# **The Indian EXPRESS**



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

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

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#### DAILY FROM: AHMEDABAD, CHANDIGARH, DELHI, JAIPUR, KOLKATA, LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, NAGPUR, PUNE, VADODARA

# **The Indian EXPRESS**

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

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#### **APRIL-JUNE FIGURES** THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**ATMANIRBHAR** CHINA **BY SHYAM SARAN** PAGE 8



DEA XCHANGE 'By Diwali, we

should be getting the bulk of our air traffic back in form' HARDEEP SINGH PURI INISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS **PAGE 11** 



#### WORLD



SHOOTING IN PORTLAND, TRUMP SUPPORTERS CLASH WITH PROTESTERS

#### **Most estimates** put first quarter contraction at an average of 20%; agriculture outlier

#### **AANCHAL MAGAZINE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE APRIL-JUNE Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will mark India's entry into a recessionary phase – with two consecutive quarters of GDP contraction, the trend is expected to continue in the July-September quarter as well. With economic activity se-

verely disrupted in the first two months of this fiscal, hit hard by a series of localised lockdowns and rising Covid-19 cases, GDP contraction for the first quarter is being pegged at an average 20 per cent by economists, with the de-growth range between 15.2 per cent and 25.5 per cent.

The National Statistical Office (NSO) will release data for April-June Monday which is expected to be the worst since India started reporting quarterly data in 1996. The UK economy has seen the biggest slump in June quarter GDP among the top 20 global economies, with a 21.7 per cent annual contraction in growth its deepest recession on record. Experts, however, warn that

the numbers are unlikely to capture the real extent of the economic crisis, given that the small-scale sector and informal



# Fears of contraction, GDP data today will mark Covid effect & phase of recession



Students leave after appearing for the B.Ed. entrance exam, at the Banaras Hindu University in Varanasi on Sunday. The university is holding entrance exams for undergraduate and post-graduate courses in two phases – August 24-31 and September 9-18. BHU Controller of Examinations, Manoj Pandey, said they were following the Covid-19 protocol. PTI

#### EXPLAINED Benchmark for road ahead

MONDAY'S DATA is critical because it will provide the first benchmark on the state of the economy after the pandemic and the series of lockdowns. RBI, GST meeting, McKinsey's report on jobs - all point to severe challenges. When the pandemic curve begins to flatten will be key to recovery too.

### Daily cases scale record peaks, govt hopes it only reflects massive testing

75,000 new cases, a figure that **KAUNAIN SHERIFF M** no other country has touched. NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30 The earlier highest single-day spike in any country was in the United States, which on Jul

to

new cases.

	SES: , <b>42,733</b>		RED: <b>27</b> ,1 <b>63,498</b>	
	S: 4,14,61,636	DOUBLING	RATE: <mark>32.9</mark>	3**
KEYSTATES	TOTAL	SURGEIN	7-DAY AVG	DOUBLING
	CASES	241101185	GROWTH*	RATE**
TOWATCH	CASES	24HOURS	GROWTH*	RATE

Maharashtra	7,64,281	16,286	1.86%	38.78
Tamil Nadu	4,15,590	6,352	1.54%	46.73
Andhra	4,14,164	10,548	2.64%	27.32
Karnataka	3,27,076	8,324	2.68%	26.91
Uttar Pradesh	2,19,457	5,633	2.67%	26.94

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

CASE FATALITY RATIO	<b>POSITIVITY RATE</b>	DAILY IN, DAILY OUT
7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>1.86</b>	7 DAYS EARLIER: <b>8.63</b>	DETECTED TODAY <b>78,761</b>
NOW: <b>1.79</b>	<b>8.54</b>	RECOVERED TODAY: 64,935
Deaths as a ratio of positive cases (in %); indicator of progress	Positives against number tested (in %): indicator of	Becoming sick vs recovering; more recoveries for 14 days

Covid response: external lenders commit \$6.5 bn, five times the **Budget estimate** 

#### **GEORGE MATHEW & SUNNY VERMA** MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

MULTILATERAL AGENCIES such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have committed \$6.5 billion (around Rs 48,000 crore) to India to fight the novel coronavirus since April this is more than five times the \$1.29 billion (Rs 9,558 crore) that the government had estimated from these agencies this year in the Union Budget, which was presented a month before the pandemic began to spread rapidly in the country.

Much of this funding is being frontloaded for disbursal in the current year as an emergency response to the impact of the panthe loan wi some of likely come in 2021-22, government sources said. The biggest chunk of the funding is from the World Bank, which has extended \$2.75 billion to India as part of a Covid relief package. The sources said the government expects net receipts to increase further as multilateral agencies step up funding to build health facilities and related infrastructure. The Finance **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

**BJP MLA QUERY TO HOUSE** 

# UP govt asks for count of Brahmins with gun licences, then backtracks

Letter to DMs for details on those killed; House official says query not accepted

#### **MANISH SAHU** LUCKNOW, AUGUST 30

RESPONDING TO a query to the Assembly by a BJP MLA on the "killing" of Brahmins, their insecurity and gun ownership data, the Uttar Pradesh Government sent an unusual letter to all District Magistrates asking for details on the number of Brahmins who have applied and received arms licences.



after police killed Dubey (above)& aides, all Brahmin

Dwivedi, the letter said, had sought information from the Home Minister - who is Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath – on how many Brahmins in the state were killed in the last three years; how many killers were arrested, how many were convicted; what are the government's plans for providing security to Brahmins; will the government provide arms licences to Brahmins on priority basis; how many Brahmins applied for arms licences and how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

### 22-year-old Pulwama shopkeeper chose target of attack: NIA

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

WHILE EACH step of the February 2019 Pulwama attack was carried out on the directions of the Jaish-e-Muhammad bosses in Pakistan, the target itself - a convoy of vehicles car-

rying CRPF personnel – was

shon

en by a 22-year-old



NIA found Shakir Bashir Magrey's photo from Umar Farooq's (right) phone

this man, Shakir Bashir Magrey,

a fresh JeM recruit who ran a fur-

niture shop near the Lethpora

bridge on the Jammu-Srinagar

highway, was the most impor-

tant local cog in the February 14,

2019 terrorist bombing in which

40 CRPF personnel were killed.

rest of Shakir Bashir Magrey in

The NIA announced the ar-



Issue gained momentum

The letter, signed by Prakash Chandra Agarwal, Under Secretary, state Home Department, was sent on August 18 seeking details from the districts by August 21. Agarwal declined to com-

ment but a senior official signalled a backtracking by the government and said the details "are no longer being pursued." However, at least one district

has sent the data the letter had asked for.

The letter says that Devmani Dwivedi (BJP MLA from Lambhua in Sultanpur) had sent a note on August 16 to UP Vidhan Sabha

Principal Secretary (Pradeep many of them have been issued Dubey) raising questions as per Assembly rules and procedures.

#### U.S. OFFICIALS SAY **TALIBAN VIOLATED DEAL WITH SHELLING OF BASES PAGE 12**

#### **EXPRESS NETWORK**

POLICE OFFICER, 3 **MILITANTS KILLED IN KASHMIR** PAGE 7

avirus cases, more than what any other country has reported on any single day since the outbreak began, the government is taking heart from the fact that there has been no unusual rise in the positivity rate, suggesting that the surge in cases could only be due to the increased testing numbers in recent days.

number of new novel coron-

For the last four days, India has been detecting more than

the World Health Organisation database. More than 5.85 million people in the US have so far been infected with the virus, compared to 3.54 million in India, but daily new cases in the US have fallen significantly in the last few weeks. For the last three days, it has been reporting about 45,000

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

reported 74,354 cases, according

in averting deaths the spread of disease may signal the peal Data as on August 29, released by Union Ministry of Health, ICMR and states. Often daily numbers include data from previous days. As such, trends based on daily numbers are indicative, not definitive

**EXPLAINED** SIMPLY PLIT **WHAT TO** LOOK FOR IN **GDP DATA** 

WHY FIRST REINFECTION CASES WON'T CHANGE **APPROACH** PAGE 10

keeper from Kakapora in the same South Kashmir district, investigators have found.

This man's contribution to the attack was highly appreciated by the key planner of the attack, Mohammed Umar Farooq in a voice message sent to Pakistan, Mohammed Umar compared him to Afzal Guru, the 2001 Parliament attack convict who was hanged in 2013.

In its 13,500-page charge-

sheet, the National Investigation

Agency (NIA) has claimed that

After Jaish chief Masood Azhar's nephew Usman Haider CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

February this year.

# Year later, NRC in limbo but those out of it paying the price — passports to marriage

#### **ABHISHEK SAHA** GUWAHATI, AUGUST 30

IN MARCH, Shahjahan Ali Ahmed. in his early 30s and a social activist in Assam's Barpeta and Baksa districts, filed his nomination as a candidate of the United People's Party Liberal (UPPL) in the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) elections.

Since then, however, local

workers of the ruling Bodoland People's Front (BPF) have posted a barrage of comments on social media deriding the candidate. "His name is not in NRC, how can this problematic man be the UPPL's candidate?" read one comment.

Ahmed and 29 other members of his family did not find a place in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31 last year. He



At an NRC centre in Guwahati. Express file says the family has documents dating back to 1951, well before the cut-off date of March 24, 1971, and wants to appeal and get their names re-included.

But how, he asks. It's been a year since 19 lakh people were excluded from the NRC in Assam. And they have not yet been issued rejection orders with which they can appeal at the state's Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs). **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

#### **AVISHEK G DASTIDAR** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE INDIAN Railways may stop providing blankets, pillows, hand towels and sheets in its airconditioned coaches when it resumes full services, even after the pandemic ends.

While a formal decision is yet to be taken, the issue is learnt to have been discussed at a high-

#### level video conference between Railway Board top brass and zonal and divisional officials earlier this week

AC train passengers may not get pillows,

sheets, towels even after pandemic is over

Three top officials who attended the video conference confirmed this to The Indian Express. "We are moving in that direction," said a senior Railway Ministry official.

Sources said a committee is being formed to decide what to do with the mechanised mega

laundries, set up to wash the linen under the Build-Operate-Own-Transfer model across India.

The Railways is estimated to spend Rs 40-50 for washing each linen set. According to estimates. there are about 18 lakh linen sets in circulation at present. A blanket remains in service for about 48 months, and is washed once a month. At present no new linen items are being procured, sources said.

each other in case anyone was

being affected "or compromised

due to political and departmen-

tal pressures, influences, threats

and co-authored by Sanjeev

Mathur, editorial head at The

Book Bakers Literary Agency, the

book highlights how the 2005-

batch IPS officer leveraged the TV

screen to flush out Asaram before

arresting him in 2013 within 10

days of receiving a rape com-

plaint from Delhi Police.

Published by Harper Collins

or monetary offers".

Besides the cost involved. linen sets, especially blankets and sheets, have been a regular cause of passenger complaints and even Parliament questions. Moreover, in the last few months, about 20 railway divi-

sions have given contracts to private vendors for selling disposable blankets, pillows and sheets at stations at cheap prices.

Danapur Division of East **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

#### Asaram arrest, an insider's account: 'Headed straight to our net' PAGE 1 ANCHOR asked them to keep an eye on writes that he bluffed at a press

#### **HAMZAKHAN** JAIPUR, AUGUST 30

"Baba, tu yeh bata ka yeh sab kya kar dala tune. Jaldi bata (Baba, tell me why you did all this. Tell me quickly)', I asked him in a gruff voice. What he said in response astounded me. 'Galti kar di, galti kar di maine (Committed a mistake, Ì committed a mistake)

"The Gujarat police...re-

vealed that ... they [Asaram's followers] had planned to kill her [Investigating Officer Chanchal

Mishra] by installing an IED and blowing up her vehicle.

🔳 "'Tum aisa nahin GUNNIN kar sakte. Tum ko abhi GODMAN upar se orders aajayenge ki mujhko arrest nahin kar sakte (You can do nothing of

phone from his trouser pocket and switched it off..."

arrest has now been captured in a book *Gunning* for the Godman: The True Story Behind Asaram Bapu's Conviction by Lamba him-

SELF-STYLED GODMAN Asaram Bapu was arrested seven years ago. But even today, IPS of-

ficer Ajay Pal Lamba, who led the police team that August, says he gets threat calls from the rape convict's followers. So much so, that Lamba's wife once even stopped sending their daughter to school for a few days

All that trauma, and all the drama, behind that sensational



Asaram Bapu was arrested in 2013. File

self. "Ever since they (Asaram's followers) came to know that a book has been written, the threat calls have increased." says Lamba, 42, who is now Additional Commissioner of Police, Jaipur

Parts of the book, which will be released virtually on September 5, read like an OTT thriller, starting with how Lamba chose the best officers, in his team "Tough Twenty", who went undercover and mingled with Asaram's followers or excelled at legal angles, interrogation, surveillance and cyber skills.

Lamba, who was DCP Lamba writes that he even (Jodhpur West) at the time,

conference about dispatching a team to arrest Asaram. A friend, who had watched the telecast. informed that Asaram had turned up at Bhopal airport. Lamba then shared this nugget with the media. "It was exactly what I had

wanted. With the media following the man and recording every movement of his from Bhopal airport onwards, I did not need any kind of surveillance to be put on him from our end. The man was running scared and heading straight towards the net that we **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

Subhash took out his mobile

the sort. You will soon receive orders from superiors that you can-

not arrest me)', Asaram tried bluffing...In response,

### 2 THE SECOND PAGE

EXPRESS @ AUDIO

What the latest NCRB

data on Indian prisons

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we take a

talk about what it says about the Indian

look at the latest NCRB data on prisons and

# ♦ The Indian EXPRESS

#### WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM DOWNLOAD APP 😃 VISUAL STORIES DAILY BRIEFING \$77-DAENIDPRESS -8 BEYOND THE JULOOS: HOW MUHARRAM IS OBSERVED, WHAT IS ITS MESSAGE PODCASTS WEB The most visible marker of Muharram for non-observers is the Tazia procession—a replica of Imam Hussain's CUSTOMIZABLE tomb being carried by mourners, some at times flagellating themselves. But Muharram is observed for a **NEWS EXPERIENCE** 10-day period, each day having its own rituals and customs, with the Tazia procession on the tenth and final day. Indian Express **\*\*\*\*** 4.6 Today's top news TECH WEEKLY ROUNDUP: **TOP TECH STORIES** TikTok CEO resigns, Virat Kohli reclaims top position SCAN THIS OR CODE TO Elon Musk's Neuralink, in ICC Test Batting Rankings DOWNLOAD THE APP en appent durantities Direct South sour-and open to the two Tapopings in the Kit and more

# **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### AC train

Central Railway, for instance, has five such vendors, who together pay the Railways about Rs 30 lakh per year. About 50 such vendors have set up shop in railway stations across India.

Officials said that instead of recurring expenditure, this option turns linen management into an opportunity to earn non-fare revenue. And with modern temperature control settings in AC coaches. the need for blankets could be eliminated, said an official.

A Railway Ministry spokesman, however, said no decision has been taken yet. "Currently, we are not giving linen because of the Covid situation. When the situation becomes normal, all these decisions will be up for review. It is hypothetical to say anything at this point," he said.

The Railways are also not serving cooked food on trains, opting for packed and ready-toeat items instead. Sources said this practice too may remain "for some time" even after normal train operations resume. Some railway divisions are learnt to have started discussions with packaged food manufacturers and suppliers on the possibility of long-term contracts.

### NRC in limbo

Moreover, the Supreme Court, which proactively supervised the process from 2013, has not heard the matter since January 6.

After the NRC publication. the ministries of Home and External Affairs had made clear that mere exclusion does not make a resident a "foreigner", and that the decision can only be taken by FTs. But officials at the NRC directorate in Guwahati say the process of issuing rejections

orders has been delayed due to "discrepancies" in their paper-

my name is included and we can go together for the pilgrimage.' says Nessa, speaking over phone from Dholpur village.

In Darrang district, police confirm that many are awaiting "verification clearance" for their passports. Afazuddin Ahmed, a travel agent, says the Hajj plans of at least five families are on hold because one or more of the applicants are out of the NRC.

Says Amrit Bhuyan, SP Darrang: "How can you clear passport verification if the name is not in the NRC? It's a question of citizenship. We have kept it on hold till the matter is cleared."

In Bongaigaon district's Abhayapuri, 20-year-old labourer Rohim Ali is in the NRC but is still "verv worried" — his father and a younger brother are in, while three sisters and a brother are out. Their mother, Halima

Khatun, had been declared a foreigner by an FT years ago and spent four years in a detention centre in Kokrajhar before being let out on bail in 2019. Ali and his brother are in through their father's ancestry documents, but he wonders why the other siblings are out even though they used the same papers which, he claims, are from 1951.

Hitesh Sarma, state coordinator of NRC, says: "We have to issue a rejection order to each excluded person. The order needs to have another order attached with it, called the 'speaking order', which describes the exact reason for exclusion. But when I scrutinised several of these speaking orders, I noticed discrepancies -many were not written in the way they should have been. Hence, I have ordered a re-check."

#### "But due to Covid, all government officials at the ground level are engaged in work related to the pandemic. So the re-checking has not been done. We in-

# Fears of contraction, GDP data today will mark Covid effect & phase of recession

numbers as factory output fig-Statistician of India Pronab Sen put the de-growth estimate for ures are used to extrapolate April-June to be around (-) 20 trends in the informal sector. Weak investment, capital per cent, adding that even this does not capture the real depth spending and consumption demand have hit manufacturing. of the pandemic's impact on the construction. tourism and trans-MSME sector and agricultural

port sectors even as agricultural incomes. growth is seen around 3-4 per Also, in a trend reminiscent cent in the April-June quarter. of demonetisation, corporates Recovery in the second have fared better than MSMEs, guarter has also not picked up which are in a far worse situaas expected with various states tion which along with a weakannouncing lockdowns in July ness in farm incomes is also exand August. Looming defaults pected to hit demand further - after the moratorium ends -in the coming year, he added. are adding to the banking sec-Barclays has projected the

economy to contract 25.5 per tor's woes which could further cent in April-June; ICRA's esti-On top of this, are worries mate is 25 per cent; HDFC Bank over household debt with inhas pegged it at 21 per cent comes stagnating, salary cuts State Bank of India has proand job losses across the board. jected a 16.5 per cent contrac-As per the Centre for Monitoring tion, while India Ratings has Indian Economy (CMIE), put it at 17.03 per cent. Nomura salaried jobs suffered the biggest has pegged its estimate at 15.2 hit during the lockdown, with per cent while DBS expects a total loss estimated to be at 18.9 contraction of 16.6 per cent.

Said Radhika Rao. Economist, DBS: "The first quar-A consumption boom is ruled out given the rising houseter bore the most brunt of the hold debt along with reluctance stringent lockdown in response of banks to lend. Former Chief to the pandemic, beyond which

off between economic costs of extending the lockdown or prioritising health. This led to an incremental and gradual reopening at a varied pace across different states/districts. While Q1 data is backward looking, it was the likely nadir of the downcycle, with shallower contraction expected over the next two quarters. For the path ahead, sustainability of the re-

covery cycle is contingent on when the epidemic curve successfully flattens." Though rural demand is expected to support economic recovery, it cannot substitute urban demand, India Ratings said in a note. "The COVID-19 led business disruptions during end-March-May 2020 have been so severe for the production, supply/trade channels and the activities especially in sectors such as aviation, tourism, hotels and hospitality that FY21 GDP growth is expected to contract for the first time since FY'80. Although

non-agricultural economic activities are slowly limping back, COVID-19 momentum".

The government's stretched fiscal position means its ability to spend is compromised. States, which account for a cumulative spending of about one-and-half times more than the Central government, are also facing strain on their finances amid subdued economic activity and an estimated Rs 2.35 lakh crore compensation shortfall under GST. Over-leveraged corporate balance sheets means private investment will continue to sag. The corporate tax cut last year were largely futile given that companies used it to reduce debt and build up cash balances, the Reserve Bank of India said in its Annual Report 2019-20.

The RBI refrained from giving any estimate for the GDP but said that the assessment of aggregate demand during the year so far suggests that "the shock to consumption is severe. and it will take guite some time to mend and regain the precalled in and the miscreants handed over to them."

November 2015. He has not been

The book also profiles Asaram,

In April 2018, a Special Court

death and a fine of Rs 1 lakh.

Says Asaram's advocate

Pradeep Choudhary: "I haven't

read the book and only once I read

it will I be able to tell what is right

and what is wrong...Our appeal is

pending in the High Court (the

next date of hearing is September

India has been testing 8 lakh

to 9 lakh samples every day, occa-

sionally also crossing the 1-mil-

lion mark, like it did on Saturday.

But the positivity rate - the per-

centage of people who are found

to be positive out of those who are

being tested - has been on the de-

cline. That means fewer people

are testing positive for the same

number of tests, indicating that

the disease could actually be

Top government sources who

repart of the team that is mon-

spreading slower than earlier.

14). Let us get a judgment first."

Daily cases

found since.'

reveals

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY** 

criminal justice system.

Chennai." the sources said. "An attempt was made on Government officials identiprosecution witness Rahul fied two specific positives from Sachan's life, on 13 February 2015, the ramped-up testing. "In any when he was exiting the court pandemic, there will be a large population that goes undetected. during trial. He survived the attack, but later went missing in

That is what the sero surveillance has shown. However, with this level of testing, one, the number of people who escape the net is now getting smaller and smaller. Therefore, people who come late to the hospital and die would be reduced as reflected in the CFR. Two, it gives us sufficient time to decide whether a positive person requires home isolation or needs to go into a hospital. Detecting late clogs hospitals," a source said.

Ghaziabad, Agra, Ganjam, and

Covid response

Ministry too, has been in favour of higher development- and infrastructure-funding from multilateral and bilateral sources.

On April 2, the World Bank approved a fast-track \$1-billion India COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project' to help the country prevent, detect, and respond to the virus, and strengthen public health preparedness. This is the biggest ever health sector support from the Bank to India.

Then, on May 14, the Bank approved another \$1-billion loan to support Covid-19 relief measures and financial assistance for the poorest and most vulnerable communities. An immediate allocation of \$750 million will be made for the fiscal year 2020, and the next tranche of \$250 million for 2021, the Bank said.

The first phase of the operation will be implemented countrywide through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalvan Yojana (PMGKY). It will immediately help scale up cash transfers and food benefits. using a core set of pre-existing national platforms and programmes such as the Public Distribution System (PDS) and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT). On July 1, the Bank said it would provide \$750 million budget support to 15 crore micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to increase liquidity access for viable small businesses impacted by Covid-19. The \$750 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the lending arm of the World Bank Group, will mature in 19 years, including a five-year grace period. In the Budget presented in February, the Finance Ministry estimated net receipts from multilateral agencies for 2020-21 at Rs 9 558 crore (around \$129 billion). lower than the Rs 12.863 crore received in 2019-20. Net receipts refer to total loan receipts during a year minus repayments during that year. The Budget data pertains to funding received from agencies including IBRD, International Development Association, International Fund for Agricultural Development, ADB. Eastern European Community (SAC), Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), New Development Bank, and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). On April 28, the ADB approved a \$1.5-billion 'COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program' to support India's immediate pandemic response efforts, including disease containment and prevention, as well as social protection measures for the poor and economically vulnerable, particularly women and disadvantaged groups. The CARES programme is funded through the Covid-19 Pandemic Response Option (CPRO) under the ADB's Countercyclical Support Facility. CPRO was established as part of ADB's \$20-billion expanded assistance for developing the pandemic response of member countries, which was announced on April 13, ADB said. **FULL REPORTS ON** www.indianexpress.com

## UP government asks for count of Brahmins with gun licences, then backtracks

The government's letter to not seek any such information all DMs asks for this informafrom the government and no tion: "Kitne Brahmino nev shastra license ke liye apply kiya aur

such question was accepted." When contacted. Dwivedi kitnon ko license jaari hua? ... declined to comment. "I have sambandh mein binduwar akhya no information about it and I policemen, including a DySP, were killed in an attack by Dubey's alleged associates on Iune 3. Incidentally, making up Parshuram.

around 10% of the state's elec-

secure. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also announced that he would build a 108-foot-tall statue of

Recently, Aam Aadmi Party

authorities weighed the tradethey are still much lower than pre-COVID-19 level," it said.

WHAT IS THE LONDON

World War II spy Noor

Inayat Khan has been

feted with the award

**BLUE PLAQUE** 

**EXPLAINED** 

nphin

born Asumal Sirumalani, and claims that he allegedly used teaselling as a garb for bootlegging. According to Lamba, police also allegedly found during investigation that Asaram "had some kind of sex addiction and demanded a new nubile girl every night". in Jodhpur found Asaram guilty of raping a minor girl and charged him under various IPC sections, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act(POCSO) and Iuvenile Iustice (Care and Protection of Children) Act. He was sentenced to life imprisonment until

work, and lack of enough staff on the ground for re-checks due to the Covid pandemic.

"If the NRC is not taken to its logical conclusion, it will be a curse on the 19 lakh excluded. This side or the other, but decide. You can't keep people hanging forever, this is extremely cruel, says Ahmed.

The BTC elections, scheduled to be held in April, were postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic. "But I am thankful to all the officials involved in my nomination because not one of them raised any query or made any nasty comment," says Ahmed. Not all those excluded are as

fortunate.

Dalimon Nessa, a 55-yearold mother of seven and wife of a farmer in Darrang district, had saved Rs 64,000 over the years for the Hajj pilgrimage. But now, local police say they cannot issue a verification certificate since she has been excluded from the NRC.

'My husband's name is in and he was cleared," she says. "We are praving that this NRC process comes to a conclusion,



Admission is open in English medium course (HINDI medium course to start shortly)

#### Contact for Advt. Booking: M/s Friends Publicity Service 23276901, 23282028 (M): 9212008155, 9212665841

tend to begin the work from September 1, and proceed with the rejection orders.

On the plight of all those waiting, Sarma says, "It is a legal process; will take time. Once rejection orders are issued, those who disagree with the exclusion can challenge it in higher courts.' Ever since publication of the

final NRC, the process has hit multiple hurdles. The former state coordinator Prateek Hajela, who had led the exercise since 2013, was transferred out of Assam in October 2019 by the Supreme Court. Sarma, the next coordinator, went on a month-long leave soon after joining, for personal reasons, before the Covid out-

break shut down most non-medical official activity in the field. Besides, the Sarbananda Sonowal-led BJP government has maintained that it will not accept the NRC in its current form. The state government has alleged wrongful exclusions and inclusions, and demanded a reverification of 20 per cent inclu-

sions in border districts and 10 per cent elsewhere – a demand that the apex court had disre-

ko 21.08.20 tak... e-mail par uplabdh... karein." (How many Brahmins applied for arms licences and how many were issued. Please provide this infor-

crimp lending.

million during April-July.

mation point-wise with supplementary material by August 21, 2020 on e-mail)." When contacted, Vidhan Sabha's Principal Secretary

Pradeep Dubey said: "We did

#### garded earlier.

#### Pulwama

was killed in an encounter in Kashmir in October 2018, another of Azhar's nephews. Mohammed Umar, was given the responsibility to plan and carry out a major attack on the security forces, the NIA has found.

According to the chargesheet, Mohammed Umar and his associates decided to build a car bomb to execute the attack. However, the group could not decide on the target or the location.

"They kept discussing about where security forces gather in large numbers. It was Shakir Bashir, who then suggested that CRPF convoys which pass through the highway could be targeted near his shop. Since he had his shop right on the highway, he said he regularly observed passage of such convoys. He pointed out that at one point the highway has a steep gradient and turn which would be the ideal spot to ram a car bomb as the convoy would slow down. The spot also had a slip road to enter the highway," a senior NIA officer said.

The success of the attack, and Shakir Bashir's contribution to its planning so endeared him to Mohammed Umar that in a voice message sent to Masood Azhar's brother Rouf Asgar in Pakistan, he said that the work done by Bashir was as good as that of Afzal Guru in the Parliament at-

"He (Mohammed Umar) asked Jaish bosses in Pakistan to take care of him (Shakir Bashir)," the officer said.

evam anupurak samagri shashan am out of touch," he told The Indian Express.

> Over the last month several Opposition leaders have been critical of the state government on the Brahmin issue. It gained political momentum after the July 10 gunning down of gangster Vikas Dubey in Kanpur last month. followed by the killing of five of his associates, all Brahmins. Eight

According to the charge-

sheet, Bashir's contribution in

torate, Brahmins constitute an influential vote bank.

