



The lockdown to contain the coronavirus outbreak has disrupted supply chains. One crucial chain is delivery of information and insight — news and analysis that is fair and accurate and reliably reported from across a nation in quarantine.

A voice you can trust amid the clanging of alarm bells.

Vajiram & Ravi and *The Indian Express* are proud to deliver the electronic version of this morning's edition of *The Indian Express* to your Inbox. You may follow *The Indian Express's* news and analysis through the day on **indianexpress.com**



INDIAN
EXPRESS
GROUP

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

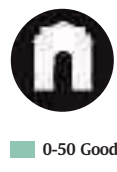


The Maharashtra govt has urged people to avoid crowding

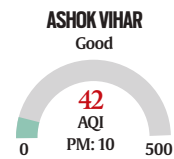
A growing number of nations is bringing students back to schools

The BJP Rajya Sabha MP said that, like the book urged, there should be an investigation into foreign funding, their network, and serious thought given to "some people radicalising a particular religion". "People on the ground do not want to fight, people who are outsiders... make them fight."

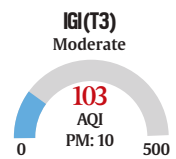
3 THE CITY



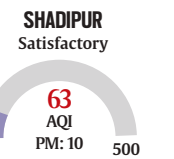
0-50 Good



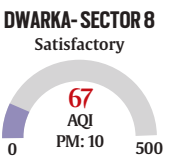
51-100 Satisfactory



101-200 Moderate



201-300 Poor



301-400 Very Poor

401-500 Severe

AT RAJIV GANDHI SUPER-SPECIALITY HOSPITAL

Fatigue, breathlessness: New clinic to address issues after Covid recovery

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

FROM MOHALI to Delhi, patients are calling the first of its kind post-Covid clinic set up at Delhi government's Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital to seek guidance on the several health ailments they are facing after recovering from Covid-19.

In the two days since it became operational, the clinic, which aims to support Covid-patients who have recovered from the illness, has responded to over 20 patients from Delhi as well as cities such as Aligarh, Agra, Moradabad and Mohali, who are keen to know the medications for post-Covid issues.

"So far, most of these patients are complaining about breathlessness, mild exertion, weakness, and fatigue. Patients feel that their quality of life is getting compromised as they are unable to get into their regular routine," said Dr Ajeet Jain, nodal officer



The clinic has so far seen over 20 patients from Delhi as well as cities such as Aligarh, Agra, Moradabad and Mohali

of the clinic at the hospital.

The concept of a post-Covid clinic was initiated when, as a regular policy, the hospital administration started contacting patients who had already recovered from the virus, and were informed that they are facing various issues. According to officials, the clinic is in line with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's vision

of providing a helping hand to patients who have recovered. The government is also providing oxygen concentrators to patients who are facing issues in maintaining the oxygen saturation levels even after getting discharged from the hospital.

The clinic has a waiting area alongside the registration counter and centres for counsel-

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL

	TOTAL CASES	HOSPITAL BEDS	VENTILATORS	Total	Vacant
				14,116	10,493
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Aug 21	1,250	1,082	13	17,735	
Aug 22	1,412	1,230	14	19,435	
Total	11,594*	1,44,138	4,284	14,12,363	

*Total active cases

ing, physiotherapy and yoga. It also has a consultation chamber with an OPD set-up wherein services such as pulmonology, cardiology, psychiatry and neurology are offered. There is also a sample collection area where blood samples, ECG and, if required, investigations like EEG or PFT are conducted.

"We are also learning and understanding the pattern of treatment. This will help us in anticipating the situation and devise a

strategy accordingly. Since there is no defined treatment for Covid worldwide, everyone is improving the techniques. The post-Covid observation will also help us in altering the present treatment for Covid patients," said Dr Jain.

The Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital has discharged around 1,500 patients and the doctors are calling each of them to follow-up. "This will help us have definite data on the

impact of Covid on the human body. Through this clinic, maybe after a month, we might be able to analyse the data which can act as a base for the future treatment," said Dr B.L. Sherwal, medical director of the hospital.

Delhi recorded 1,412 fresh coronavirus cases on Saturday, bringing the infection tally to 1,60,016, while the death toll rose to 4,284.

In the last 24 hours, the city reported 14 more deaths due to Covid-19.

According to the Delhi government's health bulletin, a total of 19,435 tests — 6,090 RT-PCR/CBNAAT/TrueNat tests and 13,345 rapid antigen tests — have been conducted in the last 24 hours.

So far 14,12,363 Covid-19 tests have been conducted in Delhi while the number of tests per million population stands at 74,334 in the capital. The positivity rate stands at 7.26 per cent while the recovery rate is 90.07 per cent.

Among 3 arrested for robbery, engineer who lost job in Qatar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

DELHI POLICE have arrested three men, including an engineer who lost his job in Qatar due to the Covid-19 pandemic, for allegedly posing as cops and robbing people in Dwarka's Najafgarh area Saturday. Police identified the accused as Swapnil Lalkishor, the engineer, and his friends Keshav and Ravi.

According to police, the accused, wearing police uniforms and carrying walkie-talkie sets, allegedly posed as policemen and pretended to patrol the streets in Najafgarh on August 18.

Late at night, they allegedly stopped a Verma car, which had a Punjab registration plate. The victims thought they were checking their vehicle, but were

The accused, wearing uniforms and carrying walkie-talkies, allegedly posed as policemen

soon abducted. The accused took the two men in their black Creta car and robbed their jewellery, phones, cash and other belongings. They were later dropped off at Singhu border.

A senior police officer said that Lalkishor and his friends allegedly tried to extort more money from the victims by forcing them to call their relatives, but could not get anything.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said, "We received a complaint from the victims and started tracing the route taken by the accused. More than 100

CCTV cameras were checked and the car was traced to Loni. We went there and arrested two men; the third accused was arrested from Rani Bagh."

During questioning, Lalkishor told police that he returned from Qatar recently and wasn't comfortable with his life here. He wanted money, so he roped in his friend, Keshav Sehgal, a property dealer, and allegedly hatched the plan. Sehgal also asked his friend Ravi, who worked at a call centre and needed money to pay medical bills for his mother's operation, to join them, police said.

Lalkishor took his brother's Creta car and the three ventured on different roads to find a suitable "target".

Police suspect that the trio are involved in more such cases in UP and nearby places, and are questioning the accused further.

Sanitary napkins for Re 1 — but many don't know about it

ASHNA BUTANI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

AT 10 am every day, Pravesh Kumar Dhama opens his Jan Aushadhi Kendra, situated in Ashok Nagar, and patiently awaits customers.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of sanitary pads for Re 1 has had little effect in his area, he says, as he points to the boxes of sanitary pads lying around on the shop floor, untouched.

"Sometimes, we manage to sell around 100 sanitary napkins in a day, but that is mostly to NGOs or other such organisations. But on most days, very few people come to buy. People visit the store from areas such as Khora colony and Trilokpuri," he said.

Since the lockdown, many women who relied on government schools for sanitary napkins, have switched to ordinary cloth.

An interaction with women staying just down the road from Dhama's shop revealed that most are still unaware of the cheaper alternative at the Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Most of them said that it has become difficult to buy sanitary napkins since their daughters stopped going to school.

Class XII student Priti Sharma (19) was among those who used to collect sanitary napkins from school. "Now we have online classes so we don't have a choice but to buy sanitary napkins. I tried using cloth a few times but it was very uncomfortable. So I started buying packets at Rs 30 each."

Her mother, Sushma Devi Sharma (48), has returned to us-



The Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Ashok Nagar

ing cloth like she would when she was younger. "My husband is unwell and I am a housewife. We are financially dependent on my son who works as a tailor. Obviously, we cannot afford pads for two women, so I use old pieces of cloth."

The family was unaware of sanitary napkins being sold at Jan Aushadhi Kendras for Re 1 each.

A few women, however, knew of the Jan Aushadhi Kendra, and had started going there during the lockdown. Suman Kumari (43) said, "I started buying from the kendra since both my daughters stopped attending school due to the lockdown. It is a cheaper alternative."

Dr Surbhi Singh, gynecologist and founder of NGO Sachhi Saheli, said, "It took some time for subsidised sanitary napkins sold by the kendras to pick up. Recently, many people have donated these pads to the NGO. I have distributed them among needy women across the city. Some gave positive feedback, while others said that they are not very comfortable as they are smaller than napkins made by other companies."

DEVI AHILYA VISHWAVIDYALAYA, INDORE
(NAAC Accredited "A+" Grade)

ADMISSION NOTICE - Common Admission Procedure (CAP) 2020 for Programs covered under CET

Devi Ahilya Vishwaavidyalaya, Indore announces schedule of its Common Admission Procedure (CAP)-2020 (programs covered under CET) for admission in the following UG and PG programs being offered at its University Teaching Departments for the session 2020-21 :

Programs After Graduation :

Group-A M.B.A. (Financial Administration/Marketing Management/Tourism/H.R./Advertising & Public Relations/Entrepreneurship/Business Economics/International Business/Financial Services/e-Commerce/Foreign Trade/Computer Management/Business Analytics/Hospital Administration/Disaster Management/Public Administration and Policy/Rural Development/Media Management) M.A. (Journalism & Mass Communication)

Programs After 10+2 :

Group-B M.B.A. (Management Science)-5Yrs./M.B.A. (Tourism)-5Yrs./M.B.A. (e-Commerce)-5Yrs./B.Com. (Hons.)-3Yrs./M.B.A. (Foreign Trade)-5 Yrs./B.Com. (Accounting & Tax Management)/B.A.L.L.B. (Hons.)-5Yrs./B.A. (Hons. Economics)/M.Sc. (Electronic Media)-5Yrs./B.A. Journalism & Mass Communication

Group-C M.C.A. -5Yrs./M. Tech. (IT)-5Yrs./B.Pharm.-4Yrs./M.B.A. (Hospital Administration)-5Yrs./M. Tech. (Electronics Spl. Embedded Systems) 5 Yrs./M. Tech. (IoT) 5 Yrs./M. Tech. (Energy Management) 5 Yrs./M. Tech. (AI & Data Science) 5 Yrs.

Apply online only through davv.mponline.gov.in. A candidate has to indicate the choice of group as per eligibility and can opt for more than one group within UG programs. The application fee is Rs. 1500/- (Non-refundable) + Rs. 50 postal charges. The application fee can be paid through Credit Card/Debit Card/Net Banking/UPI etc.

Last date of online submission of application form is '13th Sept., 2020'. The details of eligibility, procedure for filling the application form, number of seats, fee structure, etc. are available on our website www.davuniv.ac.in, M.P. Madhyam/98247/2020

REGISTRAR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

No.P/CMP/Med/I/Agra Dated: 19.08.2020

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR DOCTORS

North Central Railway, Agra Division intends to engage 01 (One) General Duty Medical Officer 01 (One) (Gynaecology/GDMO) full-time Contract Medical Practitioner (CMP) on Contract basis for a duration of one year as per details given below-

SN	Specialty	Vacancy	Place of posting
1	CMP (GDMO)	01	Health Unit Mathura
2	CMP (Gynaecology/ GDMO)	01	Divisional Railway Hospital/AGC
Total		02	

Reservation will be as Under-SC-NIL, ST-NIL, OBC-01, UR-01 TOTAL-02 The contract is extendable upto Twelve years on a year to year basis. **Date, time & venue of Walk-in-Interview & Medical Examination** - The interested candidates can appear in the walk-in-Interview followed by Medical Examination, at the following venue as per time and date indicated below.

Walk-in-Interview & Medical Examination	Date	Time	Venue
	10.09.2020	10.00 AM	Goverdhan Hall, DRM Office, Agra Cantt

● Medical examination of candidates will be held simultaneously along with walk-in-interview. **Note-I)** Candidate must submit their applications in duplicate on the prescribed and enclosed proforma latest by 10.00 A.M. on 10.09.2020 at the respective venue mentioned above. ii) In case the number of candidates are more and they cannot be interviewed/medically examined on the nominated day, they will be interviewed/medically examined on the next working day/days. As such, if needed, the candidates should make their own arrangement for stay for a period of two days and come prepared accordingly. **Remuneration for other than Retired Railway Doctors-** ₹75,000 for General Duty Medical Doctor per month fixed & ₹95,000 for (Gynaecology/GDMO) if Govt. accommodation is not provided. If Railway accommodation is provided an amount equivalent to the sum of House Rent Allowance and License Fee of the accommodation provided will be deducted. **Remuneration for Retired Railway Doctors-** ₹ 46,000 per month fixed (Subject to the condition that Remuneration + Pension drawn by Retired Railway Doctor should not exceed the last pay drawn), if Government accommodation is not provided. If Railway accommodation is provided an amount equivalent to House Rent Allowance payable to a fresh entrant to Group 'A' junior scale and license fee of the Railway accommodation, so provided shall be deducted from the monthly Remuneration payable to the CMP. **Age for other than Retired Railway Doctors-** Candidates should not have completed more than 53 years of age as on 10.09.2020. However, age relaxation of 03 years for OBC candidates is admissible. **Age for Retired Railway Doctors-** Candidates should not have completed more than 65 years of age as on 10.09.2020. **Terms and Condition for other than Retired Railway Doctors-** The engagement of Doctors would be on Contract basis initially for a period of 01 year, which is extendable on annual basis up to a maximum period of 12 years as per administrative requirements on the basis of

assessment of performance of CMPs. However, the service of these Doctors can be terminated before the expiry of 01 year after giving 15 days notice on either side. Railway administration will be at liberty to terminate the contract of the Doctor with immediate effect by paying honorarium in lieu of 15 days notice period, if the circumstances, so-warrant. The service rendered as Contract Doctor is a stop gap arrangement and will not have any bearing in respect of consideration of their period in case of their subsequent regular selection through UPSC. It will also not confer upon any right for regularization or permanent absorption in the Railway. **No Private Practice is allowed. Terms and Condition for Retired Railway Doctors-** The engagement of Retired Railway Doctors as CMPs shall be for a maximum of 02 terms of 01 year each and for each term of 01 year a fresh contract shall be entered. The contract shall be entered in to for a period of 01 year or less from the date of entering into the contract. Period of contract shall not be extendable on any ground. However, the Railway Administration shall reserve the right to enter into fresh contract with the Retired Railway Doctors for another term. The engagement shall purely be on contract basis for a period of 01 year or till the regular incumbent joins or on the Retired Railway Doctor's attaining the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Retired Railway Doctors engaged as Contract Medical Practitioner shall not have any claim or right for his/ her continuity in service or automatic extension of the term of contract. During the validity of the contract, the CMP shall be at liberty to terminate the contract for betterment of his/ her career or on any other grounds by given 15 days notice to the Railway. The contract can also be terminated by the Railway at any time during the contract by giving 15 days notice without assigning any reason whatsoever. Contract shall also be terminated, if the CMP is found to be mentally or physically incapacitated. **No Private Practice is allowed. Note-(xiv)** The Contract Doctors shall not be entitled to Railway Quarter etc. as a matter of right. However, if such a quarter is available, they will be provided accommodation. The detailed instructions with regard to their duties while on contract with the railway, shall be given to them in the event of their selection alongwith the offer of engagement. (xv) Willing candidates should bring their application form with **Original and attested copies** of all certificates and mark sheets duly filled up on the prescribed format with them. **No TA/DA is admissible for this interview. (xvi)** The offer of engagement to the selected Candidates shall be issued subject to the availability of vacancy as per requirement in Hospitals/Health Units located at different stations on 'as is where is basis'. Administration has right to change the place of posting as per administrative needs. (xvii) The notification can be downloaded from NC Railway website www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in >About us> Division>Agra Division>Medical. (xviii) After approval of the panel by competent authority, the panel will be uploaded on same day at NCR's website www.ncrindianrailways.gov.in >About us>Division> Agra Division>Medical. The suitable candidates will be called through speed post/Registered letter, Telephone call and SMS to report to a particular fixed date at Divisional Hospital/ NC Rly Agra for posting. The candidates who do not report at the assigned date and time will forfeit their chance of contract engagement and such engagement will be offered to the next empanelled candidates.

(Manoj Dubey)

89420 FA Divisional Personnel Officer-II, N.C. Rly, Agra

North central railways @CPRONCR

Delhi University will open research labs for PhD students first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

DELHI UNIVERSITY will open its research labs in a phased manner for its PhD students, making them the first students to return to the varsity after the lockdown.

"Registered bonafide senior PhD students, whose presence in the research laboratory is essential, may join their research laboratories after obtaining a certificate from their respective supervisors and further endorsed by the Head of the Department or the Director of the Center to this effect," read a notice by proctor Neeta Sehgal on this matter.

According to this, the total

number of students in a research lab at any given time should not be more than two or three.

Other generic safety precautions they have been advised to take are "social distancing, face mask, sanitisation, etc while entering the academic area and while working in their respective research laboratories".

Earlier this week, the university had also issued a notice allowing for the phased return of PhD students to their hostels, beginning with senior PhD students. The returning students will have to undergo a 14-day mandatory self-quarantine in their hostel rooms, and will be screened by the university's health centre following that.

IDFC First Bank Limited
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS CAPITAL FIRST LIMITED)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE OF E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower and Co-borrower(s) namely ROXY AGENCIES, RAJ AHUJA, RISHI AHUJA that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Capital First Limited now IDFC FIRST Bank Limited, which was supposed to be sold through e-auction on 26.08.2020 (as per the provisions of SARFAESI Act, 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) and for which the publication for e-auction was done on 17.08.2020, the said auction stands withdrawn, hence cancelled.

This said e-auction is cancelled in lieu of the terms and conditions of the auction, which permits the Authorised Officer to cancel the said auction.

ALL THE PIECE AND PARCEL OF THE PROPERTY PLOT NO 283, Sainik Cooperative House, building society known as Sainik Vihar, Pitampura Delhi-110034

Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(Formerly known as Capital First Limited)

Date: 23.08.2020

15th Anniversary

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID

NOTICE

In view of prevailing COVID-19 pandemic, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has, vide circular dated May 5, 2020, allowed Companies to convene their Annual General Meeting ("AGM") during the calendar year 2020 through Video Conferencing (VC) or Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM). Further, MCA vide aforesaid circular and SEBI vide circular dated May 12, 2020 had dispensed with the requirement of sending physical copies of Annual Report to the Shareholders of the Company and permitted Companies to send Annual Report for the financial year 2019-20 containing notice of AGM, Board's Report, Financial Statements and other documents etc. to its shareholders and other persons through emails only.

In view of the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and in accordance with aforesaid circulars, it is hereby informed that the **31st AGM of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited** will be held on **Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020 at 11:00 A.M. (IST)** through VC/OAVM and the Annual Report alongwith Notice of 31st AGM will be sent by email only, to those shareholders whose email ID are registered with the Company / with respective Depository Participant.

Notice and Annual Report 2019-20 will also be made available on the Company's website www.powergridindia.com and websites of the Stock Exchanges i.e. National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com, respectively.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting: In terms of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, the Resolutions for consideration at the 31st AGM will be transacted through remote e-voting and e-voting during the AGM. The Company is taking services of KFin Technologies Private Limited (Company's Registrar & Share Transfer Agent "RTA") for facilitating voting through electronic means. Shareholders who hold shares in physical form or who have not registered their e-mail addresses and wish to participate in the AGM or cast their votes through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM can log on to the e-voting website <https://evoting.com> by using their credentials. Shareholders are requested to read instruction contained in the Notice of AGM to be made available on the website of the Company/Stock Exchanges

Manner of registering / updating email ID & Bank Details: Shareholders who have not registered their email IDs and Bank Account details are hereby requested to register the same in following manner:

For shareholders holding shares in Physical Mode:

To Register / Register / update the E-mail ID by clicking on https://ris.kfintech.com/email_registration/ or by writing to the Company with details of Folio Number and attaching a self-attested copy of PAN card at investors@powergrid.co.in or to RTA at einward_ris@kfintech.com

To update Bank account Write to the Company's RTA i.e. KFin Technologies Private Limited, Unit: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032.

For shareholders holding shares in Demat Mode: Shareholders can update email IDs, mobile numbers and Bank Account details by contacting their respective Depository Participants as per the process advised by them.

Shareholders may note that in terms of the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 ("the Act") as amended by the Finance Act, 2020, dividend paid or distributed by a Company on or after 1st April, 2020 is taxable in the hands of the Shareholders. The Company is, therefore, required to deduct tax at source at the time of payment of dividend to the Shareholders. In order to enable us to determine the appropriate TDS rate, as applicable, Shareholders are requested to submit necessary forms/documents in accordance with the provisions of the Income Tax Act, as detailed in the Notice of the AGM.

In case of any further assistance in this regard, Shareholders may contact RTA or Company at above mentioned email address.

Notice is also hereby given that pursuant to Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 4th September, 2020 to 22nd September, 2020 (both days inclusive).

The Board had recommended a Final Dividend of ₹4.04 per share (i.e. @ 40.40%) on the paid-up equity share capital of the Company. If the final dividend, as recommended by the Board of Directors, is approved at the AGM, payment of such dividend subject to deduction of tax at source will be made on **Friday, 9th October, 2020** as under:

- to all Beneficial Owners in respect of shares held in dematerialized form as per the data as may be made available by the National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") and the Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"), (collectively "Depositories"), as of the close of business hours on Thursday, 3rd September, 2020; and
- to all Shareholders in respect of shares held in physical form after giving effect to valid transmission or transposition requests lodged with the RTA / Company as of the close of business hours on Tuesday, 22nd September, 2020.

For Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
Date: 22.08.2020
Place: New Delhi

(Minal Shrivastava)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Regd. Office: B-9, Outub Institutional Area, Katweria Sarai, New Delhi-110016
Corporate Office: "Saudamini", Plot No.-2, Sector -29, Gurgaon-122001 (Haryana)
Website: www.powergridindia.com CIN : L40101DL1989G01038121

A Maharatna PSU

4 THE CITY

BRIEFLY

627 EWS flats booked under DDA scheme

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority's online scheme for disposal of EWS flats at Narela, with 40% concession on construction cost, has so far seen 627 flats being booked. Officials said buyers can download allotment letters online from the DDA website from August 28.

Dispute over land leads to five murders

Gurgaon: Fight over a plot in Basai village has led to five murders over the past year, probe into three murders that took place in the district has revealed. Police said the three murders were allegedly revenge killings, following two murders that happened due to friction over a piece of land. Two people have been arrested so far.

Land pooling policy gets thumbs up

New Delhi: The DDA Saturday said land pooling policy has received an encouraging response and more sectors would be qualified for development under this policy. Under it, owners or groups of owners can pool land parcels of any size for development, and a minimum of 70% contiguous land is required before development can start off. As of date, 1,371 applications have been verified by the Delhi government, said a DDA official. **ENS**

Gym owners protest near L-G office

New Delhi: Police detained nearly a dozen gym owners protesting near the L-G's office for permission to reopen the fitness centres in the capital. **PTI**

Part of under-construction flyover collapses in Gurgaon, 2 men injured

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, AUGUST 22

A SECTION of an "elevated road" being constructed on Gurgaon's Sohna road collapsed on Saturday night, with officials saying there were no casualties in the incident.

According to police, the incident took place around 10 pm. Officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said they were still trying to determine the reason for the collapse.

"The span of that section of the road had already been laid and completed; the casting and stressing had also been completed. We will have to investigate this to find out why it happened. Maybe there was oversteering or understressing of the stretch, but it is too early to say anything definite on this," said an official from NHAI, adding that the structure fell within the barricaded section of the under-construction project.

The flyover is part of a 5 km



NHAI said they are looking into the reason for the collapse

long stretch that is meant to provide connectivity between Subhash Chowk on Sohna road and Badshahpur.

Construction had started on the structure in 2018, and officials had, at the time, touted it as the second most expensive project for the district, after the Dwarka Expressway. It is being constructed at a cost of Rs 707 crore and is part of a larger project being executed by the NHAI, which

also includes converting the stretch between Subhash Chowk and Sohna into a six-lane road. "A section of the elevated road collapsed around 10 pm. There were no fatalities, but we know so far that two labourers have sustained injuries. Further investigations are being conducted," said ACP (Sadar) Aman Yadav.

Residents of the area, meanwhile, spoke of an "explosion" and tremors that they felt as the



structure came down.

"I was playing football downstairs with my friends — it was 9.56 pm — when we suddenly heard a loud explosion and felt tremors. Everyone in the building came out into their balconies, and several residents even came downstairs, mistaking the tremors for an earthquake. When we rushed to the main gate of our complex, we saw that an entire section of the flyover

had come crashing down," said Junaid Singh Behgal, a 16-year-old resident of Vipul Greens, a gated condominium located next to the construction site.

Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala offered reassurance that the matter was being looked into. "There have been 2 injuries and both have been admitted and under treatment. NHAI team, SDM and civil defence team are at site," he tweeted.

Police claim lawyer forged documents, court says investigate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

AFTER THE Delhi Police claimed that a lawyer had forged documents and instigated a man to depose falsely in a case related to the Northeast Delhi riots, a court has asked police to investigate.

Police made the charge against lawyer Mehmood Pracha, who has been appearing for some of the accused and complainants in riots cases, in its report before the court.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said it would be appropriate if the matter was investigated by the Crime Branch or Special Cell, and requested the police chief to look into it.

"Since preliminary enquiry has been conducted on the directions of DCP (Northeast), and it has been conducted by ACP (Gokulpuri) and SHO (Dayalpur), it will be appropriate if the matter is investigated by an independent

agency like Crime Branch or Special Cell," the order stated.

During the hearing, police informed the court through its report that complainant Irshad Ali had appeared before ACP (Gokulpuri) on August 12.

"Ali was enquired about Deepak, Navneet and Mintu, as mentioned in his complaint. He said he knows them by name and does not know anything about them personally. He also said he does not identify the accused in the video," the report said.

It stated that Ali alleged that "one lawyer namely Mehmood Pracha called him in his office and told him that he has a complainant of a similar incident and there was also an eyewitness".

"Pracha also said that if that complaint is attached with your complaint, it will make your case stronger," the report alleged.

Pracha said, "This has not come as a surprise. Delhi Police is filing false cases against me because I am fighting multiple cases in the Delhi riots. This was a risk I am prepared to take to uphold the values of the Constitution."

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

A FAMILY in Southeast Delhi's Govindpuri has fled after allegedly cheating hundreds of lower-income people in their locality through a chit fund scam.

The 'chit fund' was started five years ago by a man named Abdul Salam, with his wife Pinky and brothers Abdul Kalam and Ajiu Khan, under the name 'Friends Lucky Draw', police said. Each investor had to pay Rs 1,000 per month for 15 months to get a return of Rs 20,000. Later, other schemes were added to bring in more investors.

On August 17, Salam and his family fled their residence, police said. A senior officer said they have received multiple complaints from people in the locality, who said the accused would encourage investors to rope in more people by offering them incentives such as kitchen appliances and blankets.

The complainants protested outside Govindpuri police station on Thursday and Friday. DCP (Southeast) RP Meena said a case



Victims of the fraud outside Govindpuri police station

has been registered.

Reena Barua (45), who worked as domestic help and lives with her children in Govindpuri, said she lost over Rs 3.5 lakh. "I heard about the group two years ago from my friend. Most of the families in our locality were investing money to get good returns. Some had even received it. I gave money to Kalam last year and got a return in two months. I was happy with the returns and told my neighbours and children to invest. This month, we were supposed to get Rs 1 lakh but Kalam and his family escaped. My friends and neighbours are fighting with me, my children are upset. We don't

know what to do."

Razia (29), also a domestic help, said she had been investing in the fund group for five years. "We don't have any other form of savings. This was our only way to save and earn something extra. My husband earns around Rs 5,000-7,000 a month. My mother and I collected money from our friends and gave it to Kalam every month. His wife and I have been friends for years. Both of us have small children. We trusted them."

She said, "My family members are scolding me because I have lost more than Rs 2.5 lakh. I wanted to save the money for my child. I thought I was helping women become independent. More than 80 women have lost their money because of me."

Kalam and his family had been living in the Govindpuri locality for over two decades. Fayeem (24), Kalam's friend, said, "I have known Kalam since we were kids. When he started the group, I was the first person to invest. Now I have lost more than Rs 5 lakh. I encouraged my father and brothers to invest."

Police said they are compiling the complaints and only then will they have clarity about the magnitude of the scam.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

Tender Notice No. JHS/Dy. CMM/2020-21/07 Date: 19/08/2020
Tender No. 51195692 Dated :- 19.08.2020

Tender Notice

For and on behalf of President of India, the Deputy Chief Material Manager (G.S.D.), General Stores Depot, North Central Railway, Jhansi invites online open tender from reputed and experienced Suppliers for the following work:

Item Description	Earnest Money (in ₹)	Delivery Schedule
Fully Thyristerised based 600 Amps. DC Welding Rectifier with minimum 10mm. strip of copper wire wound of primary and secondary coil. Specification + special terms and condition is attached in 8 pages Make- ESAB India Ltd., Larsen & Toubro and ADOR Welding Ltd. KEMPPI or SIMILAR.	₹ 63720/- (₹ Sixty three thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Only)	90 Days

Qty.: 20 Nos. Closing Date & Time of the Tender: 18.09.2020 (14:30). Open date & time of the tender: 18.09.2020 (14:30). Availability of Tender: Website <http://www.treps.gov.in> 891/2020 V

f North Central Railways @CPRONCR

JAMMU & KASHMIR FOREST DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HoFF GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Notification for Tender No. 01/CAMPA/2020 Dated 20.08.2020

The Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department (JKFD) invites proposals for hiring of services of reputed solution provider for Designing, Development and Maintenance of a comprehensive web portal for the J&K Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.

For details of the RFP, please visit the official website of J&K Forest Department at www.jktenders.gov.in and www.jkforest.gov.in. The last date for receipt of tender is 14 September 2020 at 1400 hours.

Sd/-
(Tender Inviting Authority)
Chief Executive Officer, J&K CAMPA
Van Bhawan Forest Complex
Below Gumat Jammu

DIP/J-3634/20

UJVN LIMITED
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H. O. 11, JALAWAL, MAHARAJA BAHU, CHS ROAD, DEHRADUN, 248005, U.P. No. 146161UR2015G2025966
Telle.: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763808, Website: www.ujvn.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Office of Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Lakhwar Project Dakpathar, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No. 04/EE(E&M-I)/LP/2020-21

Name of the work : Repairing & overhauling of 33 KV Lakhwar feeder No. 3 with installation of covered conductor in densely populated areas, Dakpathar.

Estimated Cost : ₹ 30,54,463.00 (taxes extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website : 25.08.2020

Last date for submission of bid on website : 15.09.2020 upto 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly isisit e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>".

पत्रांक सं 512 / दिनांक 21.08.2020 Executive Engineer (E&M-I)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

E-mail-Id: diragrikmr@gmail.com Telefax No.: 0194-2310675
pmfbykj@gmail.com, developmentdak@gmail.com Mobile No: 09419008391

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Mission Directorate Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

and
Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS)

Lalmandi, Srinagar, 190008, J&K.

1. Agricultural Insurance Company of India Limited
2. IFFCO-Tokio, General Insurance Company Limited
3. Bajaj Allianz, General Insurance Company Limited.
4. ICICI-Lombard General Insurance Company Limited
5. HDFC-ERGO General Insurance Company Limited
6. Future General India, General Insurance Company Limited
7. SBI General Insurance Company Limited
8. Tata AIG General Insurance Company Limited
9. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited
10. Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited
11. Universal Somp General Insurance Company Limited
12. Shriram General Insurance Company Limited
13. United India Insurance Company Limited
14. National Insurance Company Limited
15. Oriental Insurance Company Limited
16. New India Assurance Company Limited
17. Bharti Axa General Insurance Company Limited
18. Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Limited

No.: Agri/Dev-185/2020-21/2208-2235 Dated: 17.08.2020

Ref.: APD'S communication vide no. Agri/PC-17/2019-20.P.F, dated 14.08.2020

Sub: Implementation of Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) in Jammu & Kashmir for a period of Three (03) Years w. e. f. Rabi-2020-21 onwards- invitation of Bids/offers thereof.

Sir,
Bids are invited from the empanelled Implementing Agencies (IAs)/ Insurance Companies (ICs) for submission of District-wise/Crop-wise financial Bids to the office of u/s for carrying out Implementation of RWBCIS in Kashmir Division, UT of J&K. The financial bids on the prescribed format should reach this office by or before 16.09.2020 by 04.00 PM.

The Scheme is to be implemented for a period of Three (03) Years (Rabi 2020-21 to Kharif 2023) in 10 districts covering 02 (Two) crops viz. Apple and Saffron. The terms and conditions are detailed in the Bid document (enclosed).

The IAs can approach the designated/concerned officers (Director Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu) for technical clarification/data requirement, if any. The information is also available on our websites: www.diragrikmr.nic.in, www.diragrikmr.nic.in and www.pmfby.gov.in. You are requested to adhere to the timeline as provided in the Bid/Tender document. The division wise/crop wise area for implementation of RWBCIS and PMFBY in the UT of J&K has been notified vide Govt. Order No. 200 and 201-Agri of 2019, dated 25.10.2019 by J&K Government.

The details of Crops/Area coverage/Targeted Area for RWBCIS is given as under:

Particular	Crop	Area (ha)	Targeted Area @ 25% (ha)
Kashmir division	Apple	142500	35625
	Saffron	3665	916.25
Total Kashmir		146165	36541.3

In this connection, all the service providers/Empanelled Insurance Companies are being informed through the medium of this communiqué regarding participation in the process by submitting closed bids in accordance with the terms and conditions mentioned in the Bid document. The IAs shall submit their bids preferably in person/registered or speed post for speedy/timely evaluation of Bids/Offers by the Bid evaluation committee as approved by SLCCOI.

Further it is also to inform that the Scale of Finance/Sum Insured would be as per the latest SOF decided by the respective SLTC/DLTC. No separate Bid notice will be sent to the bidders.

A generous response thereof is solicited in the interest of farmer welfare.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/- (Altat Aijaz Andrabi)
Director Agriculture Kashmir,
Mission Director, PMFBY/RWBCIS (J&K)

DIPK-NB-1942/20

Cancel JEE, NEET exams, says Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

AS THE dates for the JEE and NEET exams draw nearer amid online protests by aspirants, deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia spoke out against the decision to conduct these competitive examinations in the current circumstances, stating that an alternative should be devised.

While aspirants have been demanding further postponement of these exams, Sisodia demanded their cancellation. "The central government is playing with the lives of lakhs of students in the name of JEE-NEET. I appeal to the centre to immediately cancel both exams and make alternative arrangements for admission this year. In an extraordinary crisis, resolution can be reached only through ex-



'Centre playing with lives of students'

traordinary steps," he wrote on Twitter.

"Across the world, education institutes are adopting new methods of conducting admissions. Why can't we do so in India? Is it sensible to put children's lives at risk in the name of entrance examinations? The 21st century India can't think of alternative! This is not possible," he said.

Gurgaon shops say weekend off will spell more doom

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, AUGUST 22

A DAY after the Haryana government directed closure of all offices, shopping malls and shops in the market area, except those dealing in essential goods and services, during weekends, members of various market and mall associations, as well as owners of shops and salons, in Gurgaon said the decision would undo the progress they have made in the last three months. They also warned that this will further increase unemployment.

"On weekends, we get three times the number of customers that we get on a weekday... nobody has the time to go out on weekdays, people were only coming on Saturday and Sunday," said Aman Bajaj, member of the MGF Metropolitan Mall Association. "Even if they wanted to shut for two days, they could have closed on Monday and Tuesday, or Sunday and Monday, so that it at least leaves us one day of the weekend," he said.

Baboo Gupta, president of the Sadar Bazaar Market Association, said, "After the lockdown, there is almost no business anyway and all shopkeepers and traders are operating in loss... The little bit that things have improved, it will slip again now. This will only increase unemployment. This weekend lockdown is going to destroy us."



The order directing closure of malls was issued late on Friday

The order directing the closure of offices, shops, and malls was issued late Friday evening, causing confusion in the first few hours of its enforcement.

"At some markets and malls we were informed that we had to remain closed while at others they only told us this morning. We did not know this was for all of Gurgaon... We had appointments scheduled in advance. In some salons we had to request that we be allowed to complete the work being done on customers already inside and then close down. Someone's hair, for example, was being coloured, this cannot just be left halfway," said the director of a salon chain, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"In the last one week, we have again seen a surge in coronavirus infected persons... Keeping this in mind, I appeal to residents of the district to follow the Covid-19 protocol seriously," said Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri.

E-mail-Id: diragrikmr@gmail.com Telefax No.: 0194-2310675
pmfbykj@gmail.com, developmentdak@gmail.com Mobile No: 09419008391

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Mission Directorate Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

and
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7. SBI General Insurance Company Limited
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9. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited
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12. Shriram General Insurance Company Limited
13. United India Insurance Company Limited
14. National Insurance Company Limited
15. Oriental Insurance Company Limited
16. New India Assurance Company Limited
17. Bharti Axa General Insurance Company Limited
18. Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Limited

No.: Agri/Dev-185/2020-21/2171-98 Dated: 17.08.2020

Ref.: APD'S communication vide no. Agri/PC-17/2019-20.P.F, dated 14.08.2020

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Sir,
Bids are invited from the empanelled Implementing Agencies (IAs)/ Insurance Companies (ICs) for submission of District-wise/Crop-wise financial Bids to the office of u/s for carrying out Implementation of PMFBY in Kashmir Division, UT of J&K. The financial bids on the prescribed format should reach this office by or before 16.09.2020 by 04.00 PM.

The Scheme is to be implemented for a period of Three (03) Years (Rabi 2020-21 to Kharif 2023) in 10 districts covering 03 (Three) crops viz. Paddy, Maize and Oilseeds (Mustard & Rape Seed) under PMFBY. The terms and conditions are detailed in the Bid document (enclosed).

The IAs can approach the designated/concerned officers (Director Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu) for technical clarification/data requirement, if any. The information is also available on our websites: www.diragrikmr.nic.in, www.diragrikmr.nic.in and www.pmfby.gov.in. You are requested to adhere to the timeline as provided in the Bid/Tender document. The division wise/crop wise area for implementation of RWBCIS and PMFBY in the UT of J&K has been notified vide Govt. Order No. 200 and 201-Agri of 2019, dated 25.10.2019 by J&K Government.

The details of Crops/Area coverage/Targeted Area for PMFBY is given as under:

Particular	Crop	Area (ha)	Tentative Area (Ha) @ 25%
Kashmir Division	Paddy	141340	35335
	Maize	80740	20185
	Oilseed	81110	20277.5
Total Kashmir	All	303190	75797.5

In this connection, all the service providers/Empanelled Insurance Companies are being informed through the medium of this communiqué regarding participation in the process by submitting closed bids in accordance with the terms and conditions mentioned in the Bid document. The IAs shall submit their bids preferably in person/registered or speed post for speedy/timely evaluation of Bids/Offers by the Bid evaluation committee as approved by SLCCOI.

Further it is also to inform that the Scale of Finance/Sum Insured would be as per the latest SOF decided by the respective SLTC/DLTC. No separate Bid notice will be sent to the bidders.

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Yours faithfully,
Sd/- (Altat Aijaz Andrabi)
Director Agriculture Kashmir,
Mission Director, PMFBY/RWBCIS (J&K)

DIPK-NB-1941/20

5 GOVT & POLITICS

From power to drinking water, PM wants work done in J&K to be 'visible'

LIZ MATHEW

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi has laid out a roadmap, with clear deadlines, for carrying out development works in Jammu and Kashmir — ensure electricity and drinking water to every village by March 2022; launch the second phase of the Centre's back-to-villages programme on October 2; and set up a development board in every district with political leaders as members.

Sources said the Prime Minister has made it clear that these development works should win the trust of the people of J&K before elections are held in the

newly carved out Union Territory. In his Independence Day address, Modi had said that Assembly elections would be held after the delimitation exercise was completed.

While the Central government gradually withdraws more forces from the region, the PM wants the J&K administration to ensure that over 50 welfare programmes of the Centre are implemented with "visible results on the ground". He also wants the administration to ensure 10,000 jobs for people in the region.

"The Prime Minister told the UT administration that merely giving out data won't do. Development works should be visible on the ground in every vil-



PM Narendra Modi

lage," said a source.

A year after the Centre stripped the state of its special status under Article 370, the BJP-led government has come under criticism for not carrying any major

developmental activities in Jammu and Kashmir. On August 14, *The Indian Express* reported that the PM was expected to announce major projects, including a 'naya' Srinagar and 'naya' Jammu.

Sources said that the Prime Minister wants all development activities to be carried out with the participation of political leaders. "He is of the view that while leaders of Kashmir parties are still upset with the Centre's decision, their rank and file, especially at the lower level, would be keen to see that development works are taking place and jobs are being created. Gradually, the leaders also will be forced to accept it," said the source.

Former Union Minister Manoj Sinha's appointment on August 6 as Lieutenant Governor of J&K is also seen as part of Modi's new plans for the region.

Sources said that with the Centre assessing reduced threat from militant attacks, more forces will be withdrawn from the UT in the coming days. The Union Home Ministry believes that security forces and intelligence agencies have successfully curbed the recruitment of youth into militancy and that there is a significant drop in the number of stone pelting instances.

Earlier this week, the Centre issued an order withdrawing around 10,000 paramilitary personnel from Kashmir.

LAC: Govt decides on more military talks with China

SUSHANT SINGH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

CONTINUING WITH its attempts to restore the status quo ante at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh through peaceful means despite Chinese intransigence, the government has decided to hold more military talks with China to resolve the border crisis.

Official sources told *The Sunday Express* that the date for these military talks has not been finalised so far, but they will follow the precedent of earlier rounds of military talks in Ladakh. The talks could be held both at the level of the Corps Commander and the Division Commander, sources said.

The decision to hold the talks at the military level, sources said, was taken after a review of discussions during the meeting Thursday of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs.

Sources said the decision to continue the engagement with the Chinese was despite the fact that the last few rounds of diplomatic and military talks have not led to any breakthrough due to the obstinate Chinese stance. New Delhi insists that the restoration of status quo ante as of April is its end goal, but the Chinese side has refused to do so at multiple friction points on the LAC.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a review meeting Saturday with NSA Ajit Doval, CDS General Bipin Rawat and the three services chiefs to discuss the Ladakh situation.

Five rounds of talks at the level of the Corps Commander have been held so far, with no progress on the ground after the fourth round on July 14. The fifth round



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held a review meet on Saturday

of talks was held on August 2, where discussions were centered around the Chinese ingress of around 8 km at Pangong Tso and its continued deployment in the Gogra-Hot Springs area.

The last round of talks at the level of the Division Commander was held on August 8, which discussed ways to resolve the situation at the strategic Depsang Plains. Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols from accessing five patrolling points at a place 18 km inside the LAC.

Besides the military talks at various levels, there have been four rounds of WMCC meetings, a meeting and a phone conversation between the two Special Representatives, and meetings held by the Indian Ambassador to Beijing with top Chinese Communist Party officials.

Failing to achieve a breakthrough after more than 100 days of tensions, India has been preparing for an extended deployment of additional troops on the LAC in Ladakh.

This was stated by CDS General Rawat when he told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that the military de-escalation process with China would be a long-drawn issue. In their collective depositions, the CDS and his senior colleagues said that as the process of the PLA's de-escalation and pullback was likely to be an "extended one", the Army was preparing to deploy personnel along the LAC during the harsh winter months.

India rejects J&K reference in Pak-China statement, raises CPEC

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

A DAY after the Pakistan-China joint statement mentioned Jammu and Kashmir, India on Saturday categorically rejected the reference and conveyed again its concerns on the China-Pakistan Economic corridor.

Reiterating that Jammu and Kashmir is an "integral and inalienable" part of India, New Delhi said that it expects Beijing and Islamabad to not interfere in the internal affairs of India.

Ministry of External Affairs' official spokesperson Anurag Srivastava Saturday said, "As in the past, we categorically reject the reference to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir in the Joint Press Release of the 2nd Round of China-Pakistan Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India and we expect the parties concerned to not to interfere in matters that are internal affairs of India... At the same time we also reiterate our consistent position on the so-called China Pakistan Economic Corridor."

India has repeatedly conveyed its concerns to both China and to Pakistan on CPEC projects which are in Indian territory illegally occupied by Pakistan. "We resolutely oppose actions by other countries that change the status quo in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Srivastava said.

The foreign ministers of China and Pakistan held their second annual strategic dialogue on Friday and discussed ways to enhance their all-weather bilateral ties, the Kashmir issue, progress on the CPEC and the Afghan peace process.

SC extends deadline for Babri demolition verdict

PRESSTrust OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

THE SUPREME Court has extended by a month the deadline for completion of trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case involving 32 accused, including BJP veterans L K Advani, M M Joshi and Uma Bharti, and asked the special CBI court to deliver the verdict by September 30.

The top court, which had earlier fixed August 31 as the deadline for completion of proceedings, including pronouncement of the verdict, took note of the report filed by special judge SK Yadav in the high-profile case.

A bench of Justices R F Nariman, Navin Sinha and Indira Banerjee said, "Having read the report of Surendra Kumar Yadav, learned Special Judge, and considering that the proceedings are in the lag end, we grant one month's time — till September 30, 2020 — to complete the proceedings, including the delivery of judgment."

The order was passed on August 19 and was recently uploaded on the apex court's website.

On May 8, the SC had extended by three months the time for completion of trial in the case and said that judgment should be delivered by August 31.

The special CBI court in Lucknow has completed recording of statements of the 32 accused under Section 313 of CrPC in the case.

The mosque in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992.

In May, the SC had asked special judge SK Yadav to control the proceedings in accordance with law so that the time-frame is no longer breached.

Trust begins measuring Ayodhya mosque land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 22

MEMBERS of the Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation on Saturday visited Dhanipur village in Ayodhya district to take measurements and prepare a topographic plan of the five-acre land allotted by the state government to build a mosque in accordance with the Supreme Court verdict in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case. The UP Sunni Waqf Board has set up the trust for the construction of the mosque.

The topographic plan is required to start work on the site's architectural map. According to the foundation's secretary and spokesperson, Athar Husain, a few draftsmen visited the site. Once it is complete, the details will be sent to architects, who will start working on a map. Construction will begin after the map is finalised. "We have been given five-acre land, which we will use for the construction of the mosque along with two centres to showcase Indo-Islamic culture and studies, a charitable hospital, and a public library," said Husain.



Congress MLAs led by party's Uttar Pradesh unit chief Ajay Kumar Lallu protest the state government's handling of law and order, coronavirus pandemic and other issues outside the Assembly in Lucknow on Saturday. Vishal Srivastava

Those who spoke Tilak-taraju, Rome also chanting Ram: Yogi

MAULSHREE SETH

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 22

AMID PANDEMONIUM in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, with Opposition members shouting slogans against the state government over the law and order situation and the Covid-19 crisis, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday spoke at length about Ram and the construction of Ram temple and said that in India any work can be completed only with the name of Ram.

Taking on opposition BSP, SP and the Congress, Adityanath said those who created division in the society in the name of "tilak-taraju", or ordered firing on "Ram Bhakts" are also reciting Ram in the name of "Parshuram" now.

Those who once used to speak the language of "Rome", he asserted, have today started shouting "Ram-Ram" as well, and have realised the power of Ram.

Evidently taking on the BSP and the Samajwadi Party, which have criticised alleged atrocities against Brahmins in the state and



Yogi Adityanath in the UP Assembly on Saturday. ANI

have promised to a construct statue of Parshuram, Adityanath said: "Ram ka naam to aisa hai chahe Ram ke naam pe le lein, chahe Parshuram ke naam pe, ya mara-mara ke naam se. Bharat ke andar Ram naam se hi Baitarani paar honi wali hai (the name of Ram is such that you take it in the name of Ram, Parshuram or even recite mara-mara, in India, Baitarani can be crossed only in the name of Ram)."

On atrocities against Brahmins

under his government — an allegation levelled especially by SP, Adityanath, without naming any party or leader, said these people are raising caste-based slogans today but when they were in power, BJP worker in Kannauj, Neeraj Mishra, was beheaded.

"These are the same people who would abuse the community by talking about tilak-taraju and are again trying to spread venom in the society. However, it is the work of Ram and would continue like this," Adityanath said, apparently targeting BSP Chief Mayawati.

Adityanath also spoke about measures undertaken by his government to fight Covid-19. In an indirect reference of AAP MP Sanjay Singh, he said that a "namoona" had come from Delhi and asked questions about coronavirus. He asserted that UP, with a population of 23.78 crore, have seen 2,700 deaths due to Covid; the death rate is 1.6 per cent, the lowest in the country. Delhi, in contrast, with a population of 1.80 crore, has had 4,235 Covid, with a death rate of 2.7 per cent.

