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Consumption shock severe, economic recovery will take longer, poorest hit the hardest: RBI

For recovery, private spending has to rise in discretionary sectors like transport, hospitality, recreation: RBI report

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Tuesday indicated that the economy which is expected to contract for the first time ever, will take "quite some time to mend and regain" the pre-Covid momentum, as the "shock to consumption is severe" and the "poorest have

been hit the hardest".

The RBI also cautioned about the loss of recovery momentum since June, with states imposing localised lockdowns. "The upticks that became visible in May and June after the lockdown was eased in several parts of the country, appear to have lost strength in July and August, mainly due to reimposition or stricter imposition of lockdowns,

suggesting that contraction in economic activity will likely prolong into the second quarter," the RBI said.

According to the RBI, private consumption is expected to lead the recovery when it takes hold, and government consumption is expected to continue pandemic-proofing of demand. "Private consumption has lost its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPLAINED
E Recovery to be slow, painful

THE OPTIMISM from upticks in May-June that recovery will be fast in the second quarter has faded. Several states extended lockdown in July-August and shut down economic activities — this will delay a rebound.

Firms used tax cut to pare debt, need govt spending

SUNNY VERMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE SHARP CUT in corporate tax rate announced by the government last September did not help in restarting the investment cycle as was intended, but has been used by companies to reduce debt and build up cash balances,

the Reserve Bank of India said in its Annual Report 2019-20.

As investment activity has further weakened in the economy, the RBI has suggested "targeted public investment" funded by asset monetisation and privatisation of major ports as a viable way to revive the economy. Pointing to the weakness

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Dissenters avow loyalty to Sonia, say see intent behind letter



Moily and Sibal were among signatories of the letter

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

A DAY after the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting, where members pledged their loyalty to the Nehru-Gandhi family and targeted the 23 senior leaders for their letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi, some of the signatories said on Tuesday that the party should have focused on the content of the letter instead. They also said that their loyalty to Sonia was unquestionable.

As first reported by *The Indian Express*, the letter called for sweeping changes in the party. The CWC on Monday acknowledged the letter, but neither discussed its content nor gave any specific commitments on the way forward.

Congress veteran Ahmed Patel said there will be an election for the post of party president when the AICC session takes place. At the CWC meeting, it was decided that Sonia will continue until the AICC session can be held.

"When the AICC session takes place, there will be an election for the post of Congress president. Anyone can fight in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Mohamed Bangi, 4, after his rescue on Tuesday from the rubble of the five-storey building that collapsed in Mahad, in Maharashtra's Raigad district, on Monday evening. His mother and two sisters were killed. *Narendra Vaskar*

Raigad toll 13, 4-yr-old survives 19 hrs in debris

SAGAR RAJPUT & MAYURA JANWALKAR
MAHAD, MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

FOR ALMOST 19 hours, he lay under the collapsed five-storey building, trapped in a pocket of air under a fallen pillar. Finally, around 1 pm Tuesday, four-year-old Mohamed Bangi was pulled out of the rubble that was once Tarique Garden — a face of hope for rescuers who had dug out 12 bodies since the building collapsed Monday evening.

But just 30 minutes after the boy, who suffered minor injuries, was carried out by NDRF personnel, the mood at the site

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MORE REPORTS
PAGE 8

PULWAMA CHARGESHEET

WhatsApp logs, voice of Jaish chief kin mark trail in Pak: NIA

Masood Azhar, his brothers, nephew among 19 named for Feb 2019 attack



Photos of accused released by NIA Tuesday. *PTI* **REPORTS, P7**

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & ARUN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, JAMMU, AUG 25

CALLING THE Pulwama attack a "well-planned criminal conspiracy hatched by Pakistan-based leadership of terrorist organisation Jaish-e-Mohammad", the National Investigation Agency (NIA), in its chargesheet filed on Tuesday, has listed key evidence including the "forensically matched" voice of JeM chief Masood Azhar's brother, Rouf Asgar, discussing the attack, and a Pakistan government identity card issued to Azhar's nephew, Mohammed Umer Farooq, the

key conspirator.

The other pieces of evidence include photographs of "every step" of the attack, from planning to execution, spanning over 10 months; logs of WhatsApp calls to numbers in Pakistan with pinpointed locations; records of several lakhs of rupees deposited in two Pakistan bank accounts in Umer Farooq's name.

Forty CRPF personnel were killed when a suicide bomber, later identified as Adil Ahmed Dar, a local resident, rammed an explosives-laden vehicle into a CRPF convoy in Pulwama on February 14 last year. The NIA has said Dar used about 200 kg

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bhushan firm on no apology; SC says criticise, but don't attribute motives

Reserves order on sentencing; AG says let him go but he has to express regret

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

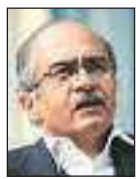
WITH ADVOCATE Prashant Bhushan, convicted of criminal contempt of court over two tweets he posted this June, refusing to apologise, the Supreme Court Tuesday expressed anguish over his criticism of "sitting and retired" judges.

The bench of Justices Arun Mishra, B R Gavai and Krishna Murari, while considering a sup-

plementary statement filed by Bhushan, said criticism is welcome, but one "should not attribute motives to judges" since they cannot go to the press to defend themselves and "can only speak through our judgments".

The bench reserved its order on the quantum of punishment for Bhushan.

On August 14, it had held him guilty of contempt of court for two tweets which it said were based on "distorted facts", constituted a "scurrilous/mali-



Which judge is left out: Court on criticism by Bhushan

cious... attack" on the "entire Supreme Court", and had the effect of "destabilising the very foundation" of the judiciary.

"Which judge is left out, sitting or retired," Justice Mishra asked Attorney General KK

Venugopal, referring to criticism by Bhushan. "He has made so many remarks... Even in the Ramjanmabhoomi case... Only one of those judges (who delivered the judgment) has retired... He is targeting sitting judges also. How can they defend?"

Justice Mishra said it is "painful" to hear such comments every day. "This is not expected of a lawyer like Bhushan with 30 years of experience... This is something derogatory. Very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GST set to meet, Sushil Modi says Centre morally bound to pay states

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 25

BIHAR DEPUTY Chief Minister and Finance Minister Sushil Kumar Modi said on Tuesday that the Centre should borrow and pay GST compensation to states even if it is not legally bound to do so.

"But the Centre is morally



The Bihar Deputy Chief Minister at the Idea Exchange session

bound to do so", Modi said ahead of the GST Council meeting on August 27.

"State finances are under stress. We are able to pay only

salaries, wages and pensions. We are heavily dependent on the Centre as 76 per cent of our revenue comes from the Centre..."

Modi said at an online Idea Exchange of *The Indian Express*. "States should get GST compensation. We will raise the matter during the upcoming meeting. States cannot borrow. It is the Centre that should borrow. It is the moral responsibility of the Centre to help the states. If states

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Maintain secrecy, rules: Speaker to House panels

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

AMID A war of words between the BJP and Congress over procedures of parliamentary Standing Committee meetings, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has asked the chairpersons of House panels to not take up any matter that is *sub judice* or is related to national security, and to ensure confidentiality of the proceedings.

In a letter written on Tuesday, the Speaker drew the attention of the chairpersons to Direction 55 of "Directions by the Speaker", which says "the proceedings of a Committee shall be treated as confidential and it shall not be permissible for a member of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PARLIAMENT MAY START ON SEPT 14
PAGE 6

As if no rule of law: SC panel chief to govt on Char Dham 'violations'

JAY MAZOOMDAAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

POINTING TO "brazen" violation of forest and wildlife laws by the Char Dham Pariyojana of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), the chairperson of the Supreme Court-appointed High Powered Committee (HPC) has asked the Environment Ministry to take strict action.



The waste dumped into the Saryu river. *Courtesy HPC report*

Underlining that laws have been violated "as if the Rule of Law does not exist", HPC chairperson Ravi Chopra, in an August 13 letter to the Environment Secretary, said the project has caused "incalculable and long-term damage to the Himalayan ecology" by felling trees, cutting hills and dumping muck (excavated material) without valid permission on various stretches.

The project is meant to widen

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LIONEL MESSI TELLS BARCELONA THAT HE WANTS TO LEAVE
SPORT, PAGE 18

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

AASHISH ARYAN & PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

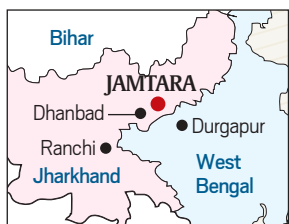
STEP 1: Acquire a series of mobile numbers, use all of them to try and log in to a bank account. If a number prompts an OTP, it's time for the next step.

STEP 2: Call the number's owner and pretend to be customer care executives of the mobile operator offering to upgrade SIM cards or Know Your Customer (KYC) details. Gain trust, obtain the victim's email ID.

STEP 3: Send an email to the victim containing text to be sent

to the official customer care number. It's a ruse to register your email ID with the victim's number, so that you can put in an official request to convert the SIM into an e-SIM. Once done, the victim's phone number and everything else it's linked to, including the bank account, is under your control.

SO FAR, this is what police in Haryana's Faridabad have pieced together about a new phishing racket that they suspect has been used to access over 300 nationalised and private bank accounts across five states — Punjab, Haryana, Bihar, West Bengal and



Jharkhand.

Police are yet to ascertain the amount of money involved. But they have made five arrests — among the first in a racket involving e-SIM frauds. And four of those five are from Jharkhand's Jamtara, a district that has gained notoriety as a



Four of the five arrested are from Jharkhand's Jamtara, a hub of cyber crime, say the police. *Deepu Sebastian Edmond*

hub of cyber crime, even inspiring a popular web series.

"The case is unique, with the use of e-SIMs as the main conduit and with preliminary investigations establishing procedural infirmities and lack of due diligence on the part of banks and telecom companies," O P Singh, Commissioner of Police, Faridabad, said.

"What sets this apart is the novel *modus operandi* adopted, and mind-boggling layering done by apparently low-tech offenders," Singh said.

Officers investigating the case said the perpetrators have confessed to gaining control of

bank accounts after obtaining the e-SIMs of victims. In several instances, they said, the target was ICICI Bank, through the desktop version of its website, and the numbers used were of Airtel.

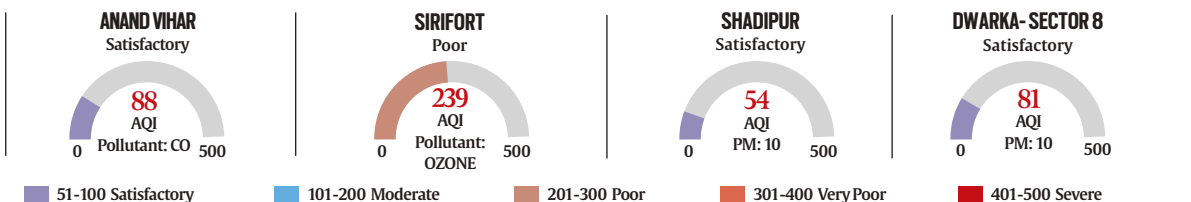
Preliminary information from records analysed shows that several transactions ranging between Rs 10,000 and Rs 99,000 have been made, an officer said. "The fraudsters break up transactions into smaller amounts for it to be undetectable. An amount of Rs 1,00,000 is transferred in several transactions of Rs 500-Rs 1,000,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

3 THE CITY



0-50 Good



Inquiry set up against police constable for beating up boy

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

A DEPARTMENTAL inquiry was being initiated against a Delhi Police constable on Tuesday, a day after a video of him beating a boy in Southwest Delhi's R K Puram went viral on social media.

The video shows the policeman caning the child even as he cries in pain. As his colleague points out that someone is making a video, the policeman looks at the person and shouts: "Kaun bana raha hai video?" "The person filming it responds, "Main bana raha hoon", before it cuts off.

Additional DCP (Southwest) Ingat Partap Singh said the inquiry was ordered after the incident and video were brought to their attention, and disciplinary action against the staff will be initiated



A screengrab from a video of the incident

based on its outcome.

On the incident, DCP (Southwest) Devender Arya said that on the intervening night of August 22-23, beat staff on area patrolling near Ekta Vihar JJ camp found four-five boys loitering and sitting around a public toilet and chased them away. "Since the staff were briefed about repeated safety concerns raised by women of nearby JJ camps, who use this

public toilet especially at night, the boys were asked to leave the place immediately. During their second round, at around 3 am, beat staff found the boys were back at the same place and chased them away," he said.

Initial investigation has revealed that lower staff at the RK Puram police station failed to brief their seniors with all the facts and tried to mislead them by saying it was an old video.

"Additional DCP (Southwest) Amit Kaushik has been asked to conduct a fact-finding inquiry and take appropriate action on the basis of the findings," an officer said.

The Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights has also taken cognizance of video and issued notice to the SHO, directing him to identify both policemen and book them under the IPC and Juvenile Justice Act.

150 birds, animals rescued from 'zoo'



The animals were rescued from a public park in Vasant Vihar by activist Sonya Ghosh

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

AT LEAST 150 birds and animals were rescued from a public park in Vasant Vihar Monday where an "illegal zoo" had been set up. The animals were rescued by activist Sonya Ghosh, who said they were kept in small cages, in poor conditions and in violation of rules.

"Two persian cats were kept in tiny cages with no litter box. Their fur had become brown with dirt and faeces... The staff at the park said the animals were being let out of the cages in the evening. They also claimed there were tortoises at the park, which we did not find," Ghosh said. The 'zoo' also had birds including a turkey, emus, hens, geese, ducks, finch along with rabbits, guinea pigs and persian cats. It was dismantled with help from volunteers and South civic body staff, and the animals and birds were transported to a shelter in Haryana.

A horticulture official of the South civic body, which manages the park, said an MoU was signed with a private firm for the upkeep of the park in 2017: "It was only for maintaining and greening the park. No permission was granted for setting up a zoo. This happened during the lockdown. When we learned about it Monday, we dismantled the structures immediately."

A senior police officer said, "We got a call from the SDMC about some destruction in the park. However, they haven't submitted a written complaint. We don't know about the animals. They didn't call us to help with the issue."

Attack on journalists: Press Council seeks report from police

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE PRESS Council of India has taken cognizance of the attack on *Caravan* magazine journalists on August 11, and demanded a report from Delhi's Chief Secretary, police commissioner and deputy police commissioner.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the Press Council said that it has taken "suo-motu cognizance of the alleged attack by mob on three journalists, including a female reporter from *Caravan* magazine, who were allegedly beaten, and threatened in North East Delhi" on August 11, "while they were covering a news".

It stated that a "report has been called for from the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Police and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi".

After they were allegedly assaulted and threatened by a mob in Northeast Delhi's Subhash Mohalla while on a reporting assignment, the three — independent journalist Prabhjit Singh, the magazine's assistant photo editor Shahid Tantray, and a woman reporter — were eventually evacuated by the police and taken to Bhajanpura police station.

Cops, DCW rescue woman chained at home, husband held

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

A 32-YEAR-OLD woman, who was allegedly chained to a bed inside her house for six months by her husband, was rescued by police and Delhi Commission for Women on Tuesday morning.

Police said the woman, who lives with her three minor children and husband in East Delhi's Trilokpur, was found chained when authorities entered the residence. She has alleged her husband would also beat her up.

Police have arrested the husband for allegedly assaulting and torturing his wife, and registered a case. "The complaint was filed by the victim and her relative. The accused has been arrested. We are investigating the matter and looking into the allegations made by the victim," said a senior police officer.

DCW officials first received information about the woman based on a tip-off one of their ground volunteers had received. The woman and her family stay on the second floor of a building, while her in-laws stay on the first, said police.

"Her husband wasn't home; we saw her lying on the floor, her feet chained to the bed. Her

clothes were torn and she was covered in urine and blood. The room in which she was staying was in a terrible condition; there were no fans," said a DCW official.

Police said that after the delivery of her third child, there was discord at home, following which her husband and in-laws started the torture. Her husband works at a flour mill nearby.

In a video shared by DCW officials, the woman is heard saying: "I have been married for 11 years and have three children. He beats me and has chained me. I have injuries on my legs."

The team also spoke to two children aged seven and five. The third child, who is a year old, stays with the in-laws. The two children also told officials their mother was brutally beaten up routinely.

Police said the woman was freed and was taken to Kalyanpuri police station. "We have recorded her statement and a complaint was filed in the afternoon. She has been taken to a hospital for treatment," said a senior police officer.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said that due to the torture, the woman was facing mental health issues. The team will help in her rehabilitation.

Gurgaon bus ridership up by 40%



The service saw a ridership of 20,684 passengers Monday

SAKSHIDAYAL
GURGAON, AUGUST 25

TEN DAYS after the Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited (GMCBL) began operating its buses at full capacity, officials said ridership has shot up by 40%.

On August 14, GMCBL announced it would be resuming operations at full capacity "to provide relief to passengers travelling in Gurugram". When GMCBL resumed services on July 1, it was operating buses with 50% seating capacity due to the pandemic. As a result, only 18 passengers were allowed at a time on each of the 36-seater buses.

Between July 1 and August 14 itself, GMCBL officials claim the ridership had tripled — from 5,256 passengers on July 2 to 13,718 passengers on July 31. By August 14, this figure was 15,880.

It began operations on six routes with its full fleet of 68 buses from August 16. On each of the weekdays that followed, officials claim to have transported over 18,500 passengers. "Last Wednesday and Thursday, ridership remained low as passenger mobility was affected due to rains," said a GMCBL spokesperson.

Tuesday sees new Covid cases cross 1,500, 17 deaths

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

ON TUESDAY, Delhi recorded 1,544 fresh cases of Covid-19—the highest single day spike in the month so far—and 17 deaths, taking the tally in the capital to over 1,64,071, while the death toll rose to 4,330.

After reporting a dip in daily cases for more than a month, the number of cases in the city are once again on the rise.

On June 23, the capital had

reported the highest single-day spike of 3,947 Covid-19 cases, till date.

The active cases tally on Tuesday rose to 11,998 from 11,626 the previous day. Of the total active cases, 5,949 are under home isolation and 3,617 are admitted to the hospitals.

In the last 24 hours, the city conducted 5380 RT PCR/TrueNat/CBNAAT and 14,461 rapid antigen tests. The total number of tests conducted in Delhi so far stands at 1,46,2845.

Office of the Chairman, NEET PG Medical & Dental Admission/Counseling Board-2020 and Principal, Govt. Dental College,

Subhash Nagar, Behind T.B. Hospital, Jaipur
Phone : 0141-2280090
Websites: www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/medicaleducation | www.rajpgp2020.com

No. State PG Counseling Board 2020/ Dated: 24.08.2020

NOTIFICATION

State Medical & Dental P.G. Seats Allotments-2020 (Allotment process, off-line, medical)

Refer the judgment order dated 17.08.2020 passed by Hon'ble High Court of judicature for Rajasthan at Jodhpur in SBCWP No. 5592/2020 (Trustee Balaji educational Trust and Ors. Vs. Union of India and Ors and order dated 19.08.2020 in Misc. Application No. 124/2020 in SBCWP No. 5592/2020.

An allotment process for increased seats along with residual seats in Pacific Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur as well as residual seats of Govt Medical Colleges, JMC Jhalawar, RUHS CMS Jaipur and Mahatma Gandhi Medical College, Jaipur to various PG Medical courses, for Rajasthan State registered candidates, will be carried out off-line as per the schedule given below:

SCHEDULE FOR ALLOTMENT PROCESS

S. No.	Event	MD/MS
1.	Allotment Process: Seat allotment (off-line) and reporting before the Board at the venue Govt Dental College (GDC), Shastri Nagar, Jaipur. At the spot on the same day alongwith submission of all original document and other documents as listed in instruction booklet.	26.08.2020, 9.00 am
2.	Joining at the allotted college, deposition of prescribed admission fee etc. completion of all other formalities	By 29.08.2020, 5.00 pm

All the allotments on increased PG seats of Pacific Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur will remain subject to the final outcome of the aforesaid writ petition. Submission of original documents: All NEET-2020 qualified and State registered candidates who are not holding any seat willing to participate in the allotment process for aforesaid colleges must present physically alongwith all the original documents. The candidates are advised to read the notification, instruction booklet, etc. given on the website very carefully and also visit the websites regularly.

Chairman, NEET PG Medical & Dental Admission/Counseling Board-2020
DIPR/C/6707/2020



Expanding Railway Network and Infrastructure BUILDING FOR INDIA'S FUTURE

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE / CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
	Quarter ended 30 June 2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March 2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2020 (Audited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 31 March 2020 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30 June 2019 (Unaudited)	Year ended 31 March 2020 (Audited)
Total income from Operations	477.35	1,788.32	1,120.83	5,202.45	526.87	1,873.35	1,069.85	5,391.51
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & exceptional items)	60.13	161.51	# 215.58	# 672.57	54.97	155.17	# 219.14	# 671.99
Net profit / (loss) (before tax & after exceptional items)	60.13	161.51	215.58	672.57	54.97	155.17	219.14	671.99
Net profit after tax	39.88	122.42	141.23	489.78	34.46	115.40	144.66	485.31
Total comprehensive income	38.23	121.68	142.79	486.83	32.81	114.65	146.22	482.35
Equity share capital	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05	94.05
Other Equity (Excluding Revaluation Reserve)				4,067.08				4,077.27
Earnings Per Share (not annualized) (Note 4) (Face Value of ₹2/- each)								
(a) Basic (in ₹)	0.85	2.60	3.00	10.42	0.73	2.45	3.08	10.32
(b) Diluted (in ₹)	0.85	2.60	3.00	10.42	0.73	2.45	3.08	10.32

Includes write back / reversal of Agency Commission during the quarter ended 30th June 2019 payable for foreign projects for an amount of Rs. 84.13 crore.

Notes:

- The above standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 25th August 2020. The Statutory Auditors of the company have conducted limited review of the financial results for the quarter ended 30th June 2020.
- The Standalone and consolidated financial results have been prepared in accordance with the Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant rules thereunder and in terms of Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (as Amended) and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, as amended. The full format of the aforesaid financial results are available on the Stock Exchanges website of BSE (www.bseindia.com/corporates), NSE (www.nseindia.com/corporates) and Company's website at www.ircon.org.
- The shareholders of Company through postal Ballot on 22nd March, 2020 have approved:

- Split the face value of one equity share from Rs. 10/- each into five equity shares of Rs. 2/- each which have been reflected at Stock exchanges w.e.f. 3rd April, 2020.
- Amended the Capital Clause in the Memorandum of Association of the Company.

Accordingly for compliance of accounting standards on Earning per share (IND AS 33), the per share calculation of all previous year /periods presented above are based on new number of Equity shares.

For and on behalf of Ircon International Limited

Sd/-
S. K. Chaudhary
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN No.: 00515672



IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Regd. Office: C-4, District Centre Saket, New Delhi-110017; Tel: +91-11-29565666; Fax: +91-11-26522000/26854000; E-mail: info@ircon.org; Website: www.ircon.org; CIN: L45203DL1976GOI008171

4 THE CITY

BRIEFLY



MCD workers carry out fumigation near CM's residence on Tuesday. *Praveen Khanna*

MCD begins anti-mosquito campaign

New Delhi: The BJP-ruled civic bodies Tuesday launched a campaign against dengue, chikungunya and malaria in view of the monsoon season. North Delhi mayor Jai Prakash, accompanied by former Union minister Vijay Goel and BJP national vice-president Shyam Jaju, began the campaign with fogging at Flagstaff Road, where CM Arvind Kejriwal lives.

Sharjeel Imam arrested

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Special Cell arrested JNU PhD scholar Sharjeel Imam on Tuesday in connection with the February Northeast Delhi riots. The arrest was made under charges of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Police said he had allegedly instigated riots at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 13 and 15 last year through "seditious" speeches outside the university campus, during protests against the CAA and NRC.

Man held for forging land documents

New Delhi: A 65-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly duping people after occupying their vacant land using forged documents. **ENS**

AS PART OF COVID PRECAUTIONS

No tokens, cash transactions or parking when Delhi Metro restarts

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE DELHI Metro plans to completely discontinue tokens and cash transactions involving commuters once services resume and allow only smart cards, which will also have to be recharged solely through cashless modes.

Metro services, suspended since March 22 in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, is likely to resume in September in a limited manner under Unlock 4 guidelines to be released by the Home Ministry.

According to a plan drawn up following guidelines of the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, parking facilities at the stations and feeder bus services that connect the stations with nearby areas will remain unavailable for the time being.

The Standard Operating

Procedure (SOP) prepared by DMRC says, "All transactions for recharge of cards, etc will be through cashless mode, tokens will not be allowed for travel, only smart cards/QR code will be allowed, ticket vending machines will not accept cash."

The Centre had in May written to all Metro operators suggesting that QR code-based tickets be linked with the Aarogya Setu app to ensure only "safe passengers" gain entry into stations once the restrictions on services are lifted.

However, since very few entry gates in Delhi Metro are presently equipped to scan QR-codes, commuters will have to make use of other cashless modes including credit or debit cards, e-wallets like Paytm and new smart cards 'Autopay' which can be linked with bank accounts.