All parties try to woo them. Early this month. BSP chief Mayawati said if voted to power, her party would build hospitals named after Lord Parshuram, "the symbol of Brahmin faith and pride." She also urged the state government not to do anything that would make Brahmins feel in-

leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said Brahmins were feeling harassed in the state and that MLAs of the community belonging to the ruling BJP were also unhappy. Consequently, FIRs were lodged against Sanjay Singh in several districts of UP on charges of promoting enmity and trying to breach peace in the state.

> sources said Rather was also a police informer, and had served time behind bars under the Public Safety Act.

#### Asaram arrest had laid out for him with care,"

Lamba writes. Asaram subsequently reached Indore where he was arrested despite intense opposition by his fol-

Lamba says his learning came partly from another sensational case in Tamil Nadu. "At the time when the ... sandalwood smuggler Veerappan was killed by the Tamil Nadu police..., positive media interactions helped police tilt public opinion in its favour," he writes. The book details the investi-

gation and the challenges:

"The examination and cross-examination of all the witnesses lasted for more than three years. The victim was cross-examined for twenty-seven days, her mother, for nineteen days, her father, for eighteen days...the victim was asked every detail related to her family, her school life, her age and her boyfriends. Most disturbing was the painstaking cross-examination around the sexual assault.

"Mad followers of Asaram" got together and once even reached my native village, a hamlet called Lambi ki Dhani. Thirty kilometres from the Neema ka Thana subdivision of the Sikar district of Raiasthan, the village is so small that it only consists of twenty families (who)... gheraoed these followers, making it impossible for them to escape. Afterwards, the local police was

itoring the pandemic situation in the country, told The Indian Express that the rise in daily numbers, therefore, appeared to be the result of the higher numbers of people being tested.

"We are testing more than one million samples per day. Despite that the positivity rate has remained the same. There has been no exponential jump in positivity. In the last one week, except the US, no country has reached such testing levels." government sources said.

At present, India's positivity rate is 8.54 per cent, and it has been steadily declining since the first week of this month after touching a high of 9.01 per cent. Several states, including some crucial high-growth states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, have lower positivity rates compared to the national number.

But the sources conceded that Maharashtra, which accounts for 24 per cent of all active cases, and nearly 40 per cent of all coronavirus-related deaths, continued to be the "biggest concern".

"Besides Maharashtra, our concern is West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. These are the states we are in constant touch with," a government official said.

The official said certain districts including Pune had "not stabilised" despite the serological survey showing over 50 per cent prevalence of infection in some areas. "Similarly, infections in Sholapur and Vizag districts have not stabilised," sources said.

"These numbers show that the infection is spreading in certain areas. People need to realise that they are still at risk, and continue to remain vulnerable. Covid-appropriate behaviour is the biggest challenge for both the state and central governments," sources said.

However, certain areas are showing signs of "stabilisation or decline", the official said. "For instance, Delhi, even after reporting 2,000 cases per day, is in a stable position; same is the case with Gautam Budh Nagar,



tack, the officer said.

the highway before the fidayeen (suicide) bomber Adil Ahmed Dar took the wheel. Bashir provided shelter to Umar and his associates at his home on multiple occasions. and the final video of Adil

> Ahmed Dar too, was shot at his residence, the NIA has found. Afzal Guru's name also appeared in another voice message exchange between attackers and their Pak bosses. Umar and his associates said Adil Dar's video was a presentation of "AGS Media". 'AGS' stood for 'Afzal Guru Squad', a name the Jaish has used to mark several of its recent attacks, including the one at the Pathankot airbase in 2016.

"The [Jaish] bosses were not very happy with the usage of the term 'AGS Media'. In a voice message sent to Umar, they asked him not to use it again, particularly for the video they were supposed to make of the bodies of the CRPF personnel after the attack. This video was supposed to be used for propaganda, and the message from Pakistan was to only use the Jaish flag. We don't know why they did this," an NIA officer said.

Shakir Bashir is also suspected to have been involved in planning another attack that the group intended to carry out after Pulwama. Voice messages from Umar's phone show these

fact, went far beyond choosing India's Balakot airstrike, and bethe target and conducting reconcause Umar himself was killed naissance. The IED itself was asin an encounter about a month sembled at his house, and he after the Pulwama attack. even drove the car bomb until "In a voice message sent to Pakistan, Umar had informed that a second car had been pre-

pared for the attack. However, this car has not been found yet," another NIA officer said. The group had also wanted

plans were at an advanced stage.

but had to be shelved because of

ing to the NIA.

"This was when a lot of foreign journalists gathered at fidayeen Adil Dar's house in Kakapora after the attack. A voice message sent to Pakistan asked, 'Bade firangi jamaa hain, udaa dein kya? (Alot of foreigners have gathered here, should we finish them off?)," the officer said.

According to the chargesheet, Shakir Basheer has no previous record of involvement in terrorist activities. He was introduced to Umar in August 2018-three months after Umar infiltrated into India—by a wealthy sawmill owner from Pulwama, Bilal Kuchey. A resident of Kakaporato which both Shakir Basheer and Adil Dar belonged-Kuchey himself was drawn into the Jaish by his acquaintance Abbas Rather, a

floating overground worker for various terror groups. A resident of Hajibal in Pulwama, Rather runs a small grocery shop, but has been known to do overground work for the Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, NIA

lowers.

to kill foreign journalists in an attack, but they were stopped by their bosses in Pakistan, accord-



# POSITIVITY RATE UP FROM 6% TO 9% **Covid cases cross 2k** mark after 50 days

#### **ASTHA SAXENA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

NEW COVID-19 cases in Delhi reached 2,024 on Sunday, the highest single-day increase since July 10. A steady increase in number of cases as well as positivity rate has had the Delhi government worried, with CM Arvind Kejriwal holding a meeting last week where instructions to double testing were given.

The positivity rate, which in the beginning of August was around 6%, is over 9% at present. The compounded daily growth rate over the past week has also risen to 1.02% against 0.69% in mid-August.

District health officials are now preparing to meet the target of conducting 40,000 tests a day to isolate as many positive cases as possible. Focus will be on aggressive testing in new hotspots, continuous focus on special surveillance groups including domestic helps and self-employed individuals, and tracing contacts of identified cases. The capital is performing an average of around 19,000 tests (RT-PCR and rapid antigen) in a day.

"Guidelines are already in place. What we need to do now is reach out to those people who are still not willing to get tested. Even after a rigorous awareness campaign on testing, there are many who are not coming for-

#### BRIEFLY — Chadha inaugurates borewell at Inderpuri

New Delhi: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice chairman Raghav Chadha on Sunday inaugurated a borewell in Central Delhi's Inderpuri which is expected to supply tap water to more than 5,000 residents. "While campaigning in the area, people used to...ask me how old I was, to which I used to say 32 years. They would say 'son, it's been 32 years that we haven't got water', hearing which I made it my goal to ensure them water within 100 days of getting elected... From now, people will get clean drinking water in their taps," said Chadha.

CORONAVIRUS IN THE CAPITAL							
TOTAL CASES Total Vacant							
A Day Charles		HOSPITAL BEDS	14,135	10,025			
1000	,73,390	VENTILATORS	1,216	742			
	Daily cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests			
Aug 29	1,954	1,449	15	22,004			
Aug 30	2,024	1,249	22	20,437			
Total	14,793*	1,54,171	4,426	15,69,096			
			*Tota	l active cases			

Testing at a school in Darya Ganj on Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

been reported from the same

cluster. This happens as not all

are coming forward to get

Last month, the government

had issued a fresh SOP for stricter

surveillance in places recording

isolated Covid cases. "ASHA

workers and district health offi-

cers will have an important role

to play. They will make more calls

to suspected houses and pockets

that are reporting a substantial

evaluation for all students. Indira

Gandhi Technical University for

Women also created its own sys-

tem and conducted online exams.

gin its exams on July 13 and did

not conduct them due to the gov-

pared for the exams. These were

supposed to be conducted online.

against the exams by some of our

ernment order.

DPSRU had been all set to be-

'We were already fully pre-

tested." Jain had said.



ward. This is going to be our focus now. Testing has to be done by following ICMR protocol, so anyone who falls in the category will have to be tested," said a senior district official.

Recently, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain told The Indian Express that to increase daily tests, the city's 300 dispensaries will be operational for two more hours, giving additional time to the public to get tested.

The government has been number of cases. We will also following the technique of 'Testconduct drives to reach out to ru-Track-Test' for effective containral pockets in the district." said a ment of the disease. As per offisenior health department official.

#### centres for children of urban farmers. As schools across the city continue to remain shut amidst the Covid outbreak, various points under the under-construction Barapullah flyover serve as sites of several informal schools that run from morning to evening. While government and MCD schools are offering remote

learning, these provide a more direct interface, albeit with social distancing norms. These informal set-ups restarted their operations in July after seeing that the children were cut-off from learning.

SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

of the Yamuna in East Delhi, infor-

mal 'schools' that used to provide

after-school extra classes have

now become primary learning

"My mother goes to my school on Wednesdays and collects worksheets with Hindi English and maths exercises. I do whatever I can by myself; if there's anything I can't understand, teachers here help me out. The next Wednesday, my mother submits those to my teacher and picks up worksheets for the next week," said Gautam, a class II student at an East MCD school. This is his only interaction with his school, but he attends classes at the informal set-up run by Satyendra Pal, a 25-year old B.Sc. graduate, under the flyover every day except Sunday.

The hours of the school are long - 8 am to 11 am are for



Amid pandemic, informal 'schools' under

flyover help kids keep up with learning

One of the informal schools below the under-construction Barapullah flyover. Abhinav Saha

maths and science for students of class VIII and above: 12 pm to 3 pm are for English, maths and Hindi classes for younger children starting from those of nursery age; from 3 pm is English for the older students. as well as English and science for class VII students

Rizwana, a volunteer at Satyendra's school, constantly reminds the smaller children to keep some distance between each other. Like the other informal schools, teachers here have distributed masks and hand sanitiser. "I had restarted with only nine of the older children in July. After demands from the other children and their parents

as well, and because children's studies were suffering, we decided to go ahead with precautions," said Satyendra.

His 'school', running from a hut with a tarpaulin roof and an outdoor patch next to it, has around 150 students who pay between Rs 100 and Rs 300 whatever they can pay - while those families most pressed for finances pay nothing. None of the families have been able to pay since the lockdown.

"The children are getting worksheets once a week from school, which amounts to them getting homework. No one is teaching or explaining the new things in their syllabus to them. In

care van in India. She also estab-

lished North India's first Cardiac

Catheterisation Laboratory at

Lady Hardinge Medical College

learnt a lot from her that helped

us establish a healthy relation-

ship with patients. My first en-

counter with her was at the ex-

"She was a role model. We

in 1954.

this case, we are teaching them the syllabus from scratch. What started as a remedial centre is now a full-time school," said Satyendra, who has been taking after-school classes for children of the area since 2016, and now has five other volunteer teachers with him.

This was echoed by law student Deb Pal (24), who runs another 'informal school' barely 50 metres away in another hut. "We started last year as a coaching centre and gave each child around 40 minutes in a day. Now that we are operating as a school, we are giving each child three hours in a day. We start at 7.30 am. In the mornings, we focus on English, in the afternoons, we focus on Maths, and then we have one hour to help them with their worksheets," said Deb, who runs the set-up with four friends as teachers

The students here are children of those who farm on the Yamuna Khadar. Smartphone usage is low in these areas houses do not have electricity and rely on irregular solar energy, which makes charging devices difficult.

Though government and MCD schools send worksheets on WhatsApp, at homes without a smartphone, parents go to schools to collect worksheets. In families that do have smartphones, the resource is stretched thin - Omprakash, a class IX student of Satyendra's school, has five other siblings and one smartphone to share.

Naresh Pal (27), an MSW graduate and UPSC aspirant, revived his classes after four years during the lockdown under another portion of the under-construction flyover. The children sit in groups of around 25 on plastic stools under five different sections of the flyover.

"I used to take classes here between 2011 and 2016, but stopped after I started preparing for UPSC. Now that classes at my coaching centre have gone online. I started taking classes here with four other volunteer teachers. There are so many children here who, even at class VIII and IX, can't read their textbooks. If it weren't for schools like ours, I don't think they could have even done their worksheets." he said

# After SC order, 2 state-run univs to hold final-yr exams

#### EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AFTER THE Supreme Court ruled that universities and other institutes of higher education will have to conduct examinations to promote final-year students, two Delhi state universities – Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) and Delhi There had also been protests Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) now have to arrange for exams for their students. On July 11, the Delhi government announced that all upcoming examinations would be cancelled in Delhi State Universities, for final-year as well as intermediate-year students, arguing that it would be "unfair" to hold exams as the teaching-learning had been "hampered" due to Covid. However, even before this announcement, six out of eight state universities had already remotely conducted their final exams, said a senior government official. While Delhi Technological University had already conducted online exams for its final-year students, Ambedkar University follows a system of continuous assessment and had completed

# Dr Padmavati, among India's top cardiologists, dies at 103

#### **ASTHA SAXENA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A STRONG-WILLED woman, a pioneer in cardiology and a doctor with a heart of gold – this is how the medical fraternity remembers 103-year-old cardiologist Dr Padmavati Sivaramakrishna Iyer, known simply as Dr Padmavati, who passed away Saturday after contracting Covid-19 earlier this month.



Dr S I Padmavati

She was admitted to the a teacher as well as a mentor. amination hall in MAMC when

#### districts, says IMD **RAINFALL DEPARTURE ACROSS DELHI** Department. She then introduced the DM course in Cardiology and other super specialities like the first coronary care unit and the first coronary



Rainfall deficit in 3

#### NDMC gets five CNG compactors

New Delhi: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) Sunday procured five CNG-run compactors for waste collection. These will be the first CNG-fuelled compactors in the city. "We were unable to get clearance for diesel-run compactors from the transport department due to air pollution issues, so we procured CNG compactors. We will get five more next week," said Dr Ramesh Kumar, MOH from public health department of NDMC. ENS

#### DFS to train hotel staffers on fire safety

New Delhi: As hotels and restaurants reopen amid the coronavirus pandemic, the Delhi Fire Services is planning to organise a massive online-cum-practical training session for hotel staffers in the national capital to educate them about the need to have adequate fire safety measures in place, officials said on Sunday. The training session will start in September. PTI

students so we had even given them some options, including that for offline exams after the Covid situation subsides if they do not want to write online exams. It's not very much – with just two papers for undergraduates. We are well on track and ready to

conduct exams whenever the government comes up with a notice, as long as students are given a little time to prepare," said Ramesh Goyal, DPSRU V-C.

GGSIPU sees the task before it to be little more difficult. "It's not very simple since we have a large number of students across many colleges. We will await further directions from the Delhi government and will have to see what exactly will be the steps ahead," said Joint Registrar Pradeep Upmanvu.

National Heart Institute (NHI) 11 days ago and later developed pneumonia. She was put on ventilator support but suffered a cardiac arrest on Saturday.

The founding director of NHI, she was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1967 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1992. She was also the recipient of Harvard Medical International Award, Dr BC Roy Award and Kamla Menon Research Award.

"In 1972, when I joined Maulana Azad Medical College as a first-year MBBS student. Madam Padmavati was the director, the head of the medical college. She is the most illustrious name in the field of cardiology in this country. She strings together scores and scores of cardiologists to whom she was

Even till the last moment, she was very sharp and would put us to shame at times when we would not recount an incident but she would remember it. She was a health enthusiast and swam till the age of 93-94 years. She loved playing tennis, which she gave up some time ago. Her physical abilities were restricted over the last five years," said Dr OP Yadava, Chief Cardiac Surgeon and Chief Executive

Officer at NHI. Born in 1917 in Burma, now Myanmar, she graduated from Rangoon Medical College from where she started her career in cardiology.

In 1967, she took over as Director-Principal of Maulana Azad Medical College where she also set up a Cardiology

she came as an external examiner. She had a reputation of being strict and we were very scared of her. In 1974. I got a chance to interact with her when I joined the MD medicine at MAMC. My thesis was later guided by her and I got to work with her closely. She was disciplined, dedicated, and never said no to poor patients... In those days, cardiology was not as developed as it is now and only basic CATH lab was available. Her opinions hold great value and were highly acknowledged across the country. At a time when coronary heart disease was not even an issue, she gave strong emphasis on prevention of heart disease," said Dr KK Sethi, chairman of Delhi Health and Lung Institute.

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

CENTRAL DELHI has recorded 60% seasonal rainfall deficit while Northwest and Northeast districts have seen shortages of 30% and 28% respectively, as per data from the IMD's Hydromet Division. Only North and Southwest districts recorded rainfall more than usual – 34% and 15% respectively – between June 1 and August 30. "A reason could be that

there is uneven distribution of rainfall. Another reason could be that one of the automatic weather stations ran a fault at the time of rain and could not record...," said Kuldeep Srivastava, head of IMD's regional weather forecasting centre in Delhi.

IMD has forecast light to moderate rain in Delhi-NCR on September 2 and moderate rain on September 3.

On Sunday, parts of the city recorded some showers which helped ease temperatures.

# Gurgaon starts 'pick up & drop' facility to attract plasma donors

#### **SAKSHIDAYAL** GURGAON, AUGUST 30

WITH LESS than 1% of the 10,000 people who have recovered from coronavirus in Gurgaon having come forward to donate plasma in the last four weeks, the health department has started a new initiative to motivate them – a pick up and drop facility.

Officials said the plasma bank, inaugurated on July 30, had received 80 units of plasma till Thursday. Only 40 of the 10,360 people who have recovered have come forward to donate, with two units of plasma being collected from each of them. Of these, officials said, 71 units have been issued to patients.

This despite the administration handing out 'tokens of appreciation' to all donors — namely a letter and a medal on behalf of the Rotary Club – along with a card they can use to avail blood units from the Rotary Blood Bank free of cost for one year.



#### Gurgaon saw 125 new cases on Sunday. Archive

"Keeping in mind the convenience of plasma donors, the district administration has started a new initiative, wherein a pick up and drop service will be provided to all those willing to donate plasma. The District Red Cross Society and Canwinn Foundation have already provided three vehicles for the same," said Chief Medical officer Dr Virender Yaday.

Officials said instead of people having to come to the Rotary Blood Bank to get their antibod-

ies tested, which will determine if they can donate plasma, health department personnel will visit their homes to conduct this screening. "It takes around two hours for the test results to come, so this will save time for prospective donors. They will be taken to the Rotary Blood Bank only after it is clear that they are eligible to donate plasma," said the CMO.

Gurgaon is seeing a surge in coronavirus cases again.

On Sunday, a total of 125 people tested positive. Gurgaon has recorded 11,804 cases so far, of which 10,707 people have recovered and 133 have died. The district currently has 965 active cases, of which 827 are in home isolation.

Officials from the health department have attributed the rise to increased movement as the district continues to 'unlock', as well as the public being "relaxed about precautions" - with the administration and police struggling to ensure that those in public wear masks.

#### **EXPRESS NEWS** SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy died while his grandmother and father sustained severe injuries after their car rammed into a divider and toppled several times. The incident took place in Dwarka's Sector 22.

11-year-old boy dies

as car rams divider

The child, Mayank, was looking out of the window when the incident took place. Police said he sustained deep injuries to his neck from the window glass that broke during the accident.

The boy was sitting in the passenger seat and his father Sujeet Kumar (35) was driving. His mother, two-year-old sister and grandmother were sitting behind. The accident took place around 9.30 pm Thursday when the family was returning after meeting relatives.

Anish, who made the PCR call, said, "The car toppled and

landed on one side of the road. A boy fell out of the car onto the road...I called my friend and we pulled out the older woman and the children. The driver was stuck inside the vehicle. We then called the PCR who took the family to the hospital.

A senior police officer said "the car toppled several times".

Eyewitnesses saw Mayank falling on the ground while the car was toppling. "By the time we reached, he was dead. The others have minor injuries and are stable," said the officer.

Kumar and his mother sustained injuries to their head and limbs. His wife and their two-year-old daughter are stable.

DCP (Dwarka) Anto Alphonse said Kumar lives with his family in Pochanpur area in Dwarka.

A case of rash driving has been registered against unknown persons at Dwarka Sector 23 police station.

2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171 PUBLICATION NOTICE

#### IN O.A. NO. 130 OF 2020

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN** 

SUMMON UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERTY OF DEBTS BANKRUPTCY AC, 1993, READ WITH SUB-RULE(2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME Dy. No. 364

#### Date: 28.08.2020

#### Oriental Bank of Commerce(Now PNB) Vs M/s Shiva Packers & Anr.

D. M/S Shiva Packers, Uttam Vihar Colony, Sarai Road, Near Behat Road Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001.

2. Vivek Rana, S/o Madanpal Rana, Proprietor of M/s Shiva Packers, Uttam Viha olony, Sarai Road, Near Behat Road, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001. Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted O.A. No.130 of 2020

gainst you for recovery of debts of Rs. 22,93,895/- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was please to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts of Bahrvuptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 26.08.2020.

Whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **12.10.2020.** Further you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defense in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence of claim for set off, counter claim, in the Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence. Note: For appearance in person or through legal representative on the next date of hearing through V.C., contact the Registrar on Mobile No. 95600-72676 or through e-mail on the official e-mail ID of the DRT registrar-drtddn@govin, at east 3 days in advance along with details of e-mail ID as well as whatapp enabled mobile Number. So that V.C. link could be provided in advance to participate in the

rearing through V.C. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **28th day of August, 2020.** By order of Tribunal

> Sd. Registrar Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun (M) 95600-72676, (O) 0135-2720854

# THECITY

### **Bangla Sahib** gurdwara gets a pharmacy



The phramacy was inaugurated on Saturday

#### **ASHNA BUTANI** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

HOPING TO buy medicines at discounted rates, Sunil Kukreja (55) waited in line outside Bala Pritam Dawakhana, a pharmacy inside the Bangla Sahib Gurdwara. Set up by the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DS-GMC), the pharmacy was inaugurated on Saturday.

"This is an added benefit for us; we can visit the gurdwara and get medicines at the same time. I have come here to buy medicines for BP and diabetes," said Kukreja, a resident of Rajinder Nagar. With his helmet shop in Patel Nagar shut since the lockdown. he said he was finding it hard to save up for medicines and managed to get them for 50% of the market price at the pharmacy.

Bhupinder Singh Bhullar, DS-GMC executive member said, "Amid the pandemic, many families are facing financial problems. Just as we give free food in langar, we decided to give medicines at discounted, wholesale rates. There is zero profit for us. If this is a success, we will open more such pharmacies in other gurdwaras.'

As news of the pharmacy spread, many visiting the gurdwara queued up outside. However, not all had prescriptions. When Nishu Gupta (26) heard of the pharmacy, she decided to get medicines for her father who requires stroke medication. "They said we need a prescription and I was not prepared. Next time I visit the gurdwara, I will carry prescriptions," she said.



#### PERSONAL

I. Aiav Vashisht R/o Flat No. A/1/3 Police Station Defence Colony New Delhi-110049 have changed my minor daughter's name from Harshita Vashisht to Riddhi Vashisht for all 0040546533-1 purposes.



### SAFE READING

Social distancing being observed at the Sunday Book Market at Darya Ganj. Prem Nath Pandey

cropped up in recent times

which are not governed by any

regulations, like the Press

Council of India for mainstream

channels, and some raise un-

founded allegations. "We have

no issue with the media. Our

point is it should not pick and

choose. If there are allegations,

then counter views must also be

aired. We will come up with a

detailed policy on it soon," said

Chawla. Earlier, Union I&B

Minister Prakash Javadekar had

said there should be a regulatory

body along the lines of the Press

Council of India for news portals.

are regulations, we will defi-

nitely come under it. When we

are just showing house pro-

ceedings that are open for the-

Bhagwan Singh said, "There is

no resolution to relay proceed-

ings like there is in Parliament.

The Corporation Act is so old, it

does not touch upon these

things(media coverage rules

through videos), but the media

is invited for coverage."

Secretary

press, what is there to hide?"

Municipal

Bhupati said: "When there

### SDMC stops journo from filming proceedings

**ABHINAV RAJPUT** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE RULING BJP in the South MCD has drawn flak from the opposition for stopping a journalist, who runs a YouTube channel, from shooting the proceedings of the civic body on Friday. The incident prompted a fresh debate on regulations on YouTube channels and independent news websites. Officials said Friday, Leader

of the House Narender Chawla and councillor Poonam Bhati asked journalist Shrawani Mishra Bhupati, who runs a YouTube channel and independent news website Bajatey Raho, to not air house proceed-

ings. Media organisations are usually invited by civic bodies for coverage and have been allowed to record and air visuals of proceedings in the past.

Opposition Congress and AAP called it unnecessary restriction on freedom of the press, and pointed out there is nothing to hide in a meeting where policy making for the city is done.

#### Vaccination to resume at anganwadis However, some leaders claimed several channels have

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

CHILD IMMUNISATION activities in Delhi, which were hit by the pandemic, are set to restart in all anganwadi centres, which have been closed since the start of the nationwide lockdown.

Child Women and Development minister Rajendra Pal Gautam told The Indian Express, "Even during the pandemic, immunisation work was on at hospitals and dispensaries. But it took a hit at the anganwadi centres, as these had been closed as a precautionary measure. The immunisation load carried by the centres is just a little less than at hospitals and dispensaries, and we can say we are behind in the immunisation of 30-40% of children who were due for it since the lockdown's start. We have told our workers that in the wait for a Covid vaccine, children should not become vulnerable to other diseases," he said. On Sunday, he directed that the process of vaccination for children - from newborns up to the age of six years be resumed with the help of anganwadi and ASHA workers.

#### EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

**Open Tender Notice** OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. EnHM-PRF Digha-DNR-20-21, Dt: 26.08.2020. The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C.Railway, Danapur is inviting online open E-tender in Two Packet System for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractor with experience financial capability including those registered/ working with Railway/Irrigation/ CPWD/MES or any other public sector (1) Name of Work with its location echanized and Mannual cleaning of Patliputra Rail Parisar (PRP) Digha Colony, Patna for 730 days. Location : Danapur division. (2) Approx. cost of the work Rs.3,95,42,325.81 (Rs. Three Crore Ninety five lakh Forty-two thousand Three hundred wenty-five and Eighty one paisa only (3) Earnest Money to be deposited a Rs.3,47,700/- (Rs. Three lakh Forty seven thousand seven hundred only). (4) Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of Tender: Date & Time for submission of tender - 18.09.2020 up to 12.00 hrs. on <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>. Date & Time of opening of tender - 18.09.2020 at 12.30 hrs. on <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>. (5) Website particulars & Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc: The E-tender notice is available on website www.ireps.gov.in

)ivisional Railway Manager(Mech.)/Danapu

PR/0566/DNR/Mech./T/20-21/44

# **MOST FROM UP, HARYANA** 8,500 hospital admissions in Aug, 30% from outside Delhi

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

WITH BORDER relaxations coming into effect and some cities close to the capital seeing Covid spikes, more people from outside the city took hospital admission in Delhi in August as compared to June and July. According to Delhi govern-

ment officials, around 30% of Covid patients admitted in Delhi hospitals between August 1 and 28 were from outside the city, up from around 10% in the beginning of July and even lesser in June, when the lockdown was in place.

Of the 8,577 people admitted to hospitals for Covid treatment, both government and private, 2,536 were from outside Delhi. In the last week of July, the figure touched 19%, reached 26% on August 3 and touched 40% on August 10.

Most seeking treatment are from the neighbouring Uttar Pradesh and Haryana -- both



Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, of the 110 Covid patients admitted, 44 are from Delhi

states have had border curbs with Delhi at separate points, which are relaxed now.

In some private hospitals. there are fewer patients from Delhi than those from outside. though this is the case only in a handful of institutes.

This includes Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where of the 110 Covid patients admitted, 44 are from Delhi. At Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, the Delhi government

said, of the 158 people admitlator beds and 434 ICU beds are ted, 111 are from outside Delhi. also unoccupied. The sudden increase in cases

"Cases are going up in other states like Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh and maybe health facilities are running full in their areas, so there is a possibility that patients from other states are turning to Delhi. Another factor is that since travel restrictions have been eased, those who can afford and are in need of quality care are getting admitted to hospitals in Delhi," said Dr D S Rana, chairman of the board, Sir Ganga Ram hos-

After a downward trend that

lasted close to a month, new

cases in Delhi have been on the

rise for the past two weeks,

along with the number of peo-

At present, there are around

4,105 people across hospitals in Delhi. The figure dipped to be-

low 3,000 in the last week of

pital beds still available for

Covid patients. Over 740 venti-

There are over 10,000 hos-

has had the government in a huddle to devise strategies to make sure a situation like the one that was seen in the first week of June -- when patients were unable to get beds in hospitals and many were struggling to find ICUs and ventilators -- is not repeated.