UP House passes 27 Bills without discussion

MAULSHREE SETH

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 22

THE STATE Assembly on Saturday tabled and approved 27 significant Bills, including the Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Bill, 2020, without any discussion as the Opposition protested against the law-and-order situation in the state and alleged caste-based atrocities.

The day's sitting lasted for about two hours 40 minutes, with over an hour taken up by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's speech. The Opposition's protests forced the Speaker to adjourn the brief monsoon session sine die. The session had started on Thursday, and was scheduled to end on Monday.

Of the legislation approved on Saturday, 17 were ordinances converted to Bills.

The legislation included the Uttar Pradesh Prevention of Cow Slaughter (Amendment) Bill, which provides rigorous imprisonment up to 10 years.

KMSS to launch political wing, Akhil Gogoi to be its CM face

ABHISHEK SAHA

GUWAHATI, AUGUST 22

PEASANT RIGHTS group Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) will soon launch a regional political party to contest the Assam elections early next year, the outfit said Saturday, adding that its founder Akhil Gogoi will be the chief ministerial candidate.

Gogoi is currently in jail. He was booked by NIA on charges of sedition and under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly being an overground worker of the banned CPI (Maoist). He and the KMSS had played a significant role in the anti-CAA protests in Assam in December last year.

"We will be forming a political party. The name of the party and other details regarding how we will contest elections will be announced once Gogoi is out of prison," KMSS president Bhasko De Saikia said adding that Gogoi will be the CM candidate. The new party will be made up of people belonging to different ethnic, re-



Booked for sedition, Akhil Gogoi is currently in jail

ligious and linguistic communities from the state, he said in Guwahati.

The announcement comes just after the decision by Congress and AIUDF to enter into an alliance for the elections. It also comes at a time the influential student bodies, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) and Asom Jatiyatibadi Yuba Chatra Parishad (AJYCP), have signalled the launch of a regional political party.

Congress and AIUDF leaders earlier told *The Sunday Express* that they hoped the KMSS's political front would join them.

Saikia, however, ruled out any such alliance. "We are not allying with any national party or any communal party. We appeal that all regional parties should come together to oust the BJP from Assam," he said. The new outfit will be a non-compromising political force and it will not be named after KMSS' earlier venture, Gana Mukti Sangram-Asom, he added.

"Because of our non-compromising position, Akhil Gogoi is still in jail. By October, we hope Akhil Gogoi will be released. We trust the country's judiciary. He will announce the name of the party after coming out of jail. The name... has already been finalised," Saikia told reporters. All intellectual preparation for the new party such as the work agenda and the constitution is ready, he said.

"The work agenda will be known as Asombasir Jatiya Karmahuchi... We will send the constitution and the agenda to all district committees and our sister organisations. Then we will make these public and seek the peoples' opinion on them," he said.

AHEAD OF BIHAR POLLS

BJP discusses Ram temple, ban on China apps, fight against Covid

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, AUGUST 22

THE BJP's Bihar unit Saturday discussed achievements of the Central and state governments on the first day of the two-day state executive meeting online ahead of the Assembly polls.

The party talked about the BJP's commitment to build the Ram temple at Ayodhya, scrapping of Article 370 and how over 90,000 people could benefit from the move, and the ban on 59 apps with Chinese links. In a resolution, the BJP also talked about the Centre bringing a new education policy and India starting manufacturing of 100 types of arms under the Armanirbhar Bharat campaign. Enumerating doles for migrants and measures to boost healthcare to fight Covid, the BJP criticised RJD for



BJP leaders before Saturday's state executive meeting through video conference, at the party office in Patna.

its 15-year "misrule" between 1990 and 2005.

BJP national president J P Nadra will address the meet on Sunday.

BJP state president Dr Sanjay Jaiswal, who held the unit's first state executive meet after becoming the party's state president, stressed on communicating ef-

fectively with voters amid the pandemic. The party has designated seven members at booth level, known as 'saptarshi', to galvanise voters and allay apprehensions of Covid infection among them during the voting process.

The meeting was virtually attended by Bihar BJP in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and former Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, who are likely to visit Patna next week to initiate talks of seat-sharing among NDA alliance partners.

The party also said the Covid recovery rate in India was 78.05 per cent as compared to 67.05 globally. It said Bihar's daily testing had crossed over 1 lakh per day and RT-PCR tests would be increased to over 20,000 per day.

The party also talked about the Bihar government's package for migrants who returned to the state amid the pandemic.

Nitish 'missing', Tejashwi hits the ground

DIPANKAR GHOSE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

AMID INDICATIONS that elections in Bihar will be held as scheduled — the present Assembly's term ends on November 29 — RJD president and Leader of Opposition in Vidhan Sabha Tejashwi Yadav has been on the road for the last two weeks, focusing on areas affected by Covid-19 and floods.

The RJD's social media accounts and other outreach platforms are now full of images of Tejashwi meeting people in areas with overflowing water, or across a washed-away bridge, indicating an effort to counter the impression that the party, and in particular its leader, was missing in action when the lockdown began.

Senior leaders of JD(U), which governs the state in alliance with BJP, however, dismissed Tejashwi's public outreach efforts as "drama", and sounded confident of re-election.



Tejashwi Yadav has been on the road for the last two weeks, focusing on areas affected by Covid-19 and floods. Twitter

One senior RJD leader told *The Sunday Express* that feedback from the ground has indicated some level of disappointment with the political class and the response to the pandemic, especially to the agony of workers who returned from other states during the nationwide lockdown. "While the party organised food distribution and such programmes, people

largely feel not many came out to help them. There is large-scale anger, especially after the lockdown and floods, against Nitish Kumar and the government," the RJD leader said.

"But there was some feedback that even RJD leaders have not been seen on ground. Nitish Kumar is still not doing the rounds, so it is important that Tejashwi shows he is now connected to the people," this leader said.

Some RJD leaders maintain that while there has been conversation within the party about a feeling of not being aggressive enough, especially after last year's Lok Sabha election rout, Tejashwi's absence has not helped matters. "For one, he was in Delhi when the lockdown was announced. So he was stuck there throughout April. He reached Patna in early May — things started moving (in the state) only thereafter," a party leader said.

Manoj Jha, Rajya Sabha MP and party spokesperson, said the

perception that the former deputy CM was not on the ground is "in a limited sphere", and denied suggestions of a "course correction". "In a lockdown situation you are not allowed to move freely. (But) he decided to take risk and reach out to the people, listen to their stories, and convey them to the government... I don't think this is a course correction. The course was already there..."

The RJD chief has consistently accused Nitish of not stepping out of home during the pandemic even as the virus spread thick and fast in Bihar.

Asenior JD(U) leader said, "The people of Bihar know this is a difficult time, and the only person to take them out (of this crisis) is Nitish Kumar. Tejashwi Yadav thinks that by going around for two weeks he will erase years of allegations... The CM is monitoring everything, and has people's trust. It is clear the NDA has support, and the arithmetic clearly backs us."

PERSONAL

I, Service No.14936024F, Rank
L/NK Sathya.R S/o T.N.
Rajendra,R/o H.No 3/58, Road
Street Village T.C. Kuppam Post
Arapakkam Walaja (T.K.),
Distt. - Vellore, Tamil Nadu,
have Changed my Son's name
from Harshan.SV & Barath.SV
to Harshan.S & Barath.S for all
future purposes.

LOST & FOUND
I, Bhawna jain, D/O Arvind Jain
R/O. H-17, Garhwali
Mohalla, Laxmi-
Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-
92, Have lost my original-
passing-certificate of
class-12th, year-2016 Rollno-
5820160 CBSE-Dehradun.
0040545785-7

Prachi Narang, Advocate
GNA & Associates
D-28, Jangpura Extension

SITUATION VACANT

(PRESIDENT, GOVERNING BODY)

VIKAS JAIN, Advocate
12, RU-Market, Pitampura, Delhi
Enrol. No.D/1062/01

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my clients (1) SH. PRABHUJI alias Prabhu Nath

PUBLIC NOTICE

MOHIT BHARDWAJ, ADVOCATE
Office. 18 Radhey shyam park,
gali no.1, parwana road,
near preet vihar, DELHI-110051

Sd/-
RAJ KUMAR (Advocate)
Ch. No 1405, Rohini Courts, Delhi-85

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sale of Freehold Residential Entire
Property in part doc. no. 8305, page
no. 65 to 132, book no. 1, Vol. no.
15007, assessor's map 171-12, ss.

had taken this property through lease agreement with the owner of the housing society no. 10065 page no. 25 to 30 at 14.10.1974/ vol no. 1801 & 1802. The said lease agreement was registered on 17.01.1975 at 1801 no. 1781, page no. 343. Now we are aware that the said lease agreement was written in Marathi, Hindi, English & Urdu. Shri Mahender Kwatra from Mumbai, Maharashtra, who is also possession letter & share certificate, these are all in shape of the said lease agreement. Also, a fresh deed which was done in 1975, was also registered in the name of Suresh Kuma. Gupta from Ghaziabad Development Authority, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. We intend to send the above referred documents to the court for cancellation having any claim in respect to the above mentioned property or part thereof. We are also aware that the mortgage, change gift, maintainability, partition, tenancy, tenancy, tenancy, tenancy, lease, license, hypothecation, transfer of title & other documents are all in the name of the said Suresh Kuma. Gupta. The rights of prescription of pre-emption are also in the name of the said Suresh Kuma. Gupta. We are hereby requested to make the same in writing with supporting documents to the court for cancellation. The said Suresh Kuma. Gupta is presently residing at 161/1@yahoo.in or Call 9820000000. We are also aware that the said Suresh Kuma. Gupta is the (fifteen) days of the publication here of following which the claim of such person or persons who are not named in the said lease agreement, is waived off and abandoned.

Pradeep Gupta (Advocate)
Office: Ch. No.-14, Tehsil Compound Gandhi Nagar
Behind Navrang Cinema, Ghaziabad (U.P.)

RAHUL'S FRESH ATTACK ON RAFALE

Hitting back, Railways Minister and senior BJP leader Piyush Goyal retweeted Rahul and posted, "Many of Rahul Gandhi's Congress colleagues

“We have instructed officials to conduct the enquiry in a holistic manner and submit a re-

The CAG has submitted a performance audit report on Defence Offset to the government. It is yet to be tabled in Parliament.

Tripura Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sriram Taranikanti said if there is a duplication of voters in electoral lists of Tripura and Mizoram, the issue would be taken up between his office and the office of his Mizoram counterpart. "The electoral roll revision process is underway. If there is any discrepancy, it will surely be sorted out," he said. CM Deb's office was not available for comment.

110000.00, Earnest money: Rs. 22000.00, Tender cost: Rs. 500.00 + 90.00, (GST), Last Date of 21.09.2020 upto 14:00 hrs. **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, OPERATION & MAINTENANCE CIRCLE-II, DTPS**, 5E-17/40&M-1/BMD-1/20-21, Online e-bids are invited for the "Work of Overhauling of maintenance of main boiler, Maintenance of Pulverized Fuel pipe and De-scaling of pressure parts & removal of soot from heating surfaces of Boiler by steam blowing through wall blowers / LRSB and their Preventive & Breakdown maintenance of Boiler of Unit # & 9, 2x250MW, HTPS" E-Tender has been uploaded on 21.08.2020 on <http://tenderup.nic.in>. Estimated Cost Rs. 1128000.00, Time period 12 Months, E.M.D. cost Rs. 22600.00. Last date of Tender 22.09.2020 at 14:00 Hrs. 6. E-15/40&M-1/BMD-1/20-21, Online e-bids are invited for the "Work of Overhauling work of HP/LP valves and safety valves of Unit # 8, DTPS, Kasimpur" E-Tender has been uploaded on 21.08.2020 on <http://tenderup.nic.in>. Estimated Cost Rs. 329900.00. Time period 45 days, E.M.D. cost Rs. 6600.00. Last date of Tender 22.09.2020 at 14:00 Hrs. 7. E-16/40&M-1/BMD-1/20-21, Online e-bids are invited for the "Work of Overhauling work of coal pipe of Unit # 9 'D' TPS" E-Tender has-been

<http://etender.up.nic.in>, Estimated Cost Rs. 382000.00, Time period 45 days, E.M.D. cost Rs. 7650.00. Last date of Tender 22.09.2020 at 14:00 Hrs. E.T-17/0&MC-II/BMD-1/2021, Online e-bids are invited for the "Work of Overhauling work of H/P/L valves and safety valves of Unit # 9 'D' T/PS, Kasimpur" E-Tender has been uploaded on 21.08.2020 on <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Estimated Cost Rs. 371000.00. Time period 45 days, E.M.D. cost Rs. 7500.00. Last date of Tender 22.09.2020 at 14:00 Hrs. **Note-** Total quantity of work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per tender documents available on the e-portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-bid without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time. **Sd/- Superintending Engineer (H.Q.) U.P.R.V.U.N. E-Tender Notice,** E-Tenders are invited for the followings supply/works/items in two parts. Part-I shall contain Tender cost/Earnest money and Part-II shall contain technical specifications and conditions and Part-II will contain price bid as per bill of quantity. Tender specification may be downloaded from the website (<http://etender.up.nic.in>) and other specification details can be seen on Nigam website www.uprvtl.org. The contractors have to submit the hard copy before the schedule date/time in the concern office in sealed envelope containing details of the tender mentioned on the envelope. Tenders are advised to send their hard copy directly to the concerned tendering authority of the Circles/ Division. Who reserve the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. "Save Electricity Enhance National Productivity" **Sd/- Superintending Engineer (H.Q.) Haridwarganj**
अथवा उप निदेशक तन्त्रिय कस्मिपुर (अगार) पत्रक
 40/अथवा 30/ विद्युत प्रणाली-1 (33/2020 दिनांक 20/8/20

UTTARAKHAND

NOTICE,
ATION,
ending
Circle.
ECMD-
for the
CISF

On	Opposition
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NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY
Open Tender Notice No: NER-
BS/BSST-O-T-10-2020
‘Open Tenders’ through Online (E-
Tendering) are invited by Divisional
Railway Manager (Signal &
Telecom) Varanasi / N.E. Railway
for and behalf of the President of India
for the following works:
S.N.1, Tender Number No. and
Description of work: NER-
BS/BSST-O-T-10-2020; Name of
work:- Signalling work in connection
with the various Fingr Work in the
section of SSE, Sig/Sigman of BSB
Division. Details: Approx. Value: ₹
5167074.89, Earnest Money: ₹
103408.00, Cost of Tender Form: ₹
5000.00, Completion Period: 08
Months, Tender Closing date & Time:
15.09.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. 1. Tender
Order will be submitted up to 15.00
Hrs. on date 15.09.2020. 2. For full
details and submission of Bid kindly
visit the Official website of Indian
Railways: www.irapps.gov.in.
CRP/SG-21 Div. Rg. Manager (S&T)

• About any passenger enquiry/complete
SMS on No. 8970484355

**Do not travel with inflammable
article in train**

[illegible]

234 फेब्रुअरी का निवृत्त भार अनुमति करने के कार्य पूर्ण जमा योजना में टर्नको अपडेट कर कथने हेतु, धरोहर राशि: ₹0/- 99,000/-, निविदा शुल्क: ₹0 5,000/- (चौ एस.टी. चाली), निविदा कृपणों की दिनांक: 02-09-2020, निविदा शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, DVVN, AGRA में वेबसाइट www.dvvn.org के माध्यम से हो। कृपण निविदा जयपण। निवृत्त के निवृत्त कृपण निविदा प्रपण धनपूर्वक पड़ तै। 1. उरोक्त निवृत्त निवृत्त निवृत्त निवृत्त 13:00 बने तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड तै। जा सक्तीं नेक निवृत्त दिनांक की 16:00 बने खोली जायगी। निविदा प्रपण अपडेट के ई-प्रोक्वैस्ट पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर अपलोड की जायगी, जहाँ से निविदा प्रपण डाउनलोड की जाय जा सकत। 2. बयिथ में यदि कोई खरोपण अथवा निविदा निविदा विवरण होत है तो उसकी सूचना ई-टेंडर पोर्टल <https://etender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध जायगी जायेगी। हलां, 3. अधीक्षण आयिचना (साओड)-1, अधिक जागतकी हेतु कृपण <https://etender.up.nic.in> को लॉग-इन करें। "राष्ट्र डित में बिजाली बयारों" दिनांक: 6/95/अपीओ/साओड-1/1 अगत; विपणन/दिनांक: 21.08.2020

Among the other three legislators, Pranav Singh Champion was expelled from the party's primary membership for six years on charges of indiscipline in July last year after a video emerged, showing him brandishing four guns while dancing to a song.

State BJP chief Bhagat said Champion has repeatedly requested the party leadership to listen to his side of the incident. Asked whether the MLA can be brought back to the party, Bhagat said, "The party will speak to him. If we are satisfied with his arguments, we will decide accordingly."

According to a party leader, the two other MLAs – Karanwal and Fortyal – have been summoned for allegedly speaking against the party line, and against the state government, in public forum.

On Saturday, the party also released a digital compilation of relief efforts done by BJP workers during the lockdown period.

On Sunday, the state core committee is expected to discuss issues such as resuming organisational activities that were stopped due to the coronavirus-enforced lockdown. Sources said the committee may hold discussions on the possibility of Cabinet expansion as well.

J&K L-G urges timely completion of Katra-Banihal railway line

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday asked railway authorities to complete the remaining work on the Katra-Banihal railway line by August 15, 2022.

The Katra-Banihal section will have the world's highest railway bridge on the Chenab river at a height of 359 metres, as well as the country's first cable-stayed railway bridge in Reasi district.

Sinha was chairing a meeting at the civil secretariat here to review the progress of work on the 272-km long Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line being built at the cost of Rs 27,949 crore. The direction came after he was informed that 161 km of rail lines between Katra and Banihal has been commissioned. **ENS**

J&K admin demolishes buildings in Samba

Jammu: The Union Territory administration on Saturday demolished a number of structures in Samba district's Birpur area, as part of a drive against encroachments on state and forest land.

A farm house, a hot-mix plant and a crusher were among the demolished structures. All three were in the name of partnership firm 'SSS', as per Sambasp SSP Shakti Pathak. The SSP said the firm's legal documents will be examined to trace its partners. He added there had been various complaints about incidents of land grabbing. **ENS**

BRIEFLY



One of the leopards captured near Ghutanvad. Express

GUJARAT
Forest dept captures three leopards

Vadodara: The Chhota Udepur Forest Department has caught three leopards —two males aged 4 and 3.5 years, and a female aged 3.5 years — from Ghutanvad village of Pavi Jetpur taluka. The department had set up a trap on Friday after a 70-year-old woman from the village was killed in a leopard attack. The incident occurred on Thursday night, when a leopard dragged away Budhli Rathwa from the courtyard of her house into a thicket and killed her. After the trap was set, two leopards were caught from the thicket where the woman's mutilated body was found and the third was caught about 500 meters away. ENS

WEST BENGAL
Teen gangraped, killed; body left in septic tank

Jalpaiguri: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped multiple times, killed and the body dumped in a septic tank of a house in Jalpaiguri police said on Saturday. Three persons were arrested Thursday in connection with the incident, and when produced before the court on Friday, they were remanded to eight days of police custody. The girl, a resident of Shyanashikata in Rajganj, went missing on August 10, following which her family lodged a police complaint, officials said. The accused allegedly confessed to raping and killing the girl on August 15, police sources said. PTI

KERALA
Tribal woman shot dead by nephew

Idukki: A 34-year-old tribal woman was shot dead allegedly by her nephew, an accused in a sandalwood smuggling case, at nearby Palapetty as he believed that she had tipped off the police about his illegal activities. The 19-year-old and two others were taken into custody in connection with the killing of Chandrika on Friday night at her farm, police said on Saturday. Two weeks ago, the woman's nephew was arrested by the Forest department for his alleged links with a sandalwood-smuggling gang and was later released on bail. PTI

KARNATAKA
Man who bought 750 ecstasy pills online held

Bengaluru: A man who had allegedly procured 750 ecstasy pills online from Germany last month, has been arrested, the Narcotics Control Bureau said here on Saturday. He had been at large after the recovery of a huge cache of MDMA pills, commonly known as ecstasy, from the Foreign Post Office here on July 31, an NCB statement said. The man has been identified as Rahman K, it said, but did not give details of his arrest. The NCB said that Rahman, a commerce graduate, had been selling MDMA and other party drugs among students of his college and nearby institutions. PTI

UNLOCK 3 GUIDELINES VIOLATED, SAYS CENTRE

MHA tells states: Lift curbs on movement of people, goods

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

POINTING TO "local level restrictions on movement" of people and goods still "being imposed by various districts/states", the Ministry of Home Affairs wrote to States Saturday that there can be "no restriction on inter-State and intra-State movement", as stipulated in the July 29 guidelines for Unlock-3.

In a letter to Chief Secretaries of all states, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said: "Such restrictions at local level imposed by the District Administration or by the State Government amount to violation of the guidelines issued by MHA under the provisions of Disaster Management Act, 2005."

COVID 'PROPHYLAXIS'
Gujarat to WHO: Gave homoeopathy drug to 50% of population

SOHINI GHOSH
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 22

AS ON August 19, five months since Gujarat saw its first Covid-19 case, the state has distributed Arsenicum Album-30, the homoeopathic drug used as a prophylaxis for Covid-19, to 3.48 crore people—nearly half the population of the state. This information was part of a presentation made before WHO on August 20 where the state government also claimed that "99.6 per cent" of those under quarantine who were put under AYUSH prophylaxis tested negative.

And 6.6 crore, which is equivalent to the state's total population, have been given *ukala* or *kadha*, the herbal potion which the government began distributing as an immunity booster. The state plans to start the third round of distribution of AYUSH remedies, principal secretary, health and family welfare Jayanti Ravi told this paper.

The lack of scientific evidence on Arsenicum Album-30 working against Covid-19 has not deterred the Gujarat government from attributing AYUSH interventions as one of the strategies used in combating the virus.

Four registered clinical trials pertaining to AYUSH remedies in Gujarat are yet to be completed. The official clinical trial registry, with respect to the government sponsored trial, however, shows Arsenicum Album-30 absent from the trial details.

Of the total 33,264 quarantined AYUSH beneficiaries, 14,184 of these quarantined people availed homoeopathic treatment. The state has gone out of its way, engaging the district legal services authorities as well, to conduct camps for distribution of herbal concoctions, Arsenicum Album-30, while also making it available in several government offices, health institutions and prisons.

A top health official in the state government said that the results of AYUSH remedies have been "encouraging".

Explaining the preparation of Arsenicum Album-30, wherein the nomenclature of '30' indicates potency, a homoeopathy practitioner said: "The first potency will be basically one part Arsenic and 99 parts distilled water. This solution will be diluted in a similar manner for 29 more times."

Bengal: BJP delegation meets Governor, seeks probe into vandalism at Visva-Bharati

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 22

A BJP delegation led by its MP Saumitra Khan on Saturday met Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar and demanded an impartial probe into the demolition of a wall around the Poush Mela ground on the Visva-Bharati University campus last week.

"We do not want to politicise (Rabindranath) Tagore. But there has been an incident that miscreants have tried to grab land in Visva Bharati. They are spreading anarchy. That is why we have

sions of Disaster Management Act, 2005."

MHA officials said Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have been frequently sealing inter-state or inter-district borders in the name of containing the spread of the coronavirus, leading to disruption of supply chains across the country.

Officials said although the MHA has sent multiple reminders to the states, the problem has persisted.

"Earlier, UP and Haryana were frequently sealing their borders with Delhi, leading to serious problems for movement of medical professionals and goods in the NCR. This problem was finally resolved with the intervention of Home Minister Amit Shah who

held meetings with the NCR states and ushered in an integrated approach for Covid-19 containment in the NCR. Now Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, badly affected by the pandemic, are frequently sealing their borders, particularly inter-district borders. This is causing a lot of problems as goods and services bound for other states are getting stuck because they are not being allowed to transit via these states. It completely defeats the Centre's efforts to bring the economy back to life," a senior official of the MHA said.

In his letter Saturday, Home Secretary Bhalla drew the attention of the states to para 5 of the July 29 guidelines for Unlock-3 which makes clear that "there shall be no restriction on inter-

State and intra-State movement of persons and goods. No separate permission/approval/e-permit will be required for such movements. This includes movement of persons & goods for cross land-border trade under Treaties with neighbouring countries".

"It has, however, been reported that local level restrictions on movement are being imposed by various districts/states. Such restrictions are creating problems in inter-State movement of goods and services and are impacting the supply chain, resulting in disruption of economic activities and employment, besides affecting supply of goods and services," Bhalla said, directing states to "ensure that MHA guidelines... are strictly followed".

