

TWO SUICIDE BOMBERS TARGET AIRPORT GATE

12 US troops among those killed in blasts near Kabul airport; Taliban witness, ISIS-K suspect

Airlift in chaos; India condemns attack, says stand against terror, its sanctuaries

SAYED ZIARMAL HASHEMI, LOLITAC BALDOR & JOSEPH KRAUSS
KABUL, AUGUST 26

AT LEAST 12 US service members — 11 Marines and a Navy medic — were among several killed Thursday after two suicide bombers and gunmen attacked crowds of Afghans flocking to Kabul's airport, transforming a scene of desperation into one of horror in the waning days of an airlift for those fleeing the Taliban takeover.

Russian officials and aid workers said at least 13 people were killed and dozens wounded.

One of the bombers struck people standing knee-deep in a wastewater canal under the sweltering sun, throwing bodies into the fetid water. Those who moments earlier had hoped to get on flights out could be seen carrying the wounded to ambulances in a daze, their own clothes darkened with blood.

A US official said the complex attack was believed to have been carried out by the Islamic State group. The IS affiliate in Afghanistan — Islamic State (Khorasan) — is far more radical than the Taliban, who recently took control of the country in a lightning blitz and condemned the attack.

Western officials had warned of a major attack, urging people to leave the airport, but that advice went largely unheeded by Afghans desperate to escape the country in the last few days of an American-led evacuation before the US officially ends its 20-year presence on August 31.

Russia's Foreign Ministry gave the first official casualty count, but the numbers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



One of the people injured in the two blasts outside Kabul international airport on Thursday being brought to hospital. *The New York Times*

Waiting, watching, says Govt as Opp seeks clarity on its Taliban strategy

SHUBHAJIT ROY & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THE GOVERNMENT is adopting a "wait-and-watch" approach in dealing with the Taliban, depending on the evolving situation, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is committed to have said on Thursday while briefing all-party leaders on the Afghanistan situation.

Describing the situation as "critical", he said the government is committed to "full evacuation" of Indians.

The Congress is learnt to have questioned the government on



After the meeting in Delhi Thursday. *Tashi Tobgyal*

its strategy vis-a-vis the Taliban, asking whether it would engage with the Taliban. Sources in the Congress said the government's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE WORLD



COUNTRIES STOP EVACUATIONS AMID RISING THREATS

DISPLACED FAMILIES SEEK FOOD AND SHELTER IN KABUL
PAGE 14

EXPLAINED

ISIS: WHO, WHAT IN AFGHANISTAN
PAGE 15

Afghan MP deportation an error, says Govt, offers her an emergency visa

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THE GOVERNMENT Thursday said the deportation of a woman member of Afghan parliament from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on August 20 — it was reported by *The Indian Express* — was an inadvertent error.

It also reached out to Rangina Kargar, member of the Wolesi Jirga representing the Faryab province, and "apologised" for what had happened. It asked her to apply for an emergency visa.

The issue was raised at an all-



Express reported the Aug 20 deportation of Kargar

party meeting convened by the government to brief leaders on the situation in Kargar.

The *Indian Express* reported Thursday that Kargar arrived at the IGI Airport early August 20 from Istanbul on a Fly Dubai flight. Although she was carrying a diplomatic/official passport which facilitates visa-free travel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Vaccine milestone reached: 50% have got at least one dose

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

INDIA ON Thursday completed administering at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to half its eligible adult population, as it crossed 61.10 crore cumulative vaccinations across the country.

According to the government, based on the projected mid-year count for 2020, the total population of the country aged 18 years and above is approximately 94 crore. On Thursday, India completed administering 47.29 crore first doses — which is 50.30 per cent of this projected adult population.

Daily vaccinations have so far averaged 52.16 lakh doses in August, compared to 43.41 lakh doses administered in July.

According to the Health Ministry, 50 per cent of the population above the age of 18 has

EXPLAINED

Significant protection

50 PER CENT single dose coverage of the adult population has significant public health implications: it means a significant percentage of the population has a certain level of protection against the infection. The Health Ministry has asked states to focus on enhancing second dose coverage.

received the first dose, and 15 per cent is fully vaccinated.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Despite SC freeze, 7 Uttarakhand projects get ok, 1 flash-flood hit

JAY MAZOOMDAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

EIGHT YEARS after the Supreme Court imposed a moratorium on clearing hydro-electric projects in Uttarakhand following a flash flood that killed over 5,000 people in June 2013, the Union ministers of Environment, Power and Jal Shakti have reached a consensus on allowing construction of seven hydel projects on the Ganga and its tributaries in the state.

The consensus was conveyed in a consolidated affidavit placed in the Supreme Court on August 17 by the Environment Ministry.

On the list is NTPC's 4x130 MW Tapovan Vishnugad project which was ravaged by a flash flood in the Dhauliganga river in Chamoli district in February this year. The others are the 1000 MW Tehri Stage II, 444 MW Vishnugad Pipalkote, 99 MW

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Tapovan power project in Chamoli. *File*

GIVEN THE GREEN SIGNAL

- Tehri Stage II
- Tapovan Vishnugad
- Vishnugad Pipalkote
- Singoli Bhatwari
- Phata Buyong
- Madmaheshwar
- Kaliganga-I

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By UNNY



ENGINEERING EDUCATION

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Anti-conversion law: HC says no, Gujarat argues fighting jihadis

ENS & PTI
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 26

HOURS AFTER the Gujarat High Court turned down the state government's plea seeking rectification of its recent order in which it stayed Section 5 of the amended anti-conversion law, Pradipsinh Jadeja, state home and law minister, said on Thursday that the "anti-love jihad law" was brought in "as a weapon to destroy the jihadi forces that abuse our daughters". He said the state government would challenge the HC order in the Supreme Court.

Section 5 states that religious priests must take prior permission from the district magistrate for converting any person.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Talib as Taliban: a slip grounds cricket team

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 26

IT WON the match decisively, but long after the last ball was bowled, a silly point is threatening to trip a cricket team from a village in Jaisalmer. While its score was being uploaded on an app, it was discovered that an autocorrect had changed the name of the team from Talib Cricket Club to Taliban Cricket Club. In the four days since, with



As protesters seek action, police say no foul play, only an autocorrect. *Express*

pressure from right-wing outfits accusing the team of being "inspired by the Taliban ideology", Talib Cricket Club has been

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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ACROSS KERALA, ANGER AGAINST COPS WHO SLAP HEFTY FINES FOR COVID-19 PROTOCOL VIOLATIONS

Kerala & Covid-19 - Part 4: In the fourth part of the series, a look at the police 'excesses' on the streets of the state that have provoked unprecedented anger among the public



ENTERTAINMENT SAMANTHA AKKINENI ON 'THE FAMILY MAN' ROLE

Says, it was 'scary, risky' for her. 'Thought it would flop badly or...'



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Rane's arrest, National Monetisation Pipeline, and post Onam surge

In today's episode, we talk about Union Minister Narayan Rane's remark that led to his arrest, how the government plans to monetize brownfield assets, and Covid-19 surge in Kerala post Onam

FROM PAGE ONE

First Covid shot

Official data show 99 per cent of healthcare workers have received their first shot, and 83 per cent are fully vaccinated.

While single-dose vaccination cover is well above the national average in smaller states like Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Goa, the four big states — Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and West Bengal — are yet to achieve 50 per cent

single dose vaccination cover. ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava underlined again on Thursday that vaccines do not prevent the disease but reduce its severity and hospitalisation — and that wearing masks should continue to remain the priority.

Only fully vaccinated people should attend social gatherings, Dr Bhargava said. "The second wave is still on in India. In some states, an upsurge is being observed in a few districts. We have 41 districts with a weekly positivity rate of 10 per cent; and 27 districts with a weekly positivity rate between 5 per cent and 10 per cent. The population density is causing the spread — wherever Covid-19 appropriate is not being observed, we are seeing a surge of cases," he said.

"We know that these vaccines are disease-modifying vaccines; they are not disease-preventing vaccines. Therefore, it is very important to continue to use the mask even after vaccination of one or two doses. Vaccines reduce disease severity, reduce the possibility of hospitalisation, and also avoid death to tune of 98-99 per cent. Mass gatherings have to be discour-

aged; and if attending or gathering is critical, full vaccination should be the prerequisite," Dr Bhargava said.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, while flagging the passing of the milestone 50 per cent single-dose vaccination cover on Thursday, also said that the second wave was still on, and that strict adherence to Covid-19 norms in the next two months, when major festivals will be celebrated, would be crucial in containing a possible new surge.

India launched its vaccination drive on January 16, prioritising healthcare and frontline workers. As of Thursday, 1.03 crore healthcare workers had received their first dose, and 82 lakh had received both their doses.

A total 1.8 crore frontline workers had received their first dose; 1.28 crore the second dose as well.

With Kerala continuing to report a surge, contributing more than 50 per cent of active cases in the country, the Centre on Thursday said the state was the only one in the country with more than 1 lakh active cases.

Taliban strategy

response was "wishy-washy". Responding to a similar question while speaking to reporters after the meeting, Jaishankar said: "Let the situation settle... You will have to keep patience on the question of our future policy."

"Our immediate concern and task is evacuation and long term interest is friendship for the

Afghan people," he tweeted.

According to data shared by the government, 565 people have been evacuated so far: 175 embassy personnel, 263 other Indian nationals, 112 Afghan nationals including Hindus and Sikhs, and 15 third country nationals.

Sources said Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge asked if any Indians would still be stranded in Afghanistan after August 31, and what was the strategy to evacuate them. Asked how many Indians still remain in Afghanistan, the government said it did not have a specific number, sources said.

At the meeting, which lasted for about three-and-a-half-hours, the Congress questioned the government's "wait-and-watch approach" and "relative silence" on the new regime, and also expressed concern about New Delhi's marginalisation in the Afghan talks and isolation from traditional allies in the region.

Citing Pakistan's support to the Taliban, many Opposition leaders expressed concern about the impact on regional security, and asked the government to take strong counter-terrorism measures and shore up defences in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Congress, in this context, demanded restoration of the political process as also full statehood for J&K.

Almost all the leaders, sources said, asked the govern-

ment to ensure the evacuation of all Indians and support, financially and otherwise, Afghan students in India.

Many asked the government to explain its evacuation strategy post-August 31.

The Congress was represented by Kharge, Deputy Leader Anand Sharma and Congress Leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. NCP leader Sharad Pawar, DMK's T R Baalu, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, BJD's Prasanna Acharya and Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy were among the others present.

INPUTS: LIZ MATHEW

Kabul blasts

continued to grow. Emergency, an Italian charity that operates hospitals in Afghanistan, said it had received 60 patients wounded in the airport attack, in addition to 10 who were dead when they arrived.

"Surgeons will be working into the night," said Marco Puntin, the charity's manager in Afghanistan. The wounded overflowed the triage zone into the physiotherapy area and more beds were being added, he said.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby also confirmed the blasts and said there were casualties, including among members of the military, but gave no figure. He said one explosion was near an airport entrance and another was a short distance away by a hotel.

One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing military operations, said several Marines were killed. (ENS adds from New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, said: "India strongly condemns the bomb blasts in Kabul today. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of this terrorist attack. Our thoughts and prayers also go out to the injured. Today's attacks reinforce the need for the world to stand unitedly against terrorism and all those who provide sanctuaries to terrorists.")

American officials have said that information is still coming in and they are trying to determine exact numbers of casualties.

Even as the area was hit, evacuation flights continued to take off from Kabul airport.

Adam Khan was waiting nearby when he saw the first explosion outside what's known as the Abbey gate. He said several people appeared to have been killed or wounded, including some who were maimed.

The second blast was at or near Baron Hotel, where many people, including Afghans, Britons and Americans, were told to gather in recent days before heading to the airport for evacuation.

A former Royal Marine, who runs an animal shelter in Afghanistan, says he and his staff were caught up in the aftermath of the blast near the airport.

"All of a sudden we heard gunshots and our vehicle was targeted, had our driver not turned around he would have been shot in the head by a man with an AK-47," Paul "Pen" Farthing told Britain's Press Association news agency.

Farthing is trying to get staff of his Nowzad charity out of Afghanistan, along with the group's rescued animals.

Already, some countries have ended their evacuations and begun to withdraw their soldiers and diplomats, signalling the beginning of the end of one of history's largest airlifts. The Taliban have insisted foreign troops must be out by America's self-imposed deadline of August 31 — and the evacuations must end then, too.

In Washington, US President Joe Biden spent much of the morning in the secure White House Situation Room where he was briefed on the explosions and conferred with his national security team and commanders on the ground in Kabul. — AP

Afghan MP

under a reciprocal arrangement with India, she was sent back by the same airline to Istanbul via Dubai after being made to wait at the airport.

Sources said Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Anand Sharma and Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury raised the issue at the all-party meeting.

"Why did the MEA take such a measure against a veteran politician from Afghanistan who frequently travels to India and holds a diplomatic passport?" the leaders asked External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

Sources said the government side replied that it was an unintended mistake because there was "panic" after reports that some passports with Indian visas had been taken away by the Taliban. An alert too had been sounded.

Kharge later told reporters: "We raised the issue of deportation of the woman MP. He (Jaishankar) said it was a mistake and such an incident will not happen in future. They (government) regretted it."

The government also reached out to Kargar. "JP Singh (Joint Secretary in-charge of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran in the MEA) spoke to me. He apologised for what had happened and asked me to apply for an e-emergency visa. I asked him if the official passport is no longer valid, but he did not answer. I told him I had tried for an e-visa for my daughter on (August) 19 but there was no response to the application," Kargar told The Indian Express.

She said she waited 16 hours at the Delhi airport on August 20, from 6 am to 10 pm, before she was put on a flight back to Istanbul via Dubai.

Ahead of the all-party meeting, Congress MP Manish Tewari, while tweeting The Indian Express report, said he hoped that the External Affairs Minister would explain at the meeting why the Afghan MP was deported despite having valid travel documents.

"When we need to be seen standing with the women of Afghanistan we seem to be standing against them. SAD," he posted on Twitter.

Kargar had a doctor's appointment at a South Delhi hospital on the day of her arrival, and had an August 22 return ticket for Istanbul. She was travelling alone while her husband Fahim and four children were in Istanbul.

Fahim Kargar is chief of staff in the Wollesjirga, and the family arrived in Istanbul at the end of July. A Turkmen born in Mazar-e-Sharif in 1985, she is not affiliated to any political party and describes herself as a women's rights activist.

7 hydel projects

Singoli Bhatwari, 76 MW Phata Buyong, 15 MW Madmaheshwar and 4.5 MW Kaliganga-II.

If accepted by the Supreme Court, this may pave the way for several other hydel projects in the state because these seven projects "form part of 26 projects recommended... for implementation, duly incorporating certain improvements/suggestions" by the latest expert committee constituted in the case by the Environment ministry.

Ever since the Supreme Court moratorium in August 2013, the Environment ministry has formed several experts panels and switched its position from accepting the first expert committee's report that blamed dams for exacerbating the 2013 disaster to backing the latest expert committee's conclusion that 26 hydel projects could go ahead with certain design modifications.

This is the chequered time-

line case.

■ 2009: Uttarakhand drafted its Vision 2020 statement on the theme of "Pahad Ka Pani, Pahad Ki Jawani".

■ 2012: A report by Wildlife Institute of India (WII) opposed 24 proposed dams to safeguard the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi basins. Another by IIT-Roorkee said a string of measures could reduce the impact.

■ 2013: Taking suo motu cognizance of the Kedarnath disaster and its impact downstream, the SC stopped clearance of hydel projects, and asked the Environment ministry to form an Expert Body (EB) to assess the role of "mushrooming of hydropower projects" in escalating the impact of the flash floods.

■ 2014: In April, the EB, led by environmentalist Ravi Chopra, submitted its report, which agreed with the WII's recommendation.

In December, the Environment ministry's affidavit accepted EB's findings that hydel projects exacerbated the disaster both directly (by blockage) and indirectly (by ecological damage).

The SC lifted the statewide ban, putting on hold only the 24 projects in question until policies finalised.

Six hydel developers joined the case, pleading that their proposed projects be allowed to go ahead since they already had clearances. The SC directed the ministry to set up another committee to consider these six projects.

■ 2015: In February, a four-member committee, under Vinod Tare of IIT-Kanpur, acknowledged that the six projects had necessary clearances, but warned that the proposed dams could have a serious impact on the region's ecology.

The Environment ministry, however, presented before the court only the fact that the six projects had all clearances.

Following media reports, the SC asked for the entire report. Unfazed, the ministry decided, in May 2015, to form yet another committee, under the chairmanship of B P Das, who, as vice-chairman of the ministry's expert appraisal committee, had earlier cleared three of these six projects.

In October 2015, the ministry told the SC that the Das committee recommended all six projects, but it would still consult the other stakeholder ministries. The fate of these six projects remain undecided.

■ 2016: In January, the Environment proposed a policy decision — based on a 1916 agreement between Madan Mohan Malviya and the colonial government — to allow any hydel project that releases at least 1,000 cusecs of water into the Ganga.

Uma Bharti, then minister for Ganga Rejuvenation, objected to this submission made without reaching a policy consensus. The SC asked the ministries to file their own affidavits. In May 2016, the Power ministry backed the Environment but the Jal Shakti ministry opposed it.

■ 2017: In November, Uttarakhand underlined the criticality of hydropower for its socio-economic development.

■ 2018: In January, the Power ministry supported Uttarakhand's stand.

■ 2019: In January, Jal Shakti ministry agreed to back seven projects "which already made substantial progress and sizable investment" with the caveat that no more hydel projects should be allowed in the Ganga basin in Uttarakhand.

In February, a meeting in PMO recommended a permanent ban on new hydro-electric projects in the Ganga basin in Uttarakhand, seeking to stop work on projects where con-

struction had not reached the halfway mark, and compensate the state.

■ 2020: In March, Das committee filed the final report. In August, Uttarakhand sought "recommencement of hydro power development".

■ 2021: In February, a flash flood hit two hydel projects in Chamoli. In August, the government backed seven projects, including the one damaged in February.

Gujarat minister

The person who gets converted also needs to "send an intimation" to the district magistrate in a prescribed form. Jadeja said Section 5 forms the "core" of the anti-conversion law.

"We are moving ahead with firm determination to protect women of all religions, including Hindus. With firm willpower, we have raised the weapon of law on love jihad to fight jihadi elements abusing girls. The Gujarat government has brought the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act with the noble intention of checking fraudulent marriages and betrayal of women done by assuming fake Hindu identity, symbols and allurements," Jadeja said in a statement.

He said the anti-conversion law was "not a political agenda, but a conscientious attempt by the state government to create a system to protect girls". He said some opponents had "wrongly interpreted" it and moved the HC.

On August 19, a Division Bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Biren Vaishnav stayed Section 5 and seven other sections, mostly related to interfering marriages, pending further hearing. These "shall not operate merely because a marriage is solemnised by a person of one religion with a person of another religion without force or by allurement or by fraudulent means and such marriages cannot be termed as marriages for the purposes of unlawful conversion," it said.

The Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 was notified by the BJP-led state government on June 15.

Talib as Taliban

suspended from the tournament, where it registered its win, and calls are being made for action against its members.

The tournament — Marhum Adhyaksh Alladin Smriti Cricket Pratiyogita — in Jaisalmer's Jesurana village, was held in the memory of a late social worker, and had 25 teams participating.

On August 22, Talib Cricket Club beat Dabla XI by 5 wickets.

Says captain Kamal Khan, 23, "Each year, a team from our village Choudhriya takes part in the tournament. At first our team was called Choudhriya 11, but we decided to name it after Talib Khan, a relative of mine who passed away some years ago. While entering the name in the cricket scoring app, Talib got changed due to autocorrect to Taliban. We didn't notice it. It was only discovered when the Man of the Match award was being presented."

As videos of the scorecard spread over social media, Khan says he was summoned to the police station. "I told them everything and also tendered an apology," says Khan, who also expressed regret over his remarks on social media.

The district police confirmed to The Indian Express that it was an inadvertent mistake. It was only discovered when the Man of the Match award was being presented.

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FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

CORRECTION

ON 26.08.21, PAGE 11

In the article, 'Slipping on Palm Oil', Indonesia's rainforest loss in 2020 was mentioned as 1.15,495 million hectares of forest cover. It should be 1.15,495 hectares of forest cover. The article further mentions that "from 2002-18, Indonesia lost 91,54,000 million hectares of its primary forest cover". This should be 91,54,000 hectares. The error is regretted.

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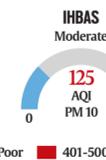
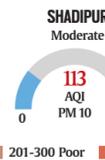
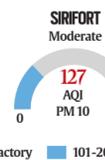
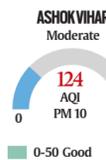
Calendar of events: (1) The tender document may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 27.08.2021. (2) Pre bid for 2 cover tender meeting will be held on 31.08.2021 at 11:00 a.m. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Dasarahalli Zone, BBMP. (3) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 4:00 p.m. on 06.09.2021 and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP on 07.09.2021 @ 4:30 p.m. (5) Financial bids will be opened on the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, BBMP on 08.09.2021 @ 4:30 p.m. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in

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BRIEFLY

SDMC mayor gives pre-emptive nod for village name change

New Delhi: South MCD mayor Mukesh Suryan has given anticipatory approval to change the name of Mohammadpur village in South Delhi to Madhavpuram. In a letter to the municipal secretary, Suryan said, "It is stated that during the Mughal period, the names of all villages of Delhi were forcibly changed, including of Mohammadpur village in ward number 66 Munirka, which comes under the category of urbanised villages and is under the jurisdiction of South Delhi Municipal Corporation." A senior official of South MCD said the proposal would, however, need the approval of the Delhi government's revenue department for the name change to be finalised. Suryan said he would also write a letter to the Delhi government to make the changes in the revenue records.

Unsold DDA flats this year to be part of next housing scheme

New Delhi: Unsold flats in Delhi Development Authority's (DDA) 2021 housing scheme will be part of the next scheme to be launched later this year, said a senior DDA official. The authority had launched its 2021 housing scheme in January with 1,354 flats, of which 694 flats have been surrendered. On Wednesday, the DDA conducted a second draw of lots for 689 flats. Applicants on the 2021 scheme waitlist participated in the draw, and 79 houses were sold. A senior official said as per rules, only a fixed percentage of people are waitlisted.

Three men arrested for firing at locals

New Delhi: Police have arrested three men who were allegedly involved in several firing and extortion incidents in Dwarka. The accused allegedly fired at people on the streets and extorted money from locals in Dabri area, said officials on Thursday. The three accused are members of a gang who are involved in more than five cases of firing and extortion in Dabri. SK Meena, DCP (Dwarka), said, "We were keeping a track of all the recent incidents of firing at Dabri. Since February, members of a local gang were targeting residents and were injuring people with bullets to instil fear and extort money". ENS

AAP minister files defamation case against BJP MLA

New Delhi: Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has filed criminal and civil defamation suits against BJP MLA Vijender Gupta for making "scandalous allegations" in procurement of low-floor houses, and sought damages of Rs 5 crore from him, according to a statement issued on Thursday. The minister has also sought the removal of all defamatory content posted by Gupta against him on Twitter and Facebook. BJP MLA Gupta said Gahlot's defamation case is "an attempt to suppress the voice of truth". PTI

ACCUSED WAS DRUNK AT THE TIME: POLICE

Man shot in head near IGI airport in 'road rage' incident, accused held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

IN A suspected case of road rage, a 22-year-old man was allegedly shot in the head near IGI Airport Wednesday morning. The victim, Sandeep Bhati, is undergoing treatment and is critical. The accused, Nitin Singh (27), has been arrested. Police said Singh, who is the son of a police officer, was drunk at the time.

Bhati was in his Hyundai Verna along with three friends - Ashu, Gaurav and Vipin - when the incident took place around 5 am. According to eyewitnesses, Bhati and his friends had allegedly tried to overtake Singh's blue Swift car twice. This enraged Singh who then followed the victim's car and fired at them twice - the first bullet hit the rear windshield while the second hit Bhati's head.

A senior police officer from the Southwest district said they received a PCR call about the firing and rushed to the spot. "We found Ashu, who told that the victim was admitted to Yatharth Hospital in Noida. When we reached the hospital, Gaurav said they were on their way back from a temple in Bhiwadi when an unknown person started following them from the airport," said the officer.

Police said the accused switched off his car's headlights and waylaid them near RTR Marg. He parked his car near them, pulled out a pistol, and allegedly started firing. As Bhati's friends tried to stop the shooter, he fled. Scared of being attacked again, two of the men rushed Bhati to the hospital, while one of them lodged a complaint.

During investigation, police scanned CCTV footage from the



Bhati was in his Hyundai Verna with three friends

Delhi-Gurgaon border till Kalkaji and identified the car's colour and model based on a description given by the victim's friends. Amit Goel, Additional DCP (Southwest), said, "The car is owned by a woman who is a head constable in South Delhi district. Her son, Singh, was driving it. After the firing inci-

dent, he drove to Kalkaji where he rammed into a road divider. He then sent his car to a repair shop in Okhla; our team has seized the vehicle."

When Singh was arrested, he initially told the police that he wasn't aware of what happened. "He was drunk and didn't remember what he did to the victim. We found that he had an unlicensed pistol. Both parties were trying to overtake each other. After some time, Singh was angry and decided to attack the victim. He is unemployed and lives with his family in the Kalkaji police colony," added Goel.

The victim's brother, who lives in Noida, said their father passed away a few years ago and Bhati was running a property business with their mother. "Sandeep and his friends were inside the car. We thought the overtaking thing

was harmless, but the man fired at Bhati. His friends said there were no policemen around. They drove towards a picket where they found a policeman and informed him about the incident. They were worried and decided not to stop the car and went to Noida," said his brother.

During enquiry, it came to light that there was only one policeman at the picket near Dhaura Kuan who allowed the victim to drive towards Noida. "There was not much security around the spot. We are looking into the matter. The policeman tried helping the victim, but the men didn't want to stop," said an officer who did not want to be named.

Police said a case has been registered under IPC sections for rash driving, attempted murder, and the Arms Act on Gaurav's complaint.

Woman 'jumps' off 2nd floor of JNU hostel building, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

A 26-YEAR-OLD woman allegedly jumped off the second floor of a hostel in Jawaharlar Nehru University Thursday morning. Police said the woman had come to meet her husband, who is pursuing his PhD at the university and stays at the Brahmputra hostel, a day earlier.

The incident took place around 6.30 am. The woman was found injured outside the hostel by security staff and students. An ambulance was called, and she was rushed to a hospital nearby. Police suspect she committed suicide but haven't found a suicide note at the spot and are questioning her husband.

Additional DCP (Southwest) Amit Goel said, "We received information from the hospital about the woman. She was declared dead on arrival by doctors in the morning. It is suspected that she committed suicide, but

the reason is unknown." Following a local enquiry, police found that the woman went to the hostel to meet her husband who had recently complained of seizures. "The man wasn't feeling well and had called his wife. We don't know what happened between them, but the woman is said to have jumped off the second floor in the morning," said the Additional DCP.

Inquest proceedings have been initiated. The matter is being investigated to ascertain the reason behind the alleged suicide and to see if any foul play was involved. The couple got married two-three months ago. Police said an SDM enquiry will be conducted.

Meanwhile, a senior official from JNU said, "The incident took place around 7 am. Security guards alerted other authorities and an ambulance was called. The woman was immediately taken to the hospital. She was alive then... We don't have more details than this right now."

Prosecution gets sadistic pleasure in extending my incarceration: Ex-councillor

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

FORMER CONGRESS councillor Ishrat Jahan, accused in an UAPA case in connection with the Northeast Delhi riots, told a special court through her lawyer that the prosecution was deriving "sadistic pleasure" in increasing the duration of her incarceration by arguing that her bail plea was filed under wrong provisions.

Additional Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad argued before Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat that Jahan's bail plea was not maintainable. The court adjourned the matter till September 1. Jahan's bail arguments have been pending before a special court for over six months.

Prasad had argued that Jahan's bail was filed under CrPC Section 439 (special powers of High Court or Court of Session regarding bail) whereas the special court can only hear cases filed under section 437 CrPC, which

deals with provisions when bail may be taken in case of a non-bailable offence.

"...an application under section 439 is not maintainable before this court. All the rigours of section 437 will apply the moment the provision applies to a court," he told the court.

Advocate Pradeep Teotia, who appeared on behalf of Jahan, said the court had heard bail pleas under section 439 CrPC and that the prosecution knew beforehand that he had filed an application under this provision and did not point it out earlier.

"Rule of practice and Rule of law are different. The prosecution just wants to derive sadistic pleasure that I will continue to be in custody. This is not a big thing. I can file a new application. The court has already heard the application on merits," said Teotia.

The court asked Prasad if the defence files a new plea, won't the arguments on merit stay the same. To which Prasad said, "No, the arguments will change... when

there is a prescribed way, they have to follow that... By invoking a wrong provision of law, they can't seek remedy. If the application itself is not maintainable, what are we arguing on then?"

Teotia told the court, "This you already knew. This is torture on me also. After taking so much of court's time... Then one should also not seek bail orally. I don't have any words. Someone has been in jail, court can't see if prosecution and defence are fighting like cat and mouse."

Prasad said, "Assuming application has made a case of bail and court grants bail, would that grant of bail not hit at the root of bail? The plea on the basis of which bail is granted... is not maintainable. The legal bar/defect is there."

Teotia said as officers of the court they ought to be fair: "Suddenly you are raising the issue of maintainability after six months. Case should be adjudicated fairly. Hiding it for six months and then raising it is wastage of judicial time."

Criticism over English syllabus changes 'misplaced': DU registrar

ARANYA SHANKAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

AFTER COMING under fire for removing works by two Dalit authors and a short story by renowned writer Mahasweta Devi from the English syllabus, Delhi University Registrar Vikas Gupta Thursday said the criticism was "misplaced and unfounded", and that the syllabus was "inclusive" in nature. In a statement, Gupta also said literary texts being taught as part of the syllabus should not have content that "hurt the sentiments of any individual" and that they should "portray a true picture of our society".

DU's Oversight Committee (OC) had removed two Dalit feminist authors - Bama and Sukhirtharini - from the Women's Writing course and also did away with Mahasweta Devi's 'Draupadi', about a tribal woman who is gangraped by policemen after being picked up on suspicion of being a Naxal. In an Academic Council meeting held



15 AC members had submitted a dissent note against the OC

Tuesday, 15 AC members submitted a dissent note against the OC, alleging undue interference.

"This is for the information of all concerned that the University of Delhi has accepted the recommendations of the Oversight Committee with respect to the syllabus of BA (Hons) English course for Semester V. Some issues highlighted by a section of the media regarding the content of the syllabus are misplaced and unfounded as the

syllabus... has been passed through a democratic process with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and necessary deliberations at appropriate forums," Gupta said in a statement.

On why 'Draupadi' was removed, Gupta said, "Just see the kind of language that is used in it. We have some culture and ethics. (In the story) Indian military is shown in a very poor light. Students should not hate them based on such stories."

He also said "the final content of the syllabus" had been designed by the Department of English, and that it was done after "deliberations and recommendations of the HoD".

Responding to Gupta's statement, DUTA treasurer Abha Dev Habib said it was "ample evidence of the fact that the university administration is complicit in unethical and unacademic chopping of authors like Mahasweta Devi from BA (H) English syllabus".

Proud to be city with most CCTVs, better than London and New York: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

TERMING IT as a "feather in the cap", the Delhi government claimed Thursday the city has the maximum number of CCTVs per square mile with "highly secure" feeds.

"I feel proud to say that Delhi beat cities like Shanghai, New York and London with the most CCTV cameras per square mile across the world. At first, Delhi has 1,826 cameras, while at second, London has

1,138 cameras per square mile. My compliments to the Delhi government's officers and engineers who worked on the project like a mission and achieved the feat in such a short time," CM Arvind Kejriwal tweeted.

The government has so far installed 2.75 lakh CCTVs across 67 out of 70 constituencies in Delhi. A survey is currently underway to identify spots to install 1.38 lakh more CCTVs.

Kejriwal's tweet drew criticism from Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), a digital rights

advocacy group which had in 2019 served a legal notice to Kejriwal citing the absence of a legal framework governing the footage recorded through these cameras and demanded that their installation be halted.

"CCTV deployment is without any legal basis or safeguards. As per a non-legal SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) footage from CCTVs is shared with RWAs and Market Associations. This is encouraging private, warrantless surveillance across Delhi," the IFF tweeted.

In its statement, the government sought to address the concerns on privacy: "All CCTV feeds are highly secure, with hardware monitored by the community, feeds accessible only to authorised users, and system itself capable of automatic health check-ups to detect disturbances and intrusions of the connections. The government ensures the security and privacy of all feeds collected".

A draft SOP drawn up by a panel formed by the L-G had touched upon the privacy aspect and potential misuse of footage.

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Engineer the apt course

Companies are screening students through hackathons and live coding simulators to assess their job readiness. Aspirants should look for institutions that offer industry-ready courses and equip them with in-demand market skills

INDIA has 6,214 engineering colleges from which over 15 lakh students graduate every year but only 2.5 lakh find jobs. Simply put, they are not just good enough which runs contrary to our Government's intent to push our engineering exports to US\$200 billion by 2030.

Why education doesn't translate into employability is a question that we have answers for. The absence of application-based teaching modules, lack of practical knowledge, too many exams focussed on score sheets than real learning, no uniformity of standards, lack of exposure to industry are some of them. What then do we need to do? To understand the skills gap, we must first identify what employers are looking for in engineering students. Accordingly, colleges can equip students with relevant employment capabilities, enable them to adapt to future-ready skills and instil learning agility to grasp workforce transformation-led job demands quickly.

The demand for engineering jobs

According to various industry estimates, upwards of 11 million job openings are expected for data science professionals by 2026, aside from more than four million vacancies for civil engineers. The market for cloud computing is slated to grow by US\$9.5 billion by 2025. The IT industry is expected to hit the US\$100-billion-mark by 2025, creating millions of jobs. Established brands such as TCS, Amazon, L&T, Wipro and HCL, and start-ups such as Udemy, UpGrad, Byju's, Tata 1mg, Dunzo and Razorpay are further intensifying the talent war.



The evolution of B.Tech and B.E students' job placements in modern workplaces

According to the World Economic Forum's "The Future of Jobs Report 2020," analytical thinking and innovation, learning agility, complex problem-solving, critical thinking and analysis, creativity, originality and initiative are the top skills. Artificial intelligence, machine learning, RPA (Robotic Process Automation), data analysis, cloud computing and product development will create 150 million tech jobs.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the recruitment of engineers has gone up by 52 per cent compared to pre-COVID levels. This upward trajectory in demand can be attributed to social distancing and the consequent massive digital transformation of organisations. Every company now wants an app to reach out to its customers, engage them and send

notifications, which has led to a massive surge in demand for app developers and mobile QA (Quality Assurance) engineers. Besides, technological advancements such as Cryptocurrency are further fuelling the demand for engineers. Not to mention the market requirement for data analysts and visualisers to mine and interpret data flowing through organisational systems makes this one of the most exciting times to be an engineer.

How are organisations testing engineers virtually?

Organisations are leveraging efficient assessment and testing mechanisms to measure the engineering candidates' employability and ensure they select the best of the lot. They usually choose talent directly from colleges through their campus drives and train them afterwards in the required organisational-level capabilities. Also, they hire employees who are proficient in new-age and in-

demand skills from other organisations for senior positions.

The pandemic has compelled companies to move all their hiring processes online. They employ virtual campus recruitment drives wherein they select the colleges and leverage campus intelligence to understand the job requirements and skills that they could fulfil. Following this, they screen the students through hackathons and live coding simulators and evaluate them through technical and coding assessments via remote proctoring technology to negate cheating instances.

Companies invite candidates to code in a live environment, even for hiring engineers laterally. Thus, invigilators can view their coding approach, adeptness and other such details. Afterwards, employers interview them virtually on video interview platforms. All the data is effectively captured and shared with the hiring managers in the form of detailed reports with granular analysis. These insights help the hiring managers choose the best engineers for their firms.

Companies are increasingly employing virtual tools such as Skills Gap Analysis, Proximity Index and Learning Agility analysis to assess employees' future-readiness and digital skills. These tests help employers deep-dive into

their employability gaps, learning orientation, learning agility in new-age skills and the drive to learn such skills. For example, an engineer with basic skills sets such as C, C++ and Java could also learn Python, Ruby, PHP, Hadoop and Apache Spark. By testing candidates on these metrics, firms ensure they can develop and align their talent with future skills.

Many traditional jobs in the labour market have become tech and digital-enabled. Front-end developers, back-end developers, full-stack developers, data-

base developers, those with an edge in data science, DevOps (Development and Operations), quality assurance, with skills such as HTML, CSS, AJAX, Java, Python, Ruby, C sharp, .NET, PHP, C, C++, MySQL and Hadoop are in high demand. Therefore, engineering students need to urgently align their skills and capabilities according to evolving job roles and in-demand market skills to maintain their relevance and employability.