The new cards will automatically top up a customer's card

THE CHANGES

- Only cashless transactions
- No tokens, only smart cards
- Thermal screening at frisking points
- Those with flu symptoms to be barred
- Masks mandatory
- More focus on cleaning public toilets
- Parking, feeder services to stay suspended



upon swiping it at the fare collection gates, whenever the balance goes below Rs 100. The fresh recharge amount will be debited from the account linked with the card. Older smart cards can also be equipped with this feature.

According to the plan, train frequency will be less initially and scaled up based on demand. Alternate seats will have to be left vacant and a distance of one metre will have to be maintained between two persons standing.

The temperature inside the coaches will be between 24-28 degrees celsius and as far as possible, fresh air will be infused by keeping the doors open for extended periods at terminal stations. There are currently 285 stations under DMRC, which has a network measuring 389 km across Delhi and NCR cities such as Noida, Gurgaon and Faridabad.

"The duration of trains waiting at every station will be increased substantially so that passengers have sufficient time to board and alight. There will be announcements inside trains and stations for maintaining social distancing. Some stations may be skipped if sufficient pas-

sengers are not available or the train is already full," says the SOP.

It adds that the Aarogya Setu app and masks will be "necessary" before entering stations after thermal screening at frisking points — where sanitisers will be available — manned by CISF jawans. Not more than three passengers will be allowed inside lifts. They will be "advised" to stand on alternate steps of escalators.

Passengers with a temperature or showing symptoms of Covid will be barred from travelling. Bright stickers to maintain social distancing have already been pasted at points where passengers are expected to queue up such as frisking points, help desks, entry gates and lifts. To prevent violations, Metro will deploy additional staff at stations, including one senior officer for every two stations, and more workers for cleaning and disinfecting areas frequently touched.

On job portal, most vacancies for sales and marketing gigs

ON ROZGAR BAZAAR PORTAL

Around 30 lakh jobs posted so far

10.5 lakh Applicants | **8.10 lakh** Active jobs | **10 lakh** Vacancies closed



TOP SECTORS

BY JOB SEEKERS

■ Back office/data entry: **3.71 lakh**

■ Teaching: **1.54 lakh**

■ Customer support/tele caller: **1.50 lakh**

■ Accountant: **1.43 lakh**

■ Sales/marketing/business Development: **1.42 lakh**

BY EMPLOYERS

■ Sales/marketing: **20.44 lakh**

■ Back office/data entry: **4.55 lakh**

■ Customer support/tele caller: **2.38 lakh**

■ Domestic/corporate services: **1.68 lakh**

■ Accountant: **1.62 lakh**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

JOBS IN sales and marketing, and back office and data entry form the biggest chunk of over 30 lakh jobs that have been posted by different employers registered on the Delhi government's Rozgar Bazaar, data shows. Job seekers, meanwhile, are looking mostly for jobs in the back office and data entry sector, followed by teachers and customer support professionals.

The Delhi government started the portal late last month, after many lost jobs during the pandemic, to help connect job seekers to employers on one portal.

According to officials, over 30 lakh jobs have been posted on the portal so far, of which over 20 lakh have been for the sales and marketing profile, while 3.7 lakh people are looking for jobs as back office staff or data entry operators — the highest of all segments.

Over 10 lakh people from

across the country have registered on the portal so far.

Of the jobs posted on the portal since the beginning, officials said, close to 8.1 lakh are still active and around 10 lakh have been closed. Around 3.5 lakh were fake job offers.

"The jobs economy took a serious hit during the pandemic. Many people are jobless and on the other hand, many companies are also looking for employees they lost when they either shut down during the lockdown or because their employees left for home. The results have been encouraging," a government official said.

Officials said they were yet to calculate the total number of people who got jobs through the portal. "On the portal, we connect people with employers. They then take their discussions forward in their own capacity," said the official.

Of the applicants, 3.5 lakh are graduates, 1.5 lakh have post-graduate degrees and 70,000 are diploma holders.

Cornea donations at AIIMS hit by Covid, surgeries stalled

ASTHA SAXENA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

DUE TO Covid-19 cases and the lockdown restrictions, the National Eye Bank (NEB) at AIIMS did not collect a single cornea between April and June, leading to an increase in waiting period for patients in need of keratoplasty or cornea transplantation. As a result, around 400 fewer patients underwent surgery during the three months as compared to the previous year.

The data was shared by the NEB on Tuesday as experts spoke about the impact of Covid-19 on corneal transplantation and eye donations. In 2019, the NEB collected 203, 138 and 145 corneas in April, May and June respectively. Experts said the lockdown measures implemented have adversely impacted both corneal tissue collection and keratoplasty surgeries.

"This year, the eye banking sector has been one of the worst casualties of Covid-19. After the temporary halt in corneal tissue retrieval during the lockdown, we resumed corneal tissue collection via the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme (HCRP) from July 1 this year. However, the waiting

list of the patients awaiting keratoplasty surgery has further increased because of the pandemic," said Dr J S Titilay, head of Cornea Services at RP Centre and Chairman of the National Eye Bank (NEB).

Even tissue collection and keratoplasties saw a steep fall during the lockdown period. As a result, emergency keratoplasty in 15 patients was done with glycerin-preserved tissues.

Hundreds of patients requiring keratoplasty could not be operated upon, the doctors said. To meet the demand, the NEB has formed new guidelines for technicians, counselors and doctors. Education material was also distributed among the staff while explaining the importance of PPEs.

"The year 2020 should be remembered as the year when the people at the helm of affairs working at eye banks devised a game-changing strategy. The strategy should be developed in a way that the situation turns around in the next few years," said Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

However, with the easing of lockdown restrictions, the numbers are picking up, and 32 corneas were collected in the month of July.

Forest dept tells Metro: Need clearance for Hauz Rani work

SHIVAM PATEL

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

DELHI Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has been told its plan to construct at the Hauz Rani city forest in South Delhi under the Phase IV extension would require clearance under the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) 1980.

Deputy Conservator of Forest (South) Amit Anand said discussions were underway with DMRC for a project realignment so that construction activity at the forest can be prevented: "We told them the area comes under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and they would need clearance."

Responding to queries from *The Indian Express*, a DMRC spokesperson said they have not started any work at Hauz Rani city forest: "DCF advised DMRC to submit the application for Hauz Rani area under FCA a few days ago. The matter is being examined by DMRC; suitable measures will be taken in this regard."

DMRC has run into conflict with the forest department over

its Phase IV work, with officials claiming it does not have required permission to construct in forest areas. Officials also claimed DMRC has been continuing construction of the Janakpuri-RK Ashram corridor despite being told multiple times to stop over damage to trees.

On February 2, Deputy Conservator of Forests (West) SK Muan Guite had sent a letter to DMRC, restraining it from any construction activity on Najafgarh drain after a field inspection by forest staff found damage to some tree roots due to trenching near them. In another letter to a DMRC chief project manager on August 11, Guite had said, "...you are again directed not to carry out construction work on portion of road number 26 and Najafgarh Drain."

On August 14, Guite filed a complaint at Mianwali Nagar and Vikaspuri police stations in West Delhi against a DMRC chief project manager over violation of the FCA. Writing to the Chief Conservator of Forests on August 18, Guite said, "DMRC has clearly

disobeyed directions and refused to stop work on Road number 26. They also never stopped work on Najafgarh drain area..."

The DMRC spokesperson said, "DMRC had applied for tree cutting permission for the stretch between Krishna Park and Mukarba Chowk in April, 2018 (under Janakpuri-RK Ashram corridor)... The application was sent again in September, 2019. In this period, at least seven joint visits have taken place with forest officials regarding trees along the Metro alignment. However, tree cutting permission is still awaited."

DMRC also denied causing any damage to trees. "The issue of deemed forest has come in only recently in August; the same was never pointed out by the forest department in any of its visits. The location of the same is also not established through any authenticated record... (but) through Google Earth image... It may be outside the DMRC alignment as well. DMRC would be happy to cooperate if there is further clarity on this issue," the spokesperson said.

Assembly panel begins FB hearing, to summon officials

ARANYA SHANKAR

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE DELHI Legislative Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony Tuesday examined journalist author Paranjay Guha Thakurta and digital rights activist Nikhil Pahwa — called in as "expert witnesses" in the matter of Facebook's alleged "intentional and deliberate inaction" with regard to "inflammatory and hateful" content on its platform and their alleged nexus with the BJP.

Facebook officials will be called soon to depose before the committee, chairman of the committee Raghav Chadha said. He said the matter is being heard as he had received multiple complaints in this regard, particularly after a Wall Street Journal article dated August 14.

Both Thakurta and Pahwa put forward the view that Facebook was "not as agnostic and content neutral as it claims to be" and there was "some cir-



AAP MLA Raghav Chadha heads the panel

cumstantial evidence which does reflect collusion between Facebook and the present BJP government". They said an independent inquiry is required to probe its role in connection with the Delhi riots, and its alleged inaction on hateful posts.

"The committee under the chairmanship of Raghav Chadha, after carefully deliberating upon the deposition of the witnesses, decided that the Facebook officials concerned should be summoned to render explanation with regards to the allegations as well as the depositions," the Delhi government said in a statement.

"The committee believes

that this is a direct assault on Indian democracy as this alleged nexus might compromise on free and fair elections in the country. Hence, the committee will soon issue notices to top officials of Facebook with a view to examine them on record," it added.

In response to queries by *The Indian Express*, a Facebook India official sent a blog post by the managing director and vice-president Ajit Mohan. In it, he said, "Facebook is and always has been an open, transparent and non-partisan platform where people can express themselves freely."

"Over the last few days, we have been accused of bias in the way we enforce our policies. We take allegations of bias incredibly seriously, and want to make it clear that we denounce hate and bigotry in any form."

He also said Facebook had "removed and will continue to remove content posted by public figures in India when it violates our Community Standards".



At the Karol Bagh street market. *Tashi Tobgyal*

the coming days, we will create a proper management system so that more people are attracted to weekly markets. The area of Chandni Chowk has been revamped and more tourists will start visiting. We will develop a system for setting up weekly markets so that tourists from countries like US visit them."

Among the weekly markets to reopen Tuesday since March were at Gokalpuri and Dilshad

Garden. At the Gokalpuri market, vendors maintained a gap of 3 feet between each stall, wore masks and used hand sanitisers.

Arvind Kumar, licensing inspector from East MCD's enforcement department at the market Tuesday, said, "We have been going around each market to ensure vendors follow guidelines. We have marked stall spaces and customer boundary lines and circles with yellow paint."

Guidelines include maintain-

ing a few feet of distance between each stall, wearing masks, and allowing only two customers at a particular moment per stall. Kumar said, "We will impose a fine of Rs 500 if they do not follow the norms."

Most vendors who have opened stalls are now under debt. Manveer Singh (50), a vendor, said, "I have a large family to support and have debt worth Rs 1 lakh. We just need to earn, we will follow rules..."



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Women's Equality Day

An ode to women's struggle for an equal society

“Men, their rights, and nothing more; women, their rights, and nothing less” — Susan B Anthony

WOMEN are the life and blood of our society and yet they're often condemned to lead an undignified life — a life where every day is a struggle, from mental and physical stress, lack of proper balance between employment and family care, unfair treatment at the workplace, stressful life, to work place discrimination etc. Women across the globe have always been at the forefront to serve in whatever capacity it is required of them. However, it is thought provoking that how difficult it must have been then for women across the world to even assert for their basic human rights.

Though the voting rights for women in the US came in 1920, the struggle for equality in various aspects of life continued until over 50 years later, when on August 26, 1970, the National Organisation for Women (NOW) organised a nationwide 'strike for equality'. This famous strike was spearheaded by Betty Friedan, an American feminist writer and activist, to mark the 50th anniversary of the passing of the women's voting rights and to bring light on the inequalities regarding employment and education of women.

Over one lakh women from 90 cities across the US participated in the demonstrations and rallies. Following this event, Congresswoman Bella Abzug of New York introduced a resolution to designate August 26 as Women's Equality Day. On August 16, 1973, Congress approved H.J. Res. 52, which stated that August 26 would be designated as Women's Equality Day. Thereafter, every year on August 26, Women's Equality Day is celebrated with great fervour across the US and is signified by colour purple.

In India, Government of India (GoI) and NGOs are working fervently towards empowering women through education and providing them an opportunity to earn their livelihood on their own giving them a chance to own a dignified life



for themselves. In the recent past, GoI has launched many schemes and initiatives favouring the girl child. Of late, increasing domestic and international pressure to im-

prove the condition of women and gen-

IN INDIA, THE GOVERNMENT AND NGOS ARE WORKING TOWARDS EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION AND PROVIDING THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO EARN THEIR LIVELIHOOD

der issues has enhanced the ability of NGOs to widen their scope of work. There are NGOs working on forming a gender-just society by empowering young girls, educating the youth and lobbying with the state to create a safe city for women.

To facilitate this, they have initiated many programmes such as providing free education, scholarships, and capacity-building workshops for girl child to help them break out of their circle of poverty.

Some NGOs are focusing on creating cultures of equality and inclusion in organisations and systems to change deep-seated power structures of discrimination and social norms by supporting individuals and groups in systems. GoI and NGOs have launched many initiatives in transforming the lives of orphan girls through the power of education, believing education uncovers options for a brighter future. Many of these programmes are aimed at adaptive learning and skill development to provide quality education to girls. Today, many of these initiatives and programmes are aimed towards betterment of their social and professional life and take action to continue breaking down barriers.



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Pee Safe, a hygiene and wellness brand, announces Bengali actor Nusrat Jahan as its new face ahead of the festive season in East India

SRIJANA BAGARIA, co-founder, Pee Safe, said, "Actor and influencer Nusrat Jahan will be a great value add to Pee Safe and we are happy to have her on board as our brand ambassador. With her massive on-ground and digital presence, we are positive that we will be able to connect with every segment of the population, across the country. The COVID-19 pandemic is set to catapult India's personal hygiene market and we aim to improve access to hygiene and wellness in the country. With Nusrat, our messaging around the importance of women's hygiene will also find a stronger voice."

"It is our responsibility to provide a healthy and hygienic environment for the people of our country and with my association with Pee Safe, I aim to take this agenda a step further," Jahan added.


Recently, the company had roped in Jacqueline Fernandez as the brand ambassador for their Raho Safe range of products.



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6 GOVT & POLITICS



BIRTHDAY PLANS

A MEETING of general secretaries of the BJP on Tuesday decided to celebrate Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 70th birthday on September 17 with special programmes — blood donation camps, meetings, food distribution — at 70 different places. In fact, the meeting was all about birthday celebrations. The senior leaders discussed how to mark the birth anniversaries of Deen Dayal Upadhyay on September 25 and Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 while maintaining social distancing norms. PM Modi had suggested that the party come up with publications on its social and people-friendly activities during the pandemic in different languages on the birth anniversary of party ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay.

WRONG MOVE

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR of Central University of Jharkhand, Nanda Kumar Yadav, had the Education Ministry pretty upset over the last few days. Yadav, who completed his five-year term in the first week of August, had sought an extension until his successor was appointed by the government. With the Education Ministry not responding to his request, Yadav got his registrar to issue a notification on his extension. Miffed by this move, the Education Ministry is learned to have threatened him with action and asked him to resign. He resigned on Monday.

EYE ON CONDUCT

RAJYA SABHA informed its members on Tuesday that two officials of the secretariat have been authorised to receive complaints of ethical misconduct and violation of Code of Conduct. The decision comes 16 years after the Ethics Committee of the House formulated rules that a complaint could be addressed either to the committee or authorised officers, but no officers had been authorised until now. Constituted in 1997, the Ethics Committee is a self-regulatory mechanism of the Upper House for the moral and ethical conduct of members. It formulated a Code of Conduct in 1999. Only three complaints have so far been taken up from 2005, 2006 and 2016.

Hooch deaths: Punjab proposes death penalty for those found guilty

NAVJEEVANGOPAL
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 25

FACING FLAK over the the recent hooch tragedy which claimed 123 lives, the Punjab government is mulling death penalty for manufacturers and suppliers of spurious liquor in case anyone dies after consuming such liquor.

Highly placed sources told *The Indian Express* that the Excise and Taxation Department has moved a proposal to this effect for amendment in Section 61 of the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, which deals with offences and penalties, and add new clauses.

As per the proposal, if anyone suffers permanent disability due to consumption of spurious liquor, the accused should be given life imprisonment.

Excise and Taxation Department portfolios with Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh.

The section 61 of Punjab Excise Act, 1914 mandates upto



Punjab CM
Amarinder
Singh

three years in jail and Rs 10 lakh in fine for unlawful import, export, transport, manufacture and possession of any intoxicant. As per the proposal, it was learnt, the department has recommended to enhance the punishment from three years to five years and fine from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh.

A government functionary said the department has already moved a proposal. The proposal will be placed before the Cabinet for approval and subsequently presented in the Vidhan Sabha.

Punjab Police earlier this month added Section 302 (murder) of IPC in cases against all the kingpins in the hooch tragedy where several had died in Tarn Taran, Amritsar and Gurdaspur after consuming spurious liquor.

Scindia visits RSS founder's home: 'Inspiration on dedication to nation'

VIVEK DESHPANDE
NAGPUR, AUGUST 25

FORMER SENIOR Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia, who joined the BJP in March, visited the installations of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur on Tuesday. While RSS functionaries said they did not know of his programme, sources said Scindia visited the RSS headquarters in Mahal area and met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Scindia visited the residence of RSS founder K B Hedgewar. "This place definitely gives inspiration. Anybody from anywhere in the country can get inspiration here about dedication towards nation (*rashtra ke prati samarpan*)," he said.

Asked about the confusion over leadership in the Congress, he said, "That is their internal



Jyotiraditya Scindia

matter. It will not be proper to comment on it."

While nobody from the RSS confirmed his meeting with Bhagwat, sources said Scindia squeezed time to go to the headquarters without anybody noticing him and held a meeting with the chief.

"Actually, a vehicle was sent to the airport by the RSS and Scindia came straight to meet Bhagwat after he landed around 11 am and was with him for about an hour," sources said.

SHIFTS LIKELY FOR BOTH HOUSES

Monsoon session from Sept 14, BJP gets set to counter Oppn attack on China, pandemic

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

PARLIAMENT'S MONSOON session, delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will begin on September 14, sources have said. While the visible changes in conducting it could be the highlight of the monsoon session, the ruling BJP is likely to face Opposition attack on a range of issues from the pandemic to the LAC stand-off, the economic situation and unemployment.

Although the final picture on procedural changes is yet to emerge, sources said the session could be held in two shifts — a 10 am to 2 pm shift for one House and a 4 pm to 8 pm shift for the other. The government, it is learnt, has proposed that Question Hour could be dropped,

considering the truncated working hours. But sources added that the presiding officers would take a decision only after discussion with Opposition parties.

After exploring a number of possibilities including virtual and hybrid meetings for the monsoon session, the presiding officers of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha decided to conduct a fully physical session. According to the current plan, while members of the Lower House could be seated in the chamber of Lok Sabha, its galleries, the chamber of Rajya Sabha and its galleries, the elders could sit in both the chambers for the meetings. Sanitation will be done between the shifts.

According to BJP sources, the ruling party is preparing to counter the Opposition's possible attacks on the tension with China, the controversy over the PM



MPs to be spread across the chambers, galleries. *Archive*

CARES fund, issues of migrant labourers and unemployment and the economic situation apart from the government's handling of the pandemic. Members are also expected to push discussion on the flood situation and the controversy over a Wall Street Journal

report on Facebook.

However, lack of unity among the Opposition and the recent internal crisis in the Congress could weaken the Opposition's attack on the government, BJP leaders said. On the business side, the government will have to get the ordi-

nances it issued since the last session in March replaced by laws. The government has issued around 11 ordinances, including Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Ordinance; Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Ordinance; Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance; Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance; Farmers Produce Trade And Commerce (Promotion And Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020; Farmers (Empowerment And Protection) Agreement On Price Assurance And Farm Services Ordinance; Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance; Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance; Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance; Indian Medicine Central Council

(Amendment); and Taxation and Other Laws (Relaxation of Certain Provisions) Ordinance during this period.

Preparations have already begun in the Parliament building to ensure that pandemic protocols are followed. The Lok Sabha chamber — which has seating capacity for 545 members — will accommodate 168 MPs and every row will be separated by polycarbonate sheets to ensure distancing. The Rajya Sabha chamber is to accommodate 60 members. Others will be seated in visitors' galleries of both Houses.

For members seated in galleries and other chambers, large screens will be placed at various places and microphones provided for each member at their seats. Each intervention and statement would be relayed in both chambers and galleries.

China envoy: Galwan clashes unfortunate, now working to handle talks properly

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

MORE THAN two months after the Galwan clashes claimed lives of 20 Indian soldiers, and talks to resolve the stand-off along the LAC in a stalemate at present, China's ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, has described it as an "unfortunate incident", and a "brief moment from the perspective of history".

He also said that they are "working to handle it properly", referring to the multiple rounds of diplomatic and military-level talks.

Sun made these comments at the India-China Youth Forum, held on August 18. The transcript of his interaction was published by the Chinese embassy on Tuesday.

In the webinar, Sun said, "As two rising major neighbours, China and India should abandon the old mindset of drawing lines by ideology, and get rid of the old game of 'one's gain is another's loss' and 'zero-sum game'. Otherwise, you would be led astray and go down a wrong path."

"Not long ago, an unfortunate incident happened in the border areas that neither China nor India would like to see. Now we are working to handle it properly. It is a brief moment from the perspective of history."

Sun said that in order to achieve development goals, both countries need a "peaceful and favourable" external environment. "China and India, neighboring countries, should live in peace and avoid conflicts," he said.

On the economic ties, under stress following the Galwan clashes in mid-June, the Chinese envoy said, "I think the two big economies should attract each other like magnets, rather than [allow it to] forcefully separate them."

On a question on support to



China's ambassador to India
Sun Weidong: China and India should abandon the old mindset of drawing lines by ideology

Indians aspiring to learn Chinese language, Sun said a "strong team of Chinese teachers will help cultivate more Indian students who understand Chinese and love Chinese culture". Sun said, "In future, China's education sector will continue to provide support in this regard..." he said.

This comes at a time when the Confucius Institutes in India are under the scanner.

In the webinar, Sun said, "We need to respect our respective social systems. I believe that social system of every country is an independent choice made by its respective people, and no other country should interfere. China and India have different social systems and cultural traditions, but we all aim to embark on a development path that suits our own national conditions," he said.

He said "mutual respect and support" between China and India is the right path and serves the long-term interests of both nations. "Only by mutual respect and equal treatment can we continuously enhance mutual understanding and trust, avoid suspicion and misunderstanding, and realise the goal of 'Dragon-Elephant Tango'," Sun said.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

FIRST LOOK

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presents the first copy of his book, 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World', to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Tuesday. "Privileged to present the first copy of my book 'The India Way' to PM @narendramodi. Thank him for his inspiration and encouragement," he tweeted. *ANI*

With eye on Indo-Pacific, India, Vietnam to enhance cooperation

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

WITH AN eye on China, India and Vietnam on Tuesday agreed to enhance their bilateral cooperation in line with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific to achieve shared security, prosperity and growth for all in the region.

This was one of the key take-aways after the meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation co-chaired by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh through video-conference.

"Concluded the 17th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting. Thank Deputy PM and FM @PMBinhMinh for co-chairing. Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership keeps growing. Ensures peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific,"

Jaishankar tweeted.

"During the meeting, both sides reviewed the recent developments in India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discussed the future trajectory of their wide-ranging engagement. They agreed to add new momentum to the economic and defence engagement between the two countries and to explore closer cooperation in emerging areas such as civil nuclear energy, space, marine sciences and new technologies," a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs said on Tuesday.

They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest, especially in the context of the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.

Jaishankar underlined Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat for enhancing resilience through self-reliance and human-centric globalisation as the basis for India's economic revival, the MEA statement said. He invited Vietnam to take advantage of India's new eco-

nomical capacities and demands.

He also reaffirmed India's development and capacity building assistance to Vietnam through initiatives such as Quick Impact Projects (QIP), ITEC and e-ITEC initiatives, PhD fellowships, as well as projects in water resource management in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region, SDGs, digital connectivity and heritage conservation. As many as 12 QIPs for implementation in Vietnam have been approved by the Government of India, including seven QIPs in water resource management in Vietnam's Mekong Delta region and five QIPs related to construction of educational infrastructure in Vietnam. An MoU for "Cooperation between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi and Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi" and "MoU between National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi and Scientific Research Institute of Sea and Islands, Hanoi" were also signed.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Behind joint statement by J&K parties: 2 weeks of phone calls, many leaders kept out of loop

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 25

THE JOINT declaration by mainstream political parties that reiterated their commitment to fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status was an outcome of two weeks of deliberations over the telephone and a meeting running into several hours between National Conference president Farooq Abdullah, People's Conference chairman Sajad Lone and CPM leader M Y Tarigami.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, who is in detention at her residence under the Public Safety Act (PSA), was kept informed about the deliberations over the phone. Fearing a "sabotage" by the ad-

ministration, sources said, the deliberations were kept so "secret" that many senior leaders of the political parties were kept out of the loop.