Soren, wife test Covid positive, in home quarantine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
RANCHI, AUGUST 22

RAJYA SABHA MP and JMM president Shibu Soren and his wife Roopi have been diagnosed with Covid-19, his son and Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren said on Saturday.

The CM tweeted in Hindi: "Respected father Dishom Gurji and mother tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday night, and they are in home quarantine." The 76-year-old president of the ruling JMM is revered as 'guruji' (master) by his followers.

Sources said seven other members in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha chief's household have also tested positive.

The chief minister, who whose official residence is close to the JMM chief's government bungalow, will undergo a Covid-19 test on Monday—the third time in two months. The CM's wife and several others living at his residence will also undergo the test on Monday.

TRACKING INDIA'S COVID CURVE

173 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
CASES: 29,75,701
TESTS: 3,44,91,073
RECOVERED: 22,22,577
DEATHS: 55,794
DOUBLING RATE: 30.42**



KEY STATES TO WATCH	TOTAL CASES	SURGE IN 24 HOURS	7-DAY AVG GROWTH*	DOUBLING TIME**
■ Maharashtra	6,57,450	14,161	1.99%	36.18
■ Tamil Nadu	3,67,430	5,995	1.71%	42.04
■ Andhra	3,34,940	9,544	2.96%	24.33
■ Karnataka	2,64,546	7,531	3.28%	21.98
■ Uttar Pradesh	1,77,239	4,905	2.88%	25.00

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	POSITIVITY RATE	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: 1.94 NOW: 1.87	7 DAYS EARLIER: 8.84 NOW: 8.63	DETECTED TODAY: 69,874 RECOVERED TODAY: 63,631
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress in averting deaths	Positives against number tested (in %); indicator of the spread of disease	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days may signal the peak
Data as on August 21, 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		

'Hindi imposition': Kanimozhi seeks AYUSH Secy's suspension

Those not familiar with Hindi asked to 'leave' online session

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, NEW DELHI, AUG 22

DMK MP Kanimozhi Saturday sought the suspension of Union AYUSH Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha for allegedly asking participants who did not understand Hindi to leave an online training session organised by the ministry.

The DMK MP also wrote to AYUSH minister Shripad Naik seeking an inquiry and demanding that English be used or translation be provided for Hindi at such events in future. "I write this letter to bring to your attention an incident of imposition of Hindi, in violation of our constitutional principles, which has taken place during a virtual training event/webinar conducted by the Ministry of AYUSH," she wrote.

Kotecha has since denied the allegation and told the media that he had made it clear that he would speak in both English and Hindi. He told *The Hindu* that in a 10-minute introductory speech, he began to speak in Hindi, but made it clear that he would be speaking in both English and Hindi. He alleged that some "hooligans", who had joined the programme, disrupted the event, insisting he speak only in



DMK MP Kanimozhi

English. Alleging that a video doing the rounds on social media has been manipulated, he said he requested participants to stop disrupting the programme and leave.

There were nearly 40 participants from Tamil Nadu among the 300-odd from different states who participated in sessions on naturopathy and Yoga during August 18-20, organised by the ministry along with the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga for Master Trainers of Yoga. Participants from Tamil Nadu claimed that several sessions were in Hindi, barring a few trainers who tried to translate portions in English.

On the last day of the programme, after several participants demanded bilingual or English speakers, Kotecha thanked those who attended the sessions and said, "I have information that there has been an issue for the past two days... People can leave... I don't speak English very well. So, I will speak

Kotecha has denied the allegation and said 'hooligans' disrupted the event, insisting he speak only in English.

in Hindi."

The video of the remarks have been circulated on social media.

Stating that his reply was an "insult" to many who are not fluent in Hindi, several naturopathy doctors from Tamil Nadu alleged that the same discriminatory approach was present in all the sessions.

Kanimozhi said Kotecha's reaction spoke volumes about "the Hindi domination being imposed". "The statement of Secretary of the Union Ministry of AYUSH, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, that non-Hindi speaking participants could leave during a Ministry's training session speaks volumes about the Hindi domination being imposed. This is highly condemnable," Kanimozhi said in a statement. "Government should place the Secretary under suspension and initiate appropriate disciplinary proceedings. How long is this attitude of excluding non-Hindi speakers to be tolerated," she asked.



MASKED

Ganesh idols on sale in Mumbai on Saturday, the first day of the 10-day-long Ganesh Chaturthi festival. Amid growing Covid cases, festivities have been low-key. Reuters

AIRPORT PRIVATISATION ROW

Pinarayi govt under fire after picking law firm with Adani kin as partner for legal aid

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 22

OPPOSITION CONGRESS and BJP on Saturday slammed the Pinarayi Vijayan government after it emerged through an RTI reply that the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) had hired, for legal opinion about auction of Thiruvananthapuram airport the services of a corporate law firm in which a family member of Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani is a partner.

The CPI(M)-led LDF government is protesting the decision to lease out Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises.

On Saturday, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ramesh Chennithala said the state seeking legal advice on the bidding process from a firm owned by a close relative of Adani raises concerns. "If true, this shows a nexus between the state government and the Adani Group," the Congress leader said. "By involving a firm close to Adani, it seems the (state) government was unable to maintain secrecy of bidding documents."

BJP state president K Surendran ridiculed Chief Minister Vijayan for seeking consultancy service from a firm linked to Adani even while his party plans mass protests against the Adani Group taking

over operations of the airport.

In reply to RTI activist Govindan Nampoothiri, KSIDC, the state-run entity which took part in the airport auction on behalf of the state, said the Corporation had sought the services of Mumbai-based law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. The firm was paid Rs 55 lakh as "professional fee for bidding", the RTI reply stated.

Paridhi Adani, a partner in the firm, is wife of Karan Adani, CEO of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd and son of Gautam Adani.

A senior official of KSIDC said the law firm was chosen as per a government order. "They had only done legal vetting of documents and (had) nothing to do with bidding price, which was fixed by a committee headed by the Chief Secretary," this official said.

According to the official, the Airport Authority of India, which manages the airport at present, had stated that as part of the bid there should be reports from both legal and technical consultancy. For technical consultancy, the government had selected KPMG and Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas and the official said.

After the Union Cabinet ratified leasing out the airport to Adani Group, the Kerala government had sent two letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, stating that the state would not cooperate in implementing the decision. Opposition Congress also joined hands in the protest.

In Punjab, police 'deradicalisation cells' keep watch on social media posts

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, AUGUST 22

A 25-YEAR-OLD from Khanna, a member of a little-known organisation called Sikh Youth Power who has been vocal on community issues for the last five years, felt a wave of panic wash over him when he got a call from the special branch of the Khanna police on Thursday. "I thought I was in big trouble," he says. To his surprise, the police officers present there just wanted to quiz him about his social media posts.

ASI Parminder Singh, who questioned him for around five hours, said, "We called him here in connection with Referendum-2020. But he told us that he is opposed both to the concept

and the organisers."

This is just another day at one of the many deradicalisation cells of the Punjab police. Members of the cell keep a close watch on social media posts and track down youngsters with separatist leanings who are then counseled by senior officers.

As ASI Singh said, "We first question them to learn about their mindset and associations. Some of them don't know how certain Facebook posts reached them. Most of the youth have little idea of what is going on. There are very few who are intentionally getting involved in it (Referendum 2020)."

Recently, DGP Dinkar Gupta told a British news agency that such district-level cells have

CBI team visits Sushant flat in Mumbai to recreate events before death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 22

A CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation team probing the Sushant Singh Rajput case visited the late actor's Mumbai residence on Saturday along with forensic experts to reconstruct the sequence of events up to his death, an official said.

The team left at around 8 pm, after spending more than five hours in the Bandra flat. When they arrived, CBI sleuths were accompanied by Rajput's cook Neeraj, another domestic help Deepesh Sawant, and the actor's flat-mate Siddharth Pithani. The three were present in the flat when Rajput was found hanging in his room.

The personnel of the central agency and experts of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory reached Rajput's residence in Mont Blanc Apartment at around 2:30 pm—wading through a crowd of mediapersons and on-lookers.

The team first went to the building's terrace and then entered the flat. They were seen clicking pictures of the bedroom and shooting videos.

The CBI team was investigating whether suicide was possible at the spot, said the official.

On Saturday, another CBI team visited the state-run Cooper Hospital in the city where the autopsy had been done.

A third CBI team visited the Bandra police station to meet officials of the Mumbai police probing the alleged suicide.

deradicalised around 400 youths.

DSP Sharma says counselling almost always yields results. "There are hardly any cases of youths getting radicalized in Khanna. They understand our point of view when we counsel them. Often, we find that they had liked a page by mistake or without going into it," said Sharma, who was tight-lipped about the procedure used to choose people for counselling.

Commissioner of Police, Amritsar, Sukhchain Singh Gill admitted that such cells exist in every district but refused to disclose more details.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
Bays No. 67-70, Sec.-2, Panchkula-134151
(Website: www.hssc.gov.in)

NOTICE TO THE CANDIDATES FOR THE POST OF PTL, AGAINST ADVT. NO. 06/2006, CAT. NO. 23.

In view of the orders of Haryana State Disaster Management Authority dated 21.08.20 to contain the spread of Corona Virus, it is for the information of all concerned that written examination (OMR Based) for the post of PTL against Advt No 6/2006 Cat No. 23 will be conducted by Haryana Staff Selection Commission as scheduled. The candidates are again advised to book their online/e-tickets in advance to avail bus facility of Haryana Roadways. Examination schedule as per notice dated 30.07.20 will remain same which is as follows:

Sr.No	Name of the post	Advt.No.	Cat.No.	Date & Time of Examination	Place
1	PTI	06/2006	23	23-08-2020 (Sunday) Entry Time: 11:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. No Entry after: 12:30 P.M. Exam Start Time: 01:00 P.M. Exam End Time: 02:15 P.M.	As per advertisement

Dated, Panchkula
22nd August, 2020
6240371-647

Sd/-
Secretary
Haryana Staff Selection Commission,
Panchkula.

8 ECONOMY

BHARTI AXA SHAREHOLDERS TO RECEIVE 2 SHARES OF ICICI LOMBARD FOR EVERY 115 SHARES

ICICI Lombard, Bharti AXA to merge in share swap deal to form 3rd largest general insurer

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 22

ICICI LOMBARD General Insurance Company and Bharti AXA General Insurance Co Ltd on Saturday said they will combine their insurance businesses through a share swap deal, paving the way for the creation of the country's third-largest general insurance entity.

The boards of both the companies approved entering into definitive agreements for demerger of Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business into ICICI Lombard through a Scheme of Arrangement. Based on the share exchange ratio recommended by independent valuers and accepted by the boards, the shareholders of Bharti AXA will receive two shares of ICICI Lombard for every 115 shares of Bharti AXA held by them as on the date on which the Scheme of Arrangement is approved by the

ICICI BANK HOLDS 51.89% IN ICICI LOMBARD

■ The boards of both the companies approved entering into definitive agreements for demerger of Bharti AXA's non-life insurance business into ICICI Lombard through a Scheme of Arrangement. ■ ICICI Bank holds 51.89 per cent stake in ICICI Lombard, while the rest is with the public.

■ After the proposed deal, promoter stake will come down to 48.11 per cent. ICICI Lombard shares closed at Rs 1,292.90, down 0.40 per cent, on the BSE on Friday. ■ ICICI Lombard made a profit of Rs 398 crore and gross premium underwritten of Rs 3,394 crore in the June quarter of 2020-21.

boards of both the companies.

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"The proposed transaction provides a meaningful opportu-

nity for ICICI Lombard to consolidate its market leading position in the non-life insurance sector, becoming the third largest non-life insurer," ICICI Lombard said in a statement.

The combined entity shall have a market share of 8.7 per cent on pro-forma basis. "Through this proposed transaction, ICICI Lombard will be able to augment its distribution

strength with Bharti AXA's existing distribution partnerships," it said in the statement.

"The combined entity will also benefit from continued partnerships with Bharti Enterprises, one of India's leading business groups with diversified interests, and AXA, a large global insurer," the statement said.

The proposed transaction is expected to result in value creation for all stakeholders through meaningful revenue and operational synergies, it said. "Policyholders are also expected to gain from an enhanced product suite and deeper customer connect touch points. Employees of the combined business will also benefit via greater opportunities across functions and geographies," ICICI Lombard said.

After obtaining all approvals, when the scheme becomes effective, the non-life insurance business will be demerged from Bharti AXA into ICICI Lombard.

Bhargav Dasgupta, MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance, said, "We are confident that this transaction would be value accretive for our shareholders. We would also like to reassure Bharti AXA's policyholders and channel partners of seamless business continuity and maintaining highest standards of customer service." ICICI Lombard made a profit of Rs 398 crore and gross premium underwritten of Rs 3,394 crore in the June quarter of 2020-21.

Rakesh Bharti Mittal, chairman of Bharti AXA General Insurance said, "We are delighted that the partnership between Bharti and AXA has been successful in laying down a solid foundation in the domestic insurance landscape. Over the past few years, our business demonstrated consistent growth, forged productive partnerships and increased the distribution footprint significantly."

INTERVIEW WITH NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CEO

'NDHM has potential for unlocking creativity, getting pvt sector initiatives; have privacy by design, data is secure'



Dr Indu Bhushan, CEO of National Health Authority. File

THE DIGITAL health IDs under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) are expected to make it easier to access quality healthcare, says Dr INDU BHUSHAN, CEO of the National Health Authority implementing the mission. In an interview to PRABHA RAGHAVAN, Bhushan discusses the benefits of the scheme, its pilot in six Union Territories, privacy concerns and how the private sector is expected to participate. Edited excerpts:

Why is NDHM and the Digital Health ID beneficial?

The digital ID is the unifier across all your records. I want to put this out in public that it's voluntary.

Right now, if you look at any hospital, you would find people carrying their records in some file or some plastic bag ... in tattered forms. Sometimes, these records are not fully there. The doctor doesn't have the benefit of having the full picture of their medical history, so the treatment or the kind of test and diagnostics (they) recommend may not be most optimal.

Here, everything digitised. The patients will have greater information about the kind of treatment given. They will also have access to all the records coming from different hospitals, labs and diagnostic centers and also from public health programs — we have the intention of giving the health ID as the child is born until the death.

It also helps in keeping the health system accountable.

What is the status of the NDHM pilot in six Union Territories?

We've started rolling (NDHM) out. The three basic platforms—creation of health ID, creation of doctors registry and the creation of health facility registry — has been completed. Close to 3,000 IDs have been made...across the six Union Territories.

What is the need for a separate Health ID when

most of the country already has an Aadhaar card?

The Supreme Court directions are very clear that we can't use (Aadhaar) for any specific purpose. We can ask for (it) for all those programmes which provide government subsidies...but, as you know, in health there will be a lot of people who don't have any government subsidies. So, asking and keeping Aadhaar may not be allowed.

It's not aligned to the Aadhaar Act also.

What factors will encourage private sector participation in NDHM? Could there be a potential for conflict of interest because of their involvement?

The private sector is going to be involved in this mission in a big way, and they will be involved not because of any intent for the welfare of people, but for their own interest and profit motives.

This whole infrastructure is going to be created, owned and controlled by the government, but we will be using a lot of private sector resources in creating it...but, that's only part of it.

For example, when we develop a road, it is developed, financed, owned and controlled by the government, but not necessarily built by the government. So, we hire private contractors to build it under our supervision. But, on that road, we don't say that only government vehicles will be running. Private vehicles will run, it will generate a lot of

other demands...maybe some dhabas and other services will come up along the line, maybe some malls will come up. So, that road leads to a lot of direct and indirect commercial activities.

The same thing is going to happen with this health backbone infrastructure we are creating. I think that it has the potential for unlocking a lot of creativity and getting a lot of private sector initiatives.

The potential for conflict of interest doesn't really arise because the whole architecture and the way it has to be developed, is defined by us. We're just asking them to help us build it. That requires some additional people.

There are some privacy and security concerns flagged with the health IDs. What measures are you implementing to safeguard patient data?

(People) shouldn't be apprehensive about it all because we, in terms of our policy, ensure that we have privacy by design, and the data is secure and cannot be used for any purpose that it was not intended for. The system is going to improve on the current status quo in a big way. We have this policy framework which has been put in place under this mission.

No personally identifiable information can be shared by any of the hospitals who keep the data.

We (also) have what we call the information security policy, (where) we are following very strict ISO 27001 norms as a standard and NIST as a framework. There are more than a hundred checks and balances in terms of what kind of firewall should be kept to the kind of protocol that should be in place for data protection.

All these things are evolving issues...as the technology will evolve, so will the policy and the approach that we take for protecting people's privacy. I am quite confident that our norms and protocols will measure up to the best and latest standards in the world.

BRIEFLY

OIL logs ₹249 cr loss in Q1 on fall in oil prices

New Delhi: Oil India Ltd posted a net loss of Rs 248.61 crore in first quarter of 2020-21 fiscal, as compared to a net profit of Rs 624.80 crore in the same period of the previous financial year.

Godfrey Phillips India Q1 net profit falls 53%

New Delhi: Godfrey Phillips India on Saturday reported a 53.56 per cent decline in its consolidated net profit to Rs 55.09 crore for the first quarter ended June 30. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 118.63 crore in the same quarter a year ago.

Phoenix Mills raises ₹1,100 cr via QIP issue

New Delhi: The Phoenix Mills Ltd, which has shopping malls across the country, has raised around Rs 1,100 crore through sale of shares to institutional investors, including the Singapore government. The company opened its QIP (Qualified Institutional Placement) issue on August 18 and the issue was closed on Friday. **PTI**

Amazon consumer biz head to retire

Bengaluru: Amazon.com Inc has said Jeff Wilke, chief executive officer of its consumer business, would retire early next year. **REUTERS**

PowerMin asks gencos to cap late payment surcharge at 12%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

THE POWER Ministry has advised power generation firms and transmission companies to levy the late payment surcharge on discoms at not more than 12 per cent in view of the stress in the sector amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rate of late payment surcharge (LPS) in many cases is up to 18 per cent per annum and has adversely impacted discoms during lockdown. The measure aims at easing the financial burden on discoms (power distribution utilities), and would also benefit consumers, a ministry statement said.

"In order to alleviate the financial stress in the power system, all generating companies

and transmission companies have been advised by Ministry of Power to charge Late Payment Surcharge at a rate not exceeding 12 per cent per annum (simple interest) for all payments made under the Liquidity Infusion Scheme of PFC and REC under Aatmanirbhar Bharat," it said.

The applicable rate of LPS is quite high despite interest rates in the country softening over the last few years. The pandemic has adversely affected the liquidity position of all stakeholders of the power sector especially discoms. A number of measures have been taken by the government to mitigate the adverse impact which include rebate on capacity charges, relaxing provisions of Letter of Credit for scheduling of power, Liquidity Infusion Scheme.

Forex reserves decline by \$2.9 bn to \$535.2 bn on fall in foreign currency assets

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

AFTER RISING for the past few weeks, foreign exchange reserves declined by \$2.939 billion to \$535.252 billion for the week ended August 14, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.

In the previous week ended August 7, reserves had increased by \$3.623 billion to reach a record high of \$538.191 billion. In the week ended August 14, the reserves declined due to a fall in foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves. FCA dropped \$743 million to \$491.550 billion in the reporting week.

Foreign portfolio investors' (FPIs) assets in domestic equities, too, surged after a sharp fall in the previous quarter

AROUND \$344 BN:

Value of FPI investments in Indian equities stood at around \$344 billion, which is considerably higher than the \$281 billion registered in the preceding quarter, a spike of almost 23 per cent

REASONS:

- Robust net FPI inflows
- Strong recovery in equity markets

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

During the quarter ended June, FPIs were net buyers in the domestic markets to the tune of \$3.91 billion, which was in sharp contrast to the net outflow of \$6.38 billion recorded in the

previous quarter on the back of rising COVID case and fears of economic effects of the pandemic

NET SELLERS IN APRIL:

FPIs started the quarter on a sombre note as they were net sellers to the tune of \$903 million in April

THE BOUNCEBACK:

They made a comeback in the subsequent months of May and June as they pumped net assets worth \$1.93 billion and \$2.89 billion, respectively, into the equity markets

REASONS:

- Measures announced by the government and the RBI
- India performed better in containing the aggressive spread of COVID-19
- Lifting of lockdown curbs

Govt clears leasing out of Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises: What is the row between the Centre and the state?

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

A POLITICAL slugfest has erupted between the Centre and the Kerala government over the privatisation of the Thiruvananthapuram airport. The central government has decided to lease out the operation, management and development of the airport to Adani Enterprises for a period of 50 years — something that is being vehemently opposed by the state government.

Why is the airport being handed over to Adani Enterprises?

The Centre decided to lease out six airports in the country — Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Mangaluru and Guwahati — through public-private partnership (PPP) to Adani Enterprises last year after the company

emerged the highest bidder in a global competitive bidding process. Adani Enterprises outbid eight other companies in the process including GMR Airports, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), Cochin International Airport Ltd and Zurich Airport to

process of the airport. Shortly after the Union Cabinet approved leasing out of the airport to Adani, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Centre's "unilateral decision" was against the wishes of the people of the state and that "it will be difficult" for the state government to offer co-operation for implementation of the decision. Kerala also said that its claim to manage the Thiruvananthapuram airport was rejected by the Centre even after it offered to match Adani's bid.

What is Kerala government's contention?

Kerala's reservations date

back to 2003, when it requested the Centre to include the state government whenever a decision to induct the private sector for managing the Thiruvananthapuram airport is taken. The Centre at the time assured the state that the state will be consulted during the privatisation

process of the airport. Shortly after the Union Cabinet approved leasing out of the airport to Adani, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Centre's "unilateral decision" was against the wishes of the people of the state and that "it will be difficult" for the state government to offer co-operation for implementation of the decision. Kerala also said that its claim to manage the Thiruvananthapuram airport was rejected by the Centre even after it offered to match Adani's bid.

How has the Centre responded?

The Centre has said that after various discussions and recommendations of a Empowered Group of Secretaries, it was decided in consultation with the state government that the latter would participate in the bidding process for the airport through a special purpose vehicle (SPV). The Kerala SPV was also given the right of first refusal (RoFR), or a provision to match the winning bid, if its quote fell within 10% range of the top bidder. However, according to the Centre, KSIDC's bid was 19.64% lower than Adani Enterprises' making it ineligible to exercise the RoFR provision.

What is the recourse being taken by the state?

On Thursday, a day after the Union Cabinet's go-ahead to lease the airport out to Adani, an all-party meeting of the state opposed the Centre's decision and

sought revocation of privatisation of the Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani. Furthermore, a petition was filed in Kerala High Court last year, which was dismissed by the court in December, following which a special leave petition was filed in the Supreme Court.

While both the High Court and the apex court did not grant a stay on the privatisation process, the Supreme Court remitted the matter back to Kerala High Court, which is yet to give its final decision. The Centre has said that the Union Cabinet's approval was subject to the outcome of the writ petition. It also said that if the petitioners succeed and outcome of litigation leads to annulment or cancellation of bidding process then Adani Enterprises will handover the possession of airport back to AAI, which will be entitled to refund of amount paid and additional investments made in the assets.

24 proposals worth ₹8,594 cr of stressed NBFCs, HFCs sanctioned so far under SLS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

THE FINANCE Ministry on Saturday said 24 proposals worth Rs 8,594 crore of stressed NBFCs and HFCs have been sanctioned under the Special Liquidity Scheme announced as part of the Rs 20.97 lakh crore 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package.

The scheme, which was launched on July 1, permits both primary and secondary market purchases of debt and seeks to address the short-term liquidity issues of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs).

Sharing implementation status update of the Rs 30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS), Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a tweet said that



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. File

24 proposals with a total sanctioned amount of Rs 8,594 crore have been cleared as on August 21, while 17 more applications seeking financing of up to Rs 3,684.5 crore are under process.

"The amount disbursed stood at Rs 3,279 crore as on 21.08.2020. Compared to 07.08.2020, there is an increase

of Rs 2,195 crore in the amount sanctioned & an increase of Rs 2,279 crore in the amount disbursed," she tweeted.

NBFCs and HFCs came under stress following a series of defaults by IL&FS group firms in September 2018.

NBFCs including microfinance institutions registered under the RBI Act, 1934 (excluding those registered as Core Investment Companies) and any HFC registered with the National Housing Bank under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, which is complying with certain specified conditions, are eligible to raise funding from this facility.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided funds for the scheme by subscribing to government-guaranteed special securities issued by a trust set up by SBI Capital Markets Ltd (SBICAP).