In June, the Delhi government had said it was planning to reserve beds in Delhi government as well as private hospitals for Covid patients from Delhi -- a move struck down by

L-G Anil Baijal. "We are worried again as cases are rising. We had expected that to happen. Now that lockdown has been eased further, and states have been stopped from imposing restrictions, we expect cases will rise further. What we need to ensure is that there are enough beds for patients who need them." said a senior Delhi government official.

# As classes go online, art & music guest teachers told 'services not required'

pital.

ple in hospitals

#### SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

TOLD THAT their services are not required during remote learning. guest teachers of subjects like art, music, physical education and home science have not been employed by many Delhi government schools since May.

On May 8, services of 20,000odd guest teachers across all Delhi government schools – who are paid per day of work - were discontinued. In July, Education Minister Manish Sisodia said they would be re-engaged as part of the remote-teaching learning plan. On July 13, the education department directed all school

heads to "engage willing guest teachers and contract teachers wherever required for online teaching-learning activities." However, guest teachers engaged as librarians or for art. music. PE and home science and some language teachers found their roles have dried up. Many have been told they cannot be engaged as there is no requirement for them.

"We are the 'miscellaneous category teachers' and what is being said is that those who will not be taking any kind of online lessons will not be called. Apart from me, the home science and drawing guest teachers have not been called at my school. Other guest teachers who teach subjects have been called and our principal told

us she would need a separate order to re-engage us," said a music teacher at a girls' school.

At an Urdu medium school in Northeast Delhi, about half the guest teachers have been engaged. "There are 31 guest teachers in my school. Two of us P.E. teachers, the librarian and around 10 Urdu teachers have not been engaged yet. We have not been given any clarity as to when we will finally be engaged," said a P.E. teacher at the school.

As these teachers are engaged and paid per day of work, they have been unemployed and not paid any salary for the last four months. "Classes are happening only for major subjects, so we do not have a requirement. If we hire

and try to accommodate them. we will need to justify the action at the time of clearing payment of salaries to the DDE and the pay and allowance office," said the head of a North Delhi school.

Director of Education Udit Prakash Rai said the education department is looking to issue clearer guidelines on hiring and engagement soon:"Until Unlock-4, we had asked heads of schools to engage teachers as per their reguirement and many heads did not require teachers in some areas. Now that Unlock 4 will allow 50% of teachers to come to school at a time and children to visit school in a limited way, we will be issuing a circular with more organised engagement directives.

EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION ESIC Model Hospital Bapunagar बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया बक आफ़ झाडया Bank of India BOI (Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India) Head Office Information Technology Department, Star House 2, C-4, "G" Block, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Bandra - Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai 400 051, **E-mail:** Headoffice.it@bankofindia.c Ahmedahad-380024 Phone: 079-22741866 | Email: ms-bap agar.gi@esic.nic.in TENDER REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) NOTICE No.37/ESIC/MHB/MEDICAL/LP/2020 Date: 28/08/2020 BANK OF INDIA INVITES REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR "Engagemen **E-TENDER FOR LOCAL CHEMIST** of Vendor for End to End Management of Enterprise Wide Loyalty Program Last date for submission of RFP 22.09.2020 by 3:30 PM Dully filed and sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Details available on Bank's Corporate Website: www.bankofindia.co.in unde

3.0

**Reserve Bank of India** www.rbi.org.in Estate Department, Jammu Notice inviting Application for empanelment of contractors for Proposed Construction of **Residential Quarters for Officers at** 

Sec 1A and Sec 9, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu Reserve Bank of India invites applications for enlistment of contractors for construction of Residential Quarters for Officers at Sec 1A and Sec 9, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, estimated to cost ₹ 6800 lakhs to be completed within 40 months. The proposed construction project work would be executed by the firm who has completed composite works in a single contract with multidiscipline trades. For further details as well as for downloading the application forms, please visit our website www.rbi.org.in.

I, Ajay Vashisht R/o Flat No. A/1/3 Police Station Defence Colony New Delhi 110049 have changed my minor daughter's name from Harshikha Vashisht to Siddhi Vashisht for all 0040546535purposes.

I Pushpa Lata Kumari W/O Ram Chandra Jha, R/O RZ E-61, Flat No. 101, Bengali Colony, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045; declare that I am also known as Pushpa Lata Jha. Pushpa Lata Kumari and Pushpa Lata Jha is one and the same person; for all my future 0040546506-1 purpose.

Indrajit Singh S/O, Charanjit Singh Chadha R/o Shop Plot No-65, 2nd Floor, Pandav Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Indraiit Singh Chadha for all purposes. 0040546537-1

I, CAROLINE D/o Mayur Pinto Nair R/o 51C Kamal Park Palam Road New Delhi-45 have changed my name to Caroline Nair for all purposes. 0040546577-8

I, Sunil Kumar Gupta@ Sunil Gupta S/o Sh.Uday Gupta, R/o A-426/2, Sanjay Colony,Okhla Phase-2. New Delhi-110020 have changed my name to Sunil Gupta for all purposes 0040546541-1

l, Sunita Rohra W/o Tola Ram Kukreja R/o-1457/101, 3rd floor,Ganesh Pura, Trinagar, Delhi-35, have changed my name to Sadhna 0040546614-3 Kukreja.

I,Priti Kumari,W/o Shailendra Kumar R/o.I-30,Sector 12,Noida,Have changed my daughter's name from Srizan to Srizan Kumar. 0040546614-1

I, Pratibha Devi,W/o Devendra Singh, R/o. Flat-308, Pearl Height Apartment.Ramprastha Green, Sector-9, Vaishali,Ghaziabad,have changed my name to Pratibha 0040546614-2 Singh.

I. Amrendra kumar Sengar R/O. 11B, HUDCO PLACE, Andrewsgunj Ext, New Delhi-110049, have changed the name of my minor child aged 12 years from Aaryan Aditya to Aryan Aditya 0070712519-1 2. Application forms for enlistment will be issued or can be downloaded from August 31, 2020 to September 30, 2020

Last date for submission of completed applications: October 14, 2020, 15.00 hrs

- 3. Further corrigendum / addendums if any, will only be hosted on the Bank's website www.rbi.org.in
- 4. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reasons thereof.

SITUATION VACANT		INDIRA GANDHI IN	STITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES				
		IGIMS Medical	College, IGIMS Nursing College				
Smarten school (CBSE	Ľ		:0612-2297099/2297631, Website: www.igims.org				
Affilitated School), Invites			viting Tender				
application for the following openings PGT- English,			website- www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.				
Economics. Accountancy.	<u>E</u> -	E-Tender Notice No.: 07/2020-2021/Bio-Medical Equipment/IGIMS/Store Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna invites e-bids from eligible and					
Maths, Business Studies,			Sciences, Patna invites e-bids from eligible and ized distributors / agents for supply, installation				
Computer (IP) . Age, Salary,							
Qualification as per CBSE		and commissioning of different bio-medical equipments for their various medical and surgical departments as per following scheduled.					
Norms send your resume on		Name & address of advertiser	Director, IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Patna -14				
hr.smartens@gmail.com; D-	l		P.OB.V. College, Patna 800014.				
Block, Bengali Colony,	2.	Date of issue of E-Tender notice	31/08/2020.				
Jharonda Road, Najafgarh	3.	Period for download of tender	From 10/09/2020 to 19/10/2020 up to				
New Delhi -27 0040546607-1		document only on	12.00 hours through above website.				
		www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.					
EDUCATIONAL	4.	Last Date of pre bid Clarifications	In view of increased need to minimize possibility of community spread of ongoing COVID – 19 epidemics, physically pre-bid meeting will not				
NEET 2020 physics predicted questions: Just solve these and sit in exam. Don't delay. tkgphysicsacademy. email:gtkphy2019@gmail.com			be held. In case the bidders requires any clarification regarding the tender documents and proposed technical specifications, they are requested to contact our office (e-mail:				
.whatsapp:+919836767097			storeofficer@igims.org) on orbefore 19/09/2020.				
	5.	Last date & Time for submission /	19/10/2020 up to 17.00 Hours				
0050168161-2		uploading of complete tender at www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.					
"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be		Last date, time and place for submission of hard copy of the Technical bid along with EMD & Tender Document Fee at Director's office, I.G.I.M.S., Patna by Speed / Registered post / Courier only.	20 / 10 / 2020 up to 16.00 Hours, at Director IGIMS,- Patna-800014, P/OB.V.College Patna				
held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies.		Date, Time and Place of opening of Techno Commercial bid only on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in.	From 21/10/2020 to 04/11/2020 (department wise)				
associations with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore		Date, Time and Place of opening of price bid	Date & Time will be communicated later on subsequent to acceptance of techno-commercial bid at <u>www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</u>				
recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.	do Th an an	wnloaded from Institute <u>Website: ww</u> e undersigned reserves the right to a y reason. Prospective bidders are ad d www.igims.org for Corrigendum	t's, terms and conditions can be seen and <u>w.igims.org</u> & <u>www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</u> . ccept / reject any or all tenders without assigning vised to regularly visit <u>www.eproc.bihar.gov.in</u> / amendments etc., if any. It will be notified on rtisement will be made. Director, IGIMS, Patna				
	<u> </u>						

local chemists to supply medicines/drugs/dressings on day to day basis for ESIC Model Hospital, Bapunagar, Ahmedabad for the year 2020-21, as per the details below:

Last Date of Submission	Date of Opening Tender
21.09.2020 up to 14:00 hours.	22.09.2020 at 14:30 hours.

Detailed information regarding the tender documents can be downloaded from the following website: www.esic.nic.in. The interested bidders shall submit their tender(s) through online mode at the e-procure portal. <u>https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app</u>.

🔘 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔘

**E-Tender Notice** 

-TENDER NOTICE FOR DIFFERENT

ELECTRICAL WORKS OPEN TENDER

DRM (Electrical)/ECR/Dhanbad for and

behalf of the President of India invites e-

Tender for execution of the following works.

SI. No. 1. e-Tender No.: EL/08/OPEN

2020-21, Name of work with location and

Completion of work : Provision of power

supply arrangement for quick watering

system at DHN, GMO, BRKA & CPU.

(Completion period: 06 Months). Approx

cost of the work: Rs. 1982490.36, Earnest

SI. No. 2. e-Tender No.: EL/09/OPEN/

2020-21, Name of work with location and

Completion of work : DHN-DIVN: Annual

Contract for Repair of different type &

capacity of HS pumps "KIRLOSKAR"make

over Dhanbad Division for three years

(Completion period: 36 Months), Approx.

cost of the work: Rs. 3506561.56. Earnest

SI. No. 3. e-Tender No.: EL/10/OPEN/

2020-21. Name of work with location and

Completion of work : Electrical work in

connection with (A) Obra Dam: Provision of

additional service building for sick line and

yard office at Obradam C&W depot (B) OBRA

Up gradation of freight maintenance facilities

at OBRADAM intensive yard. (Completion

period: 12 Months), Approx. cost of the

work: Rs. 7258646.46, Earnest money to

and opening of e-Tender : Closing of e-

Tender: On 24.09.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

Opening of e-Tender: On 24.09.2020 after

11:00 Hrs. Website particulars : WEBSITE

www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers are not

Divisional Railway Manager (Elect.) / Dhanbad

2586/HF

PR/0565/DHN/EGEN/T/20-21/56

be deposited : Rs. 145200/-

allowed against e-Tender.

money to be deposited : Rs. 70100/-

money to be deposited : Rs. 39700/-

FOR ELECTRICAL (GENERAL)

**Medical Superintendent** 

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
+
E-TENDER NO.2020RSI1742TC
CORRIGENDUM NO. 2
Name of item appearing in 2 <sup>nd</sup> line of clause 1.0 of tender document may be
read as Friction Wedge with Non Metallic Liner for LCCF(20) C Bogies of
BLCAM/BLCBM wagons (22.0 Tones0 Axle Load) instead of Upgraded
High Tensile CBC Freight Stock.
Tender will be closed at 15.00 hours on 25.09.2020
All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.
Director, Railway Stores (W),
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi.
for and on behalf of the President of India.
1879/2020
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### **Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD** Nirman Bhawan Nigam Vihar Shimla H.P. 171002 **UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice**

The Government of India has received a loan/ credit number "IBRD-88640" under PMGSY-II (Rural Road Project-II) under World Bank Funding (Additional Financing & Green & Climate Resilience) Rural Roads Financing owards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-II) and intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction of RRP-II works. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document. The Superintending Engineer 11th Circle HPPWD Rampur District Shimla HP -172001 on behalf of Governor

limachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhar Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-II (Batch-I) of 2019-20 in the district of Kinnaur as detailed in the Table below from the ligible contractors registered with HPPWD/ CPWD/P&T, Railways/ other State Govt./ Central Govt. agencies. Nonregistered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with ppropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Sr.	Name of	Package	Name of Work	Period of	Estimat	ed cost	Total	Bid	Cost
No.	Distt.	No.		Construction in Days	Const. part Rs.	Maint. part	Cost	Security	of form
1	Kinnaur	HP-05-60 (Nichar)	Up-gradation of TapriCholling via Urni road Km 0/000 to 19/600	365	114030175	13175751	127205926	2544000	5000

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid ipdates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' respon ibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 3rd September 2020.

The technical bid shall be opened in the office of Superintending Engineer, 11th Circle, HPPWD, Rampur Bushahr on 26.09.2020. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with Concerned Executive Engineer, HPPWD, on a date not later than two working days after the opening of technical qualifiation part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the technical bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 25th September 2020 upto 1700 Hours nd will be opened on 26th September 2020 at 1100 hours.

The Financial bids shall be opened in the office of Chief Engineer (Shimla Zone) HPPWD Shimla Date and Time shall be intimated)

For further details please log on to http://pmgsytenders.gov.in.

The Government has enhanced the tendering limit of Class-B contractors from Rs. 2.00 crore (Two crore) o Rs. 5.00 crore (Five crore) only for PMGSY works. Date & Time for submission of closing

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the tender without declaring any reasons thereof











# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 5 GOVT & POLITICS





### NOT FOR NOW

KEEPING IN mind the Covid-19 situation and the suffering it has caused, Justice Arun Mishra, who is set to retire on September 2, declined to attend a virtual farewell organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association as per tradition. Requesting that he be excused, Justice Mishra wrote to the SCBA President and senior advocate Dushyant Dave, promising to pay the Bar a visit when the situation normalises.

### WAIT AND WATCH

THE SUPREME Court had announced last week that it is set to restart physical hearing of at least 1,000 cases on a trial basis from September 1. Keeping in mind social distancing, officials had redesigned seating in some courtrooms. However, sources indicate that few lawyers have consented to appearing in court next week. If the turnout remains low, the court could call off physical hearings for now.

### FOR NUTRITION

AS ONE of the solutions to malnutrition, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is now pushing the development of kitchen gardens. "Poshan ke liye Paudhe" is now beng envisioned as a means to tackle malnutrition by growing "nutrient-filled" fruits and vegetables. The kitchen gardens are proposed at anganwadi centres in villages and towns to begin with. The announcement comes at the onset of September, which is celebrated as National Nutrition Month in the country, and will be a part of a number of events planned by the Ministry, which will mostly be virtual.

## Maken says BJP killing democracy but couldn't succeed in Rajasthan

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR, AUGUST 30

NEWLY-APPOINTED Congress in-charge for Rajasthan and the party's national general secretary Ajay Maken said on Sunday that the BJP is killing democracy



# MANN KI BAAT **PM:** Time to be vocal for local toys, India can be major hub

Modi also urges people to consider keeping dogs from Indian breeds as pets

PM said

market

The Prime Minister said he

University

of

had held deliberations with

Gandhinagar and ministries of

Women and Child Development,

Education and Micro-Small and

Medium Enterprises on how India

can become a big hub of toy pro-

duction. "There has been a rich

tradition of local toys in our coun-

try... Some parts of India are devel-

oping also as toy clusters... Like,

he said the themes of these games

are currently "mostly extraneous".

"Our country has so many ideas,

so many concepts; our history has

playing," he said.

Children

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Sunday called upon start-ups and entrepreneurs to work towards promotion of the indigenous toy industry.

In his monthly radio address, Mann ki Baat, he also called for promoting indigenous dog breeds.

Pointing out that India had a 'very little" share in the global toy market of Rs 7 lakh crore, he said, "Now, just spare a thought for a nation which has so much of heritage, tradition, variety, young population, will it feel good to have such little share in the toy market? Not at all...."

He called upon "start-up friends" and "new entrepreneurs" to "team up for toys..." and said it is time to "get vocal for local toys".

The Prime Minister said that in the National Education Policy, "a lot of attention has been given on the impact of toys on different aspects of children's lives". He said toys "augment activity: and also "give flight to our aspirations". "I read somewhere what Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore had said about toys, the best toy is that which is incomplete; a toy that

Cows are like family, sin to kill them, says Karnataka minister

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA **BENGALURU, AUGUST 30**

COWS ARE akin to a family member and it is a "sin" to kill them, Karnataka Medical Education Minister K Sudhakar said Sunday, even as the BJP government in the state mulls bringing back the anti-cow slaughter law. He also said cow dung acts as a disinfectant, recalling his family had owned a few cows in

Terming cow slaughter a

"sin", the minister said he would

request CM B S Yediyurappa to

ban slaughter of the animal.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took a swipe at the Prime India had a Minister's comments on the toy very small industry. Referring to the protests share in the against holding NEET and JEE global toy (Main) exams amid the pandemic, Rahul tweeted, "JEE-NEET aspirants wanted the PM do children together complete while 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' but the PM

did 'Khilone Pe Charcha'." Urging people to consider bringing home Indian breeds the next time they think of raising a pet dog, the Prime Minister said, "Among the Indian breeds, Mudhol Hound and Himachali Hound are of excellent pedigree. Rajapalayam, Kanni, Chippiparai and Kombai are fabulous Indian breeds. They cost less to raise and are better adapted to the Indian

"At a time when Atmanirbhar Bharat is becoming a mantra of the people, how can any domain be left untouched by its influ-

Modi recalled contributions of Indian Army dogs Sophie and Vida. "Sophie and Vida... have been awarded the Chief of Army Staff 'Commendation Cards'. They received this honour because they

who not only live for the country but also sacrifice themselves for the country. Such canines have played a very important role in thwarting blasts and terror conspiracies," he said.

The Prime Minister said the government's Aatma Nirbhar Bharat App innovation challenge saw around 7,000 entries "of which nearly two thirds" were from "youth of tier II and tier III cities". "This is a very auspicious indication for self-reliant India, for future of the country...," he said.

The PM said nourishment plays a big role in children being able to fulfil their potential and said September will be observed as Nutrition Month.

He said the government was setting up an Agricultural Fund of India which will have information about crops grown in each district and their nutritional value.

Reminding that the country will celebrate the 75th year of Independence in 2022, he said, "It is imperative that today's generation, our students remain familiar with heroes of freedom struggle... When our students are apprised of the history of the freedom struggle viz-a-viz their local surroundings -- only then will we see the reverberations of it on the personality of the student."

#### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE CONGRESS Sunday waded into the Sushant Singh Rajput case, raising questions over the alleged links of film producer Sandip Ssingh with the BJP and claiming he had made "53 phone calls" to the Maharashtra office of the saffron party over the past few months. This came a day after Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said he would forward to the CBI complaints he had received about Ssingh, who produced the film PM Narendra Modi, and a "drug nexus" in Bollywood.

So far, the Congress at the national level had kept its distance from the row. With Ssingh's name surfacing, it has sensed an opportunity to turn the tables on the BIP. On Friday, the Maharashtra Congress said there was a need to

probe the "BJP angle" in Rajput's death. Spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi Sunday alleged the producer had made 53 calls to the Maharashtra BJP office in the last few months. "Was Ssingh the reason for showing alacrity in ordering CBI probe?" he asked.

Singhvi claimed that the posters of the PM biopic were unveiled by BJP leader and then Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis. "Who is the special per-

have LPG connections, the report

said, "The joint physical verifica-

tion of 590 completed houses

also confirmed that only 399

houses (67.63 per cent) were

provided with LPG connections

and 191 (32.37 per cent) houses

cient cooking fuel for the remain-

ing households is imperative

from the point of view of women

empowerment and to avoid the

health and environmental haz-

ards associated with burning of

"Provision of clean and effi-

did not have LPG connections."

In ODF state, toilets missing in half of PMAY houses surveyed

#### **HARIKISHAN SHARMA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

HIGHLIGHTING "SHORTCOM-INGS" in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin(PMAY-G) and its convergence with other schemes, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has found that about half of the verified houses built under the scheme in Rajasthan did not have toilets, even though the state was declared 'Open Defecation Free' in 2018



# producer Ssingh

SUSHANT SINGH RAJPUT DEATH

Cong targets BJP

over 'links' to film

#### **CBI QUIZZES RHEA FOR 3RD STRAIGHT DAY**

Mumbai: For the third day in a row, actor Rhea Chakraborty was questioned by CBI in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case. She was questioned for nearly eight hours before she was allowed to leave around 7.30 pm. The agency is likely to also speak to Sushant's sister Meetu Singh, who was present at the actor's residence a day before he was found hanging on June 14. ENS

son...who is taking responsibility for this person, who claims to be the best friend of Rajput?" asked Singhvi.

On Friday, Maharashtra Congress spokesman Sachin Sawant had shared a picture of Ssingh with Fadnavis.

Fadnavis Saturday denied any link to Ssingh. "Why did the Mumbai Police not investigate these people earlier? The person in question may have been present at some function where I was present. There is also some report

that the same person was the director of a movie to be made on Balasaheb Thackeray," he said. Ssingh was unavailable for comment.

#### BENGAL

3 Visva-Bharati varsity officials dismissed for 'tampering' with minutes

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, AUGUST 30

THREE SENIOR officials of Visva-Bharati University, including former acting vice-chancellor Sabujkali Sen, have been dismissed for allegedly tampering with a resolution recorded during the institute's executive council meeting in 2018.

The EC took the decision on iday evening based on the ommendations made by the one-man Justice (retd) Jyotirmoy Bhattacharya Committee.

games based on India too," he said.

been very rich. Can we make games based on that? I call upon performed their duties diligently the young talent of the country -while protecting their country. make games in India and make Our armed forces and security forces have many such brave dogs

## **CAG REPORT ON RAJASTHAN**

Channapatna in Ramanagara in Karnataka, Kondaplli in Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, Dhubri in Assam, Varanasi in UP...," he said. ence?", he asked. Referring to computer games,

# environment and surroundings."

in the entire country through money power and misuse of security agencies but the party could not succeed in Rajasthan.

Maken said this on the sidelines of his first visit to the state after being appointed as the incharge of Rajasthan following the month-long political crisis in the state.

"Rajasthan is one such state which proved one thing last month. If anyone had doubts about the warriors of Rajasthan, that will not be there now. In the entire country, by using its money power and unethically misusing the CBI and ED, the BJP killed democracy in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur Goa. After that when they tried this in Rajasthan, they had to suffer a stinging defeat," said Maken, in Alwar district on Sunday.

Maken, who later arrived in Jaipur, will remain in Rajasthan till Wednesday and interact with party workers and leaders from various regions of the state such

Gehlot on Sunday.

as Jaipur and Ajmer divisions. He later met both Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Pilot at their respective residences in Jaipur. State Congress president Govind Singh Dotasara accompanied Maken to both Gehlot and Pilot's residences.

Maken had replaced Congress leader Avinash Pandey as the in-charge of Rajasthan after the party appointed him to the post following the truce between the party high command and the MLAs loyal to former deputy chief minister and party president of the state. Sachin Pilot.

Maken is also part of the three-member committee set up by the Congress to look into the grievances raised by Pilot and his lovalist MLAs.

the past.

Ajay Maken meets Ashok

"Cow is like a member of the family and its a crime to kill cows," Sudhakar said at the inauguration of a cow shelter in Chikkaballapura, a release from his office said. Also, there was a need for people's movement to create awareness against cow slaughter, he said, adding "being

> Indians, all state governments should ban cow slaughter".

Sudhakar said a detailed discussion on banning beef exports was required in both Houses of the Legislature. "Our party is committed to ban beef exports, there will be a decision soon on this." he said.

Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan had recently said the state would soon implement a ban on cow slaughter, sale and consumption of beef, in line with other states.

During a performance audit

of PMAY-G in Rajasthan, CAG conducted a physical verification of 590 houses listed as "completed" in 59 gram panchayats across seven districts -- Baran, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Dausa Jodhpur, Tonk and Udaipur. The findings have been presented in Report No. 1 of 2020 - General and Social Sector, Government of Rajasthan, which was tabled in the Assembly last week.

As per the Framework for Implementation of PMAY-G, issued by the Ministry of Rural Development in 2016, a house shall be treated as "complete" only after a toilet has been constructed. Toilets were supposed to be provided to PMAY-G beneficiaries through funding from Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) MGNREGS or any other dedicated financing source.

"In the joint physical verification of 590 houses under PMAY-G, Audit observed that 290 houses (49.15 per cent) were

#### **BIHAR GEARS UP**

Report says many houses shown as "completed" were found incomplete during verification. Source: CAG report

## WHAT CAG FOUND



without toilets even when these houses were shown as 'completed'," says the report.

"Interestingly, 49.15 per cent of the sampled completed houses were without toilets even though the State has been declared Open Defecation Free," adds the report. During the physical verifica-

#### wood cow dung cakes fossil fu els, etc. and thus should be given due priority," says the report.

During the verification, CAG also found that out of 590 houses, 517 houses (87.63 per cent) had "access to safe drinking water either from convergence or by their own arrangement". However, out of this, only 26 houses had piped water supply, says the report, adding that the remaining 73 houses (12.37 per cent) were "facing difficulty in accessing clean drinking water".

The report says out of 590 beneficiaries, 391 (66.27 per cent) beneficiaries were living in the pucca houses constructed under the scheme, and 183 (31.02 per cent) houses were not being used for residential pur-

pose by the beneficiaries. It also says many PMAY-G houses shown as "completed" on the scheme's portal were found incomplete during the physical verification. "Thus, there is a need to improve the implementation of the scheme...." it observed.

Justice Bhattacharya went through the findings of another inquiry committee in the case that had found Sen and two others guilty of tampering "with the recording of an EC meeting held in February 2018".

According to an EC member, former officiating registrar Sougata Chattopadhyay and exfinance officer Samit Roy were the others removed. The council, in an emergency meeting, dismissed all three with immediate effect. It comes just three davs before Sen's retirement.

Sen was appointed the officiating V-C on February 2, 2018, days after Prof Swapan Dutta retired. Her tenure was set to last only for a few days. Sen, with the help of Chattopadhvav and Rov. allegedly "tampered with the minutes of the meeting" to extend her term. Sen termed the decision as "vindictive".

Covid fear may hit urban voting, Oppn hopes to gain As Tej Pratap seeks tickets for loyalists, RJD tries to avoid repeat of rebellion

#### BJP, JD(U) leaders acknowledge percentage may dip, but say things will normalise in two months

#### **DIPANKAR GHOSE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AS INDICATIONS grow that Bihar Assembly elections will be held on time, political parties have begun analysing the peculiarities of voting and campaigning in times of Covid-19, in particular the effect on voting percentages, even as a section of Opposition leaders claim that this could be to their benefit.

Leaders across political lines agreed said that elections in these times could see a drop in voting percentages if the fear of coronavirus persists.

On Tuesday, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BIP leader Sushil Modi told The

Indian Express that only 11 per cent of Bihar's population is urbanised. While he that admitted there could be a dip in some urban pockets, , he added that there is "still at least two months

time" Modi also said that the "panic" seen in the previous months is now dissipating grad-

A senior RJD leader, however, said that according to the party's reading, the RID-led Opposition alliance is likely to be the beneficiary of any change in the voting pattern The RJD leader said: "We be-

lieve this (dip in voting percentage) will be of particular harm to the BJP. The fear of Covid is highest in urban areas, and among



areas are where BJP is the

and Baniyas, communities that

are by and large well to do. Many

of these people may feel that it

is too much of a risk to stand in

queue with so many others to

there may not be sweeping

changes, and there will be some

effect on the creamy layer of

According to this leader,

vote."

A senior ID(U) leader, who is a state minister, acknowledged that this is "something we have to look at and consider", but re-

favour".

mained confident that the the rich and the affluent. Urban "weight of the caste arithmetic and the face of Nitish Kumar" strongest. The party claims to make these conversations irrelhave the vote of upper-castes evant

"There are three big players in Bihar, and when two of them are together, it is almost impossible for any other government to be formed," the JD(U) leader said. "Internally we are talking about these voting patterns, and we will have to consider them, but the alliance (NDA) also has the support of other sections:

other castes s well, "but in close the SCs, EBC, and OBCs. If the seats it can be a big factor in our wealthy BIP voter does not go to vote, will the healthy Yadav go to vote?