This article is authored by **Siddhartha Gupta, CEO, Mercer Mettl**

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- Journal of Research-(Satyam JR) - Annual Research Journal (ISSN number 2319-7897)
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PVR Priya, once a popular haunt, gets new look

EKTA MALIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 27

THE GREY facade of the recently renovated and revamped PVR Priya, now called PVR Priya (XL), has all the trappings of a glitzy destination for movie goers. Added to the mix are two projectors, with beaming technology, to serve the 316-seater theater. The swanky new theater was inaugurated Wednesday evening by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The cinema hall has been around since 1978 and was renovated earlier in 1990. It shut down completely some months prior to the Covid pandemic. But the new 'PVR Priya XL' is no patch on the PVR Priya of the



The swanky new theater was inaugurated Wednesday evening by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Tashi Tobgyal

early 2000s, which was the hangout spot of the 'popular kids' and students from the neigh-

Complex, offered a Rs 100 ticket for a 10 am show, which was availed the most by the almost-broke student community that lived in the neighbouring urban villages of Munirka, Katwaria Sarai, and Jia Sarai.

While Basant Lok housed gourmet food store Le Marche on one side, it also had numerous hole-in-the-wall eateries, and street vendors who sold lip-smacking fare at pocket-friendly prices. The complex had something for everyone.

By 2010, the action had shifted to the AC malls, and single-screen theatres had been reduced to being a 'novelty experience'. As the crowds departed for greener pastures, the whole of Basant Lok too fell into disarray. Many stores shut down and PVR

Priya lost its charm.

With PVR Priya getting an upgrade, the complex too sports a new look with night lamps dotting the walkway to the theater.

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DDMA to discuss school reopening, senior classes first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THE DELHI Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) will discuss reopening of schools in the city Friday. Hundreds of parents who had been consulted earlier said they were ready for schools to restart. Earlier in the week, an expert committee had submitted a report to DDMA recommending a phase-wise reopening of schools.

At present, students from class X, XI and XII can go to school for practical classes, board exams related work and admis-

sion related formalities.

Officials said according to the recommendations of the committee, classes for students in the senior sections and board classes should start first. The middle section — classes IX to VI — can then be started if there is no increase in the number of Covid cases. Primary classes will be the last to restart, as per the recommendations.

Schools in Delhi have been shut since March 2020, with a small window in February when they reopened for senior classes for close to a month, before cases started increasing again in March. In the meeting, the modali-

ties of reopening, how many students should be allowed, the timelines for vaccinating children as well as teachers will be discussed, sources said.

The expert committee was set up by L-G Anil Bajjal in the first week of April to assess if schools should be reopened, considering that cases in Delhi have remained under 100 for several weeks and the positivity rate under 0.1%.

The number of Covid cases, positivity rate and deaths in Delhi has remained low since July. For most of August, daily cases have remained under the 50 mark. Over the past week, only one Covid death has been recorded.

ENGINEERING EDUCATION

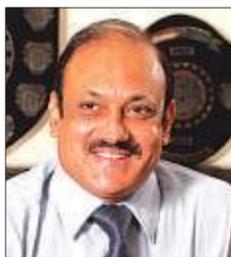
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Choose the right institute for a bright career

A YOUNG, aspiring student, no matter what stream he/she may be from, is faced with immense but vague options of choosing the right course and the right institute for a successful career. My advice to aspirants is to evaluate your passion for your career because the secret to happiness is being able to love whatever you do in life. Identify your skill set and capabilities and choose a course that is a natural progression of your existing skills and qualification. Take advice from your parents and teachers and use their experience as a guide in deciding the



Dr RK Agarwal, Director-General

course you choose. With technology changing at an exponential rate and the glaring gap between the academic



curriculum and fast-changing industry requirements, employability is a major challenge. Students, therefore, should look for institutions (like AKGEC) which, in addition to academic

excellence, emphasise project-based learning, industry-relevant training programmes and all-round development to make their students globally employable.

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Sh. Mahendra Aggarwal, Chairman, SDGI

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THE 21st century is about the management and assessment of all the knowledge we have generated and the value addition we bring to it. Education means nourishing the latent qualities in individuals and drawing out the best in each.

The Inderprastha Engineering College (IPEC), Ghaziabad, is known for its value-based and interactive teacher-student bonding and excellent performances in extracurricular activities and sports. It is a NAAC-accredited institution and four of its departments – CSE, ECE, CIVIL and IT – are NBA-accredited. Ranked among the top ten prestigious colleges in NCR, it is known for its lush green campus, well-equipped classrooms, advanced laboratories, qualified and caring teachers and a very supportive peer group. Guest lectures by eminent professors, industrial visits, personality development classes, national level seminar/workshop/conferences and practical exposure to authenticate theoretical knowledge provide students a basis to be innovative, entrepreneurial and capable citizens. As a participant at different technical and non-technical intra college forums, its students develop managerial skills, leadership qualities and creative thinking. The E-SAC (Expressions- Student Activity Cell) is divided into units like Medha (Literary activities), Nivedha (Cultural activities) Spardha (Sports activities) and Vividha (Technical activities) for holistic development.

The college plans to expand existing programmes, promote industry-relevant projects, R&D and consultancy to bridge the industry-academia gap.

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- The only Institution in U.P. to have received approval from DST, Govt. of India, for establishment of Centre of Relevance and Excellence (CORE) in the field of Industrial Automation & Robotics
- Skill Development Centre established in partnership with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)
- Best LabVIEW Academy in India Award 2016 by National Instruments
- Best Robolab Setup Award 2020 by All India Council for Robotics & Automation (AICRA)
- Best Industry Institute Association Award by Royal Academy of Engineering, U.K.
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INNOVATIVE PROJECTS BY STUDENTS

- First Prize in World Robot Olympiad, India Competition
- Student Project Automated Inventory Management System declared Winner of Mitsubishi Electric Gold Cup
- Student Project Win Switch awarded amongst best three projects by US-India Startup Forum along with other two projects from alumni of IIT Kanpur & IIM Ahmedabad
- Best Student Project Award by Fluid Power Society of India at IISc, Bangalore
- Winner of Inspiration Award in Smart India Hackathon organized by Ministry of HRD & AICTE
- Five students awarded as University Innovation Fellows by H.P. Institute of Design, Stanford University, USA
- Student Project Smart Agriculture Support System awarded second prize in NIYANTRA-2017
- Student Project Waste Segregation Model declared Winner of AKTU State Technical, Literary & Management Fest 2019-20

UNMATCHED AND UNBEATABLE RECORDS BY STUDENTS

- AKTU Chancellor's Medal for securing maximum marks across the branches bagged by AKGEC students for five consecutive years 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 since its inception in 2016
- Alumnus Neeraj Srivastava, 2009 B.Tech graduate from ECE stream, has been awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award by AKTU. This is the first time that the University has instituted the award in 2021
- Consistent excellent results with large number of students appearing in AKTU merit lists every year
- 95% B.Tech and 98% MCA students graduated with first Division / Distinction in 2020
- Students selected in IITs, IISc Bangalore, NITs, IIMs, IIT, XLRI and many other eminent institutions in India and abroad
- More than 900 placements (2019-20) in good companies like Infosys, Wipro, TCS, IBM India, Amazon, Capgemini, Cognizant, HCL, HSBC Software Development (India) Pvt. Ltd., BYJU'S, DLT Labs, MAQ Software, MotherSumi Infotech & Design Systems, Newgen Software, OPPO Mobiles India and many more
- 233 students of AKGEC amongst 1900 CLAD certified and 18 students amongst 241 CLD certified professionals in the whole country

Plot by gangster to threaten restaurant owner ends in murder — of wrong man

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THREE DAYS after an 18-year-old man was killed in a restaurant in Dwarka's Chhawla, the Delhi Police Special Cell found that it was a case of mistaken identity after they apprehended a 17-year-old juvenile in connection with the incident.

Investigation revealed that gangster Kapil Sangwan, alias Nandu, who is in the United Kingdom, asked his brother Jyoti Sangwan, lodged in Mandoli jail, and his associate Nakul Sangwan, lodged in Rohini jail, to threaten the restaurant's owner for not paying him protection money.

Two juveniles were hired for the job for Rs 10 lakh. But the two



Gulam Sabir, the victim

did not see pictures of their target clearly and allegedly ended up killing the victim, Gulam Sabir, instead of threatening him. Police said Sabir was filling in for a friend and did not work permanently at the restaurant.

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena had said the incident took place at 7.18 pm on Monday

when two persons killed Sabir. "We received a call from one Vikas Yadav, who runs the restaurant, 'Heaven On Earth'. He told police he was sitting outside the restaurant when two men went in and placed an order for momos and chilli potatoes," he said.

Several teams were dispatched to look for the shooters. A team from the Special Cell's northern range finally apprehended the juvenile from a Haryana village. Police questioned him in the presence of a counsellor and he said he is a student of class XII.

Police found that Kapil had made an extortion call to the restaurant owner who refused to pay him protection money and said he would inform police.

"Kapil asked Jyoti and Nakul to threaten the owner after firing in his restaurant. Nakul dis-

cussed the matter with his associate and hired two juveniles by offering them Rs 10 lakh," a senior police officer said, adding that they will move an application for police remand of Jyoti and Nakul in the coming days.

Last year, a team of the Special Cell's Counter Intelligence unit had arrested Jyoti from Surat. Nakul has been associated with the Nandu gang for the last four years and looked after their court matters until he was arrested last year from Dwarka in connection with murdering a property dealer, said the officer.

On June 3, *The Indian Express* had reported that Delhi Police have urged the CBI's Interpol branch to issue a red corner notice against Kapil. Police said the gangster has been making several extortion calls from the UK over the last three months.

'Gangsters drinking in police lock-up': Video not from Mandoli jail, say officials

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

INQUIRY INTO a video purportedly showing brothers Rahul Kala and Naveen Bali, associates of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana, enjoying liquor and snacks inside a police lock-up has so far found that it was not shot in Mandoli jail, where the men were lodged until August 5, before being taken to the Special Cell's Lodhi Road office in connection with another case. The men returned to the jail on August 10.

DG (Delhi Prisons) Sandeep Goel said Thursday, "We looked into the matter and it seems the video is not from our jails."

The Indian Express has learnt that an inquiry was initiated into whether the video was shot in the Lodhi Road office, and the report has been submitted to the police headquarters.

Special CP (Special Cell) Neeraj Thakur, DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah, and Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal did not respond to a query on whether the video was shot in the Special Cell office.



A grab from the video. DG (Delhi Prisons) Sandeep Goel said "it seems the video is not from our jails"

Biswal had said on Wednesday: "The video is not substantiated and liquor is not served in police lock-up."

The Indian Express has also learnt that senior officers were alerted to the video on August 12, after a man who visited the brothers inside the lock-up uploaded it on an Instagram account under Neeraj Bawana's name. Bawana is currently in Tihar jail.

Sources told *The Indian Express* three-four men came to meet the brothers and one of the visitors recorded the video.

"He shared the video with his associates and posted it on social media. On August 12, the same video was posted with a caption — 'New reel jai baba ki bali bhai kala bhai... #neerajbawana group'. Special Cell personnel then found out about the video and informed their seniors," said a police source.

The 24-second video purportedly shows four men sitting inside the police lock-up with Rahul and Naveen and consuming liquor, chips and other food items. The men are seen sitting on a mattress, and also seen talking on the phone and smoking. Two persons can purport-

edly be seen sitting outside the lock-up.

Rahul and Naveen, who were in Mandoli jail, were re-arrested on August 5 by the Special Cell in connection with a separate case, and were taken on police remand.

An FIR under charges of criminal conspiracy had been lodged by the New Delhi Range of Special Cell after they intercepted phone calls wherein Rahul and Naveen were allegedly hatching a conspiracy to eliminate a rival currently lodged in Rohini jail.

"After collecting technical evidence against them, police started an investigation. The two men were re-arrested from Mandoli jail, where they were lodged, and taken to the Special Cell office. They returned to Mandoli jail on August 10. One of their associates, Sahil alias Chintu, was also re-arrested from Rohini jail," said a senior police officer.

The officer said both brothers work for Neeraj and would make extortion calls from inside jail. Rahul was arrested in 2014 when he along with his associate Ravi had allegedly killed two brothers following an incident of road rage in Sultanpur Dabas village of Bawana in Outer Delhi. He was carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh.

DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE HARYANA
DISTRICT HORTICULTURE OFFICER, PANCHKULA
Near Agro Mall, Sector-21, Panchkula-134112 Ph. 0172-2576088 (Dhpanchkula-hry@nic.in)

Memo No: 168 Dated: 25.08.2021
The office of DHO intends to inform about the Annual Action Plan of subsidy schemes along with physical & financial targets given to Panchkula District:

Sl. No.	Name of Crop/Item	Unit	Total tentative cost	Rate of assist. %	Amount of Assistance (Rs.)	Panchkula	
B	Plantation Infrastructure development					Phy. Fin(Rs.)	
c	Open/pollinated crop						
(i)	Private sector	hect	35000	25	12250	50	6,12,500
B2							
East/Midwest of new garden (area of expansion)							
(i)	Strawberry (1.6m*2.5m)	hect	125000	40	50000	25	1250000
(ii)	Dragon fruit	hect	40000	40	30000	1	30000
Int'l crop other than cost intensive crop used/normal spacing without integration							
(i)	Mango (1m*10m)	hect	25500	50	7650	5	38250
(ii)	Grapes (6m*6m)	hect	38340	50	11502	20	23040
(iii)	Citrus (6m*6m)	hect	40008	50	12002	32	38484
(iv)	Litchi (6m*6m)	hect	43900	50	13170	5	65850
(v)	Avocado (6m*6m)	hect	5000	50	15000	10	150000
d Normal spacing 1 year Maintenance							
i	Mango (1m*10m)	hect	25500	20	2550	6	15300
ii	Grapes (6m*6m)	hect	38340	20	3834	8.16	31285
iii	Citrus (6m*6m)	hect	40008	20	40008	48.27	18117
iv	Litchi (6m*6m)	hect	43900	20	4390	6.20	878
E Normal spacing 2 year Maintenance							
ii	Grapes (6m*6m)	hect	38340	20	3834	7.3	27888
iii	Citrus (6m*6m)	hect	40008	20	40008	13.5	54111
ii Vegetable							
i	Hybrid Tomato	hect	50000	40	20000	200	4000000
c Loose flower							
i	S&M farmer	hect	40000	40	16000	5	80000
ii	Other farmer	hect	40000	25	10000	5	50000
IV Spices							
i Seed spice and Rhizomatic spice							
a	Turmeric	hect	30000	40	12000	20	240000
b	Fenugreek	hect	30000	40	12000	2	24000
VI Mushroom							
ii Productive Unit							
i	Private sector	No.	2000000	40	800000	1	800000
iii Compost making unit							
i	Private sector	No.	2000000	40	800000	1	800000
iii3 Rejuvenation / replacement of scale plantation, canopy management							
i	hect	40000	50	20000	5	100000	
B.4 Creation of water resources							
a water harvesting system for individuals for storage of water in 20m*3m ponds/wells							
i	General area	no.	15000	50	75000	4	30000
iii5 protected cultivation							
a National Ventilated System (tubular structure)							
i	>200sq upto 4000sq	ha	8440000	50	4220000	0.4	1680000

Sd/-
District Horticulture Officer
Panchkula

SBI
IT-User Acceptance Testing & Project Management Department
Global IT Center, Sector 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

State Bank of India invites bids for hiring of resources for Integrated & Managed Quality Assurance Services (IMQAS) on Time and Material basis in SBI. For details, please see "Procurement News" at Bank's website <https://bank.sbi>

Last Date: 22.09.2021
Place: Navi Mumbai
Date: 27.08.2021 Deputy General Manager (IT - UAT & PM)

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd. MUZAFFARNAGAR

Short Term E-Tender Notice E-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders. Please visit E-tender portal www.etenders.up.nic.in for details/download and for any other corrections/ amendments/ extensions till the date of submission of bids. The undersigned shall have the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason. The tender will be opened on the next working day due to the holiday being on the date of opening of the tender. Sl. No. 1 Short Term E-Tender No. 67/2021-22 OF EUDC MZN Discription of Works Repairing work of 11 KV VCB at 33/11 KV S/S Meerapur, Muzaffarnagar. Earnest Money (Rs.) 2000.00 (with 18% GST) Last Date for online submission of tender document 13.09.2021 12:00:00 Hrs. Date for opening of tender part-I 13.09.2021 14:00:00 Hrs. Sl. No. 2 Short Term E-Tender No. 68/2021-22 OF EUDC MZN Discription of Works Repairing work of 11 KV VCB at 33/11 KV S/S Kamhera Dhaneri, Muzaffarnagar. Earnest Money (Rs.) 2000.00 Tender Fee (Rs.) 1180.00 (with 18% GST) Last Date for online submission of tender document 13.09.2021 12:00:00 Hrs. Date for opening of tender part-I 13.09.2021 14:00:00 Hrs. Sl. No. 3 Short Term E-Tender No. 69/2021-22 OF EUDC MZN Discription of Works Repairing work of 11 KV VCB at 33/11 KV S/S Rasulpur, Muzaffarnagar. Earnest Money (Rs.) 2000.00 Tender Fee (Rs.) 1180.00 (with 18% GST) Last Date for online submission of tender document 13.09.2021 12:00:00 Hrs. Date for opening of tender part-I 13.09.2021 14:00:00 Hrs. Sl. No. 4 Short Term E-Tender No. 70/2021-22 OF EUDC MZN Discription of Works Repairing work of 11 KV VCB at 33/11 KV S/S Mahaveer Chowk, Muzaffarnagar. Earnest Money (Rs.) 2000.00 Tender Fee (Rs.) 1180.00 (with 18% GST) Last Date for online submission of tender document 13.09.2021 12:00:00 Hrs. Date for opening of tender part-I 13.09.2021 14:00:00 Hrs. Sl. No. 5 Short Term E-Tender No. 71/2021-22 OF EUDC MZN Discription of Works Repairing work of 11 KV VCB at 33/11 KV S/S Gandhi Colony, Muzaffarnagar. Earnest Money (Rs.) 2000.00 Tender Fee (Rs.) 1180.00 (with 18% GST) Last Date for online submission of tender document 13.09.2021 12:00:00 Hrs. Date for opening of tender part-I 13.09.2021 14:00:00 Hrs. Sd/- (B.K. Mishra) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICITY URBAN DISTRIBUTION CIRCLE MUZAFFARNAGAR "Save Electricity in the interest of Nation" "वचनः 1947" "वचनः 1947"

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TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

N.I.T. No.	S.N.	04-A&B-2021-NRCH
1	1	Repair abandoned Dhoi Ghat area, provision of passage shed from back gate to CTMRI scan entre and renovation of room No. 50 to 58, Gyne OPD toilet block in Northern Railway Central Hospital in the section of SSEW/NRCH under ADEW/NRCH. Similar nature of work: Any civil work other than track work.
2	2	Provision of Medicine store, record rooms at various locations in Northern Railway Central Hospital in the section of SSEW/NRCH under ADEW/NRCH. Similar nature of work: Any civil work other than track work.
3	3	Approx. Cost of work 1 Rs. 98,13,229.00/- 2 Rs. 52,70,022.00/-
4	4	Completion period of work 1 8 Months 2 5 Months
5	5	Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs. on 21.09.2021 Opening of Tender at 15.00 hrs 21.09.2021.
6	6	Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc. Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 128-W/269/OET/2021-22/NRCH/NIT-04-A & B Dated: 26.08.2021 1928/2021
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DIRECTORATE OF SIKKIM STATE LOTTERIES GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM, GANGTOK
File No: FIN/DSLL/III/893/2021-22

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/TENDER

For and behalf of the Governor, the Directorate of Sikkim State Lotteries, Govt. of Sikkim hereby invites sealed tenders/bids from eligible firms for selection as Marketing Agent(s)/Distributorship(s) for marketing of 12 (twelve) Online/Paper Lotteries per day and 03 bumper Lotteries. For further details kindly visit www.sikkim.gov.in

Sd/- Director
Sikkim State Lotteries, Government of Sikkim, Contact No: 03592-280227

Appeal for Identification

General Public is hereby informed that a Female dead body Name: Unknown, Do Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: Approx. 70-75 years, Height: 5'2", Gender : Female, Complexion: Shallow, Wearing : Blue Printed Suit Salwar. Place of recovery : Above said unknown bagger type lady found unconscious at NDRS on 18.08.2021

During the treatment she was expired on 23.08.2021 at LHMC Hospital New Delhi. In this regard, DD No. 17A dated 23.08.2021 has been lodged at PS: NDRS Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this female but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this female may kindly inform to the following.
SHO P.S., New Delhi Rly. Station, Delhi
DPI/227/IRLY/2021 Ph. : 011-23744073, 8750871305

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER: RWSS DIVISION: BERHAMPUR
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Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Bid Identification No. EERWSSBAM-16/2021-22

The Superintending Engineer, RWSS Division, Berhampur, Ganjam in behalf of Governor of Odisha invites bids in Single Cover & Double cover system according to the norm of "e" Procurement system in online mode for Supply, drawing, design, construction, testing and commissioning and maintenance of different PWS Schemes and electrification works in Ganjam District from the eligible contractors as per DTCN.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Execution of different works of different P.W.S. Scheme in Ganjam District.
1.	Name of the work	Execution of different works of different P.W.S. Scheme in Ganjam District.
2.	No of Work (Tender)	02 Nos.
3.	Estimated cost (Approximate)	From Rs 151.77 Lakhs to Rs 155.81 Lakhs
4.	Period of completion	360 days
5.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the Portal.	From 02-09-2021 at 11.00 hrs to 16.09.2021 up to 17.00 hrs
6.	Last date & Time for seeking clarification	13-09-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
7.	Dt. of opening of Bid	17-09-2021 at 11.00 hrs
8.	Late date / Time for receipt of bids in the Portal	16-09-2021 up to 17.00 hrs
9.	Name & address of the Officer inviting tender.	Executive Engineer, RWSS Division, Near Jarada Bunglow, Berhampur-760004, Dist. Ganjam, Odisha.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal- <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
RWSS Division, Berhampur
OIPR-25035/11/0007/2122

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	MODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD & R, ROHTAK	CONVERSION OF EXISTING GARAGE NEAR DIRECTOR OFFICE (INTD OFFICE/STORE) IN PGIMS, ROHTAK	25.08.2021 14.09.2021	8.83 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8221978000 pwdcopd4-rohtak@hry.nic.in
2	WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT KAITHAL	(STATIONARY, PRINTING MATERIAL, PLAY MATERIAL) KIT AND FOOD (LUNCH) IN KAITHAL DISTRICT	23.08.2021 30.08.2021		https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8933642067 poid_wcd@gmail.com
3	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING TOHANA	NAME OF WORK- PRIVATE SCHOOL : PROVIDING DRINKING WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES IN PRIVATE SCHOOL IN 07 VILLAGES UNDER PHED TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD, LAYING OF 4" TO DE WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES IN PRIVATE SCHOOL IN 02 VILLAGES (I.E SARASWATI MIDDLE SCHOOL SANYANA, OYSTER PUBLIC SCHOOL SANAMPURI) UNDER PHE SUB DIVISION NO. 1 TOHANA DISTT. FATEHABAD AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERE TO. +3 OTHER WORK	25.08.2021 08.09.2021	247.23 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8599912916 eetohana@gmail.com
4	BLOCK DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ BHAWANI	CONSTRUCTION OF DR STREET AND VARIOUS WORKS VARIOUS VILLAGES OF BLOCK BHAWANI DISTT BHAWANI	25.08.2021 06.09.2021	171.319 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416087780 bdpcbhawani@gmail.com
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ BHAWANI	CONSTRUCTION OF GREY WATER MANAGEMENT SBM-G PHASE-II AT VARIOUS VILLAGES OF DISTT BHAWANI	06.08.2021 27.09.2021	278.83 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01664-243225 preseengbhawani@hry.nic.in
6	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	RE-TENDER CONST. OF ZNO. OF AGANWARI CENTER + 7 OTHERS	27.08.2021 03.09.2021	91.84 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400 preseengp@hry.nic.in
7	PANCHAYATI RAJ CHARKHEDI DADR	CONSTRUCTION OF 9 NOS. AWC IN DISTT. CHARKHEDI DADR	27.08.2021 06.09.2021	76.59 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416074494 verprcharkhedi@hry.nic.in
8	PANCHAYATI RAJ SIRSA	CONST. OF RE-CHARGE PITS IN VARIOUS ANGANWARI CENTER (RE-TENDER)	27.08.2021 02.09.2021	20.85 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666247475 preseengs@hry.nic.in
9	PANCHAYATI RAJ ROHTAK	CONSTRUCTION OF VMC AT VILLAGE CHULLYANA, BLOCK SAMPLA, DISTRICT ROHTAK-2 OTHER WORK.	27.08.2021 02.09.2021	62.85 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	870577177 preseengroh@hry.nic.in
10	DIRECTOR GENERAL PRISONS, DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	SUPPLY OF 3650 QTLs MUSTARD SEEDS	CLOSING DATE 16.09.2021	2.50 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0172-2585821 office_dg_prisons@hry.nic.in

4414/Hry FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WB)-I DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
ROOM NO. 31, B-BUILDING, JHANDEWALAN, NEW DELHI-110005.
Phone: 09558007601 E-mail id: djwaterbody@gmail.com
"STOP CORONA; WEAR FACE MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE"

PRESS NIT No. 04/WB-I/2021-22

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender Fee	Date of Release of tender in E-Procurement Solution & Tender ID No.	Last Date/ Time of receipt of tender E-procurement solution
01	Creation of lake no. 2 and deepening of lake no. 1 at Pappan kalan STP Ph. II under EE(WB)-I	₹ 8,54,18,979/-	NIL	₹ 1500/-	25.8.2021 2021_DJB_207521_1	23.09.2021 At 03:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 325 (2021-22)

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (WB)-I

DELHI JAL BOARD (Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi)
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (C)DR-III
Kanhaiya Nagar, Delhi-110035
Phone: 011-27394876 Email: ecdr3@gmail.com
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

PRESS NIT No-01 (2021-22)

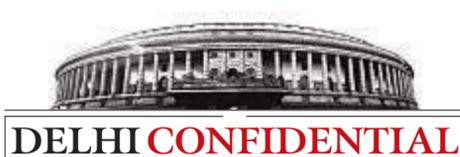
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Contract Value (ECV)/ Amount put to tender (Rs.)	Earnest Money (EMD) (Rs.)	Tender processing Fee Non Refundable (Rs.)	Date of Release of Tender/ Tender id.	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1.	Providing/laying 250 mm dia DWC lateral sewer line in Unauthorised Colony Rajeev Colony Extension under Narela AC.	1,30,96,041/-	Exempted	1000/-	26.8.2021 / 2021_DJB_207551_1	16.9.2021 upto 3.00 P.M

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

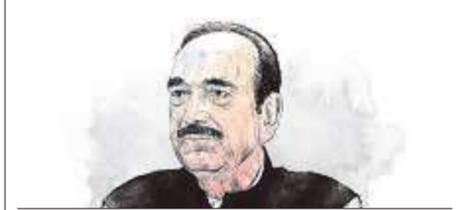
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 332 (2021-22)

Sd/-
Executive Engineer(C) DR-III

Baghel to meet Rahul again; 26 MLAs reach Delhi



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



COMING SOON

HE HAS worked with three generations of the Gandhi family, been a minister with four Prime Ministers and had been the AICC in charge of almost all states. Ghulam Nabi Azad has been an influential Congress leader and a key party insider for more than four decades now. One gets to hear that Azad, now one of the leading members of the G23 group, is penning an autobiography. Having seen and been a part of all that has happened in the Congress in the past 40 years, it is to be seen whether his memoir will be a tell-all book, given the fact that Azad has always been guarded about internal party affairs.

DRAWING THE LIST

KSUDHAKARAN, the newly appointed president of the Congress's Kerala unit, had been camping in Delhi for the past two days, holding meetings with central leaders, but the party is unable to finalise the list of presidents for 14 districts. Incidentally, both Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala, who lead the two dominant factions in the state Congress, are keeping themselves away from the process of selecting DCC presidents, signaling that the new appointments could trigger a fresh round of feud once the announcement comes. Also, one gets to hear that caste outfits, such as the Nair Service Society (NSS), too have conveyed their views on appointment of the DCC presidents. The panel prepared by the state Congress apparently had names of two leaders from the backward Ezhava caste for two central Kerala districts, to which the NSS does not like. Moreover, the absence of women on the panel prepared by the state unit has not gone down well with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

PHYSICAL EVENT

THE SWEARING-IN event of the nine new judges of Supreme Court next week is likely to be held in the sprawling auditorium of the court's new annex building. If all goes according to plan, it will be the first major official physical event in the court since the start of the lockdown last year. The only other events to have been held in the court premises recently were the farewell functions organised by Supreme Court Bar Association for some of the outgoing judges.

GARGI VERMA & MANOJ CG
RAIPUR, NEW DELHI,
AUGUST 26

THE CRISIS in Chhattisgarh Congress intensified Thursday, as several party MLAs owing allegiance to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel reached Delhi a day before his expected meeting with former party president Rahul Gandhi.

Friday's meeting is set to be their second one this week. While sources said the high command has summoned Baghel, AICC's Chhattisgarh in-charge, P L Punia, said the Chief Minister sought a meeting with Rahul. But the arrival of at least 26 MLAs, some ministers and MPs is seen as a show of strength by Baghel, locked in a leadership tussle with state Health Minister T S Singh Deo. Sources said the issue of rotational CM is still open, and

the high command wants an amicable settlement. The arrival of so many party MLAs signal that Baghel is mounting pressure on the central leadership. The move is seen as an attempt to send a message that he has majority in the legislature party.

Baghel and Singh Deo had met Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday but the issue of rotational CM was far from resolved. Today, 26 MLAs, including three ministers, flew to Delhi. Punia said the MLAs have moved to Delhi on their own and claimed no one had been called to Delhi by the leadership.

Ministers Shiv Daharia, Amarjeet Bhagat and Anila Bhedia, along with party MP Chaya Verma and more than two dozen MLAs, left for Delhi.

Sources said a chartered plane had been brought to Raipur airport for the MLAs.

State Congress chief Mohan Markam said in a statement that the party is united and there is no change

in the stand of the party. On Tuesday, Singh Deo and Baghel met Rahul and AICC general secretary K C Venugopal. Amidst rumors of changes, Baghel denied any discussion on change of guard. Back in Raipur on Wednesday, Baghel held back-to-back meetings with MLAs.

While boarding the flight to Delhi on Thursday, Devendra Yadav, Congress MLA from Bhilai city, said all the legislators were going to Delhi to speak with the leadership on the situation in the state. "The government is working under Bhupesh Baghel's leadership," he said.

Singh Deo told the media that there was never a question of rotational CM. "If a person plays in a team then doesn't he think about becoming the captain? Everyone thinks about that but the question is not about his thoughts, it's about his capabilities. The high command takes the decision," he said.

In show of strength, Amarinder meets over 60 party MLAs, MPs

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 26

AFTER a banner of revolt was raised against him and rebel party leaders sought his ouster, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, in an apparent show of strength, on Thursday met many party MLAs and MPs at a dinner event, seen as a retort to the rebels' meeting two days ago.

Amarinder's camp claimed more than 60 MLAs and MPs joined the meeting, following an invite by his aide and state Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi at his residence in Sector 2 here.

The CM's camp released images of the dinner meet but no list of names was provided.

Amarinder's media adviser Raveen Thukral tweeted Rana Sodhi's statement: "I'd invited like-minded @INCPunjab MPs & MLAs

Rawat seeks to be relieved of Punjab Congress duties

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 26

CONGRESS GENERAL secretary in-charge Harish Rawat has written to the party high command requesting that he be relieved of the responsibility of party affairs in Punjab, citing that elections in Uttarakhand are round the corner and he needed to concentrate on the same, sources said.

His request has come amid a full-blown crisis in Punjab Congress. On Thursday, Rawat reached New Delhi.

A source said, "He has been seeking to be relieved for a long time now as he has to concentrate on his election... He has stated that he should be relieved as he has fulfilled his task of getting Navjot Sidhu back in the mainstream of the party."

Chidambaram: No rebellion in Cong in Punjab, Chhattisgarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, AUGUST 26

FORMER UNION minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram Thursday said there was no rebellion in the Congress party in Punjab and Chhattisgarh.

"There is no rebellion in Chhattisgarh. There is no rebellion in Punjab. You're perhaps mixing up Afghanistan. These are internal matters which are discussed within the party. Did you describe the Karnataka change of guard as a rebellion?" Chidambaram said in Panaji.

Chidambaram was appointed as senior AICC Election Observer

to Goa earlier this month to oversee the Assembly election strategy. He reached Goa Wednesday for a two-day visit.

Assembly polls in Goa are scheduled for February.

"The task before us is to get the party battle-ready for the elections early next year. My initial assessment is that the political atmosphere is extremely favourable to the Congress party. By all accounts, including accounts which I read in the media, there is an expectation that there will be a change in the government and a new government led by the Congress party will be formed after the elections," the Congress leader said at the International Centre Goa in Dona Paula.

Bengal post-poll violence: CBI files cases, meets victims' kin

Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had registered nine cases in connection with incidents of rape, murder and attempt to murder after the West Bengal Assembly results were announced on May 2, source said on Thursday. The agency, which was directed by the Calcutta High Court on August 19 to take over the said cases, is likely to file more cases. Meanwhile, a team of CBI officers on Thursday visited BJP worker Abhijeet Sarkar's Kankurgachi residence in Kolkata to reconstruct the murder sequence. Another CBI team reached Bhatpara and met the family of a man who was killed in a bomb blast. "So far nine cases have been lodged, and more will follow...," said a CBI officer.

Administration of U.T. of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Directorate of Medical & Health Services NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute
No. DMHS/EST/Med.edu/staff/2018/606/359 Silvassa
Date: 24/08/2021

ADVERTISEMENT

Directorate, Medical and Health Services, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Silvassa invites applications from eligible candidates for Teaching posts & Non-Teaching posts to be filled on short term contract basis under NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute. Details regarding the posts are available on the official website: www.dnh.gov.in or www.vbch.dnh.nic.in. The applications should reach the undersigned on or before 05/09/2021.

Sd/-
(Dr. V. K. Das)
Director (M&HS)
0260-2642940

No. IP/DNH/ADVT/2021/216
Silvassa
Date: 25/08/2021

Government of Jharkhand Department of Mines & Geology Directorate of Geology Engineers' Hostel No-1, 2nd floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Notice No.- 01/2021-22

Directorate of Geology invites sealed application on attached format from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited Laboratories of repute having their registered office in India for Chemical, Petrological, Physico-Mechanical and other Laboratory analysis of Minerals, Rocks, Ores etc.

Last date of submission of EOI is 20.09.2021 at 5.00 P.M.

- Terms, Conditions & Application forms are available on our website www.jharkhand.gov.in and also at our office notice board.
- Cost of tender document- 1,00,00/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) It will be submitted online through official website www.jharkhandminerals.gov.in Other & Services e Payment Payment office (Directorate of Geology) Head of Payment (Cost of Tender Document) Description Type of Depositor (Other) District Name (Directorate of Geology) DDO Code (PRJOJTH02)

Sd/-
(Vijay Kumar Ojha)
Director, Geology

PR 252143 Mines and Geology(21-22)D

ICAR-INDIAN VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
IZATANGAR -243 122, BAREILLY (U.P.)

Walk-in Interview

Walk-in-interviews have been scheduled for engagement of Five Senior Research Fellows and Two Contractual Manpower at ICAR-IVRI, Izatnagar in NAHEP sponsored projects. The engagement is purely temporary on contractual basis and there will be no provision of absorption/re-employment in ICAR or ICAR-IVRI on termination of the project.

A. Five Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) positions (CAASTACLH, Project), eligible candidates will be interviewed on 07th September, 2021 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room of University Building at IVRI, Izatnagar.

B. Two Contractual Manpower (NAHEP Component 2A Project), eligible candidates will be interviewed on 07th September, 2021 at 02:30 PM in the Committee Room of University Building at IVRI, Izatnagar.

Please visit Institute website www.ivri.nic.in for detail of advertisement and further updates and notifications regarding interview.

EXPLICIT VIDEOS: HC RELIEF FOR ACTOR

New Delhi: Directing websites to take down and stop uploading certain explicit video and audio clips of a Bengali actor, the Delhi High Court said her right to privacy to be protected, especially when it is her person that is being exhibited against her will. ENS

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(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
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Bank offers offers, under two bid system (including installation of On-Site ATM within the total rent), for premises measuring carpet area 1500-1700 sq. ft. on ground floor, on lease basis for a minimum period of 15 years, for branch in the vicinity of Krishna Nagar, New Delhi-110051. For details visit our website www.psbindia.com.