New Aarogya Setu feature: Companies can integrate software into own systems

Service can be availed only by cos that have over 50 staff & are registered in India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 22

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Saturday launched the open Application Programming Interface (API) service for Aarogya Setu app. The service can enable companies to integrate the app into their own systems and check for real-time COVID-19 infection status of their employees and pandemic in general. The service can be availed only by companies which have more than 50 employees and are registered in India.

"They can use the open API service to query the Aarogya Setu application in real-time and get the health status of their employees or any other Aarogya Setu user, who have provided their consent for sharing their health status with the organization," the Ministry said in a statement.

An API is a software that acts as a bridge for two applications to be able to talk to each other and exchange information. With the launch of the Aarogya Setu API, companies can register themselves to avail the services, following which they can be given the code which can be integrated into the programmes being run by these companies.

The app, which has been downloaded by over 15 crore users till date, was released by the MeitY on April 2. According to a statement released by the Ministry, the Aarogya Setu apps tracks its users' "interaction with others", alerts the authorities if there are any suspicions of the user having been in contact with a COVID-19 infected person.

"Once installed in a smartphone through an easy and user-friendly process, the app detects other devices with Aarogya Setu installed that

3 KEY POINTS

1 The service will allow checking real-time COVID-19 infection status of staff and pandemic in general.

2 The app, which has been downloaded by over 15 crore users till date, was released by the MeitY on April 2.

3 An API is a software that acts as a bridge for two applications to be able to talk to each other and exchange information.

come in the proximity of that phone. The app can then calculate the risk of infection based on sophisticated parameters if any of these contacts are tested positive," the government had then said.

Earlier this month, a company which had worked on the code review process of the app had written an article in which it had alleged that there were various security vulnerabilities in the Aarogya Setu app.

In a detailed article, the company had written that they had downloaded the source code of the app within a few minutes and that the involvement of private companies was a threat to the data of Aarogya Setu users.

The Ministry had however, denied the statements and said that company had made "various malicious, nefarious and unsubstantiated claims on security issues in Aarogya Setu app". The article was taken down a few minutes after the ministry issued the statement in which it said it would take legal action against the company.

9 SUNDAY STORY

'WE ARE OPEN'



This week, Delhi announced reopening of hotels in a bid to kick off the economy. But with few travellers and no tourists, the industry's climb out of the pandemic is expected to be the hardest and the longest. SADAF MODAK goes behind the doors of one five-star in Mumbai to capture a post-Covid world

ON A rainy afternoon, as guests enter the gates of Hotel Meluha-The Fern in a well-pruned area of Mumbai's suburb Powai, the first sight that greets them is a staffer with a manual sanitising spray machine strapped onto his back, and a disinfectant container near him. The first is for sanitising the luggage of guests, the second for hand bags. On the floor is a rug layered with sanitiser, to ensure that even shoes of those walking into the five-star hotel get a Covid cleansing.

In the lobby, the visitors are first directed to a 'hand-sanitisation zone', a contact-less, foot-operated stand disposing hand sanitiser, followed by a 'temperature screening zone' where staff wield infra-red thermometers.

Both the welcome drink and valets who park vehicles have been done away with. Only visitors who have already checked in online via a link are entertained. At the front desk, they have to fill in self-declaration health forms, including that they have not come from a containment zone. Each guest is handed over a separate pen, with boxes clearly marking 'new' and 'used' pens.

Each item touched by the guest or staff during that interaction, including documents, is put into a UV sterilisation box that sanitises the objects "within 3 minutes".

Front Office Manager Monty Chhabra, who has spent two decades in the hotel industry, says post-coronavirus, it's a new world. "Earlier, it was only hospitality. Now it is hospitality with responsibility," says Chhabra.

At any time of the day, the staff can be seen cleaning — any of the many "contact" surfaces in the 141-room, seven-storey, 10-year-old hotel, from door handles to lift buttons. Staff otherwise engaged in the hotel's restaurants, bar, gymnasium, spa, salon, swimming pool, buffets, the banquet hall and the three board rooms are now assigned these tasks as the above services are yet to be offered. The Meluha has 200-odd employees on its rolls, and while it hasn't laid off anyone due to a fall in revenues post the pandemic, they are paid now only for the days they work — usually two weeks a month. The last full pay was in April.

On July 6, as part of its Mission Begin Again to ease lockdown restrictions, the Maharashtra government had announced the reopening of hotels outside containment zones — at maximum 33% capacity. Besides Maharashtra, hotels have reopened in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. On Wednesday, Delhi announced it would allow hotels to open, with the state government eager to kick off the economy.

■ ■ ■

Around 12 pm on a Thursday, a guest checks out of Room No. 611 at The Meluha, and Ganesh Dhule enters wearing a PPE. After ensuring that nothing has been left behind by the guest, he removes all the linen — bed covers, pillow covers, comforter — and puts them in bags, before locking the room and leaving. The room will now remain shut for at least 24 hours. This is part of the SOP being followed by most hotels that have reopened, to reduce the risk of any residual viruses in the room exposing the staff or the next guest.

Dhule says he and the others in the housekeeping team of 40 are getting used to spending their entire duty hours in PPEs. "We are required to wear a PPE each time we do a delivery to a room," he says. At the end of each day, the staff discard their suits for a new one.

With restaurants closed, every meal is delivered to rooms — left outside on trolleys, like other services requested by guests. With occupancy low, the hotel has segregated staff allotted to guests floor-wise, to further reduce risk of any infection.

Dhule, 30, who lives in Mankhurd in the eastern suburbs of Mumbai with his mother, goes home once in 15 days now. "I do not step



(C'wise from above left) Housekeeping at The Meluha-Fern wears PPE for every service call; no-contact check-in at front desk; fixed menus, hygiene planners in kitchen



out of the hotel and there are regular checks by the in-house doctor," he says. Whenever he is home, he stocks up all the essentials so that his mother doesn't have to go out.

Assistant Manager, Housekeeping, Suraj Mulik says they hold a staff meeting every alternate day for feedback. "Since reopening, there have been many additions based on the inputs received from the staff. Each guest's usage differs and makes us realise what more we need to do. For instance, from only a few obvious touch points which were cleaned in a room, like door handles, taps, over 70 of them have been identified now, including TV and AC remotes, curtain edges, mirrors."

When Room No. 617 is reopened after 24 hours — through a contact-less system now instead of keys — two-three staffers enter wearing masks and gloves. Aside from the usual cleaning equipment, they carry several kinds of sanitisers and a portable UV wand. Each of the 70 items above, including plug points, are wiped and sanitised, and the linen replaced. An assistant manager uses the UV wand — the portable ones weren't easy to acquire, says the hotel — for a final sanitisation via radiation.

The Meluha has cut back on the tea bags, coffee, sugar and milk powder sachets provided in rooms, as well as toiletries. "A guest can ask for more and these are immediately provided," Chhabra says.

What the guests can't expect is a lot of variety in food. Executive chef Parimal Sawant says there is a pre-decided menu now for all three meals — like *poha* and *upma*, bread butter, eggs, for breakfast; two vegetables and *dal* for lunch; and a non-vegetarian option in ad for dinner. Desserts are part of each meal. "If a guest wants to order something else a la carte, it is provided. But, to avoid wastage, food items are prepared only if ordered," Sawant says.

The 43-year-old has had to rethink his kitchen, accordingly. "Instead of 100 kg of chicken daily, for example, to account for a banquet meal, buffet meals and full occupancy, we now need only around 5 kg," he says. They have had to stock their pantry with essentials like pulses, rice, flour only once since the hotel reopened. Sawant tries to plan the menu around what is available, to avoid frequent shopping trips.

The 4,000-sq ft main kitchen serving the hotel has up on its walls weekly food plans and basic cooking instructions such as how to prepare *dal*, to ensure consistency, and how to present many of its signature dishes, to ensure uniformity. Now up there alongside are health advisories, including numbers of the emergency response team for Covid at the hotel, and a hygiene planner. This lists the disinfectants to be used for different equipment — the boilers, dishwashers, food warmers, chimney, silverware, as well as sanitising tablets for fruits and vegetables. "Every hour, an alarm goes off and we have to find the nearest sink and wash our hands," Sawant says.

Since most of the kitchen staff belongs to

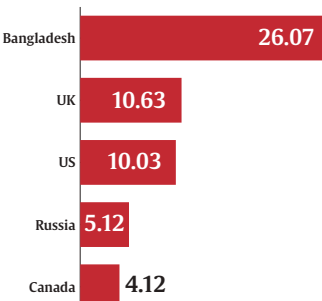
TOURIST ARRIVALS IN INDIA



■ In 2019, about 1.09 crore tourists visited India, a growth of 3.1% from 2018. Of these, 174 lakh visited in March and April

■ A federation of tourism and hospitality sector pegs losses at Rs 15 lakh crore, job losses at 4 crore

COUNTRIES FROM WHERE MOST TOURISTS CAME IN MARCH '20 (%)



Source: Ministry of Tourism

outside Mumbai, they stay on the premises.

Punit Sharma, Vice-President, Operations, says they never considered layoffs as most of their staff has been with them since the beginning. "We have divided them into batches, with each group working for 10 days on nine-hour shifts. They are given accommodation within the hotel to reduce risk during travel."

Some staff though have no replacement — "like the chef who is in-charge of the South Indian breakfast".

With hotel now their home, the staffers play carrom, chess or watch TV in their free time. Sawant says they are like one big family. "One of our chefs is a singer. When it's not the alarm, the loud sound in the kitchen is that of him singing, blaring out of the music system."

■ ■ ■

But, the awareness that things can't go on like this hangs heavy.

Located near the airport, The Meluha generally gets jet setters moving in and out of the business capital, apart from customers look-

EXPLAINED Needed, a helping hand

MORE THAN two and a half months after Unlock 1.0 began, and one month after hotels first got the go-ahead, revenues remain a struggle. The government is seeking to boost tourism, especially domestic, to get them going, but the industry is hoping this will be combined with loan moratoriums and special packages.

■ ■ ■

Prahlad Patel, is looking at how to revive tourism and travel, and help hotels. One of the steps initiated is a checklist to declare a destination safe for visitors with the help of the Health Ministry. The sops announced for the MSME sector would cover 80% of tourism establishments, including hotels, Sharma adds.

Aditi Tatkare, the Minister of Tourism and Industry in Maharashtra, says they are also looking at a special package for the tourism sector and "what other states like Goa, Kerala and Rajasthan are doing for tourism."

Meanwhile, with room occupancy stagnant, many five-stars in metros are taking their services to the doors of loyal customers. Several hotels of the Hyatt group began delivering food a month ago. Some chains such as Accor, Hilton, Conrad and Sheraton have tied up with Swiggy and Zomato for the same. Novotel Chennai OMR and Sheraton Grand Bangalore, Whitefield, have started laundry services for their members, so has the Hyatt Regency in Gurugram and Pune, within a limited radius.

The Marriott International has partnered with Swiggy to launch its own food delivery service. "As we adapt ourselves to the new normal, there will be a new balance in everything we do, including our approach to hospitality," says Neeraj Govil, Senior Vice-President, South Asia, Marriott International. Having remained open through the lockdown — housing families of Covid cases or overseas travellers looking for quarantine — ITC Royal Bengal, which boasts of a 'WeAssure' programme designed by medical professionals and disinfection experts, has re-started its chauffeur service, with polycarbonate screens shielding passengers from drivers, and gym and salon, as well as tied up with Swiggy and Zomato for food delivery.

Nitin Bahl, the Resident Manager of ITC Sonar in Kolkata, says, "We are receiving a lot of response online... The ITC F&B App too will soon be launched in Kolkata."

■ ■ ■

Currently, The Meluha has three types of guests — those in quarantine after a domestic or international trip, people who have come to Mumbai for medical treatment, and those seeking a break from home.

Sharma hopes things will get better post-October when corporate activity picks up. If not, he is banking on that evergreen industry: weddings. Before Covid hit, nearly half the hotel's business came from food and beverages, a huge chunk of it from hiring out banquet halls. "From January, the wedding season will resume," Sharma points out.

WITH DIVYAA; INPUTS BY AMITAVA CHAKRABORTY

New Delhi

INTERVIEW

'Our focus is to create demand. History proves the resilience of tourism'

DIVYAA

A DAY after the government allowed reopening of hotels in the Capital, Union Tourism Minister Prahlad Patel is chairing a virtual meeting with tourism stakeholders. Later in the day, he is slated to attend a webinar on 'Survival & Revival of Tourism Sector'. With



Prahlad Patel

the pandemic hitting the sector hard, the minister has been holding meetings with the industry, and passing on their feedback to government. Excerpts from an interview:

What steps is the ministry taking to revive the tourism sector?

We are continuously engaging with the industry, states, related central ministries to evolve a roadmap for revival of tourism... Our focus is to take steps that will create demand. Historical data has proven the resilience of tourism. We feel that once the economy kickstarts with the AatmaNirbhar package, demand for travel will look up. The ministry has issued operational guidelines for hotels and accommodation units regarding Covid-19 safety. As domestic tourism will be the first to start, it will drive revival of the tourism sector.

What concerns have been raised by the hotel industry?

The Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) has sought a uniform inter-quarantine air and land border policy across all states. The MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) segment is a key revenue generator for hotels. I have asked the Home Ministry to consider allowing banquet and conference facilities (in hotels) to operate at 50% capacity. Many associations had requested that Delhi hotels be unlocked as Delhi is the gateway of North India. I spoke to the Lt Governor, Home Ministry in this regard.

Is there a figure for losses so far?

In a representation in April, the Confederation of Indian Industry projected that Covid-19 would impact two-five crore jobs. In terms of revenue losses, the estimate was Rs 2.4 lakh crore. FAITH has requested financial protection for tourism companies till a resolution plan is set in motion by the RBI. It has also proposed extension of moratorium on loans.

What is the plan for places like Agra, where the hotel industry rests on one tourism site?

The decision to open places has to be taken by the state government and local administration.

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the day before August 15 must have been a day of reflection, a day to take stock why his government had allowed things to come to such a sorry pass, and a day to resolve to make a new beginning. I had fervently hoped that the Prime Minister will make a short, sombre address, acknowledge the mistakes of the past, and promise to govern in consultation with states and Opposition parties. There was nothing of that sort

IT WAS no ordinary August 15. Never before in the last 73 years has an Independence Day been bereft of children, gatherings in city centres, flags, sweets and gaiety.

Never before has India faced a recession of the magnitude that is predicted (4 to 10 per cent); never before has a pandemic enveloped the whole country and forced people to remain in their homes; and never before have *all* our neighbours flexed their muscles to snub India in one manner or other.

For Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the day before August 15 must have been a day of reflection, a day to take stock why his government had allowed things to come to such a sorry pass, and a day to resolve to make a new beginning. I had fervently hoped that the Prime Minister will make a short, sombre address, acknowledge the mistakes of the past, and promise to govern in consultation with states and Opposition parties.

IN THREE TUNNELS

There was nothing of that sort. On the contrary, as is his wont, the Prime Minister spoke for 90 minutes. He spoke rapidly, there were no pauses, and the pitch was as high as ever. His admirers would say it was a virtuoso performance; I thought it was contrived confidence. However, his admirers would have noticed what I did — not once did the Prime Minister smile at any one, not even for the cameras. I suspect he is under considerable stress, mainly because there is

no light yet while the country is in the middle of three tunnels — the sliding economy, the raging pandemic and the humiliating occupation of Indian territory.

The Modi government strongly believes that people's memories are short. Here is an example. On December 5, 2014, Mr Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Minister for Telecommunication, announced that, "We are laying down optical fibre in all gram (village) panchayats. The PM is very keen on this project. The PM has said, 'Ravi ensure that it is done by the end of 2016. We have to lay 700,000 kilometres of OFC.'" He also indicated the sub-targets: 50,000 gram panchayats (GPs) by end of the financial year (2014-15), 1 lakh by March 2016 and another 1 lakh by end of 2016.

On August 15, the Prime Minister announced, "in the next 1,000 days, villages across the country will have optical fibre connection available!"

I suspect there is a play on the words 'panchayat' and 'village'. As of March 2020, none of the targets (GPs connected, Fibre to the Home connections, Broadband connections) had been met. According to Digital Quality of Life Index 2020, India ranks 79 out of 85 countries. Transparency and facts are in short supply in this government.

MORE CLAIMS, LESS TRUTH

In the same non-transparent vein,

there were more claims.

■ **Claim:** Our foremost priority is to bring the nation out of the Covid-19 pandemic, which is restricting us from operating freely.

Fact: The government is doing little, not even providing funds to the state governments that are in the forefront of fighting the pandemic with varied strategies and varied degrees of success. India is among the handful of countries where the pandemic is on the *upswing*. India tops the world in the number of daily new infections (69,000 and rising) and India will cross 50,00,000 cases by the third week of September. The India-produced vaccine is at least a year away. Even if we get the Russian, British or US vaccine, inoculating the entire population is a gargantuan task. Indians are coping with the pandemic and surviving because of demography, their native immunity, 80 per cent asymptomatic cases, DNA (perhaps) and luck.

■ **Claim:** We have to move forward with mantra of 'Make in India' as well as 'Make for the World'.

Fact: The original slogan 'Make in India' was announced in 2014 and has been a spectacular failure. The share of manufacturing in GDP has been more or less stagnant at 16.6 per cent since 2015-16 and fell to 15.9 per cent in 2019-20. Merchandise exports crossed the high mark of 2013-14 (USD 315 billion) only once in the last six years, in 2018-19 (USD 330 billion). High import tariffs (including protectionist duties), non-tariff barriers, quantitative restrictions, negative

list, etc, have shackled manufacturing.

THE CHINA CHALLENGE

■ **Claim:** Be it terrorism or expansionism, India is standing up to both and defeating it. From LoC to LAC, whenever India has been challenged, our soldiers have given a fitting response in a language they understand.

Fact: The tribute to the soldiers was entirely justified. The most recent instance was on June 15-16 in the Galwan Valley when 20 soldiers were martyred. But it is still a mystery if they died because of inadequate preparedness or wrong orders. The statement of the Prime Minister that "nobody intruded into Indian territory and nobody is present in Indian territory" rankles both soldiers and citizens alike. His reluctance to name the aggressor (despite the MEA's *demarches* to China) is totally inexplicable. Chinese soldiers still occupy Indian territory in Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso and Depsang. China has practically rejected any more 'disengagement' or 'de-escalation'. The years of personal summit diplomacy practised by the Prime Minister have ended in humiliation. It is time to change gears and entrust the conduct of foreign affairs to trained diplomats of the MEA.

A great opportunity, in an unprecedented year, to give a refreshingly candid account of the state of the nation was missed on August 15, 2020.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter: @tavleen_singh



Welcome,
Education
Minister

IT IS not my practice to begin a column with a disclaimer, but this time it is necessary. So, before praising the New Education Policy let me state clearly that it is not because I hope it will persuade the government to give my son's overseas citizenship back. I have written before in this newspaper that India was his home from childhood and I was his sole legal guardian. So, what was done was evil and vindictive. No lies were told when I applied for a long visa for him when he turned 18, and I did not lie the second time either. But such an ugly, untruthful narrative has been spun by government spokesmen over the issue that the BJP's troll army on Twitter taunts me with 'OCI, OCI' no matter what I write. Sometimes they confuse OCI with OTP, which is the only funny moment these vicious trolls provide me.

With this disclaimer out of the way, let me say that I think the New Education Policy is the best thing that the Modi government has done since Swachh Bharat. At *The Indian Express* Adda last week, when Ramesh Pokhriyal was introduced as India's Education Minister, I wanted to stand up and cheer. One of the stupidest things that Rajiv Gandhi did was to abolish the Ministry of Education and replace it with a Ministry for Human Resource Development. Why he did this remains a mystery except that some idiot in his inner circle probably told him that the new name had a corporate ring.

When Atal Bihari Vajpayee became prime minister, it disappointed me that he did not bring back a real Minister for Education. It also disappointed me that his government made no effort to decolonise the public education system we inherited from our colonial masters. It was an education system designed to create English-speaking clerks to run the British Empire. Yet another disappointment was that instead of making badly needed changes to the curriculum in schools, silly attempts were made to erase bits of history.

The result is that to this day Indian children leave school learning more about western civilisation than their own. This is true of our finest private schools and true of those shabby apologies for schools in rural India. In my school days, in newly independent India, we learned more about England and read more English literature than our own. Today's children learn more about the United States of America. They grow up without real pride in India's civilisation because they grow up without learning anything about it. In the 'new India' this absence of civilisational pride has been replaced by belligerent nationalism.

The New Education Policy is the first serious attempt to decolonise school education. Those who think it is a bad idea for children to be taught in their mother tongue in the early years of school, have not noticed that most Indian children leave school unable to speak any language well. Of course, English is important because it has become the lingua franca of the world. But, it can be taught in India in senior classes, as it is in European countries.

Some critics have objected to the emphasis on civilisational studies and Sanskrit. I believe they are not seeing this in any real context. It should shame us that the best departments for the study of Sanskrit are in American and European universities. It should shame us that it is mostly western scholars who have translated from Sanskrit some of the greatest literature ever written. The New Education Policy is the first attempt to rectify this. School curriculums remain so bereft of Indianisation that it will take a long, long time for the rectification to bear fruit.

My only problem with the new policy is that it seems not to have paid enough attention to the infrastructure needed for real change to happen. I make it a personal mission on my travels to visit the local school and can report that in states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar, I have seen schools that are no more than tin sheds in which children sit on bare floors and try to learn by rote what their teacher (if she is not absent) tells them. In schools that lack such basic things as desks and chairs, it is obvious that libraries and computers are unheard of. Can we even think about civilisational studies in such schools?

On account of my inability to use Zoom properly, I did not manage at last week's Adda to ask the Education Minister a question that troubles me deeply every time I see schools that are not schools in any sense of that word. I wanted very much to ask him why in states that have long been governed by BJP chief ministers there continue to be schools that are not really schools? Major states have been governed by the BJP sometimes for more than a decade and yet there has not been any improvement in state schools. Why?

The New Education Policy is a remarkable achievement and it is great that India has a Minister for Education at last. But, let us remember that the last time Indian students participated in PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment), in 2009, they came second last. Kyrgyzstan came last. We have not participated since but plan to next year. Will we do better?

Anna Bhau Sathe, father
of India's creative writing

Dalitality

SURAJ YENGDE

Twitter: @Surajyengde



YEAR 2020 is a memorable one in the rich archive of Dalit history. It is the centenary of the powerful Dalit voice Tukaram Bhaurao alias Anna Bhau Sathe, born to landless peasants on August 1, 1920, in the segregated ghettos of Maangwada, an abode of the Maang castes in Wategaon, Sangli district of Maharashtra.

In the late 1930s, Anna Bhau trekked to Mumbai on foot along with his father to work as a labourer. Upon arrival, his 'untouchable' status, clubbed with an oppressive working environment, attracted him to the Communist-led working class movement. Under its influence, Anna Bhau started to experiment with literature that spoke of urban wretchedness, the longing for home, and the workplace exploitation.

He was one of the earliest Indian writers to have braved the waters of political fiction. His characters were not lofty. They were dark and polemical. They existed to change material conditions. And the time for that was now. The change was not meant to be kept hanging, like one of those patient characters of leisure in romantic novels.

Whatever Anna Bhau experienced, he shaped it into words. His award-winning novel *Fakira*, dedicated to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, depicted his Maang community. He sketched in words a community that was industrious, artistic and religious.

The Maangs constitute a sizable percentage of the Scheduled Caste population in Maharashtra. Historically, they have often stood in defence of justice. Lahuji Salve, a predecessor of Anna Bhau and another Maang, was one of the main heroes of Jyotiba Phule's education movement. It was upon the muscle and strength of Lahuji that Phule fronted all the physical attacks that were hurled at him and his wife, Savitri. Lahuji helped recruit many Dalit students for the Phule schools.

Long before the renaissance of Dalit literature in the 1960s, Anna Bhau initiated novel writing and short plays in the Marathi Dalit literary sphere. He was es-

entially the father of Indian creative writing who broke the bones of hierarchical disciplines with the firmness of his wrist and a dazzling creative mind.

Writers with dominant caste names added a Sanskritist touch to their vernacular and became prominent thinkers while Dalit voices such as Anna Bhau, Baburao Bagul, Namdeo Dhasal, Raja Dhale, J V Pawar, Daya Pawar, Waman Nimalkar and Sharankumar Limbale were snubbed. Anna Bhau and other writers of the Dalit Panthers couldn't care less as their style predicated on their love for their people, language and culture.