The process, sources said, started immediately after the administration foiled an all-party meeting convened by Abdullah at his residence.

"He (Abdullah) personally called up several top leaders from other parties to discuss what happened over the last one year," a source told *The Indian Express*. "These conversations over the telephone lasted for almost two weeks."

The resolution was finally drafted on August 20, two days before it was officially released, sources said.

A source said that on August 20,



Resolution promised to stick to Gupkar resolution that was passed after a meeting at Farooq Abdullah's residence in Srinagar. *File*

Abdullah drove to the Srinagar residence of Hasnain Masoodi, the National Conference MP from Anantnag. Sajad Lone and Tarigami also reached there and the four

leaders discussed the situation "over the next several hours".

The resolution that promised to stick to the 'Gupkar Declaration' — a unanimous resolution that vowed to "defend identity, autonomy and special status of Jammu and Kashmir" — was passed by the mainstream parties after a meeting at Abdullah's Gupkar Road residence on August 4 — was drafted by Sajad Lone.

"It was during that meeting that Sajad sahib took pen and paper and drafted the resolution," a source said. "Masoodi sahib also made some additions to the draft."

Sources said that while Farooq Abdullah had taken the initiative, Sajad played an important role in shaping the resolution. "His role was very important. It was very difficult for him to stand up

against the government, especially as he is seen as a one-time ally of the BJP," a source said.

From Masoodi's residence, a call was made to PDP chief Mufti and she was informed about the resolution. "They told her (Mufti) that it was your initiative and we are now taking it to the next level," said the source, adding that Abdullah "also spoke to the state Congress chief".

The participants of the meeting also decided to chalk out a mechanism for future coordination between the mainstream parties, sources said.

"The participants asked Farooq sahib to stay firm because the unity depends on him," the source said, adding that the NC president told them that he has no "personal or party goals".

Minor fire in Kerala secretariat triggers political row

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 25

A MINOR fire that gutted files on a few racks at the General Administration (Political) Department in the state secretariat on Tuesday evening triggered a political row, with the Opposition Congress and BJP alleging that the incident was a deliberate bid to destroy evidence in the gold smuggling case.

While the state government said that ADGP Manoj Abraham will probe the incident, minister E P Jayarajan alleged the fire was the handiwork of the Opposition.

The fire broke out in a section of the secretariat housing the state protocol office, which has been under the scanner of the NIA and other central agencies probing the smuggling of gold through diplomatic cargo.

Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala met Governor Anif Mohammed Khan and sought his intervention. "The files were deliberately burned realising that the probe of the NIA and ED would expose shady dealings. One has to suspect the role of the CM's former principal secretary M Sivasankar in this fire," he said.

Soon after the fire, which was controlled immediately, the secretariat premises witnessed dramatic scenes. Chief Secretary Vishwas Mehta asked mediapersons to keep away. BJP state president K Surendran, who tried to enter the secretariat, was arrested and removed, and protesting workers of the Congress and BJP were dispersed by the police.

Senior CPI(M) leader and Industries Minister E P Jayarajan said, "Congress and BJP have planned to unleash violence at the secretariat. That the leaders have come with a mob shows that they had prior knowledge about the fire," he said.

The fire broke out in the area where the General Administration (Political) Department functions, and the protocol section — which deals with consulates of foreign countries, visits of VVIPs and foreign dignitaries — functions under this department. It is the protocol office that issues duty exemption certificates to the UAE Consulate in Thiruvananthapuram for consignments brought from the UAE to Kerala. Central investigating agencies had sought details from the protocol office about Higher Education Minister KT Jaleel's direct dealings with the UAE Consulate and import of religious texts from the UAE to Kerala while in the office of minister.

State Protocol Officer and Government Joint Secretary B Sunil Kumar said no files related to transactions with the UAE consulate had been lost in the fire.

"The fire broke out in a section that deals with bookings of guest houses under the tourism department," he said, adding that all documents related to gold smuggling case have been handed over to the central agencies.

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Near the site of a landslide triggered by heavy rain in Reasi district, Tuesday. *PTI*

J&K Landslide leaves 4 dead

Jammu: Three members of a family were among four killed in separate incidents of landslides following heavy rains in Reasi district, police said on Tuesday. Khalil Ahmad, his wife Raksana Begum and their relative Mohammad Aslam were killed after a landslide in upper reaches of Khour in Mahore area on Monday night, a police official said. He said the three had gone to the area for cattle grazing and had set up their shelter near the mouth of a natural cave. In another incident, a 40-year-old was killed in a landslide in Khandi Gali Dhok, police said. **PTI**

GUJARAT Fire in Jamnagar hospital

Rajkot: A fire broke out in the Intensive Coronary Care Unit (ICCU) of the GG Hospital in Jamnagar on Tuesday afternoon. "While all equipment and beds were gutted, nine patients undergoing treatment there were saved... Nobody has been injured in the incident," Dr Deepak Tiwari, Medical Superintendent of GG Hospital told *The Indian Express*. The incident comes a few weeks after eight patients were killed in a fire that broke out in a private facility in Ahmedabad where Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment. **ENS**

MADHYA PRADESH 2 held for porn OTT service

Indore: Two directors of a firm which aired obscene films through an OTT platform were arrested by Cyber Cell of the Madhya Pradesh police on Tuesday. The duo ran the over-the-top (OTT) platform (a video streaming service) with technical help from a Pakistani man, the police said. "Deepak Saini (30) and Keshav Singh (27) were... running this network from Gwalior," said SP Jitendra Singh. "They used to charge Rs 249 per month." **PTI**

Pulwama attackers wanted strike to spark India-Pak war: NIA chargesheet

JeM operatives thought war would help them push more terrorists into India, says agency

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

PAKISTANI JeM operatives who infiltrated into India and planned and executed the February 2019 Pulwama attack, which killed 40 CRPF personnel, wanted the strike to precipitate a war between India and Pakistan, according to the NIA.

The attackers believed that a war would throw the anti-infiltration grid of Indian forces out of gear and make it easy for them to push more terrorists into India, the agency has stated in its chargesheet filed in connection with the case.

Sources said the agency has attached evidence in the form of a discussion between various JeM operatives who had entered Kashmir in April 2018 and planned the attack.

"Various voice packets have been retrieved from the phones of slain accused such as Umer Farooq and Mohammed Kamran. They were discussing how the attack could precipitate a war between India and Pakistan and help them in infiltrating more terrorists," an NIA officer said.

Nephew of JeM chief Maulana Masood Azhar, Umer Farooq was the main planner of the Pulwama attack, according



(Left) The vehicle used in the attack and (above) the IEDs fitted to the car.

to NIA. He and four others had crossed over to India using a tunnel in Jammu's Samba sector, and NIA sources said he carried more than 10 kg RDX, later used in the Pulwama attack.

"The explosives used in the attack were brought in batches," an NIA officer said.

A source said before they entered India, Umer and the others were asked to plan and execute a big attack. "They chose Pulwama to launch an attack on CRPF convoy," the officer said. "After they made the initial plan, they were given directions from JeM bosses in Pakistan."

A senior NIA officer involved with the probe said the planners

did not even have to find a fidayeen for the attack. "Adil Ahmed Dar, who drove the bomb-laden car, had offered himself as a fidayeen much before the plan was finalised," the officer said.

According to this officer, Umer's cousin Usman Haider, who had entered India earlier, was killed in an encounter with security forces in October 2018. JeM chief Masood Azhar thereafter gave a rousing speech in Pakistan, calling for martyrdom from people in Kashmir.

"This really impacted Adil, who had by then left home – in Kakapora, Pulwama," the officer said. "He was hobnobbing with JeM operatives. After he heard

Azhar's speech he offered himself as a fidayeen."

Sources said NIA has found evidence that Farooq and his associates were received by Pulwama resident Ashaq Ahmed Nengroo, who was waiting for them near Bein river in Jammu, and transported them to Kashmir in his truck. The chargesheet, which has arraigned 19 accused, names local residents such as Shakir Bashir Magrey, Insha Jan, Peer Tariq Ahmad Shah and Bilal Ahmad Kuchey as providing logistics and harbouring the terrorists at their homes.

The chargesheet states: "From December 2018, Shakir

3 held for raping Kerala minor, cops search for other accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 25

A 14-YEAR-OLD girl was allegedly gangraped on several occasions between March and July by six migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh in Kerala's Ernakulam district. Three of the accused were arrested Tuesday while search is on to nab the others, believed to have left for UP.

"The accused developed an acquaintance with the girl and sexually abused her several times, starting in March. The victim was taken to several other places near Kochi and raped several times... Her detailed statement would be collected soon," said a police officer in Kochi.

A medical examination revealed that the girl, who is now in hospital, is in the second month of pregnancy, police said. The officer said the girl has been suffering from depression. "While being counselled by a psychiatrist, the girl revealed the trauma. The doctor, in turn, alerted the police leading to the arrest of three," he said.

The arrested were presented in court which remanded them in judicial custody. They have been booked under various sections of IPC and POCSO Act.



Among various problems, there was a general opinion that the mannequins served no real purpose. *File*

traffic", a traffic constable said. "After the Covid-19 outbreak and the onset of monsoon, the mannequins were taken off... In this weather, the clothes on the mannequins tend to get soiled on the streets. We may use them again," said a senior traffic officer.

Meanwhile, in view of the pandemic, Bengaluru traffic police have adopted a strategy of contactless policing, involving policemen using mobile phone cameras and traffic cameras to pick up violations and sending challans through an automated system instead of stopping people on the roads. "An amount of Rs 82 lakh has been collected in fines," Gowda said.

Bengaluru police rethink on use of mannequins as cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 25

UNTIL A fortnight ago, two mannequins dressed up like police constables stood guard at the entrance of the main building of the police commissionerate in Bengaluru. But over the past few days, real policemen have started manning the entrance.

After nearly a year-long experiment with substituting real policemen with mannequins, especially in the traffic department, Bengaluru police are gradually easing out mannequins from policing duties on account of various problems, including the general opinion that they serve no real purpose and weather-related problems in the monsoon season.

"We are having a rethink on the use of mannequins," said Additional Commissioner of Police for traffic in Bengaluru city B R Ravikanth Gowda.

The rethink also appears to be linked to a change of guard in the police commissionerate, with former commissioner Bhaskar Rao, who brought in the mannequins, being transferred on July 31 to be replaced by Kamal Pant.

The mannequins "are just dummies and in the end, a policeman still needs to control the

RAPE-MURDER OF 2ND DALIT GIRL IN DAYS IN LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Raped, her throat slit, teen's body found in east UP village

MAULSHREE SETH
LAKHIMPUR KHERI, AUGUST 25

NEARLY 22 hours after an 18-year-old left home — in eastern UP's Lakhimpur Kheri district — with Class IX marksheet, Aadhaar card and less than Rs 200 to fill an online scholarship form, her body was found in a dry pond in her village early Tuesday morning, hardly 500 metres from her home.

The victim's father and other villagers who saw the body said the teen's throat was slit with a sharp weapon, and part of her left leg was eaten away by animals. Her marksheet and mobile phone were lying nearby, they said.

Superintendent of Police Satyendra Kumar said post-mortem has confirmed rape, and the police have formed three teams to look for her killers.

The incident took place in a village dominated by Scheduled Caste families, with a population of about 2,000.

This is the second incident of rape and murder of a teenage Dalit girl in Lakhimpur Khiri district in less than a fortnight.

Sitting on the floor outside their un-plastered house, her parents, meanwhile, have only one demand: "Nyay chahiye (we



The spot where the body of the girl was found. *Maulshree Seth*

want justice)."

Her father said, "*Meri ladki nahi, ladka thi. Agar kisi ne koshish bhi ki hogi toh khub ladi hogi marne se pehle* (She was like my son – even if someone tried to molest her, she would have fought with all her might before being killed in this manner)."

He added, "She was so courageous that it never occurred to me to accompany her. If only I had gone with her, she would have been saved..."

The victim's mother said the teen had left home at around 8.30 am on Monday, "She made tea for everyone, cooked meal and served us before leaving. I do not even know what she ate last...", she said.

Terror funding case: ED chargesheets Syed Salahuddin, 11 other Hizb members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate on Tuesday filed a charge sheet before a Delhi court against Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin and 11 others for allegedly laundering money for financing terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The agency said the charge sheet is also related to blasts carried out by the terror group in Jammu and Kashmir in 2011 in alleged connivance with the Pakistani government and ISI.

The prosecution complaint, the ED's equivalent to a charge sheet, has urged the court for confiscating attached assets totalling to Rs 1.22 crore in the case, besides other punishment under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The case is likely to be taken up by the court soon.

The agency said it took over the probe into the case after taking cognizance of a 2011 FIR of the NIA in which Mohammad Shafi Shah and his associates were alleged to be involved in execution of blasts in Jammu and Kashmir and a huge quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives were recovered from them.

The ED said its investigation



Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin

found "that Hizbul Mujahideen – the most active terror outfit in Kashmir, has been responsible for funding terrorist and secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir headed by Syed Salahuddin—its self-styled commander based out of Rawalpindi in Pakistan".

"The funding of terrorism activities on Indian soil had been organised by a trust called JKART (Jammu & Kashmir Affectedes Relief Trust) which was operating in connivance with the government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the ISI," the ED said.

The probe also found that the "funds were further distributed through hawala, human carriers and banking channels to the next of kin of active as well as dead Hizbul Mujahideen terrorists", the agency said.

Prayagraj woman arrested for offensive video on Hindu deities

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 25

A 28-YEAR-OLD woman was arrested in Prayagraj on Tuesday for allegedly uploading a nearly 4-minute video on YouTube containing abusive and objectionable words about Hindu deities. She was identified as Heer Khan.

Circle Officer Amit Kumar Srivastava said the police took suo motu cognisance of the video. "She was arrested on Tuesday," he added.

In a statement, Prayagraj SSP Abhishek Dixit said, "A video was viral on social media where a woman is using extremely vulgar and objectionable language for Hindu gods and goddesses...I would like to warn all anti-social elements that if anyone hurts the feelings of a religious community or will try to create a divide between two communities will face the strictest of action."

The case has been filed against her under IPC sections 153-A (promoting enmity), and 505 (statements conducing to public mischief), and Section 66 of the IT Act.

Block council member shot in Azamgarh clash, 2 arrested

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 25

A 35-YEAR-OLD Block Development Council (BDC) member from Mirzapur in Azamgarh was shot after an argument triggered a clash between two groups at Nawada village on Monday night. Two men — Sanjay Singh and his cousin Manoj Singh — have been arrested and are from two neighbouring villages of Badaria and Bakhiya. Police have booked eight people on murder charge and are conducting raids to trace the rest.

The victim, Surendra Yadav, was killed when he was returning home. He was declared brought dead at a hospital.

Irrked over the death, villagers torched three bikes. Protesters were reined in after a police team pacified them and promised the arrest of the accused at the earliest. No separate FIR was filed for damage to the bikes, said police.

DIG Azamgarh Range Subhash Chandra Dubey said the National Security Act (NSA) and UP Gangster Act may be invoked against the accused.

IAF VETERANS, FORMER COLLEAGUE HAVE VOICED CONCERNS OVER 'MISREPRESENTATION' OF LIFE IN THE FORCE

As IAF objects, Gunjan Saxena hopes can inspire others

SURBHI GUPTA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

IT BEGAN with a visit to the cockpit of a plane when she was a child. "The view was mesmerising and I knew in that moment that I belonged to the sky. My father, an Army officer, gave wings to that dream, encouraging me at every step."

Flt Lt Gunjan Saxena would go on to become one of the early women officers to be inducted in the IAF, commissioned as a transport and helicopter pilot — and one of the two women officers on the frontlines of the Kargil War in 1999.

Today, her life and journey is at the heart of "*Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*", which was released on Netflix two Fridays ago. It's also the subject of an autobiography, *The Kargil Girl*, co-written with Nirvan Singh and Kirandeep Singh, and published by Penguin Random House last

week. "Her story is inspirational and our aim was to celebrate her achievements as a pathbreaker," says Nirvan.

It was in 1991 that the Indian Armed Forces opened up for the first time to women, who could serve as short-service commissioned officers. Earlier, women could only serve in the medical branch of the three services. Five years later, Saxena and her coursemate Flt Lt Sreevidya Rajan were posted in Udhampur.

The film, produced by Dharma Productions, Zee Studios, Essel Vision Productions, brings to the fore Saxena's achievement and her role in casualty evacuation, transportation of supplies and assisting in surveillance during the Kargil War. However, just a few days after its release, the movie hit turbulence. The IAF wrote to the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) objecting to the portrayal of its work culture, while veterans and a former col-



A photo of Saxena, one of two women officers on frontlines in Kargil War, at a training camp, from her autobiography

league voiced concerns over alleged "misrepresentation" of life in the force.

"The broad objection is to the portrayal of gender bias as institutional work culture by the Indian Air Force, which is grossly incorrect," an IAF spokesperson said. He added

that the script and the film were shown to the IAF before the release, and it had put forth its observations and asked the producers to make alterations. "Since it was released without those changes, we had to write a formal letter," he said.

The CBFC and Dharma

Productions did not respond to requests for comment. But a disclaimer at the beginning of the film, directed by Sharan Sharma, states that while it is inspired by Saxena's extraordinary achievement, it has taken "creative liberties and dramatised the events for cinematic expressions".

Essayed by actor Janhvi Kapoor, the film shows Saxena as the first and sole female officer to be posted at the Udhampur Air Force Station, where she is not given equal opportunities. When she questions the decision to remove her from leading a team briefing, she is asked to arm wrestle with a male colleague and is told that women are unsuitable for the demands of the IAF.

Saxena, now 45, says, "It would be unfair to generalise everything. No two individuals were the same. But after some time in the Unit, I was able to mix well with other male officers... It will not be fair to name any individuals. But since no bias was at

institutional level, it did not hamper my professional growth in any way."

In an earlier blog on *NDTV*, Saxena wrote: "To deny it completely speaks of a feudal mindset and undermines the grit of women officers."

Rajan, the other woman officer, agrees that easing-in took some time. "But we never faced any humiliating physical strength demonstrations as shown in the film. We were received with the usual preconceived notions from a few colleagues. However, there were enough officers who supported us," she says.

Rajan has also taken exception to the claim in the autobiography that Saxena was the "first woman Air Force officer who went to war".

Wg Cdr Anupama Joshi, who was a part of the first batch of women officers to be inducted into the IAF in 1993 and who was consulted by the makers of this film, says "the initial struggle

was more of dealing with loneliness of being the first, and not of gender bias."

In 2010, Joshi, along with Sqn Ldr Rukhsana Parveen Haque, won a case against the IAF in the Delhi High Court, leading to a reversal of the decision to not grant permanent commission to women officers.

Saxena's stint with the IAF ended in 2004, and she is now a homemaker, living in Varanasi with her daughter and her husband, who is with the Air Force.

Today, all the controversy aside, Saxena hopes the film will achieve what it set out to do. "I think the intention of the filmmakers was to inspire people to dream and chase their dreams. One must always believe in their dreams and work hard to achieve them, despite all odds... In the armed forces, nothing is a walk in the park. I had my share of struggles, like others have had theirs, and those hardships have made me what I am today," she says.

Rights panel takes cognizance, seeks report from officials

THE ODISHA Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has taken suo motu cognizance of 40 Dalit families facing social boycott from upper caste villagers in Kantio Kateni village of Dhenkanal district and sought a report in the matter from the authorities by September 15.

"In this background while taking cognizance of the matter suo motu, we have no alternative than to caution the authorities to take effective steps against the persons that the situation is limping to normalcy. But it will take a while to bury all issues and move ahead. For now, it is important that we are deprived of our rights."

Jyoti Naik, a member of the Dalit community, said, "It is true that the situation is limping towards normalcy. But it will take a while to bury all issues and move ahead. For now, it is important that we are deprived of our rights."

**Jagdish
Chaudhary**

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Chaudhary's death was a great loss to society. "In his entire life, he worked for the social harmony. May God give peace to his soul...." PM Modi tweeted.

INDIAN RAILWAY
INTRODUCTION OF 25 KV AC TRACTION
"WARNING TO ROAD USERS"

It is notified for information of the Public that in connection with introduction of 25 KV AC electric traction over the section "Energisation of 25 KV, Single phase AC newly electrified UP Main line from Deoband yard location number 146/19 B (Ch: 146/918.00) to Tapri yard location number 175/27 (Ch: 175/173.50) including Talheri Buzurg and Nagal yard, modification in existing lines, associated turnouts & X-overs on Up and DN Main line, Energisation of Auxiliary Transformers from Deoband to Tapri, Upgradation of existing SSP at Deoband and Nagal & existing FP at Tapri along with feeder lines" of the Northern Railway. Height gauges have been erected at all the level crossings with clear height between 4.76 m. & 4.78 m and contract wire shall be at a height of minimum 5.5 m above road level with a view to prevent loads of excessive height from coming into contact or dangerous proximity to live traction wire.

Public are hereby notified to observe the height specified above for the purpose of loading vehicles and to see that the load carried in road vehicle do not infringe the height gauges under any circumstances.

The dangers of a load of excessive height are as follows:-

(i) Danger to the height gauge and consequent obstruction to the road as well as the railway line. (ii) Danger to the materials or equipment carried or the vehicle itself. (iii) Danger of fire and risk of life due to contact with or dangerous proximity to the conductors.

No. 14-Elect./Const/WK/DLI/1263 Date: 22.08.2020

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

'Pancake' collapse caused rescue delay

‘There is less scope to find survivors in such a collapse since re-

Officials said that the work becomes even more tedious as rescuers have to undertake rescue missions manually despite the presence of hi-tech machinery. This is done to limit aggravating the injuries of those trapped.



All the six arrested were produced before a local court on Tuesday, which sent them to judicial custody. Minister Yogi Adityanath announced an ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakh to the family of the deceased.

The image is a scanned document of a tender notice. At the top left is the Government of Tamil Nadu emblem. The text is centered and reads: 'GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU', 'HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT', 'VILLUPURAM (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE', 'TENDER NOTICE', and 'TENDER NOTICE NO.26 /2020-21 / HDO. DATED:24.08.2020'. Below this, it states: 'For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 15.09.2020 - 13.30 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Villupuram Circle for CRIDP 2020-21 Works, (Package No.57 and 58) pertaining to Villupuram (H) (C&M) Division.' The next paragraph says: 'Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 28.08.2020 onwards in the Government website https://tntenders.gov.in. If any Changes/Corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.' The signature block at the bottom reads: 'Superintending Engineer (H), C&M Circle, Villupuram'. At the very bottom, in a smaller font, is 'DIPR/3173/TENDER/2020'.



PARIQUE GARDENS, which collapsed in Mahad on Monday evening, was constructed only seven years ago. The residents, however, said that structural problems in the building had cropped up soon after they started moving into their new houses. "It was mere three years since the completion of construction that the building started developing cracks," said Tauha Chichkar, who used to reside on the fifth floor for the last four years. Chichkar and his family of four

Kazi, consultant Bahubali Dhamne, architect Gaurav Shah, former Mahad Municipal Council chief Dipak Jhisand and Shashikant Dighe, junior con-

State Minister for Urban Development Eknath Shinde said, "we will not spare anyone. Information is being gathered on whether a structural audit of this building was conducted."

The lioness was rescued from the wild early this month. *File*

"Generally, Asiatic lions live for 12 to 15 years in wild as once they grow old, they can't hunt and also find it difficult to recover from injuries. This lioness living for so long and giving birth at 17 is something unique," he said. Rupapara said that the lioness was radio-collared by scientists of the

A DELHI court Tuesday dismissed the bail application of former Fortis Healthcare promoter Malvinder Mohan Singh in a money laundering case related to alleged misappropriation of funds at Religare Finvest Ltd (RFL).
Additional Sessions Judge Sandeep

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Arun Kumar Gupta, S/o: Lt. Jai Kishan Gupta, R/o: H.No. 1479, Purjaji Mohalla, Ghanta Ghar, Subzi Mandi, Delhi, Aged: 63 years, has been missing from the area of PS Subzi Mandi, Delhi since 04.05.2019 vide DD No. 36A, Dated 05.05.2019, has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:

Height: 6' Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Build: Thin, Clothing: Cream Colour Lining Shirt, Black Colour Pant and Chappal in his foot.

Any person is having any information/due about this missing person, may inform SHO, Subzi Mandi, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

**S.H.O.
P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi
Ph. Ph.: 011-23823161**

DP/486/N/2020.