ZONAL MANAGER

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Open Tender Notice No. SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2021-22-T02
Date : 26.08.2021

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer /TRD, North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites sealed "OPEN" E-Tender for the following work. S.N.: 01, Name of work:- Shifting of NRA/TSS Neutral Section from Location 440/20 to 440/06, Tender reference No. :- SrDEE-TRD-BSB-2021-22-T02, Approx. Cost (in Rs.): - 3274500.19, Earnest money/Bid Security (in Rs.): - Nil, Cost of tender documents (in Rs.): Nil, E-Tender closing date and time:- 16.09.2021 upto 15:00 Hrs., Completion Period:- 4 Months, E-Tender Online will be submitted up to 15:00 Hrs on date 16.09.2021, For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railway i.e. www.reps.gov.in.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD CPRO/EL-40 Varanasi

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of public that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (the "BCCI") has granted Star India Private Limited ("Star India") exclusive media rights, including but not limited to television, internet and mobile rights, to the Indian Premier League (comprising the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 seasons) including public screenings of IPL matches in commercial premises as a simulcast of its channels pursuant to its regular operations, for the territory of the entire world ("Territory") during the period commencing from 1st January 2018 till 30th September 2022 (the "Term") ("Exclusive Rights").

VIVO is the title sponsor of the 2021 edition of the Indian Premier League. Star India, in its capacity as exclusive licensee in the Territory, is entitled to administer, monitor and enforce its Exclusive Rights against third parties. No other entity or person may, without prior permission of Star India, engage in any activity, which may infringe and/or in any manner interfere with the Exclusive Rights, including but not limited to making the broadcast of VIVO IPL 2021 matches (or any part thereof) available to the public on the television or internet or through mobile applications.

No entity and/or person shall re-transmit and/or make available the VIVO IPL 2021 matches (including the live feed, public screening, over internet, mobile applications, social media) in violation of Star India's Exclusive Rights anywhere in the Territory during the Term without license/written authorization from STAR India.

By this notice, private cable and satellite operators (cable/DTH/IPTV/HITS) are also cautioned to refrain from showing and/or making available VIVO IPL 2021 matches anywhere in illegal and unauthorized mode and/or manner including in unencrypted mode, on any distribution platform.

The public is requested to refrain from consuming pirated content from VIVO IPL 2021 matches and is encouraged to report all instances of piracy immediately to Star India on reportpiracy@stariv.com and Star India shall be constrained to take such action as may be available to it under law and equity.

Star

Issued by:
Star India Private Limited
Regd Office at Urmli Estate, 95, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Opposite Peninsula Business Park, Lower Parel (West), Mumbai, Maharashtra 400013
Branch office at Vatika Business Centre, Thapar House, Gate No. 1 Eastern & Central Wing, Third Floor, 124, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001

STEM WATER DISTRI. & INFRA. CO. PVT. LTD.
Vardaan Commercial Complex, 9th Floor, MIDC, Road No. 16, Wagale Industrial Estate, Thane (WJ)-400 604.

E-Tender Notice No. 6 for 2021-22 stemwater.tenderwork@gmail.com

STEM Water Dist. & Infra. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Thane are invited E-Tender in the form of B-1 Tender for following work:

Name of work: Maintenance & repairs to various M.S./C.I./A.C. pipeline in Bhiwandi City & Rural Area. Estimated Cost Rs. 98,56,275/-

E-Tender documents will be available for view/download on authorised web site <https://stem.abcpocure.com> from dt. 27.08.2021 to dt. 21.09.2021. Last date of online submission of tenders with e-payment of cost of blank tender form & EMD is dt. 21.09.2021 up to hrs. 1500. Received tenders will be opened on dt. 23.09.2021 at hrs. 1500. Right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason there of is reserved by the STEM Water Distri. & Infra. Co. Pvt. Ltd., Thane.

Sd/-
Managing Director

SPECIAL TRAIN-2021

For the convenience of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run the following Unreserved Mail/Express Special Train as per the schedule given below :-

04496/04495 Palwal - Agra Cantt - Palwal Unreserved Mail/Express Special Train (Daily)

TRAIN NO. 04496		STATIONS		TRAIN NO. 04495	
ARR.	DEP.			ARR.	DEP.
---	04:25	Palwal		21:30	---
07:20	---	Agra Cantt		---	18:00

Days of Run : 04496 Ex. Palwal and 04495 Ex. Agra Cantt everyday from 30.08.2021 till further advice.

Stoppages : Rundhi, Sholaka, Banchari, Hodal, Kosi Kalan, Chhata, Ajhai, Vrindavan Road, Bhuteshwar, Mathura Jn., Baad, Farah, Deen Dayal Dham, Kitham, Runkuta, Billoch Pura Agra and Raja Ki Mandi stations.

CONVERGENCE ENERGY SERVICES LIMITED
A JV of PSUs under the Ministry of Power

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

CESL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), which is a JV of PSUs under Ministry of Power, Government of India invites applications for the position of Deputy General Manager - Processes & Control (Regular).

Details w.r.t detailed advertisement, eligibility criteria, selection mode, online application etc. shall be made available on CESL website under CESL HR Career Section from 26/08/2021. www.convergence.co.in

All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and stations en route etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website: www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in
Download RailMadad App

NORTHERN RAILWAY
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OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER-II DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, DELHI 4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE Dated: 11.08.2021

R.C. No.39/2011

HUDDCO Vs. Maharaji Education Trust
ORDER

As per my order dated 11.08.2021 the under mentioned property will be sold by public e-auction on 30.09.2021 in the said Recovery Certificate.

The auction sale will be "online e-Auctioning" through website www.tenderwizard.com

Date and Time of Auction: 30.09.2021 between 03.00 pm and 04.00 pm (With extensions of 5 minutes duration after 04.00 PM, if required)

Lot No.	Property Detail	Reserve Price	Earnest Money
1.	Multi Storey Building/Hospital Complex bearing Plot No. 1-2, Ambedkar Road, Opposite Bus Depot, Ghaziabad (UP) measuring 6009.36 sq. mtrs. together with super structure constructed thereon (Rs. 61.59 crores)		
	Land measuring 20234.25 sq. mts. (5 acres) at Block No. K, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon. (Rs. 43.84 crores)	Rs. 243 crore	Rs. 24.30 crore
	Land Measuring 20234.25 sq. mts. (5 Acres) at Block No. J, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon (Rs. 68.57 crores)		
	Land Measuring 5.766 Acres at Pratap Vihar, Plot in J & K Block, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon (Rs. 56.10 crores)		
	Land Measuring 111.52 sq. mtrs. at 16, HIG Houses bearing no. H-116 at H-Block, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon (Rs. 13.22 crores)		
2.	Equipments (available at property no. 2) (available as annexure I on the website www.huddco.org & www.tenderwizard.com)	Rs. 29 lacs	Rs. 2.90 lacs
3.	Equipments (available at property no. 3) (available as annexure I on the website www.huddco.org & www.tenderwizard.com)	Rs. 2.95 crore	Rs. 29.50 lacs

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- The auction sale will be "online through e-auction" through website portal: www.tenderwizard.com
- The EMD shall be paid either through Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of the "Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi-A/C R.C. No. 39/2011" or through NEFT/RTGS to the following account - Name of the Bank ICICI Bank, 9A, Pharis Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Bank A/c No. 000705049993, IFSC Code ICICI0000007. The said Demand Draft/Pay Order or original proof of payment through NEFT/RTGS qua EMD, alongwith self-attested copy of identity (voter I-card/driving license/passport), which should contain the address for future communication, and self-attested copy of PAN card, and in the case of company, copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company also, must reach the Office of the Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II, Delhi latest by 28.09.2021 before 4.00 PM. In the case of individual, a declaration if the bid is on his/her own behalf or on behalf of his/her principals be also submitted in the latter case, the bidder shall be required to deposit his/her authority and in case of default, his/her bid shall be rejected. The EMD or original proof of EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The envelope containing EMD or original proof of payment of EMD through NEFT/RTGS, along with details of the sender, i.e. address, e-mail ID and mobile number, etc., should be superscribed "RC No. 39/2011".
- The property is also sold on "as is where is basis" & "as is what is basis".
- The bidders are advised to go through the portal www.huddco.org & www.tenderwizard.com for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction sale before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceeding and/or contact Sh. Prashant Panigrahi, Assistant General Manager, HUDDCO, 5TH FLOOR, HUDDCO HOUSE, LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003, Contact No. (011) 24308669/7858047979.
- Prospective bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, after deposit of EMD, which is mandatory for bidding in the above e-auction, from M/s Antares Systems Ltd, Unit No. 202-203, 2nd Floor, H.B. Twin Tower, Tower-I, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. E-auction Website: www.tenderwizard.com, e-auction service provider authorized officer Sh. Himanshu, Exe-CRM, Email ID: himanshu@antaresystems.com, Contact No. 8799753411 and Sh. Arjeet, Project Coordinator, Email ID: arjeet@antaresystems.com, Contact No. 8800445981.
- The interested bidders may avail online training on e-auction after deposit of EMD, from M/s Antares Systems Ltd, Unit No. 202-203, 2nd Floor, H.B. Twin Tower, Tower-I, NSP, Pitampura, Delhi-110034. E-auction Website: www.tenderwizard.com, e-auction service provider authorized officer Sh. Himanshu, Exe-CRM, Email ID: himanshu@antaresystems.com, Contact No. 8799753411 and Sh. Arjeet, Project Coordinator, Email ID: arjeet@antaresystems.com, Contact No. 8800445981.

Lot No.	Description of the property to be sold	Revenue assessed upon the property or any part thereof	Details of any encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims, if any which have been put forward to the property, and any other particulars bearing on its nature and value
1.	Multi Storey Building/Hospital Complex bearing Plot No. 1-2, Ambedkar Road, Opposite Bus Depot, Ghaziabad (UP) measuring 6009.36 sq. mtrs. together with super structure constructed thereon	Not known	Not known	Not known
	Land measuring 20234.25 sq. mts. (5 acres) at Block No. K, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon	Not known	Not known	Not known
	Land Measuring 20234.25 sq. mts. (5 Acres) at Block No. J, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon	Not known	Not known	Not known
	Land Measuring 5.766 Acres at Pratap Vihar, Plot in J & K Block, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon	Not known	Not known	Not known
	Land Measuring 111.52 sq. mtrs. at 16, HIG Houses bearing no. H-116 at H-Block, Pratap Vihar, Sector-12, Ghaziabad (UP) together with super structure constructed thereon	Not known	Not known	Not known
2.	Equipments (available at property no. 2) (available as annexure I on the website www.huddco.org & www.tenderwizard.com)	Not known	Not known	Not known
3.	Equipments (available at property no. 3) (available as annexure I on the website www.huddco.org & www.tenderwizard.com)	Not known	Not known	Not known

Matter be listed on 04.09.2021 for filing affidavit of service of E-auction sale notice with proofs of service (including track results qua speed post and courier) and casti, original proofs of publication in newspapers and wider publicity including website for the purpose of e-auction.

(Dattaraj Bajpayee)
Recovery Officer-II
DRT-II, Delhi

8 GOVT & POLITICS

Police officers facing ire of new govt a disturbing trend: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana Thursday flagged the "disturbing trend" of police personnel under one dispensation facing the ire when a different political party assumes office.

"State of affairs in the country is sad. When a political party is in power, police officials side with a particular party. Then when a new party comes into power, the government initiates action against those officials. This is a new trend, which needs to be stopped," CJI Ramana, heading a two-judge bench, remarked while granting protection from arrest to Chhattisgarh Police Academy's suspended director Gurjinder Pal Singh.

Singh was booked for sedition and amassing of disproportionate assets.

Appearing for the 1994-batch IPS officer, senior advocate F S Nariman said Singh served as Additional DGP (ADGP) and was director of the police academy,

and now proceedings under IPC Section 124A (sedition) have been initiated against him. Nariman said there was no need for custodial interrogation of the officer, as the chargesheet has already been filed. He submitted that the present Chhattisgarh CM had once sought Singh's help against his predecessor.

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, who also represented Singh, sought protection from any coercive action.

Appearing for the state government, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi urged the court not to grant him protection from arrest, saying that he had been the head of police academy but "look at his conduct; he has been absconding".

"We will consider the sedition case. This is a very disturbing trend and the police department itself is responsible for this... Do not say that your client (Singh) was fair, your client must have acted as per directions of the government of the day..." the bench responded.

After Chhattisgarh HC refused to quash the sedition case, Singh had moved SC.

Nine new judges appointed to SC, total strength moves up to 33

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind on Thursday appointed nine judges to the Supreme Court, taking its total strength to 33 judges, one short of full strength.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the judges are likely to be sworn-in on August 31 by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana.

The government's nod to appoint nine judges comes a week after the Supreme Court collegium, ending a nearly two-year-long impasse, sent its recommendations. The list has three women, and includes Justice BV Nagarathna, who could become the first woman Chief Justice of India in 2027.

Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka, Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, will be the senior-most among the nine judges. Others in the list include, in order of seniority, Gujarat High Court Chief Justice Vikram Nath, Sikkim High Court Chief Justice J K Maheshwari, Telangana High Court Chief Justice Hima Kohli, Karnataka High Court Justice Justice BV Nagarathna, Justice CT Ravikumar of Kerala High Court, Justice M M Sundaresh of Madras High Court, Justice Bela Trivedi of Gujarat High Court, and senior advocate P S Narasimha.

2 Kumbh officers suspended over fake Covid test nexus

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 26

UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT on Thursday suspended two officers over fake Covid tests allegedly done by private agencies hired during the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar earlier this year.

Dr Arjun Singh Sengar, who was the Mela officer (medical and health), and Dr NK Tyagi, in-charge officer (medical and health) for the Mela, were re-

sponsible for selection of firms for Covid tests and monitoring of Covid management in the Mela area, a senior official said.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama ordered their suspension and disciplinary action after an inquiry found them involved in a nexus with firms engaged in fake rapid antigen tests during Kumbh.

Haridwar district administration had constituted a probe panel under the district's Chief Development Officer.

New drone rules make flying them easier and cheaper

Landmark, says PM; however, can't still fly beyond visual line of sight

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

THE GOVERNMENT on Thursday notified the Drone Rules 2021 with an aim to liberalise the stringent regime for civilian drone operations that it had established in 2018, when these drones were allowed for the first time.

The regulations notified by the Civil Aviation Ministry have lowered entry barriers — including cutting the number of registration forms to be filled to five from 25, and the number of fees payable to four from 72 — to make it simpler for operators to start using drones.

Significantly, however, the restrictions on operations "beyond visual line-of-sight" (BVLOS) — in which there is considerable industry interest and potential for commercial operations — have

EXPLAINED
E Key curb remains

DESPITE SOME easing, regulations continue to be restrictive with respect to BVLOS operations. The Civil Aviation Ministry has so far allowed BVLOS operations on a trial basis in some cases such as delivery of vaccines, medicines, etc.

not been lifted.

Draft liberalised drone Rules were put out by the government for consultations last month, weeks after the drone attack on the Indian Air Force station in Jammu. "The new Drone Rules usher

in a landmark moment for this sector in India. The rules are based on the premise of trust and self-certification. Approvals, compliance requirements and entry barriers have been significantly reduced," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet.

The aviation safety regulator, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had banned civilian drones in October 2014. More than four years later, the government had issued a set of rules to govern the operations of unmanned aircraft systems.

The 2018 Rules categorised drones according to their sizes, with separate sets of requirements. The Rules, which were overseen by the then Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha, asked, for the first time in the world, drone companies to have a "no permission, no take-

off" feature built into these aircraft — something that would not allow a drone to take off without prior registration and necessary approvals.

The government has now said that safety features like "no permission, no take-off", real-time tracking beacon, and geo-fencing, etc. would be notified in the future with a minimum six-month lead time for compliance.

The Rules notified on Thursday have done away with the slew of approvals required under the previous regime — such as having a unique authorisation number, a unique prototype identification number, a certificate of manufacturing and airworthiness, certificates of conformance and maintenance, import clearance, operator permit, etc.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com



INDIA EVACUATES 35: Indian and Nepalese citizens on board a bus after arriving at Hindon Air Force Station from Kabul on Thursday. India Thursday managed to evacuate 24 of its citizens and 11 Nepal nationals on a military aircraft from Kabul, but scores of other planned evacuees failed to reach the airport amid the situation in the Afghanistan capital. ANI

Afghan Sikhs, Hindus wait after blasts, Taliban gunfire

DIVYA GOYAL GOPAL
LUDHIANA, AUGUST 26

THE FATE of around 210 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, who were scheduled to be airlifted to India, hung in balance on Thursday after two explosions were reported near Kabul's airport.

The Pentagon has so far said that some civilians and US service members are among casualties, even as a Taliban official said that at least 13 people were killed in the blast, including children, and many Taliban guards were wounded.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over phone, Kulwinder Singh, who along with other Afghan Sikhs and Hindus took shelter at Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita Guru Gobind Singh Karte Parwan in Kabul, confirmed that all of them were safe. "None of us were on the way to the airport or at the spot when the explosions happened," he said.

Since Wednesday, a batch of at least 140 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus, have been trying to reach Kabul airport in order to be evacuated to Delhi by air. The group, however, had to return to the gurdwara at around 2 am on Thursday after a bus ferrying them came under gunfire near the airport. No one was injured and all

members of the group returned safely to the gurdwara.

With explosions killing people outside the airport now, the group members said that their wait to return to India may become prolonged. Despite a distance of just 10 km from the airport, their journey back to India felt like an "eternity" in waiting, they said.

"We were traveling in seven buses and also carrying two saarops of Sri Guru Granth Sahib. We had to board an evacuation plane... There were long queues outside the airport and then suddenly the firing started... we decided to return back to the gurdwara after trying in vain to get to the airport for 12 hours. Now with the explosions happening near the airport, there is no information if there will be any evacuation flight for us," one of the Afghan Sikhs said.

In a statement, the US-based United Sikhs, said, "Earlier today (Wednesday), with assistance from teams on the ground, an attempt was made by a caravan of nine mini-buses to make their way to the north gate of the Kabul International Airport, which is under the control of the American forces. The initial attempt was unsuccessful due to skirmishes between American forces and the Taliban fighters. The caravan retreated to a temporary safe location. A second attempt was made late in the evening and early morning hours to reach the North Gate. The caravan, that was ferrying dozens of women and children, came under gunfire as it approached the airport. At least one vehicle was hit, but thankfully no one was injured."

In an apparent reference to China, Birla, who is on a three-day visit to Ladakh, said the "expansionist approach" of a few countries results in border disputes. Asked about the political crisis in Afghanistan, Birla said, "We have full faith in our armed forces that they wouldn't let political turmoil in any other country [Afghanistan] affect India." PTI

Forces won't let turmoil outside affect India: Birla

Leh: The armed forces would not let political turmoil in any other country affect India. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said Thursday.

HC quashes externment order against CAA protester

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court on Thursday quashed an order of the Ahmedabad city police to extern a person, who is an accused in an FIR filed against a crowd protesting the National Register of Citizens and Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019, from several districts.

Quashing the externment order against Mohammed Kaleem Siddiqui, the court observed that "a citizen cannot be subjected to externment for raising his grievance against the Government".

The order against Siddiqui was passed by ACP ('A' division) of Ahmedabad city on November 13, 2020, externing him from Ahmedabad (city and rural), Gandhinagar, Kheda and Mehsana districts for one year. Siddiqui had challenged the order before the High Court.

A bench of Justice Paresh Upadhyay passed an order quashing the order Thursday.

HC quashes court order to accept Kafel chargesheet

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 26

THE ALLAHABAD High Court on Thursday quashed a decision of the Aligarh Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) to accept the police chargesheet against suspended Gorakhpur paediatrician Dr Kafel Khan in an alleged hate speech case.

The case was lodged over Khan's speech at Aligarh Muslim University in December 2019 during the anti-CAA protests.

The court quashed the decision of the CJM court to accept the chargesheet as the prosecution sanction was not taken from the state government before filing it.

On December 17 last year, the Supreme Court had refused to interfere with an order of the Allahabad High Court dismissing the charges filed against Khan in the case.

TN BJP caught in tangle of tapes, charges of sexual misconduct

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 26

FACTIONALISM IN Tamil Nadu BJP has taken an ugly turn with two relatively new entrants in the party — state unit chief K Annamalai and YouTuber Madan Ravichandran — being at the centre of a controversy this week over allegations of sexual misconduct against a senior party leader from the RSS.

Triggering the storm, Ravichandran on Tuesday morning released a video, making serious allegations of sexual misconduct against BJP state general secretary KT Raghavan, a prominent RSS face in the party. Following the allegations of his misconduct with a woman party worker, Raghavan denied the charges and resigned from his post.

Ravichandran's claim that he released the video with the consent of state BJP chief Annamalai forced the latter to issue a statement, claiming ignorance about details of the video although he admitted that he was aware of the issue.

On Wednesday, Ravichandran and a woman associate, were suspended from the party for their actions, which were considered "against the interest of BJP ideals". Upset over the action, Ravichandran released another video on Thursday, this time targeting Annamalai.

The video, posted on his popular social media page "Madan Diary", contained Ravichandran's secretly recorded conversation purportedly with Annamalai, in an attempt to prove that the state party chief knew about the allegations against Raghavan and that he had also given multiple options to deal with the issue. The options were to release the video and make the party act or take Ravichandran to Delhi to brief top leaders although it would take

months and years," said a leader. Quick elevation of non-Brahmin leaders such as L Murugan, first as party state chief and now as Union minister, and Annamalai as party chief, may have sidelined many veterans.

A top BJP leader, who previously held national positions, said Annamalai should have handled the situation better after the first video was released. "He should either resign or challenge the video."

However, other leaders said the episode will not impact the party. "This is more of a shame. People are watching this. But it is not a reason for Annamalai to resign," said a leader.

ENS

Maharashtra plans OBC quota for local body polls, CM calls all-party meet

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

MONTHS AFTER the Supreme Court struck down the OBC reservation for local body polls, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government has devised a formula to provide an OBC quota — within the ceiling of 50 per cent reservation — for the upcoming local elections.

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has called a meeting of all political parties on Friday to build consensus on the formula and a formal announcement could be made after the discussion.

Sources in the government said that the formula was discussed by leaders of the MVA and there is an agreement among them. "The proposed formula is to provide reservation to the OBCs minus the SC and ST reservation within the ceiling of 50 per cent reservation," a cabinet minister told *The Indian Express* on condi-

tion of anonymity. Explaining the formula, the minister said that if SC and ST reservation is 27 or 25 or 30 per cent in a district, then the remaining 23 or 25 or 20 per cent reservation within the ceiling of 50 per cent will be given to OBCs.

"In the new proposal, the 50 per cent ceiling of reservation will not be breached by the state. As of now, there is zero per cent reservation for the OBC community after it was struck down by the SC. So, with this formula, the OBCs will get a certain per cent reservation in local bodies rather than zero per cent," added the minister.

Sources said that Thackeray will hold a meeting on Friday with all political parties, including the opposition BJP and MNS. Thackeray's call for the meeting comes a day after the state election commission (SEC) issued directions to 18 municipal corporations to start preparing the draft ward boundaries in view of the impending civic polls.

The police have already regis-



KT Raghavan quit as TN BJP gen secy this week

time for action.

Annamalai allegedly also admits that he was aware of sexual misconduct charges against senior leaders in the state unit but says he has limitations as state party chief. After the tapes were released, Annamalai did not issue any statement and was not available for comment when contacted.

After the first video was released, he had said Ravichandran had approached him twice and that he had promised action as the party chief but "not before verifying the video and seeking explanation from the concerned persons".

Incidentally, Annamalai and Ravichandran, both in their 30s, were among those who were hurriedly inducted into the party ahead of the recent Assembly elections.

Party leaders, who did not want to be named, said several factors were in play. "There is a factional feud between senior Brahmin, mostly RSS-backed, leaders and non-Brahmin leaders, who have emerged in recent months and years," said a leader. Quick elevation of non-Brahmin leaders such as L Murugan, first as party state chief and now as Union minister, and Annamalai as party chief, may have sidelined many veterans.

A top BJP leader, who previously held national positions, said Annamalai should have handled the situation better after the first video was released. "He should either resign or challenge the video."

However, other leaders said the episode will not impact the party. "This is more of a shame. People are watching this. But it is not a reason for Annamalai to resign," said a leader.

PM to inaugurate Jallianwala complex tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AMRITSAR, AUGUST 26

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the renovated Jallianwala Bagh complex in Amritsar on Saturday evening. The revamped monument was to be inaugurated on April 13 this year, to mark 102 years of the massacre in which 379 people had lost their lives, but it had to be postponed owing to Covid-related restrictions.

Modi, also the chairperson of the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial Trust, will dedicate the memorial to the public in the presence of other trust members including Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy, Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, Governor VP Singh Badnore, and parliamentarians from the region. Chief Ministers of Haryana,



Inauguration was postponed due to Covid restrictions

Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are also expected to attend. An invite has also been sent to Opposition leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who is also a member of the trust. While political leaders will join through video conferencing, officials from the Ministry of Culture and families of the martyrs will be pres-

ent on ground for a restricted ceremony.

The event will showcase the multiple development initiatives taken by the government to upgrade the complex.

The entry and exit points have been repositioned, and a lotus pond has been built around the main memorial. Four new galleries have been created through adaptive reuse of underutilised buildings in the complex, say officials from the Ministry of Culture. These showcase the historical value of events that unfolded in Punjab during that period, through projection mapping and 3D representation, as well as art installations.

A sound and light show has been set up to display the events that happened on April 13, 1919.

Several new and modern amenities have been added, including re-

defined paths of movement with appropriate signages; illumination of strategic spots; landscaping and hardscaping with native plantation; and installation of audio nodes throughout the garden. Also, newer areas have been developed for housing the Salvation Ground, Amar Jyot and Flag Mast.

Interestingly, just a few days ago, on August 15, the Punjab Chief Minister had inaugurated the Jallianwala Bagh Centenary Memorial Park in Amritsar. The CM had said the second memorial was "a tribute to the unknown martyrs" who had laid down their lives, while the first memorial at Jallianwala Bagh site was built to remember the martyrs who were identified. The second memorial has been built over 1.5 acres of land at the Amrit Anand Park in Ranjit Avenue, almost 3 km away from the original site.

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9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

ODISHA

Covid estimates: 19K daily cases, 1.76L in hospital

Bhubaneswar: Preparing for the possibility of a third wave of Covid-19, the Odisha government has estimated that the daily caseload will cross 19,000 cases during the third peak, 1.5 times higher than that during the second wave. The state government also anticipates that over 1.76 lakh patients will be admitted with nearly 22,988 patients requiring ICU support. The infected might include 12 per cent children and adolescents and the anticipated third spell could last for around 75 days, it said.

ENS

JAMMU & KASHMIR

2 militants held in Kishtwar, weapons seized

Jammu: The Jammu Kashmir Police along with Rashtriya Rifles and CRPF on Thursday arrested two militants in Kishtwar district and seized arms and ammunition from them. They have been identified as Ashfaq qayoom Tak and Touseef Gori. Police also seized one pistol along with 20 rounds and a magazine, one grenade, an empty magazine of AK 47 rifle, two wireless sets, one wireless antenna and a letter pad of Hizbul Mujahideen outfit.

ENS

CHHATTISGARH

Only female wild buffalo in govt centre dies

Raipur: The sole female wild buffalo in a conservation centre at Chhattisgarh's Sitanadi-Udanti tiger reserve died Wednesday night. The state animal is on the verge of extinction with less than 20 of the species left in Chhattisgarh. The conservation centre had only one female and three males, an official said. Now, no more female wild buffaloes are left in the reserve, one of the habitats of the species, according to an activist.

ENS

ASSAM

Union minister honours 75 Assam citizens

New Delhi: Union Minister Rameshwar Teli on Wednesday honoured 75 eminent citizens from Assam as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at the ONGC office premises in Nazira, Assam. Teli honoured freedom fighters along with those who contributed to the nation in the fields of agriculture, science, sports, education and social service. They were residents of Sivasagar, Jorhat and Golaghat districts. The ONGC Director (Onshore) said these soldiers are icons and worthy of emulation by others.

ENS

MYSURU GANGRAPE

No arrest; state Home Minister says site deserted, couple 'should not have' visited

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 26

WHILE POLICE are yet to make an arrest in the Mysuru gangrape of a 23-year-old two days after the incident, Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra stirred a controversy Thursday by suggesting that the woman and her friend should have been more careful.

He told reporters: "Around 7-7:30 pm they went there. It is a deserted place, they should not have gone, but we can't stop anyone from going, they went. It is a deserted place and no one usually goes there." Attacking the Congress for raising questions over the law and order in the state, Jnanendra also said the Opposition was "raping" him.

As his remarks led to a furore, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is in Delhi, said he

did not approve of the same. Towards the evening, Jnanendra apologised and said he was withdrawing his remarks.

Police investigating the gangrape said the victim and her friend had said the accused had made videos of the incident and threatened to release them if the couple approached the authorities. While one person has reportedly been detained, no arrest has been made so far.

The woman, an MBA student from outside Karnataka, was sexually assaulted by four-five men Tuesday night in a secluded area near the Chamundi Hills in Mysuru. Her friend was beaten up. Both are hospitalised. While the woman's injuries were severe and she remains in shock, she is improving, officials said.

A senior police officer said the accused first demanded money from the couple, before dragging

away the woman and raping her, and beating up the man. They also took away their mobile phones. Police believe the accused might have been locals from Mysuru, and are scouring cellphone data in the area from the time of the assault. They are also questioning owners of liquor stores nearby as bottles and cans of liquor were recovered from the site of the crime.

The area is frequented by local youths to consume liquor, and several incidents of robbery have been reported from there. Sources said a witness saw four motorcycles near the spot Tuesday night.

On Thursday, Additional DGP Pratap Reddy visited the spot with other officers. Incidentally, Reddy was the supervising officer in the investigation into a case of sexual assault on a medical student of Manipal University in June 2013, where cellphone data

had led police to the accused.

"We are yet to obtain a statement from the woman. We want to do it with her consent once she recovers. We are probing various angles based on the FIR that has been registered," Reddy said.

Bommai said he had spoken to Reddy and other officers and told them to report to him directly. "Based on the information gathered and on the basis of the tower dump and call data records, investigations are proceeding," he said.

At his interaction with the media earlier in the day, Jnanendra admitted there were concerns about lack of police patrolling in areas such as where the gangrape took place. "Rape has happened there (in Mysuru), but the Congress is trying to rape me, they are trying to rape the Home Minister," he said.

Expressing shock over

Jnanendra's statements, state Congress chief D K Shivakumar said: "Home Minister, you have the onus of protecting the state, are you not ashamed of making such a shabby remark?... With this statement he has agreed that it is dangerous to venture out even at 7:30 pm under BJP rule."

Shivakumar said: "He has claimed that Congress is raping him, he is using the word rape very lightly... it seems he likes that word. I seek the response of BJP leaders on this statement."

Bommai said he had asked Jnanendra to clarify his remarks. "I don't agree with the statement. My government views these issues very seriously," he said.

Soon after, Jnanendra held a press conference to say he had no intention to hurt anybody even as he criticised Congress leaders for seeking his resignation over the gangrape.

'FREE RUN IN TIHAR'

SC orders Unitech ex-promoters shifted to prisons in Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

ACTING ON an Enforcement Directorate (ED) report that said that the jailed former promoters of the real estate group Unitech Ltd, Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra, were having a free run of Tihar and flouting the jail manual in connivance with officials, the Supreme Court on Thursday directed that the two men be separated and moved to Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai and Taloja Central Jail in Raigad district of Maharashtra.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and MR Shah tore into authorities at the capital's Tihar jail for alleged connivance with the two accused. The bench said it had lost faith in Tihar authorities, and slammed the conduct of the jail superintendent as "shameless".

"The Tihar Jail authorities have acted absolutely in connivance with them. We have lost faith in the Tihar jail authorities. They are sitting in the capital city and enforcing the orders of the Supreme Court and all this is happening under their nose. Absolutely shameless of the Superintendent of the Tihar Jail, is all we want to say," Justice Chandrachud said, mincing no words.

The court asked why the

Delhi Police Commissioner had not acted on the concerns raised by the ED about some of the jail staff in a communication on August 16.

"The Commissioner should have immediately started the inquiry...it was his duty also as the head of the department... He should not have waited for even a single day if these allegations are found to be true", Justice Shah said.

The court directed the Commissioner to personally investigate the matter and submit a report in four weeks.

The activities that have come to light "undermine the authority of the Court and will derail the investigation which has been ordered by the Directorate of Enforcement", the court said. "In the circumstances, we order and direct that both the accused, Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra, be shifted from Tihar Central Jail to the premises of Arthur Road Jail, Mumbai and Taloja Central Jail, Mumbai, respectively".

The bench asked the Supreme Court Registrar (Judicial) to forward its order to the DGP, Maharashtra so that arrangements could be made immediately for housing the accused.

Tihar jail authorities declined to comment on the court's orders.

Covid-19: Over 1 lakh children need care, protection, SC told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

A TOTAL of 8,161 children were orphaned, 92,475 children lost either parent, and 396 were abandoned between April 1, 2020 and August 23 this year — a period that saw the country battling two waves of Covid-19 — the National Commission for Child Rights (NCCPCR) has stated in an affidavit filed in Supreme Court.

The NCCPCR clarified that the figures culled out from data uploaded by states and Union Territories on its 'Bal Swaraj' portal do not reflect only death due to Covid-19; the death of a parent in the given period may have been due to other reasons too.

Of total 1,01,032 children, who the Commission said are in "need of care and protection", 52,532

are boys; 48,495 girls; and five are transgender. The majority — 40,249 children — are in the 8-13 age group, followed by 17,849 children in the 4-7 age group.

A state-wise breakdown shows Maharashtra has the maximum number of children — 15,401 — in need of care and protection (lost both or either parent); followed by Gujarat (9,033) and Odisha (8,498).

Hearing the matter Thursday, a bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose said states have to protect these children and ensure that their education is not disrupted at least in the current academic session.

It said the states and UTs should talk to the private schools to see if there can be a fee waiver for these children and suggested that the states can bear the fee if the schools are unwilling to waive it.

Forced sex with wife does not amount to rape: Chhattisgarh HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BILASPUR, AUGUST 26

THE CHHATTISGARH High Court has discharged a 37-year-old man in a rape case filed against him by his wife after observing that sexual intercourse or any sexual act with a legally wedded wife is not rape even if done by force or against her wish.

The court, however, did not grant any relief to the man who was also charged under IPC section 377 (unnatural offences). It said no illegality has been committed in framing other charges against the accused.

Justice NK Chandravanshi delivered the judgment on August 23 in a criminal revision plea filed by the man and his two family members, seeking to quash a rape charge (against him) and other offences framed against them, their lawyer YC Sharma said on Thursday.

As per the order, the victim married the man, a native of Chongarabhatta in Raipur, in 2017. After a few days of marriage, the woman's husband and her two in-laws allegedly started harassing her for dowry.

The woman later lodged a complaint at the Bemetara police station of Bemetara district against the three.

After investigation, a chargesheet under section 498-A (dowry harassment), 377 (unnat-

ural offences), 376 (rape), 34 (common intention) of the IPC was filed against them. After providing opportunity of hearing to counsels of both the parties, a trial court had framed charges against the applicants under these sections, the order said.

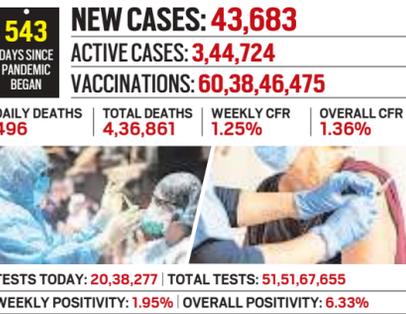
The trio, including the woman's husband, approached the High Court seeking to set aside the trial court order and discharge them from the charges, including that of rape against him.

"Counsel for the applicants submits that the complainant and the applicant No. 1 (man) are legally wedded wife and husband, therefore, none of the ingredients to constitute the offence punishable under Sections 376 and 377 of the IPC are spelt out against him, because, in India, marital rape is not recognized and the same is not an offence in view of Exception II of Section 375 of the IPC," the HC said.

The counsel had prayed that the impugned order be set aside and the applicants be discharged from charges brought against them, it said.

The order said, "Exception II of Section 375 of the IPC, referred to above, makes it clear that sexual intercourse or sexual act by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under eighteen years of age, is not rape." The judge said charge under IPC section 376 (rape) against the man was erroneous and illegal.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE



STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	30,077	1,81,668	17.68%	2,70,12,971
■ Maharashtra	5,108	50,393	2.34%	5,48,65,308
■ Tamil Nadu	1,559	18,069	1.02%	2,97,90,533
■ Andhra Pradesh	1,539	14,448	2.10%	2,70,97,991
■ Karnataka	1,213	19,326	0.78%	3,84,50,535

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	162	20,213	0.64%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	162	1,40,245	3.00%	2.20%
■ Odisha	66	7,681	5.30%	0.77%
■ Tamil Nadu	26	34,814	1.28%	1.35%
■ Karnataka	25	37,231	1.27%	1.27%

Note: Data as on Aug 26; vaccination numbers as of Aug 25. Deaths include those from previous days.

Covishield dose gap based on efficacy: Centre to Kerala HC

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 26

THE CENTRE Thursday told the Kerala High Court that the 84-day gap between two doses of the Covishield vaccine was fixed as per the recommendation of the Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety.