Under the influence of another great leader of his state, Dr Ambedkar, Anna Bhau wrote the famous song '*Jag badal ghaluni ghaav, sangun gele mala Bhimrao*' (Take a hammer and strike a blow to the world, that's what my Bhimrao told me).

In 1961, Anna Bhau produced the first travelogue written by a Dalit, *My trip to Russia*.

Anna Bhau died in his government-allotted Siddharth Nagar house in Bombay on July 18, 1969, at the age of 49. By the time he breathed his last, he had 35 novels, 13 short stories, three plays, one poetry collection, 14 *Tamasha* folk art works, one travelogue and 10 *Powadas* (ballads narrating historical events) to his credit, while four more were in the works. Seven of his novels were made into films, of which one won a national award and two won state awards. His writings were translated into multiple Indian, Soviet and European languages.

An Anna Bhau omnibus remains a long overdue project. Similarly, his contribution as a literary scholar is not yet acknowledged beyond Maharashtra and even less so in the English language world.

However, the Dalit public sphere has rightly acknowledged this intellectual and had invited him to be the inaugural speaker at the First Dalit Literary Conference on March 2, 1958, in Dadar, Mumbai. It is in this fiery speech that Anna Bhau thundered that the "earth is balanced on the palms of Dalits".

Anna Bhau matured the purpose of literature to serve the Dalit cause. "A Dalit's life is like pure spring water that trickles down from rocks. Observe it closely and then write about it."

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

My ISOLATION

A WEEKLY WINDOW INTO LIVES OF INDIA'S NEWSMAKERS AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON THEM

'Haven't met family in 2 months. Talk to grandchild on video call'

What precautions do you take to stay Covid-free?

I follow all the guidelines that I urge other people to follow. Since we have launched the 'Break the Chain' programme, I am very particular about not flouting any protocol. I maintain physical distance, wear mask, wash my hands and use hand sanitiser frequently.

I don't remove my mask even when I am sitting alone in office. I take extra care to maintain a two-metre distance when I talk to people. But still, you never know, you can contract the virus from anywhere.

Have you got yourself tested for Covid-19?

Not yet. I have not had any symptoms so far.

Have you had to isolate yourself? What was your routine like then?

Once, I had to be in self-isolation at my official residence for four days. A person who had served us tea at a function had come in contact with a Covid-19 patient. I then worked from home and attended meetings online. I washed my plates and glasses myself. Later, the Covid suspect tested negative and I returned to work.

What kind of gloves and mask do you use?

I don't wear gloves, I prefer using sanitiser. At home and office, I use a three-layered cloth mask. When I visit hospitals or containment zones, I wear the N95 mask.

While interacting with people at work, what precautions do you take?

I had 25 staff members at office, but since the pandemic hit, only half of them have been coming. The office is sanitised every day. While holding daily meetings with the health secretary and health director in person, I practise social distancing. The meetings with the district authorities are conducted online after 7 pm and can go on till 10 pm.

How long have you gone without seeing your family?

Earlier, I used to go home (to Kannur) every Friday and return to



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Over six months after India's first Covid-19 patient was reported from Kerala, the state's caseload continues to grow at 4.01 per cent per day — much faster than the national rate. While the number of confirmed cases has grown almost four times in the last one month alone, *State Health Minister K K SHAILAJA, 63*, has been much praised for leading the state's measures against the pandemic from the front. As Kerala looks set to witness a sharp rise in cases in August and September, with daily infections expected to cross 10,000, here's how the minister is staying safe while on the job

INTERVIEW BY LIZ MATHEW

On the
LOOSE

LEHER KALA

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LAST WEEK, my 17-year-old son asked me if my grandmother's death qualified as "family trauma". My *nani*, bless her, lived well into her 90s, spending her last years nursing a brandy while watching Hindi serials till midnight.

The provocation for my son's question was an essay for a college application requiring him to list an event that had transformed his life. Ideally, this perspective-altering incident should follow the narrative arc of a Hollywood film script, like when James Franco's arm was stuck under a rock in *127 Hours* and he severed it off with a dull knife. It must be said, showcasing profound lessons about the enduring power of the human spirit as a teenager, is much tougher than it sounds.

The plight of being ordinary

As every student applying abroad or to private colleges in India knows, the admissions office favours a grand theme, a unique story that sets you apart. Except some lucky people reach the cusp of adulthood without having anything significant happen to them. As I assured my son, interesting trauma will undoubtedly follow, but that doesn't fix the problem of what to write about now.

To solve this dilemma of packaging a convincing yarn, there exist a range of college counsellors well versed in creating outlandish flights of imagination from small truths. After striking out my grandmother as a potential take-off point for searing insight into the human situation, they discounted the deaths of beloved pets as frivolous. An attack of dengue didn't pass muster either. At my insistence, we settled on the only topic my son could

write about honestly, being cushioned by privilege in a country where the majority has nothing.

India's long overdue New Education Policy 2020 proposes sweeping changes like easier Board exams and a thrust on critical thinking, but it will be a few years before anything can be implemented. It's been a national gripe that Indian colleges require students to score virtually a 100% to qualify. The yardstick to judge intelligence is narrow indeed, but when you explore how the rest of the world does it, while it's slightly more holistic, it isn't particularly inspiring either. International applications require a bloated essay where you greatly exaggerate a social sense, and list impressive sounding but ultimately meaningless extracurriculars.

Appropriately deemed the brag sheet, there are thousands of Google suggestions

on how to sneak in one's stellar qualities with charm and subtlety. But what exactly do certificates of running signify when a mere handful of Indians have qualified for track Olympics in 70 years?

All this cunning projection has become necessary because we live in an age with the highest regard for exceptionalism. Our heroes are M S Dhoni and Jeff Bezos, whose extraordinary life and talent leave one alternately awestruck and humiliated. In ways subtle and otherwise, students are benchmarked against figures of staggering achievement, pushing the idea that the best life is solely when you're one up on everyone else.

It wasn't always like this. In literature, 16 and 17 were the time for adventure and romance, when you actively sought freedom from common sense. I can't help feel relieved that I came of age when it was ac-

ceptable to idolise glamorous and imperfect characters like Sal Paradise in *On The Road*. They bumbled from one minor disaster to another, the sheer madness illuminating the complexities of life more clearly than defeating your peers ever can.

Competition is inevitable, a part of life till the very end. Childhoods at least should be spared from the painful drudgery of chasing superlatives to add to a CV. The stress of the future haunts students through adolescence, that they could always be better, or doing more. While the world reboots post pandemic, maybe more people will question the stressful route to college and address the far more important question, how to thrive beyond it.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films. Her column appears every fortnight

TOP OF THE WORLD



A snow-covered road in Oberon, New South Wales, Saturday. Reuters

AUSTRALIA
Antarctic winds trigger rare snowfall

ANTARCTIC AIR reaching Australia's south east triggered snowfall down to low altitudes across several states on Saturday, with many people out enjoying the rare event despite wild winds and heavy snow that closed some roads. Pictures of snowy towns and landscapes across New South Wales, Victoria, the Australia Capital Territory and the island state of Tasmania flooded social media as locals rushed to capture the surprise early spring snowfall. "We've seen light #snow make it to #Canberra today, and yes even heard a few rogue flakes landed on Parliament House," in the capital, the Bureau of Meteorology said in a Twitter post.

USA
TikTok set to challenge ban

TIKTOK IS preparing to mount a legal challenge as early as Monday to US President Donald Trump's executive order prohibiting transactions with the popular short video app and its Chinese parent ByteDance, according to people familiar with the matter. Trump issued an executive order on Aug. 14 that gave ByteDance 90 days to divest the US operations of TikTok. ByteDance has been making progress in talks with potential acquirers, including Microsoft Corp and Oracle. Some of ByteDance's IS investors could also join the winning bid.

USA
Indian held in \$21m visa scam

AN INDIAN national has been arrested on charges of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and for inducing foreign nationals to come to the US using fraudulently obtained H-1B visas, federal prosecutors said on Friday. Arrested on Thursday, 48-year-old Ashish Sawhney allegedly used four corporations to orchestrate the improper submission of fraudulent applications for H-1B specialty-occupation work visas, they said. Sawhney allegedly generated gross profits from 2011 to 2016 of approximately \$21 million, the prosecutors said.



Fire spreads through the Berryessa Estates of Napa County, California, on Friday. AP

Deadly moment, says California governor as hundreds of wildfires wreak havoc

Six dead, over 500 homes destroyed, around 175,000 residents told to evacuate

REUTERS
AUGUST 22

HUNDREDS OF wildfires burning across Central and Northern California that have already killed six people more than doubled in size on Friday, becoming some of the largest in state history and threatening small towns in the path of the flames.

The conflagrations, which broke out over the last week, have blackened an area larger than the US state of Rhode

Close to 12,000 lightning strikes here have sent flames racing through land left parched by a recent heat wave

Island and destroyed more than 500 homes and other structures. In addition to the fatalities, 43 firefighters and civilians have been hurt.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said crews were fight-

ing 560 fires across the state, many of them sparked by lightning storms, straining resources to the breaking point as he seeks reinforcements from as far away as Canada and Australia.

"We are not naive by any stretch about how deadly this moment is and why it is essential... that you heed evacuation orders and that you take them seriously," Newsom, a Democrat, told Californians at a news briefing.

The state has been hit by its worst dry-lightning storms in

nearly two decades as close to 12,000 strikes here have sent flames racing through lands left parched by a recent heat wave. Some 175,000 people have been told to leave their homes.

With up to 20 separate blazes burning in some lightning-fire complexes, firefighters and locals pleaded for more support.

"We need HELP in the Santa Cruz mountains. SEND IN THE NATIONAL GUARD NOW!" San Jose State University professor Scott Myers-Lipton posted on Twitter.

13 of 15-member UNSC oppose US push to impose Iran sanctions

MICHELLE NICHOLS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 22

THE UNITED States was further isolated on Friday over its bid to reimpose international sanctions on Iran with 13 countries on the 15-member UN Security Council expressing their opposition, arguing that Washington's move is void given it is using a process agreed under a nuclear deal that it quit two years ago.

In the 24 hours since US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he triggered a 30-day countdown to a return of UN sanctions on Iran, including an arms embargo, long-time allies Britain, France, Germany and Belgium as well as China, Russia, Vietnam, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Indonesia, Estonia and Tunisia have already written letters in opposition. Only the Dominican Republic has not yet written to the council to state its position

The US has accused Iran of breaching a 2015 deal with world powers that aimed to stop Tehran developing nuclear weapons in return for sanctions relief. But President Donald Trump described it as the "worst deal ever" and quit in 2018.

Diplomats said Russia, China and many other countries are unlikely to reimpose the sanctions on Iran. Pompeo again warned

EXPLAINED
Why the US bid has no takers

IN 2018, Trump unilaterally took the US out of the historic Iran nuclear deal and reimposed American sanctions on Tehran, undoing much of the incentive for Iran to comply with the agreement. Iran has since taken gradual steps in violation of the deal in a bid to get the other signatories to compensate for the US sanctions. European signatories have been trying to find ways of saving the deal, but now the US wants the UN to reimpose all previous sanctions on Iran for Tehran's violations. However, Europe, Russia and China — the other signatories — say Iran's violations were a result of the US withdrawing from the agreement, and that since the US is no longer part of the deal, it cannot punish any violations of the same.

Russia and China against that on Friday, threatening US action if they refuse to reimpose the UN measures on Iran. **REUTERS**

Trump claims FDA 'deep state' slowing down coronavirus trials

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 22

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump on Saturday accused members of the "deep state" at the Food and Drug Administration, without providing evidence, of working to slow testing of Covid-19 vaccines until after the November presidential election.

In a Twitter post, Trump said the deep state "or whoever" at the FDA was making it very difficult for drug companies to enroll people in clinical trials to test vaccines and therapies for the novel coronavirus.

The comment came after Reuters exclusively reported on Thursday that a top FDA official said he would resign if the Trump administration approved a vaccine before it was shown to be safe and effective.



"Obviously, they are hoping to delay the answer until after November 3rd. Must focus on speed, and saving lives!" Trump wrote, tagging FDA Commissioner Stephen Hahn in the tweet.

Trump often uses Twitter to criticise federal agencies, sometimes accusing them of being controlled by the "deep state" in an apparent reference to long-serving staff who, in Trump's eyes, are determined to undermine him.

His tweet increases the pressure on the FDA after Peter Marks,

IN COMA AFTER SUSPECTED POISONING

Kremlin critic Navalny flown to Germany, in 'worrying' condition

FABRIZIO BENSCH
& MARTIN SCHLICHT
BERLIN, AUGUST 22

GRAVELY ILL Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny was evacuated to Germany for medical treatment on Saturday, flown out of the Siberian city of Omsk in an ambulance aircraft and taken to a hospital in Berlin.

There was no word yet from the Charite hospital on his condition but the founder of the activist group that arranged the flight called Navalny's health condition "very worrying".

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

Medical staff at the hospital in Omsk said on Friday evening after clearing Navalny to be flown out that he was in an induced coma and his life was not in immediate danger.

The air ambulance, arranged by the Cinema for Peace Foundation, flew to Berlin early Saturday and Navalny, 44, was rushed to the Charite hospital.

The hospital said in a statement it would provide an update about his condition and further treatment once tests have been completed and after consulting with his family.



Paramedics transported Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny to a hospital in Berlin, Germany, on Saturday. Reuters

A spokeswoman for Charite said later that it was unlikely that the hospital would give a statement on Navalny over the weekend.

Cinema for Peace founder Jaka Bizilj, speaking to reporters outside the hospital, said "his health condition is very worrying".

"We got a very clear message from the doctors that if there had not been an emergency landing in Omsk, he would have died," said Bizilj, adding that it would be up to doctors and Navalny's family to provide further information on his condition.

Bizilj, a Slovenian-born activist and filmmaker, was earlier quoted by Bild tabloid as saying Navalny's condition was stable during the

flight and after landing.

Kira Yarmysh, Navalny's spokeswoman, said on Twitter that "This is another proof that nothing was preventing Navalny from being transported, and it was necessary to do so as early as possible."

German doctors flew to Russia on Friday to evacuate Navalny at the request of his wife and allies who said that the hospital treating him was badly equipped.

But there was then a delay flying him out as the Omsk hospital initially said his condition meant he could not travel.

The Omsk doctors later said they had no objections after the German doctors deemed him fit for travel. **REUTERS**

Hope pandemic will last less than 2 yrs: WHO chief

STEPHANIE NEBEHAY
GENEVA, AUGUST 22

THE WORLD Health Organisation hopes the coronavirus pandemic will be shorter than the 1918 Spanish flu and last less than two years, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Friday, if the world unites and succeeds in finding a vaccine.

The WHO has always been cautious about giving estimates on how quickly the pandemic can be dealt with in the absence of a vaccine. Tedros said the 1918 Spanish flu "took two years to stop".

"And in our situation now with more technology, and of course with more connectiveness, the virus has a better chance of spreading, it can move fast because we are more connected now," he told a briefing in Geneva. "But at the same time we have



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

also the technology to stop it and the knowledge to stop it. So we have a disadvantage of globalisation, closeness, connectedness but an advantage of better technology. "So we hope to finish this pandemic (in) less than two years."

He urged "national unity" and "global solidarity". "That is really key with utilising the available tools to the maximum and hoping that we can have additional tools like vaccine." **REUTERS**



Loughlin starred in Full House

Lori Loughlin, husband get jail sentences in admissions scam

REUTERS
BOSTON, AUGUST 22

FULL HOUSE actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband Massimo Giannulli were sentenced on Friday to respective prison terms of two months and five months for participating in a vast US college admissions fraud scheme.

Loughlin, 56, choked up as she apologised in court for the "awful decision" she made to help her daughters gain an "unfair advantage" in the college admissions process and get into their preferred school.

She and her husband were sentenced after they pleaded guilty in May to engaging in a fraud scheme aimed at securing spots for their daughters at the University of Southern California as fake athletic recruits.

TOP REPUBLICANS, INCLUDING TRUMP, HAVE REPEATEDLY GOT THE PRONUNCIATION OF HER NAME WRONG

Democrats see racism in GOP mispronunciations of 'Kamala'

SARA BURNETT
CHICAGO, AUGUST 22

BANTERING DURING the final night of the Democratic National Convention, actor Julia Louis-Dreyfus and former presidential candidate Andrew Yang repeatedly got the name of "our current vice president" wrong. Was it "Mika Pints?" or "Paints?" Or maybe "Ponce," Yang suggested. "Oh, some kind of weird foreign name?" Louis-Dreyfus asked. "Yeah, not very American sounding," Yang replied.

It was a quick bit of satire with a pointed message from

Democrats: When top Republicans — including President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence — mispronounce Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris' first name, it's not just disrespectful, it's racist.

Harris' first name is pronounced "KAH'-mah-lah" — or, as she explains in her biography, "comma-la," like the punctuation mark". But mispronunciations have been rampant in the days since the California senator became the first Black woman and the first Asian American woman named to a major party's ticket. Pence referred to her as "kah-MAH'-lah," putting his emphasis



Kamala Harris is the first Black woman and the first woman of Indian origin to be a major US party's vice presidential nominee

on the second syllable, at events last week. Republican National Committee Chair Ronna

McDaniel did the same on Wednesday, as did Trump at a rally in Pennsylvania on Thursday,

the day after Harris delivered a prime-time speech accepting the Democratic nomination.

Harris' supporters say the pattern amounts to a deliberate effort by Trump and his allies to portray Harris as someone who does not belong at the top ranks of politics. The mispronunciations follow a string of attacks that include racist and sexist memes and questioning about whether Harris, who was born in California, is eligible to serve as vice president because her mother was Indian and her father Jamaican. (Constitutional scholars say there is no question that she is eligible.)

"It is an effort to diminish her,"

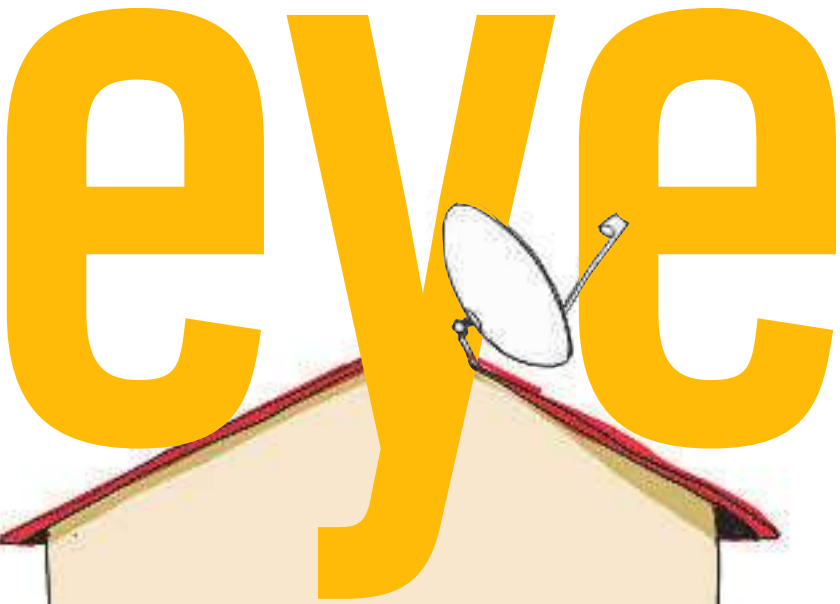
said Fatima Goss Graves, president of the National Women's Law Centre Action Fund. "It's designed to signal difference."

Her supporters say Harris is well past the point of introduction. Harris served as California's attorney general for seven years before being elected to the Senate in 2016. Since then, she's made headlines for tough questioning of Trump appointees and raised her profile even more with her bid for the 2020 presidential nomination.

Yet Trump has continued to get her name wrong, as have his allies. Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani called Harris "Pamela" during an appearance on Fox

News. Pence mispronounced her names multiple times during a stop last week in Iowa, where he warned a cheering crowd that the November election isn't about a choice between Republicans and Democrats or conservatives and liberals. "I think the choice in this election is whether America remains America," he said, going on to mispronounce her name moments later. Fox News host Tucker Carlson grew agitated when a guest corrected him last week after he also pronounced Kamala incorrectly. "So what?" he said, before mispronouncing her name again and complaining about liberals being too sensitive. **AP**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



POINT OF VIEW
The Master's Voice
Remembering Pandit Jasraj



ARTS etc
In Solidarity
Raqs Media Collective on art as renewal, working on the ongoing Yokohama Triennale and our new unaccustomed terms of engagement



ILLUSTRATION: SUVAJIT DEY

DOING IT ALL

Paromita Chakrabarti

As workplace collapses into home during the pandemic, urban working women are engaged in a struggle to find a fine balance

AMRITA MAHALE was about five months pregnant when the first lockdown was announced on March 22. Overnight, her doctor shut her clinic, medicines became harder to find, and the bustling city of Mumbai, at the heart of her acclaimed debut novel, *Milk Teeth* (2018), became an unfamiliar place. While she wrote on weekends, her job as a product manager at a non-profit AI-for-social-good innovation lab meant adapting to working from home. Her husband, who runs an education startup, moved to online lessons, that made a part of the house out of bounds for most of the day. Mahale, 35, found her world shrinking into her apartment in Bandra. "I am not great at multitasking. I need proper separation between work and writing. I was checking the rising COVID-19 numbers obsessively and following the migrant crisis with despondency. It's impossible to not question your decision to bring a new life into a world that seems to be falling apart," says Mahale, whose son was born a month ago.

As the COVID-19 upends lives across the world, a disproportionate amount of its burden has fallen on the urban upper-middle-class working women. In addition to professional duties, the responsibilities of managing home and care work have grown. In India, which has one of the lowest female workforce participation rates in the world, of which only 20.4 per cent are urban women (source: 2018 Periodic Labour Force Survey, released by the NSSO last year), this has been aggravated by pre-existing inequalities in gender roles, the sudden absence of networks that facilitate participation in the workforce, loss of jobs, salary cuts and the guilt of not doing enough.

A year ago, Madhujā Bandyopadhyay moved to Mumbai with her eight-year-old son, after a long stint as the senior vice-president of a leading Bengali entertainment channel in Kolkata, to work with a national entertainment channel. "Given Mumbai's distance, I made sure that my office, apartment, my son's school, daycare and after-school activity centres were all in one area so that it would make the commute less stressful. My mother and my husband (filmmaker Anindya Chattopadhyay) flew in from Kolkata frequently. The only thing I hadn't factored in was a pandemic," says Bandyopadhyay, 41.

As work and lives shifted online, it was the distance from her family and anxiety over their well-being that got to her the most. "I have only lived for about a year in this city and have just begun to know people. Suddenly, it felt like my life had come to a standstill. I felt incredibly lonely and wanted to see my husband, my mother, my friends and there was no way I could," says Bandyopadhyay, who took to long conference calls with family and close friends for a sense of community.



WOMEN AT WORK

(From left) Amrita Mahale; Gitanjali Yadav; Madhujā Bandyopadhyay and Anisha Karthikeyan

For Manu Gulati, mentor teacher with the directorate of education, Delhi government, the new normal required a completely new orientation. The 37-year-old had always been interested in the intersection of technology and education; since the pandemic, she has been conducting training workshops for teacher-development co-ordinators (TDCs) of Delhi's government schools, together with a colleague, Rohit Upadhyaya, in effective use of social media for pedagogic support. The pandemic made technological intervention a matter of urgency. As daily virtual training sessions began for the TDCs, Gulati's days began, like always, at 6.30 am and stretched well into the night. A nine-member family living in an MIG flat is often pressed for space, but now, with everyone working from home, creating quiet corners was often an issue. Gulati says there were days when the house would go unswept or she would bristle at the sight of a sink overflowing with dishes, but, slowly, people learned to work around each other's needs and gender roles got diluted. "Often, my husband did the dishes while I trained teachers online. As a software engineer, he supported me immensely with the use of technology," says the 2018 Fulbright scholar.

Bengaluru-based instructional designer Shibani Chakraborty, who works with a multinational professional services network, recalls the early days of the lockdown as one of her most traumatic. Unmoored from the meticulous schedule her technical-architect husband and she had worked out, that included the services of a daycare for her four-year child and help to manage home, she found herself floundering. "I was not able to provide enough time to either my work or my child. I was exhausted trying to cope with the changes — the guilt of being the worst mother, an inefficient employee and an indolent homemaker. It was tough to deal with, and, at one point, I contemplated seeking an expert's help to cope with my mental health, but I adapted eventually," says the 32-year-old.