In any case, the minister said, Bihar is slowly returning to normalcy, "and in two months the situation will be better".

But a leader from Lok Janshakti Party, an NDA constituent that has been critical of Nitish, said anti-incumbency could also play a role in these

voting patterns. "Anti-incumbency doesn't only mean voters shifting from one party to another. It also means voters not being enthusiastic to go out to vote for a particular side...(and) small shifts can affect close elections," the LIP leader said

#### **SANTOSH SINGH**

PATNA, AUGUST 30 TEJ PRATAP Yadav, the elder son of

tion survey, CAG also found that

out of the 590 completed houses,

only232(39.32 percent) had elec-

tricity connection. "...358 houses

(60.68 per cent) constructed re-

mained without electricity con-

PMAY-G beneficiaries did not

Highlighting that many

nection," says the report.

RJD chief Lalu Prasad, is learnt to have demanded Assembly election tickets for four of his loyalists-an attempt to chisel out a more prominent space for himself within the party a year after his rebellion.

Tej Pratap recently visited Ranchi to meet the RJD chief, currently in jail, to put forward the demand. The former health minister is said to be weighing a contest from Hasanpur (Samastipur) if his estranged wife Aishwarya Rai contests from Mahua (Vaishali), which he represents.

Tejashwi Yadav is trying to avoid



Tejashwi Yadav met brother

a repeat of the Lok Sabha poll

rebelled and fielded his own can-

It is unclear what transpired in

didates as Independents from

the conversation between Tej

Pratap and Lalu. What is known,

however, is that Tejashwi visited

his brother's residence in Patna on

The names mooted by Tej

Saturday night for dinner.

three Lok Sabha seats.

drama of 2019 when his brother

Tej Pratap on Saturday.

Pratap are that of Angesh Singh (Sheohar), Chandra Prakash (lehanabad), Dr Sandeep Kar Karakat) and Dharmendra Kumar (Harnaut). There is no word from the party on whether they will be given tickets.

An RJD source said: "Most senior party leaders want just one nower centre and have been rallying behind Tejashwi. Several senior leaders could be upset if their candidates cannot be accommodated...But the party does not want to turn Tei a rebel.'

On Tej Pratap's plans to contest from Hasanpur, this source said: "He probably does not want a situation of any rival party fielding his estranged wife Aishwarya Rai against him." Tej's father-inlaw Chandrika Rai, a former minister, recently joined JD(U).

Now, Leader of Opposition

### **EXPRESS NETWORK** 6

### No lockdown in Haryana from September 1: Vij

*Chandigarh:* There will be no lock-down in Haryana from September 1 as the state government has withdrawn its August 28 order directing shops and malls to remain shut on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Over the past fortnight, Haryana has changed its decisions on reimposing lockdown restrictions. On August 21, the state government had issued orders imposing a weekend lockdown for shops, shopping malls and offices across the state. Barely a week later, on August 28, it said shops and shopping malls will remain shut on Mondays and Tuesdays instead of the weekend. On Sunday, Haryana Home

Minister Anil Vij announced that the state government has withdrawn that order too. "There will be no lockdown in Haryana," Vij tweeted Sunday. The state also issued orders that all guidelines issued by the Union Home Ministry for 'Unlock 4.0' will be implemented across Harvana. ENS

jab.gov.in.

Closing Date & Time :

on the above website only.



THE STATE government on Sunday announced several significant relaxations to the Coviddriven lockdown in the state, while a general lockdown will remain in place till September 30. For the first time since March, the government has allowed the operation of passenger bus serv-

ices, both government and private, within the state from September 1. In a major relief for many, e-

passes will not be needed from September 1 to travel within the state. However, those entering the state will have to obtain an e-pass. Also, tourists travelling from other districts or states to Nilgris, Kodaikanal and Yercaud areas will

**Government of Punjab** 

**National Health Mission** 

Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab

Prayas Building , 5th Floor , Sector-38-B, Chandigarh

Tel. No. 0172-2688438

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM E-TENDERS

FOR SUPPLY OF FINGERTIP PULSE OXIMETERS

The National Health Mission, Punjab (Department of Health &

Family Welfare, Punjab) invites online bids through www.eproc.pun-

jab.gov.in for the supply of Fingertip Pulse Oximeters in the State of

Punjab. Detailed requirements and terms and conditions are avail-

able in the tender document available on website www.eproc.pun-

Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published

Opening of Online Technical Bids: 07.09.2020 at 11:30 am

For details log onto www.eproc.punjab.gov.in.



have to apply for e-passes - a measure to restrict traffic and the number of people visiting these hill stations.

**TN relaxes curbs: no e-pass** 

within state, malls to reopen

The intensified lockdown on Sundays was also revoked and Chennai Metro rail services will be allowed to resume operations from September 7. However, suburban train services will not be operational. Also, regular passenger train services will not be operational before September 15.

These relaxations, however, will not be applicable to containment zones. As the measures are largely to spur economic activity and growth, all shops, malls, places of worship and clubs will also be allowed to function from September 1, according to the government

Theatres, swimming pools, amusement and entertainment parks, large auditoriums, convention halls, beaches, zoos, museums and other such places of public interest will remain closed.

Schools, colleges, research centres and all types of educational institutions will remain closed till September 30. But online classes can be conducted.

However, Section 144 of the CrPC, which prevents the assemblv of more than five persons, will still remain in place across the state . Also, from September 1, state government offices will be allowed to function at full staff capacity. Shopping malls and indi-

vidual shops will also be allowed to function from Tuesday with full staff. The government has advised companies in the IT/ITes sector to encourage their staff to work from home, however, they will be allowed to run at full staff capacity

from September 1. The government will issue a separate set of standard operating procedures for public places of worship which will specify the

number of people allowed. Shoots for TV and film will also be permitted to resume, but with a maximum of 75 people on set.

Chief Minister Edapaddi K Palaniswami, in a statement, requested the public to adhere to safety precautions and wear masks. He also advised people to make it a habit to wash their hands regularly and maintain social distancing in public places.

Critical patients to get free Covid treatment in pvt hospitals: Gehlot

Jaipur: Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said on Sunday that when required, critical patients of Covid-19 can avail free treatment in the state's private hospitals, according to an official government release.

During a review meeting held at his residence on Sunday, Gehlot said adequate arrangements for beds with oxygen supply have been in government hospitals. Despite this, if more beds are needed, the help of private hospitals should be enlisted, he said.

In this regard, the District Collector will be able to arrange free treatment for critical patients in private hospitals under the prescribed rates of the government.

Urging private hospitals to increase their oxygen and ICU bed capacities, Gehlot said DCs should ensure private hospitals tie-up with hotel operators to make beds available for asymptomatic patients so that beds are available in hospitals for critical patients. ENS

### **GUJARAT** NHRC notice to **Gujarat Chief Secy** over 'falsely implicating' lawyer

**PARIMAL DABHI** GANDHINAGAR, AUGUST 30

THE NATIONAL Human Rights

Commission(NHRC) has issued a

show-cause notice to the chief

secretary of Gujarat asking him

why the state government should

not pay Rs 1 lakh as compensation

to a human rights lawyer in South

Gujarat who was "admittedly"

falsely implicated in a criminal

directed to submit a reply within

as Bilal Kagzi (39), a native of

Kosamba village in Surat district. The NHRC passed the order dated

August 17, 2020, while acting on a

complaint lodged by Human

Rights Defenders' Alert (HRDA) -

India, a Tamil Nadu-based forum

that functions "to initiate action

on behalf of human rights defend-

ers under threat or with security

The HRDA had lodged acom-

plaint in September 2019 on the

basis of a communication it re-

ceived from Kagzi and other

sources. As per the complaint,

Kagzi and seven others were

booked in Kosamba village for at-

tempt to murder and other of-

(against Kagzi and others) al-

leged that all the accused at-

tempted to kill him. But Bilal was

at his home due to the festival of

Bakri Eid and was nowhere near

the place where the alleged of-

fence took place... his name was

inserted by the police in collusion

"The complainant in this case

fences on August 12, 2019.

The chief secretary has been

The lawyer has been identified

case by police in Surat district.

four weeks.

concerns"

representing the co-accused in a number of criminal cases against the complainant," says the complaint. Following the complaint, the

with the complainant as he is

NHRC asked Surat's SP to file an action taken report, which was eventually submitted. Referring to the district police

report, the Commission said, "It is reported that the allegation levelled against the victim was not substantiated during the course of inquiry and the victim had supply (sic) CCTV footage wherein he was not present at the alleged incident spot. The IO of the case had been directed to investigate the case and file the chargesheet with deletion of the name of the accused." The order further also said it has considered the report and there was an admitted lapse on the part of the police officials as the victim was falsely implicated.

Speaking with The Indian Express, Kagzi said, "Apart from my regular legal practice, I have also been fighting for the rights of Dalits, tribals and the underprivileged... as part of which, I got several complaints of police atrocities lodged. So, they (police officials in Kosamba) have been nursing a grudge against me."

"Also, there are two groups groups in my village fighting against each other for local dominance. They are involved in a number of criminal cases and I represent one of the groups. In the FIR on August 12 last year, the police connived with the opposite group who lodged the complaint and framed me ...'

# Kerala: Man commits suicide after PSC rank list expires before his appointment

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

AUGUST 30 A 28-YEAR-OLD man hanged himself to death after failing to get a government job despite clearing a competitive exam held by Kerala Public Service Commission. S Anu, from Karakkonam vil-

lage in Thiruvananthapuram district, died by suicide after the rank list expired before he was appointed. Anu had ranked 76 in the

**Government of Jammu and Kashmir** examination for recruitment to the post of civil excise officer. OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WATER Seventy-two people from the list

SUPPLY MASTER PLAN DIVISION SRINAGAR Sub:- Corrigendum No. 01 to e-NIT NO:-22

Ref No. E-Tender/Proc-Cov/2020/NHM/PO

07.09.2020 up to 11:00 am.

Mission Director

17/WSMP OF 08/2020 Dated 17-08-2020 (2020-21) Due to prevailing situation by COVID19/ Lockdown

bidders who Could not attend the pre bid meeting for above noted e-NIT scheduled today can e-mail their quarries on xenwsmp@gmail.com

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the above e-NIT.

Sd/ **Executive Engineer** Water Supply Master Plan Division Srinagar No:-WSMP/CC/4369-4402 Dt:- 27-08-2020

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता. लोक निर्माण विभाग, (वि./यां.) मंडल, बिलासपर (छ.ग.)

#### got jobs before it expired in June accused of recruiting sympathis-– after an extension from April ers of the ruling CPM instead of

due to the pandemic.

Anu's body was found hanging at his home Sunday morning. He left a suicide note that read: "I don't feel hungry for the past few days. Don't know what to do. Can't act in front of anyone. Unemployment is the reason for everything."

Father Sukumaran Nair said, "Agovernment job was his dream. He had struggled for years to prepare and clear the exam." Anu's suicide has triggered

widespread protests against the state government, which has been

making appointments from rank lists. However, PSC chairman and lawver M K Sakeer said the rank list had expired in April. "We extended tenure up to June. During the extended period, seven more people were appointed. Others did not get jobs as vacancies did not come up..." said Sakeer. **Opposition parties Congress** 

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Ramesh Chennithala visited Anu's home and called him a "martyr of the cruelty of the state government and the PSC"

"All rank lists should have been extended further due to Covid-19... Government is not keen to fill vacancies from PSC. It wants to make backdoor appointments," he said.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor tweeted, "... When a human being commits suicide because he is unemployed, it is an indictment of our entire society & of those who have reduced our economy to such a pathetic condition."



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

CAREER DIPLOMAT Katyayani Shankar Bajpai, who served as India's envoy to the US, China and Pakistan, died on Sunday at 92.

Better known as Shankar Bajpai, the 1952-batch Indian Foreign Service officer had a long and distinguished career serving in crucial postings within the country and abroad.

K S BAJPAI 1928-2020

As a young officer, he served in stints at the University of Pakistan during the 1965 war. The California from 1987-88, and as Visiting Professor at University of next year, he accompanied Prime

> California, Berkeley from 1989-92. With his avid interest in for-

> eign policy and governance, he

set about founding Delhi Policy Group, an independent

He maintained an interest in

diplomacy and was involved in

various "track-two" interactions

with the US and Pakistan. He continued to be consulted infor-

mally by the Government, par-

ticularly on relations with the

US-his knowledge about the country went beyond foreign

policy. He had an extensive set of

contacts and friends in the US es-

seasons. He would quote poetry

classics from memory, had a wide

and eclectic taste in books, was an avid film buff, and, above all, was

known for his culinary skills and

being a consummate host. He re-

mained engaged with India's for-

eign policy and governance, and,

at the time of his death. was work-

ing on a biography of his father, Girja Shankar Bajpai, the first

Secretary-General of the Ministry

of External Affairs, and on his own

Bajpai was a man for many

think-tank.

tablishment.

and BJP took out protest marches in several parts of Kerala. BJP workers marched with the body of the victim to the residence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, but were stopped by police. **GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR** Office Of The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal H.Q: Cheki Duderhama Ganderbal gmail.com / pherwsd@ yahoo.in Phone/ Phone/ Fax: 0194 - 2416292.

Pg 1 of FRESH e-NIT No. 25 of 2020 21 Notice Inviting e – Tenders

FRESH e-NIT No:-25/PHED/RWSD/CIVIL OF 2020 - 21. For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of UT of J&K FRESH e-tenders(Two cover System) on Turn Key Basisare invited including the maintenance cost for a period of Fix rears from reputed and resourceful contractors /Firms/companies/ joint venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments for the following works: Table (I)

	Name of Work	Tender Cos		Cost of	Earnest	Time of	Tender	Tender opening	Class of
No.		including all Construction	Maintenance	e Document	Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Compl- Deposit	Call etion	Place and (Technical	Contractor date
		Part (Quotable)	Part (Fixed Cost)	)				Cover only)	
	Design, Construction, successful testing & Commissioning Slow Sand filtration Plants of 0.90 Lac Gallons and 1.30 Lac ga Ions capacity at Sumtbal & Surfraw with Service Reservoirs of 0.4 Lac Gallons, 0.65 Lac Gallons respectively including Chain lit lencing around structures, construction of retaining wa Chowkidar quarter, Providing, Laying fitting of Pipe network. Mains, Sub Mains, Distribution system along with saddle blocks a required with Trial run for 06 months after completion of th Construction work and maintenance for a period of five years of TURNKEY BASIS for WSS Sumbal Bala Surfraw und Languishing Programme (URDFC) including Conducting con plete necessary soil tests as required at selected site, as per th Parameters', Specification mentioned in the tender documen Architectural aesthetics shall also be kept in consideration to main the structures appealing. LUP Code::2319'.	I- 55 kl. n ss e n r r r - - e e "	₹26.86	₹ 0.05 (Favoring Executive Engineer RWS Division Ganderbal under MH 0215))	₹ 08.20 (Pledged to the Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal)	12 months	3RD	Office of the Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle I on 17.09.2020 AT 10.30 AM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful con- tractors/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
	Interstockutes appearing, LOP Code-2319. Design, Construction, successful testing & Commissioning 0.30 MGD Rapid Sand Filtration Plant, Cloriflocator, Flash Miw with inbuilt backwash tank. Construction of 1.50 Iac Gallor Service Reservoir, Chain link fencing around various structure Chemical stevel chain link fencing around various structure Chemical stevel and plant, Wash room. Providir Laying & litting of pipe in mains, sub mains & distribution sy- tem for WSS Haripora - Bonizal with Triat run for 60 months aftu- completion of the Construction work and maintenance for a per od of five years including other existing Structures like PST RWM on TURNKEY BASIS under JKIDPC including Conductir complete necessary soil tests as required at selected site, as p the Parameters/Specification mentioned in the tender door ment". Architectural aesthetics shall also be kept in consider ton to make the structures appealing. (LUP Code – 2333).	97 (505.00 Lacs 18 19 19 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	₹26.85 Lac	IS ₹ 0.04 Lass (Favoring Executive Engineer RWS Division Ganderbal under MH 0215)	₹ 07.35 Lacs (Pledged to the Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal	10 months	3rd	3rd Office of the Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle Srinagar/Ganderba I on 17.092020 at 10.30 AM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful con- tractors/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
	Design, Construction, Successful testing & Commissioning Pressenting tanks 2-rols for Proposed and Existing Plant Pressenting, Intereling of purposed and Existing Plant Ballons catulation, Intereling of purposed and the second RCC Service Reservoir, Stuice Chambers (05NoS), Chemic shed, Steel Truss over 0.10 MGD Filtration Plant at Galkh, Arhama, Retaining /Brest walls, Revamping of existing Slow sare Filtration Plant including RCC jaketing, Chain link feroing arour various structures (03Spots), Chowidar quarters 2no's i.e. Galkhul and Berwas, Wash Rooms at Ozro's spots, Reco Room at RWS Division Ganderbal including Trial run for C months after completion of the Construction work and maint nance for a period of five years on TURNKEY BASIS for Wath Conducting complete necessary soil tests as required at selecte site, as per the Parameters' Specification menioned in the ter der document. Architectural aesthetics shall also be kept In co	s, cc yy al I- d d d at d 6 6 5- r r 9 d d - -	₹28.70	0.04	₹ 4.50 (Pledged to the Superintending Engineer Hyd. Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal)	08 months	3rd	3rd Office of the Superintending Engineer, Hyd. Circle Srinagar/Ganderba Ion 17.09.2020 at 10.30 AM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful con- tractors/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/Railways and other state Governments
	Design, Construction, successful festing & Commissioning J PST for 0.21 MGD R.S.F. Plant, Two No Service Reservoir (0.50 lac gallons and 0.40 lac gallons), Sluice Chamber Chowkidar's Quarter, Retaining wall / Breast wall, Construction of crate/protection work at off take point, RCC Jacketting to SRs, Inlake Chamber, incld. UF of pipes, construction of sa dle/ anchor blocks & Chain link fencing around various stru tures for WSS Rayil Gund with Trial run for 66 months after com- pletion of the Construction work and maintenance for a per od of five years including other existing Structures like RSF RVM, mains, sub mains & distribution hetwork on TURNKE BASIS under NBARD including Conducting complete neces sary soil tests as required at selected site , as per th Parameters/ Specification mentioned in the tender document Architectural aestinguing.	'S (104,70 n d J- 	₹25.00	3.30	₹ 3.30	07 months	2nd	2nd Office of the Executive Engineer PHE RWSD /Ganderbal Srinagar on 17.08.2020 at 10.30 AM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful con- tractors/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments.
	Design, .Construction, successful testing & Commissioning 0.20 MGD Rapid Sané Titration Plant along with flash fixe clorificotator with inbuilt backwash tank for WSS Baba Res Cheerdara with Trial run for 66 months after completion of th Construction work on TURINKEY BASIS under NABAR including Conducting complete necessary soil tests as require at selected site, as per the Parameters/ Specification mentione in the tender document". Architectural aesthetics shall also b kept in consideration to make the structures appealing"	r, ₹92.11 hi e D d d	₹.025	₹.85	₹1.85	06 months	3rd	Office of the Executive Engineer PHE RWSD /Ganderbal Srinagar on 17.092020 at 10.30 AM	"A" Class - Reputed and resourceful con- tractors/ Firms/ Companies/ Joint Venture of repute in PWD or Equivalent in CPWD/ Railways and other state Governments
T IAN esi	The following detailed instruments in shape of original and TeC OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER HYDRAUL MA GANDERBAL in person or by Registered Post / Couri des the bidder shall be debarred from participating in tend	er within 04 days after	opening of the b	bid online, failing which	ch the Earnest Mo	ley shall be lso be uplo	forfeited aded whil	without any correspo	ndence in this regard
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)2.	Treasury Receipt (T.R) / Challan as cost of tender do	cument.	(F	PLEDGED IN FAVOU	IR OF THE EXECU	(I DUDER	INEER RI IAMA GE	WS DIVISION GAND BL.	ERBAL/SGR HQ
3	Valid Registration certificate of enlistment card clear tion along with renewal page of Current Financial Ye	ar of 2020-21				Scanned Scanned			
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Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to Tashkent for a summit with Pakistan President Ayub Khan.

Bajpai was also the government's Political Officer in Sikkim from 1970 to 1974, playing a role in its integration into the

Indian Union. He was Ambassador to the US when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made his first trip to Washington in 1985. He also served as Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board from 2008 to 2010.

He was one of the few career diplomats to have been Ambassador in India's three most important and challenging posts-China, the US and Pakistan.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar tweeted, "Deeply grieved at the passing away of Amb. Shankar Bajpai, mentor and friend. Will be missed by so many of us."

Amitabh Mattoo, Professor of International Relations at JNU, called him one of India's "most exceptional diplomats". "Shankar Bajpai was a confidante of decision-makers across the political spectrum." he tweeted

He is survived by his wife After he retiring from government service in 1986, Bajpai tran-Meera Bajpai and sons Dharma and Jayanti Bajpai. sitioned to academic life, with

memoirs.

#### LUCKNOW DOUBLE MURDER

### Got ample evidence from crime scene, say police

*Lucknow:* Lucknow police on ing. The bottle from which she Sunday said they have gathered "ample evidence" in the double murder case in which the daughter of a government officer was detained for allegedly killing her mother and brother. The victims were shot dead

Saturday. Police had said that the woman's teenage daughter had admitted to killing them.

"We have recovered the weapon that has the girl's fingerprints. The writing on the mirror where she wrote 'disqualified human' matches with her handwrittook the jam to write on the mirror has her fingerprints. There is no evidence of any forced entry into the house. We have also traced the girl's footprints at the crime scene. There is ample evidence," Lucknow Commissioner of Police Sujeet Pandey said.

"A medical examination (of the girl) was done on Sunday. She will be presented before a Juvenile Justice Board on Monday... Meanwhile, she has been kept at a hospital," DCP (Central) Somen Barma said. ENS



# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 7 EXPRESS NETWORK

# Andhra: Illegal liquor trade on a high after prohibition, over 43,000 held in 3 months

#### **SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, AUGUST 30

THE ANDHRA Pradesh government's efforts to implement prohibition has triggered a spike in the illicit liquor trade and smuggling of liquor from other states, and a large number of people are ending up in jail in liquor-related cases.

The Andhra Pradesh Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB), set up in May to curb the illegal liquor trade, has arrested 43,976 people in 33,754 cases between May 16 and August 26. These cases pertain to brewing illicit liquor, smuggling of liquor from neighbouring states, and illegal sale of liquor.

In the run up to the 2019 Assembly election, the YSR Congress Party had promised to implement total prohibition in the state and Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy had said he would seek reelection in 2024 only after making Andhra Pradesh a dry state.

Last October, the state government cancelled licences of all liquor shops. The government has gradually reduced the number of liquor shops from 4,380 to 2,934 and shut 43,000 outlets known as belt shops. It has also increased the prices by 75 per cent and the maximum posses-

BRIEFLY



Liquor bottles seized by police while they were being smuggled from Karnataka. Express



sion limit of liquor and beer has been reduced to three bottles of any size

The state government's plan demic to set up de-addiction centres The high prices and low availability of liquor has led to a was delayed due to the pan-

#### **RIVERS IN SPATE, ALERT IN STATES**

boost in the illegal liquor trade in rural areas. In the last three months, SEB and police have seized 2.43.226 litres of illicit liquor; 2000 litres of toddy; 1,35,700 litres of black jaggery; 21,429 litres of duty paid Indian said. Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL) and

1,617 litres of beer; and 2,34,152 litres of non-duty paid IMFL and 15,445 litres of beer. SEB Commissioner Vineet Brijlal said that over 7,000 people have been arrested in Kurnool district for smuggling liquor from Karnataka and over

6,500 in Krishna district which borders Telangana. V Lakshmana Reddy, chairman of the Liquor Prohibition Awareness Committee – Madya Prachara Vimochana Committee – under the Excise and Prohibition Department, said, "The illicit brewing is worrying because it is going on at a large scale. The price difference between liquor in the state and neighbouring states is very high, so inter-state smuggling has also started from Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. What has been seized is just about 10 per cent. When public transport restarts, inter-state smuggling will increase. But the state government is committed to implementing prohibition in a phased manner. We are strengthening SEB by recruiting more officials

and IPS officers will lead the teams. We have studied the Bihar model so we think that in a couple of years, total prohibition is possible and illicit brewing will also be curbed," Reddy

Deepak Reddy, spokesperson for Opposition TDP, said "haphazard" implementation of prohibition has spawned a huge market for illicit liquor and black marketing of smuggled IMFL. "Government should have made proper arrangements before implementing prohibition," he said.

Sources said district jails are filling up with people arrested under prohibition laws. The offences have been made nonbailable and repeat offenders are being booked under Preventive Detention Act. "Earlier, such offenders were released from the police station on bail. Now they have to wait till a court grants bail and till that time they remain in prison," an official said.

Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy, who holds the excise portfolio, said Chief Minister Reddy wants to promote healthy living. "Women, especially in rural areas, are very happy. The loss of revenue is nothing compared to the savings in lower and lower middle class households." he said

# 3 militants, ASI killed in Srinagar encounter: Police

**BASHAARAT MASOOD** SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30

THREE MILITANTS and a police of-

ficer were killed in a gunfight on

the outskirts of Srinagar city on

Saturday night. While the police-

man has been identified as an of-

ficer of the anti-militancy Special

Operations group (SOG) of J&K

Police, two of the militants had no

On Saturday night, militants

fired at a police checkpoint at

Pantha Chowk on the outskirts of

the city. Police said the militants

tried to snatch weapons from a

checkpoint manned by personnel

past record of militancy.

of J&K Police and CRPF.

the help of reinforcements from the Army, said police. The forces cordoned off the

and paramilitary personnel with

area and started searches to locate the militants

"During the cordon and search as the presence of hiding terrorists was ascertained, they were given opportunity to surrender but they fired indiscriminately upon the search party," police said. 'In the meantime, their respective families were also called and repeated surrender appeals were made to them through their family members. However, they refused to surrender and instead fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which was retaliated leading to an encounter."

"Yesterday, at about 2200 hrs, Saqib Basher Khanday, Umar in a weapon snatching bid, terror-Tariq Bhat and Zubair Ahmad ists fired indiscriminately upon a Sheikh, all residents of Drangbal joint naka party of Police and CRPF in south Kashmir's Pampore, have at Pantha Chowk area of Srinagar," been identified by police as Police said in an official statement. "The attempt was foiled by the Lashkar-e-Taiba militants. Police alert naka party and terrorists sources said that while Sagib was managed to flee from the spot." an active militant, there was no militancy record against Umar Police said that in the initial exchange of fire, a police officer susand Zubair.

tained bullet wounds and was 'As per police records, the shifted to the Army's 92 Base hoskilled terrorists were part of groups involved in planning and pital, where he succumbed. They identified the officer as Assistant executing several terror attacks in the area. Besides weapon snatch-Sub Inspector Babu Ram. Police sources said Babu Ram ing bid at J&K Bank Pampore, was associated with the J&K

Saqib Bashir was also involved in Police's elite counter insurgency motivating and radicalising the vouth of the area to join terror force Special Operations Group (SOG) and was part of its anti-fifold," police said.

Family members of the militants said police could have avoided killing them as they could have captured easily.

## Police use teargas to disperse Muharram procession in J&K

Minor incidents of violence, says IGP

**BASHAARAT MASOOD** SRINAGAR, AUGUST 30

dayeen squad.

After the initial exchange of

fire, the militants escaped from

the checkpoint, pursued by police

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Sunday used teargas shells to disperse Muharram processions in the Valley. On Saturday too, police had resorted to the use of pellets when Muharram processions

Kashmir, Vijay Kumar said. 'Our police personnel deployed on the ground have been sensitised by the senior officers upto the rank of IGP. But some of our people should not have been influenced by continuous provocation by Pakistan and terrorists and should have avoided con

part of professional hazard," IGP,



Naib Subedar **Rajwinder SIngh** 

#### JAMMU & KASHMIR JCO killed in LoC firing

Jammu: An Army JCO of was killed on Sunday after Pakistani soldiers violated the ceasefire along the LoC in Rajouri district's Nowshera sector. The Pakistani side initiated the small arms fire at Kalsivan Khanger and Bhawani areas, sources said. Naib Subedar Rajwinder Singh, deployed at a forward post in Kalsiyan, was injured in the firing. He later succumbed to his injuries at a hospital. ENS

## India records wettest August

**ANJALI MARAR** PUNE, AUGUST 30 THE COUNTRY has recorded its

wettest August since 1976. This year, the total rainfall recorded in the country between August 1 and 30 was 317.4 mm against a normal of 251.3 mm, making it a 26.3 per cent surplus for the month.