The court was hearing a petition by KITEEX Garments which sought a relaxation in the 84-day interval for administering the second dose of Covishield to its employees. The Kochi-based company had purchased the required doses for employees, but could not distribute the second dose as the state government did not allow the job before the expiry of the stipulated interval.

Submitting its response at the direction of the High Court, the Centre said the gap ensured better vaccine efficacy. The court will take up the matter again Friday. On Tuesday, while considering the KITEEX plea, the bench of Justice P B Suresh Kumar had asked whether the interval was meant for ensuring efficacy or due to shortage.

Manipur: DC asks govt staff to take jab or go without salary; challenged in HC

ESHAROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

A RECENT order by the Deputy Commissioner of Manipur's Bishnupur district, asking all government employees, including teachers, to get themselves vaccinated against Covid-19 by August 31, failing which their salaries will be withheld from next month, was on Thursday challenged in the High Court.

Bishnupur Deputy Commissioner Krishna Kumar's August 21 order followed two other similar orders, one by the state government and the other by Tamenglong district authority, which pushed vaccination by making it a mandatory condition. Both orders have since been stayed by the Manipur High Court. Although Kumar told *The*

Indian Express that he has already withdrawn his order, petitioner Osbert Khaling, a lawyer who had challenged the previous two orders in the High Court, said he proceeded with his contempt petition as there has been no notification on the withdrawal.

"I have withdrawn my order since. I only issued it in public interest. The idea behind the order was that district government employees have a lot of public dealings and come in contact with people," said Kumar.

He said Bishnupur district has achieved 70 per cent vaccination and his aim was to achieve 85 per cent vaccination by the end of September.

According to official data, 1,48,367 people in the district were vaccinated till August 25. While 1,23,900 people have taken the first dose, 24,467 peo-

ple have taken both doses.

Kumar's order said, "...in view of the increasing threat of the health... posed by Covid-19 pandemic and the upcoming state assembly election in 2022, it is mandatory for all government employees... except some exceptional cases [comorbidity and other health issues], to receive Covid vaccination."

"In case of non-compliance of this instruction, salary of unvaccinated officials/staff may be put on hold from next month, that is September 2021, till the time they get vaccinated," the order said.

Kumar said: "The reason I mentioned the state elections, due in February-March, is because work is likely to begin in October. I did not want any government employee to use the excuse of not being vaccinated to keep away from election duty."

'M' in US, 'L' here: Govt begins survey to chart India-specific sizes

EKTAA MALIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

WHAT EXACTLY is a "size 14"? How does a "medium" tag in the US often fit a person with a "larger" physique in India?

To do away with this confusion, an India size survey, titled INDIASize, was officially launched on Thursday. A joint initiative of the Ministry of Textiles and National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the aim of the project is to introduce a new standardised size chart for India in the ready-to-wear clothing sector.

While the project was announced in February 2019, it got



The new INDIASize survey, currently underway

delayed because of the pandemic. "The textile sector is the second largest employer in the country and generates about Rs 140 billion, of which Rs 100 billion is from Indian consumers alone. We only export for about Rs 40 billion. The need for a standard sizing has been there for a while. Now with INDIASize, we are conducting size surveys across six regions of India, namely Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata," said Upendra Prasad Singh, Secretary, Textiles.

"The new sizing chart will have a size identification number, which will be created by mapping, categorisation and defining of the body size and

type. Currently, only about 18 countries in the world have their own sizing charts," said Singh.

The Delhi leg of the survey is currently underway, and aims to reach about 5,700 participants.

"We are using about 100 anthropometric data points from each of the participants. The study, for us at NIFT, is also an exercise in scientific research. It will have participants from different age groups, income brackets and varied ethnicities. All this will help us to bring about a comprehensive and standardised size chart," said Shantmanu, DG NIFT.

"To successfully gather anthropometric data from a sample population, we are using a

safe 3D whole body scanner technology. It is following all international protocols of national sizing survey, and the sizing can then be used by the apparel industry," he said.

The move for an "India specific" size chart is an echo of a global conversation doing the rounds of the fashion world. There has been a lot of criticism for labels of many international fast fashion brands, who use tags like small, large, medium and extra large to denote a body type.

"We Indians have a different body type when we compare to Europe. We don't have such long arms for example. A size 39, may fit me on the shoulder, but the sleeves may hang by a mile. Also,

we have encountered international discrepancies, where a particular size measures as medium for men, and the measurement is labelled as extra large for women," said Shantmanu. "We hope the data can be used in many ways. Hopefully, creating our own shoe sizing system will be next".

Initial findings from the survey will be made available in some months, and the whole exercise is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

The new size survey has received support from the Clothing Manufacturers Association Of India (CMAI). There are plans to get international clothing brands to subscribe and adhere to the

new sizing chart.

"It's good business sense. A lot of money and energy is spent just returning ill-fitting and wrong-sized clothes. Brands like H&M have shown a positive interest in the move," said Noopur Anand, professor, NIFT and principal investigator of the project.

The INDIASize survey is part of a larger "fibre-to-fashion" initiative of the Ministry of Textiles. "We want to focus on the larger fibre-to-fashion narrative. There is a lot to be done. We want to focus on the technical aspect of textiles. Also, there are plans to create seven dedicated textile parks and our own machinery for textile production. We import a lot of it," said Singh.

Mumbai: 4 kids among 22 tested positive at orphanage

LAXMAN SINGH
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

TWENTY-TWO people, a majority of them children and teenagers, tested positive at St Joseph Orphanage and School in Agripada at Byculla. Of these 22, four children below 12 years, have been admitted to the paediatric ward of Nair Hospital. The remaining 18 have been shifted to Richardson and Cruddas Covid Care Centre at Byculla.

Officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said all of them are asymptomatic and stable. Other than the four children, 12 are in the 12-18 age group, while the remaining six are adults, the BMC said. A 71-year-old woman, who works in the orphanage's kitchen, is among the patients.

The development came to light after two girls of the orphanage tested positive Monday. A screening was then organised for residents and staff at the all-women institution.

"We organised a testing camp at the orphanage on August 24. RT-PCR test was conducted on total 95 residents, including staff and children, of the orphanage home. The test reports of 22 came positive on August 25," said a civic official.

UP EXPRESSWAYS a way to enable last mile connectivity

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision of constructing expressways as the most important and primary infrastructure to ensure sustainable development has been driving the state's growth for the past four years and a half. To build expressways is not only an economic decision, but also a moral one – a chance to enable last-mile connectivity and boost socio-economic development. Expressways in UP will act as a catalyst for setting up Industrial Corridors, Industrial Training Institute, Educational and Training Institute, Medical Institute etc.. The development of tourism in the project-covered areas will be encouraged and all-round development of these regions will also be possible soon. This is in addition to trust on development and resurrection of developing industrial corridors across the state adjoining the expressways. These industrial areas and parks are bound to attract new investments for big industries as well as MSMEs that have been the core strength of the state economy.

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY PM Modi to inaugurate - "UP is Express Pradesh"

The Uttar Pradesh government has doubled down on infrastructure and has allocated 8.2 per cent of its total expenditure for roads and bridges, which is almost double the average allocation by other states at 4.3 per cent (2020-21 budget estimate or BE), as per an analysis by PRS Legislative Research.

THE AMBITIOUS 341-km-long Purvanchal Expressway linking Lucknow with Ghazipur will be complete by the end of August. This greenfield project, built on an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis, will pass through nine of the undeveloped districts of eastern UP, including Barabanki, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ayodhya, Ambedkarnagar, Azamgarh, Mau and Ghazipur, providing these predominantly agricultural tracts seamless connectivity to not just the state capital Lucknow, but also the National Capital Region – through the 302-km-long Agra-Lucknow Expressway and the 165-km-long Agra-Greater Noida Yamuna Expressway.

Despite the blockade caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Yogi's team ensured that the construction of the expressway by the builders of all the packages move at the pre-pandemic progress rate. Once completed, the Purvanchal Expressway will transform the economy of Uttar Pradesh. It will act as a stimulant to economic development and boost the growth of the agri-



culture, industry, commerce, and tourism sectors. It will serve as an industrial corridor, allowing the products of manufacturing units, development centres and the agricultural units of these areas to be transported seamlessly to the state capital and the national capital. The expressway will also act as a catalyst for setting up of handloom units, food processing units, storage plants, mandis and milk-based industries. The project monitoring group had last week reviewed the progress of the

project and found that the main carriageway of Purvanchal expressway will be fully completed by the end of August. The UP Expressway and Industrial Development Authority (UIPEIDA) is also ensuring setting up of public restrooms facilities and petrol pumps along the expressway. Work on signage and road lighting on the expressway will also be finished by the new time frame. It is notable that the Chief Minister has instructed to pay special attention to the quality of construction works while completing

This is also the first time that a small stretch of two of the expressways – Agra-Lucknow and Purvanchal – has been converted into an airstrip, for emergency landing of flights.

them in a time-bound manner. The much awaited and ambitious 341-kilometre-long expressway scheduled to be opened for common people very soon. It is believed that this expressway will prove to be a milestone for the development of eastern UP. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for it in 2017.

Roads are almost complete Reviewing the progress of construction work on the project recently, Uttar Pradesh Industrial Development Minister Satish Mahana said the Purvanchal Expressway would facilitate the development of the region by reducing the travel time between Lucknow and Ghazipur by half. It takes seven hours to cover the distance between Ghazipur and Lucknow at present, while it takes 14 hours to reach Delhi from Ghazipur.

Work on development projects in the state has been going on even during the Corona period. Though impacted by the pandemic, this continuity has brought the work on Purvanchal Expressway near completion. As much as Rs. 22,494 crore have been spent in its construction. After its construction, the distance from Ghazipur to state capital Lucknow will be covered in just three and a half hours, which currently takes more than 8 hours. Not only this, the distance between Ghazipur and Delhi would be covered in just 10 hours.

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Industrial Corridor It may be recalled that an industrial corridor has to be developed next to the Purvanchal Expressway. Wherever farmers will be ready, food processing and other industries relating to the agricultural preferences of the area will be established. Meanwhile, the Gorakhpur Link Expressway that connects Gorakhpur

An expressway in eastern UP will act as a catalyst for setting up of the handloom industry, food processing units, storage plant, mandi and milk-based industries.

with the Purvanchal Expressway is progressing fast. The project monitoring group (PMG) was informed that 27,46% work had been completed till July 31. The main carriageway of Gorakhpur Link Expressway will be opened to traffic by March 2023.

This link expressway, too, is important, keeping in view the industrial development as the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) has been assigned to establish maximum land banks along this expressway to attract investors for setting up enterprises in the eastern UP.

Transportation of goods from the eastern parts of the state, with a predominantly agrarian economy, to larger markets is not only a time-taking and expensive affair at present but also results in large-scale wastage, especially of agri products such as vegetables, which have a shorter shelf life. Awanish Kumar Awasthi, CEO, UIPEIDA points out that along with the three other expressways being built by the state government – the 296-km-long Bundelkhand Expressway, 91-km-long Gorakhpur Link Expressway and 302-km-long Ganga Expressway – the Purvanchal Expressway would provide a much-needed boost to infrastructure in Uttar Pradesh, the country's most populous state, and help it realise its goal of becoming a \$1-trillion economy by the year 2025.

UP to become a BRAHMOS manufacturing state



Another massive missile manufacturer, Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) Government of India undertaking has already signed a MoU with the UIPEIDA, for a land parcel in Jhansi in August.

UTTAR PRADESH may soon be the state where the next-generation BRAHMOS (BRAHMOS-NG) and other missiles will be manufactured as the UP Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC) has started taking shape at its six nodes. The state government expressed hopes about BRAHMOS being produced in Lucknow following a meeting of a delegation from BRAHMOS Aerospace with the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, earlier this week. Prior to the meeting with the CM, the BRAHMOS missile system manufacturing joint venture had given a letter to UIPEIDA requesting for allotment of 200 acres of land in Lucknow.

Another massive missile manufacturer, Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) Government of India undertaking has already signed a MoU with

UIPEIDA, for a land parcel in the node Jhansi of UPDIC in the first week of August. UIPEIDA is the nodal agency for establishment of the UPDIC. BRAHMOS Aerospace, the joint venture of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and NPO Mashinostroeyenia (NPOM) of Russia, has proposed to set up the modern production facility in Lucknow with an investment of Rs 300 crore. It has assured to start civil construction within three months of getting possession of the land as it is slated to manufacture more than 100 BRAHMOS missiles in the next three years.

BRAHMOS Aerospace Director-General Dr. Sudhir K. Mishra led the delegation to the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and briefed him about the BRAHMOS Weapon System and the JV's ambitious plans about setting up a major facility for production and supply of various systems and sub-systems for next generation missile systems. It is noteworthy that over 200 small, medium and large Indian public and private sector defence enterprises, institutions and laboratories have been associated with the BRAHMOS missile programme. The establishment of such a facility would not only vastly expand Uttar Pradesh's technological base, but would also

generate a multitude of value chain opportunities for MSMEs in the state. It may be noted that the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath looks the Defence Corridor as a multi-faceted opportunity and has been keen on ensuring that the state emerges as one of the largest and most advanced manufacturing centres for defence equipment in the country. The UP Defence Industrial Corridor is a Greenfield project and the industries coming alongside the six nodes of the corridor can benefit immensely from the scheme by becoming part of the ecosystem.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Indigenisation Summit on Defence and Aerospace (ISDA) recently, the Chief Minister said that development of roads, electricity, water and boundary walls is underway at Aligarh node and would be inaugurated very soon. He said that the Central government has earmarked Rs 2,500 crore for promoting investments in the defence corridor. He also said that land banks are being created for zones where there is a greater demand of the land for investment projects. The UIPEIDA has already created a land bank of about 1,000 hectares in Jhansi, approximately 100 hectares in Chitrakoot, about 200 hectares in Kanpur and

The UIPEIDA has already created land bank of about 1,000 hectares in Jhansi, approximately 100 hectares in Chitrakoot, about 250 hectares in Kanpur and another 78 hectares in Aligarh for the project. Aligarh node soon to be inaugurated.

another 78 hectares in Aligarh for the project.

"The state government, along with the Ministry of Defence, is also working on establishment of labs under the common facilitation centre, defence testing and infrastructure scheme which will benefit MSMEs and start-ups in prototyping, technology training as well as design and development. The state government has also established Centres of Excellence at IIT-Kanpur and BHU for a greater engagement between the Indian Navy, industry and academia. The first installment of the grant for research and development at these centres has already been disbursed.

One may recall that the UP Defence Industrial Corridor, one of the two in the country, was initially proposed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Investor's Summit in February 2018. Then, it was announced that the UP Defence Industrial Corridor would have six nodes at Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur and Lucknow. The PM had assured Rs 20,000 crore investments from government defence ventures. Later at a defence investors' meet at Aligarh, proposals worth more than 3,000 crore were received. Subsequently, domestic and foreign defence manufacturers signed MoUs worth Rs 40,000 crore for investments in the corridor at the Defence Expo held in Lucknow in February 2020.

According to UIPEIDA sources, this far more than 65 defence firms have come up with proposals for setting up their manufacturing units at different nodes of the Corridor. The UIPEIDA has so far allotted 74.4 hectare land to 19 different manufacturers there. These firms are investing a total of Rs. 1,245 crore there.

Noida Airport at Jewar reaches construction stage, PM to lay foundation stone soon



THE DEVELOPING industrial hub in national capital region (NCR) of west yet another boost with the Noida International Airport at Jewar arriving at the construction phase. Formalizing the transfer of 1,334 hectares land for the construction of the Jewar Airport, the state government signed a license memorandum, first week of August in presence of the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. With this, all formalities for the handover of the land from the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) to the Yamuna International Airport Pvt Limited (YIAPL) have been completed. This has cleared the decks for construction work to begin as the Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Zurich Airport International, will execute the project.

The agreement entitles NIAL to hold a golden share in YIAPL, along with the right to nominate to the board two directors. It also states that the state government would establish as well as continuously improve the conditions of surface access to the airport, and also establish and expand the utilities like water, electricity and wastewater that are needed to run the airport. Apart from this, maintenance of land and order, including airport's monitoring, along with grant of required clearances are also areas in which the UP government would support the entities.

All this could be possible due to CM Yogi Adityanath attaching high importance to the project. It may be recalled that the proposed Jewar airport kept hanging fire during earlier regimes, but the present state government interacted and coordinated with the farmers of villages under the project area and acquired

the 1,336 hectares of land earmarked for the first phase of the project without any dispute. It may be mentioned that the Jewar airport would be connected with high speed rail while the Indra Gandhi Airport would be connected to it by road and metro rail. Necessary site clearances from the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, approval for immigration services from the Ministry of Home Affairs and NOC from the Ministry of Environment have already been taken.

The CM Adityanath who wants to make the new airport the benchmark for an airport in India hoped that it would not only lead to job creation in the state, but would also quicken the industrial infrastructure development, promote exports, provide a boost to tourism and ease the air traffic.

It is worth recalling that the civil aviation sector in the state has seen a significant improvement over the past four and a half years. In 2017, the state had only four airports with only Lucknow and Varanasi operating regularly. Now, though, the state has seven fully functional airports. Jewar will be the state's eighth airport when completed in 2024. Also the number of destinations from all the four airports in 2017 was 25, and this figure has now almost tripled. The work on the Kushinagar international airport is almost complete and it may start international flights any time.

The Greenfield Jewar airport, estimated to be developed at a cost of Rs 29,560 crore, will have the ability to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually after the first phase of construction.

Bundelkhand Expressway to be completed in time as 70% work is over

The four-lane Bundelkhand Expressway is likely to be completed by March next year, almost a year before schedule. It will connect the backward districts of the region such as Chitrakoot, Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah. Work is also underway on the Defence Corridor project, where land is being allotted to defence companies to set up their manufacturing units.



Not only will it bring the remote areas of the region on the expressway network, it will drastically cut down the travel time between Delhi and Chitrakoot district in Bundelkhand region in Bundelkhand expressways. Currently, there is no direct road link between Delhi and the Bundelkhand region.

railway-over-bridges was progressing as per the schedule. Presiding over virtual meeting, the UIPEIDA CEO Awanish Kumar Awasthi instructed officials to expedite construction work of Toll Plazas and toilet blocks along the expressway.

It may be recalled that the foundation of the expressway was laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 February last year in the Chitrakoot district of Uttar Pradesh. Four firms – Apco Infra, Ashoka Buildcon, Gawar Constructions and Dilip Buildcon – are working on the project subdivided into six packages. Originating near Bharatkoop in the Chitrakoot district, the e-way passes through Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Auraiya and Etawah districts where it joins the Lucknow-Agra Expressway near Kudrauli village. The expressway will give Bundelkhand districts quicker access to the National Capital Region through the Lucknow-Agra and Yamuna (Agra-Noida) expressways.

This new infrastructural development has assumed higher importance for development of the drought prone Bundelkhand in southern UP, in view of the Defence Corridor. Two nodes of the Defence Corridor, Jhansi and Chitrakoot, are in Bundelkhand. Connectivity between these and the other corridor nodes – Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur and Aligarh – will improve with its construction. This will go a long way in attracting defence industries to these nodes. It is all the more important for the UIPEIDA, as it is the state government's executing agency for the Defence Corridor project as well. Getting defence firms ready to set up their units in Bundelkhand is part of UIPEIDA's responsibilities. The UIPEIDA has been successful that front too, as it

recently signed a MoU with the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a government of India enterprise under Ministry of Defence, for setting up a manufacturing unit in Jhansi by investing Rs. 400 crore. The BDL will manufacture propulsion systems which will be used for various types of missiles manufactured by it. The proposed unit in Jhansi is part of the BDL's diversification and expansion plan. BDL is a mini-ratna category-1 company having its registered office in Hyderabad. It is the only public sector company in the defence sector in the country that manufactures missiles and underwater weapons for the armed forces.

BDL will acquire 250 hectares of land in Jhansi under a lease agreement for an initial period of 30 years, which will be extendable up to 90 years. It is expected that MSMEs would also be established as ancillary units, once BDL unit is set up. The BDL is also planning to establish a facility in the Defence Corridor for testing requirements under 'defence testing infrastructure scheme' of the Ministry of Defence.

UP is building 4 expressways – 341-km Purvanchal, 296-km Bundelkhand, 91-km Gorakhpur Link and 594-km Ganga – that are scripting a silent transformation in the state, once notorious for its decrepit road infrastructure.

Line) from Agriculture University to Barra-8, Kanpur. It may be recalled that the Central Government had approved the Kanpur metro project on 28 February 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,076.48 crores and a five-year time limit. PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for this metro rail project in March 2019 while civil work were inaugurated by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that in a short while these services shall be introduced in Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Jhansi. Currently, metro services are available in Ghaziabad, Noida and Lucknow.

As far as Kanpur is concerned, the metro service operations may start before schedule in the city. The feasibility study for the project was done by RITES in June 2015. Later, the government approved two metro corridors in the city. Priority section of corridor-1 is between IIT Kanpur and Motijeh. Elevated viaduct work has begun on this route as more than 400 out of 538 pillars have been constructed and all the 439 double-T-girders have been erected for making the base of the 9 stations of this priority corridor. The pier caps and U girders are being erected and construction work is going on in full swing. The priority section of corridor-1 is expected to be operational from December 2021 onwards, which will become the fastest built and commissioned metro system in the world. In Phase 1, 22 metro stations will be built on first corridor (RRTS) from IIT Kanpur, Mahabubnagar, and 8 metro stations will be built on second corridor (Blue

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UP to have maximum cities with metro services Operations in Kanpur and Agra to start soon



UTTAR PRADESH is all set to become the only state to be operating metro train services in seven cities, as operations are likely to begin in two cities, Kanpur and Agra, very soon while work on setting up metro services as well as the Rapid Rail Transport System (RRTS) in Meerut is on full swing. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has said that in a short while these services shall be introduced in Gorakhpur, Varanasi, Prayagraj and Jhansi. Currently, metro services are available in Ghaziabad, Noida and Lucknow.

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A quarter of works on Gorakhpur Link Expressway completed!

In the last three years, the administration has performed proactively to create a favourable environment for investment and many effective steps have also been taken in this regard. The State Government firmly believes that once its ambitious expressway projects are completed, it will usher in a new era of economic prosperity in the state. — Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES in the Gorakhpur region are likely to get a big boost with 27% work on Gorakhpur Link Expressway, connecting Gorakhpur to the Poorvanchal Expressway, having been completed. The government is making all efforts to get the work expedited so that people could start using it before March 2023. Recently, the CEO of UIPEIDA Awanish Kumar Awasthi directed the companies involved in the construction of the Expressway to ensure quality. Reviewing the construction of the bridge over River Ghaghra in the alignment of expressway, he said that construction should be expedited while taking special care of the construction quality of the bridge. Awasthi also instructed to expedite utility shifting and finishing the remaining works of power transmission lines. The UIPEIDA chief

also instructed the officials involved with land acquisition for the expressway to resolve any kind of problem as soon as possible. Believing in the immense possibilities of Gorakhpur, the Chief Minister of UP Yogi Adityanath had recently said, "Gorakhpur is the most important centre of health education, trade and employment. Better connectivity is needed to bring prosperity to the lives of such a large population."

The upcoming Gorakhpur Link Expressway is a planned, 91-kilometre-long four-lane, fully access-controlled expressway being built at a cost of Rs. 5,876.67 crore. To ensure even more economic progress, the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority (GIDA) has been assigned to develop industrial parks along the expressway. The alignment of this expressway is through Gorakhpur, Sant Kabir Nagar, Ambedkar Nagar and Azamgarh districts of the state. The project is being implemented, Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode. Currently, the construction of the expressway is ongoing and the required land had been acquired. In fact, 98% Clearing and Grubbing (C&G) operations for the Expressway have been completed. The work on the expressway is divided into two packages, and the state has selected Apco Infra and Dilip Buildcon to build it.

Reiterating his commitment for the development of the state, the Chief Minister had recently said, "In the last three years, the administration has performed proactively to create a favourable environment for investment and many effective steps have also been taken in this regard." The State Government firmly believes that once its ambitious expressway projects are completed, it will usher in a new era of economic prosperity in the state.

UTTAR PRADESH is all set to embark on construction of the 594-KM Ganga Expressway between Meerut in the northwest and Prayagraj in the southeast of the state. It will be the second-longest expressway in the country. The project with an estimated cost of Rs. 36,230 crore will start from September this year and will also link the western part of the state to eastern Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UIPEIDA) is preparing to issue tenders for the project as more than 92 percent land for the project has been acquired in various districts. The expressway passing through 519 villages across 12 districts may be extended till Varanasi in the future.

6-lane Project (Expandable upto 8 lane)

This 6-lane project is expected to finish within the next 36 months. According to plan, the expressway will start at Bijauli village on NH-334 in Meerut, and end at Judapur Danda village on NH-19 in Prayagraj. The expressway project has been divided into 12 packages to make sure the work is completed in time. It will have 14 major bridges, 126 minor bridges, eight road overbridges and 18 flyovers. Districts through which it will pass include Meerut, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Amroha, Sambhal, Badaun, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rai Bareilly, Pratnagarh, and Prayagraj. UIPEIDA has planned to keep expressway fully access-controlled. Vehicles will only be permitted to enter or exit the expressway via specific toll plazas. There will be two main toll plazas at both ends in Meerut and Prayagraj. Along the way, there will be 15 ramp toll plazas. The top speed of the expressway has been set at 120 kmph which is the highest permissible speed in India. This expressway will initially be of 06 lanes (expandable up to 08 lanes) and

Ganga Expressway to be India's second longest expressway



all the structures will be constructed of 08 lane width. An airstrip will also be constructed on the expressway in Sultanpur district which will enable Indian Air Force planes to make emergency landings. The process of purchasing land for the Ganga Expressway is going on in full swing as 92% of 7,322 hectares had been purchased. In order to arrange resources for the project, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has moved towards Monetization of Infrastructure Assets and has received securitisation-backed Loan of Rs. 5100.00 crore from Punjab National Bank. The loan is based on toll revenue securitisation from Agra-Lucknow Expressway. The arrangement takes forward the concept of "National Infrastructure Pipeline" and "National Monetization Pipeline" proposed by

the Union Finance Minister in Union Budget 2021-22. Under this arrangement, UIPEIDA, which is a Government-incorporated authority for the construction of expressways in the State, has received the sanction letter for loan amount of Rs. 5100.00 crore from Punjab National Bank. The project, which is to be built on a build-operate-transfer (BoT) basis, will have a 30 years concession period. Once the expressway is operational, the travel time between Delhi and Prayagraj is expected to be cut short from the

current 10-11 hours to just 6-7 hours. Meanwhile, in an important development, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has prepared a plan to link the Ganga Expressway and Delhi-Meerut expressway. This link has been in principle approved by the ministry and land acquisition and construction process will start shortly. The proposed link with ease the traffic pressure on NH-334, and NH-24 as in absence of this connection, vehicle coming towards Delhi via the Ganga Expressway would have to use NH-334 and NH-24. This two-kilometre long link will be 8-lane wide connecting the Meerut-Delhi expressway with termination point of Ganga Expressway in Bijauli village in Meerut district.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Who's in Charge?

Leadership vacuum at the top is hurting Congress even in strongholds, may weaken fightback of national Opposition

THE CONGRESS FOOTPRINT has shrunk and the grand old party now has chief ministers in only three states — Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan. A revival of the party's electoral prospects is contingent on its guarding the fortresses while rallying troops in other states. By all accounts, however, that seems a tall challenge for the party, as infighting grows louder and the high command is unable to keep the peace. In Punjab, it woke up late to a simmering rebellion against Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and tried to resolve the crisis by appointing Navjot Singh Sidhu as the PCC chief, but the dissenters have now demanded that a new leader be the face of the party's campaign for assembly elections due in about six months. In Chhattisgarh, the differences between CM Bhupesh Baghel and senior minister T S Singh Deo forced Rahul Gandhi to intervene, but there is no sign that the two leaders have buried their differences. The factional feud in Rajasthan that nearly cost the Congress its government last year could revive at any time. The picture that emerges is of a party with no captain at the helm, or a high command unable to draw red lines in a crisis.

Factional feuds have been intrinsic to the Congress since its formation, and splits have not been uncommon either. But those were caused more by ideological differences. Subsequently, leaders driven by personal ambitions have moved out not just to form their own outfits but also to join or ally with ideological opponents — former Congress leaders head governments in West Bengal, Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. In recent times, the dots can be connected with a visibly deepening leadership crisis — the Congress has been without a full-time president since Rahul Gandhi quit after the 2019 election debacle. Sonia Gandhi has since taken over as interim president, but that has not helped to stanch the bleeding. In states where the rebels are leaders who command support at the grassroots, the high command seems unable to enforce its writ or discipline. And the leadership vacuum has emboldened warring factions to ignore the directives from the indeterminate top to reconcile their differences. Central emissaries — senior leaders like Mallikarjun Kharge and Harish Rawat — have failed to get the dissenters to fall in line or make state satraps deliver on their promises, mainly because the high command has lost authority. The absence of a fleet-footed and decisive central leadership helped the BJP outsmart the Congress in Goa and Manipur in 2017, and led to the collapse of the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh and the JD(S)-Congress alliance in Karnataka in 2020.

A rudderless Congress is bad for itself, and it is also likely to hurt the prospects of the Opposition, which seems to sense an opening in the government's management of the pandemic. The Congress continues to be in a pole position in the opposition space. But the party needs to urgently set its house in order if it wants to assume leadership.

THE INDORE TEST

Mob assault on bangle-seller, political silence in aftermath, challenge CM Chouhan's record as leader and administrator

THE ATTACK ON a Muslim bangle-seller in an Indore neighbourhood is another example of a Hindutva mob targeting a citizen for his religion, on the pretext of "protecting Hindu women". The Madhya Pradesh government's response to the violence has been to let the communal pot simmer. While the police arrested four men for abusing and thrashing Tasleem Ali for daring to step into a "Hindu area", Home Minister Narottam Mishra appeared to condone the violence, alleging that Ali had used a "Hindu name" and owned two Aadhaar cards. Subsequently, Ali has been booked and arrested on charges, among others, of forgery and attempting to harass the minor daughter of one of the men accused of assault. Meanwhile, organisations that claim to "protect Hindu rights" have taken out rallies in the city, ratcheting up the divisive rhetoric. The attack on Ali follows a few communally sensitive incidents in Indore.

The apparent silence and inaction of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who is best placed to calm tensions and defuse provocative situations, is, therefore, all the more disturbing. The communal belligerence on public display was, by and large, absent in his earlier three terms as chief minister. Within the BJP, Chouhan had earned himself a reputation for being a leader with an instinct for moderation and consensus. In his fourth term as chief minister — in which power has been wrested not by mandate, but by the fall of the Congress government — he appears to be on visibly unsure ground, as ministers more adept at rabble-rousing are increasingly seen and heard. Signs of him shedding a moderate persona came in January this year, when he threatened a law against "stone-pelters" as unrest in the Malwa region followed an aggressive fund collection drive for the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The state government also followed the UP example by endorsing the paranoia over "love jihad" with an anti-conversion bill against inter-faith marriage.

Chouhan's record of providing a stable government, his recent stand against the real estate mafia, and Indore's reputation as a city where civic governance has benefited ordinary people are all put at risk if communal antagonisms are allowed to play out unchecked. In many parts of the country, majoritarian mobilisation has licensed violence against ordinary Muslims, threatening to divide cities and villages into spaces for "us" and "them", and reduce citizens to their religious identities. Down this road lie social disharmony and more violence. The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister must end this sense of drift, and arrest this politics of unreason.

WHAT XI THINKS TODAY

Chinese president's thoughts are now part of school curriculum. But can he bank on deference of a captive audience?

XI JINPING IS living the patriarch's dream. Like men of a certain age and type on every family WhatsApp group, he has "thoughts" on morality, politics, nationalism, character, everything. The only difference is that Xi is arguably the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong and he has a captive audience of a billion. So, in schools and colleges across China, students will now have to sit through lectures on Xi's "fundamental principles" to "cultivate the builders and successors of socialism with an all-round moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic grounding".

China's supremo is hardly the only political leader to want what's on his mind to be the talk of the classroom and the nation. Or, have an inflated sense of self-importance. Since there is no opposition in a one-party state — when it raises its head, it is instantly criminalised — the Great Leader can perhaps be forgiven for insisting that an entire generation imbibe, as dogma, his version of Marxism along with his plans for an ancient civilisation. But what the man on the pulpit often forgets is that these top-down lectures can be counterproductive.

As anyone who has sat through an interminable school assembly will attest, students are not swayed by the high-minded tripe that emanates from old men in power. In fact, even the most well-meaning lecture by a school or college principal is instantly satirised by the "back-benchers". For years, educators as well as parents and grandparents have tried to instil *sanskari* in their wards. They have never quite succeeded. What "strong leaders", in China and beyond, must be wary of is the subdued sniggering in the back of the room. And the young men and women, who may one day point out that the fine fabric they weave with their words is, in fact, see-through.

Connect with Kabul

Why, on Afghanistan, India must not send message of wait and watch, or of retreat



RADHA KUMAR

ON THURSDAY, EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar briefed the Opposition parties on India's Afghanistan policy in the wake of the Taliban takeover. The main focus of his briefing was on India's evacuation effort, but he also added that the Indian government's policy is to wait and watch.

The briefing appears to leave as much unsaid as said. On evacuation, the Modi administration has prioritised safe passage for our citizens and minorities of Indian origin over our Afghan allies. Indeed, the Home Ministry has gone even further: It now says that any Afghans wishing to evacuate to India must apply for e-visas, and all other existing visas will not be honoured. This is a breathtaking demand to make of people in hiding, many without internet access. Are we simply abandoning the Afghans who worked for our embassy and consulates, students on Indian scholarships, human rights defenders, MPs and officials who might be under threat? One Afghan MP, who flew to Delhi from Istanbul to see her doctor, has already been turned back, to our eternal shame.

The urgency to leave is as great, if not greater, for Afghans. The Taliban oppose the flight of Afghans and have already started turning them away from the airport road. While the US and UK have prioritised evacuation of their citizens, as have other countries, they have also transported out thousands of Afghans who worked with them.

By contrast, the number of potentially at-risk Afghans that we have evacuated number a few dozen, including Hindu and Sikh minorities. The recent evacuation on August 24 of 78 people, including Indian nationals and members of minorities, suggests that our planes might be flying half-empty. Given the Taliban's ban on evacuating Afghans, it is now vital for our government to seek to negotiate their travel to India, either on its own or in tandem with those G-7 countries that pledged they would negotiate safe passage for both foreigners and Afghans who wish to exit, beyond the August 31 deadline. When it comes to students, especially, our case should be strong. They are not seeking to flee the coun-

try; they are availing of educational opportunities that will enable them to contribute to Afghanistan's development.

In view of the above, whether we can call waiting and watching a policy option is debatable; arguably, it is more akin to abnegation of responsibility. Indeed, it is not clear that the Modi administration is waiting and watching. Indian diplomats have already begun to focus international attention on the threat of terrorist revival following the Taliban takeover, as have several other countries. Terrorism has been India's chief focus since assuming the presidency of the UN Security Council. In other words, we will wait and watch when it comes to the fast-changing events in Afghanistan but will warn proactively against the potential revival of terrorist threats.

Few will deny that there is such a potential threat, despite the Taliban's assurance to the contrary. Indeed, threats have already begun to escalate at the Kabul airport. But to focus solely on this issue, disregarding not only our obligations to the thousands of Afghans whom we worked with and the infrastructure that we built, but also other key threats due to the rapidly changing geopolitics of our region, displays fatalism. Most of our neighbours and the great and middle powers are engaging with the Taliban; not only to pursue their own interests but also to create mechanisms to hold the Taliban to their stated commitments, for example on human and women's rights.

At the recently concluded session of the UN Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, called for a monitoring mission on human rights in Afghanistan, but the council voted in a watered-down resolution asking Bachelet to report on the situation at its next session. Reportedly, the Indian representative did not refer to the resolution at all, though he stressed the need for humanitarian assistance, an inclusive government and no sanctuaries for the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The G-7 similarly watered down calls for sanctions if the Taliban do not honour pledges on girls' education — to demand a commitment to education for girls only up to the age

of 18. In effect, the resolution accepted the Taliban's decree in Herat that co-education is not acceptable, even at the post-graduate level. While this may permit all-girls' schools to continue, the same degree of demand is unlikely at the post-graduate level, unless the Taliban actively encourage the setting up of all-girls' colleges, something the international community is yet to seek.

Several EU member-states are already calling for firmer action on human rights. This demand does not conflict with other demands that the Taliban appear to be trying to fulfil and that have widespread international support, for example, continuing negotiations with former President Hamid Karzai, head of peace negotiations Dr Abdullah and the Panjshiri resistance, with whom they are reportedly trying to agree a ceasefire.

From the Indian statement at the UN Human Rights Council, it appears that the Modi administration might contribute to humanitarian aid for Afghanistan under Taliban rule, so long as the Taliban adhere to the red line on anti-India terrorist groups. The same levers — aid, the chair of the UN sanctions committee and support for an inclusive Afghan government — can also be used for evacuation, pressure on human rights and, down the line, trade access to Central Asia. Wait and watch cannot, surely, entail losing the gains made with Central Asia through common concerns over Afghan security and the stability and economic growth of its neighbours. At present, the message we are sending out to these countries is one of retreat. This is not a message we can afford to send, when China and Pakistan are cementing their power in the region, along with their alliance against India. Nor can we afford to alienate the Taliban to the point that they afford sanctuary to anti-India groups. Engage and expand your leverage is more practical than retreat and let China and Pakistan gain ground (aka wait and watch to many).