The distinction between the workplace and home is unique to the urban workforce and is particularly enabling for women, says Aditi Ratho, junior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai, who works at the intersection of labour and gender. "It makes space for transition into their different roles and enables essential social interactions," she says.

Anisha Karthikeyan, 36, a human-resources professional with a multinational financial services corporation in Delhi, says one of the toughest things to master during this work-from-home phase has been the constant engagement that it has required of her. "I am running out of ideas to make home an interesting place," she says. While the chores are divided between her husband, mother and her, keeping her two sons, aged nine and two, occupied takes constant work. "My younger son is now at the stage of pre-primary learning. I feel guilty that he should be given more time and attention," she says. Now, with flexible work hours and breaks between meetings to allow her to regroup, Karthikeyan says she has settled into a makeshift routine.

"But as simple as that sounds, I realise it's not easy to be a work-from-home mom," she says.

women are cast in the role of homemakers and mothers and men as primary wage-earners, which doesn't change even when more women join the workforce or work in high-profile jobs. This is particularly true of a country like India, despite some changes in urban middle-class dynamics.

An online survey of urban upper-middle-class working women, of whom 97 per cent had a college degree, conducted by Sonalde Desai, professor of sociology at the University of Maryland, US, and Ravinder Kaur, professor of sociology at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, found that there was a significant rise in the time spent by women on housework and childcare during lockdown. "Seventy-six per cent of the respondents had help in household chores/child care before the lockdown, but, of these, only 30 per cent of the women continued to have some help," says Desai, noting that "areas where most work increase took place include cooking, kitchen cleaning, washing dishes, dusting and vacuuming and sanitising groceries." While men contributed more during this period, women shouldered additional responsibility over already high thresholds.

The pandemic disrupted networks, both formal and informal, that are crucial to women's professional lives. Most workplaces in India do not offer daycare or creche facilities, and, in their absence, women have to form their own support systems. These include parents and in-laws who watch over the children; part-time or live-in helps to carry out domestic chores such as cooking and cleaning, and daycares and creches, whose numbers are still not commensurate with the percentage of working women with children. With schools and daycares closed, women have found themselves turning into not just caregivers but also teachers and playmates.

As the first lecturer on a joint appointment

between the government of India and the University of Cambridge, UK, plant biologist Gitanjali Yadav was teaching and running research labs at both Cambridge and The National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) in New Delhi, where she works as a staff scientist. The joint appointment meant working in two time zones and frequent overseas travel. With a robust support system that she and her husband, also an academic, had created for their two children, aged eight and 10, they had structured their lives around her travel schedules. "It helped that we all live together on campus — kids, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. We chose a school close to our home so that the kids would be in quick reach. We had two full-time helps and a gardener," she says.

With her travels on hold, no paid help and work spilling into weekends, Yadav says, "Overnight, I also became a full-time mother, cook, sweeper, school teacher, caregiver and pest-controller, over and above all of the regular work responsibilities across two continents. It has now been five months of total lockdown for us, and we have struggled to establish a balance through shared responsibilities." The hardest part, she says, has been the complete and sudden loss of alone time and the boundaries that demarcated the work space from the home. "Earlier, I could choose when to walk into my office, or into my kitchen, and I was two different persons in each of these locations. But now, you're in a meeting and in the kitchen; You're handling homework and checking a thesis at the same time. There's no freedom or leisure to think, reflect, focus or plan for the future," she says.

For women in academia worldwide, this added workload has manifested in a dip in academic productivity. Early global studies and analyses have shown that the number of pre-prints and paper submissions by women in

STEM and social sciences have fallen significantly during this period.

Audrey Truschke, associate professor of South Asian History, University of Rutgers, US, and author of *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court* (2017) and *Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth* (2018), says, "Before the pandemic, I was asked with some regularity, usually by other female academics, 'How do you have three kids and still manage to publish so prolifically?' My answer was always: I am a huge believer in childcare. It is now August, and I have not had childcare since early March. My productivity has suffered because of this situation. I have cancelled numerous publications at this point."

When schools and daycares closed in New Jersey on March 13, Truschke, 37, was in the process of working out online lessons for the courses she was offering. "In the early weeks, my days were a constant triage situation. My husband (an attorney) and I woke up every day and discussed the bare minimum number of hours we each needed to work that day in order to avoid catastrophe in our professional lives. Then we divided up the day to specify what times I would and he would do childcare, and vice-versa. My no-screentime rule for the kids evaporated quickly," she says.

Over time, Truschke has strategised to cope with the changes. Next month, she will begin an online course on pandemic pedagogy for her history of south Asia class, that will include archiving COVID-19 through documentation of individual experiences. In an introductory video, Truschke offers her students some practical advice on making sense of the year, including "when life walks into the frame". "Maybe someone yells something embarrassing in the background, and your weren't muted. Or, maybe, your sibling walks by in a less than ideal state of undress. It doesn't matter. And it's going to happen on my end, too. You can actually hear my children (aged six, four and two) screaming in the background for a bit during this spiel...pandemic life is messy for everyone. It isn't reasonable to expect us to be able to separate our professional and personal lives right now," she says.

It's a sentiment that many of the other women echo. "Women are always taught to put others before themselves at home and be one of the men at work. They are innately good organisers, capable of multitasking. The only thing they are not good at is owning their feelings. But a time like this requires an intuitive response. This crisis has shown that what we really need now — men included — is adaptability," Bandyopadhyay says.

For Mahale, things began to fall in place when she was pulled into a COVID-response project at work, which helped her channel her anxiety and energy. Now, back home with the baby, she is slowly trying to get back to writing and a semblance of her earlier life. "I am trying to remind myself to be kind to myself. It was not something I did a good job at during the lockdown," says Mahale.



EYE SPY
EVERY FORTNIGHT, WE PICK, YOU WATCH

Before the Beginning

A new Perry Mason adaptation fills in the backstory of one of crime fiction’s most popular sleuths



Shubhra Gupta

PERRY MASON regarded her with calm appraisal, as though considering just what sort of an impression she would make on the witness stand. ‘Tell me more, Thelma,’ he said. ‘I was out with a boyfriend,’ she told him. The mask of patient tranquillity dropped from Mason... (1934, *The Case Of The Lucky Legs* by Erle Stanley Gardner). For those familiar with the pulpy, grungy universe of Gardner, the bestselling author whose fictional lawyer Perry Mason solved practically every case he took on, with a mix of sleuthing acumen and slick courtroom moves, these lines would evoke instant nostalgia. Each case (Gardner was prolific and wrote more than 80 novels and short stories) held out the promise of a juicy mystery full of dodgy characters, confusing red herrings and an end blazing with clarity, where Mason exonerated the innocent and got the guilty to confess.

The latest HBO eight-episode drama (streaming on Disney+Hotstar), co-directed by Tim Van Patten and Deniz Gamze Ergüven, and, called simply, *Perry Mason*, can quite legitimately be termed The Case Of The Reimagined Lawyer. There’s been a Perry Mason around, in radio, TV and cinema, for the past 90 years. But this one is different, not just because it is fashioned as a prequel, which gives us the character’s backstory till he reaches his designated spot: the court room. It’s also different because Gardner’s works, that were published in the ’30s, were written in strictly serviceable prose, mostly focussed on the twists. Here, we get beautifully delineated characters and their arcs. The result is an immediate connection.

The first episode starts like a whodunnit, and it’s quite a kicker — a missing baby, distraught parents, a shockingly gruesome murder. Assigned to the case is a fallen-upon-bad-days gumshoe, slight of build, unremarkable of mien. Something about this character’s low-rent, hard-scrabble life reminded me of my most favourite hard-boiled private eye, Philip Marlowe, written by Raymond Chandler. But where was Mason, the legal eagle?

As it went along, wonderfully atmospheric, I started warming up to this latest version. By the fourth episode, I was fully invested. Set in the Los Angeles of the early ’30s, we get everything that matches the period. We get interesting characters, especially women. There’s a charismatic peroxide-blond preacher, Sister Alice (Tatiana Maslany, electric), who believes in miracles; a young mother (Gayle Rankin, effective), who tearily claims her innocences. In a smart move, a couple of familiar characters, Della Street and Paul Drake, are given makeovers: Street, played by the excellent Juliet Rylance, moves from being a secretary to a confident partner; Drake, a close associate, played by Chris Chalk, is Black. Matthew Rhys (*in picture*) takes over Mason, and makes him, his. Barring a few hiccups, it all stays fully engaging. It may have been set so many years ago, but it speaks to the world today — race, discrimination, religion, moral turpitude, different sexual orientation, feminism, all wrapped up in a cracking mystery. We wait, in anticipation, for the second season.



GETTY IMAGES

Decoding Feminism and Intersectionality

The personal is political and so are our everyday acts of micro-resistance



IMAGINE
BY SHELJA SEN

COVID-19 HAS been a time of reckoning as we come face to face with the injustices that have created structural inequality at so many levels. It could be the plight of the urban labourers as they trudged back to their villages, traversing hundreds of miles, rejected by the very people who used them mercilessly while they could. Ours is the society that turned its eyes away from the predicament of millions of street children and women who were made more vulnerable in abusive homes. Globally, the #BlackLivesMatter movement became even more significant with the stark contrast of racial discrimination in the COVID-19 deaths. People are taking to the

streets to protest as centuries of cruelty continues to be called out. The present times are like X-ray (a metaphor used by the activist Arundhati Roy) exposing the fault lines of a society built on indifference and injustice.

“The personal is political” is a quote by the American activist Carol Hanisch from the second wave of feminism, where she challenged the dominant idea of politics as being out there in government structures, elections or positions of power. Politics is not something external, but it is present in our homes, streets, and our workspaces. It impacts everything we do, our choices and relationships. In that sense, everything personal is political. The personal is political in the way power and privilege define where we live, how we live and why we die. It is in the way the mother of a child with disability is shamed for “being a failure” or a girl who does not follow the social rules of a “good girl” is rumoured to be a “slut”, or, in the culture where girls are killed even before they are born because their life is seen as a curse.

French intellectual thinker Michel Foucault discussed how modern power operates on social control through normalising judgements

through incitement to perpetually evaluate and police ourselves. Women are indoctrinated into this self-surveillance from a very early age. What is most dangerous about this indoctrination is that it is “invisible to those who experience it the most intensely.” We are not aware of it, we are the fish when asked, “How is the water?” exclaim in confusion, “What water?” We swim in this water daily in our homes, schools, public spaces, movies, literature, advertisements, news, TV programs — it is there everywhere. It is our choice how we become aware of it, opt into it and perpetuate it, or mindfully opt out of it as deliberate practice.

Language is the thread through which we weave narratives of “good” girls, mothers and wives, where they become the truths and the givens. These constructs do not mean that they are not real for the people experiencing it. The shame that a child on the streets experiences when she is mocked as “*kachra*” (dirt) is as real as the shame of the 13-year girl whose older cousin raped her and blamed her for “asking for it.” These dominant discourses can be oppressive as they locate the problem in the individual rather than in the social-cul-

tural-political context.

When we talk about socio-cultural political context, it becomes essential to talk about intersectionality. I had been grappling with the idea of intersectionality much before I came upon Kimberlé Crenshaw’s work some years ago. Reading it was definitely an “Aha!” experience. The complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination combine, overlap and intersect to create marginalisation is important to highlight. I use an acronym — DISGRACEFULL — to describe intersectionality and the structural inequality it creates at various levels: **Disability** (ableism); **Income** (classism); **Sexuality** (heteronormism); **Gender** (sexism, misogyny, transphobia); **Race** (racism); **Age** (ageism); **Culture** (which I break into — communalism, regionalism, casteism); **Educational measurement** (institutional violence in schools against children who do not fit in); **Family** (the normative idea of “good family”); **Usefulness** (how productive we are in a capitalist society on the basis of which we get exclusive memberships); **Looks** (colourism and obsession with “fair and lovely”) and **Language** (English as a sign of power and privilege).

Our various identities intersect to create marginalisation. For example, two girls of the same age might face gender discrimination in different ways, depending on DISGRACEFULL. Privilege is something we are born into and we own it like a private property, without really doing much to deserve it. From a feminist lens, intersectionality plays out in different ways to create subjugation:

- Single working mother being shamed and blamed for “neglecting” her children
- Poverty rendering girls more vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking
- LGBTQ+ persons being targeted and abused on social media
- Muslim girls being stalked and heckled to go to “Pakistan”, “where they belong”, or being threatened with rape otherwise
- Dalit girls getting raped and killed and their deaths dismissed as honour killings
- Wives being labelled as “mental” and put on anti-depressants to make them “calm down” when they show displeasure
- Girls being pushed to prove their worth and “usefulness” at every step of their lives
- The normative idea of how every child comes from a typical home with cisgender, heterosexual parents, completely overlooking single parents, homosexual, non-cis gender or unmarried families and for children who do not have a “family” but grow up on the streets, in shelter and foster homes
- The educational violence at neurodiverse children, who have disabilities or are from marginalised communities

Foucault says, “Where there is power there is resistance”. Resistance has taken shape as social movements led by women as well as resistance in their homes, street corners or shelter homes. Women have led social movements such as Justice for Nirbhaya, Narmada Bachao Andolan and the recent Shaheen Bagh protests. But simply waiting for social movements is not the solution. *If the political is personal, then social justice is personal, too.* It is not external, something out there that we have to wait for to change. We have to do it in our homes, on our streets, in our public and work spaces. We have to start micro acts of resistance against the operations of power that subjugate and diminish people.

Let’s be mindful of the beast of intersectionality — DISGRACEFULL — and its silent and invisible workings. The answer is not to invisibilise the discrimination (dismissing casteism, misogyny, classism) but to expose it and make sure we do not end up becoming its teeth and claws; to be subversive and stand up for each other. I was in awe of the 14-year-old who stood up to the male principal in her school who asked her to take her male classmate’s comments on her body as a compliment. He also advised her against putting *kajal* to avoid male attention. The next day, all the girls (and some boys) turned up in school with *kajal*! A big salute to micro acts of reclamation of justice and solidarity.

Dr. Shelja Sen is a narrative therapist, co-founder, Children First, writer, and, in this column, she curates the know-how of the children and young people she works with. Write to her shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

The Master’s Voice

The divinity of late Pandit Jasraj’s music

SLICE OF LIFE



Suvir Saran

Suvir Saran is a chef, author, educator and world traveller

MARINA AHMAD, one of the seven students of Pandit Jasraj whom he considered his fondest and closest of *chelas* (disciples), is a proud New Yorker. She also maintains homes in Mumbai and Dhaka. A nomad at heart, she travels the world without fear and at the drop of a hat.

She brings India, Pandit Jasraj and his peerless, soul-stirring music with her wherever she lands. Music so pure and rich, it heals and inspires most deeply.

Marina was born to Faqueer Shahabuddin Ahmad and Ayesha Akhtar of Dhaka. Ahmad was the first attorney general of Bangladesh. Ayesha was his wife and mother of their seven children. Music was in their blood, but law was the ancestral vocation followed with pride. Even so, Marina was encouraged from a young age to explore and professionalise her singing.

After learning from the best exponents of Hindustani classical music in Bangladesh, Marina was in need of richer tutelage. Barely 17, she found herself in Delhi at Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, adopted by the most generous and talented Bhaiji, aka Vinay Chandra Maudgalya, as his Bengali daughter. With Bhaiji as her guardian and teacher, Marina became more proficient with the layered sophistication needed in the understanding and rendition of North Indian classical music.

At 22, Marina became mother to Hamza Khan, and, with him, she moved with indomitable aspirations to Mumbai. After a performance where he had left all in the audience spellbound, Pandit Jasraj happened to meet Bhaiji and Marina in the elevator. Bhaiji was quick to see in Marina’s eyes and body language a hunger to become a *shagird* (disciple) of the great maestro. Arrangements were



Race, religion, gender, caste and colour did not matter to the legendary maestro

made and the new mother moved to India’s financial capital and set up house close to Panditji’s home.

Marina’s apartment was only an address anchoring her to Mumbai. It was at the Jasraj residence, alongside six other fulltime and other visiting students, serving the *guru* and following his lead on life and living, that mother and son found comfort. In cooking, cleaning and providing for the *guru*, Marina and her fellow students found tutelage as ancient and pure as India itself. Hours and days would pass and the *guru* would teach through his example of reacting to the daily motions of life. Music wasn’t merely taught through notes but revealed in the behaviour and choices that the master made.

Hinduism was what Pandit Jasraj was born into. But the faith of his birth did not cage his mind, body and spirit. His songs sung in praise of Allah were as popularly received as those in praise of Krishna. On his neck he wore pendants of *rudraksha* beads, Krishna, Om, Ayatul Kursi and many more. He teased Marina often that Krishna was giving comforting cover to Allah or vice-versa, and, with that imagery taught her and the others the oneness of the divine. Race, religion, gender, caste and colour didn’t matter to the legendary maestro. He chased passion and perseverance in his students. He valued their hunger for knowledge and growth. He respected their desire to be one with the world and their surroundings, training them to be one with the times also, so as to keep their art relevant. As he became grandpa again to Rishabh, Marina’s second son, he showed curiosity, youth and vigour that was boundless in its generosity. He showed through example that supreme talent is a result of emptying oneself of ego and

performing with the sole desire of becoming one with the divine.

Men are mortal, but those with grace, talent and a large heart like Panditji, become immortal through their actions and legacy. How lucky for us that every corner of the world was blessed with his music. He ensured a warm welcome for them in the most remote parts.

When I heard of Panditji’s passing, I was shaken to my core. My mind and heart were most concerned for Marina, even as I made peace with the fact that the fraternity of Indian musicians had lost one of their most iconic vocalists. A man who, through his music and way of thinking and living had brought, for many of us, divinity right in our midst. Having had the privilege of seeing him perform at Marina’s home in New York often, I observed scores of people reluctant to end the night. Everyone wanted encore after encore, each person feeling as if god had somehow magically arrived in Marina’s living room, performing for us mortals, and, in doing so, blessed our lives with energy and hope. Every time I heard Panditji perform, I would find my soul thanking me for having fed it food it was yearning.

Panditji leaves a vacuum that will never be filled. The notes he reached and touched, the way he caressed the divinity of his voice, and how he made his music a prayer to the god that resides in all life — make him a man who will continue to live even as his body leaves us. As I bid him farewell, I salute his disciple Marina, my *guru*, and bow to her for having risen beyond mortal materialism. For having turned her good luck in being his student into greater good luck for the rest of us who call her our teacher; who can now hear Pandit Jasraj in her soulful singing and inspiring presence.

Even in our everyday life, we are so disrespectful of plants – casually ripping them up, slashing them, and yanking their heads off so they can grace a vase in our living rooms or stringing them into garlands to sling around the greasy neck of some political leader.

When we were hunter-gatherers, it became customary for the hunter to pay his (or her) respects to the animal hunted and killed – perhaps, with a brief prayer asking for forgiveness and offering gratitude (I don't think this practice takes place in slaughterhouses – it really ought to). And, like it or not, until we can eat rocks or plastic (which, again, originate with plants) we will have to eat their living things. And, though plants lead very different lives compared to us and other animals, they are living things. So it's only right that we extend a little more respect to them. Remember, we owe them big.

15 EXPRESS ADDA

The Indian EXPRESS
E-ADDA

In an e-Adda hosted by *The Indian Express*, Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank spoke on the new National Education Policy, holding extensive consultations with all stakeholders and getting foreign universities to India

(Clockwise from above) Nishank was in conversation with *The Indian Express* National Opinion Editor Vandita Mishra and Senior Assistant Editor Ritika Chopra

‘We are not against English...but leave your children free, let them learn ten languages’

On holding wide-ranging discussions ahead of the new National Education Policy (NEP)

This is a policy for the whole country, from the Gram Pradhan to the Prime Minister, from the village to the Parliament, from the state legislator to the Parliamentarian, from the Education Minister to the Chief Minister. We held consultations with students, teachers, scientists, NGOs. No one in the world has had so many consultations for a policy, it is the biggest innovation (*navachar*). We put the draft in the public domain for seven-eight months, so that no one can say that they weren't consulted. We got 2.25 lakh suggestions. Each of these were analysed and after a lot of brainstorming, separate committees were formed for school education and higher education.

On how the government will ensure six per cent of the GDP for education

Education is both a Centre and state subject. Six per cent GDP will be done together by the state and the Centre. The day our economy reaches \$5 trillion, that day six per cent will be a lot. We will take this forward with the states and fulfill this aim.

On making mother tongue the medium of instruction

One expresses best in her own mother tongue, and that's why we have said the mother tongue will be the medium for primary education till Class V — some states want to do it till Class VIII, others even further. Some people have misconceptions; we are not against English but we are saying that the 22 languages in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution should be strengthened, else they will perish. The US, Japan, Israel and Germany are all developed countries, what is the medium of education there? It's their mother tongue. We are not against any language, learn English too, but we should do justice to the child and his talent. Teach in any language that you want; what is the problem with teaching that child 10 other languages, children have a lot of potential to learn.

On whether performance-linked funding proposed by NEP will hit backward states

This is being done to uplift them. There are many backward states, and their GER (Gross Enrolment Ratio) is very low and that's why we are doing this. I will give you an example. There is funding in Samagra Shiksha. We give funds to certain states, if they are not spent on time, should we give them even more funds? The funds are being given to improve their quality and when they start using them properly, their level will become better and they will be ranked. The states will also be worried that if they don't utilise their funds on time, else they will not get the money. So the states will also make an effort and this policy will take everyone forward together.

On three-language formula and the anxiety of southern

states over Hindi

The Prime Minister has always stated that we will strengthen all our 22 regional languages. All our languages have their own beauty and that's why we have not forced any language on anyone. But leave your children free, why do you want to limit them? Let them learn 10 languages. We have only said take one more Indian language. What can be the apprehension in taking one more Indian language?

On giving autonomy to higher educational institutions

Autonomy also comes with transparency and responsibility, it does not mean complete independence. If an institute says we want to give a degree in three months, will you give permission? In any institution, there will be limits to autonomy. That's why I am happy that of the 45,000 degree colleges, we have given autonomy to 8,000.

On stemming the decline of public universities

Situations change and universities go through different circumstances, and the government has the ability to take care of that. Our universities are doing incredible work and their prestige isn't falling anywhere, for these we have brought 'Uchch Shiksha Aayog' (Higher Education Council), under which three-four separate councils would be made. One will look at the syllabus, another to see how it will be implemented, one will look at the budget and another will evaluate.

On why the BJP has changed its stance on the entry of foreign universities

Now they will come on our terms. That time (during the UPA's tenure) they may have come on their terms. There is a lot of difference between their intention of coming and the intention with which they are being invited. We want Indian education to reach great heights across the globe. There is a reason behind us inviting the top 100 international universities. Around 7.5-8 lakh of our children go abroad to study. If you take an approximate average figure, Rs 1-1.5 lakh crore goes abroad every year. Our talent and money is going away from us. India's talent has made a huge contribution to the development of several countries. Why shouldn't we stop this talent from going away? So, we will get the top universities here, on our terms.

On whether the government will step back from trying to control universities

I have never felt that the government is trying to exercise some sort of control over universities. If you are the vice chancellor of a university and if you have to appoint people, all we are saying is that don't leave positions vacant, fill them up immediately. Everybody is independent, they have powers and they are using them.

For longer version, go to www.indianexpress.com

VOICE BANK

Ronnie Screwvala

CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, UPGRAD



Allowing the top 100 universities to give online classes is a welcome decision. The challenge in India is that we have to increase at least 30 million seats in

higher education, and have the right blend of online and offline classes. We all know that one in every five working professionals in the world will be in India, or will come out of India. That puts a great onus on us, and hence, the NEP is timely. We can make India the knowledge economy of the world. This is the time to build mutual respect and trust between all constituents — state governments, regulatory bodies, universities and colleges, technological enablers and the people who are looking to future proof our education system.

Aakash Sachdev

MANAGING DIRECTOR, FOUNDATION HOLDINGS



Should the government look at leveraging the PPP model to ensure last-mile reach of the online model?

There were some difficulties in starting online classes — then we started ePathshala, Swayam Prabha and Diksha programmes. We realised that many children might not have access to smartphones and tablets, or even the internet. To ensure last-mile reach, we started the Swayam Prabha platform, where curriculum could be spread through 32 TV channels available 24 hours, and in some places, we are also going through radio. With ePathshala, we are teaching the curriculum in 15 languages. And through the national digital library, we have more than 4.5 crore files of e-content, including video and audio. We have made sure that the top 100 universities — government and private — are giving online classes, and while earlier, they only gave 20 per cent online classes, it's now 40 per cent.