"In 2009, the police in Barmer had confiscated around 15 kg RDX, along with other weapons and explosives, smuggled from across the border in Pakistan, which were to be used for terror attacks in India. The court of Special Judge Vamita Singh, SC/ST/SC Cases, convicted 10 people today and sentenced them to life imprisonment of 14 years," said Special Public Prosecutor Kamal Khan, Jagmohan Singh, one of the 10 convicted, is a member of Babbar Khalsa International and had come to Rajasthan to take delivery of the smuggled explosives and weapons; said the judgment.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

The EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THOSE WHO KNOW, DO. THOSE THAT
UNDERSTAND, TEACH.
— ARISTOTLE

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

IT TAKES TWO

Amid economic distress, farm sector provides hope. But broad-based recovery will need urban economic activity to step up too

OVER THE PAST month or so, leading economic indicators have pointed towards a two-paced recovery. Sales of tractors and two-wheelers, proxies of rural demand, appear to have rebounded strongly, indicating that the pickup in rural areas has been swifter than in the urban centres which have borne the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic. In large part, this optimism over the relatively stronger rural recovery stems from the healthy performance of the agricultural sector which was excluded from the lockdown restrictions. As per CARE Ratings, the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is likely to grow by 3.5 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year. This, as reported in this paper, implies that for the first time since quarterly estimates of growth have been published, the farm sector is likely to register positive growth even as the rest of the economy (barring the government sector) contracts. The last time the economy had contracted was in 1979-80 by 5.2 per cent, but that year, agricultural GDP had also registered a contraction.

The strong performance of the farm sector has been on the back of a good rabi harvest — the Agriculture Ministry has pegged the output of wheat, chana and other rabi crops at 151.72 million tonnes, up 5.6 per cent from last year. Further, a favourable monsoon season — rains were 7 per cent above the long-term average as on August 21 — also bodes well for agriculture. Total area under kharif coverage was up 9 per cent as compared to the previous year. Higher food inflation in some commodities may also lead to greater realisations for farmers. This rise in agricultural activity, coupled with higher allocations to the MGNREGA (total outlay under the scheme has risen to a record high of Rs 1 lakh crore this year) also appears to have led to a sharp drop in rural unemployment during this period, as observed in the CMIE data. However, healthy growth of the farm sector, even if it continues, is unlikely to offset the economic losses suffered by other parts of the economy. The declining share of agriculture in rural household incomes — sectors like construction now account for a sizeable portion — implies that prospects of a broad-based rural recovery remain uncertain. As the Reserve Bank of India noted in its annual report, fuller recovery in rural areas is being “held back by muted wage growth which is still hostage to migrant crisis and associated employment losses.”

As rural households depend on sectors like construction, manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade to a greater extent than before, how these activities shape up will determine the pace of revival of the broader rural economy. This in turn depends on the trajectory of the pandemic and is a consequence of how economic activities shape up in urban areas. It is possible that heightened risk aversion, self imposed restrictions, and localised lockdowns continue to be a drag on activities in urban areas, impinging upon rural GDP economic activity as well.

TEACHER’S DAY & NIGHT

Many teachers are using disruption of pandemic to come up with solutions adapted to their environments, local needs

THE PANDEMIC HAS forced schooling to move online, but the burden of digital inequality has fallen on the great majority of children who do not have access to smartphones, let alone laptops, or the internet. But is there no alternative to virtual classrooms? Several creative teacher-led initiatives on the ground, reported in this newspaper, demonstrate that it is not just desirable but also possible for governments and communities to design solutions that take the last child along.

In Karnataka, for instance, the vatara shaale model of community schooling — using open community spaces like temples, courtyards and prayer halls to teach children in small groups, with social distancing norms in place — began when a group of government school teachers sought to create a pandemic classroom that was inclusive. Like in many other states, only about 30 per cent of children in the state have digital access. Spliced for other factors like caste and gender, it throws up a grim picture — as well as the possibility that children, especially in the more impoverished parts, would be sucked into wage labour or child marriage. Similarly, in Sikkim, a maths teacher’s concern for the students of her village led her to visit them at their home for short lessons that ensure they do not fall off the learning grid. The local administration of a village in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, has allowed teachers to broadcast English lessons through loudspeakers. Both the Sikkim and Karnataka state governments have responded by absorbing elements of these innovations in new learning programmes devised to adapt to the COVID-19 challenge.

Few they might be, but these examples are a glimmer of hope in an education system that stifles creativity in both teachers and students. They also show up the generalisation of the commitment-less, undertrained government school teacher as a lazy stereotype. The fact is that schools and teachers exist in a continuum with local communities, and are more responsive to their needs than they are given credit for. Many teachers used the disruption of the pandemic to come up with solutions that adapted to their environments and local needs — and placed the concerns of children who might be left behind at the centre, without being told to by government circulars. Some used the unavailability of textbooks and blackboards to set aside the pressure of rote learning for a more inclusive pedagogy. The crisis of the pandemic must be used, therefore, not to ram through the chimera of futuristic tech-savvy education. It must be used to empower the public school teacher with genuine autonomy and support, like Karnataka and Sikkim have shown.

ONLY ACTORS

Berlinalle’s decision not to have separate awards for male and female actors is enormously welcome

THERE IS A cliché that segregationists across cultures have employed as a defence — “separate but equal”. The logic behind this dictum is simple: A class that is historically, socially and economically discriminated against is given its own, special slot, which both overtly and tacitly endorses it as being less than the mainstream. For some years now, this logic has been challenged across industries when it comes to gender. In cinema, both male and female thespians are referred to as “actors” and yet, awards that recognise their work continue to have different categories — best actor and best actress. The decision by the organisers of the Berlin Film Festival to no longer have separate awards for male and female actors is enormously welcome.

A defence for the separate categories to honour actors has been that given that there are more substantial parts for men in films across the board, fewer women are likely to be awarded. This amounts to pandering to a system of inequality rather than attempting to address it systemically. Imagine if the response to #Oscarssowhite — a hashtag and movement that called out the Academy Awards for their lack of racial diversity — had been to institute a different category for non-White film-makers.

In fact, few other honours and awards for intellectual and artistic pursuits are segregated along gender lines. Both Arundhati Roy and Salman Rushdie have received the Booker Prize — hers was not for a “woman writer”. The Pulitzer prize is gender neutral, as are most scholarships and grants. In mainstream cinema, greater recognition and even pay scales for male actors have been justified by the fact that they draw bigger audiences. But an award is not a recognition of commercial viability. Now that Berlinalle, the largest film festival in the world, has decided that the judgements about acting and film-making should not be gender-hyphenated, hopefully others will follow suit.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

POLITICAL SCIENTIST NEELANJAN Sircar, in an important paper, “The Politics of Vishwas” (*Contemporary South Asia*, Volume 20, Number 2), argued based on data that Indian politics had decisively moved to a “politics of vishwas”. Voters prefer to centralise power in a charismatic strong leader and they have faith that whatever the leader does is good. This model is in contrast to the usual models of politics, where leaders are held accountable on performance or because they serve a coalition of interests.

Sircar offers two broad explanations underlying this phenomenon. The faith in the leader is not merely a materially instrumental faith; it represents an underlying shift in the ideological preference for a Hindu nation, an entity that is untied and rises above the messy negotiations with difference. Faith in a leader is deeply facilitated by nationalism: The leader as the simplified embodiment of unity, will and purpose. Behind this phenomenon of producing vishwas is an extraordinary machinery of communication, which literally deploys as many elements in a communicative tool kit as there are feathers in a dancing peacock: From the semiotic command of images to a saturation with messages; from good-old-fashioned hard-working party outreach to literal control of the media.

Three predictions follow from this shift in the underlying model of politics. The first is an immunity to any accountability: You can preside over poor economic performance, suffer a military setback, inflict suffering through failed schemes like demonetisation, and yet the trust does not decline. In fact, it thrives on a certain nonchalance about actual performance. In the face of vishwas, it is impossible to point out that India is in the midst of what historians used to describe as a military-fiscal crisis — both in a fiscal and a military corner. The point about vishwas is that fact, performance and interests are all petty. The second prediction is that this politics requires the continual feeding of ethnonationalism, moving from one issue or one enemy to the other. And three, it points to the fact that vishwas is not just a political artefact — it has to be continually sustained by a saturation of the mindscape and control of media.



SATINDER K LAMBAH

THE POSTHUMOUS NISHAN-I-IMTIAZ for Sadequain and Ahmad Faraz revived my memories of these legends, who I got to know during my two postings in Pakistan. Sadequain (1930-1987), born in Amroha, is considered one of Pakistan’s most famous painters and calligraphers. In a recent article commemorating his 90th birth anniversary, Raza Naeem wrote that Sadequain is among the four gifted names in the field of art and culture in Pakistan.

I met Sadequain, shortly after my arrival in Islamabad in 1978 on my first posting to Pakistan, at the house of a common friend, Naeem Jaan. My initial introduction to his art was through the boldly exhibited paintings of four nude nymphs depicting the seasons, on the glass panels of Naeem Jaan’s living room doors. This attracted more attention because of the strategically-placed two broad black stripes across the body of each figure. These stripes were the contribution of the lady of the house, who felt that with three growing daughters there was a need to maintain an element of decorum. Our friendship grew over the next four years of my tenure.

On one occasion he sought my help for his visit to India, where he was taking part in an exhibition. His request was three-fold: A meeting with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Indian government should pay for his

Politics of belief is different from one based on fact and interest. It has an underlying cultural nihilism

But what is it that enables this politics of vishwas to function? Do we need a deeper cultural excavation? Propaganda plays a huge part, but that is not the entire story. It is a feature of societies run entirely by propaganda that through coercion they produce compliance, but the underlying cynicism in society is also apparent. The bhakti is genuine. Another explanation might be: There is no other alternative to Modi. Given the state of opposition parties, we acquire an investment in keeping faith alive. We need someone to believe in after all. There is a lot to this explanation. But it also does not seem entirely satisfying. For one thing, there can be a reverse cause and effect here. The Opposition is spectacularly inept. But it appears more hopeless than it is because no matter what it does, what facts it marshalls, what incompetence or corruption the government displays, the Leader’s image seems immune. The deeper neuroses of the Opposition could be an effect, not just a cause of the fact that politics is at a dead end.

But more importantly, disenchantment with the government can deeply express itself even in the absence of alternatives. It may not politically manifest itself in a national alternative but historically, disenchantment can signal a retreat to other forms of local resistance, often mediated through caste, region, or even class groups. One striking thing about this moment is not just a shift to Hindu nationalism. It is also that the conventional social bases of mobilisation have dissipated. The logic of caste mobilisation now is not the logic of agglomeration, building bigger coalition blocks; it is the logic of fragmentation, subdivision and internal differentiation. So long as the central government does not do anything to provoke a confrontation on regional lines, the politics of regionalism can be domesticated. And class, agrarian or labour, has not been, for a variety of reasons, the source of political resistance for a while.

In short, the challenge is not just mobilising an alternative at the national level, it is also that politics has become too individualised even for local mobilisations to be powerful. The social basis of resistance, and translating discontent into political opposition has diminished in power, and will have to be cre-

ated politically. But with no obvious social base to latch on to, the politics of mobilisation becomes difficult.

So there is a disquieting possibility: Politics has, to a greater extent than before, become autonomous from economic or pre-existing social conjunctures. It operates in the realm of the imagination, and the rules and protocols of politics in this realm are different from the politics of fact and interest. There is an underlying cultural nihilism that makes this politics of fantasy possible. Contrary to the rhetoric of the leader, a politics of vishwas is a sign of deep psychological pessimism. For vishwas is necessary only when you have lost complete confidence in your own ability to make, remake the economic and political world.

The elites, including India’s most powerful, are latching onto this vishwas because it disguises their own failures. They are not putting up with Hindutva for growth, sacrificing constitutional liberties for economic transformation. They are putting up with it because they have been exposed as being a mediocre and corrupt bourgeoisie, whose own internal failures mean that India is not on a pathway to being a high performer.

Ironically, when there is a lot of political and economic criticism of a government, it displays a greater optimism. The criticism is in the name of wanting to do better. When there is no performance accountability but just vishwas, it is a pessimistic admission that we are believing for the sake of believing.

But, perhaps, there is an aesthetic allure. After all, the virtue of our current politics of vishwas is that it is not tied to any moral ideals. This is a vishwas that can encourage a politics of disinhibition. All our resentments, grudges, rancour, prejudices, the thrill of combat can be given free rein. We also participate, not in making the world, but in the construction of the leader’s image. And so, as Adorno has noted in another context, the “leader’s image gratifies the two-fold wish to submit to authority and be authority”. The greatest allure of vishwas is that you maintain it by simply believing. You don’t actually have to do anything else. It is truly liberating.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

PAINTER AND THE POET

Pakistan’s Sadequain and Ahmad Faraz favoured closer ties with India

train fare from Delhi to Amroha, and that the PWD Guest House should be reserved for him although he would not stay there. The air ticket for his international travel between Delhi and Islamabad would be taken care of by himself. Each request stemmed from his childhood memories. By being booked in the PWD Guesthouse, where as a child he was prevented from playing as he was told only important people lived there, he wanted to exhibit to the people of his birthplace, relatives and friends, his new standing. On return, he thanked me for fulfilling all his wishes but added he had a major regret. He had been invited for an early morning meeting by PM Indira Gandhi, but as no photographer was present at that hour, a photograph with the PM could not be taken.

Sadequain, a frequent visitor to our house in Islamabad, made a portrait of my wife, which has since travelled with us to all our postings. I was told by an art critic that Sadequain had made very few portraits. Sadequain was, at times, referred to as the M F Hussain of Pakistan. On a visit to Karachi, when told of this, Hussain responded he would like to be called Sadequain of India. Sadequain told me this was the best compliment paid to him.

Ahmad Faraz (1931-2008), amongst the most famous Urdu poets of Pakistan, was a fierce critic of military and authoritarian rule.

He was jailed and exiled on different occasions. Mahinder Singh Bedi Sahar, the Indian Urdu poet, was a common link between us. During my first tenure in Pakistan, Bedi made several visits to attend literary events. According to Faraz, Bedi treated him like a son. During our discussions, the idea to publish a book on the selected works of Mahinder Singh Bedi emerged. After Benazir Bhutto came to power, Faraz was appointed chairman of the Government Publishing House. In my foreword to the book, it was mentioned that this book was only possible due to his determined efforts.

My last meeting with Ahmad Faraz was at my farewell reception. He remained till the end and recited some of his Urdu couplets to the delighted guests. One of these, which he composed on the spot, mentioned that I was born a decade after him, but the cities of our birth,

Kohat and Peshawar, were only 50 miles apart.

Determined and strong-willed with clear cut likes and dislikes, Sadequain and Ahmad Faraz took pride in their artistic achievements. Both were in favour of increased contacts with India in the field of art and culture.

The writer was High Commissioner of India to Pakistan (1992-1995) and Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of India (2005-2014)

AUGUST 26, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

OPTIMISM ON ASSAM

A NEW INITIATIVE to break the impasse on the Assam issue will be taken by Union Home Minister Zail Singh in the next three or four days. The fresh move to restart the deadlocked negotiation will be made both at the political and administrative levels, sources in the Congress said. This has emerged after the Home Minister’s meetings with Manipur Chief Minister R K Dorendra Singh and Congress I functionaries of Assam in the past few days. Sources said Dorendra Singh met Zail Singh again today who requested him to be in command in handling talks with the agitators.

STATUS QUO ON SINDRI

THE SUPREME COURT today ordered that the property of the Sindri Fertiliser Factory should not be dismantled or disposed of and status quo should be maintained. This followed a writ petition filed by the employees of the factory who alleged that the whole public sector unit worth Rs 51 crore had been sold this year to a Calcutta scrap dealer for Rs 4 crore.

SETHI OBJECTS

THE UNION HOUSING Ministry P C Sethi has taken a strong exception to written replies by the Madhya Pradesh Chief

Minister Arjun Singh in the Vidhan Sabha in regard to the alleged “indiscriminate” use of a state plane and a helicopter during the President’s Rule in the state. He has explained the circumstances in which he used the state plane and helicopter and said he was pained to see that the full facts were not brought before the Vidhan Sabha.

EXTREMISTS REPULLED

BANGLADESH RIFLES PUSHED back to Tripura area a gang of about 12 Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti extremists who had crossed into Bangladesh in “search of arms”, according to an official source.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Their Kamala, not ours

A majoritarian democracy could not have produced a Kamala Harris



NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

THE NOMINATION OF Kamala Harris for vice-president on the Democratic ticket in the US presidential elections has sent India into raptures. Indians, Tamils, Tamil Brahmins, even AIADMK party men, have gone wild with joy. In their book, she has won already. Chitthis of the world are ecstatic at being under the spotlight. Soon, even the Beasant Nagar A-block Residents Welfare Association may pass a resolution that all ex-residents of this south Chennai neighbourhood, now in the US, must stand with her.

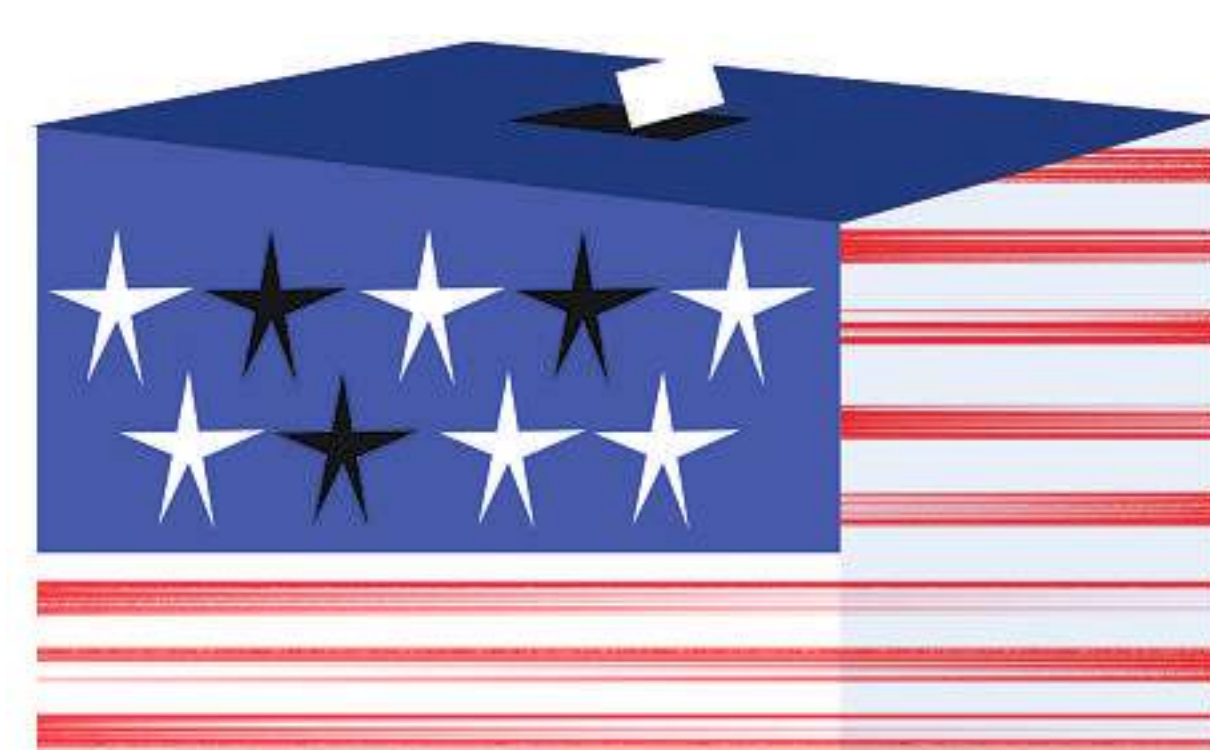
The predominant sentiment is of pride in “our girl”. Even the strategic community believes she is going to be “good for India”, for H1B visas, for trade, and generally for India-US relations, never mind that the elections are still ahead. As for Joe Biden, the presidential candidate, he is a footnote in all the debate about Harris and her Indian family.

What will certainly not be discussed at all, or as much, are the home truths about India that Senator Harris’s nomination and her extraordinary journey serve to highlight. For one, a majoritarian democracy like the one India has become in the 21st century could not have produced a Kamala Harris.

As a woman, and a member of a racial and ethnic minority in the US, Harris’s rise to the top levels of the American polity, like President Barack Obama’s, was possible because of a system that recognises and accepts diversity. True, the recent protests in the United States have demonstrated that America’s oldest fault line is not just alive, it has grown wider and deeper in many respects. But the country’s democratic instincts run deep too. What has also been evident over the last few months is an acute awareness about the dangers of white supremacy, and the institutional, political, media and civil society pushback to prevent its rise, and President Donald Trump’s own attempts to fan it.

Black political representation is not a rarity. Data on the Pew Research Centre site shows that despite uneven progress, Black political leadership in the US has risen over the last 50 years, and is today at par with the share of blacks in the population. In 2019, there were 52 black representatives, the highest number since 1965, comprising 12 per cent of the House — about the percentage of blacks, the largest racial minority in the US, whose share in the population is about 13.5 per cent. While there are only three black senators (including Harris) and no black governors, overall, the trend is more representative than less. This is the ecosystem in which Harris grew as a politician. Notwithstanding her Tamil Brahmin ancestry, the comparison to Harris’s political rise in the US has to be with the shrinking space today for Muslim politicians in India, and the lack of all kinds of diversity in non-political arenas as well.

In India, Muslims, who are the largest religious minority and form about 15 per cent of the population, are comparable in size to the black community in the US. But their political representation has been sliding over the decades, since the highest tally of 49 Muslim Members of Parliament elected in 1980. In



C R Sasikumar

2019, 27 Muslim members were elected to the Lok Sabha, 4.97 per cent of the total 543 elected. The BJP fielded just six Muslim candidates. All of them lost. The 16th Lok Sabha had 23 Muslims. None of them were from the BJP. The party, the political vehicle of Hindutva and Hindu majoritarianism, has fielded a total of 20 candidates over the last 40 years and only three of them have won (Christopher Jaffrelot and Gilles Verniers, IE, July 30, 2018). As of date, the 242-member Rajya Sabha has 16 Muslims, or 6.6 per cent. Non-Hindutva political parties are also increasingly fielding fewer Muslim candidates as they play catch up with the BJP.

Senator Harris’s Indian Tamil mother and her dad, a black Jamaican, both foreigners in the US, met as participants during the Civil Rights Movement that was sweeping the country in the 1950s and 1960s. Leave aside the counter-factual that had they been deported to their respective countries for participating in a protest, as a German student at IIT-Madras was last year for marching with others in the campus against the Citizenship Amendment Act, there would have been no Kamala Harris to celebrate from Chennai to Delhi. Marriages between Indians and black Americans are rare, frowned upon by Indian parents. Mississippi Masala, the Mira Nair film, is nearly 30 years old. While attitudes to interracial marriages across groups in the US have loosened much over this time, among Indians, marriage to a black person continues to be discouraged and looked down upon by family and community. To understand this, check how black people are treated in India, not just those who self-identify as black, but also those who are dark-skinned. Marrying a Dalit or a Muslim is enough to set off group violence.

Communalism is now so normalised in India that all too many people no longer deem it necessary to hide their bigotry, and even the lynching of Muslim men in the name of Ram and cows has not provoked the outrage it deserved. Communal “othering” is so pervasive that most Indians seem to have no problem with the Centre’s use of authoritarian tactics, including the longest internet ban in the world, to roll out constitutional changes in the Muslim-majority Jammu & Kashmir, without giving the people there a chance to express themselves on these dramatic changes that

As a woman, and a member of a racial and ethnic minority in the US, Harris’s rise to the top levels of the American polity, like President Barack Obama’s, was possible because of a system that recognises and accepts diversity. True, the recent protests in the United States have demonstrated that America’s oldest fault line is not just alive, it has grown wider and deeper in many respects. But the country’s democratic instincts run deep too. What has also been evident over the last few months is an acute awareness about the dangers of white supremacy, and the institutional, political, media and civil society pushback to prevent its rise, and President Donald Trump’s own attempts to fan it.

includes changing the rules to enable demographic change. Kamala Harris, on the other hand, is the Other and represents the othered, identifying herself primarily as a black person, so much that few in the US knew she was half-Indian until last year.

Her nomination speaks to the recent Black Lives Matter campaign. Despite the divide between black and brown in the US, the participation of Indians in the protests over George Floyd’s murder by a policeman was a development noted for its potential for blurring the constructed political separateness of the two. In India, many see police brutality as a necessity to rein in lawlessness, never mind if the police themselves break every law in the book while doing so. The policemen who killed the alleged rapists of a woman in Telangana were showered with flower petals. The UP chief minister has been seen to encourage “encounters” such as the one in which the dacoit Vikas Dubey was killed last month. Movies are made about so-called “encounter-specialists”, making heroes of them.

In her speech accepting her nomination on August 19, Harris spoke about the “the promise of equality, liberty, and justice for all”, and how her mother Shyamala Gopalan had taught her two daughters “to be conscious and compassionate about the struggles of all people. To believe public service is a noble cause and the fight for justice is a shared responsibility”.

She spoke of “a vision of our nation as a Beloved Community — where all are welcome, no matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we love. A country where we may not agree on every detail, but we are united by the fundamental belief that every human being is of infinite worth, deserving of compassion, dignity and respect. A country where we look out for one another, where we rise and fall as one, where we face our challenges, and celebrate our triumphs — together. Today... that country feels distant.”