Kumar is a writer and policy analyst. Her latest book is *Paradise at War: A Political History of Kashmir*

AN UNEVEN BURDEN

Pandemic may not have class or community bias. Its economic fallout does



AMITABH KUNDU

A BANGLE-SELLER, whom Sarojini Naidu would have described as selling "lustrous tokens of radiant lives", was beaten up for carrying out his business under an assumed Hindu name. This is not an isolated incident nor is it specific to the BJP era of governance. Several Muslims, including celebrities, have accepted Hindu or secular identities just to have greater acceptability in the public domain. Incidents of such violence are also not uncommon. One had only hoped that communal prejudices would disappear or get less severe over time but that, unfortunately, does not seem to be happening. While one may accept or debate the issues of state protection for cows, "love jihad" and disincentives to persons for having many children, these being used as an alibi for harassing ordinary citizens must not be tolerated.

With the start of the pandemic in March 2020, there were rumours of certain social groups being super-spreaders. These got linked with social media messages urging people to boycott purchase of commodities and services marketed by the groups. These were noted but mostly downplayed by political leaders, civil society and media. The question is: Did they affect labour market outcomes differently for different communities?

The recent Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2019-20 brings out the changes in the employment structure and earnings of workers of different communities in rural and urban areas during April-June 2020 (pandemic quarter) compared to the preceding quarter, Jan-March 2020 (pre-pandemic quarter) or the corresponding quarter in the previous year (April-June 2019). This suggests that the dif-

ferential impact of the pandemic on the labour market, captured through changes in the first two quarters of 2020, has not been inconsequential. The deficits in the pandemic quarter compared to the corresponding quarter in the preceding year across communities shows a similar pattern, and hence have been excluded here for the sake of brevity.

The self-employed had to bear the brunt of the onslaught of the pandemic. The percentage of people who did not work (reporting no work during the reference week) went up from 6.1 per cent in rural and 7.6 per cent in urban areas in the pre-pandemic quarter to 15.6 per cent and 29.9 per cent, respectively, in the pandemic quarter. The rise was extremely uneven across communities and gender.

In rural areas, the percentage of persons with no work among the self-employed among the SC/ST population, Muslims and others (non-SC/ST and non-Muslim) increased from 6.9 per cent, 8.6 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively, to 15.1 per cent, 27.5 per cent and 13.7 per cent, respectively. Clearly the impact was starkest for Muslims, followed by the SC/STs. A similar story emerges in urban areas, but the impact here is far more severe (due to higher compliance of lockdown restrictions) but not as differentiated across communities as in rural areas. People with no work formed 7.7 per cent, 11 per cent and 7.1 per cent of SC/STs, Muslims and others, respectively, and these went up to 39.2 per cent, 42.6 per cent and 39.3 per cent, respectively. Muslims stand out with the highest rate of unemployment. The unemployment rate also went up sharply for women from 6.3 per cent

to 44 per cent over this period, the corresponding figures for men being 7.8 per cent and 39.0 per cent respectively.

The fall in average earnings follows a similar pattern. In rural areas, monthly earnings during the Covid quarter were 9 per cent less than the average for the year 2019-20. The deficit, however, is 21 per cent in urban areas. Muslims, in rural areas, recorded the maximum decline of 13 per cent, while for the others, it was close to the average. SC/STs suffered the least damage, possibly due to the indispensable nature of their services. The gap for both men and women turned out to be about 9 per cent, similar to the average in rural areas.

In urban areas, the fall in earnings during the pandemic quarter is very high. The maximum loss suffered — 27 per cent — is by the SC/ST community. For the Muslims and the others, the corresponding figure was 20 per cent. The earning loss for Muslims is less than their employment loss. This suggests that their job losses have been more at the lower level. In the case of the SC/ST population, earning losses have been across the board, resulting in higher earning deficits than the Muslims. The deficit is marginally higher for women than men, despite a high deficit in employment. This again can be explained in terms of greater loss of jobs for women at the lower level.

The pandemic may not have a class or community bias, but its economic fallout certainly seems to have it.

The writer is research advisor, Oxfam India. Assistance of K Varghese, JNU, in data analysis is acknowledged



AUGUST 27, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

MIRAGE DEAL

FRANCE IS EXPECTED to sign a deal with India for the supply of the latest version of the multipurpose Mirage jets, according to French sources. When the negotiations are completed, India, will, for the present, receive 150 aircraft of which 40 will be built in France, 65 in India, and 45 partly in France and India. The value of the contract is not known. But the *Times of London* has said that preliminary arrangements had been made, running into about 900 million pounds. The mode of payment is yet to be negotiated. A draft of the agreement will be drawn when an Indian military mission visits Paris next

month. The final agreement may be signed within two months.

MINISTER FACES FLAK

THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER C M Stephens faces a breach of privilege charge for interception of letters addressed to members of Parliament. The Rajya Sabha secretariat is considering a notice sent by L K Advani, leader of the BJP in the House. Advani has condemned Stephen's statement that interception of mail was permitted by law. He said the India Post Office Act was enacted in 1898 by imperialists and used against people whose public activities were suspected.

ZAIL SINGH BYPASSED

MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE DECISIONS under the purview of the Home Ministry are being taken by the Prime Minister's Secretariat and the Home Minister Zail Singh is just informed about them. P C Alexander, Principal Secretary to the PM, and Krishnaswami Rao Sahib, Cabinet Secretary, mostly attend to these matters.

ANGOLA THREAT

ANGOLA HAS THREATENED to send in Cuban troops to repulse a blitzkrieg-style invasion by South African forces.



C R Sasikumar

Memories have many faces

1947 did not only involve violence by 'them' on 'us'. Remembering its savagery must begin with recognising our complicity — and finding a way to heal and move on



URVASHI BUTALIA

LONG YEARS AGO, in a crowded market in Amritsar, Mangal Singh, a Partition refugee, recounted his story to me. Together with two of his brothers, Mangal Singh had killed — he said martyred — 18 members of his own family, mostly women and children, because of the fear that they could be raped, abducted, impregnated and, if that happened, the "honour" of the *quam* would be compromised.

He was not alone in this, over the years as I researched Partition, this narrative would appear again and again — in Delhi, in Alwar, in Thoha Khalsa, in Thamali, men killed women of their own families ostensibly to "protect" them. Today, because of the work of Partition scholars, this violence is known, but, at the time, the narrative of Partition violence was so overwhelmingly one where the killers were the "others" that such accounts had no place in them. We could not admit that we had been violent too.

At the time, I asked Mangal Singh how he had dealt with the knowledge and the grief of what he had done, how he had lived with those terrible memories of, yes, mass murder. He said, "Look around you at this land of the Punjab. We call it *soni di chiria*, we have put all our forgetting into this land, we have irrigated it with our tears."

Later, he took me to the Golden Temple where, engraved in the walls, were the names of the entire lost family. Every year, on the anniversary of their death, Mangal Singh came to the gurdwara and prayed for peace and forgiveness.

The stories of men killing the "weak" in their own families were not the only ones that emerged. Close on their heels came the stories of women, their mass abduction and rape, the mutilation of their bodies, the ways in which they were treated as property.

This, too, wasn't something we could only

lay at the door of the "other" for plenty of men of our "own" did this to our "own" women (Current histories of political violence have shown how practised we are at sexually assaulting our "own" women). And yet, here too the overwhelming narrative was that "our" women were violated by "their" men, and the "we" and "they" were defined quite unproblematically in terms of religion.

In theory, Partition was done and dusted in 1947. But the memories do not end there. Nor can they only be set at the door of "madness" or *junoon*. Take until recently the relatively unknown history of Marichjhapi, where lower-caste "untouchable" refugees, who were not welcome in the eyes of the state, were sent after being moved from place to place and were then forcefully evicted in the late 1970s by the Left Front government in Bengal. This, too, is a shameful Partition history that we cannot lay at someone else's door.

One summer, my travels took me to Ramallah in Palestine. We entered the town on the memorial day for Al Nakba, the catastrophic moment in 1948 when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were expelled from their land. I wondered how this day would be marked: Whether there would be anger, fiery speeches, hatred. Indeed, on the borders of the town, violence had erupted, but inside, where the ceremonies were taking place, there was quiet. And a firm resolve to never forget.

Traumatic memories have many faces. They are, like life itself, complicated and are often caught in battles over the politics of remembering. For the Palestinians, remembering the catastrophe is a way of keeping alive the battle for justice, the battle for recognition that the land in which they have become refugees is theirs. In this way, their battle is similar to that of the women of Kashmir mourning the disappearance of their men, and their resolve to never forget: That memory is their weapon in the fight for justice.

For women victims and survivors of rape and abduction, memory is messy — betrayed by their families, often coercively relocated by the state, sold into slavery by their abductors, sometimes coercively married. How can this horror be forgotten? And yet how must it be remembered?

For women victims and survivors of rape and abduction, memory is messy — betrayed by their families, often coercively relocated by the state, sold into slavery by their abductors, sometimes coercively married. How can this be forgotten? And yet, how must it be remembered? Clearly, there's nothing simple about memorialising traumatic histories. Many countries have put in place important experiments with memory, always with the end goal of healing, reconciling, acknowledging, learning from our mistakes. Despite many moments of terrible violence in their histories, India and Pakistan have made no such attempts.

Clearly, there's nothing simple about memorialising traumatic histories. Across the world, we have many examples of nations/countries that have put in place important experiments with memory, always with the end goal of healing, reconciling, acknowledging, learning from our mistakes and moving on.

Despite many moments of terrible violence in their histories, India and Pakistan have made no such attempts. If and when we do, the work of memory has to be approached with caution, with humility and with the openness to accept uncomfortable truths.

During Partition, for example, there were no clear perpetrators or victims. Remembering Partition violence then begins with recognising our complicity, our participation in it. It begins with going beyond the violence perpetrated by the other and turning the mirror on ourselves. Have we silenced histories of family violence? Why? Because they relate to women and women are dispensable? These are not easy questions.

Perhaps, the biggest challenge to memory is this: Can peoples, nations, remember together? Seventy-five years after Partition, can India and Pakistan come together to share memories of this defining moment in their histories?

In 1947, two men, a Sikh and a Muslim, an Indian and a Pakistani, both refugees of Partition, built a friendship with each other on the basis of letters they wrote. "I write to you," Harkishan Das Bedi wrote from Jalandhar to Chaudhry Latif in Lahore, "as a human being... We are human beings first and Hindu and Muslim only after that."

The two men's friendship enabled them to talk of everything, to share sorrow, despair, loss, and to begin healing. Is it too much to hope, to imagine that one day, in the not-too-distant future, India and Pakistan may mark a Partition remembrance day together, that they may share not only the horrors but also the stories of friendship and love? Is 75 years not enough to turn hate into its opposite?

The writer is publisher, Zubaan; and the author of *The Other Side of Silence: Voices from the Partition of India*



ROHIT WANCHOO

The mentor and his institution

Historian David Baker was a teacher and friend at St Stephen's College

THE PASSING away of David Baker marks the end of an era. He will be remembered with much affection by all those he came in contact with — students, staff, *karamcharis* and alumni. He joined St Stephen's College in 1969 and for five decades was an integral part of its life. He was an excellent teacher, mentor, author and historian and his life is an example of simple living and high thinking.

A demanding teacher, Baker insisted on getting his tutorial assignments on time. They were graded meticulously and returned with extensive comments. Erring students were summoned, and they complied quickly. Even though he could have moved into a college house soon after he began teaching, he lived in the two-room set for tutors. His block was the quietest and much sought after by the students who wanted to study, sleep before midnight or escape ragging.

Although he was strict about tutorials, the dress code in the dining hall, decorum in the main building or noise in the residence blocks, Baker was popular with students. Always ready to speak up for them, he befriended and mentored generations of students. He organised tea and sandwiches for

his block students, listened to their problems and went out for dinners with them. Many of the students he befriended and mentored over the years are in touch with him today.

In many ways, Baker lived according to the norms of Oxbridge dons — combining a commitment to undergraduate teaching with academic research. In 1979, 1993 and 2007, Oxford University Press in Delhi published three of his books on central India — the focus area of his research. The first dealt with political history, the second with features of colonialism and the third explored the relation between region and nation in Central India. His commitment to research was lifelong and he visited the archives at least once every week, for many years, long after his retirement. While many academics — retired or serving — would prefer more fashionable places like the India International Centre or the Habitat Centre, Baker was a regular at the National Archives of India.

After years of diligent research, he accumulated a large number of index cards, recording notes about the history of St Stephen's College and its relationship with the city in which it is located. He painstakingly

collected details about the city of Delhi, the students who came to the college and the men who taught and worked in it. All Stephanians love their alma mater but David Baker's whole life was devoted to the college. He completed the book before his death and it is his final tribute to the institution he loved so much.

Baker came to St Stephen's College in 1969 as a young Australian academic and eventually settled in India. He was in touch with his family members in Australia till the very end but made India his home. Annual excursions to several historical sites with students and regular visits to friends during the summer vacation brought him closer to Indian culture. On college trips, he would not allow students to carry his luggage because he did not approve of this aspect of Indian culture. Once when I offered to help him with his bag when he was in his late seventies, he firmly refused. It was his will power and a fierce spirit of self-reliance that kept him going in later life. If Baker remained active and fit, despite eating mess food regularly for most of his adult life, it was because of his habits and self-discipline. Stephanians who almost invariably grumble about the

mess food should take note.

A devout Christian, Baker said his prayers every day without fail. In fair weather or foul, he walked across the Ridge to church every Sunday. When that became difficult, he travelled by taxi. He had a humane and catholic outlook, participated wholeheartedly in the social and cultural life of the college and generously helped several students and *karamcharis*. Every year, he visited faculty members on the campus during Holi and Diwali and enjoyed Eid and Onam lunch as much as anyone else. He belonged to a generation for whom the college played a central role in the life of both staff and students and there was greater informal interaction between them. It is from icons like Baker that Stephanians have learned a lot both within and outside the classroom.

I will miss the note in my pigeon-hole in the staff room or a call from him asking me if he could come over for a brief visit. My wife and I will miss the pleasant conversation over a cup of tea with Baker and his genteel personality.

The writer teaches history at St Stephen's College

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"THE troubling issue of forced conversions continues to be viewed largely through a majoritarian lens. Such an approach will further demoralise and alienate non-Muslims in the country and lead Pakistan further adrift from its international obligations." — DAWN

The long road to recovery

Several indicators are being used to show a strong rebound in economy. The data should be interpreted with caution, and some scepticism



MADAN SABNAVIS

HOW IS one to judge the state of the economy? GDP growth estimates range from a high of 11 per cent, as per the government, to 9.5 per cent as per RBI, while private forecasts could go lower. CARE Ratings' forecast is 8.8-9 per cent. The variation is stark. A ridiculously priced stock market and high corporate profits have been used to vindicate the view that the economy is on the high growth path. Can one take a dispassionate view?

Three things should be kept in mind when evaluating the state of the economy. First, since the economy contracted by 7.3 per cent in 2020-21, all numbers will be exaggerated in the upward direction. Hence beware of any big growth number being interpreted as indicating a recovery.

Second, because of the lockdowns this year for two months, June is bound to be better than May and July better than June and so on. Thus, beware of interpretations based on single-month data. Cumulative numbers are better at times, but can be misleading too.

Third, what is more important is how things will play out during September-December as this is the festival-cum-harvest season which engenders spending normally.

And last, one should sift through the noise in the media, where the optimistic stance that the pandemic is behind us and there is acceleration in the economy can tend to be overstated. Often policies announced are interpreted as having already led to results. A classic example is the Production Linked Incentive scheme, which is a great policy but will work only after three years as those are the terms of engagement. Speeches and presentations made on this subject tend to be biased in a positive direction. Ask the question — are jobs being created and are people spending more?

Several indicators are used as leading signals of the economy. But here, too, we need to be careful. PMIs for manufacturing and services tell us if we are better off than the previous month. But that is not how data is normally presented as we usually talk of year-on-year growth. But it is an early signal for sure. The IIP and core sector numbers will be influenced by base numbers and come with a lag. Exports have been touted as being a driver of the economy. But remember exports fell by around 17 per cent last year. GST collections are a good indicator of consumption but tend to be volatile. Besides, the Centre has estimated already that it will have to borrow Rs 1.5 lakh crore to compensate states this year, which means that there will be shortfalls again. We need to look at the bigger picture

and not get swayed by headlines stating that we have clocked over Rs 1 lakh crore collections for the "nth" month.

The best indicators on the state of the economy come from the financial sector. Bank credit is a good indicator of whether companies are producing more as all activity requires working capital. Here, the picture is not good as growth is (-)0.4 per cent as of July end, indicating that activity has not picked up yet. The SMEs, in particular, have been affected in the second round and will take time to recover. Several services like entertainment and retail malls have not yet commenced operations on a reasonable scale. Hotels and restaurants have just started commencing operations in some states. Therefore, credit growth is in the negative territory.

The debt market tells us if investment is on the cards. There has been a lot of talk on various schemes being implemented for reviving investment. If this were happening, money must be raised. Debt issuances are lower in the first four months at around Rs 1.25 lakh crore, which is half of the Rs 2.57 lakh crore mobilised last year. Therefore, the investment scenario is still one where companies are watchful. There is surplus capacity in industry with utilisation rate being at 69.4 per cent in March 2021.

A pragmatic way to look at things is to observe the patterns in the coming months. Rural demand is an integral part of the story and presently progress on the kharif crop is satisfactory. There are concerns on cotton and oilseeds and September will be critical here to judge if the area under cultivation reaches normal levels. A good crop is also necessary to generate spending power besides augmenting supplies in the market as well as food processing industry. The second wave has pushed back rural households with more expenditure on health care. This can be reflected in lower spending post October.

Employment generation is a trigger for higher income and spending and while the battle between CMIE and EPFO data remains unresolved, the market will finally reveal if people have more money. Inflation is high and though there is a view that it is transient, this may not be the case as several households, who are living on a fixed income have witnessed a double whammy in the form of lower returns on deposits (that's why everyone is flocking to the stock market), and cumulative inflation of 6 per cent last year, and a similar number this year. The pent-up demand story played out to an extent last year and expecting it to be replicated may be bordering on reckless optimism.

Investment will trail consumption and while the Centre has a good capex plan, it is only one piece in the overall puzzle. The private sector must get involved and with the banks being hesitant, the road can get longer.

The writer is Chief Economist, CARE Ratings and author of *Hits & Misses: The Indian Banking Story*. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PALM OIL PUSH

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Slipping on palm oil' (IE, August 26). The government's temptation to incentivise palm oil production is rooted in the fact that palm oil is a profitable crop. Much of it is commercialised and very little goes to waste. While the ecological concerns are more than valid and undertaking such levels of industrialisation in the Northeast or Andaman and Nicobar is not recommended, an initial push for palm oil is not an entirely bad idea. The crop, if planted, must be diversified with mixed cropping with pulses and like. The policy push shouldn't come at the cost of clearing forests or upsetting decades of socio-cultural balances of the locals. But India is an edible oil deficit country with 70 per cent of it being imported. A dramatic policy push is urgently needed to tip the scales.

Udit Sarkar, Kolkata

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Slipping on palm oil' (IE, August 26). While the government's efforts to boost palm oil production is well-intended, questions remain about ecological damage and land rights. Apart from stoking political tensions, it also disregards the unique topography and lifestyle of the people from the Northeast. The involvement of various communities in decision making would perhaps provide an effective solution.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

UGLY EPISODE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'State and Street' (IE, August 26). The sordid episode of the arrest of Narayan Rane and violence that followed suggests a dire need of

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maintaining restraint on the part of political leaders in their public outbursts against their political rivals. The arrest was better avoided. What was more outrageous was the violent drama enacted by the Shiv Sainiks on the streets of Mumbai in protest against his irresponsible utterances against Uddhav Thackeray.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

DELHI'S VOICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Safety first' (IE, August 26). G7 leaders emphasised that Afghanistan must never again become a safe haven for terrorism, nor a source of terrorist attacks on others. India is not only a non-permanent member of the UNSC but also chairs the Taliban Sanctions Committee in it. Delhi must raise its voice in shaping the international debate on the situation in Afghanistan.

SS Paul, Nadia

TOP OF THE WORLD



Israel Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

USA

Israeli PM to make case to Biden against Iran nuclear pact

PRESIDENT JOE Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett are set to hold their first face-to-face meeting Thursday, and Israel's new leader intends to press Biden to give up pursuit of reviving the Iran nuclear deal. Before arriving in Washington, Bennett made clear the top priority of the visit was to persuade Biden not to return to the nuclear accord, arguing Iran has already advanced in its uranium enrichment, and that sanctions relief would give Iran more resources to back Israel's enemies. The Israeli leader met separately Wednesday with Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin to discuss Iran and other issues. The visit was his first to the US as PM. AP

LEBANON

Beirut blast judge issues subpoena for PM Diab

THE JUDGE leading the investigation into last summer's Beirut port blast issued a subpoena for caretaker Prime Minister Hassan Diab on Thursday after he failed to show up for questioning. Lebanon's state news agency reported. Judge Tarek Bitar, who is leading the inquiry into the explosion, issued requests in July to question Diab and other top officials, including Major General Abbas Ibrahim, head of the powerful General Security agency, and several former ministers. REUTERS

BRITAIN

Man held for injecting food at supermarkets

BRITISH POLICE said they had arrested a man after processed meats and microwaveable products at three supermarkets in west London were injected using a number of needles. The Little Waitrose, Sainsbury's Local, and Tesco Express stores were closed following the incident which took place on Wednesday evening. Police were called after reports the man had shouted abuse at people, and had entered the shops on Fulham Palace Road and injected food products. What the products were injected with remains unclear. REUTERS

BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, GERMANY, NETHERLANDS END AIRLIFTS

Several countries stop evacuations from Kabul airport amid rising threats

US to prioritise flying out troops

MEGAN SPECIA, ERIC SCHMITT, STEVEN ERLANGER & STEPHEN CASTLE AUGUST 26

SEVERAL NATIONS announced on Thursday that they were halting their evacuations from the Kabul airport, as governments around the world gave dire warnings about threats to the crowds gathered there in an attempt to flee Afghanistan.

By nightfall, at least two explosions struck the area: one at the Abbey Gate and another by the nearby Baron Hotel. A Pentagon spokesman said the blasts were "a complex attack that resulted in a number of US & civilian casualties".

Even before the blasts, world leaders were deciding they could no longer assist the evacuations. Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands all said they would no longer be able to facilitate airlifts from Hamid Karzai International Airport, which has both civilian and military sections.

"We stayed in Afghanistan as long as we could," General Wayne Eyre, Canada's acting chief of the defence staff, told a news conference Thursday. "We wish we could have stayed longer and rescued everyone who was so desperate to leave. That we could not is truly heartbreaking."

After warnings of suicide attacks in the vicinity of the air-



Hundreds of people, some holding documents, gather near an evacuation control checkpoint on the perimeter of the airport in Kabul on Thursday. AP

port, Belgium decided to end its evacuation flights from Kabul on Wednesday night, Prime Minister Alexander De Croo said Thursday morning.

"On Wednesday, during the day, the situation quickly got worse," De Croo said. "We learned that there was a threat of suicide-bomb attacks in the vicinity of the airport and in the crowds. We also saw that access to the airport gates became more difficult and even impossible as a result."

Defence officials from the Netherlands and Denmark made similar calculations. Before the explosions on Thursday, Britain urged people trying to flee Afghanistan to head for interna-

tional land borders, like those with Pakistan or Iran, and to avoid the Kabul airport.

"We couldn't do anything but change the travel advice last night to advise people against moving to Kabul airport and if they are at the airport to move away to a place of safety," James Heapey, the armed forces minister, said in an interview with LBC Radio.

Evacuations had continued through the increasing alarm about security. The White House said early on Thursday that 13,400 people had been evacuated from the Kabul airport in the previous 24 hours, bringing the total since the Taliban retook the city to 95,700.

The Pentagon had vowed that the US civilian airlift would continue, with spokesperson John F Kirby saying, "We will continue to evacuate as many people as we can until the end of the mission." However, Kirby said, the US would put higher priority on flying out American troops and equipment in the mission's final days.

An estimated 1,500 Americans and countless other foreigners still in Afghanistan try to make it to the airport to leave before the US withdrawal deadline. Thousands of Afghans were camped outside the airport in attempts to catch the last flights out, some with documents allowing them to leave. NYT

Displaced families seek food, shelter in Kabul

REUTERS AUGUST 26

HUNDREDS OF Afghan families who have been camping in searing heat at a Kabul park after the Taliban overran their provinces begged for food and shelter on Thursday, the most visible face of a humanitarian crisis unfolding in the war-torn country.

The Taliban's swift takeover of Afghanistan this month, culminating in the capture of Kabul on August 15, has thrown the country into turmoil.

While thousands of people



Families displaced by fighting sit in a park in Kabul on Thursday. Reuters

have crowded the airport to try to flee, many others, like the families in the park, are stuck in limbo, unsure whether it is safer to try to go home or stay where they are.

"I'm in a bad situation," said Zahida Bibi, a housewife, sitting under the blazing sun with her large family. "My head hurts. I feel very bad, there is nothing in my stomach."

Ahmed Waseem, displaced from northern Afghanistan said those in the park were hoping the central government would pay attention. "We are in an open field and in the heat," he said.

Afghanistan's western-backed president and many other officials fled after government forces melted away in the face of the Taliban advance. The group has placed its members in ministries

and ordered some officials back to work, but services are yet to resume, with banks still closed.

The World Health Organisation said on Tuesday it has only enough medical supplies in Afghanistan to last a week after deliveries were blocked by restrictions at Kabul airport and the U.N. World Food Programme said the country urgently needed \$200 million in food aid.

The UN says more than 18 million people require aid and half of all Afghan children under the age of five already suffer from acute malnutrition amid the second drought in four years.

Capitol Police officers sue Trump, allies over Jan 6 riot

COLLEEN LONG & MICHAEL BALSAMO WASHINGTON, AUGUST 26

US CAPITOL Police officers who were attacked and beaten during the Capitol riot filed a lawsuit Thursday against former US President Donald Trump, his allies and members of far-right extremist groups, accusing them of intentionally sending a violent mob on January 6 to disrupt the congressional certification of the election.

The suit in federal court in Washington alleges Trump "worked with white supremacists, violent extremist groups,

and campaign supporters to violate the Ku Klux Klan Act, and commit acts of domestic terrorism in an unlawful effort to stay in power."

The suit was filed on behalf of the seven officers by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. It names the former president, the Trump campaign, Trump ally Roger Stone and members of the extremist groups the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers who were present at the Capitol and in Washington on January 6.

Two other similar cases have been filed in recent months by Democratic members of Congress. The suits allege the ac-



A violent mob on Jan 6 sought to disrupt the congressional certification of the election. AP

tions of Trump and his allies led to the violence siege of the Capitol that injured dozens of police officers, halted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's electoral victory and sent law-

makers running for their lives as rioters stormed into the seat of American democracy wielding bats, poles and other weapons.

A House committee has started in earnest to investigate what happened that day, sending out requests Wednesday for documents from intelligence, law enforcement and other government agencies. Their largest request so far was made to the National Archive for information on Trump and his former team.

Trump accused the committee of violating "long-standing legal principles of privilege" but his team had no immediate comment on Thursday's lawsuit. AP

MEANWHILE

WWII PILOT'S REMAINS FOUND IN EUROPE

The remains of an American World War II pilot whose body was lost in Europe's Adriatic Sea have been recovered and will be buried in his home state of Maine, the US Department of Defence said Thursday. Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau had been based in Italy, and had died when a bomber on which he served as co-pilot came under fire on Nov 6, 1944, the Defence Department said.



GREEK HEALTH CARE WORKERS PROTEST: Health workers take part in a rally in Athens on Thursday. Workers at public hospitals in Greece held a work stoppage to protest a government decision making vaccination against Covid-19 mandatory for all health care workers. AP



Kamala Harris departs Hanoi, Vietnam, on Thursday. AP

Harris vows US help for Afghan women, children

Hanoi: US Vice President Kamala Harris said on Thursday that the United States would work with its allies to protect women and children in Afghanistan, as the Taliban takeover forced her to confront troubling historical parallels and diverted attention from her original mission on a five-day trip to Southeast Asia.

"There's no question that any of us who are paying attention are concerned about that issue in Afghanistan," said Harris, referring to the protection of women and children in that country.

She made her comments in the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi, on the final day of her trip to the region, a key part of the Biden administration's strategy to forge partnerships in the region and refocus US foreign policy on competing with China's rising influence. NYT

UN document says Taliban beat, threatened staff

New York, London: The Taliban stopped an Afghan United Nations staff member as he tried to reach Kabul airport on Sunday. They searched his vehicle and found his UN identification. Then they beat him.

On Monday, three unknown men visited the home of another UN staff member who was at work at the time. They asked his son where his father was, and accused him of lying. "We know his location and what he does."

The incidents are among dozens contained in an internal UN security document that describes veiled threats, the looting of UN offices and abuse of staff since Aug 10, shortly before the Taliban swept to power. REUTERS

Sydney hospitals erect emergency tents as Covid cases hit record

RENJU JOSE SYDNEY, AUGUST 26

AUSTRALIA'S NEW daily cases of Covid-19 topped 1,000 on Thursday for the first time since the global pandemic began, as two major hospitals in Sydney set up emergency outdoor tents to help deal with a rise in patients.

Sydney, the country's largest city and the epicentre of the current outbreak, is struggling to stamp out a surge in the fast-spreading Delta variant, with daily infections hitting record levels even after two months under lockdown.

New South Wales (NSW) state, where Sydney is the capital, reported 1,029 new locally acquired cases, exceeding the previous record of 919 a day earlier. Of the new cases, 969 were detected in greater Sydney, up from 838.

The rapid rise in Covid-19 patients has forced Sydney's Westmead and Blacktown hospitals, which service the city's sprawling western suburbs, to erect tents to screen and swab patients to help manage capacity.

The makeshift unit in the emergency department for Covid-19 patients will help "to offload delays", a Western Sydney Local Health District spokesperson told Reuters.

State Premier Gladys Berejiklian said authorities had quadrupled the number of the

JAPAN SUSPENDS 1.63 MILLION DOSES OF MODERNA OVER CONTAMINATION

Tokyo: Japan suspended use of about 1.63 million doses of Moderna vaccine Thursday after contamination was found in unused vials, raising concern of a supply shortage as the country tries to accelerate vaccinations amid a Covid-19 surge. The health ministry said contamination was reported from multiple vaccination sites. Some doses might have been administered, but no adverse health effects have been reported so far, officials said. Takeda Pharmaceutical Co, a Japanese drugmaker in charge of sales and distribution of the vaccine in Japan, said it decided to suspend use of doses manufactured in the same production line. AP

state's intensive care ventilators to 2,000 early last year. Although the system is "under pressure", it can withstand the current crisis once vaccination rates rise, she said.

"It might be different to the help you got before because of the situation, but please know the system is kicking in," Berejiklian said at a televised media conference. REUTERS

Woman who documented Wuhan outbreak falls ill in prison hungerstrike

AMY CHANG CHEN & AUSTIN RAMZY AUGUST 26

A CHINESE citizen journalist who was imprisoned for exposing the failures of the government's initial response to the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan is seriously ill from a hungerstrike, according to messages from her family shared by her former lawyer and a friend.

The journalist, Zhang Zhan, 37, had travelled to Wuhan from her home in Shanghai and spent the early days of the outbreak documenting the city's strict lockdown and the severe impact it had on residents' livelihoods and freedoms.

Zhang's reports challenged the government's efforts to portray its response as competent and caring. She was convicted last

year of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble", a vague charge often used to target dissent, and sentenced to four years in prison.

Zhang began a hungerstrike after her arrest in May of last year. Her lawyers previously said that the authorities had used a feeding tube to feed her and restrained her hands.

The journalist appeared at her trial in December in a wheelchair, and one of her lawyers said then that she had already lost significant weight and that her appearance had vastly changed from just a few weeks earlier.

Zhang, who is 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed about 75 kg before her arrest, now weighs less than 40 kg, according to a message sent to her former lawyer. Zhang was suffering from a gastric ulcer and was so weak that she needed help getting up, her mother said. NYT

REFLECTS BROAD TREND OF YOUTHS WHO IDENTIFY AS SPIRITUAL BUT NOT RELIGIOUS

The new chief chaplain at Harvard? An atheist

EMMA GOLDBERG AUGUST 26

THE PURITAN colonists who settled in New England in the 1630s had a nagging concern about the churches they were building: How would they ensure that the clergyman would be literate? Their answer was Harvard University, a school that was established to educate the ministry and adopted the motto "Truth for Christ and the Church." It was named after a pastor, John Harvard, and it would be more than 70 years before the school had a president who was not a clergyman.

Nearly four centuries later,

Harvard's organisation of chaplains has elected as its next president an atheist named Greg Epstein, who takes the job this week.

Epstein, 44, author of the book *Good Without God*, is a seemingly unusual choice for the role. He will coordinate the activities of more than 40 university chaplains, who lead the Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and other religious communities on campus. Yet many Harvard students — some raised in families of faith, others never quite certain how to label their religious identities — attest to the influence that Epstein has had on their spiritual lives.

"There is a rising group of people who no longer identify with



Greg Epstein is the author of Good Without God. NYT

any religious tradition but still experience a real need for conversation and support around what it means to be a good human and

live an ethical life," said Epstein, who was raised in a Jewish household and has been Harvard's humanist chaplain since 2005, teaching students about the progressive movement that centers people's relationships with one another instead of with God.

To Epstein's fellow campus chaplains, at least, the notion of being led by an atheist is not as counterintuitive as it might sound; his election was unanimous.

The dozens of students whom Epstein mentors have found a source of meaning in the school's organisation of humanists, atheists and agnostics, reflecting a broader trend of young people across the United States who in-

creasingly identify as spiritual but religiously nonaffiliated. That trend might be especially salient at Harvard; a Harvard Crimson survey of the class of 2019 found that those students were two times more likely to identify as atheist or agnostic than 18-year-olds in the general population.

The Harvard chaplains play an outside role on campus, touching hundreds of lives through Mass offered by the Catholic Student Center or Shabbat dinners at Harvard Hillel. To Epstein, becoming the organisation's head, comes as affirmation of a yearslong effort, started by his predecessor, to teach a campus with traditional religious roots about humanism. NYT

Facebook said to be considering forming an election commission

RYAN MAC, MIKE ISAAC & SHEERA FRENKEL AUGUST 26

FACEBOOK HAS approached academics and policy experts about forming a commission to advise it on global election-related matters, said five people with knowledge of the discussions, a move that would allow the social network to shift some of its political decision-making to an advisory body.

The proposed commission could decide on matters such as the viability of political ads and what to do about election-related misinformation, said the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the discussions were confidential.



Facebook is expected to announce the election commission this fall. NYT

Facebook is expected to announce the commission this fall in preparation for the 2022 midterm elections, they said, though the effort is preliminary and could still fall apart.

Outsourcing election matters to a panel of experts could help Facebook sidestep criticism of

bias by political groups, two of the people said. The company has been blasted in recent years by conservatives, who have accused Facebook of suppressing their voices, as well as by civil rights groups and Democrats for allowing political misinformation to fester and spread online. Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's CEO, does not want to be seen as the sole decision maker on political content, two of the people said. Facebook declined to comment.

If an election commission is formed, it would emulate the step Facebook took in 2018 when it created an Oversight Board, a collection of experts who adjudicate whether the company was correct to remove certain posts from its platforms. NYT



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EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

How new SEBI regulations benefit listed company employees



SANDEEP SINGH

EARLIER THIS month, the Securities and Exchange Board of India approved the merger of the SEBI (Share Based Employee Benefits) Regulations, 2014 (SBEBS Regulations) and the SEBI (Issue of Sweat Equity) Regulations, 2002 (SWEBS Regulations) into the SEBI (Share Based Employee Benefits and Sweat Equity) Regulations, 2021. The new regulations have widened the scope of employees who can be offered stock options, and brought in other key

changes that will benefit the employees and listed companies issuing these options.

What are the key changes?

Companies will now be allowed to provide share-based employee benefits to employees, who are exclusively working for such a company or any of its group companies including a subsidiary or an associate. Under the earlier regulations, only permanent employees of the company and its holding and subsidiary companies were eligible for share-based benefits; the new regulations broaden this by deleting the word "permanent" and also permitting employees of group/associate companies. Experts say this will not only help companies to better use share-based employee benefits for retaining employees for longer period, but also imbibe a sense of responsibility and ownership in the employee that will push him/her to work for the growth of the company.

Are the new rules applicable to all companies?

No, these will be applicable only to listed companies as these have been framed by SEBI, which only regulates listed companies. For unlisted companies, any change needed will have to be brought into the Companies Act 2013, by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

What are the other important changes?