Data provided by IMD suggests that in the last 50 years, country's August rainfall, when it surpassed 20 per cent above normal, was only on five previous oc-(27.8 per cent), 1975 (21 per cent), 1976 (28.4 per cent) and 1983 (23.8 per cent). As on August 30, the season's **ODISHA** rainfall for the country was 10 per WATERS OF the Mahanadi inuncent above normal. It is particudated several villages in coastal larly significant after July ended Odisha Sunday, officials said. remaining9percentshortofnor-Special Relief Commissioner P K mal rainfall. This deficiency was Jena said flood waters have submainly due to below normal rain merged many villages in Kanasa recorded over the Central India reand Delang blocks in Puri district. gion – Odisha, Chhattisgarh, The river also flooded villages Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra in Banki area of Cuttack district and Gujarat. The recovery of rainand affected road connectivity. fall over this region is visible as it Mahanadi is in spate followswung from -22.3 per cent to ing heavy downpour in its upper +61.5 per cent between July and catchment areas in Chhattisgarh August. and flow of huge volume of wa-





Nirmal Harindraı

#### GOA Migrant chained, left in rain

Panaji: Two people in south Goa were booked after police were alerted on Sunday that a migrant worker was chained and left to stand in the rain outside a house. The worker is a 45-year-old man from Iharkhand who had just returned to the state. South Goa SP Pankaj Kumar Singh said, "the victim's nephew and the landlord of their house were arrested. A fight started between them. The nephew then chained the man. It has nothing to do with bonded labour." ENS

#### BENGAL

#### **Body found** near border

Kolkata: BSF has found the body of a man believed to be a Gujarat resident from a canal near the India-Bangladesh border in Bengal's North 24 Parganas district. An Aadhaar card was found on the body, which suggested the deceased was Shaikh Imaran (24), a resident of Juhapura in Ahmedabad. The BSF said it spotted the body floating in the Vidhyadhari canal. "No injury mark has been found. It is not clear how the person died," said a local police officer. ENS

"Since August 5, there were multiple low pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal, which kept the Southwest monsoon active. Heavy to very heavy rain was reported across Central India, which is a fairly large area," said an official from Regional Meteorological Centre. Delhi.

#### **MADHYA PRADESH**

A 35-year-old woman was killed and three others injured when a house collapsed after heavy rain at Sehore in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday. Nearly 60 stranded people were airlifted from a village in the district by an IAF helicopter, officials said.

Following heavy rain over the last couple of days, nearly 7,000 people have been rescued across the state so far and 170 relief camps set up in affected districts, said Manish Rastogi, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

#### **GUJARAT**

Two persons died in rain-related incidents in Gujarat on Sunday as the state recorded over 113 per cent of its annual average rainfall this season. Fourteen

AN as incessant downpour in the last people have died in rain-related incidents over the past two days two days resulted in flow of water as the state continues to receive from dams and rivers," Nagpur heavy downpour. More than district collector Ravindra Thakre 3,850 people have been evacusaid in a statement. Several vilated from Bharuch, Narmada lages in Gadchiroli district wit-

and Vadodara districts. As many as 149 roads, including one national highway and 15 state highways, were closed.

#### MAHARASHTRA

MORE THAN 14,000 people were evacuated after heavy rainfall over the past two days led to flooding in several tehsils of Nagpur district of Maharashtra, officials said on Sunday.

The administration had to call in the NDRF and the Army to rescue people at some places, they said. "Till Sunday noon, 14,234 people were evacuated from 36 affected villages in Nagpur district

downpour at Ahmedabad

nessed flooding too, officials said.

Three sisters were killed in the

Raipura area of UP's Chitrakoot

**UTTAR PRADESH** 

girls had died."

(Left) An IAF helicopter

couple rid

airlifts people from Sehore

district of Madhya Pradesh.

Sixty people were evacuated

from a village the district; a

were taken out.

Police say four people have been injured in the incidents over the past two days – three at Bemina Srinagar and one at Zadibal Srinagar

Local residents said the police action was unwarranted as the processions were peaceful and the participants adhered to all protocols laid down to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

But, police said there were rotests and slogans were raised.

district when a wall of their "Despite several meetings bethatched house collapsed on tween leaders of Shia community them after heavy rain, officials and civil/police administrations said on Sunday. Sub Divisional and appeals made by Shia leaders, Magistrate of Mau tehsil Raj there have been some provocative Bahadur said, "Following heavy & anti-national slogans, posters, banners and minor incidents of virain on Saturday evening, a wall of the thatched house of one Ashok olence during processions. Police Verma collapsed, killing his have been handling the situations daughters Ritu (12), Shivdevi (9) professionally and without any prejudice. Three minor incidents and Pooja (5). By the time the villagers removed the debris, the (took place) at Zoorigund, Bemina ENS&PTI and Zadibal occurred, which are

frontation with police. Police deployments are only for their security from terrorist attacks and sectarian clashes," he added. The Jammu and Kashmir administration has banned religious

gatherings in the Vallev citing the pandemic. On Saturday, several people

were injured in police action in Srinagar and Budgam.

The PDP has condemned the use of force against the mourners. "Militating against a peaceful religious gathering has reflected the government's iron fist approach that it has been adopting in Kashmir without any compunction," PDP spokesperson and media advisor Suhail Bukhari said in a statement. "The government's ruthless measures have proved beyond doubt that religion is being demonised, democratic dissent criminalised and cruelty is being normalised in Kashmir,' he added.

### **KHALISTAN FLAG AT GOVT OFFICE IN PUNJAB** Two suspected members of KZF arrested in Delhi

Jena said.

ter into the Hirakud reservoir.

The state government has

deployed 15 units of NDRF, 14

teams of Odisha Disaster Rapid

Action Force and 119 teams

of Fire Service in the low-lying

areas for rescue operations,

Special Relief Commissioner

access banned Youtube channel

Police said Rana had declared

a reward of \$2,500 for anyone

who waved the Khalistan flag and

"On August 14, Gill, Jaspal and

one Akashdeep Singh, went to the

DC office. Gill and Jaspal went to

the terrace and hoisted the flag.

A DELHI Police special cell has arbanned terror outfit Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF) in connection with a sedition case registered in Moga district of Punjab. Police on Sunday identified

the duo as Inderjeet Singh Gill (31) and Jaspal Singh (27), both residents of Moga district.

a 'Khalistan' flag on the terrace of the deputy commissioner's office Moga on the eve of

premises," a police officer said.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

WhatsApp link and become a member... He further said that one rested two suspected members of Rana, from the US, and another person gave anti-India speeches on the channel and also asked Sikh youth to wave the Khalistan flag and tear the Indian flag on August 14, 15 and 16," Yadav said.

The two had allegedly raised for tearing the Indian flag and a reward of \$1,25,000 for doing the same on the Red Fort and other historically-significant buildings.

Independence Day and also desecrated an Indian flag on the During questioning, it was re-

vealed that Gill used to work as a driver. "On August 8, his maternal brother Jagga persuaded him to

Assaulted on campus, Bihar prof says targeted for reform initiatives at varsity

#### 'Sikhs For Justice', and also told SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, AUGUST 30 him to vote for Khalistan on a

TWO WEEKS after he was assaulted by a 45-year-old "student leader", Amrendra Narayan (37) an assistant professor of physics in the PG department at Veer Kunwar Singh University in Ara savs he is being targeted for the reform initiatives he has taken at the university since he joined.

Narayan holds a BTech from IIT-Kanpur and a PhD degree in nuclear physics from Mississippi State University in the US. Despite getting lucrative job offers elsewhere, Narayan says he preferred to return three years ago.

When he joined, results at the university would be delayed because it had no computer centre. Also, there were complaints of plagiarism in PhD theses. Narayan



Amrendra Narayan

was assigned the additional responsibility of developing computational capabilities to process and publish the exam results. This helped the university save crores of rupees spent on annual contracts for computation. Narayan has also played a key role in introducing plagiarism tests before submission of PhD theses.

Narayan now says that behind the assault on him are people who would make money from computation contracts and facilitate PhD submissions for a price.

Narayan was attacked on August 13 by one Vivek Pandey alias Jitendra Pandey and one of his associates while he was coming out of the computer centre at the university.

"He did not explain what he wanted. When he was not allowed access to the computer centre, he felt offended and he and his associate beat me up till I became unconscious," said Narayan.

Narayan said he did not lodge a police complaint the same day as university authorities said they would lodge it. On August 15, however, Pandey lodged a case against Narayan, accusing him of eve-teasing on the university campus, even though no student had lodged any such complaint. Police later found the allegations to be false after recording statements of over a

dozen staff members from the university.

Narayan eventually lodged a police complaint on August 17 at Sadar police station. Based on it, police filed an FIR against Pandey under IPC sections of 323 (causing hurt), 341(wrongful restraint), 353 (assault) and 504 (breach of peace).

Narayan also accused Pandey of running a smear campaign against him on social media. Pandey, who had been booked in two cases of allegedly threatening professors in the past, is now absconding.

"Despite my high qualifications, I preferred to work in Bihar. Though a majority of people have been happy with my initiatives at the university, some people might be using an element like Pandey to frustrate and make me guit the institution ... "Narayan said.

University proctor SP Singh said, "Local police found the eveteasing allegations against Narayan unfounded and motivated. We took time to lodge a complaint about the assault because the university was closed on August 15.'

Asked if Narayan may have been targeted because his initiatives hurt the interests of people making money, Singh said, "It could be a possible reason. Vivek Pandey has taken a Master of Education examination and has been a controversial figure. We stand with Narayan."

Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey said. "The case of assault was found to be true. A warrant is being obtained from court as Pandey is absconding. We are trying to arrest him. The case is being monitored by the Chief Minister's Office.'

New Delhi





was making a video," police said.



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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE IF INDIA AND JAPAN WORK TOGETHER, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE.

- Shinzo Abe

# The Indian **EXPRESS**

∽ Founded By ∽ **RAMNATH GOENKA** BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# AS ABE BOWS OUT

He leaves behind a rich legacy - his vision widened Tokyo's horizons and extended a friendly hand to Delhi

EW MODERN INTERLOCUTORS of India brought the kind of personal affection and policy innovation that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe did in the engagement with Delhi. When Japan's longest-serving prime minister stepped down on Friday, citing health reasons, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was quick to wish him speedy recovery and note "Abe's wise leadership" in deepening the bilateral partnership. For Abe, India was very special. He has often recalled his maternal grandfather and former prime minister Nobusuke Kishi's visit to India in 1957 and the special bond he struck with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. But the warmth at the leadership level did not endure beyond the 1950s. In the decades that followed, bilateral ties were marked by political indifference, Delhi's transactional thinking on Tokvo's annual economic assistance, and widening differences on regional security. While the relationship began to improve in the new millennium, it was Abe who gave the big boost.

For Abe, India was at the heart of his plans to restructure the regional economic and security order. In his address to a joint session of the Indian Parliament in 2007, when he visited Delhi in his brief first tenure as the PM, Abe boldly reimagined the shared geography of India and Iapan. Abe's vision on the "confluence of two seas" - now the Indo-Pacific - simultaneously widened Tokyo's geographic horizons to include the Indian Ocean and an invitation to Delhi to reclaim its large strategic potential in the Pacific Ocean. It was also Abe who first called for the construction of a coalition of four Asian democracies in partnership with Australia and the US. In defining the Indo-Pacific geography and developing the so-called democratic Quad, Abe was also transforming Japan's own standing in the world. Before him, Japan was widely viewed as an "economic giant, but a political pygmy". Under him, Japan has reclaimed the leadership role in Asia amidst the growing uncertainty over the US's regional role and the muscular assertion of Chinese power. Abe's Japan has become an active champion of a rules-based Indo-Pacific order that can survive the current tectonic shift in great power politics.

It is such a pity that Abe's short first term (2006-2007) and the long second run (2012-20) had to end because of ill-health. He will be remembered for long as the man who moved post-War Japan out of its defensive comfort zone under the American shadow and unveiled the possibilities for Asia taking responsibility for its own security. That job, though, remains unfinished. Japan's friends and partners, including India, will certainly worry about the dangers of Tokyo now slipping back into political instability and strategic passivity. Abe's many admirers in Delhi will have a regret of their own - that institutional inertia and political ambivalence prevented India from seizing the full range of possibilities that the Japanese leader had opened up for the bilateral partnership.

# DEMAND AND SUPPLY

RBI governor warns against risk-aversion, bankers point to lack of demand for credit. Onus lies more on government than RBI

ESERVE BANK OF India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has warned banks against becoming "overly risk-averse", which will be "self-defeating". Bankers have reacted by saying the real problem isn't risk aversion, but lack of demand for credit. Both are right. Aggregate deposits with banks have risen over Rs 14 lakh crore or 11 per cent year-on-year as on August 14, whereas the corresponding credit growth has been just Rs 5.35 lakh crore (5.5 per cent). Meanwhile, their investments in government securities have gone up by Rs 7.55 lakh crore (21.2 per cent). That, prima facie, indicates banks are in no mood to lend and prefer to park their money in relatively safe sovereign paper. But the fact that banks are now also deploy ing Rs 6.3-6.4 lakh crore daily with the RBI's reverse repo window, which earns only 3.35 per cent annually, shows the extent of surplus liquidity in the system and few takers for their funds. In other words, there is a problem of both "supply" of credit by banks and no "demand" from borrowers, be it cash-strapped firms or insecure households. What can the RBI do? A major reason why banks aren't making fresh loans is uncertainty over the fate of their existing loans. Following the COVID-19-induced lockdown, borrowers were offered a moratorium on payment of any interest or principal amounts due between March 1 and August 31. RBI data shows around half of the total outstanding bank loans being under moratorium as on April 30. The prospect of many of these turning into non-performing assets (NPA) once the six-month repayment holiday ends is a concern. The RBI has done well to allow a one-time restructuring of all loans that weren't NPAs before March 1, while continuing to treat these as standard assets. But the important thing is to enable such restructuring to take place quickly without imposing too many conditions. Give banks the freedom to decide on the borrowers whose loans are deserving of being restructured - remember, they weren't defaulters before the novel coronavirus struck - and ensure this is done transparently. Banks, ultimately, need to get back to the business of lending. Creating conditions for banks to be in a position to "supply" credit will, of course, not solve the problem of "demand". That can happen only with economic activity reviving, for which the onus lies more on the government than the RBI. The economic machine today has stalled because nobody's really spending. The government must spend - rather invest - to grease the wheels of commerce. Once the economy starts moving, it will not only revive credit demand, but also improve the cash flows and debt servicing abilities of firms. And that would ease the NPA problems of banks as well.



# **Atmanirbhar China**

China's strategy of economic self-reliance, under label of 'dual circulation', has been sharpened by pandemic

#### SHYAM SARAN

CHINA HAS BEEN the chief beneficiary of the globalisation of the world economy which began accelerating since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s. This phase of relatively free movement of capital and technology and goods and services enabled China to transform itself into a low-cost manufacturing hub for the world. It became an export powerhouse leveraging its access to the large consuming markets of the US, Europe and Japan. Thanks to its brand of state capitalism and managed markets, China emerged relatively unscathed from the global financial and economic crisis (GFEC) of 2007-8 while the advanced capitalist economies of the West faced prolonged disruption and stagnation. The Western consensus behind globalisation has been eroded as competition from China has sharpened. There is a rise in protectionist sentiments in the West, a greater scrutiny of inward investment particularly for acquisitions in the high-tech sector, and growing sensitivity over loss of intellectual property to Chinese firms.

China has hitherto remained a vocal advocate of globalisation and free trade, which it had leveraged for its economic success. It has been critical of the US tariffs on Chinese imports and restrictions on Chinese investment in the US. It has been particularly hurt by America denying Chinese companies access to high-tech components. During the past couple of years, the US-China trade war has intensified and China has also faced headwinds in its economic relations with Europe and Japan. As Chinese power has expanded, great power competition has resurfaced. There has been an assumption that the density of economic and commercial relations between China and its major partners - the US, Europe and Japan - would moderate security competition among them. In fact, the economic relationship is being disrupted by the sharpening geopolitical competition. The decoupling of the US and Chinese economies is a reality, though it is not clear how far this will go.

The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these trends. The acute awareness of how dependent countries have become on China-centred global supply chains, in-

SHOULD WOMEN'S LEGAL age for marriage

be raised? The answer to this seemingly sim-

ple question is not so simple, because the que-

stion is not simply about replacing age 18 with

21. Rather, it deals with the social origins of a

"problem" not easily amenable for policy pru-

ning, however progressive its intent might be.

complex web of factors. To begin with, the so-

cio-economic groups and regions where un-

der-age marriages are prevalent are marked

by a near absence of quality schooling and op-

portunities for higher education, fortified by

Marriage at a low age is the outcome of a

There is a realisation that the US-China confrontation is structural and likely to persist irrespective of who occupies the White House next year. There is also an acknowledgement that the global economic environment will become progressively less conducive to free trade and capital and technology flows. China would therefore have to rely more on domestic drivers of growth. One Chinese commentary urged that the new strategy should be approached with "the mindset of fighting a protracted war", language that harks back to the Maoist era.

cluding for critical health products and pharmaceuticals, the ongoing shift towards relocation or re-shoring of production facilities, the renewed stress on resilience as against efficiency – all these trends triggered by the pandemic - are stalling globalisation, if not putting it in reverse.

This shift in economic perspective is apparent across the world, in lesser or larger measure. In India, we have announced Atmanirbhar Bharat to signal a renewed stress on self-reliance and indigenous production. The economy will hitherto be selectively open. India, like China, also benefited from the globalised economy though it adopted economic reforms and liberalisation a decade later. However, unlike China, India did not use this favourable international environment to develop a globally-competitive economy. After the GFEC, India's growth began to decelerate and has been unable to pick up so far. The pandemic has added to the slowdown. It is unlikely that globalisation will find many champions in the corridors of power.

What is of interest is that China, too, appears to have adopted its own brand of atmanirbhar economic strategy under the intriguing label of "dual circulation". This is defined as "taking the domestic market as the mainstay while letting domestic and foreign markets boost each other". The term was first used at a Chinese Communist Party Politburo meeting held on May 14. It was described as a policy that would "fully bring out the advantage of its super-large market scale and the potential of domestic demand to establish a new development pattern featuring domestic and international dual circulations that complement each other".

Some analysts have pointed out that this policy is no different from the economic rebalancing which has been a stated objective for the past decade and more. Chinese leaders have repeatedly called for bringing about a calculated shift from an investment and export-led growth strategy to one based on domestic consumption and services. There has been progress in this respect. Consumption has risen to 56 per cent of GDP today as compared to about 35 per cent a decade ago.

Exports were 36 per cent of GDP in 2007 but constituted only 18 per cent in 2019. However, Chinese analysts argue that it is a significant policy departure which has been influenced by the emerging negative geopolitical trends and trade headwinds China is running into. There is a realisation that the US-China confrontation is structural and likely to persist irrespective of who occupies the White House next year. There is also an acknowledgement that the global economic environment will become progressively less conducive to free trade and capital and technology flows. China would therefore have to rely more on domestic drivers of growth. One Chinese commentary urged that the new strategy should be approached with "the mindset of fighting a protracted war", language that harks back to the Maoist era.

In a recent statement, President Xi Jinping has said that "dual circulation" is by no means a closed domestic loop and reaffirmed that opening up was a fundamental national policy. But it appears that the era of encouraging Chinese companies to "go out" and become global multinationals is now over. What is also interesting is that the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Xi Jinping's signature project, has barely been mentioned in the context of dual circulation. Reports indicate that as a result of the pandemic, the initiative has stalled in most countries and there are major cost over-runs and delays in implementation. Most partner countries have demanded deferral of loan repayments or converting some of the loans into grants. This is being resisted and fresh lending by Chinese policy banks such as Exim Bank has been halted. The difficulties faced by the BRI may also be reinforcing the inward turn that the new strategy suggests.

China will soon be launching its 14th Five Year Plan, which will be deliberated upon by the Party Central Committee this October. We will then get a clearer picture of what China's atmanirbhar strategy with Chinese characteristics looks like.

Saran is a former Foreign Secretary and senior fellow. CPR



SUNNY JOSE

# THE AGE TRAP

Move to raise women's age of marriage reflects punitive paternalism

#### **FREEZE** FRAME

#### **EPUNNY**

Evidence suggests that transition from adolescence to adulthood is likely to be optimal for those who study longer years, have better nutrition and delayed marriage and parenthood. However, increasing age at marriage alone will not ensure that girls will study longer or attain better nutrition either. The nu-



tritional needs are high at late adolescence (15-19 years) and a fair measure of adolescent girls suffer from multiple forms of undernutrition, from chronic energy deficiency, iron deficiency to micronutrient deficiency. Marriage, pregnancy and delivery during adolescence not only drain their already poor nutritional reserves, but also lead to child stunting and mortality to multiple diseases at a later stage.

What can possibly address this? Delayed marriage or nutritional enhancement? Delayed marriage without improving nutrition will most likely yield the same adverse outcomes, in addition to creating new and serious problems. The proposed move to raise the marriageable age, thus, becomes a case of "punitive paternalism" – using punitive measures to achieve a progressive but difficult or elusive social goal.

Can the objective of the policy proposal be achieved through an alternative, incentivising approach? Herein, the concept of "autonomy-enhancing paternalism" proposed by behavioural economists Martin Binder and Leonhard Lades, assumes salience. Autonomy-enhancing policy intervention promotes self-empowerment and aims to free individuals from irrelevant influences. It aims to improve well-being through improving the process of decision-making.

In this case, incentivising and enabling girls to continue schooling up to Class 12 and helping to enhance their nutrition can stop underage marriages. Evidence suggests that ensuring secondary level schooling among girls is likely to enhance their autonomy and improve their health and nutrition. Also, secondary schooling of women is associated with improved cognitive abilities, mental, sexual and eproductive health. Additionally, it leads to a significant decline in teenage child-bearing, child-stunting, among others. These are important instrumental reasons to increase women's schooling. Yet, there are substantive intrinsic reasons to promoting education since it is a valid end in itself. Enhancing the nutrition of adolescent girls is also important for a range of instrumental and intrinsic reasons.

Is there a need for a separate policy increasing women's schooling up to 12 years and improving their nutrition? Existing policies can help achieve these twin important goals. What is needed is the commitment and the missionary zeal, as shown in Swachh Bharat, and an incentivising approach to make the policies work effectively. Janani Suraksha Yojana is a case of an incentive-based approach working well. A variety of incentivising schemes, from cycles in Bihar to laptops in Tamil Nadu, already exist towards ensuring girls' education ...

The proposed policy, instead of addressing the causes and consequences of under-age marriages, may instead produce adverse, suboptimal outcomes affecting the poor and marginalised the most. What is needed is an enabling, incentivising and innovative approach to implement the existing policies effectively.

The writer is RBI Chair Professor, Council for Social Development, Southern Regional Centre, Hyderabad





### AUGUST 31, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

#### FISCAL DISCIPLINE

through improving the

process of decision-making.

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has said that the crux of the Sixth Five Year Plan is resource mobilisation. In this massive effort, she sought the cooperation of the states even if it meant a "number of difficult and somewhat unpopular effort". She said though the Planning Commission would have liked a larger outlay, even for the Rs 90,000-crore plan outlined in the draft framework, they had to be "hard-hearted, hard-headed and practical". Calling for strict fiscal discipline, the PM said wasteful expenditure has to be controlled. PSUs have to be run efficiently and if the government's policies were responsible for their losses, they have to be corrected.

TALKS ON SIXTH PLAN THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK of the Sixth Five Year Plan was generally welcomed by all states though some had strong reservations on the suggestion for a gradual withdrawal of subsidies and on resource mobilisation. The criticism came from the two Marxist-ruled states, West Bengal and Kerala. They called for a national wage policy and greater emphasis on employment. They were also critical of the Plan paper's approach to large industrial houses and expressed the fear that monopolies could be created.

POLISH WORKERS WIN STRIKING POLISH WORKERS secured a historic breakthrough when the government issued a statement agreeing to their demand for independent trade unions and the right to hold strikes. The agreement marks the first time that workers have won such rights in the Soviet-bloc. The government negotiating team said that the workers can form "selfgoverning unions". The striking workers said that the new unions will have a socialist character in line with Poland's constitution.

#### SATI IN RAIPUR

A 50-YEAR OLD woman, Kacheribal Bairagi of Kheda village in Madhya Pradesh's Raipur district has committed sati. She immolated herself on the funeral pyre of her husband.

#### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

# THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

# **Tractor economics**

India has become the world leader in tractors. The sector should now be facilitated to use digital tools to benefit small farmers



BOUNTIFUL RAINS AND the news of tractor sales shooting up by 38.5 per cent in July have triggered quite a buzz in the market. It is being claimed that agriculture will be the saviour of the economy this year. There is no doubt that while most of the other sectors are likely to see negative growth, agriculture will deliver a reasonably healthy positive growth. With water storage in reservoirs in good shape, not only is the kharif harvest likely to be good, there is also hope for a robust rabi crop.

Let us focus a bit of on tractors. Yes, July showed an extraordinary increase in tractor sales. But one must not forget that during the lockdown period, for the quarter April to June, tractors sales dropped by almost 14 per cent over the same quarter last year. For the investor community, therefore, it is important to have a long-term vision and not get swayed by monthly sales numbers. Here, we dive deep into the evolution of the tractor industry in India, the challenges it faces, and its growth prospects.

The history of tractors in Indian agriculture goes back to the introduction of steam Ltd. (TAFE) (in collaboration with Messey Ferguson of UK), started manufacturing tractors in India. In 1965, Mahindra and Mahindra jumped in the fray in collaboration with the International Tractor Company of India. As a result, domestic production of tractors rose from 880 units in 1961-62 to 5,000 units in 1965-66. But in 1967, the government imposed a statutory price control on domestically-produced tractors to protect farmers from high prices. This price control was revoked only in 1974.

The Green Revolution gave a fillip to the demand for tractors to meet the pressing need of completing timely operations in agriculture. So, the government decided to invite additional entrepreneurs into tractor manufacturing in 1968. In 1971, Escorts Tractors Limited was established and started manufacturing Ford tractors in collaboration with Ford, UK. Several other domestic manufacturers, such as VST Tillers and Tractors Ltd, also invested in the industry. Interestingly, in 1974, Punjab Tractors Ltd became the first public sector company to manufacture tractors with indigenous technology. It produced the first agricultural tractor – "Swaraj". With the arrival of many new players in the tractor industry, production crossed the 30,000-mark in 1974-75. In 1982, the indigenous Mahindra brand of tractors was also launched.

However, it was only in 1991 that tractor manufacturing was completely de-licenced in India. This was a landmark event - it increased competition, improved quality, and offered more choices to the farmers. Today, India is the largest manufacturer of tractors (excluding sub 20 horsepower (hp) beltdriven tractors used in China), followed by the US and China. Tractor production in India shot up from 139 thousand in 1991 to almost 900 thousand units in 2018-19 (see graphic). Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) has emerged as the largest player with a 40 per cent share of the market (FY 2019) followed by TAFE (with Eicher Motors) - 18.4 per cent. In 2018-19, India exported almost 90,000 tractors to various countries ranging from the US to African nations. This speaks of an "atmanirbhar" and competitive industry. What contributed to this success of the tractor industry? First, the de-licencing of 1991

was a harbinger of major change in the industry. Second, the availability of bank credit for buying tractors helped the market to grow. Remember, almost 95 per cent of tractors are bought on bank credit.

But over time, this success is also brewing a problem. Micro surveys reveal that tractors are not being used very efficiently - their use in most states hovers around 500-600 hours per year compared to a benchmark figure of 800-1,000 hours for efficient utilisation. This is leading to "overcapitalisation of farms" in some parts of India, especially Punjab/Haryana belt.

If India has to ensure continuous growth in the tractor industry, and its efficient use on small farms, it has to undertake innovative solutions like "Uberisation of tractor services". The digital economy offers an opportunity to cut costs, increase profitability of cultivation, and thus not only expand the tractor market but also reduce drudgery in farm work. The "Uberisation model" could make tractor services perfectly divisible, accessible and affordable even by small holders without owning the machine. The government is incentivising custom hiring centres through capital subsidies - better keep their management and operations under private entrepreneurs, if India is to innovate and achieve farm efficiency with inclusiveness. But the real challenge for innovators is whether individual farmers who own tractors can also avail of this platform to render tractor services to others and earn some money. Agri start-ups and innovators of the digital world need to enter this field and promote efficient utilisation of farm machinery.