She might as well have been referring to India, where a nomination of a person like her would have been swiftly denounced as minority “appeasement” and her party accused of “minorityism”.

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WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“[Biden] has tried to be his party’s candidate for president of the United States twice before. The third time he was lucky, and the Democrats were fortunate too, in that, by accident as well as design, he is probably their best hope of defeating Donald Trump in November.” — **THE INDEPENDENT**

The TINA delusion

PM Modi’s success owes to his striking a chord with people, not because there isn’t anyone to challenge him



ANUPAM KHER

I HAVE BEEN in India for the past five months, writing extensively — a book on COVID is on the way — working on interesting film projects, spending quality time with myself and sometimes with my mother (Kiranji being in Chandigarh). I have also been reflecting on various subjects. That I am passionate and outspoken about matters pertaining to my country is well-known. Among the many topics, the one that has caught my eye is the repeated political success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Is it destiny? Or hard work? Is it about facing an easy opposition? My thoughts and research took me to the different arguments, which I will touch upon before sharing my views.

PM Modi’s critics — they like to call themselves Modi haters as well — have been consistent on one thing. They have spun tales about him, used all sorts of adjectives to describe him.

On October 7, 2001, when Modi first took over as Gujarat CM, the dominant view was: One year and he will be history. That was soon proved wrong. Through his tenure as CM, Modi was portrayed as a regional leader — satrap at best — who had no takers outside his home state. In the winter of 2013 and spring of 2014, the project “Modi is unelectable” reached its climax. The subsequent summer obviously proved them horribly wrong. The years after 2014 were spent convincing themselves and each other that Modi is a one-term phenomenon. Had any government voted to office with such a large mandate returned again, they asked.

On May 23, 2018, an oath-taking ceremony in Bengaluru became the cynosure of many eyes. Standing on one platform were the all ends of India’s political spectrum, hand in hand, together in letter and spirit. This grand alliance would ensure the end of Modi, they avowed. Exactly a year later, on May 23, 2019, Narendra Modi returned to office with even more seats. (On a side note, the government in Karnataka did not last long, tumbling due to the weight of its contradictions a few months later.)

Since May 2019, the naysayers, cynics and so-called Modi haters have taken to another delusional tablet — the TINA medicine. “Modi wins because there is no alternative”, “Modi’s best friends are the Opposition today”, “Only Modi can bring Modi down”, they now argue.

Unfortunately, the more Narendra Modi grows, the more delusional his critics become. Democracy can never have one pole. There will always be two or more poles, however minuscule the non-dominant one may be. The fact that the voting machine has a list of multiple candidates, represented by multiple symbols, shows that democracy is never short of alternatives.

Modi bashers have toyed with dozens of alternatives. Everyone has been kosher including extreme leftists, jihadists, failed dynasts, anarchists, separatists, even those who had earlier worked with Modi in the RSS and

BJP. In 2013 and 2018, “alternatives” were seen even in Modi’s own party. Therefore, if any Modi basher is telling you, Modi succeeds because there is no alternative to Modi, they are obviously lying and being delusional.

The truth is, all alternatives were tried, propped up and supported but none cutie with the voters. They have time and again reposed faith in Modi, who they see as a decisive, relatable and dedicated leader. Every alternative to Modi has failed because none of them can serve like him. In the last six years, he has delivered on the largest poverty alleviation drive seen in the history of India. The Jan Dhan Yojana got 40 crore citizens not only bank accounts but also a leak-proof way of getting due assistance from the state. Ayushman Bharat, PM-KISAN, Atal Pension Yojana, PM Fasal Bima Yojana and many more such social security schemes gave a safety net for the poorest of Indians to fall back on and prevented them from sliding into poverty. Ten crore toilets were built under the Swachh Bharat Yojana and eight-crore households were made smoke-free by way of the Ujjwala Yojana. In the last year alone, two crore households have been given piped drinking water connections — every household in India is to be given the same by 2024.

Under Modi, the corridors of power no longer reek of the stench of big-ticket corruption. Defence deals no longer feed the monetary hunger of a select few dynasties. Instead, they strengthen the nation’s armed forces.

The same Modi who was once seen as a mere CM and thus being unable to conduct foreign policy has demonstrated what an “India First” foreign policy looks like.

Which of the so-called alternatives to Modi offer such vast amounts of deliverables? From seeing him celebrate Diwali with flood victims in Kashmir, or with troops on the border to seeing him touch the feet of an elderly tribal woman or a safai karamchari; from seeing him wield the broom to hearing him talk about menstrual hygiene from the Red Fort, India relates with Modi. He appreciates the inherent strengths of the 130-crore Indians. Which other leader thought of writing touching letters or emotional tweets to sportspersons, artists, cultural icons and youngsters? He has made a place in lakhs of households as just another family member, with the people in good and bad times.

Is there any alternative to such leadership? I would love to know.

My father often taught me: If you are speaking the truth, you do not have to remember it. Today, Narendra Modi is the longest serving administrative head compared to all previous prime ministers. He has held the office of CM and PM for a combined total of almost 19 years. No previous PM has held both positions cumulatively that long. Such political success and affection have not come his way because “there were no alternatives” to him. It has come because Modi has immersed himself in his work. Political landmines and personal slander have been answered by more development. No wonder, while Modi is implementing his vision for a New India, his haters are stuck where they were two decades ago — confused about alternatives to him.

The writer is an actor and former chairperson, Film and Television Institute of India



ARUN MAIRA

Let’s not shut out the old

During pandemic, we must keep older people engaged, not isolate them

THE MOST VULNERABLE persons during the COVID pandemic are the elderly. If infected, their odds of survival are the lowest. When shut away to save them from infection, they are likely to suffer from neglect — from lack of care for other ailments, and loneliness. The pandemic has highlighted humanity’s dilemma of what to do with older people.

Globally, the population aged 65 and over is growing faster than other age groups. Life spans are increasing with better healthcare, nutrition and sanitation. In 2018, for the first time in history, people aged 65 or above outnumbered children. Children are our future, no doubt. However, the changing shape of populations threatens to bankrupt economies. How will fewer young people provide for the care of larger numbers of older persons if the latter no longer contribute to communities?

When the president of Zanzibar received me as the Chairman of HelpAge International in 2017, he posed his dilemma to me. The rights of older people are enshrined in Zanzibar’s constitution. It directs the government to set aside money to maintain a good home for older people. He wanted me to see the well-equipped home the government ran. The problem was it was under-used because older people would rather stay with their families.

Later, the minister for social development and the president of the Older Persons’ Association explained the President’s dilemma. Both of them were grandparents

who enjoyed being with their grandchildren, and their families also liked having them around. Grandparents kept an eye on the house and the children when the parents went to work. The arrangement was good for the economy, and for society too, they felt.

I asked what help they wanted from HelpAge International. The minister asked could we convince international aid agencies that their solution was the best one for older people in Zanzibar, and not keep driving the government to set aside more money for facilities to put away older people?

“No place like home” is the heading of the Economist’s account of what the pandemic has revealed. Across the rich world, nearly half of all deaths from COVID-19 have happened in care and nursing homes, even though less than 1 per cent of people live in them. Countries with fewer care homes have had fewer COVID-19 deaths, all else being equal.

Older people want to add more life to their years, not more years to their life. As well as exposing fragile business models, the pandemic has highlighted the tension between keeping old people safe and keeping them well. “People should be the boss of their own lives. It is better to live in a house than a warehouse,” says Bill Thomas, the American geriatrician who founded the Green House movement for the care of older persons.

All things must be considered before prescribing strong medicines. Indeed, this is why

we are so careful about testing new medicines for COVID-19 before releasing them for public use. The pandemic has revealed many factors that contribute to human well-being. Lockdowns — a strong medicine to prevent COVID-19 deaths — have harmed human well-being in many ways, by other medical problems that could not be attended to and even by starvation in poorer countries due to disruptions of the economy. In India, as elsewhere, attention is focused every day on counting the deaths caused by COVID-19. The other tragedies, though not counted, are visible in heart-rending images of migrants struggling to find succour, and people denied healthcare for other diseases.

What we have learned from the pandemic is that local systems solutions, developed and implemented by communities, are necessary to solve complex problems. Communities understand their needs and their capabilities better than experts, who are distant from them. Collaboration on the ground has enabled many communities to prevent the spread of the pandemic, as well as taken care of other needs of their members. In India, Kerala, with its systems of local, collaborative action, seems to have done much better than other states. Internationally, countries with strong local systems have done better.

Vietnam seems to have survived the pandemic better than most countries. One reason is the strength of the OPA (Older Persons’

Associations) movement which the government has supported for many years. OPAs operate in all districts of the country. They are adding younger members and transforming themselves into Inter-Generational Self-Help Groups. They take responsibility for the most vulnerable people in their communities — most of whom are older people. They also work with local officials to improve local services and infrastructure for the benefit of the whole community. They are “nodes” in networks of actors who know what is required and who can, working together, improve services for everyone. The older members of these groups are proving to be valuable assets for the community. Moreover, because they are active and they feel valued, they add more good life to their remaining years.

Older people have an invaluable role to play in our collective future. We must keep older people engaged, not shut them out to protect their bodies from the virus. Unfortunately, the generic medicine of “physical distancing” to fight the pandemic has been branded as “social distancing”. We need “social cohesion”, not “social distancing”, in communities, and in humanity as a whole, to fight this pandemic and also improve human well-being.

Maira is Chairman, HelpAge International and author of Transforming Systems: Why the World Needs a New Ethical Toolkit

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ERROR CORRECTED

This refers to the editorial, ‘Perish and publish’ (IE, August 25). The book is, no doubt, an inflammatory piece of propaganda. The Satanic Verses was fiction, while this book claims to be the “untold truth” — and that makes a difference. Peaceful disapproval of and online outcry over anything is a right. The people are protesting against the one-sidedness and obvious falsity of the book and its claims. Fake news, as long as in the traditional print or digital forms, is considered immoral and unjust by all. True, a publishing house should have a spine, but when it is wrong, it must accept it, for it does not, being a “responsible” publisher, have a right to spread hatred through misinformation.

Yusuf Ghazali, Patna

BILATERAL PROBLEM

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘A finer balance’ (IE, August 25). Kashmir is a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan, and this has been acknowledged by almost all major powers, including China. The idea of inviting any third party to mediate on the Kashmir issue is preposterous. The Tibetan diaspora call India their home away from home. The Tibetan community in exile and its leadership are an asset to India’s strategic community and betrayal would harm India’s interest.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

● **EDUCATION, NOT RAISING AGE OF CONSENT, IS KEY:** MADHU MEHRA

● **COVID AND THE HEART:** TSKLER

www.indianexpress.com

CAGED BY CONTEMPT

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘An apology will be contempt of my conscience’ (IE, August 25). Prashant Bhushan in his recent statement has refused to apologise to the court. I am overwhelmed by his courageous decision. The Supreme Court and high courts are meant to act as guardians of the Constitution and protectors of the fundamental rights of the people. Yet, when citizens express views and opinions, the courts curb their right to do so. Before punishing Bhushan, the SC should reconsider its decision. The contempt jurisdiction should never be used to bludgeon criticism.

Radhika Pansare, via email

PERSONAL

**I,PRABHJOT SINGH S/O NIRPJIT
SINGH R/O A-4/16,SECTOR-
16,ROHINI,DELHI-110089.HAVE
CHANGED MY NAME TO
PRABHJOT SINGH ANAND.**

Mithilesh Kumar (Advocate)

Call :

6651214

such 'Parent Company' shall be considered for per-qualification of such Applicant joint venture/Subsidiary Company".

No GD /LJHP/845-64 DIPK-NB-1992/20	Dated: 24-08-2020	Executive Engineer Generation Division LJHP, Gantamulla Baramulla
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New Delhi

New Delhi



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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

COVID-19 VACCINE TRACKER

China has started vaccinating some sections, says official

REPORTS HAVE now emerged that China has already begun injecting its people with a novel coronavirus vaccine that is still under development. Developed by state-owned Sinopharm, the vaccine is currently undergoing phase-3 trials in the UAE.

A report in *The Washington Post* said the head of China's coronavirus vaccine development programme, Zheng Zongwei, acknowledged on state television that medical workers and some government workers were being given this vaccine under emergency use authorisation since July 22, and that it was likely to be given to many more people in the coming months.

"In order to prevent the disease spread in the fall and winter, we are considering a moderate expansion in the programme... The purpose would be to first build and immunity barrier among special groups in the population," Zheng is reported to have said.

This vaccine is different from the one approved for use only on soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army. That vaccine, developed by CanSino Biologics in collaboration with Academy of Military Medical Sciences, was approved for limited use in the last week of June. There is no information on the number of people who have already been injected with that vaccine.

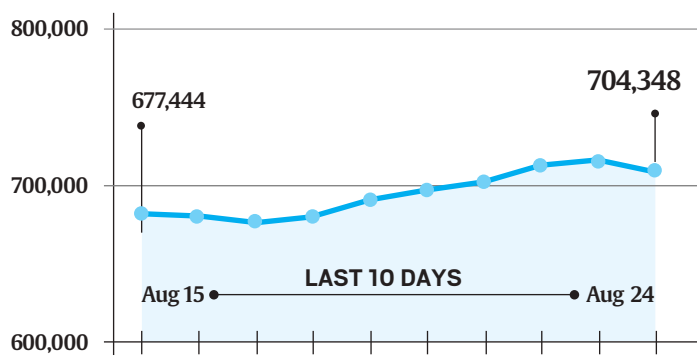


THE ASTRAZENECA VACCINE: Pharma major AstraZeneca has said it had not held any talks with the US government on emergency use authorisation for its novel coronavirus vaccine before the Presidential election on November 3.

A report in the *Financial Times* on Sunday had claimed that the Trump administration had decided to grant emergency use authorisation to the AstraZeneca vaccine, being developed in collaboration with Oxford University, ahead of the elections. Trump is seeking a re-election.

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

704,348



Note: The August 24 figure in this graph is based on government update on August 25

INDIA TOTAL CASES

3,167,323

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on August 24

WORLD TOTAL CASES

23,690,270

Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on August 25

A model for treating two patients with one ventilator

NEW RESEARCH shows that ventilators can be adapted to help two patients simultaneously in the event of a shortage.

Researchers from King's College London and Imperial College London have developed a theoretical model for how one ventilator could be used to treat two patients. Although splitting ventilators can be inherently dangerous, the researchers say their model shows how some of the issues can be mitigated. The



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

model uses variable resistances and one-way valves. The airflow delivered to one patient can be manipulated independently of the other.

This approach could be useful for treating Covid-19 patients, and also in other scenarios — including in a military battle field context, the researchers said.

The new research is published in *Royal Society Open Science*.

Source: Imperial College London

Larger questions over contempt

SC has deferred the hearing of a 2009 contempt case against lawyer Prashant Bhushan because 'larger' questions are involved. What are these questions, which will need to be examined by a new Bench?

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

ON TUESDAY, the Supreme Court deferred the hearing in a 2009 contempt-of-court case against advocate Prashant Bhushan, and reserved its verdict on the quantum of sentencing in the contempt case initiated this year. The three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra directed that the case records of 2009 be placed before the Chief Justice of India, who can list it before an appropriate Bench. The Bench deferred the hearing as the case involved "larger" questions, and since Justice Mishra retires on September 2 and would not be able to conclude the hearing.

What are the cases about?

The 2009 case against Bhushan was filed by senior advocate Harish Salve in connection with an interview published in *Tehelka* magazine, in which he made allegations of corruption in the judiciary. Apart from Bhushan, then *Tehelka* editor Tarun Tejpal was also charged with contempt of court.

In 2010, a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Altamas Kabir had issued notices to Bhushan and Tejpal, but the case only came up for hearing when the SC recently initiated a fresh contempt case against Bhushan.

The fresh case involves two tweets by Bhushan about the Supreme Court's functioning and the Chief Justice of India. On August 14, the Supreme Court found the two tweets amounting to "serious contempt of court". In this case, Bhushan has refused to apologise and has stood his ground that the tweets reflected his "bonafide beliefs", even as the Supreme Court gave him time to rethink and tender an unconditional apology or withdraw his statement. The court has now reserved its verdict on the quantum of punishment, if any, to be imposed on Bhushan.

What are the "larger" questions in the 2009 case?

Bhushan has argued that the 2009 case would involve questions that required interpretation of the Constitution and hence it must be referred to a larger Bench.

On August 24, through his lawyer Kamini Jaiswal, he submitted a list of 10 questions that needed to be addressed by a Constitution Bench. The most crucial of these questions is whether expressing "bonafide opinion about the extent of corruption in any section of the judiciary" would amount to contempt of court.



Supreme Court has reserved ruling on sentencing of Prashant Bhushan in 2020 contempt case, and deferred hearing of a 2009 case. *Express Archive*

Bhushan also pointed out several conflicting rulings on the subjects of contempt of court, and bar against speaking in the public domain about complaints against a judge, and sought reference to a larger Bench to settle the law on these issues. In a 1995 ruling, *Ravichandran Iyer v Justice AM Bhattacharjee*, the Supreme Court had said that lawyers must inform the Chief Justice of that court about allegations against any judge, with *prima facie* evidence, so that the CJ can look into the matter.

Bhushan asked if this procedure is compatible with the "reasonable restrictions" imposed on free speech by the Constitution.

Although the 1971 Contempt of Courts

Act recognises truth as a defence in cases, one of the questions that Bhushan has raised is whether the contemnor has to prove the allegation or remark on corruption.

How is a reference to a larger Bench made?

As per Article 145(3) of the Constitution, "the minimum number of judges who are to sit for the purpose of deciding any case involving a substantial question of law as to the interpretation of this Constitution" shall be five. A Bench of at least five judges is set up to hear significant Constitution cases.

When different rulings of same Bench

strength are not consistent with one another, a ruling by a larger Bench of an odd number of judges is preferred to harmonise the law. Once the questions to be settled are identified, these are placed before the CJ who will then assign it to a larger Bench. The CJ, as the master of the roster, decides which Bench would hear the case.

In Bhushan's case, the case will be listed before another Bench on September 10.

What about the other case?

The Supreme Court has already held Bhushan guilty of "serious contempt of court" for his two tweets. Generally, a separate hearing for sentencing follows conviction, with the court hearing arguments again to decide the quantum of punishment.

On August 20, during the sentencing hearing, the Supreme Court gave Bhushan more time to "think over" and tender an apology to the court. This extension was despite Bhushan's stand that he had not tweeted in a "fit of absent-mindedness" but had expressed what he termed a "bonafide belief" he held on the state of the judiciary.

On August 24, he filed another affidavit, reiterating his stand and informing the court that tendering an insincere apology would in fact constitute contempt of court. The court once again heard arguments by Bhushan's lawyer and Attorney General for India K K Venugopal on why the court must not award any punishment to Bhushan and concluded the hearing.

Venugopal also told the court that while Bhushan may be warned, he should not be awarded a punishment.

Why is the court repeatedly asking for an apology?

The Contempt of Courts Act 1971 lays down the procedure to be followed in contempt cases. It also says that the offence is punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to Rs 2,000, or both.

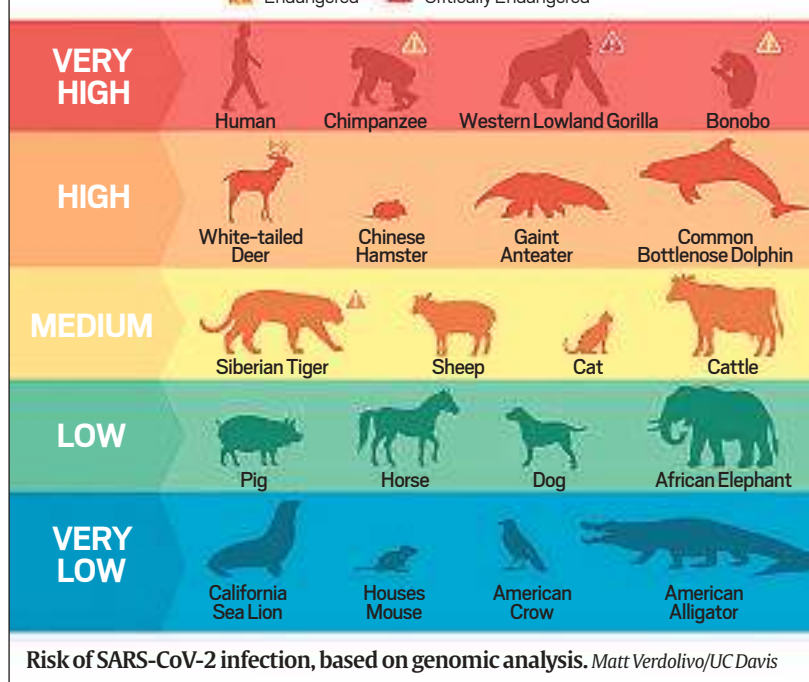
However, Section 12 of the Act also adds an exception to the punishment prescribed. "Provided that the accused may be discharged or the punishment awarded may be remitted on apology being made to the satisfaction of the court," the law says.

Hence, a statement of apology to the court by Bhushan would allow the court to let him off without punishment even though the Supreme Court has found him guilty of contempt of court.

The coronavirus risk for animals, high or low

GENOMIC STUDY OF SARS-CoV-2 RISK

⚠️ Endangered ⚠️ Critically Endangered



Risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection, based on genomic analysis. *Matt Verdolivo/UC Davis*

and that cats face a greater risk than dogs. In the new study, cats, along with other domestic animals such as cattle and sheep, were found to have a medium risk. Dogs, along with horses and pigs, were found to have a low risk.

How does the study figure all this out?

The findings are based on an analysis of ACE2 — the enzyme on our cell surface that allows SARS-CoV-2 to infect human cells. In humans, 25 amino acids of ACE2 are important for the virus to bind with the cell. The researchers used modelling to evaluate how many of these amino acids are found in the ACE2 enzyme of other species. If a species showed a match with all these 25 amino acid residues, it was predicted to be carrying the highest risk. The fewer the matches with the human ACE2, the lower the risk of infection.

How significant are these findings?

The risk was assessed for ACE2 binding, not for actual infection. In a statement issued by the University of California—Davis, the authors have urged caution against over-interpreting the predicted risks based on computational results; the actual risks can only be confirmed with additional experimental data. They noted, however, that in the cats, dogs and tigers that have been infected, the virus may be using ACE2 receptors, or receptors other than ACE2.

iPhone SE production in Indian facility: what will it mean for customers?

NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

APPLE HAS started manufacturing its latest phone, the more affordable iPhone SE, in India. With this, the company now produces four models of the iPhones in India through its manufacturing partners Foxconn and Wistron.

When did Apple start making phones in India?

Apple started assembling phones in India with the original iPhone SE in 2017. The phone was then already a couple of years old, but still popular in India because of its lower price points. In 2018, it moved assembly of the iPhone 6s too to India, followed by the iPhone 7 in 2019. All these units were man-

ufactured by Wistron in its Bengaluru plant. Interestingly, like the SE, the iPhone 6s and iPhone 7 too were a couple of years old when their production moved to India. For Indian customers, older iPhones have traditionally offered a more affordable entry point in the Apple ecosystem.

In 2019, Apple's partner Foxconn started assembling the iPhone XR at its plant in Chennai. This was a more recent phone and showed how Cupertino had started taking the Indian market more seriously.

In 2020, assembly of the latest iPhone 11 started at Foxconn's Chennai plant, followed by now the iPhone SE at Wistron's plant in Karnataka. These two are the latest offerings from the company.

Meanwhile, in 2019, Apple stopped production of the original iPhone SE and the iPhone 6s in India as the models were be-



Apple's manufacturing unit in Texas.

Will production in India bring down prices locally?

Apple usually has a global pricing strat-

egy and that is seldom fine-tuned for a local market, even where it produces hardware. There are also other reasons why prices won't be impacted by local production. For one, the phones are only being assembled in India, and there is hardly any local sourcing of components. So, the cost of the production is not exactly coming down.

Second, Apple is still not capable of meeting the entire demand of a certain model with locally produced units. This means there will still be some imported units in the markets, and hence it would not be possible to sell made-in-India units at a lower cost.

However, for locally assembled models, it is likely that Apple will be able to hold prices in case of a customs duty hike like the one affected earlier this year.

Is Apple likely to move mode

production outside China?

There have been reports that Apple is looking to move more manufacturing out of China because of pressure from the US government as well as the impact of the pandemic. But it is unlikely that Apple will pull out of China entirely, given the investment that has gone into setting up its production facilities there. But considering that the units assembled in India are also exported to some markets too, there is a possibility Apple will start moving some production out of China to hedge for a situation where its entire production is impacted.

In 2019, Apple moved the production of its Mac Pro computers back to the US with a \$1 billion, 3-million-square-foot campus in Austin, Texas. Apple and its manufacturing partners invested over \$200 million in the Mac Pro facility, a release at the time said.