To provide immediate relief to an employee or his/her family in instances of permanent incapacity or death, the regulations have dispensed with the requirement of a minimum vesting period and lock-in period (minimum 1 year) for all share benefit schemes. Experts feel this will allow companies to provide instant relief to bereaved family members who otherwise would have had to wait.

The new regulations have extended the time period for appropriating the unappropri-

ated inventory of shares held by the trust from the existing one year to two years, subject to the approval of the Compensation Committee/Nomination and Remuneration Committee. This is expected to provide relief to companies that could not grant or dispose of such excess inventory due to adverse market conditions.

The regulations now also permit companies to transfer excess shares or monies held by a trust upon its winding up, to other share-based employee benefit schemes, subject to approval of the shareholders for such transfer. This measure will give more clarity to companies to manage their assets and financial resources of the trust in a more efficient and organised manner.

The regulations will now provide companies with flexibility in switching administration of their schemes from the trust route to the direct route, or vice versa, with the approval of the shareholders, subject to the con-

dition that the switch is not prejudicial to the interest of the employees. Earlier, companies that opted for any of these routes had to carry on with that route until the conclusion of the scheme. As there are some practical challenges in either of the routes, switching will provide flexibility to overcome the respective challenges.

When will sweat equity get issued?

Sweat equity shares will be allowed to be issued for providing the know-how or making available rights in the nature of intellectual property rights or value additions.

As per Section 2(88) of the Companies Act, 2013 "sweat equity shares" means such equity shares as are issued by a company to its directors or employees at a discount or for consideration, other than cash, for providing their know-how or making available rights in the nature of intellectual property rights or value

additions, by whatever name called.

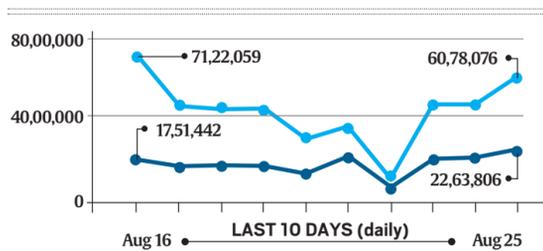
The regulations have aligned the pricing and the lock-in requirements of the sweat equity shares with the preferential issue norms as provided in the SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018.

The maximum yearly limit of sweat equity shares that can be issued by a company listed on the main board has been prescribed at 15% of the existing paid-up equity share capital within the overall limit, not exceeding 25% of the paid-up capital at any time.

Further, in case of companies listed on the Innovators Growth Platform (IGP), the yearly limit will be 15% and overall limit will be 50% of the paid-up capital at any time. This enhanced overall limit for IGP will be applicable for 10 years from the date of the company's incorporation. This proposal will benefit all new start-up companies seeking listing on the IGP platform.

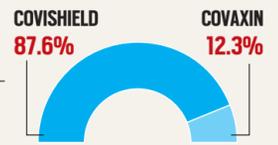
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
46,68,80,859



TOTAL DOSES
60,38,46,475

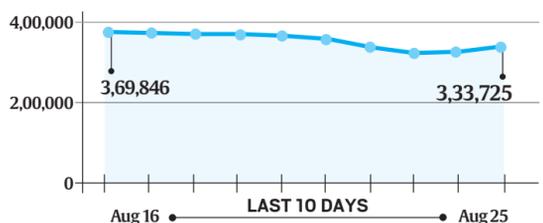
(Sputnik V's 7,12,279 doses not represented in pie)



DOSES ON AUG 25 83,41,882

AUG 24: 65,06,788 (1ST DOSE: 46,51,574; 2ND: 18,55,214)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES **3,33,725**



Note: The August 25 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on August 26

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,25,58,530

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on August 26



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SIMPLY PUT

ISIS chapter in Afghanistan

ISKP, the group blamed by the US for Thursday's bombings at Kabul airport, is the Afghan chapter of the Islamic State. What kind of attacks has it been involved in earlier, and what is its rivalry with Taliban?

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

IN AN editorial in its weekly paper *al-Nabha* last Friday, the Islamic State, in its first comments on the victory of the Taliban, dismissed it as a "Mullah Bradley" project. The editorial criticised the "new Taliban" for wearing a "guise of Islam" to undermine the IS in the Af-Pak region, and questioned if it would implement Sharia in Afghanistan. The editorial also said it was preparing for a new phase of jihad.

Deadly war

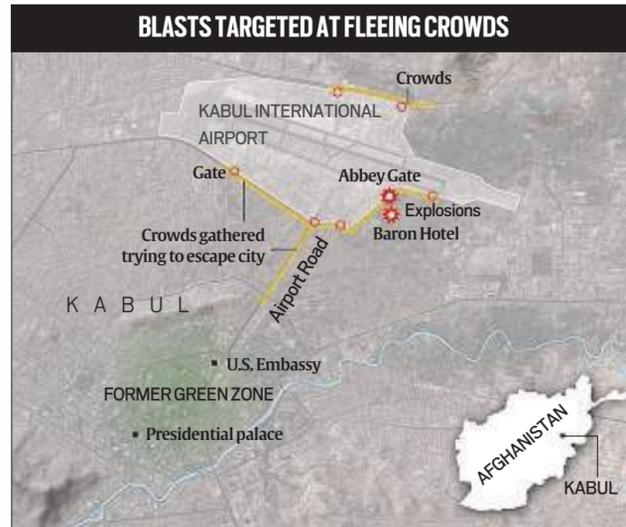
Whether or not that was a reference to Afghanistan, with the double blast attack at Kabul airport on Thursday evening that killed over 60 and injured many more, the IS-Khorasan Province (ISKP), the Afghan chapter of the group, blamed by the US and other intelligence forces for the bombing, has announced that it is present in the "new Afghanistan" and intends to continue a deadly war with the Taliban.

In the last few weeks, as the Taliban intensified their military operations to take over Afghanistan and US troops left, the ISKP had kept a low profile. The last attack claimed by it was on June 8 in Baglan, where gunmen killed 10 people who worked for the British charity called Halo, involved in mine clearing operations. Most of the victims belonged to the Hazara community, who are Shia. Earlier, ISKP claimed the bombing of a Kabul school, once again targeting the Hazara community. Most of the 100 killed were children.

These attacks were in keeping with a trend that became conspicuous as it lost territory to Afghan forces, and was weakened further by the Taliban. Through 2018 and 2019, the ISKP was engaged in fierce battles to retain its strongholds, especially in the regions of Kunar and Nangarhar. In 2019 and 2020, massive attacks attributed to or claimed by IS, shook Afghan cities. In April 2020, there was a deadly attack on a gurdwara in Kabul, followed by a suicide bombing in the maternity ward of a Kabul hospital. There were other attacks in Kabul — at the University, a clinic of the Medecins Sans Frontiers, the Jalalabad prison, a funeral procession of a police officer in Nangarhar.

Initial years

While 2020 was the year of ISKP spectac-



A person wounded in one of the blasts outside the Kabul international airport is carried on a stretcher on Thursday. *The New York Times*

ular urban suicide bombings and gun attacks, according to a study by Saurav Sarkar of the Washington think tank Stimson Centre, the 11 attacks in 2020 were a sheer drop from 343 attacks that were attributed to it in 2019, reflecting a steep decline in its manpower,

resources and organising capacities.

At its strongest in 2016, the Stimson Centre study estimates the ISKP had between 2,500- 8500 fighters, which dropped to about 2,000-4,000 fighters by 2019.

The ISKP came into existence in 2014 in

Pakistan during a period when the Pakistan Army, under General Raheel Sharif, carried out operations in the Waziristan area against the Tehreek e Taleban. A group of disgruntled Taliban fighters broke away from the TTP in 2014, rebelling against the leadership of Mullah Fazlullah, or Mullah Radid.

The rebels led by Omar Khalid Khorasani accused TTP of selling out to the "killers of the mujahideen" by entering into talks with the Pakistan Army earlier that year. They professed allegiance to the IS. Several attacks in Pakistan were claimed or attributed to this group, which called itself Jamat ul Ahrah. They joined forces with other groups such as Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami, Lashkar-e-Islam, and foreign ones such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), the Uighurs, and rebels from the Afghan Taliban.

Pakistan angle

Sometime in 2018, embattled and bereaved of several of its commanders and cadres, the ISKP split after a Pakistani Pashtun, Sheikh Aslam Farooqi, who had once been with the Lashkar-e-Toiba, and fought alongside Baghdadi cadres in Syria, took over the leadership. For a group that was fighting the Taliban and Pakistan, his loyalties came under suspicion, with foreign cadres convinced he was being directed by the Pakistani security forces. The ISKP had by then stopped attacks on Pakistani soil. The Central Asian fighters broke away and their faction appointed its own leader, according to a recent article in the Quint by Anand Arni, a former Indian intelligence official who served in Afghanistan. Indian intelligence agencies believe ISKP has several LeT fighters among its cadres.

Farooqi was arrested by the National Directorate of Security after the Kabul gurdwara bombing, and along with a Kashmiri militant Aijaz Ahangar. Indian intelligence officials and the deposed Afghan government alleged that the ISKP was a creation of Pakistan, to give deniability for attacks that would otherwise be attributed to the Taliban or Haqqani network. Arni has written that the sophistication of the urban attacks belied ISKP's capabilities, as they were not a group that was familiar with Kabul. Pakistan in turn has alleged that the ISKP is an Afghan-Indian creation.

According to reports, at its peak the ISKP managed to attract over a 100 people from Kerala. The lone gunman who carried out the Kabul gurdwara attack that killed 25 people was a Keralite, according to Indian intelligence agencies.

The annual Malabar Exercise of Quad nations, and its significance

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

NAVIES OF the four member nations of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad — India, the US, Japan, and Australia — are participating in the 25th edition of the Malabar Exercise, which began off the coast of Guam in the Pacific Ocean on Thursday, and will continue until Sunday.

Malabar, which began as a bilateral exercise, is now a cornerstone of military interoperability of the Quad forces. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Wednesday that the Quad's charter is to ensure freedom of navigation for all nations.

The Exercise

Malabar is a multilateral war-gaming naval exercise that began as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the US in 1992. Two more editions were held in 1995 and 1996, after which there was a break until 2002 in the aftermath of India's nuclear tests. From 2002 onward, the exercise has been conducted every year. Japan

and Australia first participated in 2007. There were two exercises that year; the first in the western Pacific off Japan's Okinawa island — the first time held away from Indian shores — and another off Visakhapatnam, which saw India, Japan, the US, Australia and Singapore participate.

The next year, however, the government in Australia changed, and the country ceased participation — returning only last year. Japan participated again in 2009 and 2011; since 2014, it has participated every year along with the Indian and American navies.

Malabar 2020

The exercise was conducted in two phases last year — off the coast of Visakhapatnam from November 3-6, and in the Arabian Sea from November 17-20. For the first time in over a decade, it saw the participation of all four Quad members.

"Dual carrier" operations were carried out around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy.

The two aircraft carriers, along with other ships, submarines, and aircraft of the



Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force destroyer JS Yuudachi leads a formation during a previous edition of the Malabar Exercise. *US Navy via AP*

participating navies, engaged in high-intensity naval operations, including cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MiG 29K fighter aircraft from the *INS Vikramaditya*, and F-18 jets and E2C Hawkeye airborne early warning (AEW) aircraft from the USS Nimitz. The exercises demonstrated synergy, coordination, and inter-operability.

Exercise this year

The Navy said on Thursday that the exercise will witness "complex exercises including anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare drills, and other manoeuvres and tactical exercises" this year. The Defence Ministry had said earlier that the "exercise will strengthen the coordination between the navies of the participating countries".

The Navy said on Thursday that the *INS Shivalik* multirole frigate, *INS Kadmat* anti-submarine warfare corvette, and P8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft would be part of the exercise.

The US Navy is being represented by the USS Barry, USNS Rappahannock, USNS Big Horn, and P8A patrol aircraft. The Japanese

Maritime Self Defence Force is being represented by the JS Kaga, JS Murasame, and JS Shiranui destroyers, and a submarine and P1 patrol aircraft. The Royal Australian Navy has sent the HMAS Warramunga.

Covid-19 impact

The exercise last year was planned on a "non-contact-at-sea" format in keeping with Covid-19 protocols. The Navy has said that this year too, the "conduct of the exercise while observing health protocols during the Covid-19 global pandemic is a testimony to the synergy between the participating navies and our shared vision for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific region".

Message from Malabar

The glue that binds the Quad is China, whose aggressive expansionism in the Indo-Pacific is viewed with great concern by the democratic world. A grouping of four powerful navies in the region has irked China, whose relations with all four participating nations are tense.

After the 2+2 dialogue with then US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then

Secretary of Defence Mark Esper, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had said on October 27 last year: "In our meeting...we reaffirmed our commitment to peace, stability and prosperity of all countries in this region (and)... agreed that upholding the rules-based international order, respecting the rule of law and freedom of navigation in the international seas, and upholding the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all states are essential. Our defence cooperation is intended to further these objectives."

Rear Admiral Sudarshan Shrikhande (ret'd), who headed Naval intelligence and was Defence Advisor at the Indian High Commission in Canberra between 2005 and 2008, had told *The Indian Express* earlier that the Quad "must, among other things, contribute to being a key instrument of deterrence that is necessary keeping China in mind".

Self-deterrence, Shrikhande had said, "never served useful purposes earlier and in fact would be dangerous now" — and while "the Quad need not be NATO in its formality, in its political congruence and as a post war response", it can "deter nonetheless".

16 CLASSIFIEDS & TENDERS

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Muskan d/o Paresh Malik r/o C-75, Top Floor, Nanak Chand Bashi, Kotla Mubarak Pur, Delhi-110003 have changed my name to **MUSKAN MALIK** permanently. 0040581891-1

I, Mohan Lal Sahu S/o Ramdhar Sahu, R/o F/7 Rajeev Nagar, Shanker Nagar, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492004. Declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Mohan Sahu in my minor Daughter Kumud sahu, aged about 7 Year, In her Birth Certificate No.-2014270560438 . The actual name of mine is Mohan Lal Sahu, which may be amended accordingly. 0070751543-1

I, Manish Vasant Majgaonkar, S/o Vasant Narayan Majgaonkar, R/o 64, Adarsh Kunj, Plot No. 42, Sector 13, Rohini, Delhi -110085, have changed my name to **Manish Majgaonkar.** 0070751495-1

I, Jyoti, D/o- Pawan Kumar, R/o- B-1/7A & 7B Block B-1, Sewak Park Uttam-Nagar, New-Delhi-110059, have changed my name, from Jyoti to Jyoti Mathur, for all future purposes. 0040581941-8

I, Gurdass Singh Rattan S/o Jagat Singh R/o: 11C/1, Gali No-23, Sant Garh, MBS Nagar, New Delhi-18 Have Changed My Name to **Gurdass Singh.** 0070751551-1

I, Ghazala Yasmin W/o Arshad Naseer Hashmi R/o E-79, 3rd floor, Near Jamia cooperative bank, Jasola Village, N.F.C. Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from **Ghazala Yveemin & Ghazala to GHAZALA YASMIN** for all future purposes. 0040581839-1

I, Gaurav S/o Binay Kumar Verma R/o. Flat No. G-902, JM Aroma, Sector-75, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name to **GAURAV VERMA** for all purposes. 0070751550-1

I, GOVIND SINGH SAINI S/O BHRAMPAL SINGH R/O 188 Gali No-1 Chhalera Sector-44 Noida Gautam Budha Nagar U.P.-201301 have changed my name to **GOVIND SINGH** for all future purposes. 0040581915-1

I, Anubhav, S/o-Anil Kumar Tyagi, R/o-1208, JM Royal-Park Ramprastha Green, Vaishali Ghaziabad-201010 UP, have changed my name to **Anubhav Tyagi,** for all purposes. 0040581941-9

I, Anju Bawa w/o Late Paramjeet Singh, R/o 2253/2H, Shadiपुर, New Delhi-08, also known as **Preeti Kaur & Preeti Kawal.** All names belong to one & same person 0040581878-2

I, Amrishi Kumar S/o Gautam Singh R/o Flat No. F1-303, Design Art, Ehome, Site-C, Surapur, Greater Noida U.P. have changed my daughter name from **Neevi Bidhudi** to **Neevi** for all future purposes. 0070751499-1

I, Ajay Kumar S/o R.K. Dass R/o J-36/G-4, Ground Floor, Dilshad Colony, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to **Ajay Gupta.** 0040581938-7

I, ASHWANI KUMAR VJ/S/O MADAN LAL VIJ, ADD-141, PREET VIHAR EAST DELHI-110092, changed my name to **ASHWANI VIJ,** permanently. 0040581938-4

I Vijayraj S/o-Sh. Vishnu Bhagat, R/o-H.No.129, Block-F-6, T-Huts, H.G.I.Labour Colony, Sultan Puri, Delhi-86, Have Changed my name **VIJAYRAJ** to **BIZRAJ BHAGAT** for all purpose. That **VIJAYRAJ & BIZRAJ BHAGAT** is the one and same person. 0040581851-1

Ihitherto known as **GURMINDER SINGH S/O SUDARSHAN SINGH** alias **GURMINDER SINGH UPPAL S/O SUDARSHAN SINGH UPPAL** employed as Dy. Chief TKT. Inspector working under Chief TKT Inspector-Line-New Delhi Railway Station, Northern Railway residing at A-1B/108C, LIG FLATS, VISHAL BHARTI SCHOOL, PASCHIM VIHAR, DELHI-110063, have changed my name and shall and hereinafter be known as **GURMINDER SINGH UPPAL S/O SUDARSHAN SINGH UPPAL** 0040581874-8

I, Dhurendra Kumar Arya S/o Late Sh. Jageshwar Prasad Bhagat R/o House No.31/484, Block-31, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091 have changed my minor Son's name from **Suryansh Kumar Arya** to **Suryansh Saini** for all future purposes. 0040581874-1

I, Muskan Rana, D/o Sandeep Rana R/o-56, Shahbad Daultpur, Pansali, Delhi-110042, have changed my name to **Muskan.** 0040581932-9

I Vandna Aggarwal W/O, Ashok Kumar Aggarwal R/O, BB-39F, DDA-flats, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058, have changed my name to **Vandana Aggarwal,** for all purposes. 0040581932-1

I, Ujjwal Choudhary S/O Arun Kumar R/O B-1/254, 1st-Floor Yamuna Vihar Delhi-110053, have changed my name to **Ujjwal Choudhary.** 0040581941-2

I Tarsem Kumar S/o Hari Chand R/O 257 Ambika Apartments, Sectr-14, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to **Tarsem Jain** 0070751535-1

I Ravinder Kumar alias R K Madan alias **Ravinder Kumar Madan S/O Late Sh. Rama Nand Madan R/O 37-B, Surya Apartment, Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085** have changed my name to **Ravinder Kumar Madan** for all purposes. 0040581841-6

I Prakash Chand S/o-Ram Pal R/o-1137, F-Block, DDA Flat, Mangol Puri, Delhi-110083 inform-that my name wrongly written in my daughter (Preeti, Class-9th) School-Record as **Prakash** instead of **Prakash Chand.** 0040581889-1

Is for general information that **I, CHANDAN KUMAR, S/O -Shri KAMLESH PURI Poddar, Residing at, C-6/8, JAI VIHAR EXTN, PHASE-3, NAJAFGARH, DELHI-110043,** declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as **JAI KUMAR** in my **ESI Card No-9052403** and **Indian Bank Account No-776946089.** The actual-name of mine is **CHANDAN KUMAR** respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040581941-4

Is for general information that **I, ANIL KUMAR, S/O Shri. KISHORI LAL, R/O-C-479/F, Floor, J.J.Colony, Raghubir-Nagar, Tagore Garden, West-Delhi, Delhi-110027,** declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as **ANIL MASIH** in my minor daughter **SIMRAN** (age-about 14-years) school-records. The actual-name of mine is **ANIL KUMAR** which may be amended accordingly. 0040581941-7

I, hitherto known as Himanshu Jain, S/o Sanjay Kumar Jain, residing at, H.No.-128, Gali, No.9, Gulab-Vatika, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Viharsh Jain.** 0040581940-5

I, Vandna Joshi w/o Gagan Joshi house number-33A, block-H, Kalkaji south, East Delhi-110019, have changed my name to **Vandana Joshi,** permanently. 0040581938-8

I, VINOD KUMAR GUPTA, S/O RAMA PRASAD, ADDRESS, KHASRA, NO-22/5, street, No.16, block-b, Harit-vihar, Burari, Delhi-110084, Changed my name to **VINOD KUMAR.** 0040581932-2

I, Shweta Sharma W/o Amit Sharma R/o Flat 548 3rd-floor GH 14, Paschim Vihar 110087, have changed my name to **Shweta Jain Sharma.** 0040581941-1

I, SUSHILA DEVI CHAUHAN W/O KALAM SINGH CHAUHAN, R/O A-29, DUGAI COLONY, KHANPUR, NEW DELHI-110062, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SUSHILA CHAUHAN, FOR ALL, FUTURE PURPOSES.** 0040581938-3

I, SIDHARTH TALWAR, W/O MR. SATISH KUMAR TALWAR, R/O FLAT, NO.212, QUTUB VIEW-APPARTMENTS, WARD, NO.8, MEHRAULI, DELHI-110030, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SIDHARTHA TALWAR, FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0040581938-9

I, SANJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL, S/O SURENDER KUMAR KHANDELWAL, R/O C 70A, SOUTH-EXTENSION PART-2, NEW DELHI-110049, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **SANJAY KHANDELWAL.** 0040581940-6

I, Ritesh Gomes, S/o Sh. Simon Gomes, R/o. K-157-A, Sangam Vihar, Gali, no-14, Hamdard-Nagar, New Delhi-110080, have changed my name to **Allen Ritesh Gomes,** for all future purposes. 0040581938-2

I, Rajdeep Singh Tuteja, S/o Balbir Singh Tuteja, R/o 7/20, South-Patel Nagar, N. Delhi-08, have changed my minor daughter's name **Sifat Tuteja** to **Sifat Kaur Tuteja.** 040581938-6

I, URVASHI D/O AJAY GUPTA R/O B-3/4, RANA PRATAP BAGH, DELHI-110007, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **URVASHI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 0040581943-5

I, POONAM W/O MAYANK VIJ R/O-97 GROUND-FLOOR KAILASH HILLS EAST OF KAILASH DELHI-110065, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **POONAM VIJ.** 0040581932-4

I, No-Jc-304213K, Sub Dinesh Kumar S/O- Ddup Singh R/O/, P/o- Jhok, Tehsil/ District-Mohinder Garh Haryana, in my service records the (D o B) of my wife namely **Roshni Devi** has been wrongly mentioned as **11-11-1970** instead of **01-07-1983.** It needs correction. Objections be filed to **20 RR BC cant Srinagar** within seven days. 0020425855-1

I, Meenu Rathi W/o Rakesh Rana R/o H-3/96 TF, Pkt-3, Sector-11, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to **Meenu Rana.** 0040581932-10

I, Manju Tanwar W/o Sh. Manoj Kumar Tanwar, R/o-B-5/3, 1st-Floor, Jitar-Nagar, Delhi-110051 is also known as **Manju.** Manju Tanwar and Manju are one, and the same person. I shall be known as **Manju Tanwar** in future. 0040581907-1

I, MEHAK D/O SANJAY AGGARWAL, R/O HNO.262, POCKET-4, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **KHUSHI AGGARWAL.** 0040581938-5

I, Jaspreet Kaur Nagi W/o Satbir Singh R/o B-28, Sector-27, Noida, UP, have changed my name to **Jaspreet Kaur,** for all purposes. 0040580936-2

I, KIRTI KUMAR JAIN S/O SUKRAJ KOCHAR R/O C-3/73-74, RAJASTHALI APARTMENT, PITAMPURA, DELHI-110034, CHANGED MY NAME TO **KIRTI KUMAR KOCHAR.** 040580453-4

I, MAYANK S/O AJAY VINOD VIJ, R/O-97 GROUND-FLOOR, KAILASH HILLS EAST OF KAILASH DELHI-110065, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **MAYANK VIJ.** 0040581932-3

I, Leena Luthra D/o Sh. Kharati Lal Ahuja W/o Sh. Kewal Kishan Luthra, R/o 761, church road jwala-nagar shahdara, delhi-110032, inform that **Jyoti, Jyoti Ahuja** and **Leena Luthra** are the names of one & same person. But my correct name is **Leena Luthra** for, all future purposes. 0040581943-1

I, Khushi Ram S/o Dharam Singh R/o Plot No.222, Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, inform that **Dharm Singh and Dharam Singh** are the names of same and one person i.e. my father. 0040581932-8

I, GAGANBIR SINGH GILL, S/O Harjinder Singh Gill, R/o Saifpur Firozpur, Behsuma, Mawana, Meerut, UP, have changed my name to **GAGANBIR SINGH.** 0040581943-3

I, Ekta Arora D/o Amar Kumar Vij R/o F-6/2, 2nd. Floor, Krishna-Nagar Delhi-110051, Have changed my name to **Ekta Vij For All Purposes.** 040581940-2

I, ELIZABETH GONZALES LOPEZ, W/O Harjinder Singh Gill, R/o Saifpur Firozpur, Behsuma, Mawana, Meerut, UP, have changed my name to **ELIZABETH GOZALES.** 0040581943-2

I, Daya Rani W/o Dharamveer Sharma R/o-H.No.80 Pal Gali, Circular Road, Shahdara Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name To **Sunita Sharma FOR ALL PURPOSES.** 040581940-1

I, DEEPNARAYAN PREMNARAYAN TRIPATHI, S/O PREMNARAYAN PRASIDHD TRIPATHI, R/O FLAT, NO.4023, ACE GOLDFIRE, SECTOR-150, NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR, U.P.201310, changed my name to **DEEPNARAYAN TRIPATHI.** 0040581940-3

I, Charu Rastogi, W/o Gaurav Verma, R/o Tower, No.-4, 1201, M3M Merin Sector-67, Badshaha Pur, Gurgaon (Haryana)-1221001, have changed my name to **Charu Verma.** 0040581941-3

I, Anshu Singh, wife of, Saurabh Kumar Singh, R/o, D-6/3, Welcome-CGHS Limited, Plot, No.6, Sector-3, Dwarka NSIT, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078, have changed my name to **Anshu Kumari,** for all future purposes. 0040581938-1

I, Anand S/o Satya Narain R/o Plot-No.707B, Ground-Floor, Pole-no.MDKX550, Doplana Panna, Tikri Kalan, Delhi-110041, inform that **Satya Narayan and Satya Narain** are the names of same and one person i.e. my father. 0040581932-7

I, Vipul Basu Mandal S/o M.B. Mandal R/o A-166/UG-1, Dilshad Colony, Dilshad Garden, Delhi-110095 have changed my minor son's name from **Victor Mandal** to **Victor Basu Mandal.** 0070751548-1

I, Shamim Ur Riyaz S/O ISHTEYAQUE AHMED KHAN R/O 203-A/2 Block -R, Jogabai Extn., Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 declare that the correct name of my father is **ISHTEYAQUE AHMED KHAN** mentioned in my Adhar card number **5157 7651 7871 & all others documents** and by mistake shown in 10th class certificate as **ISHTEYAQUE AHMAD** issued by **C.B.S.E Delhi** is not correct. The above both name is same person who is my father for all future purposes. 0040581843-1

I, Santosh Khandelwal W/O shri Surender Kumar R/O A-77/A, gali No-8, Rajgarh Colony, Gandhi Nagar East Delhi-110031 have changed my name **Santosh Khandelwal** to **Santosh Kumari** for all purposes. 0040581862-1

I, Samrat Sarkar S/O Asish Kumar Sarkar, R/o Flat No-1, Kashi Enclave, N-16/34, Block-A, Kolihwa Vinayaka, Ward No-2, Chhitapur, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh-221010, declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as **Ronny Sarkar** in my Birth Certificate No-1381. The actual name of Mine is **Samrat Sarkar.** 0070751538-1

I, Ravi Kiran Venketeshwar S/O Ved Prakash Murty, R/o H.No.-E-7, Bamleshwari Nagar, Ekta Nagar, Gudihiyari, Raipur-492009, Chhattisgarh, India. Declare that Name of Mine and My Father has been wrongly written as **V Ravi Kiran** and **V P Rangamurti** in my school Record No. 357590, that the name of Mine and my Father has been wrongly written as **Vedula Venketeshwar Ravikiran Murti** and **V P Rangamurti** in my 10th class certificate No.-08254199, that the name of mine and my Father has been wrongly written as **V V Ravikiran Murty** and **V P Rangamurti** in my 12th class certificate No.-10151457, that the name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as **V Ravikiran and Shri V P Murty** in my Graduation Marksheet No.-1102. The actual name of Mine and My Father are **Ravi Kiran Venketeshwar** and **Ved Prakash Murty,** which may be amended accordingly. 0070751539-1

I, Ruhi Kumari W/o Pawan Kumar R/o RZ-467/13B, Tughlakabad Extn., New Delhi-110019, declare that my name of mine has been written as **Vibha** in his school records. my name should be changed to **Ruhi Kumari** Both are the same person. 0040581853-1

I, Sadique Ahmad R/o Flat No 1702 Tower 7 Supreme Towers Sector-99 Noida UP have changed my minor son's name from **Arsal Ahmad** to **Syed Mohammad Ibrahim** 0040581911-1

I, Rajnish Kumar S/o Budhdev Jha R/o, M-1303, Tower-M, Hemes 121, Sector-121, Near IGL Gas Station, Noida, UP-201301, have changed my name to **RAJNEESH KUMAR** for all future purposes. 070751547-1

I, RISHI KHANDELWAL S/O KAILASH CHAND, R/O 28/1, PUNJABI BAGH EXTN, NEW DELHI-26, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **RISHI GUPTA FOR ALL PURPOSES** 0040581878-3

I, Pushendra Tiwari S/O Tribhuvan Tiwari, R/O VIII, Shivpur Post Budhar, Koriya, Chhattisgarh-497335, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Shubham .** 0070751542-1

I, Mansaran Kaur Uttal D/O, Lajinder Singh R/o H.No. C-66, 1st Floor Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name to **Mansaran Kaur** for all purposes. 0040581913-1

I Manjeet Singh S/O, Nachhattar Shargma R/o 156, Govind Khand, Vishwakarma Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110095 have changed my name to **Manjit Singh** for all purposes. 0040581888-1

I Mallaya Uttal D/O, Mansaran Kaur R/o H.No. C-66, 1st Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 have changed my name to **Mallya Uttal** for all purposes. 0040581912-1

I Avdesh Kumar Akar S/O Sh. Nirmal Kumar Akar R/O 32/26, Third Floor, East Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008 have changed the name of my minor Daughter **Prishsa Aakar** aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as **Prisha Akar.** 0040581940-9

I, hitherto known as Nitin Jain, S/O Vinay Kumar Jain, residing at, H.No.-80-A, Gali, No.-14, Gulab Vatika, Loni Dehat, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Raghav Jain** 0040581940-4

I, Jasleen Kaur Chandhok W/o Gurjot Singh, R/o F-79, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to **Jasleen Kaur.** 0040581932-6

I, Gurjot Singh Chandhok S/o Sh. Bhupinder Singh R/O F-79, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to **Gurjot Singh.** 0040581932-5

I, hitherto known as Nidhi Akar, W/o Avdesh Kumar Akar, R/o 32/26, Third Floor, East Patel-Nagar, New Delhi-110008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Nidhi Akar.** 040581940-7

I, hitherto known as Avdesh Kumar Akar, S/o Shri. Nirmal Kumar Akar R/O 32/26, Third-Floor, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Avdesh Kumar Akar.** 0040581940-8

I, Husna Ara, W/o Ram Narayan Shaw, R/o 525, Sector-7, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi-31, shall be known as **Husna Ara Shaw** for all future purposes. 0040581877-1

LOST AND FOUND

I, Devendra Singh S/o Jagvir Singh R/o-16/8, Sai Enclave, Chhapiyana Buzurg, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201009 have lost my **Builder Buyer Agreement** for **Flat No.1087, First Floor, Greenwood Enclave, Wave city, Ghaziabad.** FIR lodged at **PS-Masuri** dt **25.08.21.** Finder Contact **9936347111.** 0070751545-1

I, Praveen Aggarwal S/o Bashesar Mal alias Bashesar Aggarwal R/O F-170, Jagat Puri, Delhi-110051 have lost my original documents of property area set at **Plot No.10, Rafflesshwar, G.I.C.D, Morbi-363642 (Gujrat).** Finder contact **9910424202** 0040581869-1

I, Yogender katoch (Husband of Mrs Aruna katoch) GPA holder of Gaurav katoch have lost original **Builder Buyer Agreement** of property **Flat no 3122 in Tower 3, ARTS KOCOON, Sector 109, Gurgaon, Haryana.** Police complaint registered on **13.09.2014.** If found please contact **Mobile no 97011345049.** 0020425857-1

Lost my **Conveyance Deed** Dated-07/11/2007, in the name of **M/s. Paragon Industries** through, **Late Mr. Roshan Lal Jain, Original Conveyance Deed Registration Particular PAGE is Missing** and **Registration Particular number is 20950.** Finder contact. 0040581943-4

I, Vikas Kumar, R/o 2-E-26, Kamna, Vaishali, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, have lost my **Original Passing-Certificate of Class-10th Exam Year-2015 Roll.No.8622124** Passed Out from **CBSE-Delhi.** 40581932-11

This is notified for the information that original documents of **F1/15 Model Town, Delhi-110009,** have been lost. Finder please call: **9899990547.** 0050183096-1

Lost original property papers of **Plot No.12/12, Chaudhary Bihari Lal (Marg-1), Dehradun, Uttarakhand** area mees.4214.73 mtr) regd.in name of **Go and Grow Food and Beverages Pvt.Ltd.** Finder Contact **Jatinder Singh Ahuja S/o Sant Singh Ahuja, R/o F-13B, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027** 0040581878-1

THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT Dt.16.05.2005 pertaining to **FLAT, NO.04, ON THIRD-FLOOR, BLOCK-C, (C-304), Situated, at ROSEWOOD CITY, Sector-49, Gurgaon, Haryana,** in the name of **YASHPAUL SETHI HUF,** has been lost. If found inform at: **9999207779,** or return to **M/s. R.C.Sood & Company Pvt.Ltd.** 10th Floor, Eros Corporate Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi-19, Phone **No.46208282.** 0040581941-10

SITUATION VACANT

MULTIPLE VACANCIES
INS Advertising Agency
Required Accountant, Clerk, Graphic Designer, Computer Typist (Hindi / English), Field Executive with D.L.
#9315933605, 9643657382.
0040581341-3

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Smt. Shukantika Aggarwal W/o Ram Prasad Aggarwal R/O F-23/56, MIG Flats, Rohini Sector-3, Rajapur Kalan North West Delhi-110085 has severed all relation with her younger son **Puneet Aggarwal** and disowned him from her all movable and immovable properties due to his disobedience. My client shall not be responsible for any of his acts/ deeds.
Sd/- **D.P. Shukla (Advocate)**
Ch. No. 521, Saket Courts New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE
THE PUBLIC IN LARGE IT IS INFORM THAT MY CLIENTS **SH. SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA S/O LATE SH. F.C. SHARMA AND SMT. GEETA SHARMA W/O SH. SANJAY KUMAR SHARMA BOTH RD 29E, POCKET-1, MAYAPUR VIHAR PHASE-1, NEW DELHI-110091,** HAVE DISOWNED AND DEBARRED THEIR SON **MR. ANURAG SHARMA** AND HIS WIFE **MRS. DIVYA GOLA SHARMA** FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND ALSO SEVERED ALL RELATIONS FROM THEM AS THEY ARE NO MORE IN THEIR CONTROL OF MY CLIENTS AND IF ANYBODY DEALS WITH THEM MY CLIENTS AND THEIR ALL FAMILY MEMBERS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER IN FUTURE.
SUPARSHA KUMAR ADVOCATE
CK NO. 381, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, NEW DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to general public that my client Smt. Vanita Bhandari W/o Sh. Ravi Bhandari R/O K-11, Lagat Nagar, New Delhi-110024. Mob: 9818404956 have had her all the original title documents of their property bearing No. K-11, Lagat Nagar, New Delhi-110024. My client apprehends that any person or persons may misuse the said documents and if any person finds the said documents, please handover the said documents to me at the above address or inform my client or inform my client on Mob: 9818404956.
Sd/- **Ravish Chandra Pathak**
Advocate
120, Ind. Flr, Kingsway Camp Mail Road, Delhi-110009 #9818982524

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that my client Smt. Pooja Kumar Sharma W/o Late Sh. Madhav Dutt Sharma, R/o A-90, St. No. 1, Bahamupur, Delhi-53 (Ahar) 5119 9421 3914 disowned and debarred her son namely **Nishu Vats** along with family members from all her movable and immovable property particularly Property No. A-90, St. No. 1, Bahamupur, Delhi-53 which is self-acquired and my client hereby notified that she and her family members shall not be responsible for any act committed by them.
Sd/- **SANOBAB ALI QURESHI ADVOCATE**
GLOBAL JURIS CONSULTANTS C-121/122, C.L. JOSEPH BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all concern that my client Sh. Rajesh Kumar Gupta S/o Late Sh. Nanak

GOLD
₹46,149RUPEE
₹74.22OIL
\$70.11SILVER
₹61,653

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on August 25, 2021

SENSEX: 55,949.10 ▲ 4.89 (0.01%) NIFTY: 16,636.90 ▲ 2.25 (0.01%) NIKKEI: 27,742.29 ▲ 17.49 HANG SENG: 25,415.69 ▼ 278.26 FTSE: 7,131.36 ▼ 18.76 DAX: 15,781.63 ▼ 79.03

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
INSURANCE

Insurers cut exposure to govt's flagship crop cover scheme PMFBY

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

DOMESTIC GENERAL insurance companies are gradually reducing their exposure to the crop insurance segment, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), in a bid to balance their portfolios and cut down losses on account of high claims, even as the Centre made the scheme optional and slashed its contribution.

