रेंडर

1000 and there is no maximum limit. State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of is-According to audited financial

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

The Income Tax Department will

"If at all there are some mis-

Last week, the government had launched faceless assessment scheme for all assessments except central charges and inter-

The system of faceless appeals will come into effect from

### BRIEFLY —

New Delhi: Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said unemployment benefit claims under ESIC's scheme will be settled in 15 days from date

New Delhi: Yes Bank will exit mutual fund business by selling its holdings in asset management and trustee

New Delhi: Flipkart has inked a strategic partnership with Nepal's Sastodeal, to help Flipkart sellers get access to

#### SC says buyer of spectrum liable to pay AGR dues New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Reliance Jio may have to pay the Friday observed that if any telecom adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues

This not only means that





"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.

# In non-Olympic year, Olympic-sized awards list Crawley's ton makes it

National awards: Sports ministry goes against own guidelines by announcing 74 winners

**MIHIRVASAVDA** 

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-incharge 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 Aniali 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.

captain Rahul Dravid, have been ignored for the award. The reason, according to a sports ministry official involved in the vetting process, was that there were others considered more deserving of the Khel Ratna in that particular year and the selection committee stuck to the guidelines by selecting only one sportsperson.

The sports ministry did not respond to questions sent by The Indian Express about the reason behind the increase in the number of awardees. Among others, a record eight para-athletes have been named for the awards. Paralympic Committee of India president Deepa Malik, who won the Khel Ratna last year, was one of the committee members. Hockey coach Romesh Pathania has been selected for the Dronacharya Award in the lifetime category. Pathania is credited with mentoring several India players, including former India captain Sardar Singh. Incidentally, Sardar was also a part of

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**

■ In 2018, Batra became the first Indian woman to win a table tennis title at the Commonwealth Games. She won four medals at the Gold Coast Games, including two gold. Later that year, she partnered Sharath Kamal to win the mixed doubles bronze medal at the Asian Games. Batra was feted with the Ariuna Award in 2018 for these performances. She is currently ranked 63rd in the world.

\* 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 Jhingan (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).

# 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 midwicket 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.

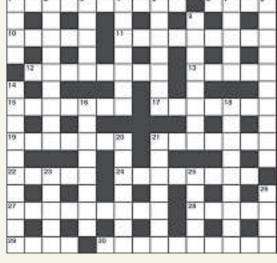
Neither he is by spin. For a tall batsman, he was remarkably lithe against Yasir Shah, whose variations he read adroitly. Surprisingly, his arch-nemesis are the medium pacers, line-andlength metronomes like Mohammad Abbas. The latter has troubled him in the county circuit, but he dealt him expertly by 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 backfoot. 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 fastbowling look pedestrian.

So did Buttler, whose spot was under scrutiny until the Old Trafford chase. His confi-

He was masterful in demolishing Yasir, who England plunged to 127/4.

### CROSSWORD 4204



### **ACROSS**

- Tina in mood that's awkward gets a warning (10)
- 6 Career people (4) 10 A reflective attitude taken by a
- storyteller(5) 11 There are strong links between its members (5,4)
- 12 Spring after spring, it never fails to surprise me (4,4)
- **13** Trainee acted badly (5) 15 Looks at with an expression of
- friendliness (7) 17 Skill taught in laboratories (7)
- **19** Improvised score?(7) 21 Beginning again, we learn afresh(7)
- 22 Highest form of wit? (5) 24 Attacked as the ship left port
- 27 Agitated like the farm animal
- that is in the net perhaps (9) **28** Dad set out with stick (5)

**JUMBLED WORDS** 

the answer for the given quip.

**WEOOR** 

29 May be sent home (4) **30** He goes riding after the ball

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)
- **14** He's a hard case (10) 16 Line of sight? (8)
- 18 State of recently purchased garment?(3,6)
- 20 He gets a countermand to stop at sea (5.2)
- 21 Italian dish Rex is to turn to 23 Takes a trip round French city
- 25 Drive for mile trip round
- Polish capital (5) 26 Stern breed? (4)
- Solutions Crossword 4203: Across: 1 Package, 5 Husky, 8 Rush order, 9 Ire, 10 Efts, 12 One-sided, 14 Touchy, 15 Pitied, 17 Subtract, 18 Etna, 21 Lea, 22 Twentieth, 24 Dylan, 25 Simpers. Down: 1 Purse, 2 Cos, 3 Amos, 4 Ending, 5 Hardship, 6 Spindrift, 7 Yielded, 11 Thumbnail, 13 Sheraton, 14 Tussled, 16 Octets, 19 Athos, 20 Item, 23 Ewe.

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

\_- Mae West (3,3,.,7)

### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis





SO YOU REALIZED THAT

MAKING MASKS OUT OF OLD

CLOTH DIAPERS WAS A

TERRIBLE IDEA?



### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson









MOM THOUGHT

OF IT

FIRST

to deal with someone who

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.

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 selfindulgence. Perhaps partners will agree that it's all for

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

intense, and somewhat crisisprone. 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.

New Delhi

dence 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 punished for 16 runs in an over including two mammoth sixes back over his head. Together, they allayed fears of a collapse after BRIEFSCORES: England 332/4(Z. Crawley 171

not out, J. Buttler 87 not out) vs Pakistan.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

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

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

prescribe for you right now. Don't take risks, though,

because an air of complacency suggests that you'll overlook

certain essential details. You

money after bad, now, do you?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

planetary

conclusively ties professional

financial prosperity. This is

positive, undercurrents, so

don't expect instant results.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

wrong place. This is a day to

intrigue. In the final analysis

your day-dreams may mean more to you than so-called

reveal the answers to tired old

'real-life'. They might even

problems.

welcome mystery and

If you're not sure

because you're

looking in the

what's going on, it's

combination that

and public prestige to

part of a five-year cycle

dealing with deep, but

Within twenty-

experience a

four hours you will

don't want to throw good

priorities in order.

BY PETER VIDAL

A set of serious financial influences

It's well-known that spending money

cheers people up!

This is just what I'd

has been sending

### **DAY TODAY**

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

be exploited. TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) The most simple reading of your chart indicates nothing more than

you allow yourself to

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

#### 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 heal old problems. You'd be so happy if people put you under

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Before very much

longer you will have seems to be in a perpetual state of emotional tension. This is

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

#### Decisive action is called for, but may

the best.

### the stars is deeply

### demands are still so

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

Professional



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



that seems to be troubling your conscience. As you know, some values are much more important than whether you make a profit or not.

### 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

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

WELL, I'VE DECIDED

TO CANCEL MY

MASK BUSINESS

Difficulty Level 1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s =

6 4 3 8 5

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4207 5 8 3 7 6 9 5 4 6 4 1 5 3 7 9 5 9 6 8 971682 8 3 1 5 4 7 6 6 5 4 7 9 3 2 8 1

8 9

2 1 3 5 4

UNREAL

Answer: You're never **too old** to become **younger** - Mae West SOLUTION: WOOER, ROTOR, NEURAL, CADFLY

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