Interestingly, just this week, reports have emerged that the Taiwan-based Foxconn is among the companies looking to set up their production base in Mexico, catering primarily to the US market. However, it must be noted that Foxconn's production is not exclusively for Apple and the facility could well be for other brands.

Earlier this month, Young Liu, Chairman of the Hon Hai Precision Industry Company, also known as Foxconn, said it was gradually "adding more capacity outside of China" — the ratio is already at 30% of overall manufacturing. "No matter if it's India, Southeast Asia or the Americas, there will be a manufacturing ecosystem in each," Liu said in the conference call, reported by Bloomberg, adding that while China will still play a key role in Foxconn's manufacturing empire, the country's "days as the world's factory are done."

TOP OF THE WORLD



Saba Sahar is also a well-known actress in Afghanistan. *Reuters*

AFGHANISTAN

Afghan director, activist Saba Sahar shot at

WELL-KNOWN AFGHAN actress and film director Saba Sahar was shot and injured by unidentified gunmen in Kabul on Tuesday, said Ferdaws Faramarz, spokesman for the Kabul police chief. Sahar, who is one of Afghanistan's first woman film directors, is also a campaigner for women's rights. Amnesty International responded to the attack, tweeting: "The rise in attacks and assassination attempts on human rights defenders, political activists, journalists and film actors is extremely worrying. These attacks must be investigated and the perpetrators held accountable. The authorities must protect everyone at risk."

BANGLADESH

Rohingya hold 'silent protest' on exodus anniversary

ROHINGYA MUSLIM refugees in Bangladesh held a "silent protest" on Tuesday to mark the third anniversary of clashes between insurgents and Myanmar security forces that set off a huge movement into Bangladesh of people seeking safety. More than 1 million Rohingya live in the world's largest refugee settlement in southern Bangladesh. The refugees said that because of the coronavirus they would not hold a mass gathering to mark what they call "Remembrance Day".

SWITZERLAND

Parachutist makes 1st ever jump from aircraft powered by solar energy

A PARACHUTIST completed the world's first jump from a solar-powered aircraft on Tuesday after the plane soared to a height of 1,520 metres (nearly 5,000 ft) over western Switzerland, Swiss organisers said. The two-seater prototype plane made the test flight in good weather and to promote renewable energy. Parachutist Raphael Domjan reached a speed of 150 km per hour during his jump. "Today there were many firsts but the most important [is this is] the first time ever that someone jumped from an electric aircraft," said Domjan, who also co-piloted the plane.

Republican convention showcases rising stars, issues dark warnings

Speakers say Biden will bring 'socialist utopia' and 'cultural revolution' to US

AP & PTI

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 25

A RISING generation of Republican stars offered an optimistic view of President Donald Trump's leadership but was undermined on the opening night of the GOP's scaled-back convention by speakers issuing dark warnings about the country's future and distorting the president's record, particularly on the coronavirus pandemic.

As Trump faces pressure to expand his appeal beyond his loyal supporters, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, the Senate's sole Black Republican, and former UN ambassador Nikki Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants, sought to cast the GOP as welcoming to Americans of color, despite the party's overwhelmingly white leadership and voting base.

But the prime-time convention proceedings, which featured a blend of taped and live speeches, focused largely on dire talk about Joe Biden, Trump's Democratic challenger in the November election. Speakers ominously warned that electing Biden would lead to violence in American cities spilling into the suburbs, a frequent Trump campaign message with racist undertones. One speaker called Trump the "bodyguard of Western civilisation". Trump and a parade of fellow Republicans accused Biden of proposing to defund police, ban oil fracking, take over health care, open borders and raise taxes on most Americans.

Trump's eldest son Donald



The couple pointed guns at protesters. *AP*

St Louis couple: Suburbs in peril

A WHITE St Louis couple who brandished guns at Black Lives Matter protesters outside their home in June were given a prominent speaking slot at the RNC on Monday, repeating claims by President Donald Trump that Democrats will destroy America's suburbs. "No matter where you live, your family will not be safe in the radical Democrats' America," Patricia and Mark McCloskey said. *REUTERS*

Trump Jr alleged that Biden's radical leftwing policies would stop US economic recovery.

"He's already talking about shutting the country down — again. It's madness," he said.

"Joe Biden's radical Democrats are trying to permanently transform what it means to be an American. Make no mistake, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris want a cultural revolution. A fundamentally different America," Senator Tim Scott said, adding, "If we let them, they will turn our country into a socialist utopia."



US President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence at the Charlotte Convention Center on Monday night. *Reuters*

Haley fuels 2024 presidential speculation with RNC speech

REUTERS

AUGUST 25

FORMER UN Ambassador Nikki Haley may have fired up speculation about a 2024 presidential bid on Monday, delivering a speech at the Republican National Convention that praised Donald Trump while touting her own accomplishments and life story.

Haley, the 48-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants, left her UN post in late 2018, has achieved prominence as a woman of color in a party that has struggled to win the votes of women and minorities.

She cited her successful ef-



America is not a racist country. This is personal for me... I was a brown girl in a black and white world."

NIKKI HALEY

FORMER U.S. ENVOY TO U.N.

orts to remove the Confederate flag from the South Carolina state capitol grounds following the 2015 massacre of nine Black churchgoers in Charleston by a white supremacist. But she avoided mentioning the word "Confederate," instead calling the flag a "divisive symbol."

"In much of the Democratic Party, it's now fashionable to say that America is racist. That is a

lie. America is not a racist country," Haley said.

She noted her father wore a turban and her mother a sari. "I was a brown girl in a black and white world," Haley said.

"My mom built a successful business. My dad taught 30 years at a historically Black college. And the people of South Carolina chose me as their first minority and first female governor."

RUSSIAN PARLIAMENT SAYS WILL LOOK INTO POSSIBLE FOREIGN ROLE

Kremlin defies calls to probe Navalny illness

TOM BALMFORTH & GLEB STOLYAROV
MOSCOW, AUGUST 25

THE KREMLIN said on Tuesday it saw no need for now to investigate the circumstances leading up to opposition politician Alexei Navalny's grave illness and that a German clinic's initial diagnosis of poisoning was not yet conclusive.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on Russia to investigate the suspected poisoning and to hold the perpetrators accountable after German doctors found indications of a toxic substance in his body. But Kremlin

Foreign hand behind 'poisoning'?

A PARLIAMENTARY probe into whether there was foreign involvement in the alleged poisoning of Navalny allows the Kremlin to claim that an investigation is under way even as it shifts the blame

EXPLAINED

away from Moscow to an unidentified foreign entity, Navalny has been a longtime critic of President Putin and has been targeted multiple times by Russian authorities, both overtly and otherwise.

spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the German clinic had not conclusively identified the substance behind Navalny's illness and that it was unclear why German doc-

tors were "rushing" to use the word poisoning.

"There must be a reason for an investigation. For the moment, all you and I see is that the

patient is in a coma," Peskov told reporters on a conference call.

At the same time, the Speaker of Russia's Lower House of Parliament, a Putin ally, said one of its committees would launch a probe to determine whether foreign forces had played a hand in Navalny's illness. "The State Duma security committee will be instructed to analyse what happened in order to understand whether this was an attempt on the part of foreign states to harm the health of a Russian citizen to fuel tensions inside Russia, as well as to formulate fresh accusations against our country," Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin said. *REUTERS*



Jerry Falwell Jr

Evangelical leader Falwell's future in limbo after scandal

ARAM ROSTON

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 25

JERRY FALWELL Jr, whose endorsement helped power Donald Trump to the US presidency, agreed to resign as head of the Christian university he runs but then withdrew his resignation following media reports about it, the school said in a statement.

The statement from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where Falwell has served as president for over a decade, came a little over two weeks after he took a leave of absence following outrage over a photo of Falwell standing with his pants unzipped and an arm around a young woman.

A Reuters report on Monday said a business partner had come forward to say he had been in a years-long sexual relationship involving Falwell and his wife. According to Giancarlo Granda, it involved Granda having sex with Becki Falwell while Jerry looked on. *REUTERS*



Charred vehicles in Kenosha, Wisconsin, following protests on Monday night. *AP*

Wisconsin city burns as protests continue over police shooting

Man who was shot left paralysed: father

REUTERS & AP
KENOSHA, AUGUST 25

ARSONISTS SET buildings ablaze and torched much of the Black business district during a second night of unrest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, triggered by the wounding of a Black man shot in the back by police as his three young sons looked on.

Smoke billowed over central Kenosha after police clashed with protesters as they defied a curfew on Monday night and Tuesday morning, blocks away from where Jacob Blake was shot Sunday.

Blake, 29, survived the shooting, which was captured on video. His father said the injuries had left Blake paralysed from the waist down. He said he didn't know if the paralysis was permanent.

Blake had been attempting to break up a fight between two women and was shot in front of his three young sons, civil rights attorney Ben Crump said.

Video shows Blake walking toward the driver's side door of his car, away from two officers who were pointing guns to his back. After he opens the door, seven shots ring out with one of the officers tugging at his shirt.



Police are turning to hashier tactics as they close a digital dragnet on activists and pro-democracy politicians. *NYT*

companies that own the most popular internet services there, have struggled to respond. Pro-

democracy politicians have issued instructions to supporters on how to secure digital de-

vices. Many have flocked to encrypted chat apps like Signal and changed their names on social media.

Dogged by the global reach of the law, even people from Hong Kong living far away from the city worry. One Facebook discussion group of Hong Kongers living in Australia closed off public access after a user claimed to have reported discussions to Hong Kong authorities for potentially violating the law.

Major internet companies like Facebook and Twitter have temporarily cut off data sharing with local police. Others have gone further, devising more permanent solutions. In

July, Yahoo changed its terms of service so that users in Hong Kong are protected under US law, not local rules. It also cut access for employees in Hong Kong to user data to protect them from the law, according to two people familiar with the matter.

A Google spokeswoman said in a statement that the company had not produced data for Hong Kong authorities since the national security law was enacted, and that authorities could seek information for criminal investigations through US diplomatic channels. That means the company is effectively treating data requests in

the city the way it does those from mainland China.

Long known as a financial hub, Hong Kong is now emerging as a land of internet fault lines, a place where China's harsh techno-authoritarian rule collides with the open internet in a society and economy governed by rules that protect digital rights.

"With China's rising influence and power, it's not safe for technology companies to put their servers in China or Hong Kong now," said a prominent activist, Joshua Wong. "It's important for them to help support Hong Kong's citizens and society with digital security." *NYT*

SWEDEN

GRETA RETURNS TO SCHOOL AFTER YEAR OFF

After a year off school to campaign on pressing for tougher action on curbing climate change, Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg says she's returning to class. "My gap year from school is over, and it feels so great to finally be back in school again!" the 17-year-old said Monday on Instagram. In Sweden, high school-level classes are restarting this week.



2 European patients re-infected with coronavirus: reports

REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, BRUSSELS, AUGUST 25

TWO EUROPEAN patients are confirmed to have been re-infected with the coronavirus, according to regional public broadcasters, raising concerns about people's immunity to the virus as the world struggles to tame the pandemic.

The news follows a report this week by researchers in Hong Kong about a man there who had been re-infected four and a half months after being declared recovered.

That has fuelled fears about the effectiveness of potential vaccines against the virus, though experts say there would need to be many more cases of re-infection for these to be justified.

Broadcasters said on Tuesday a patient in the Netherlands and another in Belgium had also been re-infected with the virus that has led to hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide and crippled the global economy.

Dutch broadcaster NOS cited virologist Marion Koopmans as saying the patient in the Netherlands was an older person with a weakened immune system.

She said that cases where people have been sick with the virus a long time and it then flares up are better known.

But a true re-infection, as in the Dutch, Belgian and Hong Kong cases, requires genetic testing of the virus in both the first and second infection to see whether the two instances of the virus differ slightly.

Koopmans, an adviser to the Dutch government, said re-infections had been expected.

"We have to see whether it happens often," she said.



Stephen Hahn

FDA chief sorry for overstating effect of plasma on coronavirus

MATTHEW PERRONE & DEB RIECHMANN
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 25

RESPONDING TO an outcry from medical experts, US Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Stephen Hahn on Tuesday apologised for overstating the life-saving benefits of treating Covid-19 patients with convalescent plasma.

Scientists have been pushing back against the claims about the treatment since President Donald Trump's announcement Sunday that the FDA had decided to issue emergency authorisation for convalescent plasma, taken from patients who have recovered from Covid-19 and rich in antibodies.

Hahn had echoed Trump in saying that 35% more people would survive Covid-19 if they were treated with plasma. That claim vastly overstated preliminary findings of Mayo Clinic observations. Hahn's mea culpa comes at a critical point for the FDA which, under pressure from the White House, is responsible for deciding whether vaccines are safe and effective in preventing Covid-19. *AP*

AMERICAN INTERNET GIANTS ARE STRUGGLING TO RESPOND

With hacks, cameras, Beijing's electronic dragnet closes on HK

PAUL MOZUR
AUGUST 25

TO GET onto his Facebook account, police used Tony Chung's body.

When officers swarmed him at a Hong Kong shopping mall last month, they pulled him into a stairwell and pinned his head in front of his phone — an attempt to trigger the facial recognition system. Later, at his home, officers forced his finger onto a separate phone. Then they demanded passwords.

"They said, 'Do you know with the national security law, we have all the rights to unlock

your phones and get your passwords?" Chung recalled.

Emboldened by that new law, Hong Kong security forces are turning to harsher tactics as they close a digital dragnet on activists, pro-democracy politicians and media leaders. Their approaches — which in the past month have included installing a camera outside the home of a prominent politician and breaking into the Facebook account of another — bear marked similarities to those long used by the fearsome domestic security forces in mainland China.

Not accustomed to such pressures, Hong Kong lawmakers and activists, and the US

WESTERN RAILWAY-RAJKOT DIVISION

TRACK RENEWAL WORK

E-Tender Notice No. 10 of 2020-21 date 21.08.2020 E-Tender No.: DRM-RJT-20-E-30. Name of Work: Viramgam - Rajkot Section : complete track renewal of existing 52 kg (90 UTS) rails laid on PRC sleepers with 60 kg (90 UTS) new rails on PRC sleepers by PORS machine. Total 5.748 Kms. **Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 77,81,844.63/- EMD Cost: ₹15,660.00/-** Date & time of opening of tender: 18.09.2020, 15.00 Hrs. Address of the Office : Divisional Railway Manager, (Engg.), Western Railway, Kothi Compound, Rajkot-360001. Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in D-48

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Annual Maintenance Contract

E-Tender Notice No. Mech-IMG-ET-05-2020-21; Date: 24-08-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of Work: AMC of 02 nos. EOT cranes 20/10 Ton capacity for 03 years at Coaching depot Sirhai. Tender value: ₹22.41.304.00 Earnest Money: ₹44,020.00, Cost of Tender Document: ₹3,000.00. E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs. on 15-09-2020 and opened at 10:00 hrs. on 15-09-2020. The complete information with tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 15-09-2020 in website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Dr. Ome, Lucknow

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 137-159/2020/बाणिय/बीकानेर

मण्डल रेल प्रबंधक (बाणिय), उत्तर-पश्चिम रेलवे, बीकानेर भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से जो पैकेट प्रणाली, (i) पैकेट 'ए'-तकनीकी बोली (ii) पैकेट 'बी' - वित्तीय बोली, के तहत अनुमयी पाटी एवं विज्ञापन एजेंसियों से बीकानेर मण्डल की 23 मेल/एक्सप्रेस एवं यात्री गाड़ियों की विंडोइयों की निचली सतह पर विनायल रैपिंग के माफत बाणिय विज्ञापनों के प्रकार हेतु सौल विज्ञापन साईट देका आवॉरिट करर्न हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस सम्बंध में विस्तृत जानकारी IREPS की वेबसाइट www.ireps.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। 1. यदि का नाम पर सार्व-सोकांन मण्डल की 23 मेल/एक्सप्रेस एवं यात्री गाड़ियों की विंडोइयों की निचली सतह पर विनायल रैपिंग के माफत बाणिय विज्ञापनों के प्रकार हेतु सौल विज्ञापन साईट देका आवॉरिट करर्न हेतु। 2. कार्य की अनुमानित लागत: IREPS की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध गये विस्तृत विवरण के अनुसार। 3. बराना राशि: IREPS की वेबसाइट पर दर्शाये गये विस्तृत विवरण के अनुसार। 4. ई-टेंडर खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: ई-टेंडर दिनांक 14.09.2020 को 15:30 बजे खोला जायेगा। 5. IREPS की वेबसाइट: www.ireps.gov.in 724-SR20

Please join us on NWRRailways

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

OPEN TENDER NOTICE No. : S&T/SEE/OT/20-21/07 Date : 24.08.2020. The DRM (Sig. & Telecom) SEE for and on behalf of President of India invites Open E-Tenders for the following works, the last date of on line E-tendering is 18.09.2020 upto 12.00 hrs information and tender documents related to E-tender is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in. E-Tender No. : S&T/SEE/OT/20-21/07. Name of Work : Provision of IJB between MNE-MSK. Approx Cost (₹) : ₹21,09,600/-, Earnest Money (₹) : ₹2,09,600/-, Cost of Tender document (₹) (Non refundable) : ₹5,000/-. Completion period : 06 (Six) months from date of issue of LOA. The above tender Notice is available on website - www.ireps.gov.in. RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER : Railway administration reserves the right to post/pennodify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons. Divl. Signal & Telecom Engineer/ ECR/Sonpur PR/0551/SEE/S&T/IT/20-21/32

OFFICE OF THE PROJECT MANAGER

GANGA JAL PROJECT UNIT, U.P. JAL NIGAM, PRATAP VIHAR, GHAZIABAD

E-TENDER NOTICE

Letter No. 1433/Nvds/74 Dated : 17.09.2020

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system for "Painting and Repairing work of CDP Chhijarsi, Noida & Shakti Khand, Ghaziabad under O&M of 100 Cusec Ganga Jal Water Supply Scheme" from the independent contractors/contracting firms having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://tender.up.nic.in> latest by 24.08.2020 at 18:00 hrs. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online latest by 31.08.2020 upto 15:00 hrs. Technical/Pre-Qualification part of which shall be opened on 31.08.2020 at 15:30 hrs. onwards.

E-BIDDING NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: 10/2020 Date: 17-09-2020. The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed tenders for the following item: 1 No. 1, Description of Item: ISI Marked 1 KV Grade FRLS-24/1 Cable 16 Strain Cable. Tender No.: 02/2020-27. Qty: 3000 (Thy thousand) Mtrs. Approximate Tender Value: ₹5,09,902/- Tender due on: 10-09-2020. Item: 2, Description of Item: ISI Marked 11 KV (E) Grade FRLS-24/1 Single Core 300 Strain Cable. Tender No.: 02/2020-28. Qty: 8000 (Eight thousand) Mtrs. Approximate Tender Value: ₹64,04,560/- Tender due on: 10-09-2020. Item: 3, Description of Item: ISI Marked 11 KV (E) Grade FRLS-24/1 Single Core 240 Strain Cable. Tender No.: 02/2020-27. Qty: 8000 (Eight thousand) Mtrs. Approximate Tender Value: ₹70,13,820/- Tender due on: 10-09-2020. Item: 4, Description of Item: ISI Marked 1 KV Grade FRLS-24/1 Single Core 10 Strain Cable. Tender No.: 02/2020-16. Qty: 30000 (Thirty thousand) Mtrs. Approximate Tender Value: ₹51,05,020/- Tender due on: 10-09-2020. Item: 5, Description of Item: ISI Marked 1100 Volt Grade FRLS-24/1 Single Core 10 Strain Cable. Tender No.: 02/2020-248. Qty: 36000 (Thirty eight thousand) Mtrs. Approximate Tender Value: ₹73,03,750/- Tender due on: 10-09-2020. For details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

Principal Chief Material Manager/COM NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY (Construction Division) "Serving Customers with smile"

Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited
A Government of India (Ministry of Railways) Enterprise

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. MTC-EN-LC43-EDFC-ROB

The General Manager (Co.)DFCCIL/Meerut for and on behalf of DFCCIL invites Open, E-Tender in Two Packet System on the prescribed forms for the under noted work - **Tender Notice No. : MTC-EN-LC43-EDFC-ROB. Name of Work :** Construction of 2 Lane ROB including approaches & LHS in lieu of level crossings L.C No. 43 at IR chainage 97/26-27 on Meerut City-Saharanpur section of Northern Railway near Khatauli Railway Station for Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. **Estimated Cost of Work :** Rs. 32,66,73,020/- (Rs. Thirty-two Crore Sixty-Six Lakh Seventy-Three Thousand Twenty rupees only). **Completion Period :** 18 Months. **Type of BID :** Open E-Tender two packet system. **Validity of Offer :** 120 Days from the date of opening of tender. **Bid Document cost :** Rs.11,800/- (Rs. 10,000/- + GST @18%) (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) to be deposit in DFCCIL bank account as mentioned below through Net Banking or payment gateway (online mode only) the proof of submission of bid document cost should be uploaded/attached along with Bid/offer. **Earnest Money :** Rs.50,00,000/- (Rs. Fifty Lakhs only) to be submitted in DFCCIL Bank Accounts per tender conditions. To be deposit in DFCCIL bank account as mentioned below through Net Banking or payment gateway (online mode only) on or before Schedule date and time of submission of bid the proof of submission of EMD should be uploaded/attached along with Bid/offer. **Details of DFCCIL Bank Account : Name of Account:-** Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. **Name of Bank:-** Union Bank of India, Moti Bagh Branch New Delhi 110066. **Account Number:-** 49660110035635. **Type of Account:-** Current Account. **IFSC Code:-** UBIN0546836. **Availability of tender Document and Tender Document cost :** Tender document can be downloaded from www.ireps.gov.in, DFCCIL's website www.dfccil.gov.in & Central Procurement Portal, eprocure.gov.in; Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted on the website only. **Date and time of start & submission of filled tender document :** E-tender can be downloaded from www.ireps.gov.in, DFCCIL's website www.dfccil.gov.in & Central Procurement Portal, eprocure.gov.in w.e.f. 26.08.2020 and can be submitted w.e.f.11.09.2020 and Upto 15:00 hours of 25.09.2020 only on www.ireps.gov.in. **Date and time of opening of tender :** At 15:30 hours of 25.09.2020 on www.ireps.gov.in. **Help Desk for E-Tendering :** For any clarification, help and registration for E-Tendering, a Vendor manual containing the detailed guidelines for e-tendering system is available on www.ireps.gov.in. **Address of Communication :** Office of General Manager (Co.)DFCCIL/Meerut, 3rd floor, Shri Balaji) Commercial complex Plot No. C-2, Pocket-B, Sector-1, NH-58 By pass Vedyaspur Meerut. **General Manager (Co.) DFCCIL, Meerut**

Department of Tourism, Government of Kerala
Park View, Thiruvananthapuram 695 033

E-TENDER NOTICE

Selection of Marketing/Advertising/PR Agencies

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed registered Firms/Companies/ Agencies for selection under the following categories to assist Kerala Tourism to carry out various activities.

Category No.	Title of the Agency	e-Tender ID
1	Branding & Advertising Agency	2020_TOUR_379091
2	International Trade Marketing Agency	2020_TOUR_379113
3	National Trade Marketing Agency	2020_TOUR_379121
4	Local Events & Advertising Agency	2020_TOUR_379126
5	Public Relations Agency	2020_TOUR_379313

The entire procedure of bidding will be as e-Tender. Interested Firms/Companies/ Agencies may log on to <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> for details.

Last date and time for receipt of EOI - 6.00 PM on 15.09.2020.