Gross premium underwritten by general insurers has fallen by 12.37 per cent to Rs 4,221 crore in the four-month period ended July 2021 as against Rs 4,817 crore in the year-ago period. This follows the 16.76 per cent decline in crop insurance premium to Rs 19,071 crore (excluding Agriculture Insurance Corporation) in the fiscal ended March 2021 as against Rs 22,911 crore in the previous year, according to figures available from General Insurance Council (GI Council).

Public sector insurance firms — particularly country's largest general insurer, New India Assurance — have almost reduced their exposure to nil in the four months of the current financial year. All the four PSU insurers — New India Assurance, United India Insurance, National Insurance and Oriental Insurance — have a combined exposure of just Rs 3.8 crore in the period.

Private sector general insurers like ICICI Lombard General Insurance and Tata AIG had exited the portfolio two years back. ICICI Lombard

Gross premium underwritten by general insurers has fallen by 12.37% to ₹4,221 crore in the four-month period ended July 2021 as against ₹4,817 crore in the year-ago period

General Insurance had said it is exiting in the wake of losses and high reinsurance costs. Launched in February 2016, PMFBY witnessed huge claims of over 100 per cent in the first few years, leading to losses for insurers. Even GIC Re, which was earlier bullish on the portfolio, has cut down its exposure drastically after it was hit with heavy losses in the last two years. In the June quarter, the reinsurer slashed its crop portfolio by 23 per cent to year-on-year to Rs 5,312 crore but has achieved profitability in the portfolio.

In February 2020, the government revamped PMFBY and the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) to address existing challenges in implementation of crop insurance schemes. In a major step, enrolment in the two schemes was made voluntary for all farmers, including those with existing crop loans. When PMFBY was launched, it was made mandatory for all farmers with crop loans to enrol for insurance cover.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

AIRLINE APPROACHES CENTRE TO GET OVER ₹500 CR DUES CLEARED

₹3,000 cr from AI unpaid, oil companies seek ministry help

KARUNJIT SINGH & PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

STOPPING SHORT of fuel supply cuts to disinvestment-bound Air India, state-owned oil retailers have sought the petroleum ministry's intervention to recover their dues adding up to over Rs 3,000 crore, government officials and company executives told *The Indian Express*.

The national carrier, on its part, has approached the central government to get its dues of over Rs 500 crore cleared. The government owes Air India the money on account of VVIP travel, evacuation operations and other official travel.

Typically, oil marketing companies suspend fuel supply to airlines that have not paid past dues — Air India was subjected to such a move in August 2019.

"Oil marketing companies have approached the petroleum ministry as Air India had stopped paying interest on long-term dues

FUEL SUPPLY TO AI

Typically, oil marketing companies suspend fuel supply to airlines that have not paid past dues — Air India was subjected to such a move in August 2019.

and for ongoing consumption," a government official said, on condition of anonymity.

Responding to the oil ministry, the civil aviation ministry has requested that oil companies continue supplying fuel to Air India, given that the entire airlines industry is facing financial stress due to the pandemic, the official said, adding that "no one wants to stop the operations" of the national airline.

Senior executive at one of the oil marketing companies said decisions to stop supply to Air India or put it on a cash-and-carry ba-

sis are taken after consultations with the petroleum ministry. Air India's daily fuel bill adds up to about Rs 5-6 crore. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had in July last year — just over a month after the domestic flight suspension was lifted — warned Air India that it would put the airline on cash-and-carry until it cleared its dues of Rs 1,000 crore at the time.

In August 2019, the three oil retailers had halted supply to Air India at six airports after repeated reminders over non-payment of dues. At the time, Air India had said that "in absence of equity support", the airline could not service its debt liabilities.

This time, though, punitive action has been avoided as the airline is disinvestment-bound and any coercive action could potentially impact investor interest.

E-mail queries sent to the petroleum and civil aviation ministries went unanswered. Air India, Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp and Hindustan Petroleum Corp did not respond

to requests for comment.

In 2019-20, the airline made a net loss of nearly Rs 8,000 crore, and this is expected to increase to Rs 10,000 crore for 2020-21 (April-March) period, which hasn't been reported yet. For 2020-21, the airline's revenues dropped significantly to Rs 12,138.77 crore from Rs 27,546.58 crore in the previous financial year.

In February this year, the then Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, who is now the Petroleum Minister, had noted in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha: "The amounts due from the Government of India have been accounted for in the profit and loss accounts in the respective years and the outstandings are reflected as receivables in the balance sheet. There is no significant impact of the government outstanding on the losses incurred by Air India. However, regular follow-up for the same are made by Air India/Ministry of Civil Aviation and normally such dues are cleared from time to time".

Boeing 737 MAX to take to Indian skies again after over 2-year ban

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

AVIATION SAFETY regulator DGCA on Thursday allowed operations of Boeing 737 MAX planes, which were banned almost two-and-a-half years ago following two deadly crashes of this model that together killed 330 people.

With India opening up the skies for the 737 MAX planes, China remains the only major aviation market to still have a ban in place. Explaining the revocation of the ban, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in an order that 17 regulators worldwide have permitted operation of these aircraft, and 34 airlines with 345 planes of this model were operating currently having operated over 2.89 lakh cumulative hours since the grounding from December 9, 2020, "with no untoward reporting".

It, however, added that the MAX planes will be allowed to operate "only upon satisfaction of applicable requirements for return to service". Following the two crashes, first in October 2018 in Indonesia on a flight operated by Lion Air and second in March 2019 on an Ethiopian Airlines flight, investigations revealed that the main cause was a design flaw in the most modern jetliner.

The latest Boeing 737 model is equipped with a manoeuvring characteristics augmentation system (MCAS), which is responsible for pushing the aircraft's nose down when it senses a high angle of attack that may lead to an aircraft stall. If an aircraft's nose is too high, the plane loses speed and is likely to enter a stall — a state in which it loses flight and can fall



China still has a Boeing 737 MAX ban in place. Reuters file

from the sky like a stone. The MCAS was designed to prevent such an eventuality. In case of the two crashes, the MCAS falsely misread the plane's angle of attack during the ascent and forced the nose down leading to the crash. However, it was not just a technical flaw that caused the accidents. During the course of the investigation, several shortcomings were also found out with the processes laid down by Boeing as well as the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Once the probe pointed out all deficiencies, corrective measures started being introduced, including rectifying the MCAS by Boeing and setting up of simulators and training centres to train pilots about the MCAS. Last November, the FAA lifted the restrictions on Boeing 737 MAX. Other jurisdictions including Japan, Europe, Canada, Brazil, the UAE, Australia and the UK too approved its return following technical modifications and additional pilot training.

In India the only carrier to operate the aircraft model is SpiceJet. Upcoming airline Akasa promoted by stock trader Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was also in talks with Boeing to launch with a fleet of 737 MAX planes. DGCA's revocation of the ban could lay the ground for the deal to happen.

'Hiring activity witnesses 4% sequential growth in July'

Hiring activity saw an overall 4% sequential growth in July, with the uptick mainly in metros, a Monster.com report said

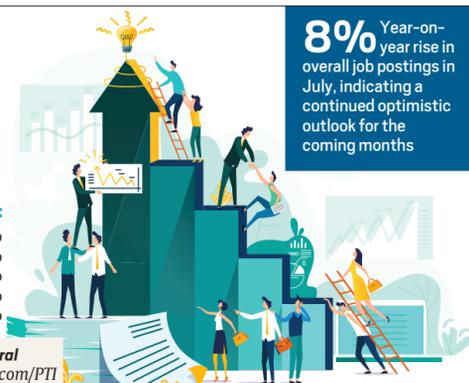
Industries previously in a slump that saw sequential rise in postings in July:

- Travel and tourism 16%
- Shipping and marine 14%
- Office equipment 9%
- Real estate 9%

Major cities that saw sequential rise in postings:

- Delhi-NCR 8%
- Pune 7%
- Hyderabad 7%
- Chennai 6%
- Bengaluru 6%

Across all job levels, recruitment activity saw optimistic or neutral month-on-month growth Source: Monster.com/PTI



BRIEFLY

FMat BRICS meet

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired via video the second meeting of BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, with RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, under the Indian BRICS Chairship.

Barclays funds

Mumbai: Barclays Bank has infused Rs 3,000-crore capital into India operations.

Afcons project

Mumbai: Afcons won a contract of \$530-million to build Male-Thilafushi link project.

Yahoo news

New Delhi: Yahoo has shut its news websites here due to the new FDI rules that limit foreign ownership. PTI

US Q2 GDP

Washington: The US Q2 GDP grew at 6.6% annualised rate, as per second estimate.

Politico website

New York: German publisher Axel Springer said it will acquire US political news website Politico. The NY1 last week said it could be sold for \$1 billion. REUTERS

'State's industrial progress testament to positive changes'

Need for entrepreneurs, industry greater than before: Maharashtra CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

MAHARASHTRA CHIEF Minister Uddhav Thackeray, while delivering his keynote address at a two-day industry conclave hosted by The Indian Express Group's Marathi daily Loksatta, along with Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), said the role of the industrial sector had gained further importance during the Covid pandemic. He added the industry needed to play a role in helping uplift the life of citizens.

"Chief Ministers from other states come here to Maharashtra and lure entrepreneurs with sops and ask them to invest in their state. Some people do go when they hear the promises. But many prefer to be here in Maharashtra. I am here today to give all of you a sense of belonging that this is your *karmabhoomi* and by working here you will be enhancing the well-being of not only the state but also the country. Being an entrepreneur does not mean enhancing the well-being of an individual alone. We need to take others along and uplift them in their lives," Thackeray said.

He noted that graded relaxing of Covid restrictions was being done, keeping in mind the larger well-being of the people and the state. "As per the global experience, the Covid wave re-



Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, along with Minister of State for Industries Aditi Tatkar, Industries and Mining Minister Subhash Desai, and CII president and Tata Steel MD & CEO TV Narendran at Loksatta Industry Conclave. Pradip Das

pears after 100 days. People say this middle period should be used to accelerate the economic cycle. Some say if you open one thing, then why not the other. Let's wait for some time. We want to open everything one step at a time. No one will be forced to remain captive. We have to gradually gently remove our masks as well. But if you remove it in a hurry, then there is fear that we will never be able to completely remove it ever."

He also said that the pandemic had created hardships in the lives of people and warned of unrest and instability due to loss of livelihood. He added the industrial sector needs to step in to address this issue. "We also need to make polit-

ical parties aware that while they can continue with their politicking, they first need to tell people as to what they will do to address the daily struggle of citizens for food and employment. If there is no livelihood, there will be unrest and instability in the entire state, the country and the world. To address this, the need for entrepreneurs and industry in our state is greater than before," Thackeray said.

He said the state government stands firmly behind investors and will continue to do so, saying: "The state's industrial progress, which is on its way to reaching a trillion-dollar capacity, is a testament to the positive changes taking place in the infrastructure that complements that progress."

Post first wave, investments show confidence in state policies: Desai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

NEW INDUSTRIES are being set up in Maharashtra, along with the established ones, and over 50 MoUs and investments of around Rs 1,30,000 crore after the first Covid wave showed confidence in the state's industrial policies, Industries and Mining Minister Subhash Desai said on Thursday while speaking at the Loksatta Industry Conclave.

"These MoUs are not only on paper but also are surely going to happen as 60 companies have already started buying lands for the project," Desai said. Describing the state as 'Magnetic Maharashtra', he said an industry, based on medicinal plants, will be started at Kudal under the guidance of the Ministry of AYUSH. Reliance has also invested Rs 5.5 crore in biological research in Nashik and Vital Group's Rs 60,500-crore power project is coming up in Yavatmal. He also said GAIL India has started a CNG and fuel production project near Alibag.

The state government's infrastructure vision would bring a complete transformation in connectivity in Maharashtra, State Road Development Corporation Managing Director Radheshyam



Mopalwar said. Speaking at the conclave, Mopalwar said the 700 km Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg was a game changer.

"Six new infrastructure projects have been accepted by the government. Around Rs 1.80 lakh crore's projects are there. After taking any project in hand, it takes at least 10-15 years of time. Samruddhi Mahamarg, however, is taking seven years to deliver since conceptualising," he said.

Sanjay Sethi, Chairman of NPT, said: "Efforts are being taken to in-

crease the container handling capacity to 10 million TEUs per year which is right now 5 million TEUs." He added the Rs 80,000-crore Vadhanav port near Dahanu, which is facing strong opposition from local fishermen, would be built as a public-private partnership.

CII president TV Narendran said, "Maharashtra has been following a very participative approach in terms of clinical matters for the state. The government has been holding extensive consultation with industry and other stakeholders to devise best practices for the state in the area of pandemic management as well investment promotion." He added: "As we deal with the aftermath of the pandemic to restore and revive economic growth and create jobs and livelihood, industry plays an important part and CII believes that this year the GDP of the country would be around 9.5 per cent."

SVR Srinivas, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, said the 21.8 Km Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Road (MTHL) connecting Sewri in Mumbai and Chirle in Navi Mumbai is expected to be completed in September or October 2023. "Mumbai will be reborn with this project. I don't look at it as only transport project but a project for a regional and national economic growth," he said.

To register unorganised workers, govt launches e-SHRAM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

MINISTER OF Labour and Employment Bhupender Yadav on Thursday launched the e-SHRAM portal and handed it over to the states/UTs for registration of unorganised workers across the country. The government aims to register 38 crore unorganised workers such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others.

"For the first time in the history of India, a system is being made to register 38 crore unorganised workers. It will not only register them but would also be helpful in delivering various social security schemes being implemented by the Central and state governments," Yadav said.

The workers will be issued an e-SHRAM card containing a 12 digit unique number, which going ahead will help in inclusion of these workers in social security schemes, officials said. "More than 38 crore unorganised workers in the country will be registered under one portal and the registration under e-SHRAM is totally free and workers do not have to pay anything for his or her registration at Common Service Centres (CSCs) or anywhere," Labour Secretary Apurva Chandra said.

"... upon registration, workers shall be issued an e-SHRAM card with a unique universal account number and will be able to access the benefits of the various social security schemes through this card anywhere anytime," he said.

The government had earlier missed deadlines for creating the database, inviting criticism from the Supreme Court. A worker can register on the portal using his/her Aadhaar card number and bank account details, apart from filling other necessary details like date of birth, hometown, mobile number, and social category. Detailed guidelines for operationalisation of the portal and mobilisation of workers have already been issued to the states/Union Territories, the Labour Ministry said.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

What are auto industry leaders' demands?

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 26

WITH GOVERNMENT representatives listening in, auto industry leaders raised their concerns, especially on high taxation in the industry that is hurting the affordability of their products. While the government,

including the Prime Minister, had earlier praised the industry's contribution to India's growth and employment generation, industry leaders said that there has been "no concrete action" on the ground that would reverse the industry's decline.

Who all praised the industry?

While the Prime Minister, in his message, lauded the industry's contribution towards manufacturing to furthering exports, NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant said it would be impossible for India to grow at high rates for a long period of time without the automobile sector being the key driver.

What did industry leaders say?

RC Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, and Venu Srinivasan, chairman, TVS Motor Company, raised concern over high taxation and wondered if the industry's contribution towards

'Implement localisation'

New Delhi: Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey, speaking at the annual ACMA session, asked the domestic auto component industry to take steps to implement localisation initiatives. Meanwhile, SIAM president Kenichi Ayukawa said semiconductor shortage is a challenge but could turn out to be an opportunity. PTI

India's growth was being recognised. "There have been a lot of statements about the importance

of the automobile industry but in terms of concrete action, which would reverse the decline, I haven't seen any action," said Bhargava.

What is industry's demand?

The industry has been calling for lowering of tax rates. Srinivasan said: "Basic mode of transportation for the country is being taxed at 28 per cent GST, equal to that of a luxury product... I would like to say, are we being recognised?"

What did Revenue Secretary say to demands of lowering tax?

While Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj recognised the industry's contribution to GDP and GVA, he seemed open to some tinkering.

Excess CSR spending may be offset only for post-FY21

New Delhi: The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on Thursday clarified that companies will be able to set off excess corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure in a fiscal against mandatory expenditure in the next three financial years. The circular answering FAQs on CSR did note, however, that this provision will not apply to excess CSR expenditure incurred prior to FY21.

The Centre had last year allowed donations to PM-CARES to be set off against CSR expenditure in the next fiscal. ENS

'Only 1% of eligible cos keen on RBI loan recast scheme'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

ONLY 1 per cent of eligible companies have opted for or are contemplating the debt restructuring facility offered by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under its Resolution Framework 2.0.

As much as 95 per cent of those opting for, or are inclined to seek restructuring, belong to the sub-investment grade rating category. "Put another way, investment-grade rated corporates are showing high resilience," said a Crisil Rating survey of 4,700 companies. However, most of the micro

and small enterprises in India are unrated. The RBI announced the scheme on May 5, 2021, for borrowers, including individuals, small businesses, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with aggregate exposure of up to Rs 25 crore provided they had not availed of benefits under any of the earlier restructuring frameworks (including Resolution Framework 1.0 dated August 6, 2020), and were classified as standard accounts as on March 31, 2021.

On June 4, 2021, the RBI raised the aggregate debt threshold to Rs 50 crore from Rs 25 crore.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Pankaj Kumar

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely Pankaj Kumar S/o Gopal Ram, R/o H.No. D-573, Durga Chowk, Prem Nagar-3, Delhi has been missing since 12.08.2021 from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar. In this regard a DD No. 128-A dated 15.08.2021 has been lodged at PS, Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of Missing person is as under:-

Name: Pankaj Kumar, **Father's Name :** Gopal Ram, **Age :** 24 years, **Height :** 5'6", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair **Built:** Medium, **Wearing :** Orange Colour T-Shirt and Blue Colour Jeans, **Hair:** Black

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S., Prem Nagar, Delhi
DP/1012/RD/2021 Ph : 011-25489080, 8750870322

HOME DEPARTMENT (PORTS & TRANSPORT)
MAHARASHTRA MARITIME BOARD
Indian Mercantile Chambers, 3rd Floor, 14 Ranjibhai Kamani Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai-400 001
Tel. : 022-22658375, Fax : 022-22614331
E-mail : ceommb@gmail.com
Website : <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in>

गृह विभाग (संरक्षक व परिवहन)
महाराष्ट्र नौसैनिक बोर्ड
इंडियन मर्चण्टिल चेंबर, ३रा फ्लोर, १४ रान्जिबाई कामनी मार्ग, बॉलार्ड एस्टेट, मुंबई-४०० ००१
फोन नं. : ०२२-२२६५८३७५, फॅक्स नं. : ०२२-२२६१४३३१
ईमेल : ceommb@gmail.com
वेबसाइट : <https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in>

Digitally signed E-Tender for following work is invited by Chief Executive Officer, Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai, from Registered with Government of Maharashtra in appropriate class and having experience in execution of marine related civil works, for following work in B-1 Tender Form.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender in Rs.	Earnest Money Amount in Rs.	Blank Tender form in Rs.	Time limit for Completion of Work
1.	Repairs of RPO Office at Mandvi, Tal. and Dist. Ratnagiri (Development Marine IV Training Institute at RPO office Mandvi)	1,09,93,961/-	1,10,000/-	1,180/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)
2.	Repairs of Jetty at Palshet, Tal. Guhagar, Dist. Ratnagiri.	37,50,706/-	38,000/-	590/-	9 Months (Including Monsoon)

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-Tendering Portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> on sub Portal of Home Department [www.mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in](https://mahammb.maharashtra.gov.in) from 25.08.2021 at 10:01 hours (IST) onwards.
The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason is reserved.
*Note : In this tender notice, the work of Sr. No. 2 is invited for 2nd call.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Maharashtra Maritime Board, Mumbai.

DGIPR/2021-2022/1727

कार्यालय नगर पालिक निगम, भोपाल
यांत्रिक विभाग (मुख्यालय) गोविंदपुरा (बी.एच.ई.एल.)

क्र. 60/यां.वि./2021 निविदा आमंत्रण घोषणा-पत्र भोपाल, दिनांक 26/08/2021

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्य हेतु दो लिफाफा पद्धति के अनुसार म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में केन्द्रीयकृत व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत पंजीकृत ठेकेदार परसेन्ट्रज मोहर बंद निविदायें निर्धारित प्रपत्र पर आनलाईन आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

क्र.	ऑनलाईन निविदा क्र.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित राशि	घरोहर राशि	प्रपत्र राशि	कार्य हेतु निर्धारित ए.स.ओ.आर.	कार्य की अवधि
1	2021_UAD_156755_1	ANNUAL TENDER WORK FOR MAINTENANCE OF BUILDING TOILETS FOOTPATH DRAINS AND OTHER WORK AT BHOPAL CITY ZONE NO 01 TO 19	1,99,98,808/-	1,99,988/-	12500	MP UAD ISSR 2021	12 month

1- निविदा प्रपत्र की निर्धारित राशि एवं घरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे एवं अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।
2- किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकार अथवा अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार विभाग के पास सुरक्षित होगा।
3- Including all taxes/Duties: Rate quoted by the bidder should be consider to complete the work in all respect and should include all taxes, octroi surcharge etc. The GST will be paid extra @ of 12% on SOR-Item. GST will not be paid on Non-SOR-Item

Sd/-
प्र. मुख्य अभियंता
नगर निगम भोपाल
नि.क्र. 516/021/022

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Outer Seraj Division, HPPWD, Nirmand
Web: www.hppwd.gov.in Email: ee-nir-hp@nic.in
Phone No. 01904-255140 Fax No. 01904-255740

e-Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer Outer Seraj Division HPPWD Nirmand Distt Kullu H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the work as detailed in the table.

Sr. No	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date of downloading Bid	Earnest money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	Construction of link road from Dohgad to Khalair Km. 0/00 to 2/840. Under SCSP (SH- Improvement of Formation deficiency between Km. 0/00 to 0/875, C.D. works, C/D R/Walls at various Rds, Kharanja Stone soling in essential reaches, Parapets and un-lined drain in Km. 0/00 to 2/840).	Rs. 55,62,834/-	03.09.2021	Rs.1,12,000/-	10.09.2021
2.	Construction of road from Kandgaali to Sour Km. 0/00 to 4/810. (SH- P/L essential kharanja stone soling different reaches and construction of wire crate walls in Km. 0/00 to 4/810). Under SCSP	Rs. 22,76,297/-	03.09.2021	Rs.46,000/-	10.09.2021
3.	Routine Maintenance under Performance Based Maintenance Contract for Naganchhoroa/Chattri road Km. 0/00 to 12/240 (Sub Head:- Repair of pot holes and Routine Maintenance in Km. 0/00 to 12/240 for 1st year)	Rs. 14,31,249/-	03.09.2021	Rs.28,700/-	10.09.2021
4.	Construction of link road from Thandapani to Village Sarahan Km. 0/00 to 1/410. Under SCSP (SH- F/c 5/7 mtrs wide road in Km. 0/705 to 1/410).	Rs.28,95,056/-	03.09.2021	51,000/-	10.09.2021
5.	MT works on link road from Nirmand to Johad Via Ambika Mata Temple at Nirmand Km. 0/00 to 4/435. Under MNP. (SH- P/L Metallizing and tarring in Km. 1/835 to 4/200).	Rs. 51,87,087/-	03.09.2021	Rs.1,04,000/-	10.09.2021
6.	Construction of link road from Deorikhad to Burjikhad Km. 0/00 to 2/500 under MMSY. (SH- Formation cutting 5/7 mtrs wide road in Km. 0/175 to 2/130).	Rs. 48,91,706/-	03.09.2021	Rs.98,000/-	10.09.2021

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website www.hptenders.gov.in.

Executive Engineer,
Outer Seraj Division HPPWD Nirmand
For & on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh

3623/HP

Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Executive Engineer
Mechanical Irrigation Division Anantnag HQ Awantipora
Phone No. : 01933247951 Email: xnmidanantnag@gmail.com
Gist of e-NIT No. 21/MIDA of 2020-21, Dated:- 25.08.2021

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-Tenders in two cover system valid for 180 days are invited from Original Pump Manufacturers (OPM's) or their authorized Dealers/ representatives or registered, reputed and experienced Electrical/Mechanical contractors/other firms / SSI unit holders as detailed in the NIT for the below mentioned works.

The bidding process shall be completed online in two covers viz. Cover '1st' -Tender fee and Earnest Money details, Deposit, fulfillment of prequalification criteria, technical specifications and acceptance to terms and conditions of the tender. Cover '2nd' - Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

Sr. No	Name of work	Estimated Cost ("Rs" in Lacs)	Cost of tender document/ (In Rs.)	Earnest money	Time of Completion of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 10 cusec Horizontal centrifugal Pumping Unit for LIS Patalbagh	7.80	500/-	3% of quoted Rate	3 months

The critical dates are as tabulated below:-

Sr. No	Name of Work	Approx. value of Works	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee	Period of completion
1	Construction, testing, commissioning of Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of Capacity 2700 Cum of Staging Height 16M with Boundary Wall and Road including all allied works, Distribution Pipeline and HouseService Connections & Water Meter Installations for Phase-2 Part of Silchar Town (24X7) Water supply Project, all complete, including Two (2) months Trial run after commissioning.	Rs. 18,76,22,919/-	@2% of value of work	Rs.20,000.00	15 months

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in PWD Form No. 25 & 33.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical Irrigation Division Ang,
HQ Awantipora

No. MIDA/1935-39
Dated:- 25.08.2021
DIPK-7280

Government of Assam
Office of the Mission Director::AMRUT ASSAM
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6
E-mail: amrutassam2016@gmail.com
Dated, Dispur the 26th August, 2021

NO. TP/AMRUT/3/2021/2
SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No 1 of 2021

The undersigned invites bid online through e-Procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from Govt. registered class I A Contractor of APWD/APHED or similar equivalent class of Govt. registered contractor in 2 (two) bid system for the following work under AMRUT.

SI. No	Name of Work	Approx. value of Works	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee	Period of completion
1	Construction, testing, commissioning of Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of Capacity 2700 Cum of Staging Height 16M with Boundary Wall and Road including all allied works, Distribution Pipeline and HouseService Connections & Water Meter Installations for Phase-2 Part of Silchar Town (24X7) Water supply Project, all complete, including Two (2) months Trial run after commissioning.	Rs. 18,76,22,919/-	@2% of value of work	Rs.20,000.00	15 months

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents shall be available in website www.assamtenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 02.09.2021 up to 15.00 hr. of 19.09.2021. Bid is to be submitted through online and in no case manual bid shall be entertained.

Mission Director
AMRUT, Assam

Janasanyog No. 1127/21

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
ASSAM STATE TRANSPORT CORPORATION
PALTANBAZAR, GUWAHATI-781008

Ref no: ASTC/H.O/STY/21-22/2015 Date: 25/08/2021

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender are invited from interested reputed authorised firm for supply of the following group of items, which will be received by the undersigned up to 1 pm on the last date shown against item given below and will be open on the same day at 3 pm.

SI no	Name of the items	Date of Tender form issue	Last date of receipt
1	General Stationery Items	01-09-2021	23-09-2021

The bidder must submit their bid documents in prescribed forms and details which may be collected from the Stationery Section, ASTC, H.O. Paltanbazar, Guwahati-08 on payment of Rs 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) in Cash as tender fee (non Refundable) for each group of items or else the tender document can be downloaded from the website of ASTC, www.astc.assam.gov.in and the tender fee of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred Only) can be submitted in the form of demand draft in favour of "Managing Director, Assam State Transport Corporation", which must be submitted along with the bid documents.

The bidder who has already submitted their bids need not participate again or they may withdraw their earlier bids and may submit fresh bids against this notification.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (A&T)
ASTC, Paltanbazar, Guwahati-08

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIDGENDUM

The following amendments are made in the open tender notice number SNT-JP-11-2021-22 issued by this office which is to be opened on 14.09.2021. 1. On the page no. 12 of the top sheet in the tender document (PDF) item no. 4 of part E (COVERING NOT FOR THE SPECIAL ATTENTION OF THE TENDERERS) to be read as tender will be opened at 15.00 hours on 14.09.2021 instead of 15.00 hours on 13.09.2021. 2. On page no. 167 of the tender document (PDF) item no. 06 of point no. - 9 (GENERAL SPECIFICATION FOR WORK) to be read as Consignee shall be SSE/SIGNAL/BKI instead of SSE/SIGNAL/ALWAR. Other terms and conditions remain the same.

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)
Jaipur

422-VM/21

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
NOTICE OF INVITING E-TENDER
E-Tender Notice No. SNT-JP-10-2021-2022 Dated 25.08.2021

DRM (S&T) North Western Railway / Jaipur, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite E-Tenders from registered tenderer/bidders for the following work. 1. Name of work with its location: "Signalling and Telecom work in connection with provision of RE-FL-RPC Section TTR (CS + CMSC- 91 Nos).", 2. Approx. Cost of work (Rs): 6431021.82/-, 3. Earnest Money (Rs): 0/- (Online Payment Only). 4. Date & Time for Submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in: 23.09.2021 up to 15:00hrs. 5. Website Particulars & Notice board location: www.ireps.gov.in and DRM office/NWR/Jaipur. 427-VM/21

Please join us on www.facebook.com/NWRrailways

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. CE/2021/06, Date: 25.08.2021

E-Open tender No - 02216467CS to be opened on 15.09.2021

S.N. : 01. Name of the work with its location : Manufacture & Supply of Pre-stressed Mono block Concrete Sleeper (pre-tensioned type) conforming to RDSO's Drg. No. T-2496 and IRS Specification No. T-39 as amended upto date of tender closing duly loaded into wagon/road vehicle. (Qty. - 24,500 Nos), Location- Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway Hajipur. 02. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 5,77,61,630.00, 03. Earnest Money to be deposited : Nil. 04. Date & Time for closing of tender and opening of tender : 11.30 Hrs on 15.09.2021. 05. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen : Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

Principal Chief Engineer
PR/0695/HQ/ENGG/T/21-22/32

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice No - 01 of 2021-22 (Open) dt- 25.08.2021

The Sr. DMO/Anesthesia/CSSH/ Patna for and on behalf of the President of India invite Open e-Tender through www.ireps.gov.in or IREPS website for the following works.

1. Name of work and Date of Completion : Supply of Refilled Oxygen, Nitrous Oxide and Carbon Dioxide Gas Cylinder for 24 months at Central Super Specialty Hospital/ECR /Patna. Supply is required made for a period of 24 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. 2. Approx. Tender Value (Rs.) : Rs. 77,33,930.40 including GST. 3. Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender : Date of closing of e-tender at 12.00 hours on 08.09.2021. Date of Opening of e-tender after 12.30 hours on 08.09.2021. 4. Website particulars where complete details of tender notice & tender document can be seen : <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. No manual tendering will be accepted against e-tendering.

NOTE :- The details scope has been described in the Tender Documents. However details can also be collected from the office of undersigned. RIGHT OF RAILWAY TO DEAL WITH TENDER: Railway Administration reserves the right to postpone/modify or to cancel any one or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

Sr. DMO/Anesthesia/CSSH/Patna
PR/0696/CSSH/MED/T/21-22/44

SOUTH DELHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E&M)-II, SDMC
LODHI ROAD AUTO WORKSHOP
UNDER SEWA NAGAR FLYOVER, NEW DELHI-110003
NIT NO. 5 (2021-22)

No. EE (E&M)-II/ SDMC/ 2021-22/ D-121 Dated: 26.08.2021

The Executive Engineer (E&M)-II, SDMC invites tenders on behalf of Commissioner, SDMC through e-tendering on the website <https://tenders.gov.in/eprocure/app> from the reputed and eligible contractors in two part bidding system i.e. Technical bid and Price bid as per schedule given below:-

Published Date: 26.08.2021 at 03:30 PM, Document download/Sale Start Date: 26.08.2021 at 03:30 PM, Pre bid meeting: 31.08.2021 at 12:30 PM, Bid Submission Start Date: 01.09.2021 at 12:30 PM, Document Download/Sale End Date: 08.09.2021 at 12:30 PM, Bid Submission End Date: 08.09.2021 at 12:30 PM Technical Bid Opening Date: 09.09.2021 at 12:30 PM, Financial Bid Opening Date (Tentative): 13.09.2021 at 12:30 PM, Name of Work: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2 nos. 50 MT technical pit less type weigh bridges along with O&M at Okhla SLF site. Tender amount : Rs. 60,24,316/- EMD (In Rs.) : Rs. 1,20,486/- (Exempted). Tender Cost : Rs. 1000/-, Time of completion: 90 days for SITC & 365 days for operation. Addendum/corrigendum etc. (if any) shall be uploaded on the aforesaid website only and the same shall be considered to be part of tender document. No press notification in this regard shall be made. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan the said websites for any update with regard to the subject tender.

RO No.: 46/DPS/2021-22 EE (E&M)-II, SDMC

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER,
RUSHIKULYA BAHUDA BASIN, BERHAMPUR-760004
e-Procurement Notice No. ACE, RBH-07/2021-22
e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com

1. Type of Work :- Canal Lining works.
2. Total No. of Works :- 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to tender :- Rs. 899.33 lakhs
4. Period of completion :- 17 (Seventeen) calendar months.

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur, Ganjam.	ACE, RBH (BIDN) 16/2021-22	899.33	From 31.08.2021, 10.00 A.M. to 15.09.2021 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- 16.09.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur
OIPR-32072/11/0008/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR::AMRUT ASSAM
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6
E-mail: amrutassam2016@gmail.com
Dated, Dispur the 26th August, 2021

NO. TP/AMRUT/3/2021/2
SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No 1 of 2021

The undersigned invites bid online through e-Procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from Govt. registered class I A Contractor of APWD/APHED or similar equivalent class of Govt. registered contractor in 2 (two) bid system for the following work under AMRUT.

SI. No	Name of Work	Approx. value of Works	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee	Period of completion
1	Construction, testing, commissioning of Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of Capacity 2700 Cum of Staging Height 16M with Boundary Wall and Road including all allied works, Distribution Pipeline and HouseService Connections & Water Meter Installations for Phase-2 Part of Silchar Town (24X7) Water supply Project, all complete, including Two (2) months Trial run after commissioning.	Rs. 18,76,22,919/-	@2% of value of work	Rs.20,000.00	15 months

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents shall be available in website www.assamtenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 02.09.2021 up to 15.00 hr. of 19.09.2021. Bid is to be submitted through online and in no case manual bid shall be entertained.