The PM eVidya platform has been created keeping in mind the PPP Model. We did Vidyadaan 1 and Vidyadaan 2, asking experts to donate their services, and we asked companies and industries as to what would they donate in terms of knowledge. I am happy to say that everyone contributed and donated under the schemes.

Rukmini Banerji

CEO, PRATHAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

When schools reopen, what will be



your message to teachers, students and their parents?

For us, safety of the child is the foremost priority, education comes

second. We will open schools and other educational institutions in a step-by-step manner. In the meantime, we have kept children constantly engaged through Manodharan, where we give them assignments. A combined effort by teachers and parents has gone a long way in safeguarding the future of 33 crore children.

Dr Vidya Yeravdekar

PRO CHANCELLOR, SYMBIOSIS INTERNATIONAL (DEEMED UNIVERSITY) & PRINCIPAL DIRECTOR, SYMBIOSIS



You spoke about 100 universities from abroad coming to India. These universities are going to tie up with other private

universities, all deemed universities. But the word 'deemed' is very problematic. In NEP, you have said that this word should not be used anymore as it's not used internationally.

When the Uchch Shiksha Aayog (Higher Education Council) comes into existence, we will make policies and chart out a way to execute them. Educational institutions are going to get a lot of power. As for the word deemed, have some patience, it will all get sorted.

Ganesh N Devy

LINGUIST AND CULTURAL ACTIVIST



Sanskrit is now a widely open option, as per the NEP. It is no longer a living language, so instead, why should we not have a

'Samvidhaan Ki Shiksha' (Study of the Constitution) for the benefit of the country, as a widely open option?

If you read the NEP, you will realise that Sanskrit is depicted as a language. Even the Constitution says that all our languages need to be strengthened. Apart from being a language, Sanskrit is also a storehouse of knowledge. It is being taught in 250 universities across the world. Why? Because Ayurveda, as we know it, written in the *Charak Samhita* by Patanjali, is in Sanskrit. Sushrut, who is credited with starting *shalya chikitsa* (surgery), is written in Sanskrit. The

texts of Aryabhat, world famous astronomer, were in Sanskrit. We will have to take our past and link it to the present. Sanskrit is another language and if globally, people are studying it, why not citizens of this country?

■ ■ ■

Suneet Vats

VICE CHAIRMAN, VIVEKANANDA INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES



The NEP talks about autonomy for educational institutes. The UGC gives the autonomy certificate, but because this comes under the

concurrent list, the state government shows some reluctance. I am sure many colleges are struggling with the issue.

This is a matter of the concurrent list where the state governments also play a role, since there is a definite mandate. UGC also has its own limitations, and it does the best it can. Autonomy also has to come in through the state governments.

■ ■ ■

Zishaan Hayath

FOUNDER & CEO, TOPPR.COM



As the technology sector holds enormous potential to transform the educational infrastructure, does the

government intend to invite the stakeholders, including startups, to formulate an inclusive policy?

We are forming such a platform, the NETF (National Educational Technology Forum), but apart from that, we are working on the vision of 'One Nation, One Digital' platform, along with 'One Nation, One Channel'. There is a whole new chapter in the NEP as far as technology is concerned. Through technology, we have been able to get 100 universities to offer online education. The NETF will be strengthened under the NEP.

■ ■ ■

Saurabh Modi

CHAIRMAN, NEERJA MODI SCHOOL



The NEP is stressed towards globalisation, and you have said that India had an intellectual prowess, and in the past, we were cherished

for that. How is the NEP channelising ancient traditions and

thought process?

The NEP is an all-inclusive policy where nothing has been left out. The idea is to stand on the foundation of our ancient wisdom. We are known in the world for human values, which form the foundation of our education policy. We had ancient universities like Nalanda and Takshila, where students from all over the world came to study. I think there is no other university in ancient times which was so prominent like these two.

■ ■ ■

Meera Isaacs

PRINCIPAL, CATHEDRAL AND JOHN CONNON SCHOOL, MUMBAI



How does the government propose — especially in metropolitan cities with a diverse group of children — to teach in a child's

mother tongue?

We have kept a provision for the mother-tongue aspect, and left the onus on the states. The child should be able to speak in his mother tongue, and express himself more in it. There is a provision for bi-lingual studies in the NEP. Most states encourage and prioritise their own regional languages. For those who have trouble with it, we can sort that out.

■ ■ ■

Snehal Pinto

DIRECTOR, RYAN GROUP



The inclusion of vocational studies in the NEP needs to be lauded. With virtual learning becoming the new normal, would you use it to create e-schools for

children in the villages and those who don't have access?

We are the first school system in the world that is trying to teach artificial intelligence from school level, which is from the Class VI level. The vocational studies programme that we are starting from Class VI will also have an internship component. We have asked the states to collaborate with us and put together a lab in their schools. Education is paramount when it comes to strengthening the poor of any country. The vocational education will go together with normal education and we have bridged the gap between the two, to help equip the students better. We will issue guidelines for the same soon. Students can opt for any combination of subjects, for instance, pair music with physics, and are also allowed gap years. And if for some reason they discontinue their study, they will get a certificate for the year they have finished.

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New Delhi

Crawley’s double century leaves Pakistan with a mountain to climb

ASSOCIATED PRESS/ENS SOUTHAMPTON, AUGUST 22

ZAK CRAWLEY’S marathon innings of 267 left Pakistan’s ambitions of a series-tying win in tatters. Riding on the 22-year-old’s knock, England found themselves in a commanding position in the third Test, declaring their first innings at 583/8 on Saturday. By the time play ended on Day 2, Pakistan were stuttering at 24/3, with James Anderson taking all three wickets.

Babar Azam was the last man to be dismissed, trapped leg-before off Anderson, who now needs just four more wickets to reach the 600-wicket milestone.

The day, however, belonged to Crawley, who played a knock that has thrust him into cricket’s global consciousness. By the time he was stumped off part-time spinner Asad Shafiq, Crawley had moved into 10th place in the all-time list of top scores by an England player – above the likes of Geoffrey Boycott, Joe Root and Ben Stokes.

His 393-ball knock contained 34 fours and a chipped six down the empty ground at the Ageas Bowl. The 22-year-old Crawley, playing in his eighth Test, had every shot in the book – reverse sweeps, cuts off the back foot, whips into the leg side – and deserved a capacity crowd in Southampton. When he was finally dismissed, Pakistan’s players ran to Crawley to congratulate him, many giving him fist bumps. His partnership with Jos Buttler was worth 359 runs, a record fifth-wicket stand for England in tests and its joint-sixth highest ever.

Buttler was caught and bowled off Fawad Alam for a Test-best 152. He reached his second test century just before lunch. Buttler survived a scare on 99 when he was given out caught behind off Mohammad Abbas, only for a review to show he hadn’t touched the ball with his bat.

England, who started Day 2 on 332-4, lead 1-0 and are looking to clinch a first series victory over Pakistan in 10 years, as well as a second of the summer after beating the West Indies 2-1.

BRIEF SCORES: England 583/8 decl (Z Crawley 267, J Buttler 152; F Alam 2/46) lead Pakistan 24/3 (Anderson 3/13) by 559 runs

Big bubble in the Big Apple

Bopanna provides a peek into the stringent regulations for the US Open

SHAHID JUDGE MUMBAI, AUGUST 22

THE LAYOVER in Frankfurt, from Bangalore en route New York was quite short. “About an hour,” estimates Rohan Bopanna. There wasn’t much time to spare after de-boarding and proceeding to the next gate. In queue though, he noticed a number of familiar faces, fellow tennis players lining up to board the same plane that was to take them to the US Open.

A veteran now on the tour, Bopanna is accustomed to bumping into colleagues at airports. He’s longed to see his ‘family’ on tour for five months. And now that he did, a new reality sunk in. “Dominic Thiem, Dennis Novak, Mate Pavic, Marc Polmans, Alexander Bublik, Radu Albot...” he starts listing. “Everybody was wearing a mask, so you have to give it a closer look to see if that’s the person you think it is. It’s a guessing game. But everyone just greeted each other with an elbow tap. It was good to see them.”

The last time Bopanna boarded a plane was back in March, when he waited for hours at Doha airport to catch a flight home. On that occasion, he wasn’t allowed to leave the airport for over 17 hours, one of the Qatar government directives against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Things have become a bit smoother since then, which is why the tennis tour could consider reopening. But the protocol has become much more stringent. Masks are now as important as a tennis racquet.

And when entering the bio-secure bubble in New York, things would be a lot different.

The USTA has decided to shift the Western and Southern Open – an ATP 1000 Masters and WTA Premier event usually held near Cincinnati – to the same venue as the US Open, and scheduled it just a week before the major. The idea is to provide a three-week window for the two events, and create a safety bubble where players are restricted to only the hotel and the venue – in some cases, players like Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams have been provided rented accommodation at predetermined locations.

But the difference in the US Open this year could be seen from as early as the drive to the hotel from the airport.

“We weren’t driving through skyscrapers like we normally would, but instead go-



(L-R) Rohan Bopanna with his coach Scott Davidoff and physio Gaurang Shukla in New York, where he will play at the ATP Masters this week. Rohan Bopanna/Instagram

ing through open space. We weren’t going to be staying in Manhattan, the hotel this time is in Long Island,” says world no. 37 Bopanna. “This is the first time I’ve been to New York but nowhere close to Manhattan. There is a shuttle every 15 minutes from the hotel and courts and back, but it’s an hour’s drive, even on a Sunday.”

Covid-19 test

Immediately after check-in, players were put through a Covid-19 test and instructed to remain in their rooms till the result of the first test came – no exceptions. Bopanna landed on a Saturday, and was tested for the second time on Monday. There on, he will be tested every fourth day.

Though he tested negative, Bopanna’s not allowed to leave the hotel. “There are signboards everywhere, we aren’t even allowed in the hotel parking lot because that’s outside the bubble. Everywhere we go we have to have our mask and credentials on,” says the 40-year-old, who won the 2017 French Open mixed doubles title.

At Flushing Meadows, the venue too has been altered. Since the tournament will be played behind closed doors, fan parks have been converted into player lounges, and there are a number of activities set up around the grounds. “Mini golf, basketball, pool ta-

bles, arcade games... The whole place has a relaxed atmosphere now because you can walk anywhere,” he says.

The regular changing rooms too have become a bit decongested because the top 32 seeds from the men’s and women’s draws have been allotted what would have been the hospitality suite inside the Arthur Ashe Stadium. As many as 67 of the 80 suites have been provided for the seeded players, complete with a massage table.

There are certain dos and don’ts, however. “You aren’t allowed to keep anything in the locker room when you’re not there. So only if you’re getting treatment with the physios, or taking a shower, you can keep stuff there. All other times you have to take everything with you,” Bopanna says.

The rules this time reflect the simple philosophy that you’ve come here for business – tennis – and that’s all you will do.

This is a grim reminder of the current times, the new normal inside the bubble that players have to make peace with.

In the absence of crowds, Bopanna’s only support will be from his coach Scott Davidoff and physio Gaurang Shukla. At the entrance of the Arthur Ashe Stadium – the world’s largest tennis arena – is a quote by Ashe himself. “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”

ON THE TUBE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL, 00:30 HRS

Paris Saint-Germain vs Bayern Munich, Sony Ten 2 & Sony Ten 3

How England, Australia & CPL players can avoid IPL quarantine

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, AUGUST 22

IF THE IPL players in action in the Caribbean Premier League and next month’s England-Australia limited-overs series are to avoid being quarantined for seven days on their arrival in the UAE, they will have to move directly from one bio-secure environment to another without venturing outside these bubbles.

To ensure that, extraordinary conditions have been put in place by the BCCI and the onus is on the franchises to ensure that their players adhere to these restrictions. If they do so, the cricketers will be allowed to join their respective squads in the UAE if they test negative in an RT-PCR test after their arrival.

The players will already be in bio-secure bubbles in England and Trinidad, and it has been proposed that a team bus will transport the players directly from team hotels straight to the tarmac without going through airport terminals and are exempted from “immigration and other formalities” in UK and the Caribbean, as the case may be.

Once they land in UAE, arrangements will be made for them to be transported straight from their chartered flights to the respective team hotels in Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

A total of 17 Australian and 13 England players are scheduled to take part in IPL 2020. England will host Australia for three ODIs and three T20Is from September 4 to 15. With the IPL scheduled to kick off on September 19, there was no clarity till now on whether these players would have to miss a few IPL games due to the quarantine requirement on their arrival in the UAE. The CPL ends on September 10.

This move to exempt the players from quarantine would allay the worries of franchises over the availability of their overseas players in the first week of the tournament.

Australia’s Steve Smith and David Warner, England’s Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer, and CPL’s Kieron Pollard, Rashid Khan and Andre Russell are among the players who can avoid the quarantine in UAE if they follow the bio-secure protocols.

In a note sent to all IPL teams, accessed by *The Indian Express*, the exemption criteria are detailed. “After conclusion of the England vs Australia series and CPL, the players continue to remain in their respective Bio-Secure

After conclusion of the England vs Australia series and CPL, the players continue to remain in their respective Bio-Secure Environments... The team bus drops the players straight on to the tarmac thereby avoiding the need for players to pass through the airport terminal building preventing contact with other people outside the Bio-Secure Environment.”

BCCI ADVISORY TO TEAMS

Environments and are transported in the team bus straight to the aircraft where they are exempted from immigration and other formalities at the departing airport. The team bus drops the players straight on to the tarmac thereby avoiding the need for players to pass through the airport terminal building preventing contact with other people outside the Bio-Secure Environment.”

Charter flights

The franchises will have to book chartered flights exclusively for these players to travel to the UAE.

“Upon arrival at any of the UAE airports, the players are granted special exemptions whereby they will be transported from the aircraft straight to the team hotel. The team bus picks the players from the airport tarmac thereby avoiding the need for players to pass through the airport terminal building preventing contact with other people outside the Bio-Secure Environment. All such players will have to undergo one RT-PCR test on the day of arrival. If the test report is negative, they will be allowed to join their respective franchise squads,” the circular reads.

It also spells out what would eventuate if these players step out of the bio-secure bubbles during their journeys. “If IPL Governing Council is not satisfied with the strict adherence to the travel protocols by any of the players, all players will have to quarantine for 7-days and undergo 3 RT-PCR tests before participation in IPL matches,” the note reads.

Many IPL teams have already reached Dubai and are undergoing the mandatory quarantine period of seven days.

BRIDGE

Do not draw the opponents’ master trump unless you have a good reason. You are South, declarer in 4H

NORTH			
♠	9542		
♥	762		
♦	J102		
♣	AK10		
SOUTH			
♠	6		
♥	AK954		
♦	KQ953		
♣	Q9		
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH			
1♥			
Pass	2♥	Pass	3♣
Pass	4♥	Pass	Pass
Pass			

West leads the SK and continues with the SQ, which you trump in your hand. What is your plan?
The West Hand: S – K Q J 7 H – Q 10 3 D – A 7 C – J 5 4 2
The East Hand: S – A 10 8 3 H – J 8 D – 8 6 4 C – 8 7 6 3

There is one loser in spades, one in diamonds and one in hearts if they split 3-2. You play the HA and HK, both opponents following suit. There is now only one trump outstanding, the queen. Should you lead a third round of trumps to get rid of the queen?

Your remaining trumps are H95 in hand and H7 in dummy. If you lead another round West will take the queen and lead another spade. If you trump this you will be exhausted of trumps; now when you knock out the DA the opponents will take another spade trick and you will go down.

You should stop drawing trumps after two rounds and knock out the DA. As soon as the opponents take the queen and lead another spade, the rest of your diamonds are established. West can cash the HQ but you still have a trump left and will make your contract.

In general it is not a good idea to draw the opponents’ master trump unless you have a good reason, such as a long suit that you would like to run without interference. Here it would be downright dangerous. You are South, declarer in 7NT.

NORTH		SOUTH	
♠	AK8	♠	Q762
♥	K63	♥	AQ5
♦	KQ2	♦	AJ4
♣	AJ103	♣	Q64
WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH			
1NT		7NT	Pass
Pass		Pass	
Pass			

West leads the SJ. You try to keep the horrified look off your face when you see dummy. How do you plan to play the hand?

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.
___ is nothing more than ___ deferred - Pico Iyer (6...7)

DAEER	AEICDD
DAEER	AEICDD
GUYOT	PRUGMY
GUYOT	PRUGMY

SOLUTION: EARED, GOUTY, CADIE, GRUMPY
Answer: Comedy is nothing more than tragedy deferred - Pico Iyer

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2283

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Gun part (6)
- Beneath one’s dignity, colloquially speaking? (5,3)
- Silvery white metal (6)
- Chase (3,5)
- Australian birds (4)
- Despiser of women (10)
- Behind the times (3,9)
- Feasting one’s eyes upon; dwelling upon with unholy joy (8,4)
- Time long gone (10)
- “E” of QED (4)
- Non-professionals? (8)
- Abuse, desecrate or despise (6)
- Adam’s ____: Eve was made from this? (5,3)
- Rubber devices to clean the windshield (6)

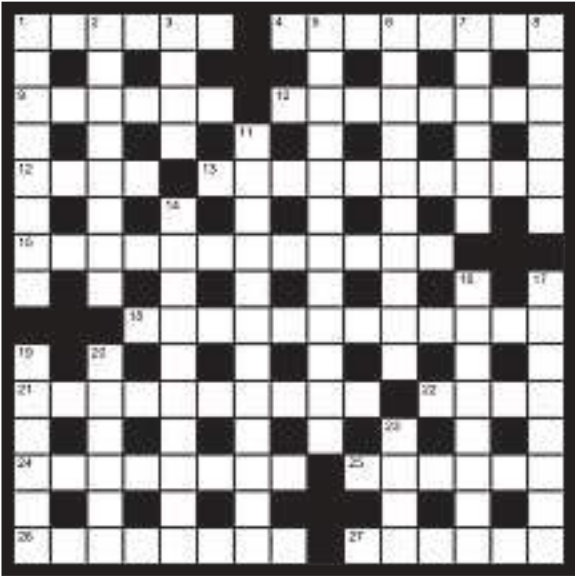
DOWN

- Unmarried man (8)
- Springs back (8)
- Anguillidae (4)
- Of the nervous system (12)
- Race starter’s three-word utterance (5,3,2)
- Keep waiting (6)
- Revolve (6)
- Jodhaa in Jodhaa Akbar (9,3)
- Famous American rider (4,6)
- Extra hours worked (8)
- Spends frivolously (8)
- Road built to avoid a city? (6)
- Spain of the Spaniards (6)
- Persian fairy (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- He’s named as the girl’s fiancé (6)
- Equilibrium in the earth’s crust? So says it’s very unsteady (8)
- Settled in bottom; wrap up (6)
- Gather to look at the roadside (8)
- Offensive vehicle smelt awful (4)
- Last daring sabotage in besieged city (10)
- Ethelred didn’t have this quality (12)
- Distorted opinion the rooster has of life ? (4-4,4)
- Piece of cutlery of note ? (6,4)
- Person with designs to be a flier? (4)
- Cougar is unusually polite (8)
- Organization which distils



- claret ? (6)
- Reactionary types showing signs of being hot under the collar? (8)
- Feels for the marbles (6)
- One with much experience boards on the right (6)
- On the way to the centre of the hospital (6)
- Relax, listening to poems (4)

DOWN:

- Some cars in Derby, say, will bypass road works (8)
- Was sorry for having caused deep rent (8)
- Hard cover for returning foreign money (4)
- Country garden known to American detectives (8,4)
- The very number for such a team game! (5-1-4)
- Gold in the air at dawn! (6)
- How the sly die and one surrenders (6)
- Fortune a run uncovered (6,2,4)
- Mum, is anyone making the dressing ? (10)
- Leaves jet and speeds (8)
- Fewer go out in the wind – it robs one of something (8)

Solutions to 2282

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Droops, 4 Required, 9 Voters, 10 Laudable, 12 Lilliput, 13 Truism, 15 Post-midnight, 18 Introduction, 21 Tartar, 22 Divulged, 24 Premiere, 25 Attain, 26 Acting up, 27 Creeps. **Down:** 1 Develops, 2 Outclass, 3 Parliamentarian, 5 Elan, 6 Under-the-counter, 7 Rabbit, 8 Dreams, 11 Murders, 14 Decided, 16 Degree, 17 Androynes, 19 Utopia, 20 Urgent, 23 Urdu. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Nearby, 4 Blowhard, 9 Torrid, 10 Dredgers, 12 Barn door, 13 Deja vu, 15 Off one’s hands, 18 Astrophysics, 21 Anarch, 22 Buncombe, 24 Leavened, 25 Victim, 26 Vineyard, 27 Adored. **Down:** 1 Notebook, 2 Aircraft, 3 Building society, 5 Lore, 6 Wednesdayschild, 7 Axeman, 8 Dust-up, 11 Consort, 14 Ear-plug, 16 Film star, 17 Esteemed, 19 Pavlov, 20 Papain, 23 Geat.

If it’s your Birthday

Sunday August 23

There’s no change in the business-like tone of affairs, though if you stay up late tonight, you’ll loosen up. Those of you who make it to the wee hours could have a truly wild time.

Monday August 24

The stars are playing a double game. Within a context of caution and concern for the future, they encourage you to take a gamble. So, if you feel like letting your hair down, go for it!

Tuesday August 25

You’re quite a broad-minded person at heart. The more you are prepared to consider areas of experience you’ve always ignored, then the more opportunities you’ll experience and the better the results you’ll achieve.

Wednesday August 26

You know where you’re going, and how to get there. That’s great if your current goals cover all eventualities. There’s much more to life than you once thought. Look on the coming year as a time to explore new vistas.

Thursday August 27

Often you’re very clear-headed but, at other times, your feelings take over. Hard work looms, but you can also relax and enjoy new sensations and desires.

Friday August 28

Your generous spirit wins the day. Your planets relate to money and idealism. It is therefore a fine time to give to charity. You should value yourself, make yourself the centre of attention.

Saturday August 29

A planetary cycle of your emotional life in the past, is giving way to another, which will find you in a more assertive and ambitious mood. Allow yourself time to celebrate.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

A number of planets have you under their protective power over the coming week, but this may not mean that everything will be nice and easy. I mean, sometimes it’s lively and challenging conditions which get the best out of you. Above all, the planets will urge you to show everything that is best about your character.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Increasing secrecy is the trend of the times. However, one thing you will be open about is your feelings, and this will help you to get on socially and at work. Employers and colleagues will be pleased to hear about new schemes towards the end of the week.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Mars still seems to be the most important planet, which means that you’ll be kept on your toes. However, at work and at home, you can afford to slow the pace as the week progresses. You’re entering an extravagant period, so pay attention to underlying financial conditions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You don’t need reminding how emotional you are, but with assertive planetary patterns so strong at the moment, you might do best to bite your tongue and look the other way. Don’t worry if prosperous prospects seem to be delayed, but concentrate on building up solid long-term investments.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Fiercely planetary alignments are about to grow more intense, so you can look forward to a more adventurous period. Higher education is favoured, as is long-distance travel so, one way or another, you should be expanding your horizons. Also, you must act only out of the most ethical and moral of motives.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Partnership matters should now be settled, or at least put on a safe and established course. You must leave yourself free to deal with finances, especially all joint investments. At work, you should do your best to see that everybody sticks to their decisions.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

One thing looks pretty certain over the coming few weeks, and it’s that you’re going to have no choice but to pay very great attention indeed to other people’s needs, wants and desires. At work everything depends on what colleagues say, at home on what relatives do.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Don’t worry too much about professional delays or disappointments, and use any extra time to see that you prepare the ground properly for next time. Your romantic stars are thriving, thanks to the presence of that most beautiful and loving of planets, Venus.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

One by one the stars are swinging into a pleasurable, creative and spontaneous region of your horoscope. It doesn’t matter whether your interests are high-brow or low: the only important thing is that you make personal satisfaction and fulfilment your goals both at work and at home.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The Sun, the Moon, Mercury and Venus are all secretly on your side, and will also challenge you to make a success of yourself in future. Pay attention to private needs first and, once you’ve sorted out your personal life, tackle professional goals or worldly ambitions.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

If anything, your money stars are due to grow stronger. This doesn’t mean you’ll be showered with pennies from heaven. It does mean that you should snap up bargains, sort out your investments, pay bills and collect debts while you’ve got the chance.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You’re not known as a materialist, but sometimes even you have to come down off your cloud and deal with life’s daily chores, especially the business of guaranteeing your future security. If you get your timing right now, increased prosperity will put your personal life on a much sounder basis.