24.08.2020

Sd/- Director

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/09/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

BHIWANI, BHIWANI, 119170700022164, 2262, 3727, 4456, 4555, 4571, 4596, 4642, 4692, 4709, 4745, 4848, 4853, 4875, 5434, 5466, 119170730013809, 4069, 4172, 4260, 4288, 4289, 4314, 4316, 4341, 4455, 4456, 4457, 4462, 4467, 4501, 4581, 4583, 4585, 4587, 4598, 4599, CHARKHI DADRI, 138050700000254, 138050730000522, DINOD GATE BHIWANI, 138570700000181, 0194, 0247, 0309, 0310, FARIDABAD, BALLABGARH, 122540700020761, 1731, 3056, 3089, 3152, 122540730010183, 0184, 0200, 0453, 0604, 0725, FARIDABAD, 100910700026608, 8383, 8799, 9444, 9541, 9574, 9636, 9654, 9688, 9717, 9810, 9811, 9813, 100910700030449, 0506, 0518, 0519, 100910730009041, 9056, 9057, 9058, 9059, 9060, 9242, 9244, 9303, 9304, 9316, 9317, 9318, 9324, 9345, 9346, JAWAHAR COLONY, 124310700030343, 1363, 2618, 2765, 2788, 2838, 2840, 3134, 3408, 3894, 4240, 4380, 4420, 4435, 4464, 4475, 4538, 4563, 4564, 4576, 4628, 4644, 4686, 4704, 4712, 4726, 4731, 4743, 4758, 4808, 4823, 4837, 4853, 4855, 4864, 4866, 4893, 5513, 5811, 5812, 5814, 5833, 5835, 124310730008800, 8827, 8828, 8849, 8894, 8978, 9098, 9116, 9140, NEELAM BATA CHOWK, 112420730007733, NIT VK CHOWK ROAD, 118270700020159, 0302, 1307, 1336, 1517, 2183, 2253, 2273, 2282, 2313, 2344, 2355, 2358, 2385, 2390, 2404, 2410, 2465, 3039, 3043, 3051, 118270730006217, 7060, 7062, 7184, 7270, 7271, 7374, 7386, 7409, PALWALAGRAROAD, 116870700028175, 116870700030076, 0144, 0215, 1616, 1745, 1791, 1941, 2709, 2751, 2884, 2888, 116870730009202, 9203, 9450, 9451, 9552, SECTOR 29 HARYANA, 120130700021711, 1776, 2953, 2979, 3158, 3168, 3873, 3935, 120130730005252, 5856, 5894, 5897, 5898, 5899, 5913, 5921, 5957, 5958, 5989, 6021, 6043, 6050, 6070, 6090, 6116, 6117, 6119, 6125, 6178, 6202, 6244, SECTOR 34 HUDA MARKET FARIDABAD, 120280700029556, 120280700031015, 1182, 1324, 2228, 2294, 2306, 2324, 2369, 2374, 2499, 2532, 2558, 2560, 3388, 3414, 120280730005247, 6107, 6722, 6723, 6742, 6782, 6784, 6794, 6799, 6802, 6846, 6847, 6848, 6867, 6869, 6874, 6883, 6892, 6899, 6901, 6903, 6911, 7017, 7042, 7060, 7062, 7079, 7101, 7120, 7133, 7143, 7151, 7188, 7195, 7208, 7209, 7210, 7217, 7234, 7252, 7279, 7280, 7281, GURGAON, KHANDASAROAD GURGAON, 112070700018920, 9053, 9117, 9140, 112070700020242, 0270, 0356, 0819, 0843, 0844, 0855, 0859, 0865, 0870, 0876, 0877, 0912, 0917, 0955, 0958, 0978, 1001, 1002, 1025, 1042, 1052, 1059, 1063, 1385, 112070730011762, 1969, 1970, 2136, 2381, 2382, 4408, 4429, 4430, 4431, 4432, 4445, 4513, 4536, 4588, 4638, 4701, 4711, 4712, 4713, 4728, 4730, 4771, 4776, 4792, 4793, 4794, 4799, 4800, 4820, 4830, 4841, 4956, 4997, 4998, 4999, 5001, 5010, 5011, 5012, 5013, 5014, 5015, 5018, 5019, 5029, 5030, 5062, 5066, 5087, 5180, 5181, 5182, 5190, 5228, 5254, 5255, 5256, 5334, 5521, 5538, 5567, 5575, 5603, LAKSHMAN VIHAR, 110740700022496, 3291, 3641, 3733, 3883, 3929, 3935, 3936, 3960, 3969, 3982, 4019, 4036, 4045, 4048, 4052, 4053, 4098, 4099, 4114, 4115, 4120, 4150, 4151, 110740730011409, 4844, 5381, 5382, 5575, 5635, 6638, 6944, 6950, 6971, 7030, 7031, 7035, 7053, 7068, 7165, 7273, 7274, 7315, 7357, 7361, 7362, 7367, 7383, 7386, 7387, 7388, 7389, 7502, 7530, 7531, 7543, 7544, 7545, NEW RAILWAY ROAD, 109780700018663, 8932, 9309, 9413, 9980, 109780700020013, 0057, 0087, 1097, 0102, 0106, 0110, 0123, 0174, 0490, 109780730004947, 4959, 5070, 6023, 6065, 6066, 6067, 6106, 6118, 6172, 6178, 6183, 6269, 6318, 6320, 6461, 6508, NUH, MEWAT HARYANA, 134820700008850, 134820700010073, 0083, 0115, 0131, 0136, 0138, 0146, 0159, 0194, 0207, 0608, 104820730005276, PATAUDI GURGAON, 132270700010382, 0655, 0918, 0952, 1066, 1092, 1138, 1221, 1256, 1261, 132270730019845, 9859, 9860, 9884, 9885, 9894, 9941, 9942, 9980, 9987, 9996, 132270730020022, 0069, 0070, 0095, 0096, 0103, 0107, 0186, 0190, 0111, 0112, 0145, 0151, 0152, 0153, 0176, 0177, 0178, 0179, 0214, 0249, 0252, 0255, 0274, 0275, 0278, 0314, 0324, 0333, 0524, 0606, 0641, 0689, 0718, 0934, SHEETALAMATAROAD GURGAON, 110760700022479, 3741, 3745, 3750, 3773, 3836, 3903, 4233, 4465, 4466, 4486, 4491, 4504, 4562, 4527, 4537, 4541, 4562, 4580, 4589, 4593, 4603, 4605, 4614, 4653, 4663, 4699, 110760730005466, 7687, 8423, 8520, 8611, 9133, 9134, 9271, SUKHLALI GURGAON, 127720700010593, 1149, 1172, 1186, 1199, 1201, 127720730010881, 2228, 2229, 2352, 2518, 2932, JHAJJAR, BAHADURGARH, 119180700007988, 8662, 9110, 9507, 9524, 9534, 9535, 9542, 119180730003475, 4444, 4446, 4479, 4537, 4638, 4648, 4649, 4658, 4689, 6901, 6903, 6911, 7017, 7042, 7060, 7062, 7079, 7101, 7120, 7133, 7143, 7151, 7188, 7195, 7208, 7209, 7210, 7217, 7234, 7252, 7279, 7280, 7281, 128900730009078, 9089, 9090, 9277, 9294, 9403, 9512, NEHRU PARK, BAHADURGARH, 129670700014850, 5828, 5912, 5988, 6026, 6056, 6076, 6830, 7058, 7664, 7794, 7815, 7830, 7833, 7834, 7835, 7836, 7837, 7857, 7858, 7859, 7860, 7872, 7875, 7876, 7878, 7879, 7880, 7881, 7893, 7895, 7897, 7898, 7899, 129670730013677, 1078, ROHTAK, CIVIL ROAD ROHTAK, 118930700016088, 7095, 7124, 7531, 7396, 8037, 8062, 8103, 8121, 8127, 8208, 8265, 8607, 8683, 8858, 8861, 8868, 8871, 8874, 8875, 8876, 8877, 8881, 8889, 8893, 8895, 8898, 8899, 8904, 8905, 8911, 8913, 8917, 8920, 118930730011081, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1158, 1166, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1204, 1205, 1269, 1316, 1350, 1420, ROHTAK SUBHASH CHOWK, 118510700016638, 6646, 6661, 7442, 7537, 7553, 8117, 8124, 8128, 8136, 118510730004752, 6041, 6072, 6108, 6208, 6209, 6287, SAMPLA ROHTAK ROAD, 117960700010074, 0075, 1073, 1371, 1392, 1453, 1464, 1545, 1909, 1922, 1933, 1947, 1958, 1961, 1975, 1981, 1984, 117960730003647, 3648, 3931, 3981, SIRSA, DABWALI, HARYANA, 131107000028316, 8344, 8401, 8465, 8543, 8650, 8790, 9052, 9808, 9809, 9812, 9894, 131107000300301, 0046, 0096, 0134, 0136, 0184, 0199, 0233, 0282, 0288, 1289, 1290, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1322, 1338, 1344, 1348, 1350, 1351, 1353, 1364, 1368, 1372, 1380, 1386, 1399, 1409, 1415, 1416, 1417, 13110730003136, 3138, 3139, 3162, 3176, 3197, 3268, 3300, SIRSA, HARYANA, 130150700018978, 9054, 9172, 130150700020017, 0089, 0167, 0172, 0195, 0222, SONIPAT, GOHANA, 131050700010508, 1946, 1995, SONEPATH LOD DC ROAD, 118640700014681, 4715, 5342, 5348, 5536, 5838, 5869, 118640730004308, 6016, 6069, 6022, 6338, 6339, YAMUNA NAGAR, AGGARSAIN CHOWK, YAMUNA NAGAR, 126760700015581, 6533, 6195, 6211, 6225, 6230, 6233, 6237, 6266, 6271, 6274, 126760730005254, 5255, 5302, 5363, BILASPUR, HARYANA, 134090700025786, 6531, 9509, 9646, 9677, 9720, 9721, 9724, 9725, 9729, 9737, 9740, 9747, 9760, 9763, 9768, 9779, 9790, 9791, 9792, 9794, 9806, 9825, 9827, 9836, 9838, 9843, 9848, 9852, 9854, 9858, 9864, 9918, 9921, 9924, 9933, 9934, 9945, 9948, 9951, 9967, 9976, 9986, 9988, 9989, 9990, 9992, 134090700030008, 0100, 0017, 0025, 0026, 0027, 0028, 0029, 0033, 0034, 134090730002235, 2238, 2261, 2265, 2307, 2308, 2332, 2333, 2340, 2342, 2343, 2369, HUDA SEC-17, JAGADHARY HARIYANA, 126890700012299, 2300, 2684, 2775, 2955, 3053, 3082, 3489, 3491, 3492, 3495, 3496, 3497, 3498, 3499, 3526, 3527, 3528, 3535, 126890730002469, 2550, 2561, KAMANI CHOWK, YAMUNA NAGAR, 134390700013553, 3554, 3591, 3617, 3639, 3672, 3801, 4320, 4349, 4365, 4368, 4380, 4395, 4396, 4427, 4423, 4433, 4443, 4444, 4445, 4451, 134390730003136, 3180, 3201, 3227, 3282, 3347, 3437, WORKSHOP ROAD, YAMUNA NAGAR, 127440700011015, 1524, 1649, 1665, 2203, 2204, 2211, 127440730001578, YAMUNA NAGAR, 118040700015211, 5272, 5300, 5327, 5395, 5397, 5407, 5887, 5897, 5958, 5976, 6057, 6077, 6479, 6485, 6486, 6491, 6492, 6497, 6505, 6507, 118040730005404, 5405, 5413, 5419, 5455, 5467, 5468, 5469, 5470, 5471, 5500, 5507, 5525, 5531, 5534, 5535, 5539, 5541, 5615, 5638, 5645, 5653, 5659, BOKARO, BOKARO STEEL CITY, 139380730000089, CHAS BOKARO, 13846073000313, CHAS-BOKARO STEEL CITY, 135470700010377, 1216, 1685, 2072, 2132, 2181, 2289, 2700, 2758, 2851, 2855, 2887, 2892, 2904, 2934, 2941, 2954, 2985, 2986, 2988, 3011, 3015, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3095, 3130, 3138, 3157, 3727, 135740730003458, 8472, 8730, 8794, 8844, 8859, 8908, 8909, 8957, 135740730010405, 0417, 0474, 0516, 0517, 0518, 0519, 0520, 0521, 0524, 0555, 0557, 0558, 0561, 0562, 0563, 0573, 0595, 0607, 0608, 0609, 0610, 0617, 0618, 0628, 0629, 0630, 0675, 0686, 0694,

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / CMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, AMBALA	CARRYING OUT OF VARIOUS LOGGING OPERATIONS AND ALL RELATED WORKS AS PER SCHEDULE OF RATES (S.O.R.) IN AMBALA DISTRICT AND NEIGHBOURING STATES OF HARYANA.	21.08.2020 28.08.2020	45 LACS	www.hfdc.gov.in	0171-2551567 gm.ambala@hfdc.gov.in
2	HARTROM	RATE CONTRACT FOR PREPARATION OF PVC EPIES ON BEHALF OF ELECTION DEPARTMENT, HARYANA & U.T., CHANDIGARH.	26.08.2020 16.09.2020	60 LACS	https://hartrom.org.in www.etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2580073 emsharyana@yahoo.com
3	H.S.A.N. BOARD, AMBALA.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF VARIOUS LINK ROADS IN NARAINGARH CONSTITUENCY IN DISTT. AMBALA UNDER WORK PLAN 2018-19 (GROUP NO.5) (ROAD ID - 4473, 4472, 4457, 4546, 4462)	21.08.2020 07.09.2020	82.44 LACS	www.hsamb.org.in	0171-2530675 xenembela2019.hsamb@gmail.com
4	HSAM BOARD, BHIWANI	SPECIAL REPAIR OF LINK ROADS IN LOHARU CONSTY. (GROUP-5) (ID- 529, 532 & 536) DISTT. BHIWANI (UNDER WORK PLAN 2020-21). + 14 OTHER WORK	CLOSING DATE 02.09.2020	14.93 CRORE	http://etenders.hry.nic.in.	edbiwani.hsamb@gmail.com
5	HC SONIPAT	PURCHASE OF 100 TRY CYCLE IN M.C SONEPAT.	OPENING CLOSING DATE 03.09.2020	10000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	sonmsonapat@gmail.com
6	THE SONIPAT COOPERATIVE SUGAR MILLS LTD. SONPAT	PURCHASE OF PUMPS AND PUMPS SPARES + 32 OTHER WORKS	22.08.2020 29.08.2020	6.50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9728101002 sonspetsugan@gmail.com
7	THE SIRSA DISTT. COOP. MILK PROD. UNION LTD., (VITA SIRSA)	HIRING OF BOLEDO VEHICLE ONE NO. AND HIRING OF MARUTI ERTIGA ONE NO. + 2 OTHER WORKS	25.08.2020 14.09.2020	90000/-	http://etenders.hry.nic.in or vitarsa.org.in	01666-2245059 vitarsa@gmail.com
8	THE AMBALA DISTT. COOP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD	CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF RAIN WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURE COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECT (WITH BORING & INSTALLATION OF RECHARGE PIT)	27.08.2020 17.09.2020	10 LACS	http://vitarsa.etenders.hry.nic.in www.vitarsa.org.in	9729875323 mlpleet@vitarsa.com
9	FARIDABAD SMART CITY LIMITED	OUTSOURCING OF COMPUTERIZED CUM CLERICAL ACTIVITIES/ SERVICES OF FARIDABAD SMART CITY LIMITED AS PER REQUIREMENT	21.08.2020 10.09.2020	25000/-	www.smartcityfaridabad.co.in	95997809318 fctsl.citybus@gmail.com
10	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	NISAADEHI WORK OF MUNICIPAL LAND AND POND BY TOTAL STATION MACHINE IN BHIWANI CITY.	OPENING CLOSING DATE 28.08.2020	25000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 mz.mcbbhiwan@gmail.com
11	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	RENOVATION OF CHOPHAL IN TALYAN PANA, BHIWANI CITY.	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	2500/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9810880504 mz.mcbbhiwan@gmail.com
12	HARYANA AGRO INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LIMITED, PANCHKULA	SALE OF VARIOUS ITEM OF RAW MATERIAL/ STORE/STOCK ARTICLES LYING AT CATTLE FEED PLANT, AND ON "AS IS WHERE BASIS"	24.08.2020 10.09.2020	2% of the total bid value	haic.co.in / https://etenders.hry.nic.in/haicapp	0171-2586920 haicwpb@gmail.com
13	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIVYOGA PARISHAD	RE-CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING IN GOVT. SCHOOL ISLAMPUR IN GRS ISLAMPUR, DISTRICT- GURUGRAM + 4 OTHER WORKS	20.08.2020 16.09.2020	320.07 LACS	www.hsspp.in	0172-2586920 civilbranchesa@gmail.com
14	MC HSAR	TENDER FOR HIRING OF MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, HSAR. (UNDER OUTSOURCING POLICY PART-I) + 16 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 31.08.2020	4.55 CRORE	etenders.hry.nic.in	xsmchissar@gmail.com
15	HARYANA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD, SIRSA	PURCHASE OF MATERIAL & LABOUR WORKS FOR MANUFACTURING OF RCC FENCING POST (PILLAR) COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS + 2 OTHER WORKS	21.08.2020 27.08.2020	3 LACS	www.hfdc.gov.in	01666-243020 gm.sirsa@hfdc.gov.in
16	HC SONIPAT	CONST./RESTORATION OF VARIOUS STREETS IN INDIAN COLONY AFTER LAYING OF WATER SUPPLY LINE IN ANRUT SCHEME WARD 31, GOWANA ROAD, M.C SONPAT	OPENING CLOSING DATE 03.09.2020	NIL	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	sonmsonapat@gmail.com
17	MC SONPAT	TENDER FOR THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR CONDUCTING ANNUAL BIRTH CONTROL OF STRAY DOGS IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SONPAT	OPENING CLOSING DATE 03.09.2020	31.17 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	sonmsonapat@gmail.com
18	U-ETVN	HIRING 3 NO OUTSOURCED VEHICLE ALONGWITH DRIVER OPER FROM BACK SIDE. S/D RAJIND AND 2 NO BOLEDO JEEP FOR OFFICE USE OF S/D PUNDRI NO-2 & DIVISION OFFICE TO BE USED 24 *7	OPENING CLOSING DATE 10.09.2020	Rs. 6000/- per vehicle	www.uevtn.org.in	9354726133 sonmapundri@uevtn.org.in
19	HVPNL	PROVIDING FLOOD RETAINING WALL AROUND THE HUGE SOIL MASS SUPPORTING T. NO. 70 OF 66KV OVC HYDUL-YAMUNA NAGAR LINE AND TCE WALL AT 66 KV S/STN. HVPNL, JATHLANA.	CLOSING DATE 03.09.2020	3.60 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	0172-2583799 pro@hvpnl.org.in
20	HVPNL	EXTENSION OF SWITCH HOUSE BUILDING, IDCT, CONSTRUCTION OF 01 NO. T/F PLINTH, ANTI-FIRE WALL, ODSG FOUNDATIONS, ODC FOR PROVIDING ADDITIONAL 25/31.5 MVA 66/11KV T/F AT 66KV SUB-STATION, SHOKRALAN (GURUGRAM)	CLOSING DATE 07.09.2020	34.54 LACS	www.hvpnl.org.in	0172-2583799 pro@hvpnl.org.in
21	THE SIRSA DISTT. COOP. MILK PROD. UNION LTD., (VITA SIRSA)	SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF ICE ACCUMULATING COILS FOR CHILLED WATER TANK NO 1 ALONGWITH HEADERS	26.08.2020 04.09.2020	10000/-	http://etenders.hry.nic.in or vitarsa.org.in	01666-2245059 vitarsa@gmail.com
22	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, SHAHABAD (M.)	CATCH & LEAVE OF STRAY CATTLE WITHIN THE LIMIT OF MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE, SHAHABAD HARISANDA	25.08.2020 01.09.2020	Rates to be quoted by bidder	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9990199405 secymc.shahabad@hry.nic.in

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

Detailed NIT is also available on website <www.auid.gov.in> for view only. For further clarification, please contact: 040-27776342/27776387.

17 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 38,843.88 ▲ 44.80 NIFTY: 11,472.25 ▲ 5.80 NIKKEI: 23,296.77 ▲ 311.26 HANG SENG: 25,486.22 ▼ 65.36 FTSE: 6,110.30 ▲ 5.57 DAX: 13,155.43 ▲ 88.89



GOLD

₹52,350



RUPEE

₹74.33



OIL

\$45.96



SILVER

₹66,736

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Brent crude as of 2300 IST

International market data till 1900 IST

RBI ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20: OF TOTAL ₹1.85L CR, PSBs ACCOUNT FOR ₹1.48L CR

Bank frauds: 159% jump, loan portfolio in focus

Average lag between date of occurrence & detection by banks, Fls was 24 months

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

THE TOTAL cases of frauds (involving Rs 1 lakh and above) reported by banks and financial institutions (Fls) shot up by 28 per cent by volume and 159 per cent by value during 2019-20 despite the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightening the supervision and vigilance. While there were 6,799 frauds involving Rs 71,543 crore as of March 2019, the number of frauds jumped to 8,707 involving a whopping Rs 1,85,644 crore, says the RBI's Annual Report.

According to the RBI, a major chunk of the frauds were reported on the advances front with 4,610 cases for Rs 1,82,051 crore, which works to around 98 per cent of the total value of frauds. Public sector banks topped the fraud table with 4,413 cases involving Rs 1,48,400

EXPLAINED
Reasons for delay in detection

WEAK IMPLEMENTATION of Early Warning Signals by banks, non-detection of EWS during internal audits, non-cooperation of borrowers during forensic audits, inconclusive audit reports and lack of decision making in Joint Lenders' meetings account for delay in detection of frauds.

crore. Private banks reported 3,066 frauds involving Rs 34,211 crore.

However, the RBI indicated that the frauds registered during 2019-20 actually occurred in the previous years. The average lag between the date of occurrence of frauds and their detection by banks and Fls was 24 months during 2019-20. In large frauds — Rs 100 crore and above — the average lag was 63 months. The sanction of the credit facility in many

of these accounts was much older.

Fraud has been predominantly occurring in the loan portfolio (advances category), both in terms of number and value, the RBI said. There was a concentration of large value frauds, with the top 50 credit-related frauds constituting 76 per cent of the total amount reported as frauds during 2019-20. However, the RBI said the number of frauds and the amount showed a downward trend in the April-June period of 2020-21.

Incidents relating to other areas of banking — off-balance sheet and forex transactions — fell in 2019-20 when compared to the previous year, the RBI said. It said weak implementation of Early Warning Signals (EWS) by banks, non-detection of EWS during internal audits, non-cooperation of borrowers during forensic audits, inconclusive audit reports and lack of decision making in Joint Lenders' meetings account for delay in detection of frauds.

The RBI is now engaged in interlinking various databases and information systems to improve fraud monitoring and detection.

Central bank balance sheet up 30%, income declines 29%

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

THE RESERVE Bank of India's balance sheet increased by 30 per cent, or Rs 12,31,888 crore, from Rs 41,02,905 crore as of June 2019 to Rs 53,34,793 crore a year ago. The increase on the asset side was due to increase in domestic and foreign investments by 18.40 per cent and 27.28 per cent, respectively, increase in loans and advances by 245.76 per cent and increase in gold by 52.85 per cent, the RBI said in its Annual Report.

However, the gross total income for the year 2019-20 declined by 29 per cent to Rs 149,672 crore as compared to Rs 193,036 crore in 2018-19. The previous year's income included a write back of excess provision from Contingency Fund amounting to Rs 52,637 crore. "A comparison excluding the same from

previous year's income, shows a marginal increase in the income for 2019-20," the RBI said.

Its expenditure for the year 2019-20 is Rs 92,540 crore, which includes a risk provision of Rs 73,615 crore towards Contingency Fund, compared to an expenditure of Rs 17,045 crore in 2018-19. The year ended with an overall surplus of Rs 57,128 billion. This was transferred to the government.

On the liability side, the rise was due to increase in notes issued, other liabilities and provisions and deposits by 21.52 per cent, 30.47 per cent and 53.72 per cent, respectively. Domestic assets constituted 28.75 per cent while foreign currency assets and gold (including gold deposit and gold held in India) constituted 71.25 per cent of total assets as of June 2020 as against 28.03 per cent and 71.97 per cent, respectively, as of June 2019, it said.

New govt employment in June falls over 60% from FY20 monthly average level

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

NEW EMPLOYMENT in government sector fell by over 60 per cent in June 2020, compared with the monthly average of the last financial year, data released by National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday showed.

The central government had introduced the National Pension System (NPS) with effect from January 1, 2004 (except for armed forces) on a mandatory basis. All the employees of central autonomous bodies who have joined on or after the above mentioned date are also mandatorily covered under the government sector of NPS. Following the central government, various state governments

3 KEY POINTS

1 Only 3,537 subscribers joined NPS from central government sector, against monthly average of 9,213 in FY19 and 9,904 in FY20

2 From state government sector, 20,222 joined this June, as against monthly average of 45,209 in FY19 and 41,333 in FY20

3 The Centre had introduced NPS with effect from January 1, 2004

also adopted this architecture and implemented NPS with effect

Moody's: Recovery underway; growth likely to contract by 3.1% in FY21

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

MOODY'S TUESDAY retained its earlier India growth forecast at -3.1 per cent for FY21 and 6.9 per cent for FY22. China, India and Indonesia will be the only G20 emerging economies to witness a strong enough pickup of real GDP in the second half of 2020 and full-year 2021 to end next year above pre-coronavirus levels, it said in its latest Global Macro Outlook for 2020-21.

It said an economic recovery is underway, but its continuation will be closely tied to containment of the virus. **FE**

No ₹2,000 note printed in FY20; ₹500 in circulation sharply increases

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

THE NUMBER and value of Rs 2,000 notes in circulation declined during the year ended March 2020, even as the Rs 500 notes in circulation sharply increased, as per the RBI's Annual Report. It disclosed that Rs 2,000 notes were not printed in 2019-20, while 1,200 crore pieces of Rs 500 notes were printed. The central bank printed 5 crore Rs 2,000 notes in 2018-19.