Mission Director
AMRUT, Assam

Janasanyog No. 1127/21

सीनिक आयुक्त का कार्यालय, झारखण्ड भवन, झारखण्ड सरकार
वसंत विहार, नई दिल्ली-110057

झारखण्ड भवन के स्टाफ वाहनों की नीलामी की सूचना

झारखण्ड भवन के निम्नलिखित वाहनों की सार्वजनिक नीलामी के द्वारा दिनांक 08.09.2021 को अपराह्न 11.00 बजे झारखण्ड भवन, कुसुमपुर पहाड़ी, वसंत विहार, नई दिल्ली-110057 में बिक्री की जायेगी। इस हेतु बोलीदाताओं के लिए निर्धारित सिव्युरिटी राशि जमा कर नामांकन कराने के समय दिनांक 07.09.2021 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 से 01.00 बजे तक का है। निर्धारित समय के अतिरिक्त नामांकन नहीं किया जा सकता।

क्रो सं०	वाहन	पंजीकरण	मॉडल/वर्ष	च्यूनतम सुरक्षित मूल्य (राशि रू० में)
1	Gypsy	DL-9CQ-5231	2008	1,60,000/-
2	Gypsy	DL-9CQ-4865	2008	1,45,000/-

उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वाहन की नीलामी अलग-अलग होगी।
3. वाहन नीलामी हेतु निबंधन और शर्तें इस प्रकार हैं :-
(क) वाहन जैसे-है-जहां-है आधार पर नीलामी की जायेगी।
(ख) नीलामी आरंभ होने से पूर्व प्रत्येक इच्छुक बोलीदाता को रू 15,000/- (पन्द्रह हजार) नगद जमा करने होंगे जो नीलामी प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के पश्चात अंशकाल बोलीदाता को लौटा दी जायेगी।
(ग) सफल बोलीदाता को नीलामी स्थल पर बोली राशि का 25 प्रतिशत भुगतान तत्काल करना होगा। ऐसा न किये जाने पर 15,000/- (पन्द्रह हजार) की राशि जम्मे कर ली जायेगी। शेष 75 प्रतिशत राशि का भुगतान नीलामी के दो कार्य दिवसों के भीतर करना होगा। ऐसा न किये जाने पर सफल बोलीदाता द्वारा जमा की गई 25 प्रतिशत राशि जब्त कर ली जायेगी। सफल बोलीदाता को पूरी राशि का भुगतान करने के बाद वाहनों को उन्हें अपने खर्च पर तत्काल हटाना होगा।
(घ) सफल बोलीदाता(ओं) को पहचान और आवासीय पते के मूल प्रमाण प्रस्तुत करने होंगे।
(च) स्थानिक आयुक्त, झारखण्ड भवन, नई दिल्ली को बिना कोई कारण बताये, प्रस्ताव/बोली को स्वीकार/अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार है।
(छ) इच्छुक बोलीदाता, झारखण्ड भवन, नई दिल्ली के प्रोटोकॉल सहायकों से दूरभाष संख्या-011-26739045 एवं 011-26739046 पर पहले से समय लेकर समाचार पत्र में विज्ञापित प्रकाशन होने की तिथि एवं नीलामी आरंभ होने से पहले किसी भी कार्य दिवस को 11.00 बजे से 14.00 बजे के बीच वाहनों का निरीक्षण कर सकते हैं।
(झ) वाहन अंतरण के निर्धारित प्रपत्रों पर केवल हस्ताक्षर किये जायेंगे और वाहन का मूल पंजीकरण प्रमाण पत्र संबंधित परिवहन प्राधिकरण को सौंप दिया जायेगा।
(ञ) नीलामी के पश्चात झारखण्ड भवन की वाहन के अंतरण की और इन वाहनों का वाणिज्यिक या अन्य प्रयोजनों हेतु उपयोग करने संबंधी कोई अन्य जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी।
(ट) झारखण्ड भवन के कर्मचारी और उनके परिवार के सदस्य नीलामी में बोली लगाने के पात्र नहीं हैं।

मुख्य प्रशासी पदाधिकारी
झारखण्ड भवन, नई दिल्ली
PR.NO.252080 Cabinet(21-22):D

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
Container Corporation of India Ltd.
(एनएचएस का समूह) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDSP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Estate - 110020

Online tender in Single bid system is invited for below mentioned work, only through e-tendering mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying Rs. 1000/- through online from the website www.tendersindia.com/CCIL.

Tender No.	CON/veo-1/TECH/Cont. Repori/2021-22
Name of Work	E-tender to License out Space for ISO Container Repair Facility of Cluster-1: (ICD-DOL, MM/RA/Bah), Cluster-2: (ICD/KKI, ICD/RD/ (KOA), ICD/6GK), Cluster-3: (ICD/ (Agra), ICD-MAR (Malanpur), ICD/G (Ranpur - Two Vendor), Cluster-4: (ICD-MB-Two Vendor), Cluster-5: (MM/RA/Bah) Two Vendor) Terms of Aep-1
Estimated Value	Reserve Price for Cluster-1 -Rs. 13,30,439/-, For Cluster-2 -Rs. 11,42,740/-, For Cluster-3 -Rs. 13,43,820/-, For Cluster-4 -Rs. 33,08,599/-, For Cluster-5 -Rs. 2,58,241/-, Total -Rs. 74, 83, 839/- for all clusters as mentioned above.
Period of Contract	36 Months (3 years) plus four months obligatory period.
Cost of Document	Rs.1000/- (incl. all taxes & duties) through e-payment
Tender Processing Fee	Rs. 4416/- (incl. GST) through e-payment (non-refundable)
Date of Sale (Online)	From 27.08.2021 at 15:30 Hrs. to 11.09.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of submission of tender (Online)	13.09.2021 up to 15:00 Hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender	14.09.2021 at 15:30 Hrs.

*Exemption for MSE, CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. For complete details login to www.tendersindia.com/CCIL.

Senior General Manager (C&O)/Area-1

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH MOHALLI
(Estd. By Ministry of Education, Govt of India)
Sector-61, Knowledge city, PO-Nanak, SAS Nagar Mohali-141036, Punjab
PAN No. - AAAAI1781K GST No. - 03AAA1781K2Z5
Phone : +91-173-2340686, Fax : +91-173-2341124
<http://www.iiser Mohali.ac.in>, Email: stores@iiser Mohali.ac.in

IISER/M/1485/21/22 Pur E-Tender Dt: 26-08-2021

Online tender(s) are invited on behalf of the Director, IISER Mohali at E-procurement portal i.e. <http://procure.gov.in/eprocure/app> for the following items

Tender Ref. No.	Description	Last date & time for upload the tender
IISER/M/1485/21/22 Pur	Supply and installation Vector Network Analyzer with Spectrum Analyzer, accessories and software. The items / services are reserved for exclusive purchase from Local Domestic supplier.	16th September 2021 up to 11.00 AM

For detail and apply online, please visit the website <http://procure.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Bid(s) shall be accepted only through online mode and no manual submission of the same shall be entertained except tender fee and EMD. Late tenders will not be accepted.

This is a domestic Tender according to the DPIT Order dated 15/07/2017 and subsequent amendments to the order for Public Procurement Preference & PROVISION FOR LOCAL SUPPLIERS TOWARDS PREFERENCE TO MAKE IN INDIA

Registrar, IISER Mohali

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Mandya
No. 08/2021-2022 Dated: 25.08.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR

Paralympics: Swimmer Jadhav to miss event due to illness

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TOKYO, AUGUST 26

SWIMMER SUYASH Jadhav will miss Friday's 200m individual medley SM7 event in the Paralympic Games here as he is suffering from cold and sore throat. The Indian contingent's chief de mission Gursharan Singh on Thursday said Jadhav is a bit under the weather and doctors have advised him not to compete on Friday. His COVID-19 test report is, however, negative.

"Jadhav has cold and sore throat. Doctors said he should take rest. So we decided he will not take part tomorrow. But he will be fine for his other two events," Singh told PTI. "His Covid report is negative," he added.

The 27-year-old Jadhav, whose two hands were amputated below the elbow at the age of 11 due to electrocution, will compete in two other events — 100m breaststroke SB7 on September 1 and 50m butterfly S7 on September 3.

In the 2018 Asian Para Games in Jakarta, he won a gold in 50m butterfly S7 and a silver each in 200m individual medley SM7 and 50m free-style S7 events. Swimmers in S7 class have limited leg function or are missing a leg or parts of both legs, or have amputations and cerebral palsy.

Paddler Bhavinaben advances

Indian paddler Bhavinaben Patel progressed to the Round of 16 in the women's singles Class 4 table tennis event with a 3-1 win over Great Britain's Megan Shackleton. The 34-year-old Indian dispatched the world No. 9 Shackleton 11-7, 9-11, 17-15, 13-11 in a contest that lasted 41 minutes.

The other Indian in the fray, Sonalben Manubhai Patel, however, ended her campaign after losing 12-10, 5-11, 3-11, 9-11 to MG Lee of Korea in her second women's singles Class 3 group match. She had lost her first group match on Wednesday. Players in the Class 3 category have no trunk control, yet their arms are minimally affected by the impairment.

Earlier in the morning, the world no. 12 Bhavinaben secured her first win in the tournament over Shackleton after she was blanked 0-3 by world number one Chinese paddler Zhou Ying in the opening round on Wednesday.

Patel has three points from two games and moves to the knockout round along with table leader Ying.

Athletes in Class 4 category have fair sitting balance and fully functional arms and hands. Their impairment may be due to a lower spinal-cord lesion or cerebral palsy.

'Don't use me, my comments to further vested interests'

Chopra tweets that Pakistan's Nadeem is blameless for taking his javelin as rules allow for common use; ends season due to 'packed schedule'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AUGUST 26

OLYMPIC CHAMPION Neeraj Chopra on Thursday asked people not to amplify their 'vested interests and propaganda' by twisting his comments from an interview and alluding to Pakistani javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem taking his javelin on purpose during the final in Tokyo.

Chopra had tweeted along with a video clip on Thursday in an attempt to put an end to the controversy being created.

"I would request everyone to please not use me and my comments as a medium to further your vested interests and propaganda. Sports teaches us to be together and united. I'm extremely disappointed to see some of the reactions from the public on my recent comments," Chopra said in a tweet.

"Meri aap sabhi se viniti hai ki mere comments ko apne gande agenda ko aage badhaane ka maadhyam na banaaye... comment karne se pehele khel ki rules jaanna zaroori hota hai. (I request everyone not to use my comments to push your dirty agenda... before commenting please understand the rules of the sport)," Chopra tweeted in Hindi.

Chopra had first spoken about this first throw in the final in an interview to *The Times of India*.

"I was searching for my javelin at the start of the final (in Olympics). I was not able to find it. Suddenly I saw Arshad Nadeem was moving around with my javelin. Then I told him 'bhai give this javelin to me. It is my javelin. I have to throw with it'. That is why you must have seen I took my first throw hurriedly."

However, stories curated by certain other news websites, based on the quotes in the interview, and comments on social media painted out Nadeem as a villain.

Chopra, in his video clip on Thursday, put the rules of the sport in focus and said that Nadeem did not do anything wrong.

"An issue (mudda) has come up that I had talked about taking the javelin from Pakistani participant Arshad Nadeem before my first throw in the final (on August 7). It has been made into a big controversy," Chopra said in a video clip posted along with his tweet.

"It's a very simple thing, we keep our personal javelin (inside a holding rack) but it can be used by anybody. It is the rule and there is nothing wrong in that. He (Nadeem) had the javelin and was preparing for his throw. I asked him to give it to me for my throw. I am very sad that a big controversy has been created using my name. We, javelin throwers share a good bond and speak to each other nicely."



During the live telecast of the men's javelin throw final, Neeraj Chopra was seen asking for the javelin Nadeem was holding. File

I request everyone not to use my comments to push your dirty agenda... before commenting please learn the rules of a sport... Sports teaches us to be together and united. I'm extremely disappointed to see some of the reactions from the public on my recent comments (sic)."
NEERAJ CHOPRA

bond and speak to each other nicely."

During the live telecast of the men's javelin throw final, Chopra was seen asking for the javelin Nadeem was holding. Nadeem handed it over immediately and Chopra quickly made his way to the runway. His first throw was the unsurpassed 87.03 metres and he followed it up with 87.58 metres, his best effort to win a historic gold for the country in track and field.

International technical official CK Valson said javelins were not for exclusive use of an athlete during a competition. "Personal javelins are submitted as per the stipulated time mentioned in the team manual. Once it is submitted anyone can use that. It is common for every-

Ends 2021 season

Chopra made history by winning the gold at the Tokyo Olympics, but the endless stream of felicitations and functions he has had to attend after returning home has taken a toll.

On Thursday, Chopra in an Instagram post said he was cutting short the 2021 season because of a 'packed schedule' and a 'bout of illness'. Chopra was scheduled to participate in the Diamond League in Lausanne and Paris on August 26 and 28 but that is now off the agenda.

"The packed schedule of travel and a bout of illness has meant I have not been able to resume training since Tokyo and therefore, along with my team, have decided to cut short my 2021 competition season to be able to take some time off, recharge and come back stronger for a packed 2022 calendar which includes the World Championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

"I have been encouraged by all the support to Indian athletics over these past few weeks and would urge you all to keep supporting India and Indian athletics in the months and years to come, Jai Hind," Chopra posted.

On returning from Tokyo on August 9 Chopra had to attend a series of functions. He felt feverish and was fatigued by August 12 but after a day had to continue to attend events hosted to felicitate him. He also had to cut short his welcome ceremony in Panipat because he was feeling ill. From the capital he has had to travel to Chandigarh, Pune and Mumbai.

Can India host Olympics in 2036 or beyond?

TUSHAR BHADURI
AUGUST 26

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach has said there are plenty of countries interested in hosting the Games in 2036, 2040 and beyond, including India. The next three Olympics have been allotted to Paris (2024), Los Angeles (2028) and Brisbane (2032). Conventional wisdom has it that the number of potential suitors to host the Games has gone down in recent times. The escalating costs and controversies associated with staging such a big multi-disciplinary event may dissuade many countries. But Bach says it's not the true picture.

What did Bach say?

In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, conducted during the Tokyo Olympics, Bach claimed the IOC was well placed in the long term when it came to finding hosts for its flagship event. He mentioned India, Indonesia, Germany and Qatar as countries interested in staging the Games in 2036 and beyond. "And this is just the ones which come to my mind. So we are really in a very good long-term position," the German said.

Which are the countries interested in hosting the Games?

Out of the four countries mentioned by Bach, three are from Asia and have not hosted the Olympics before. Germany last staged the Games almost half a century ago.

India has often expressed a desire to host the Olympics, but never made it far in the process. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has said in the past that it wants to host the Asian Games, Youth Olympics and the Summer Olympics over the next decade and a half. IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta has confirmed they are interested in the idea. The Delhi government has said it aims to stage the Games in 2048 as part of the centenary celebrations of India's independence.

Qatar will host the FIFA World Cup next year. Indonesia stepped in at short notice to host the 2018 Asian Games when Vietnam expressed its inability to host the event. Germany would like to join fellow European nations Britain and France, who have staged the Olympics over the last decade or are about to do so.

Why is there reluctance in some quarters to host the Olympics?

The recent Tokyo Olympics was the most expensive in history, and the one-year delay due to the pandemic didn't help matters either. The original budget was overshot several times, and the ban on foreign visitors and spectators at almost all venues reduced the revenue as well. The 2016 Rio Games had to contend with concerns about the Zika virus while Greece is said to be suffering economic effects of hosting the 2004 Olympics till date. Bidding for the



The IOA has said in the past that it wants to host the Asian Games, Youth Olympics and the Summer Olympics over the next decade and a half. Reuters

Olympics and lobbying is also an expensive task. Many host cities struggle with legacy issues, about what to do with the infrastructure and venues set up for the Games at a huge cost.

Which countries may be more enthusiastic to host the Games?

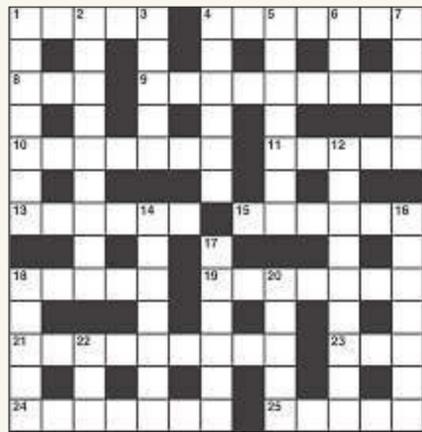
Countries which are smitten by the glamour and prestige associated with hosting the Games are more likely to go for it. China treated the 2008 Beijing Olympics as its big coming-out party to showcase its stature as a big global power. India may like the idea of showing that it can pull off an event of this magnitude and may feel that the expenditure and trouble will be worth it. For other countries, like Britain and Australia, the Games may be a catalyst for development of sporting and other infrastructure in regions which may need it.

What is the scenario with other events?

Apart from the Olympics, the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games (CWG) could be termed as huge multi-disciplinary sporting events. Both of them have found it tough to get hosts of late. Vietnam expressed its inability to stage the 2018 Asian Games due to an economic recession and general unpreparedness. The Chinese city of Hangzhou was the only bidder for the 2022 edition, as was Aichi-Nagoya (Japan) for 2026.

The CWG also faces a similar predicament. Durban was awarded hosting rights for the 2022 event, but subsequently expressed inability due to financial constraints. A fresh bidding process was launched with only British cities showing interest before Birmingham eventually got the nod.

CROSSWORD 4519



- ACROSS**
- In fact a point of view (5)
 - Economy ruined Bert and Ivy (7)
 - Painting skill (3)
 - He has constructive ideas for the Arctic perhaps (9)
 - Repeat treat that is organised (7)
 - Though solid in form, they may have fragile footing (5)
 - Strange girl seen at the French bars (6)
 - Listen out for bays (6)
 - Ring for matches (5)
 - Metal cover protects the sewer (7)
 - Virtue an elegant horsewoman may have? (4,5)
 - A record climb (3)
 - Possibly sore after the finish; agree? (7)
 - This holds back movement on the western border (5)
- DOWN**
- Afraid of a finger getting broken (7)
 - Girl collapsed in the race (9)
 - Rita changed a capital investment (5)
 - Better kind of helper (6)
 - One impression produced by journalists (7)
 - I again show anger (3)
 - Still ones found in Himalayan mythology (5)
 - Like the chairman, lost at sea (9)
 - Her tale is garbled but materially correct (7)
 - Jack may work on this ecclesiastical point (7)
 - Not likely to change horses (6)
 - Use one line or it may need two (5)
 - Two in difficulties being pulled along (2,3)
 - This hat is out of date (3)

Solutions Crossword 4518: Across: 1 Put-and-take, 8 To let, 9 Primula, 10 Attacks, 11 Break, 12 Sahara, 14 Demean, 17 Epsom, 19 Rake-off, 21 Clients, 22 Twine, 23 Secondhand. Down: 2 Unlatch, 3 Attic, 4 Depose, 5 Amiable, 6 Exude, 7 Parking fee, 8 Transience, 13 Romantic, 15 Emotion, 16 Prison, 18 Skins, 20 Ketch.

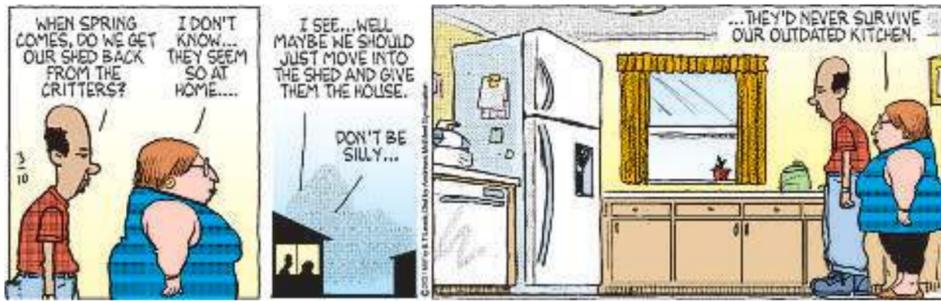
JUMBLED WORDS

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

Hell is full of _____ - George Bernard Shaw (7,8)

CPAAE	TOUSLE
SERAI	RYCMMU

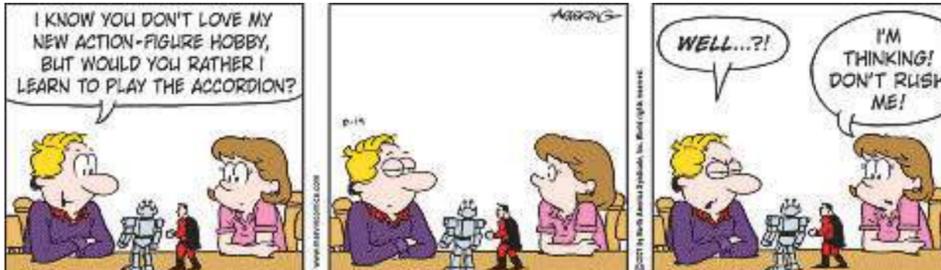
OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



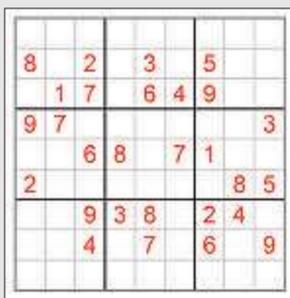
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4576

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4575



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

As a result of recent social encounters you now seem to be torn between new associations and a quite natural duty to those who are unhappy or confused. With careful juggling, you may be able to satisfy your social desires and fulfil your other commitments.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)

We are now in the run-up period to the next major lunar alignment. The significance for you is that pleasant social events are likely to combine with certain intense encounters, even the occasional confrontation, over the next week. Family gatherings could bring surprises, including pleasant ones!

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Whatever takes place on the work front now needs to be viewed with a certain amount of caution or even scepticism. You have too much to gain to squander everything for the sake of some personal dispute or other. It will help matters if you understand that partners don't necessarily agree with you.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The more sensitive among you may now be aware that children, and interests connected with children, are likely to assume a greater than average place in your thinking over the next few days. Pleasurable events and a change of attitude are on the cards.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)

Unfortunately, any disagreements or difficulties with relatives or colleagues are likely to become even greater over the coming few days. But so, by the same token, are developments which are deeply pleasurable and optimistic. You'll be walking a real tightrope so, good luck.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

You have a powerfully curious side to your character. Over the next five days your ability to search out the truth, uncomfortable as it may be, will be at its strongest. Keep on your current track and you'll combine solid success with remarkable ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

The Sun is a complex planet. Western astrologers emphasise its power over life, but their eastern colleagues point to a harsh, uncompromising face. This is why you may now feel both optimistic about the future, yet slightly uneasy. It's good to have doubts, because that means you'll be covering all angles.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Between now and the end of the year you will be sowing the seeds of a domestic upheaval, possibly even a move of home. Remember this trend as you manage your personal affairs, and see to it that events suit your long-term plans. Also, consider any and all options.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)

A financial or practical problem is obviously not going to disappear overnight. However, the stars are about to do something very curious, making you believe that such questions have indeed disappeared. But have they really gone? Or will they return in a different form?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

You are well used to long-term planetary influences bringing nothing but stress and strain. However, the planets are now adopting a highly favourable pattern which will enable you to deal with major underlying issues in all spheres. In particular, there are some very useful financial trends on the horizon.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You've been waiting and wondering, but so much more should now begin to fit into place. What is especially at stake now are professional and worldly ambitions, and your deep desire to achieve immortality by making your unmistakable mark on the wider world.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)

Is there any way in which you can schedule a holiday, preferably an overseas trip, over the next month or so? At any rate, you will enjoy putting yourself in situations which are adventurous, and which will prompt you to broaden your horizons and widen your experience.

KKR SIGN SOUTHEE TO REPLACE CUMMINS

New Zealand pacer Tim Southee has been roped in by Kolkata Knight Riders for the remainder of the IPL scheduled to be held in the UAE from September 19. The veteran New Zealand pacer will be a replacement for Australia's Pat Cummins, who pulled out of the league due to "personal reasons".

PTI

BRIEFLY

Pep Guardiola plans to coach a national team from 2023

Manchester: Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola says he'd like to coach a national team after his contract with the English club ends in 2023. Speaking to Brazilian investors, the 50-year-old Spaniard said he plans to see out his contract with City but could go into international management after that. "The next step will be a national team, yes, if there's a chance," Guardiola said in an online forum. "I must have a break after seven years (at City). I need to stop to watch, learn from other players and maybe that is the road I will take. ... I would like to coach at the Euros, a Copa America, a World Cup." Guardiola didn't say if he'd consider any other national team than Spain, but said he didn't expect to get hired by national teams like Brazil, which never pick foreigners for the job. AP

Can't move forward without embracing technology: Kipchoge

London: Marathon world record holder and Olympic champion Eliud Kipchoge hopes that technology will take "centre stage" as athletes strive for improvement and chase faster times in the future. The Kenyan, who overcame humid conditions in Tokyo earlier this month to claim gold in the marathon, was among a host of runners who ran in specially designed Nike shoes fitted with carbon-fibre plates for more spring and quicker times, once again rekindling a debate around "technological doping". "If we don't embrace technology then we are not moving... I know regulations will be there but technology should take centre stage," Kipchoge said. "Let all athletes have top technology, have top innovation." REUTERS

PSG and Man City clubbed into group of death in UCL

New York: Lionel Messi's new club Paris St Germain will play Manchester City, managed by the Argentine's former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola, after being drawn together in Champion's League Group A on Thursday. Messi joined Qatar-owned PSG, who will also face Bundesliga side RB Leipzig and Belgium's Club Brugge, from Barcelona this month. Abu Dhabi-owned City lost last season's final to Premier League rivals Chelsea. Spanish champions Atletico Madrid and Liverpool were together in Group B with former winners Porto and AC Milan. Barcelona were drawn in Group E with Bayern Munich, Benfica and Dynamo Kyiv. REUTERS

Former England captain Ted Dexter passes away

London: Former England captain Ted Dexter has died at Wolverhampton after a bout of illness, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) said on Thursday. He was 86. "After a recent illness he passed away peacefully in the Compton Hospice in Wolverhampton at midday yesterday, surrounded by his family," the MCC said. Known for his ability to dominate top-class fast bowling, he slammed nine hundreds, six of which were scores of above 140. He was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame earlier this year. PTI

COMEBACK TRAIL

Bounceback begins at the base for Sathiyian, wins minor title

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 26

Fortified with the speedily rustled up Czech title, Gnanasekaran Sathiyian recalls a time, just a few weeks back, when he sat with his coach Subramaniam Raman to watch a replay of his match at the Olympics. He watched the video of himself racing to a handsome 3-1 lead against World No 90 Siu Hang Lam of Hong Kong, before the wheels fell off and he lost 4-3. He lets out a small laugh when he says he watched the video of his opening round loss "three or four times."

"I had a complete analysis of that match. What went right, what went wrong, and at what moments did I start to play safe," he says. "And you have to watch those matches without any emotion."

"It did take a few days to come out of that. I've never felt that way, that bad, about losing from a winning position. I've had bad

losses in my career and that was one of them. But I've never had a bad run."

Those rough moments, of watching the recording of a spectacular and surprising defeat with a straight-face, stayed with him as he travelled to Olomouc, in the eastern province of Czech Republic. The Olympics were over, but the international tour went on.

And Sathiyian showed late on Wednesday that he too had moved on from that Tokyo heartbreak.

Dominant showing

The World No 39 and top seed at the ITTF Czech International Open put the recent failure behind him to win his career's third tour title. And this was by far, the most dominant showing by him at an event as he went on to win it without dropping a set.

While the tournament was a definite step down from the high octanes of Olympics and he was one of only two Top

100 player in the fray, it was a morale-restoring and reassuring title victory for someone who had been shattered by the Olympics disappointment.

All through the event, from his opening round win against World No 723 Czech player Tomas Koldas to the 11-9, 11-6, 11-6, 14-12 win in the final against fourth seeded Ukraine's World No 111 Yevhen Pryshchepa, he kept the lessons from Tokyo with him.

"The opponent is always coming back so you have to keep changing strategy. That's the thing I didn't do in Tokyo," he explains.

"I had my Plan B and Plan C, but didn't change. When you start thinking about winning you sometimes don't think too much. (Lam) changed strategy, but I didn't."

Sathiyian faced something similar in the final against Pryshchepa as well, after he raced to a 3-0 lead.

The Ukrainian started serving more towards Sathiyian's backhand and was target-

England Leeds

England captain Joe Root scores his third century in as many games; Hosts ahead by 345 runs at stumps on Day 2

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
AUGUST 26

THERE WAS an air of inevitability about Joe Root's 23rd Test hundred, second on his home patch. From the start of his innings he oozed such authority that it never felt like the bowlers were in with a chance, until a Jasprit Bumrah nip-backer breached his defence and hit the middle stump.

During his 165-ball 121, Root at times toyed with the Indian bowling – a slog sweep from further outside the off stump through wide mid-on for a four off Ravindra Jadeja bordered on audacious. The England captain let out his emotions only after reaching his hundred, with his father Matt watching from the stands. But going beyond another Root masterclass, the second day of the third Test was more about the hosts redeeming their lost pride through a collective effort.

Much to England's delight, it wasn't a Root lone ranger. Players skating on thin ice showed character. Haseeb Hameed and Rory Burns put on a 135-run opening stand, both scoring half-centuries. Dawid Malan, on his return to Test cricket after three years, had a 'reply' for ex-England national selector Ed Smith, who had questioned his ability to score runs in home conditions.

England ended the day on 423/8, already enjoying a lead of 345 runs.

Headingley has been the theatre of miracles, from Ian Botham to Ben Stokes, via Shai Hope and Angelo Mathews. But India need the mother of all comebacks, something akin to a VVS Laxman-Rahul Dravid epic at Eden Gardens 20 years ago, to save this game.

Root's numbers are Bradmanesque. This was his sixth Test century in a calendar year, three on the spin. In the process, he also surpassed Alastair Cook to become the highest run-getter as an England captain in a year. Cook had scored 1,364 runs in 2015. Root already has 1,398 in 11 Tests this year. His average in this series is touching 127.

Root's wagon wheel today had an overload of square-of-the-wicket shots, 27 per cent of his runs coming in the arc between deep backward point and fine third man. In the form of his life, he took singles off good deliveries and punished everything that erred in line and length.

The day was overcast and nippy to begin with. But as the sun emerged, it became batting-friendly on an excellent cricket pitch. Kohli held back Bumrah for eight overs at the start of the day's play and trusted Ishant Sharma's experience. The veteran fast bowler was completely bereft of rhythm.

Mohammed Shami set up Burns with an off-cutter before cleaning him up with a nip-backer. Jadeja made one to straighten after pitching to castle Hameed. At 159/2, India still had a chance. Despite his limited-overs pyrotechnics and 199 for Yorkshire against Sussex in the County Championship in June, Malan had to overcome nerves. From England's point of view, his 70 and fluidity would be the biggest positive from this game. No. 3 has been their problem area over the last few months. From Zak Crawley to Dan Lawrence and Hameed, trial and error became the norm. With two more Tests to be played in the series and the Ashes to follow, Malan building on this would augur well.

At the pre-match press conference, the 33-year-old spoke about how his red-ball career was affected by Smith's decision. He was dropped after the first Test against India in 2018, with the then national selector saying, the batsman was "better suited to overseas conditions". Three years without Test cricket, his long-form career was heading for a write-off before post-Lord's a panic-stricken England decided to bring him back to the fold. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) abolished the national selector's post in April, making Chris Silverwood all-powerful on selection matters. The England team head coach made the right call.



(From left) Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ajinkya Rahane walk back to the pavilion after a disappointing session on Day 2 of the third Test. Reuters

Playing at his adopted home ground, Malan showed intent right from the outset. A very good player square of the wicket, he wasn't afraid to free his arms. The ball wasn't doing much, and Malan didn't hesitate to use his feet against Jadeja. It forced the left-arm spinner to alter his length. When Jadeja bowled short, the batsman targeted the cover-point boundary.

A faint tickle down the leg side off Mohammed Siraj, which only the UltraEdge could pick, felt like an anti-climax. He had creamed the previous delivery through covers for a four. Malan's 139-run third wicket partnership with Root slammed the door shut on India. Between lunch and tea England scored 116 runs in 26 overs. That's when the game completely tilted in their favour.

Ravichandran Ashwin's omission could be put under the scanner, especially on a surface where a few deliveries turned off the rough even on the second day. Then again, after the marauding victory at Lord's the winning combination picked itself. India are back against the wall because their batting imploded on Day One.

SCORECARD

ENGLAND vs INDIA

HEADINGLEY

Toss: India, chose to bat

INDIA: FIRST INNINGS 78	
ENGLAND: FIRST INNINGS 423/8	
R Burns b Shami	61 (153b, 6x4, 1x6)
H Hameed b Jadeja	68 (195b, 12x4)
D Malan c Pant b Siraj	70 (128b, 11x4)
J Root b Bumrah	121 (165b, 14x4)
J Bairstow c Kohli b Shami	29 (43b, 4x4, 1x6)
J Buttler c I Sharma b Shami	7 (12b, 1x4)
M Ali c sub (A Patel) b Jadeja	8 (18b, 1x4)
S Curran c sub (M Agarwal) b Siraj	15 (30b, 2x4)
C Overton not out	24 (31b, 4x4)
O Robinson not out	0 (6b)
■ Extras (b 8, lb 4, nb 7, w 1)	20
■ Total (129 overs)	423/8
■ Bowling:	
I Sharma: 22-0-92-0, J Bumrah: 27-10-58-1, M Shami: 26-7-87-3, M Siraj: 23-3-86-2, R Jadeja: 31-7-88-2	
■ Stumps on Day 2	

Phantom's skull mark, Root's backfoot punch

SANDIP G
AUGUST 26

IN FRANTIC pursuit of a game-altering wicket, Jasprit Bumrah, armed with the second new ball, threw the entire kitchen sink behind a short-of-length delivery at Joe Root. It was an effort ball that rose more than most other deliveries and seared into Root with speed. The English captain could have chosen not to intervene; most batsmen would have opted to leave the ball. But Root, who could turn everything he touches into gold these days, makes even wicket-taking balls boundary deliveries. In a swift movement of balletic grace, he stepped back, almost leapt with the ball, doused the capricious bounce and sent the ball through the covers.

Few contemporary batsmen make this stroke look as easy as Root, fewer execute it in as simple and uncomplicated a manner as the England captain does. Even fewer do that by getting over the ball rather than swaying away to allow themselves room to hit the ball.

There were several left-handers – Sourav Ganguly when the mood seized him, David Gower whenever he wished, or Brian Lara, anywhere, anytime. But not too many right-handers are known to attempt this difficult shot, certainly not with the grace of Root. Not since Martin Crowe, at least.

From Waugh to Tendulkar

Steve Waugh was a canny exponent of this stroke, especially in his endeavour to neuter back-of-length barrage, but he was a whirl of limbs, inducing more admiration than awe.

Sachin Tendulkar was another sublime back-foot puncher, but it was a stroke he swapped for safety towards the middle years of his career. The effort too showed on his face at times. Gordon Greenidge played this with murderous panache. But Root unfurls back-foot punches with the ease of swatting a bee aside, or plucking a



Joe Root celebrates after reaching his century on Thursday at Headingley. Reuters

strand of hair.

The back-foot punch is to Root what the flick was to Viv Richards, or the cover drive is to Virat Kohli. A shot that's more than a shot. An insignia, like the skull-mark of Phantom. It's both magic and mystique.

At his hands, science blends with art, and a difficult stroke transforms into a simple, routine trick. He stands tall and upright, almost on the toes, and has short but decisive strides.

He shuffles back and across in his trigger movement, then looks to make a short front-foot press, albeit without committing. At the precise moment, he judges the length, in this case back-of-length, those nimble feet drop back, the body rises with the bounce like the curve in an electrocar-

diagram, before those hands thrust the ball through the gaps.

'Stick to the basics'

The fundamental, he said in a 'Batting with Joe Root Masterclass,' is looking to keep the front shoulder as side-on as possible. He doesn't mind even if the shoulder gets a touch closer.

"Opening the front-shoulder could get you squared up," he says. The next aspect is keeping the hands higher than the ball, the primary tenet to ride the bounce. The third factor is making contact with the ball right under the head. "Pretty simple, if you stick to the basics," he adds. Far from simple, lesser batting mortals would vouch.

From this basic, stable position he gets in, he could open up a wide range of scoring areas in the arc from cover to point by opening the face of the bat and using his dexterous wrists to laser-guide the shots. He demonstrated that throughout his magnificent 121. Just a couple of overs before that, he had imperiously punched a similarly rising Mohammed Shami ball to the right of backward point. Ishant Sharma was cuffed through the square with the old ball. And when deliveries of similar length didn't have quite as much pace as he ideally wants, he steered a couple of boundaries through the third man, waiting for the ball and twirling the bottom hand for perfect placement. He decides the gap based on bounce, pace, angle, field placement, and line, but this year, from Galle to Chennai and Lord's to Leeds, he seemed to be picking gaps to his whims.

The shot had a two-fold effect on Thursday. First, it threw India's seamers out of their back-of-length comfort zone. Second, a direct consequence, bowlers were compelled to pitch further up, and in the process fed him with numerous leg-side gifts that he dispatched with glee. Though the initial emphasis is on the back-foot, his sinewy legs astride into drives. An off-drive off Bumrah gave him impish joy, but perhaps not the satisfaction of a back-foot punch. A shot, for Root, that's more than a shot. An insignia.

ing that area with aggressive shots.

Improved decision making

It helped him go to a 5-0 lead against the Indian in the fourth game. That's when the lessons from Tokyo started to kick in.

"I knew what he was doing. He was getting into position early because he realised my backhand returns of serve were more central," the 28-year-old says.

"The hesitation to try the big shots in those key moments pulled me back at Tokyo. But now I started to hit more aggressively on my returns. I started going for the corners to throw him off, even during rallies. I was 5-0 down and changed gears, then I was 9-5 down, and then I brought it to deuce. My decision making had improved and I was going for shots."

His first ever Olympic appearance was the first competitive match he had played since he secured a berth for the event at a qualification tournament in March. For nearly five months he was short of match

play, and he assumes that's what hindered him in Tokyo. It's that disappointment that made the title in Olomouc all the more important for him.

"It's a special title coming at the right time," he says.

Mixing play, making quick decisions and thinking instinctively, by his admission, have come naturally to him. It's what's helped him get to the World No 24 rank – the best ever achieved by an Indian. It helped him beat the likes of World No 4 Tomokazu Harimoto.

And it helped him force the great Ma Long to take a time-out when they played at the Asian Cup in 2019 (a few days after the Tokyo Olympic champion was seen sizing Sathiyian's game up during a pre-event practice session).

This title shows him he's getting back to those ways.

"It gave me the assurance," he says as he lets out another laugh, "that I was back to the old Sathiyian mode."



Sathiyian's third career tour title came with the 28-year-old not dropping a single set. File