The future of the tractor industry will soon include combining tractor services for plough-

#### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is unquestionable that the US military feels the warnings from the PLA's actions when it flexes its muscle in China's coastal waters. The South China Sea is not the Caribbean, where the US military can act wantonly. - GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

# Daughters of the migration

There are parallels between the stories of Mughal Empress Nur Jahan and US vice presidential candidate Kamala Harris



#### RUBY LAL

ALTHOUGH FOUR HUNDRED years apart, the life story of Senator Kamala Harris, vicepresidential nominee for the 2020 US election, and the Mughal Empress Nur Jahan, resonate deeply. Both leaders are daughters of migrants who went to new countries in search of a better future; both were raised by strong mothers in mixed ethnic and racial cosmopolitan communities. What connects them above all is experiencebuilding, the slow work of accumulation of power - and their rise as strong and compassionate female leaders.

Nur Jahan – born Mihr un-Nisa or Sun of Women in 1577 on the road outside Kandahar as a comet streaked across the sky – was the daughter of Persian nobles who left their home in present-day Iran, amidst increasing intolerance under the Safavid dynasty, to seek refuge in the more liberal Mughal world of India. Raised in a blend of poetic, mystical and literary traditions from her parents' birthplace and their adopted homeland, Nur first married a Mughal government official and former military officer, and with him moved to Bengal and gave birth to her only child. She experienced firsthand the machinations of centre-state political relations and the complexity of governance in a vast and diverse land. It was in Bengal that she honed her shooting skills and became a master shot, skills she later used in protecting her subjects from killer tigers. With her husband suspected of participating in a plot against the Emperor and killed in battle, the widowed Nur was given refuge in the Emperor's harem – in keeping with the Mughal practice. Her fellow harem women grew to trust and admire her, and in 1611, she became the 20th and final wife of the half-Hindu and half-Sunni Muslim Emperor Jahangir.

Soon after their marriage, her influence grew both within the harem and the court. Between 1614 and 1627, Nur served as cosovereign, a decisive player in courtly and succession politics, and a commanding strategist. She defended her subjects against oppressive landlords and championed social justice. At the height of her power in the

imperial troops to rescue him. The Mughal family had a tradition of strong and prominent elder women-assertive royal wives, influential mothers and aunts whose opinions were valued. But no woman had ever openly and fully taken charge of the empire. It would be another 350 years, when Indira Gandhi became India's first female prime minister, before another woman ascended to such heights in Indian statecraft. A Shia woman married to a Sunni-Hindu king, Nur Jahan was a remarkable leader in a male-dominated world. She didn't come from royalty like Queen Elizabeth, Cleopatra, or other renowned women rulers, yet she ascended from the emperor's harem to great heights as his co-sovereign and presided over a pluralistic empire that was arguably the richest in the world.

A brilliant, persistent strategist, a fascinating woman, Nur ruled an empire against extraordinary odds. What made her rise possible was the supportive network with her husband, her high-ranking father, her vivacious and astute mother, harem matriarchs, step-son and other members of the court. Soon, she minted coins in her name, struck imperial orders over her signature, came out to the imperial balconies, fulfilling all technical signs of sovereignty. The incredibly diverse, tolerant and mobile culture of the Mughal court and India that allowed for different sensibilities, religions, and traditions to coexist were vital to Nur's ascent.

Nur Jahan, a woman of many talents, abilities and potentialities, all of which the Emperor noticed from the very beginning, was a product of the tolerant and plural culture of India. In America, Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and Black Caribbean father, is poised for breakthrough leadership. She comes on to the American political scene as the country grapples with attacks on its multi-ethnic, multi-racial, migration centred spirit. The very best of America the land in which Kamala Harris become possible - is dangerously threatened.

Kamala is another name for the Goddess Lakshmi, the giver of bounty and fortune. Harris, a person of uncommon political and cultural acumen, a remarkable senator with piercing intellect and commitment to rights of immigrants, is likely to be America's torch bearer.

What came to be known as The Great Comet glowed overhead as Nur's parents left a rigid Persian regime for what they hoped was a more tolerant Mughal court in India. When Nur was born, taking the cosmic clue, they named her Sun of Women. It is certain that Kamala's mother knew the power of the name she gave her daughter.

tractors in 1914 for the reclamation of wastelands in Punjab. After Independence, the Central Tractor Organisation (CTO) was set up to promote the use of tractors in agriculture. In 1951, the tractor industry was included in the "Core Sector" of planned economic development, and was also placed under the "licence raj". Interestingly, even until 1960, the demand for tractors was being met entirely through imports. It was only in 1961 that two companies, Eicher Tractors Ltd. (in collaboration with Gebr, Eicher Tractorenfabrik of West Germany) and Tractors and Farm Equipment

tractors are not being used very efficiently — their use in most states hovers around 500-600 hours per year compared to a benchmark figure of 800-1000 hours for efficient utilisation. This is leading to 'overcapitalisation of farms' in some parts of India, especially Punjab/Haryana belt.

Over time, this success is

also brewing a problem.

Micro surveys reveal that

ing and sowing seeds to using sensors, cloud computing and artificial intelligence for precision farming. Dovetailing the digital revolution with farm machinerv has already started in the US and Europe, ushering in what Howarth Buffett (a farmer and brother of billionaire Warren Buffett) calls the "Brown Revolution". India can surely do it at a lower cost and serve the 550 million small holders around the world.

Gulati is Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture and Juneja is Consultant at ICRIER



On education, looking ahead

NEP 2020 is a milestone in India's journey to becoming a knowledge superpower

#### ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL

CHANGE IS THE only constant. As our young nation strides towards development and advancing our capabilities globally, it becomes imperative to take inspiration from our ancient heritage and cultural values to transform the existing status quo with a modern and futuristic approach. The recently approved New Education Policy is a much-needed guiding light to nurture our demographic potential.

Many stalwarts have, from time to time, made arguments for a better education system for India. The British raj had delegitimised the Indian education system. After Macaulay's Minutes of 1835, the colonial government's work in education was primarily motivated by self-serving concerns. While Western education was spread among Indians, scientific, technical and moral education was largely ignored. The Indian reformers believed that to keep up with the times, a modern education system was needed.

During the Round Table conference in 1931, Mahatma Gandhi, in one of his speeches, said: "The beautiful tree of education was cut down by you British. Therefore, today, India is far more illiterate than it was 100 years ago." Babasaheb Ambedkar had also opined that everyone has a right to learn. Ambedkar even metaphorically compared education to the milk of a tigress and added that one who drinks it will ultimately strive for progressive changes in the society

After Independence, several steps were taken by successive governments to decolonise the education system, including through the University Education Commission (1948-49), Secondary Education Commission (1952-53), D S Kothari Commission (1964-66) and the National Policy on Education (1968).

President A P J Abdul Kalam had emphasised the need for a value-based education that instils righteousness at a young age to make a cultured citizenry capable of transforming India into a prosperous, peaceful, secure, happy and developed nation.

The National Education Policy in effect until now was 34 years old. A more apt vision was needed to meet the aspirations of the New India. Since January 2015, an unprecedented consultation that involved nearly two lakh suggestions from 2.5 lakh gram panchayats, 6,600 blocks, and 676 districts took place in committees constituted under the chairmanship of former cabinet secretary T S R Subramanian and eminent scientist K Kasturirangan, which

ultimately fructified into the NEP 2020.

NEP 2020 is an ambitious and futuristic policy that ensures opportunities for children to hone their talents by fixing the lacunae in the education system. Recognising the urgency of foundational learning, the shift from the 10+2 system to the 5+3+3+4 - with foundation, preparatory, middle, and secondary stages - will focus on a more holistic development of children. The emphasis on skills like analysis, critical thinking, conceptual clarity and cocurricular and vocational subjects will diversify their learning. Universal access at all levels

of school education will be guaranteed, and it is proposed that the around two crore children who drop out will be brought back into the education system.

The mandatory teaching of an Indian language will protect and promote our linguistic and cultural diversity. India has thousands of languages and dialects, and each language has its significance and identity. India takes pride in this. But on the other hand, 196 languages in the country have been included in the list of endangered languages by UNESCO. The NEP's emphasis on local languages will address these concerns. The implementation of a mothertongue based multilingual education system will pave the way for addressing the pending demands of recognising many languages like Rajasthani, Bhojpuri and Bhoti, among others - under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

The proposed reform in school curricula and pedagogy, a transparent process for teacher recruitment, merit-based promotion and development of the National Professional Standards for Teachers, setting up a Gender Inclusion Fund, and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups will empower the academic fraternity. Changes like PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will redesign assessment and standardised the education boards across the country.

The multiple exit and re-entry system,

credit transferability across the universities, and multi-disciplinarity in the higher education system have provided flexibility to students. The internationalisation of education will be facilitated through institutional collaborations, student and faculty exchange programmes, and allowing top-ranked international universities to open campuses in our country. It is proposed that 3.5 crore new seats will be added to higher education institutions. Such prompt measures will ultimately converge the gap between industry and academia and harness our demographic dividend.

Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, this well-thought and forward-looking document will be an important milestone in India's journey towards becoming a global knowledge superpower. The return of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to its earlier name, Ministry of Education, has provided a more focused and fresh perspective to the education ecosystem. NEP 2020 has been well received and Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank and dedicated teams are leaving no stone unturned to ensure its implementation in letter and spirit. I urge all the stakeholders - students, parents, teachers, public representatives, universities, media, and civil society - to discuss and debate the nuances of NEP 2020.

The writer is Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises

1610s and '20s, princes and courtiers sought her advice and followed her commands. When Jahangir was taken prisoner by a rebellious nobleman, it was Nur who led her

Lal is professor of South Asian History, Emory University Atlanta and author, most recently of Empress, The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### **ONLY FOR ELITE**

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Testing times' (IE, August 28). It's easy for the Supreme Court to direct the NTA to conduct the JEE and NEET with safeguards against COVID-19. As of now, in the absence of regular trains and buses, only the elite with access to cars will be able to write the tests. Who will provide transport to almost half of the 24 lakh candidates, who come from distant places to 660 exam centres (there are 739 districts in India)? Varin Dhir, Ahmedabad

#### WILL AND WAY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Burdening states' (IE, August 28). Even if we ignore the question of whether or not the delay in payments of GST compensation to states happened because of the outbreak of the COVID -19, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's words do not constitute a response befitting our country's claim to be one of the world's fastestgrowing economies. Where there's a will, there's a way – the NDA government can very well bail out the state governments out of their dire financial difficulties by using funds from the PM Cares fund created for dealing with the exigencies arising from the after-effects of the deadly contagion on.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

#### POOR SPORT

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Pageantry and false promise' (IE, August 28). The irony that many sports awardees and winners are struggling to earn a living, selling fruits and vegetables and farming, is an example of how a career in sports is an uncertain option for the youth of the country. As the article



states, top bureaucrats and ministers expect a lot out of our players. Expectations are good but they should ensure that all the necessary equipment and facilities are provided to our players and athletes. The medal tally in the Olympics will not increase by rosy statements. If the practice of making false promises goes on, the youth of

our country will refrain from considering sports as a safe option and would rather go for areas where their potential is dependent only on their own hard work.

#### Ayushi Singh, Agra

#### **RANKING EDUCATION**

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Home and the world' (IE, August 28). University rankings create perception. It is wrong for them to use perception as a criterion. A university like INU, which offers spectacular PhD courses, is much better than a jack of all trades. The rankings should be replaced by grades, like NAAC, because, truly, ranking universities on such varied and so many criteria is impractical.

Yusuf Ghazali, Patna

# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 **ID E EXPLAINED**

00 @ieExplained #ExpressExplained

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

CHART 3: GDP & GVA GROWTH FOR Q1 FY21 (Rs CRORE)

01FY20 01FY21

Q1FY21

#### **CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD**

#### **C@VID-19 VACCINE TRACKER**

### US and UK open up possibility of a vaccine this year itself

vaccine seems to have got firmly advanced, from early next year to this year-end. On Friday, UŠ President Donald Trump promised to produce a vaccine before the end of this year, "or may be even sooner".

In a separate development, Britain said it would amend its laws to ensure that a novel coronavirus vaccine is given emergency approval as soon as it is declared to be safe in clinical trials. It said it would not wait for the full licensing process to get completed. The

new legal provision could kick in as early as October this year, enabling its drug regulator to grant emergency approvals to a vaccine that has been proven safe. The changed law would also protect the pharmaceutical compa-

nies from being sued if the vaccines produced any side-effects.

Trump has maintained earlier as well that the possibility of a vaccine being made available this year could not be ruled out. But on Friday, he was more emphatic than ever before. "We will have a safe and effective vaccine this year, and together we will crush the virus," he said while accepting the Republic Party nomination to run for President once again.

However, the plans of both the US

#### **INDIA ACTIVE CASES**





THE TIMELINE for a novel coronavirus and the UK would depend on at least one of the vaccine clinical trials getting completed and its results declared to be safe and effective. As of now, most of the vaccine developers have been maintaining that their product was likely to be ready by early

> next year. Meanwhile, the head of the Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States has said even if the vaccines were ready on time by early next year, the supplies would be limited for some

time. "At first, there will likely be a limited supply of one or more of the Covid-19 vaccines, because limited doses will be available," CDC director Robert Redfield was quoted as saying.

"It is important that the early vaccines are distributed in a fair, ethical ad transparent way," he said.

The United States has pre-booked 800 million doses of vaccines from different developers. Assuming each of these vaccine candidates are successful in the trials, and are approved by the drug regulator, it would still take several months to manufacture those many doses. Not all the vaccines are likely to succeed, and that too could result in scarce supplies of the vaccines.

# SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER What to look for in GDP data

Today, NSO data will provide the first benchmark of the state of the economy after the pandemic disrupted it. In the past week, RBI, Niti Aayog, and McKinsey reports have given pointers to what India needs to do.

#### **UDIT MISRA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

MONDAY IS a crucial day for the Indian economy. The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) will come out with the GDP estimates for the first quarter (April, May, June) of the current financial year.

Observers of the Indian economy keenly await the NSO data because it will provide the first benchmark of the state of the Indian economy after the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted it and forced the country into widespread and repeated lockdowns.

#### What do we know about the current state of economy?

The past week provided several key developments that provide the context to the GDP numbers.

**RBI ANNUAL REPORT:** The first thing to note is that the RBI's annual year is different from the regular financial year. For India's central bank, the annual report of 2019-20 pertains to the period between July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

This otherwise perfunctory fact is relevant this year because RBI's year included the first quarter (April, May June) of the current financial year. This is the quarter that saw the maximum disruption of economic activity and as such everyone wanted to know what RBI made of this period.

The RBI, however, refrained from providing a clear number for GDP growth or contraction but it did state that "an assessment of aggregate demand during the year so far suggests that the shock to consumption is severe, and it will take quite some time to mend and regain the pre-COVID-19 momentum".

GST COUNCIL MEETING: Equally ominous were the words of Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, who, while talking to the Chief Ministers of other non-BJP ruled states, suggested reverting to the pre-GST regime. Thackeray was responding to a GST Council meeting where the Union government expressed its inability to pay the compensation amount - roughly Rs 2.35 lakh crore - that was due to the states under the GST regime.

This suggestion could have wide-ranging ramifications for the economy if it is pursued by some of the biggest states in a serious manner.

As different states try to recover from the impact of Covid-19, they need money, but the current GST regime has robbed the states of the freedom to raise or lower taxes. Being asked to borrow money from the market instead of getting it from the Centre has made Thackeray question the desirability of the current GST regime.

#### CHART 1: INDIA NEEDS TO CREATE AT LEAST 90 MILLION MORE NON-FARM JOBS BY 2030



\*Overall labour-force participation considered to be 49% similar to 2020

\*\*Assuming farm-employment reduction is in line with historical trends

\*\*\* Female labour-force-participation rate has potential to increase from 19% to 30% in 2030 driven by the prime age group Source: ILOSTAT; McKinsey Global Institute Analysis

#### **CHART 2: GROWTH, SECTOR BY SECTOR** SECTOR %GROWTH **1.** Ag

1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	3.5%		411120	(lockdown)	(%YoY)
2. Mining and quarrying	-22%	1. Agriculture, forestry and fishing	7,12,222	7,76,322	9.0%
3. Manufacturing	-38%	2. Mining and quarrying	1,04,945	44,916	-57.2%
4. Electricity, gas, water supply &	-16%	3. Manufacturing	6,94,993	4,46,186	-35.8%
other utility services		<b>4.</b> Electricity, gas, water supply &	1,24,571	1,37,226	10.0%
5. Construction	-42%	other utility services			
6. Trade, hotel, transport, communication,	-44%	5. Construction	3,50,920	2,229,502	-34.6%
and services related to broadcasting		6. Trade, hotel, transport,	8.06.915	5.22.881	-35.2%
7. Financial, real estate and professional services	-9%	communication, and services related to broadcasting			
<b>8.</b> Public administration, defence and other services	9.5%	7. Financial, real estate and professional services	10,56,866	10,06,136	-4.8%
GVA at basic prices	-19.9%	<b>8.</b> Public administration. defence	6,37,682	7.33.334	15.0%
GDP	-20.2%	and other services	0,07,002	,,,	
Source: CARE Ratings' estimation		Source: SBI			

22 out of the 36 states and UTs despite being a big coastal state.

A crucial takeaway from this report was the need for states to work on their unique strategy for boosting exports. This again ties in with Thackeray's demand to have greater

leeway. **MCKINSEY EMLPOYMENT REPORT:** The McKinsey Global Institute's report on India's employment needs stated that India will have to create at least 90 million nonfarm jobs over the next decade - 145 million at the upper end – and for which it would have to grow at 8 to 8.5 per cent every year (Chart 1). This provides an understanding of how job creation may be affected because of GDP contraction or slow growth in

the coming years. **REVIEW OF EASE-OF-DOING-BUSI-**NESS RANKINGS: On August 27, the World Bank issued a statement saying that it has ordered a "systematic review" and "internal audit" of its data and methodology used for compiling the Ease of Doing Business rankings that were published in 2017 and 2019. The move is in response to several allegations that data was tweaked for political reasons and to favour some countries. It is important to note that India's ranking improved from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2019.

#### What can one expect from the GDP data?

The first quarter saw the strictest lockdowns across the country and chances are it will see the sharpest fall in economic activity in a long while.

The composition of growth (or degrowth) — in other words, which sector got hit the most — will set the tone for the rest of the year. The amount and nature of the damage will point to the type and magnitude of fiscal and monetary policy efforts reguired to revive the Indian economy.

Most analysts expect the economy to contract sharply. But the expected magnitude of contraction differs - sometimes substantially over specific sectors of the economy.

For instance, State Bank of India's Saumya Kanti Ghosh expects the GDP contraction to be 16%, while Madan Sabnavis of CARE Ratings expects it to be around 20% and Aditi Nayar of ICRA Ltd expect an even bigger contraction of 25%.

#### How difficult is it to make these estimates and what is their significance?

It is true that GDP projections over the past year or so have increasingly shortened shelf life. For instance, last year in July, when

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the full-year Budget, she pencilled in an 8% real GDP growth. But with each passing month, the projections continued to be scaled back as the underlying economy decelerated faster than expected. Eventually, India ended the year with just 4%.

In this financial year, making these estimates and projections is even more difficult because Covid's spread in India has been much worse than the government's expectation. In the early days, the government had expected that India would have no new Covid cases after May 16. In reality, India not only added around 5,000 new cases on May 16 but also overhauled China's tally of over 80,000 cases. As India has tried to open up for work, Covid cases have surged. Last week, India registered the highest single-day count of new Covid cases anywhere in the world since the start of the pandemic. It is now the thirdmost afflicted country on the planet. What is most worrisome is that the rate of spread of Covid in India's rural areas is almost twice the rate of spread in urban areas. All of this points to uncertainty about the shape of economic recovery. In this context, Monday's data would provide the first benchmark around which future analysis can happen.

765,302



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EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX: The index launched by NITI Aayog ranked Indian states and Union Territories in the context of export preparedness in terms of policy environment, infrastructure etc.

The top performers were mostly coastal states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Odisha but there was one landlocked state that managed to sneak into the top 5 list and it was Raiasthan.

At the other end of the spectrum were mostly landlocked and Himalayan states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar and Assam. But West Bengal stood out for being ranked

All of the past week's concerns – from plummeting domestic consumption to shrinking exports to massive unemployment to question marks on India's Ease of Doing Business rankings and GST regime - provide a useful bridge to the big event in the coming week.

Beyond the variation in headline growth numbers, if one compares specific sectors (Charts 2 and 3); one can find two broad trends:

That manufacturing, construction, and trade and hotels etc. are likely to have been most massively hit (highlighted in red);

That agriculture and public administration (that is, the government) would have done pretty well (*highlighted in green*);

There is less consensus about what is likely to have happened to sectors like mining & quarrying and electricity and other utilities (highlighted in blue).

# Why first reinfection cases do not change much in approach to Covid

Scientists aren't surprised that it can happen. It doesn't mean everyone is equally susceptible to a second infection, or that vaccines won't be useful

#### **AMITABH SINHA** PUNE, AUGUST 30

JUST ABOUT two weeks ago, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the United States had said that, until then, no case of reinfection with the novel coronavirus had been confirmed in any individual. The CDC did acknowledge that there had been instances in which people had tested positive again after having recovered from the disease once. But that, it said, could be because of what it described as "persistent viral shedding". Recovered patients can have low levels of virus for up to three months after the infection, and though it is no longer enough to make the person sick or transmit the disease to others, it can get detected in diagnostic tests

Now, it appears, the CDC may have spoken a little too soon. Researchers in Hong Kong recently reported the first known case of reinfection. A 33-year-old Chinese was found carrying the disease four-and-a-half months after recovering from the first infection. The patient had travelled to Spain in between. Just a day later, one similar case of re-infection was reported from Belgium and another from the Netherlands. And last

week, the United States too reported its first case of presumed reinfection.

These first cases of reinfection show that the immunity developed after contracting the disease once may not be long-lasting, and the virus could continue to circulate in the populations even after levels of community-wide immunity, either through natural infection or by vaccination, are reached. It has also triggered concerns about the effectiveness of vaccines being developed for the infection.

#### But are these reinfections real?

Based on the paper that has been published by the Hong Kong researchers, scientists agree that the case of the 33-yearold Chinese person is indeed one of reinfection, and not of traces of virus from the previous infection getting detected again. In fact, the case for reinfection is not being made on the basis of results of a diagnostic tests. It so happened that the viral specimen from this person was collected both times he got infected, and genome sequences from the two specimen have been extracted, and compared.

The genome sequence analysis shows that the person had been infected with two different variants of the novel coronavirus.



Swab being collected for a coronavirus test in Delhi. Amit Mehra/File photo

Viruses mutate with time, developing small differences in their genetic make-up. This enables researchers to trace the origins of the infection, and the possible routes through which it has been circulating. In this person, the variant of virus extracted the second time resembled closely to those in circulation in Europe in July and August. That could possibly mean that he had been re-infected during his travel to Spain. He had tested positive while being screened at the airport on his return.

In the case of the reinfection in the US too, researchers in Nevada found that the virus associated with each instance of the patient's infection represented genetically different strains.

#### What are the implications of these findings?

Scientists say the fact that reinfection has been confirmed does not come as a surprise. In fact, many believed that reinfection might have been happening earlier as well. It was just that it was not getting detected. That is because in none of the cases where a person had tested positive for the second time was a genome sequence from the first infection available. Genome sequences are not obtained from every coronavirus patient. Researchers extract the viral specimens from a few hundred patients for carrying out their studies. In the case of both the Hong Kong and the United States reinfections, researchers were lucky that they had the respective viral specimens collected the first time as well.

But other viruses, including those from the coronavirus family, especially those that cause respiratory illnesses, infect a large number of people every year, and those who have been infected once are not considered immune from them. As the Hong Kong researchers themselves point out, reinfection is common for these other seasonal coronaviruses. There is no reason to believe why SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19 disease, would be any different. The difference, of course, is that unlike other viruses, there is no treatment available for Covid-19 right now.

But these first cases of re-infection do not mean that everyone is equally susceptible to reinfection. Who all can get re-infected, and how long an infected person can expect to remain protected from a reinfection, are both open questions right now that need further investigation. The Hong Kong researchers noted that in the Chinese patent, the disease was be milder in reinfection as compared to the first infection.

#### Would vaccines be effective?

Shahid Jameel, a virologist, believes these cases of reinfection do not raise any fresh question marks over the effectiveness of the vaccines being developed. That is because a reinfection would happen only from the different variants of the virus that are currently in circulation, and most of the vaccines being developed are meant to provide protection against all the variants of the virus. For blocking the virus, they are targeting regions that are common in all these variants. "Effectiveness of the vaccines because of the possibility of re-infection does not seem to be a concern right now," he said.

"Of course, once these vaccines are in use, it is possible that the virus is forced to mutate in new ways because of natural selection pressures. In that case, the virus may change in a form that cannot be targeted with present vaccines. But that is in the future," he said.

But as in the case of natural immunity, the longevity of protection offered by vaccine remains an open question. The Hong Kong researchers do point out that vaccines may not be able to provide lifelong protection against Covid-19 disease. But there are vaccines for several other diseases as well that need to be repeated periodically because they do not offer permanent protection.

The researchers, however, say that there is now a case for testing the vaccines being developed on recovered patients as well.



# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 II IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

# HARDEEP SINGH PURI, MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS 6 By Diwali, we should be getting a bulk of our air traffic back in form

The Union minister explains why despite air bubbles, travel is not happening as freely as was expected, details the measures they are taking to help the troubled aviation sector, and denies any financial crunch for Central Vista project. The session was moderated by National Business Editor Anil Sasi

HARDEEP SINGH PURI: The figure (of domestic passengers) yesterday (August 24) was 98,800, so we have already reached 33 per cent of pre-Covid numbers. We are increasing domestic passengers at the rate of 5,000 a week. With Mumbai hopefully having Covid numbers under control, I'm hoping that after the Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, we will open up Mumbai more; Bengaluru, Kolkata will be a little less sporadic. We will be looking to touch the 50 per cent mark before too long... By Diwali (November 14), we should be getting a bulk of our civil aviation traffic back in form.

#### ANIL SASI: With the coronavirus spreading in slum pockets in Mumbai and parts of Delhi, is there now a renewed urgency to undertake

redevelopment of these parts in cities? I think the pandemic has renewed our commitment to accelerating the delivery on these projects. This includes the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana under which in situ slum rehabilitation is one of the four verticals. Now, let me answer your question by actually turning it around. Supposing we did not have the interventions of the Prime Minister's flagship programmes - the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), the Smart City Mission how would we have fared during the pandemic? The Swachhata campaign has been the most important among these schemes.

When we started, in 2014, the Prime Minister said from the ramparts of the Red Fort that it is his dream that by the time we celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, which was October 2, 2019, India should be open defecation free. And look, apart from some urban local bodies in West Bengal, India is now open defecation free. And, we have not stopped at that. The Swachh Bharat Mission required two things. One is physical targets, that is you had to build a certain number of toilets - 67 lakh individual household toilets, and five to seven lakh community or what are called public toilets. Those physical targets were met long back, but it required something in addition, which was behavioural change. Now that behavioural change has come and that change has in



#### WHY-HARDEEP SINGH **PURI**

T the helm of two key \_ ministries — Civil Aviation, and Housing and Urban affairs —Puri is responsible for implementing the ambitious Central Vista project in addition to key Central government housing schemes. As the aviation sector struggles to navigate the Covid-19induced turbulence, the former diplomat has been focusing on resuming operations. He has been instrumental in the Vande Bharat Mission, that brought back 1.3 mn Indians

now we are focusing on one specific part of the project, which is an additional new Parliament building. Anyone who is familiar with the Parliament building knows that it is not even a safe building... Very soon there will be a website to explain the contours of the project and people can send their opinions.