Number of fake ₹500 notes rises

Mumbai: The RBI said the number of fake notes in Rs 500 denomination increased in 2019-20. While there has been a decline in the overall number of counterfeit notes detected in 2020-21 compared to the previous year, there was

While 32,910 lakh pieces valued at Rs 6,58,199 crore of Rs 2,000

an increase of 144.6 per cent, 28.7 per cent, 151.2 per cent and 37.5 per cent in counterfeit notes detected in the denominations of Rs 10, Rs 50, Rs 200 and Rs 500 — Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series — respectively, it said. **ENS**

notes were in circulation in March 2019, the numbers declined to

27,398 lakh and Rs 547,952 crore in March 2020. Now Rs 2,000 notes constitute only 22.6 per cent of the total value, as against 37.3 per cent in 2018 and 31.2 per cent in 2019.

On the other hand, the value of Rs 500 notes spurred sharply to Rs 14.72 lakh crore in March 2020 from Rs 10.75 lakh crore a year ago. The number of Rs 500 notes also rose from 215,176 lakh pieces in 2019 to 294,475 lakh pieces. Significantly, Rs 500 notes constitute 60.8 per cent of the total value

of bank notes in India, up from 51 per cent last year.

"The indent of banknotes for 2019-20 was lower by 13.1 per cent than that of a year ago," the RBI said. The supply of banknotes during 2019-20 was also lower by 23.3 per cent than in the previous year mainly due to the disruptions caused by the outbreak of COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown, it said. The value and volume of notes in circulation increased by 14.7 per cent and 6.6 per cent, respectively, during FY20.

BRIEFLY

₹20K-crore OMO by RBI

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank will simultaneously buy and sell government securities under open market operations (OMO) for Rs 20,000 crore in two tranches. **PTI**

SBI BCA downgraded

Mumbai: Moody's Investors Service on Tuesday downgraded State Bank of India's (SBI) baseline credit assessment (BCA) and adjusted BCA from ba1 to ba2. **FE**

DFCCIL: Goyal reviews progress

New Delhi: Railway Minister Piyush Goyal reviewed the progress of Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL), which is overseeing the rail infrastructure project of Dedicated Freight Corridors, at a total cost of around Rs 91,459 crore. **ENS**

New deadline for Air India bids

New Delhi: The government has extended by two months the deadline to place bids for Air India till October 30. The process of stake sale in the national carrier was initiated on January 27.

Nirav Modi case: ₹24 cr to PNB

New Delhi: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs Tuesday said Punjab National Bank (PNB) has received over Rs 24 crore as the first tranche of recoveries from bankruptcy proceedings of three Nirav Modi-promoted companies in the US. **PTI**

Alibaba arm files for dual listing

Hong Kong: Ant Group, Alibaba's fintech arm and China's dominant mobile payments firm, filed for a dual listing in Hong Kong and on Shanghai's Nasdaq-style STAR Market Tuesday and could raise \$30 billion in what would be the world's largest IPO. **REUTERS**

Investments in efforts to find Covid drugs to count as part of CSR spends

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

IN A move to boost India's efforts to find effective medicines and vaccines against Covid-19, the government is temporarily allowing investment towards such efforts to be considered as fulfillment of a company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligations.

This includes pharmaceutical, vaccine and medical device firms, which are expected to undertake

research and development of new drugs, vaccines and medical devices as part of their regular business activities.

In fresh amendments to the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility) Rules, 2014, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs has inserted a provision that would allow firms to claim CSR benefits for such activities until the 2022-2023 financial year.

For now, firms engaged in "research and development activity of new vaccine, drugs and medical

devices in their normal course of business" will be eligible for CSR benefits for their R&D work related to such activities for Covid products, provided the work is "in collaboration with" any of the institutes or organisations mentioned in item (ix) of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013. "Univs, labs should grasp these opportunities, set up collaborative programs for Covid-19 R&D, also get support for other areas," tweeted Dr K Vijayaraghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the government.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during an interaction with senior members of CII on Tuesday. via Twitter: @nsitharaman

luxury nor a sin good and hence merits a rate revision.

Consequently, this will be taken up with the GST Council." The statement comes ahead of the GST Council meetings scheduled on August 27 and September 19.

She said the Centre will look into operational guidelines to ease

pain of sectors hit by the pandemic. Speaking at the event, CII President Uday Kotak said there are signs of a nascent economic recovery from the lows in April-May, but local lockdowns have led to supply-side bottlenecks, which could impede growth when demand side cranks up.

COMMERCIAL COAL MINING

'Govt considering land acquisition under CBA Act, then leasing it to pvt miners'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE CENTRAL government is considering a proposal to acquire land under the Coal Bearing Areas (CBA) Act, 1957 and then lease it to private players to expedite the development of coal blocks allocated for commercial mining, according to senior government officials. Currently, the CBA Act is used for acquisition of land for use by state-owned coal mining companies, such as Coal India Ltd (CIL).

The Centre had, in June, liberalised the bidding norms for coal blocks, announcing an auction of 41 blocks allowing for commer-

cial mining for the first time. "The Coal Ministry is considering" allowing the acquisition of land under the CBA Act and then to give it on lease to private sector coal miners," said M Nagaraju, Joint Secretary in the Coal Ministry, speaking at a webinar on the financing perspective of auction of coal mines for commercial mining organised by FICCI.

Anil Kumar Jain, Coal Secretary, said his ministry was in discussions with the Environment Ministry to expedite clearances for successful bidders for coal blocks. "We are hopeful that in the next 6-12 months you might hear that the time taken to get forest may also get reduced," he said.

Crude oil processing in July falls 18.8% over last year

New Delhi: Domestic refiners processed 17,680 thousand metric tonnes (TMT) of crude oil in July 2020, down 18.8 per cent from a total processing of 21,777 TMT in July 2019 and up only 0.88 per cent from the number this June, according to a release by the Petroleum Ministry, indicating a slow-down in the recovery of demand for petroleum products which crashed due to the lockdown imposed to curb the Covid-19 spread.

Total throughput of crude oil processed domestically reached 17,537 TMT in June, up 19.9 per cent from a low 14,745 TMT in April. Low demand for petroleum products was the key reason for the low number in June. **ENS**

संल लॉगोवाल अभियांत्रिकी एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
(समविश्वविद्यालय, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन)
SANT LONGWAL INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
Deemed to be University: Estd. by Govt. of India

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-Tenders in two Bid System, i.e. Technical and Financial Bid are invited for the following Electrical works at SLIET Longwal:

1. Kendriya Vidyalaya 125 KVA DG Power Supply to the Building like Bank, Post Office, Restaurant, Telephone Exchange & Shopping Complex Adjacent at SLIET Longwal.
2. Installation of DB's & dismantling of old panels in residential area in a phase manner (2nd Phase).
3. Making pre-requisite provisions for installation & commissioning of AC's in Central Library & Accounts Department at SLIET, Longwal.
4. SITC of Audio and Video system in JC Bose Hall (ISTE Hall) at SLIET Longwal.

For detailed, terms & conditions, please visit www.sliet.ac.in **REGISTRAR**

SHRI AMARNATHJI SHRINE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

For and on behalf of Chairman, Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, Sealed Bids in Two Bid Format, Affixed with Rs. 4/- Revenue Stamps, are invited from Television Channel Companies desirous of seeking permission in regard to **Live Telecast of Aarti at Holy Cave during Shri Amarnathji Yatra - 2021 (Twice a day)** for Three Years w.e.f Yatra 2021.

Advt. NIT No.: SASB/DNIT/843/2020/30
Dated: 25.08.2020
Last Date of Submission of Bids: 19.09.2020.

The DNIT, Bidding Document and other details can be obtained from the official website: www.shriamarnathjishrine.com

All subsequent information/Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates shall be uploaded on **SASB website only**. Therefore, the bidders are requested to visit the website regularly for latest updates. **SASB-1083**

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No. U27310WB1920GO1003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", 14TH & 5TH FLOOR, 27, RUSSELL STREET, KOL-71

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (e-NIT)

Online "Single Percentage Rate" Bid(s) / offer(s) are invited in two part bid system for pre-bid tie-up towards "Simlapal - Sarenga-Bamundiaghat Road from 8.00 kmp to 30.50km, Widening and strengthening work under Bankura Highway Division in the District of Bankura (Bilumunur Work)."

Sl. No.	Name of Work:	NIT No. & Date of Hosing	Last date of submission of Offer
A.	Pre-Bid TieUp for Road Work at Simlapal - Sarenga - Bamundiaghat Road, Bankura Div.	B&R / TN 14 of 2020-2021 of S.E & PD / PIU-4 / PBTU Dated: 26.08.2020	01.09.2020 within 5.00 P.M

Interested Bidder(s) have to enroll & register with the Government e-Procurement System and download the Tender document through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> Corrigendum / Addendum, if any shall be hosted in CPP Portal i.e. <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and in Company's Website <http://www.bridgeroof.co.in>, only.

RAMAGUNDAM FERTILIZERS AND CHEMICALS LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of NFL, EIL, FCIL & TS)
FERTILIZER CITY, RAMAGUNDAM, DIST: PEDDAPALLI, TELANGANA-505210

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited from eligible parties, in Two Part Bid System for Annual contract.

1. **Contract for Operation and maintenance of cranes, Fork lifter and other heavy Equipment at RFCL Ramagundam, (contract period one year) Tender cost Rs. 750/- (inclusive of GST) EMD Rs. 50,000.00**

Interested parties may obtain tender documents from the office of **Sh.V.K.Bangar, GM (Mech), Mob: 9908361376, 9105665148** RFCL site Ramagundam on or before 25-09-2020 up to 12.30 p.m by paying Tender cost in the form of Demand Draft. The DD shall be in favour of Ramagundam Fertilizers And Chemicals Limited payable at Ramagundam. Alternately, parties may also download the tender documents from website: <http://www.rfcl.co.in> in tender section. The last date for submission of tender offer is 25-09-2020 upto 3.00 PM in office of GM(Mech). Any amendment to the above tenders shall be displayed on the above website only.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit-1: KAGITHAPURAM - 639 136, KARUR DIST. TAMIL NADU
Phone: 04324-277 001 (10 LINES)
Unit-2: Mondipatti - 621306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu
Ph:04332-265102

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
202113 002347	Procurement of Alkaline Sizing Chemicals with Alkyl Ketene Dimer (AKD) for Paper M/C No.1,2&3	07.09.2020
202113 002358	Procurement of Sulphamic Acid Commercial	08.09.2020
202113 002420	Procurement of Filler Grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (in jumbo bags)	09.09.2020
202123 000794	90 GSM Plain kraft Reels & sheets of various sizes in 24 BF, Quantity:Reels-468MT & Sheets - 610MT	09.09.2020
Email	202113002347, 2358 & 2420 - purchase.ramwat@tnpl.co.in 202123000794 - purchasepacking.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Detailed Terms & conditions, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our websites: www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.tnpl.com

DIPR/3163/Tender/2020 **TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper**

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
Solid Waste Management Department

S.W.M.C.No.A7/0899/2020

Notice Inviting e-tender- Second call

Short e-Tenders are invited for the following work in Single stage two cover system as detailed below.

The Superintending Engineer (SWM), Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), invites online tender for "Primary Collection, Secondary Transportation of Construction and Demolition Waste from Zone 9 to 15 to the processing facility at Perungudi site of Greater Chennai Corporation (the Authority) under PPP mode are available in online www.tntenders.gov.in

Last Date and Time of Submission of Bid	10 th September 2020, 03.00 PM
Bid Opening Date and Time	11 th September 2020, 04.00 PM
Cost of Tender documents and EMD	Cost of tender document Rs.20,000/- + 12% GST EMD Rs.9.70 Lakhs

DIPR/3172/Tender/2020 **Superintending Engineer (SWM)**

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(भारत सरकार का अख्तियार) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
A Wharves Company NSIC New Mangalore, Sec 22, Cochin Industrial Estate, Cochin, NSIC Cochin Free Zone Station New Delhi - 110020

TENDER NOTICE(E-Tendering Mode Only)

CONCOR invites Online e-Tender in Two Bid system for "providing professional services for operation and maintenance of 11 nos. loaded reach stackers of Capacity of 45 T x 5 high for handling of loaded 20' x 11, 22' x 40'ft and 45'ft. length of containers at KOT/ Dada- 45 nos. RD/CP, Kanpur-04 Nos. & RD/ Kota-02 nos." The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs.1000/- through online from the website, www.tenderwizard.com/CCL.

Tender No.	CON / NORTH / DER, CPC & RD / O & MR ST / 2020
Estimated Cost	₹ 17,40,88,477.00 (inclusive of 18% GST)
Period of the contract	3 years (36 months), further extendable by one year
Earnest Money Deposit	₹ 5,00,000.00 (Rupees Five Lakh) through e-payment.
Cost of Tender & Mode of Payment	₹ 1000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	₹ 5,310/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Period of online Tender Sale	From 26.08.2020 at 15:00 hrs. to 17.09.2020 upto 14:00 hrs.
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	02.09.2020 at 11:00 hrs.
Last Date & Time of submission of tender (online)	17.09.2020 upto 17:00 hrs.
Time & Date of Technical Bid Opening	On 18.09.2020 at 11:00 hrs.

For eligibility criteria and other details please log on to www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/CCL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. **Executive Director/Area-1, North**

BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD.
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
CIN No.U27310WB1920GO1003601
"KANKARIA CENTRE", 14TH & 5TH FLOOR, 27, RUSSELL STREET, KOL-71

NOTICE INVITING e-EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (e-EOI)
e-TENDER NO. : B&R / HO / NEW JOB / EOI / 02

Applications for Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Agencies meeting prescribed Qualifying Criteria for "EMANELMENT OF PROJECT CONSULTANT FOR PROVIDING MANNING AND DESIGN CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR DESIGN OF RAILWAY ALIGNMENT /PREPARATION OF LONG SECTION / DESIGN OF ALLIED STRUCTURES ETC. IN VARIOUS RAILWAY PROJECTS INCLUDING DESIGNER SUPERVISION DURING EXECUTION". Sub Head: Preliminary Survey & Soil Investigation , Preparation of Soil Investigation Report , Designing & Preparation of Drawing of Railway alignment, Formation Design, Preparation Long Section, Design of allied structures like Platforms, Station Buildings, Yards, FOB, Design of Major and Minor Bridges / Crossovers / Underpass / ROB / RUB / Structural Girders / PSC / RCG Girders / RFR . Preparation of DPR, Cost Estimate, providing Bidding Assistance and Designer Supervision during Execution etc.

Date of hosting in CPP Portal: 26.08.2020.
Last Date of submission of Bid: 09.09.2020 upto 17:00 Hours.
Interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to <https://eprocure.gov.in>.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's Website: www.bridgeroof.co.in and CPP portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in> only.

Club 600 finally gets a pacer

Southampton Test ends in a draw, but Anderson creates history by joining rarefied 600-Test wicket club

SANDIP G
AUGUST 25

FOR ENGLAND cricket, there is another reason to remember August 25. On the first anniversary of the Headingley heist, James Anderson became the first-ever fast bowler to enrol in the rarefied 600-Test wicket club, when he removed Azhar Ali off the second ball of his third over of the day. The only highlight of a truncated final day, which saw the match trundle into a stalemate.

Only three greats of the game gleam over him—Muttiah Muralitharan, Shane Warne and Anil Kumble. All three are spinners, which contextualises the significance of Anderson's feat. Not that the game has not seen better fast bowlers than Anderson or it would not see an upgrade of him in future, but like Fred Trueman, the first fast bowler to pick 300 wickets said: "Aye, but whoever does will be bloody tired!" It's incredibly tough for a fast bowler, even for swing bowlers who supposedly don't stretch the outer limits of their body like Anderson, to dare a dream like Anderson's. Add to that the toll it takes on his mind and the sacrifice of staying away from his family and little daughters.

Among his contemporaries, there is his peer, accomplice and friend Stuart Broad, who has collected 514 wickets. But at 35, it would not be long before he wraps up the whites, unless he rips a page off Anderson's how-to-ripen-with-age manual.

The rest of the pack is daylights behind them. The next pacer in the queue is Ishant Sharma, who is three shy of his 300th wicket. That, though, is a narrative for another day.

The narrative of this day was all Anderson and his tireless, at times fretful, wait for the 600th. At the end of the second day, he was on 597. It took him three days to pick the remaining three.

The duration between his 599th and 600 was 20 hours 31 minutes—for which he had to curse the rotten weather and greasy palms of his colleague. Having already endured the agony of watching four catches put down by colleagues, he had to



Pakistan captain Azhar Ali was James Anderson's 600th Test scalp. Reuters

wait till 4.15 for the match to resume on the final day. It was as if the clouds had cleared up for a few hours so that Anderson could complete his landmark, which would need a monumental effort to surpass for posterity.

Anderson's big moment arrived when Ali tried to force a short off the back-foot, only for the delivery to climb steeper than he had expected and brushed the outside edge of his bat to Joe Root's palms at first slip. Anderson's celebrations were characteristically sedate, even as the brisk applause from the scattered gathering of teammates, ground-staff, broadcasters and commentators echoed in the empty stands in the absence of the crowd.

Milestone scalp

The milestone wicket itself was so un-Anderson like, surprising Ali with bounce than devious late swing or devilish seam movement, pitched more on good length than the fuller side. There was nothing the surface offered him, there was little the

blunted 62-over-old ball offered, yet Anderson was not to be denied.

In a sense, it was symbolic of Anderson's transformation from a condition-reliant swing merchant to condition-transcending destroyer of batting line-ups, and how with every passing year, he has added more, tricks, guile and wisdom to his bowling. He is 38, yet he ambles in with the freshness and alacrity of a 25-year-old. And if he were to look back, the skinny scatter-gun bowler with bleached platinum-blond hair, whose first over in Test cricket cost 17 runs, seems a total stranger, not even an imposter.

Anderson had begun the summer on 584 wickets, but looked wind-beaten against the West Indies, against whom he nabbed only five wickets.

But by the time the Pakistanis arrived, he had regained his rhythm and sharpness, and in the third Test, he reached his crescendo, picking his 29th first five-for of his career in the first innings and adding two more in the second.

MR. DEPENDABLE

1231 Duration in minutes for James Anderson between his 599 and 600th Test wickets.

2 The next pacer on that list is his good mate Stuart Broad with 514 wickets. The rest of the pack is daylights behind them.

156 Anderson has played most Tests for a specialist seamer.

33,717 Number of deliveries bowled by Anderson in Tests — the most by a pacer.

In his hour of glory, several facets of his career stand out—the unflinching devotion to his craft, the maniacal conditioning of his body (and how well he takes care of those wrists!), the keenness to keep learning and evolving, the sacrifice of staying aloof of limited-overs cricket and the unquenched thirst to keep playing. A perfect modern-day specimen of athlete-bowler, yet the master of an old-fashioned art. Like Warne spun a renaissance of leg-spin bowling, he has done what he could to keep swing bowling alive, if not en vogue.

This was not the usual narrative of a legendary veteran dragging past the landmark, overstaying for one last brush of gloss, but a masterful bowler conquering one peak after the other in his stately march.

A march that doesn't seem to end any time soon. Only a few weeks ago had he reiterated that he has no plans to retire. There is no reason he should. And unlike Trueman's prophesy, Anderson hardly looks tired.

BRIEF SCORES: England 583/8 declared (Zak Crawley 267, Jos Buttler 152) vs Pakistan 273 (Azhar Ali 141, James Anderson 5/56) and 187/4 (fo) Babar Azam 63 not out, Anderson 2/45). Match ends in a draw. England win series 1-0.

SUPER CUP WILL HAVE FANS IN ATTENDANCE

Fans will be allowed to attend the UEFA Super Cup match between Bayern Munich and Sevilla in Budapest on September 24, European football's governing body said.

Messi tells Barcelona that he wants to leave

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AUGUST 25

LIONEL MESSI has told Barcelona he wants to leave the club after nearly two decades with the Spanish giants. The club confirmed to *The Associated Press* on Tuesday that the Argentina great sent a document expressing his desire to leave.

The announcement comes 11 days after Barcelona's humiliating 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League quarterfinals, one of the worst defeats in the player's career and in the club's history. The defeat capped a difficult season for Barcelona — the first without a title since 2007-08 — and ignited one of its worst crises ever.

The 33-year-old Messi has won a record six Ballon d'Or awards during his time at Barcelona as the top player in the world, and has helped the club win 10 Spanish league titles and four Champions League crowns.

However, his attempt to exit the club could now lead to a legal battle between the two sides over a clause in his contract.

Barcelona said the document sent by Messi referenced a clause allowing him to leave for free at the end of the season. However, the club said the deadline for triggering that clause expired in June and that it would seek legal advice. Messi's contract also includes a 700 million euro (\$826 million) buyout clause. The Spanish season would normally have ended in May but was pushed back because of the coronavirus pandemic.

If Messi can leave for free, he will have no shortage of suitors. However, only a handful of clubs could realistically afford to pay his wages even without a transfer fee — with mega-rich Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City widely seen as perhaps the most likely destinations.

Messi had been outspoken about his dissatisfaction with some of Barcelona's decisions this season. He had been silent since the loss to Bayern, though, raising doubts about his future. Club president Josep Bartomeu had said he was confident that Messi would finish his career with Barcelona, and that he was a crucial part of incoming coach Ronald Koeman's plans for the team.

Koeman met with Messi last week and



Lionel Messi won a record six Ballon d'Or awards during his stint with Barcelona. Reuters

the player reportedly told the Dutchman that he saw himself more out than in at the club at that moment.

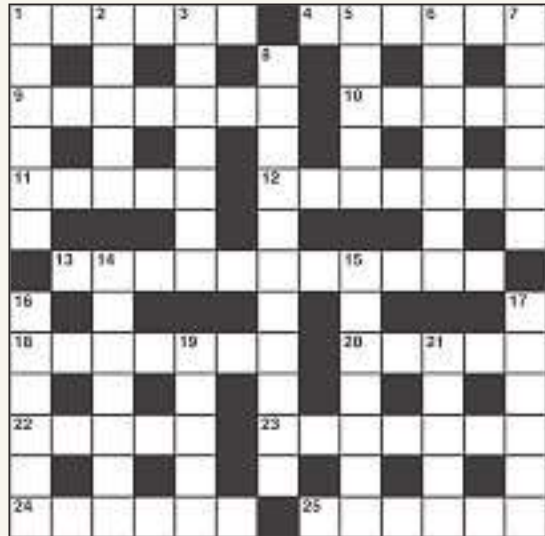
The coach reportedly had already told other key pieces of the squad that they were not in his plans, including Luis Suárez, Arturo Vidal, Samuel Umtiti and Ivan Rakitic.

After the loss to Bayern, Barcelona announced it would make "profound" changes to the first team and a "wide-ranging" restructuring of the club. The changes began with the firing of coach Quique Setién a few days after the Champions League defeat in Portugal, and new presidential elections were called for March.

Messi arrived at Barcelona as a teenager in 2001, joining the club's famed La Masia youth academy. Former Barcelona defender Carles Puyol, who was the club captain during much of Messi's career, tweeted his support to the Argentine.

"Respect and admiration, Leo," Puyol wrote. "You have all my support, friend."

CROSSWORD 4207



ACROSS

- Is getting in support to carry on the fight (6)
- Records broken by Ernest (6)
- Terribly grieved, draw apart (7)
- Soft-hearted look for a social outcast (5)
- Return first class by railway to southern country (5)
- Study apostle in Scandinavia (7)
- Resolute support from your company? (4,7)
- And 7 Down: Will such action affect the lion-tamer's act? (7,6)
- Tender proposal (5)
- Female novelist and male poet are both made to lie (5)
- Is splitting the country, but facing the facts (7)
- Money put behind a mirror (6)
- A top man in the building trade (6)

DOWN

- Is unusually hard on the outside, but edible (6)
- Cut and serve out (5)
- Unending massacre can result in bitter comment (7)
- Only order northern fabric (5)
- Account for what is no longer clear (7)
- See 18 Across
- Service chiefs? (4,7)
- I shall and will show hostility (3,4)
- A professor of infinite wisdom (4-3)
- Ways to get round little children's demands (6)
- Paint book? (6)
- Smart girl that is after a share of the proceeds (5)
- Sort of girl to give Rex the run around (5)

Solutions Crossword 4206: Across: 1 Backlog, 5 Somme, 8 Dancing master, 9 Exile, 10 Entreat, 11 Crase, 12 Becalm, 15 Leander, 17 Climb, 19 Animal spirits, 20 Since, 21 Organic. Down: 1 Budge, 2 Consideration, 3 Lotters, 4 Gagged, 5 Smart, 6 Mathematician, 7 Erratum, 11 Collars, 13 Etching, 14 Presto, 16 Drake, 18 Basic.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

It is great wealth to a soul to _____ with a contented mind. - Lucretius (4,8)

BVAER

■■■■■

FJUGLU

■■■■■

HYILL

■■■■■

IILYFV

■■■■■

SOLUTION: BRAVE, HILLY, JUGLY, VILLY. Answer: It is great wealth to a soul to live bravely with a contented mind. - Lucretius

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4212

Difficulty Level 1s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4211