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMNANIAN: In the early days of the Vande Bharat mission, Air India was accused of profiteering from a humanitarian crisis. A lot of people wanted to come home and the air fares were very, very high. Could it have been handled any other way? When the Vande Bharat mission

was started, the experience was very difficult. We had to guarantine air crews... The highest fare charged was an economy class

fare of Rs 1 lakh in India-North the America sector. Secondly, the fare charged by all the other airlines for a similar journey was at least three times higher. From the Gulf to India, we were charging an average of Rs 13,000, when our own private and chartered carriers

were charging Rs 22-23,000. On the Houston sector, our fare was Rs 1,03,000. The US carriers were charging Rs 3,00,000. So our fares were much lower. Air India can be accused of everything but profiteering. It's an airline which in March 2020 had a debt of Rs 60,000 crore, and when we go into privatisation of Air India, that's the debt that the bidder will have to deal with. Total number of passengers carried back (to India on Vande Bharat flights) is close to 1.3 million. These are on Air India. Then there

ficulty, you, me, your newspaper, my government, everybody. But it doesn't mean that you don't know how to get out of it. Some things you solve straight away, some things you negotiate. Of all the metros in the country, Delhi Metro is in the healthiest state. It is the only Metro which was able to pay its loans on time... The fare increase (of 2017) has ensured that Delhi Metro is in the pink of health. With Covid, everybody has been affected. We will take views of all stakeholders. We are in favour of revival of economic activities to the fullest.

**RITU SARIN: On the Central Vista** project, is there a delinking of the Parliament project, which you have said will be redesigned by 2024, from the other components, maybe because of a financial crunch or Covid?

The Central Vista project contains a number of individual

are

segments and com-

ponents. There is no

financial crunch.

Each government de-

partment has to pro-

vide its own re-

sources. When you

Parliament, you

know where the re-

sources will come

from. It's just that

each of these are in a

making

Kerala said they are against privatisation. If they're against privatisation, they should not have taken part in this. They already run two privatised airports

> different stage. It has to be done systematically. For instance, I cannot be party to a system where people are moved out of government offices till the next offices are ready... Vayu Bhawan, Sena Bhawan, Nau Sena Bhawan etc will move when the new places are ready. So, all these are timelines. It's not as if anything has been shelved ... Each of these taken together will add up to the overall Central Vista.

#### PRANAV MUKUL: The Kerala government has refused to cooperate in the privatisation of

Thiruvananthapuram airport. How will the Airports Authority of India and Civil Aviation Ministry proceed now?

First, they turned around and said they are against privatisation. If they're against privatisation, they should not have participated in this. They are already running

fact manifested in all our programmes.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has its origins in the Prime Minister's desire that by the time we celebrate our 75th anniversary as an independent nation, every Indian, no matter where he or she lives should have a home which they can call their own, and it should be in the name of the lady of the house. We were supposed to build 1.12 crore units, and we have already sanctioned 1.07 crore. Sixty-seven lakh have already been grounded, and about 35-36 lakh units have been handed over. But during Covid we have also realised that it is not just residents who want to own homes. For the migrant working population, we have come up with a new scheme, the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes. This means building dormitories and one- and two-bedroom homes for these workers. Not everyone wants ownership... The Smart City mission, 62-63 per cent of the projects have already been tendered. AMRUT covered 70 per cent of India's urban areas. It's been followed by the Jal Shakti Mission. All the schemes are doing well and our capability to face the challenges of Covid-19 has been helped by these schemes, particularly by the Swachh Bharat scheme.

ANIL SASI: The free travel that was envisaged under the air bubble agreement has not happened in some jurisdictions. As India's Covid-19 caseload continues to rise, do you see restrictions on Indian travellers

flying abroad intensifying? As the Civil

Aviation Minister, I have to ensure that we have air services for those who are able to travel. The restrictions are placed by countries individually. Now, for instance, India started with a mandatory 14-day

guarantine (in the early days of the pandemic). Now, if you are carrying an RT-PCR test result, and you have taken the test (not more than)96 hours before travelling, you can go through the green channel. This is the sovereign right of countries. When the air bubbles were introduced it had nothing to do with restrictions at the other end. Many countries such as the United States now don't have restrictions. They had it for

a while and then they lifted them. The United Kingdom did not have restrictions, but then Spain opened up in the holiday season, there was a spike, and they reintroduced the restrictions... The air bubbles are designed to make sure that passengers can get from Point A to Point B... We have air bubbles operational between India and the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany... You have two flights to London every day by Air India. At times, we have four-five flights between India and various cities in the United States. We are trying to move towards normalcy.

I saw in one place that a number of people(on a flight) were found positive and that country wants to suspend flights... When I heard the news, I told my secretary, civil aviation, that if we are insisting that people coming in show RT-PCR test results, then I would also encourage people going out from India (to get tests done).... If you are carrying 280 passengers in a plane, and six

There were misconceptions over Central Vista project, that we were changing the historical nature etc... The iconic buildings will stay exactly where they are

or eight of them turn out to be positive ... Let's get a realistic perspective on the num-

ber. Many people are asymptomatic. We can go a step further and insist that they also have a test done prior to embarkation and we will do that.

ANIL SASI: The aviation sector has been hit hard by the pandemic. Do you think, perhaps, they could have got some sort of support from the government?

... What are the costs that an airline incurs? Let me give you one example: We rationalised the use of airspace. The flying time between Mumbai and Srinagar was 90 minutes; it was reduced by 16 per cent. So, the fuel consumption also goes down by 16 per cent. What is the highest cost

component for airlines? It is aviation turbine fuel.

We have done this, but we are also not averse to doing everything else. The Finance Ministry has told our banks to lend a helping hand... If somebody has taken loans, and there is some cushion provided, the airline industry also benefits. Many of the airline industry's assets such as planes are in the hands of lessors and lessees. Now with a surplus of planes. and very little activity, those lessor-lessee rates are being renegotiated and that brings costs down. We reduced the GST rates on aircraft MROs (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) from 18 per cent to five per cent. In January this year, the (discontinuation) of fuel throughput charge (FTC), along with the rationalisation of air space, ensured that Rs 230 crore is saved every year by airlines.

Different airlines are in different financial positions. There are some which were under strain even prior to Covid. There are others that are a little more comfortable because they are tied to bigger business establishments. My own firmly held view is that savings by airlines etc will come by as soon as operations resume. Even with Air India, despite the financial strain, with Vande Bharat flights etc, they could make some earnings from

June onwards. We have taken many meetings; we are navigating our way forward.

SHINY VARGHESE: In a Covid world, where going digital is more sustainable than having more buildings, how are we placed on the Different airlines are in **Central Vista** project? different financial positions. This is a project

which is designed to Some were under strain rationalise space in a comprehensive even prior to Covid... manner. We have government buildings strewn all over the city. We are spending Rs 1,000

government for buildings despite the fact that we are the land owners. It is not efficient utilisation of space. So, the idea is to redesign the Central Vista in a manner to ensure efficient use of space with more public space, more greenery. Earlier, there was a lot of misconception around it. that we were changing the historical nature etc. None of that is being done. All the iconic buildings will remain exactly where they are. Right



two privatised airports (Kochi and Kannur). Some people have suggested that there is an angle, regarding the person who has won the bid. That also does not seem to be right because that economic entity is running a port 20 kilometres from there.

So, my short answer is that they (the Kerala government) have an experience in privatisation, they wanted to participate. they participated, they lost the bid and, therefore, we have proceeded. (In the tender process for the privatisation of Thiruvananthapuram airport, Adani Enterprises outbid Kerala government entity KSIDC by more than 19%, which resulted in the state becoming ineligible to match the winning bid – an option that it could have exercised if its bid was within 10% of the winning bid.)

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN: You were posted in Sri Lanka when the relations with the neighbouring country were not great. Now, we are seeing uneven relationships in the neighbourhood. As the Civil Aviation Minister, do you think more communication in the neighbourhood at this time would be one way to keep the relationships going?

It was an interesting time because something very fundamental was being attempted. We were looking at reconciliation of what was loosely called the ethnic problem. The India-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987 captured the essence of Sri Lanka as a multicultural and multiethnic society. It was a far cry from the Sinhala Only Act, 1956... Rajiv Gandhi, who was then the prime minister, extended the good offices of India and an attempt was made and the rest is history. What is the situation today? Again, that is for my colleague S Jaishankar (to answer)....

Will more air connectivity with the countries in the neighbourhood help? It would. We are already looking at air bubbles with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan. And we are in a very advanced stage with many of them. (Air bubble with) Maldives has been established. Kushinagar (in Uttar Pradesh) has been declared as an international airport. We are hoping to bring Buddhist pilgrims in from Sri Lanka so that they can do the circuit — Kushinagar, Varanasi, Gaya, Sarnath, Lumbini etc. This is a long-standing demand not only from Indian pilgrims but also from people in our neighbouring countries

Savings will come by as soon as operations resume crore a year on rent





Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Japan International

Agency (JICA). The

**Union Ministry of** 

Housing and Urban

Affairs asked them

to reach out to the

state government

for assistance.

Metro need a

there a plan to

Mangu Singh (the Managing Director of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation) and Delhi

Metro have been ready to start operations

for two months now. Mangu Singh says

give me two days' notice and we will start.

I think everyone agrees now, the Central

and state government as well as the Delhi

Metro people, that the time has come to re-

On financial issues, everybody is in dif-

sume services.

What is the way

forward? Does the

bailout package? Is

restart the service?

Cooperation

are people coming in by charter flights,

land routes... This is the largest humanitar-

ian evacuation mission carried out any-

time, anywhere in the world, and at the

SOURAV ROY BARMAN: Earlier this

year, the Delhi Metro had written to

the Centre stating that it is not in a

position to repay Rs 1,400 crore to

most economical rates.





# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 12 THE WORLD



THOMAS GIBBONS-NEFF KABUL, AUGUST 30

ROCKETS LAUNCHED at a US mil-

itary base and a joint US-Afghan

and the insurgent group.

Roughly a dozen rockets struck

A Taliban commander famil-

Helmand and said that the group

would investigate. The rocket

strikes may also have been car-

ried out by a Taliban faction that

is against the agreement, accord-

ing to one military official who

either attack, nor a public response

from Washington during a stretch

in which American officials have

struggled to keep an already shaky

Afghanistan declined to comment.

The US-led mission in

peace process on track.

There were no US casualties in

was briefed on the matter.

in late July around Camp Bastion, a

#### TAIWAN **3-YR-OLD SAFE AFTER BEING LOFTED ON KITE**

A three-year-old girl in Taiwan was reported safe after havng been caught in the strings of a kite and lifted several metres into the air. The incident took place during a kite festival Sunday in the seaside town of Nanlioao. Video shot at the scene showed her twisting several times above a crowd of adults who eventually managed to pull the kite back to earth.

**US officials:** Taliban violated

deal with shelling of bases

### TOPOFTHE \_ WORLD



Arjuna Ranatunga

#### **SRI LANKA**

#### **Ex-cricketer** Ranatunga enters race for **UNP top post**

ARJUNA RANATUNGA, the captain of Sri Lanka's 1996 Cricket World Cup winning team, on Sunday joined the race to lead the Opposition **United National Party** (UNP) after former PM Ranil Wickremesinghe decided to resign from the party leadership after 26 years at the helm following its crushing defeat in the parliamentary elections. UNP secretary general and Wickremesinghe's cousin Ruwan Wijewardena and former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya have also offered to lead and revive the party after its humiliating defeat in the parliamentary elections. PTI

**CHINA** 

Restaurant

collapse in

Shanxi kills 29

TWENTY-NINE PEOPLE were killed and seven se-

riously injured when a

restaurant collapsed in northern China's Shanxi

province, the country's

emergencies ministry

media said on Sunday.

The building collapsed at

9.40 am on Saturday in

Xiangfen county in the

southwest of Shanxi, the

Ministry of Emergency

Management said in a

statement. The accident

in the two-storey struc-

ture occurred as villagers

and relatives gathered for

a birthday party, and the

# **VIOLENCE IN PORTLAND: 1 MAN SHOT DEAD Deadly shooting after Trump** supporters, protesters clash

Pro-Trump rally with hundreds of trucks passes through city amid BLM protests

#### **MIKE BAKER** PORTLAND, AUGUST 30

A MAN was shot and killed Saturday as a large group of supporters of US President Donald Trump travelled in a caravan through downtown Portland, Oregon, which has seen nightly protests for three consecutive months.

The pro-Trump rally drew hundreds of trucks full of supporters into the city. At times, Trump supporters and counterprotesters clashed on the streets, with people shooting paintball guns from the beds of pickup trucks and protesters throwing objects back at them.

It was not immediately clear how the shooting transpired, but two witnesses who asked not to be named said that a small group of people got into an argument with other people in a vehicle and someone opened fire. The man who was shot and

killed was wearing a hat with the insignia of Patriot Prayer, a far-right group based in Portland that has clashed with protesters in the past. The Portland Police Bureau said that officers heard reports of



A man is treated by medics after being shot in Portland, Oregon, on Saturday. AP

found a victim with a gunshot wound to the chest. It was determined that the victim had died. They did not release any information about a possible shooter.

At the scene, police officers blocked off the road, and medics attended to a person who appeared to have a chest wound. Portland has seen nightly

demonstrations since the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis in May. In recent days, right-wing demonstrations have also sprung up in the city, and Trump has repeatedly highlighted gunfire shortly before 9 p.m. and the unrest in Portland as evidence

of the need for a tougher law-andorder response to the chaotic protests over police violence and racial injustice that have swept through many American cities.

The Trump supporters gath-ered earlier Saturday in the suburbs and plotted a route that would have kept them on the highways around Portland. But some of the ralliers headed directly downtown, where counterprotesters confronted some of the vehicles. Some of the conflicts led to fistfights. In one encounter, a vehicle ran over a bike. NYT

#### '7 bullets, 7 days': **Protesters march** in Kenosha

**STEPHEN GROVES** & AMY FORLITI

WITH CHANTS of "One person, one vote!" and "No justice, no peace!" a crowd of about 1,000 demonstrators gathered outside a Wisconsin courthouse Saturday to denounce police violence and share messages of change, a week after an officer shot Jacob Blake in the back and left the 29-year-old Black man paralysed.

The diverse group of protesters also chanted "Seven bullets, seven days!" - a reference to the number of times Blake was shot last Sunday — as they marched toward the courthouse in Kenosha. There, Blake's father, Jacob Blake Sr, gave an impassioned call for changing a system he described as fostering police brutality and racial inequities.

Several of Saturday's speakers urged the crowd to vote for change in November, and to push for changing laws in Wisconsin. AP



US negotiator Zalmay Khalilzad (left) and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, a founding leader of the Taliban, signed the February 29 peace agreement in Doha. AP

#### Ghani names council for peace deal

Kabul: Afghanistan's President has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.

Ashraf Ghani issued a decree late Saturday establishing

The February peace deal signed in Doha, the capital of Qatar, stipulates that the Taliban would refrain from striking American or NATO forces as they gradually withdrew from the country. And the US military would attack the Taliban only to defend Afghan forces.

The Taliban, long thought to be a conglomerate of various factions



the 46-member council, led by

his former rival in last year's

presidential election, Abdullah

Abdullah, who is now in the

government. The council is sep-

arate from a 21-member nego-

tiating team. The council will

have the final say and will ulti-

tinued to mount heavy assaults against the Afghan military forces, the United States has carried out dozens of airstrikes to help the Afghans, officials said. NYT

> Hong Kong health workers, activists urge boycott of mass Covid-19 testing

#### REUTERS

HONG KONG, AUGUST 30

A HONG Kong pro-democracy union of healthcare workers and several activists, including Ioshua Wong, called on Sunday for a boycott of the government's universal coronavirus testing plan, in which medical staff from mainland China are set to assist. From Tuesday, a 60-strong

mainland team is due to conduct tests in the first direct help from China's health officials for the

semi-autonomous city as it bat-

sitive time for the former British

colony, as anxiety runs high over

what many of its 7.5 million res-

idents see as Beijing's efforts to

Employees Alliance, formed dur-

ing last year's pro-democracy

protests with 20,000 members,

said universal testing was not an

efficient use of resources and

ernment has one and only one

goal ... to use the pandemic to

achieve their own political aims,"

its leader Winnie Yu told a joint

news conference with activists.

Seoul enforces

limits on diners,

orders gyms shut

"It is clear to see that the gov-

urged focused tests instead.

The Hospital Authority

But the effort comes at a sen-

tles the pandemic.

rein in their freedoms.

## Trump admin says it will stop in-person election security briefings for Congress

Shocking abdication, betrayal, say Dems

#### **BRADHEATH**& TIMOTHY GARDNER WASHINGTON, AUGUST 30

THE UNITED States' top intelligence office told lawmakers it will end in-person briefings on election security because there had been leaks from congressional committees, officials said on Saturday.



John Ratcliffe, the director of national intelligence, told Congress it would only get



protest in Montreal. Reuters





#### airfield in southern Afghanistan in recent weeks are believed to have been fired by the Taliban, according to three American military officials, in what would amount to a clear breach of the peace agreement between the US

KENOSHA, AUGUST 30

sprawling air base used by Afghan and American forces in the southern province of Helmand. And several rockets were fired within the last week or so at Camp Dwyer, a large US military base about 50 miles south of Bastion. iar with the region denied that the group had carried out any strikes on American bases in

rescue operation ended early on Sunday, state media said. **REUTERS** 

#### MAURITIUS

#### **Fishermen battle** to save dozens ofdolphins

FISHERMEN BATTLED on Sunday to save dozens of injured dolphins washed ashore in Mauritius where in recent days at least 40 of the animals were found dead in a lagoon near the site of an oil spill from a Japanese bulk carrier which struck a coral reef. On Sunday, fishermen took their boats out, making loud noise by hitting together metal bars in an attempt to drive the animals away from the coral reef towards the open sea. "If they stay inside the lagoon they will die like the others...," a fisherman said. REUTERS

The move drew heated rejoinders from Democrats who have focused on foreign efforts to sway the presidential election

in 2016 and again this year.

US President Donald Trump's

new director of national intelli-

gence, John Ratcliffe, notified the

House and Senate intelligence

panels on Friday that the office



### Why in-person briefings matter

LAWMAKERS, ESPECIALLY

would send written reports instead, giving lawmakers less opportunity to press for details as the November 3 election approaches. An official in Ratcliffe's office, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said it was "concerned about unauthorised disclosures of sensitive information following recent briefings."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff decried the move. "This is a shocking abdication of its lawful responsibility to keep the Congress currently informed, and a betraval of the public's right to know how foreign powers are trying to subvert our democracy," they said in a statement. **REUTERS** 

Democrats, are fuming at the decision to scrap in-person intelligence briefings about election security so close to Nov 3 because this means they will not be able to ask more questions and seek clarifications on an issue of serious concern amid reports of multiple foreign threats to the vote. Democrats fear that Trump-appointed officials will truncated written briefings that benefit the President politically, and that lawmakers will be denied the chance to question them.

written written briefings.NYT REUTERS AUGUST 30

> A STATUE of Canada's first Prime Minister Sir John Macdonald was toppled in downtown Montreal by protesters marching in support of defunding police, government officials said.

The incident occurred at the end of a peaceful march on Saturday when a group of people climbed the monument and pulled down the statue, causing the head to fly off, according to video posted on social media.

In June, a video showing a forceful arrest of a Canadian indigenous leader by police raised questions about the use of force by the police.

The statue of Macdonald has been the site of repeated acts of graffiti in recent years.

Saturday's incident drew quick condemnation from political leaders. "Whatever one might think of John A. Macdonald, destroying a monument in this way is unacceptable," Quebec Premier François Legault said in a tweet.

# Brazil: World's largest wetland burns from above and below

A fire near the Cuiaba River at Pantanal, in Pocone, Mato Grosso state, Brazil. Reuters

#### **JAKE SPRING** POCONÉ, AUGUST 30

THE WORLD'S largest wetland is ablaze, but the fire is often invisible.

In Brazil's Pantanal, the vegetation compacted under the marshy flood water during the wet season dries out as ponds and lagoons evaporate, leaving flammable deposits underground that can continue to smolder long after visible

flames die down. Firefighters across Brazil are battling raging towers of flames from the Amazon rainforest to the Cerrado savannah, but the fires beneath their feet are a particular challenge in the Pantanal. The only way to combat an underground fires is to dig a trench

#### The fires in Pantanal, which sprawls over 150,000 sq km in Brazil and extends into Bolivia and Paraguay, threaten the region's biodiversity

around it, said state firefighter Lieutenant Isaac Wihby.

"But how do you do that if you have a line of fire that's 20 km long? It's not viable," he said.

The fires here are the worst in 15 years. The flames threaten the region's biodiversity, rich with tapirs, pumas, capybaras and the world's most dense population of jaguars.

The Pantanal, whose name

derives from the Portuguese word for "swamp," sprawls over more than 150,000 so km in Brazil and also extends into Bolivia and Paraguay.

As fires approached emergency workers in the Pantanal this week, they used tractors to cut through desiccated trees and shrubs, leaving a gash of brown dirt meant to rob the flames of fuel and stop their spread.

But strong winds can send the flames over the top, or underground fires can pass below.

"Sometimes it passes under a firebreak and takes the firefighters by surprise," said Lieutenant Jean Oliveira, who is leading the firefighting efforts. "Sometimes you control a

fire and it's not really dead, it's just sleeping," he said. **REUTERS ASSOCIATED PRESS** SEOUL, AUGUST 30

> SOUTH KOREA has reported 299 new cases of the coronavirus as officials placed limits on dining at restaurants and closed fitness centres and after-school academies in the greater capital area to slow the spread of the virus.

The 17th consecutive day of triple-digit increases brought the national caseload to 19,699, including 323 deaths.

The Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention said 209 of the new cases came from capital Seoul, nearby Gyeonggi province and Incheon, a region that had been at the centre of a viral resurgence this month.

Thirty cases were also reported in the southeastern city of Daegu, the epicentre of the previous major outbreak in late February and March. Churches have emerged as a major source of infections in Seoul and elsewhere. Clusters have also popped up from restaurants, schools, nursing homes and apartment buildings.

## DESPITE THE SUCCESSFUL MANNED FLIGHT, EXPERTS SAY THE TECHNOLOGY STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO Humans take a step closer to 'flying cars' after Japanese test flight

#### DERRICK BRYSON TAYLOR AUGUST 30

IN THE 1880s, the first automobile was developed, and about two decades later, the Wright brothers in North Carolina invented the first successful airplane. Today, the world is closer to combining those two concepts as a Japanese tech company said it completed a manned test flight of a "flying car".

The company, SkyDrive, said in a news release Friday that it had completed a flight test using "the world's first manned testing machine," its SD-03 model, an electrical vertical takeoff and



The aircraft has one seat and operates with eight motors and two propellers on each corner. It lifted about 10 feet into the air and was operated by a pilot, the company said.

Fukuzawa, Tomohiro SkyDrive's chief executive, said Saturday that five years ago there were various prototypes of flying cars, usually with fixed wings. SkyDrive's product, he said, was one of the most compact in size and was lighter com-

pared with other designs. SkyDrive was started in 2012 by members of a volunteer or-



The Japanese company SkyDrive conducted a four-minute test flight of its flying car prototype this month. AP

ganisation called Cartivator, and the company began developing a "flying car" in 2014, according

to its website. This year, SkyDrive received funding from the Development Bank of Japan and other investors, the company said. Several companies are devel-

oping similar technology, including Boeing and Airbus, as well as automakers Toyota and Porsche. In January, Hyundai and Uber announced they were collaborating on an all-electric air taxi. Analysts with Morgan

Stanley have said they expect urban air taxis to be common by 2040, with the global market projected to be \$1.4 trillion to \$2.9 trillion by then.

Safety is one of two challenges preventing the technology from becoming widely used, said Derya Aksaray, an assistant professor of aerospace engineer-

ing and mechanics at the University of Minnesota. Safe autonomous technology for eVTOL aircraft is still being developed, Aksaray said.

"These vehicles need to look at their environment, assess the situation and act accordingly," she said. "They cannot wait for a pilot or an operator to say, 'Now do this, now do that.' We cannot wait for that kind of micromanagement of the vehicle.'

The other challenge is design: The vehicles should be powerful enough to carry any necessary weight, yet quiet enough to fly at undetermined low altitudes, she said.

Ella Atkins, a professor of



aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan, expressed mixed views on the practicality of eVTOL machines.

"They are going to be more energy efficient than helicopters that use a lot of fuel but they will be less energy efficient than cars because they have to lift themselves," she said. "From a cost perspective, they won't be prac-

tical to go to the grocery store." Atkins said these machines may be better suited for satellite communities of cities or countries with difficult terrain.

Fukuzawa said SkyDrive plans to begin selling a two-seat version of its eVTOL by 2023 for about \$300,000 to \$500,000. NYT

# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 **13** ECONOMY

#### MARKET WATCH FPIs invest ₹47.3K cr in Aug so far

# **RBI HAD SAID IT IS READY TO TAKE STEPS TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY** Wary of market correction, govt working on **bolstering settlement & clearing systems**

#### SUNNY VERMA& SANDEEP SINGH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE GOVERNMENT and the financial sector regulatory agencies are examining and strengthening the settlement and clearing systems in various segments of the markets to ensure orderly functioning during stress times. The sharp surge in equity and currency markets in recent period has also given rise to 'caution' among the regulators regarding the challenges that could surface in case of sudden flight of capital. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Governor Shaktikanta Das, on August 21, warned that there is a clear disconnect between sharp surge in stock markets and the state of real economy, as surplus global liquidity is driving up asset prices across the world. He forecast that there will "definitely be

#### XPLAINED Margin rules being • worked on

AMID SHARP surge in equity and currency markets, led by global liquidity, regulators are strengthening the margin rules for trading and short selling regulations to ensure that sudden correction in markets does not lead to financial stability. The focus is to ensure enough liquidity so that markets and operations run smoothly in the event of second-order effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on

the financial sector.

a correction" in stock markets and weeks.

take all steps that are required to maintain financial stability. While some regulatory and

government officials, and market participants did not welcome Das's direct comment anticipating correction in markets, sources said stress testing of the settlement and clearing systems are being undertaken to ensure that adequate liquidity is maintained in the markets and operations run smoothly in the event of "second order effects the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial sector. "We are strengthening the

margin rules for trading and short selling regulations, while at the same time keeping a watch on currency market developments," a senior official said. Sudden spike in foreign portfolio investment (FPI) flows into equity market has led to expansion in foreign exchange reserves, leading to sharp

**1** Finance Ministry

sources said that action

will be taken against those

banks, which will collect

any charges on payments

made via electronic mode

**T**o encourage digital

L transactions and move

towards a less-cash econ-

omy, the government in-

3 Amid the pandemic and lockdowns, modes

people moved away from

cash payments to prevent

serted a new provision,

Section 269SU, in the

Finance Act, 2019

of digital payment

physical contact

witnessed a boost as

appreciation in rupee in recent the central bank is prepared to

Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had announced measures to control volatility in stocks such as curbs on short selling, increase in margins and reduction in market wide position limit for F&O stocks among others. While the measures were announced for a month on March 20, they have been extended by the markets regulator five times. On August 26. Sebi further extended the same and said the measures introduced on March 20, will continue to remain in force till September 24, 2020.

Earlier this month, the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI in its meeting noted, "While markets and fundamentals seldom do a tango, a disconnect between the two carry the risks of disruptive market corrections". The RBI Governor's comment, however, failed to dent investor sentiment and enthusiasm and the bench-

In March, the Securities and mark Sensex at BSE rose by over 1,000 points or 2.7 per cent since Das cautioned about a correction in the market.

Market participants say that regulators should avoid making direct statement on market levels. The head of a leading mutual fund said, "Generally, central bankers make slightly ambiguous statements where people have to read between the lines, but this comes as a hammer." The CEO of a leading financial

services firm also said that the RBI Governor's comment on market level is not consistent with the practice adopted by governors in the past. "The RBI governor could have avoided making that statement on market levels. He could have made a comment at a level which was at the top, but if the RBI Governor starts making a public comment on market levels, that is not a good precedent,' he said

VIPIN ANAND, Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), India's largest financial institution with total assets of Rs 31.96 lakh crore, spoke to GEORGE MATHEW about business during the Covid period, investments, listing and stock market profits.

in April and May due to severe lockdown but from June, things have started picking up. In fact, for the month of July, there was 34.77 per cent growth in premium yearon-year basis. LIC's market share in FYPI (first year premium income) has increased substantially. During the last FY2019-20, our market share as on March 31 was 68.92 per cent and as on July 31. 2020, the market share in FYPI is 71.49 per cent, which shows an increase of 257 basis points. As of July 2020, overall growth under individual FYPL is 2.77 per cent and we are confident that it will go upwards every month.

#### Under policies, we are in the negative but the volume is increasing month to month and we will be in a comfortable position soon on this count also.

#### Do you think the expected contraction in GDP growth and financial problems being faced by customers will affect LIC's business?

Certainly, all the sectors have linkage with GDP directly or indirectly. But being a marketing organisation, we have to find out opportunities all the times. On the one side, Covid has disrupted many sectors and economy to some extent, still few sectors are shining like anything ... for example, pharma, chemical etc.

For life insurance and health insurance sectors. Covid-19 has created huge awareness. We are experiencing that our renewal premium in numbers and amount is showing increasing trend. Individual new business premium is also increasing. Hence, we do not foresee any impact on our new business or re-



in the capital market and

Our premium income has

started increasing now ... hence, it

will not impact our investments

in the capital market as well as

government securities (G-Secs).

Already we have made huge in-

vestments in both the segments.

What was LIC's profit from sale

of shares in the stock market

in fiscal 2019-20 and till July

end? Has it declined in the

wake of the stock market

seller in the equities?

crash? Are you a net buyer or

Last year's profit was more

than Rs 25.000 crore and in the

current year it has already crossed

Rs 10,000 crore. Whatever and

wherever we invest, it is for long

term. We always try to find out

available best opportunities in the

market whether for selling or pur-

chasing. We don't calculate profits

on a daily or monthly basis. For a

layman, there may be crash in

stock market, whereas it is an op-

Do you think listing of LIC

shares on the stock exchanges

will happen in fiscal 2020-21?

All the decisions regarding list-

ing of LIC shares are taken by DI-

PAM, Ministry of Finance, Govern-

ment of India. However, from our

end, we are supplying all neces-

sarv information as and when re-

quired and there is lot of activity

from the government end also.

How is your preparation for

this? Is there any kind of

restructuring plan for LIC?

portunity for us.

G-Secthis year?

product in the current year? Are you looking at the health insurance segment including Covid-19?

Yes, in the month of March, we have launched two new ULIP product - NIVESH PLUS and LIC's SIIP. Recently, on August 25, we launched Jeevan Akshay VII. Some other products are in the pipeline.

#### restructuring and customer friendly measures in terms of digital facilities you have put in place to grow your business post-Covid? Has your online

customers managing things?

troduced in these Covid times. Now you can pay your premium by visiting our customer portal or directly on our website without any extra charges through your credit card and debit card. One can pay premium through various banks viz. any branch of IDBI Bank, Axis Bank, City Union Bank, any of 360,000 common service centres and online portals like AP online, MP online, Suvidha and through popular digital modes like Amazon Pay, Google Pay etc. You can also pay your premium through electronic debit using BILLPAY or NACH. You can pay it through our merchants (premium points, Life Plus offices) spread all across the country. Our

As far as collection of premium through digital mode is concerned, total number of transactions during current FY(till July 31, 2020) is a whopping Rs 5.81 crore, showing a growth of 65.44 per cent. In collection of amount, the growth is nearly 105 per cent. There is considerable growth under total renewal premium also. Premium growth in our online

new business is 130.93 per cent. Under online policies also, growth is 98.37 per cent as on July 31.

#### Have you seen more surrenders and defaults in premium payment?

In fact, it is the other way round ... with the rise in insurance awareness due to Covid-19, surrenders have substantially fallen.

#### **PFRDA** weighing minimum assured

Govt should not be running airports and airlines: Puri

#### PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE GOVERNMENT should not be running airports and airlines, Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Sunday, adding that he hopes to privatise Air India during 2020. His remarks come at a time when the Kerala government has opposed the Union Cabinet's nod to to lease out the Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani Enterprises.

Addressing a virtual meet on Namo app, Puri said, "I can tell you from my heart the government should not be running airports and the government should not be running airlines. On Air India's privatisation, he said, "As a going concern, one that is attractive to potential bidders, we should privatise it ... I am hopeful that we will be able to complete that privatisation process during this year."

#### payment modes to customers: I-T Dept tells banks ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU **63** KEY POINTS NEW DELHLAUGUST 30

TAKING A note of banks levying charges for digital payment modes such as Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and others, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has asked lenders to refund such fees collected from customers since January 1. "... based on Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, any charge including the MDR (merchant discount rate) shall not be applicable on or after 1st January, 2020 on

payment made through prescribed electronic modes," CBDT said in a circular "... representations have been

received that some banks are imposing and collecting charges on transactions carried out through UPI. A certain number of transactions are allowed free of charge beyond which every transaction bears a charge. Such practice on

2007) as well as section 269SU of the IT Act. Such breach attracts penal provisions ... banks are. therefore advised to immediately refund the charges collected, if any, on or after 1st January 2020 on transactions carried out using the electronic modes ...," the CBDT circular said.

Refund charges collected since Jan 1 on electronic

Finance Ministry sources said that action will be taken against those banks, which will collect any charges on payments made through electronic mode.

To encourage digital transactions and move towards a lesscash economy, the government inserted a new provision, Section 269SU, in the Finance Act, 2019.

The prevalent laws require a person carrying on business and having sales/turnover/gross receipts from business of more than Rs 50 crore in the immediately preceding previous year to mandatorily provide facilities for accepting payments through prescribed electronic modes. tion 10A of the PSS Act (Payment Subsequently, in December 2019, debit card powered by RuPay,

#### Unified Payments Interface (UPI) (BHIM-UPI), and Unified Payments Interface Quick Response Code (UPI QR Code) were notified as prescribed electronic modes.

Bombay published earlier this month showed that major private banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank had been levying charges on UPI payments in excess of 20 transactions every month.

With the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, modes of digital payment witnessed a boost as people moved away from cash payments to pre-

A technical report by IIT-

high of 149 crore transactions in July, with the value of transactions reaching Rs 2.91 lakh crore.

newal premium income. Instead, Are you planning any new Loan restructuring: FM to meet top

and Settlement Systems Act

### part of banks is a breach of sec-- BRIEFLY ------

COVID-19 IMPACT

vent physical contact. According to data published by the National Payments Corporation of India, which is the umbrella body for most cashless modes of payments, UPI-based payments clocked an all-time

Edited excerpts: Vipin Anand LIC's new business premium income has fallen in the Q1 of FY2021 and in July. When do we are hopeful that we will achieve growth on all the counts you see a recovery? There were serious difficulties once again as in last year. Will the decline in premium



New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net buyers in Indian capital markets in August so far, pumping in a massive Rs 47,334 crore on net basis as excess liquidity in the global markets and low interest rates drove money to emerging markets. PTI

# is showing increasing trend'

'Our market share has increased

substantially ... renewal premium

**INTERVIEW WITH MD, LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION** 

What are the overall income affect LIC's investment business gone up due to lockdown? How are

Many initiatives have been in-

own branches and SOs are also there to serve customers.

#### **MFinvestmentin** REITsup 3-fold in H12020

New Delhi: Emerging investment instrument real estate investment trust (REIT) seems to be finally catching investors' fancy with mutual funds(MFs)investingRs735 crore in such units in the first six months of 2020, nearly three-fold jump from the year-ago period.

#### 'GST Council needs to work out solution

New Delhi: The relation between the central government and the states is not that of 'giver and taker' and the (Goods and Services Tax) GST Council will have to work out a mid way solution for making good the GST collection shortfall keeping in mind the central government too is bearing huge revenue loss due to Covid-19, Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi said. PTI

#### 'Sunak planning sweeping tax hikes'

London: British Finance Minister Rishi Sunak is considering a sweeping set of tax increases to help fix the huge hole in the public finances left by the coronavirus pandemic, two newspapers said. Tax hikes suggested by Treasury officials could raise an extra 20-30 billion pounds a year, The Telegraph and The Sunday Times reported, and some of them could be announced in an autumn budget statement by Sunak. **REUTERS** 

### 'Fiscal deficit to touch 7% of GDP in FY21'

With revenue collections hit amid disruptions due to lockdowns, the fiscal deficit is likely to touch 7% of GDP in FY21 as against budget estimate of 3.5%, Brickwork Ratings said

#### VITAL DATA RELEASED BY CONTROLLER **GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS (CGA):**

**30.5%** Fall in revenue from 83.2% of budgeted target: Widening of income taxes (personal income tax fiscal deficit seen in and corporate income taxes) in O1 (April-June) of fiscal 2020-21

**34%:** Fall in revenue from GST during first quarter of the ongoing financial year

**13.1%:** Rise in expenditure due to additional spending incurred to save lives and livelihoods

### end of the third quarter the first quarter itself

Why this is important: Borrowings may further rise if contraction in economy is more severe than early estimates. As states too have been allowed additional borrowings amounting to 2% of GDP, the fiscal deficit could reach 12% of GDP

Economic pickup likely in Q3: Given early signs of resumption in business activity, revenue collections are expected to reach pre-Covid levels towards the

Fund shortage if situation prolongs: However, if the current situation prolongs further, the Centre may face acute burden of fund shortage to fulfil the budgeted expenditure

Source: Brickwork Ratings/PTI

### China's new tech export controls could give Beijing a say in TikTok sale

#### REUTERS

BEIJING/SHANGHAI, AUG 30

CHINA'S NEW rules around tech exports mean ByteDance's sale of TikTok's US operations could need Beijing's approval, a Chinese trade expert told state media, a requirement that would complicate the forced and politically charged divestment. ByteDance has been ordered by President Donald Trump to divest short video app TikTok in the United States amid security concerns over the personal data it handles. Microsoft Corp and Oracle

Corp are among the suitors for the assets, which also includes TikTok's Canada, New Zealand and Australia operations. However, China late on Friday

revised a list of technologies that are banned or restricted for export for the first time in 12 years. Cui

Microsoft and Oracle are among the suitors for TikTok's assets, but China late on Friday revised a list of technologies that are banned or restricted for export for the first time in 12 years

Fan, a professor of international trade at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, said the

changes would apply to TikTok. "If ByteDance plans to export related technologies, it should go through the licensing procedures," Cui said in an interview with Xinhua published Saturday.

China's Ministry of Commerce added 23 items – including technologies such as personal information push services based on data analysis and artificial intelligence interactive interface technology - to the restricted list. It can take up to 30 days to ob-

tain preliminary approval to export the technology.

"We are studying the new regulations that were released Friday. As with any cross-border transaction, we will follow the applicable laws, which in this case include those of the United States and China," ByteDance general counsel Erich Andersen said

TikTok's secret weapon is believed to be its recommendation engine that keeps users glued to their screens. This engine, or algorithm, powers TikTok's "For You" page, which recommends the next video to watch based on an analysis of your behaviour.

#### **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman will meet top executives of banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) on September 3 to review the implementation of the resolution framework for stress in bank loans, caused by the unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic.

The meeting comes ahead of the expected announcement of the KV Kamath-led panel's recommendations on eligibility parameters for the restructuring of loans to soften the blow to both borrowers and the lenders in the wake of the pandemic.

"The review will focus on enabling businesses and households to avail of the revival framework on the basis of viability, necessary

#### China's big banks brace for lagging Covid-19 risks as bad loans rise

FOUR OF China's five largest stateowned banks said they have increased their provisions against bad debt to brace for future losses due to the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic.

All five reported their biggest profit falls in at least a decade and an increase in soured loans when announcing their half-year results on Sunday and last week.

The results highlight the impact of the pandemic and the economic slowdown on Chinese banks that bucked the first-quarter global trend with higher profits and steady bad loans.

Non-performing loan ratios rose at the big five banks during the reporting period.



executives of banks, NBFCs on Sept 3

**Finance Minister Nirmala** Sitharaman File

steps like finalising bank policies and identifying borrowers, and discussing issues that require addressing for smooth and speedy implementation," a Finance Ministry statement said Sunday.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended a special window for lenders to recast stressed retail and corporate expire on Monday after six loans without classifying them as months. FE

return-based non-performing, provided that pension scheme they set aside 10 per cent provisions on such advances.

accounts will be finalised by

ternal processes to gauge the ex-

tent of the likely loan restructuring

exercise. For instance, Punjab

National Bank saw about 5-6 per

cent of its loan book. or between

₹36.000 crore and ₹43.000 crore.

getting recast in FY21, its manag-

ing director SS Mallikarjuna Rao

emerge after the Kamath panel

prescribes the contours of the re-

cast scheme, Rao added. The cur-

rent repayment moratorium will

Of course, a clearer picture will

Already, banks have started in-

September 6.

said last week.

PRESSTRUSTOFINDIA RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has said a resolution framework NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30 for Covid-19-related stressed

THE PENSION Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is working on a minimum assured return-based pension scheme, its Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay said.

The pension authority is in talks with pension funds and actuarial firms to work out the modalities of the proposed scheme, he said. "Under the PFRDA Act, we have the mandate to launch a minimum assured return scheme. Under pension fund (PF) schemes, the funds that are managed are mark-to-market. So obviously there is some volatility and the valuation is according to

the market movement.

### 'Massive data breach' reported at Paytm Mall; claims absolutely false, says company

#### **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

ALIBABA GROUP-FUNDED Paytm Mall has allegedly suffered a "massive data breach", global cybersecurity firm Cyble reported, with a known cybercrime group 'John Wick' gaining unrestricted access to the e-commerce firm's entire databases. The report also alleges that the hack "happened due to an insider at Paytm Mall". The company, however, denied any such hack or data breach.

"We would like to assure that all user, as well as company data, is completely safe and secure. We have noted and investigated the claims of a possible hack and data breach, and these are absolutely false. We invest heavily in our data security, as you would expect. We also have a Bug Bounty program, under which we reward respon-

rency ethereum, equivalent to "Our sources also \$4,000. "Our sources also forwarded

Cyble said in its report.

"The actor (John Wick) seems

to have a keen interest in the

Indian companies, and this is

likely due to the high degree of his

success rate in receiving ransom

payments. Based on their attack

patterns, one thing which stands

out is that the group targets tech-

based companies the most – and

demand ransom by sending them

emails on their support channels

forwarded us the messages where the us the messages where the perperpetrator also claimed petrator also claimed they are rethey are receiving the ceiving the ransom payment from ransom payment from the Paytm Mall as well. Leaking data when failing to meet hackers the Paytm Mall as well ... demands is a known technique At this stage, we are deployed by various cybercrime unaware that the ransom groups, including ransomware was paid.' operators. At this stage, we are unaware that the ransom was paid,"

CYBLE GLOBAL CYBERSECURITY FIRM

sible disclosure of any security risks. We extensively work with the security research community and safely resolve security anomalies," a Paytm Mall spokesperson told The Indian Express.

Even as the volume of compromised data is unknown, Cyble claimed that attackers have demanded 10 ETH, or cryptocur-

New Delhi

etc," Cyble added.















REUTERS BEIJING/SHANGHAI, AUG 30

# THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020 14 SPORT

#### MORGAN, MALAN SEAL ENGLAND'S CHASE

Eoin Morgan and Dawid Malan struck half-centuries as England chased down 196 against Pakistan at Old Trafford to register a 5-wicket win in the second match of the T20 series.

BRIEF SCORES: England 199-5 (19.1 overs) Eoin Morgan 66(33), David Malan 54\*(36), Shadab Khan 3-34 beat Pakistan 195-4 (20 overs) by 5 wickets.

# CHESS OLYMPIAD India, Russia share honours after tech failure Why the celebrations need to be measured

Server crash reaffirms that online chess is only a practical alternative, not a foolproof solution

#### SANDIPG & SHASHANK NAIR NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A SERVER outage resulted in India and Russia sharing the trophy in the FIDE online Chess Olympiad on Sunday, Nihal Sarin and Divya Deshmukh were initially deemed to have lost their matches on the basis of time running out, after the internet connection faltered. Both Indians were holding good positions in their contests. However, a little while later, the International Chess Federation decreed that the two teams be declared joint winners.

The eventual decision came as a relief to the Indians, because when the server crashed and the screens went still, panic had set in amidst the contingent, scattered across different parts of the country. "I did not know what was happening. No one knew how to deal with the situation," non-playing skipper Narayanan Srinath told official website chessbase.com in the postmatch interview before the final verdict had been announced.

When the internet connection went haywire, there was a sense of shock and disbelief. For they were on the brink of a historic victory. After a deadlocked first round, Sarin and Deshmukh, both in the junior category, were enjoying the ascendancy over their Russian opponents, Andrei Esipenko and Polina Shuvalova. Deshmukh had laid a difficult trap for Shuvalova while Sarin was assured of at least a draw against Esipenko. Koneru Humpy, who had lost 18 seconds of her match, had just earned a precious win. Their world was suddenly falling apart. Srinath, though, had the presence of mind to consult the arbiter, who told him to wait for 15 minutes. "How could I? I was impatient and my head was spinning. But in that time, we had a brief one paragraph ready so that we could lodge the complaint at the earliest."

The next 30-odd minutes might have felt like 30 hours. R Praggnanandhaa, sitting in his house in a Chennai suburb, felt his heart sink. He sister R Vaishali was at a loss of words. Miles away, in Thrissur, Sarin twitched and twirled restlessly on his chair, unable to grasp the situation. the usually sanguine Viswanathan Anand said he could feel sweat dripping on his brow. "There was so much tension around that I didn't know how to react," said Praggnanandhaa, who had drawn his match against Alexey Sarana, a contest he felt he should have won.

The Indians nursed little hope, as FIDE had been stern with the implementation of the internet-outage rule, which states that it's players' prerogative to ensure stable internet connectivity. A few days ago, in the quarterfinal against Armenia, India had an internet disruption working in their favour, though in their group game against Mongolia, they had to settle for a draw after the connection went kaput.

So, the strain of pessimism was not unfounded. "I was not hopeful (that FIDE would overturn the decision)," admitted Srinath.

The eventual result came as a pleasant surprise for the Indian team. Anand's tweet summed up the bitter-sweetness of the feeling aptly: "We are the champions. Congrats Russia!" Humpy felt it was strange. "Well, it is a bit strange that we lost due to server failure and our appeal was accepted. Well I can say, we fought till the end," she tweeted.

Meanwhile, the Twitter world frenziedly celebrated India's triumph, especially the contribution of youngsters. "The silver lining is how the youngsters have performed under pressure. It's a great sign for the country," said Grandmaster RB Ramesh, who felt the internet outage was unfortunate but sharing gold was a sensible way of dealing with the setback.

It was a deliberate ploy to field back-up and younger players in the Indian team. For instance, Anand let Vidit Gujrathi open the first round against Ian Nepomniachtchi. He also let Pentala Harikrishna a game in the first because he had a match in the Polish league lined up later in the day. "We always ensured that it was not just the top four who always got the game. We were keen to use the bench and provide them with good exposure. Sometimes, we overlook the juniors," Anand said in an interview to chess*base.com.* Looking at the bigger picture, the server blackout was a reminder that online chess is only a practical alternative in difficult times, not a failsafe solution for the future. The popularity of the sport has boomed online due to the pandemic-enforced standstill, but the online platform can't be the future of the game.

SANDIPG AUGUST 30

> INDIA'S FIRST-EVER entry into the final of the Chess Olympiad is surely an attestation to its rising stature at international level. But caveats accompany the glory. The feat is surely historic, but India is still far from matching the performance of the chess super powers such as Russia, China, or the USA.

#### What's the relevance of Chess Olympiad?

The biennial Chess Olympiad, the world's pre-eminent team tournament, is to the game what Davis Cup is to tennis, a celebration of team spirit. But like its tennis equivalent, the Chess Olympiad isn't considered the pinnacle of greatness in the game. Rather, it's an attestation of a country's depth in talent — it's an irony that Norway is barely a force despite boasting world champion Magnus Carlsen. World No. 5 Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France or Anish Giri of the Netherlands did not reach the knockouts. Also missing were the American pair of Fabiano Caruana and Hikaru Nakamura, ranked No. 2 and No. 18 respectively in the world.

In the past, Viswanathan Anand has skipped the Olympiad to focus on the World Championship. For these reasons – chess, like tennis, is primarily an individual pursuit – the Olympiad doesn't carry the same lustre as a World Championship or the Candidates. In the past, chess greats have prioritised Linares and Tata Steel to the Chess Olympiad.

With 163 teams in the fray, it's the largest chess tournament in the world, but not the biggest. The game itself has intrinsically celebrated individual glory more than team triumphs. The only time when the chess Olympiad was keenly followed was during the peak of the Cold War. Not surprisingly, the USSR have won it the most frequently (18 times), and even after its splintering, Russia have claimed the gold medal on six instances. Erstwhile Soviet states like Armenia and Ukraine have managed to breach Russia's monopoly in the last few years.

What is the format of the Olympiad? The sheer number of participants in an



R Praggnanandhaa overwhelmed China's Yan Liu in the junior segment. Express

Olympiad makes only the rapid-format EXPLAINED viable. The classical format will be too long drawn out, while the blitz feels inadequate for a tournament labelled as "Olympiad". The format has further reduced this term due to the online mode of participation — it is played over 15 minutes, and with a five-second increment per move, as opposed to 25 plus 10 in the earlier editions.

It has also made structural changes - such as norms that at least half of the team should comprise female and junior players. Until this year, it was usually the four best players plus a reserve. FIDE's rationale is that it brought more diversity, although it irked several teams which had a disproportionate gender ratio like the USA and Iran. So in effect, the Olympiad has juxtaposed the usual Olympiad, a women's Olympiad, and a youth Olympiad, which the chess world feels has diluted the competence level of the tournament.

The addition of the junior segment benefited India when they encountered China. The ultra-tough contests between the senior men and women ended in draws. But India's juniors proved they are better than China's, as R Praggnanandhaa overwhelmed Yan Liu and

Divva Deshmukh sneaked past liner Zhu to hand India a 4-2 win.

#### How should you put India's dream run in perspective?

This is an ideal time for a reality check. Although five-time World Champion Anand did trigger a chess boom in the country throughout the 90s and the noughties, no Indian player has looked good enough to be called a fitting successor. There have been glimpses of talent, but none with the world-beating potential of Anand - which only enlarges the halo around him.

WGMs Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli endured mixed tournaments - they were solid against China but cracked under the relentless aggression of the Armenians. There, though, is hope for the future, as both Praggnanandhaa (who lost just one of his games) and Deshmukh have put in strong performances. So has Nihal Sarin, who has been in fine form.

> India has enjoyed slices of luck as well - for example, in the quarterfinal against a formidable Armenia. Haik Martirosvan lost Net connectivity and lost time when he was to make his 69th move against Nihal Sarin. The FIDE sternly states that if

a player's Internet connectivity is lost, for two minutes or less, they will not only lose the match, but also be banned from the tournament. Armenia appealed to FIDE on Sarin's win, but it was rejected.

At the time Martirosyan lost connection, the match was on a knife's edge. An angry Levon Aronian tweeted:"In our match against India Haik Martirosyan lost on time due to disconnection from http://chess.com. We proved that our connection was stable. It was a problem with access to http://chess.com, not on our side. All we asked for was to continue that game from the same position and same time. Is it too much to ask?'

So, rather than seeing the achievement as a definitive sign of India's emergence as a chess powerhouse it would be helpful to see it as an indicator of the potential. The result could thus be a catalyst to the end result.

### 'Messi can only leave Barcelona if \$833m release clause is paid<sup>2</sup>

#### REUTERS AUGUST 30

LA LIGA ON Sunday released a statement saying Lionel Messi's Barcelona contract was still valid, days after his shock announcement that he wants to leave the club and hours after he failed to attend a pre-season medical.

Messi's failure to show for his medical underlined the 33-year-old's determination to leave the club he has been with throughout his career. The six-times world player of the year insists he has a clause in his contract that allows him to leave on a free transfer - a claim disputed by Barcelona and now by La Liga.

The ruling body said the only way a club can sign the Argentine forward is if he triggers a release clause of 700-million euros (\$833 million). "In compliance with the applicable rule, La Liga will not approve a request to be de-registered as a player with the Spanish football federation, unless the amount in the release clause has been paid," La Liga said.

Reuters footage showed players arriving for coronavirus tests on Sunday morning and Messi did not appear. He had been due at Barcelona's training ground at 10.15 am local time but a club source confirmed to Reuters he had not arrived. La Liga's stance is a blow to Messi's hopes of a quick departure and to those clubs wishing to sign him. Premier League Manchester City are the favourites which would allow Messi to link up with his former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola but even the Abu Dhabi-owned club might find a 700 million-euro fee, plus Messi's huge salary, a deal-breaker.

Messi, who has won more than 30 major trophies with the Spanish club and scored more than 600 goals, earns around one million euros per week.

He informed Barca on Tuesday he wished to leave immediately, plunging the club into new turmoil less than two weeks after their humiliating 8-2 Champions League quarter-final defeat by Bayern Munich. Messi's lawyers plan to invoke a clause in his four-year contract, signed in 2017, which would have allowed the forward to leave the club for free if he had requested it by June 10.





DOWN

3

4

5

6

7

wives(5)

agitation(6)

(5.3.3)

The prospects for battered

All there when I enter in some

Foster may run true to form

13 Period added to the end of a

sentence(4,4)

solution?(7)

20 Go astray or slip(5)

ability(6)

concern(4)

15 Can I provide a friendly

17 Charm, finish and musical

21 Brand new money making

Diligence with which one may

Knotty marine hazard

Return to harvest fruit

#### ACROSS

- Concerning demeanour, inclined to be imperious (11)
- Contemporary gift (7)
- 10 About time to go out OK? (5)
- 11 After all, a cobbler needs one
- 12 Offer for money (8) 14 Its members show
- appreciation for money (6)
- seek a job(11) A style we had remodelled 16 Undiscovered talent 8 acts as a guide
- developed (6) 18 Youth with no head for
- multiplication(8)
- 19 Satisfied with a quarter measure(4)
- 22 Go round the globe on it
- 23 When free, retire to a foreign country(7)
- 24 Well, it shouldn't be high (11)

Solutions Crossword 4210 Across: 1 Superb, 4 Chessman, 9 Icicle, 10 War dance, 12 East, 13 Wants, 14 Nail, 17 Ugly customer, 20 Counterclaim, 23 Anon, 24 Spare, 25 Peri, 28 Pedestal, 29 Mozart, 30 Departed, 31 Victor. **Down:** 1 Spiteful, 2 Plimsoll, 3 Rule, 5 Heart-to-heart, 6 Side, 7 Menial, 8 Needle, 11 Passing phase, 15 Scoop, 16 Fence, 18 Take part, 19 Embitter, 21 Tapped, 22 Hold up, 26 User, 27 Gobi.

#### **JUMBLED WORDS**









# G **SOLUTION SUDOKU 421**



This is not an astounding day from

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) One very interesting and rare

the planetary point of view, which means that you may set your own course. One word of advice is to allow yourself as much

time as you need for the occasional quiet day-dream And soon, of course, you'll spring into action, surprising everyone.

WE COULD MOSEV

YOU'RE WONDERING

HOW YOU CAN

ROSSIBLY THANK

ME ENOUGH .

OVER TO THE

KITCHEN IF

HEY, THAT'S

IDEA! HOBBES

YOU'RE A

LIFESAVER !

IF I SAY "NO," ARE YOU GOING

BABY?

TO SUGGEST WE HAVE ANOTHER

A GREAT

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The social dimensior is important. indicating that, even in matters in which vou've previously done auite well by yourself, you should now consider asking for help. In the final analysis you might need no more than moral support. You may be able to achieve everything else by yourself.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

with a healthy portion of

often served best if you do

what's best for others. But,

then, life's strange like

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

that sometimes

absolutely clear

idealism. The plain fact is that,

for some reason, self-interest is

You may give first

ambitions, but make

sure they're mixed

Pleasant emotional

influences should

especially if

domestic duties are spiralling

out of control. However, there

are few indications of worldly

powerful suggestions that you

stress today, and many

can sail off into a private

dream world.

place to worldly

possibility of great generosity. It is, however, unclear as to whether you will be parting with your money or receiving someone else's support. The first option would seem more likely. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) There are ways and means in which

planetary aspect

reveals the

friends can be of great help. In fact, there is one person who could be more helpful than you ever thought possible. It may be time to ask others to tell you the truth, no matter how uncomfortable. You will know what to do when you get the message.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

For some of you it will be pleasant to stav at home, safe within the domestic womb. For others, it will be money that's important and, if you're in the housing market or otherwise dealing with property, events could move in a highly satisfactory direction.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21- Feb 19)

Sometimes your life is just not your own! Partners will demand your attention even more than in the past. However, if you can manage to make a subtle shift in your perceptions, you should start to pay less attention to loved ones' words - and more to their actions.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Money can buy your dreams, but only to a certain extent. This is why it will help if you continue to be as practical as you have learnt to be so far this year. You are living in this world of the here-and-now. not in some other mysterious dimension.

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Genius

NOW



New Delhi



help you chill out. In plain English this means that you may relax and count your blessings. On a purely superficial level, you can sort out legal affairs and travel plans, and make sure that the relevant instructions are VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) You may pay a little extra attention to ioint finances.