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WEB EXCLUSIVE



1,000-YEAR-OLD REMAINS TELL THE STORY OF FINLAND'S NON-BINARY WARRIOR

Graves like that of Suontaka and Vivalen indicate that gender identities might have been fluid in early medieval European societies

TECH



LENOVO LEGION LAPTOPS
How the Legion brand is bringing 'minimalistic design' elements to gaming laptops

EXPLAINED



BELL BOTTOM MOVIE
Why Bell Bottom's theatrical is an important signal for Indian film industry

5 ARRESTED IN MP
Man thrashed after road accident, tied to vehicle and dragged, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEEMUCH, AUGUST 28

A 40-YEAR-OLD man from a tribal community was allegedly thrashed by eight persons who tied him to the rear side of a vehicle with a rope and dragged him for some distance in Madhya Pradesh's Neemuch district, police said on Saturday. Five accused have been arrested while efforts are on to trace the others.

The man, identified as Kanhaiyalal Bheel, died during treatment at the Neemuch district hospital on Friday. The incident occurred on Thursday morning after a minor road accident involving the victim and a milkman who was riding a motorcycle.

"Chhitar Mal Gurjar, a milkman, was riding a motorcycle which knocked down the victim Kanhaiyalal Bheel of Banda village when he was standing on the Neemuch-Singoli road, some 84 km from the Neemuch district headquarter," Superintendent of Police Suraj Kumar Verma said.

He said Gurjar lost his cool after the milk spilled on the road and beat up Bheel.

Gurjar then called up his friends who also roughed up Bheel and tied him to the rear side of a vehicle passing by with a rope. Bheel was dragged for some distance, Verma said.

"After a video of the incident became viral, police swung into action but by then, the accused had fled. The victim was rushed to the district hospital where he died on Friday," the SP said.

The five persons, identified as Chhitarmal Gurjar (32), Mahendra Gurjar and Gopal Gurjar (both 40), Lokesb Balai (21), and Laxman Gurjar have been arrested and efforts are on to trace others, the SP said.

Meanwhile, state Congress president Kamal Nath tweeted that the incident was very "inhuman" which he said is the testimony to lawlessness prevailing in Madhya Pradesh. He demanded the state government to take necessary actions immediately to check such incidents.

2nd witness in Malegaon blast case turns hostile

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, AUGUST 28

IN THE trial of the 2008 Malegaon blast, a witness who was claimed to have attended a camp with accused Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit and others, was declared hostile on Saturday.

The witness denied the contents of two of his statements recorded by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad in 2008 and 2011. The statements included a claim that in the camp, organised a month after the blast, Purohit had given a lecture mentioning terrorism in India on religious lines and the need to respond to it. The witness denied all the contents and said he had never stated those. This is the second witness to turn hostile.

Special Public Prosecutor Avinash Rasal, representing the National Investigation Agency (NIA), declared him hostile and cross-examined the witness. When the contents were read out from the two statements, the witness told the court they were incorrect. When the witness was asked by SPP Rasal that he was refuting his statements to save the accused, he denied it.

FROM PAGE ONE

Broken head

third naka would have led to vandalism, and also certain unscrupulous elements were part of these protesting groups. It could have been a security threat."

"So, keeping these factors in mind, I was briefing the forces at my location. I was briefing them on the procedure, a checklist as per provisions under the CrPC. I told them that we would give them (protesters) warnings, followed by use of water cannons, announcement of tear gas firing and then lathicharge, if need be," he said.

He claimed that the video that did the rounds was "doctored" because "only a selected portion about the lathi charge was made viral on social media platforms... only a selected portion of my briefing was leaked."

"The lathicharge that took place was at Bastara toll plaza where another SDM, not I, was deployed. My location, the point where I was deputed, was 10-15 km from the spot where the actual lathicharge took place. Nothing happened at my naka. The police personnel, who were briefed by me, did not do anything. None of the protesters reached there and nothing happened at my naka," Sinha said.

Sources said the Chief Minister's office too had spoken to Sinha and had found his reply "satisfactory" for now.

ED summons

during the foundation day of its youth wing, Mamata Banerjee accused the BJP-led government at the Centre of letting loose Central agencies on Abhishek, while claiming that some BJP ministers were hand in glove with the coal mafia. "The BJP and the Union government can't fight us politically. The party was defeated in the Assembly polls and now they are using Central agencies against our leaders like Abhishek Banerjee and others... Coal is under the CISF, the ministry is with the Centre, not the state. What were they doing? I know that dozens of Central ministers have robbed Ansol. When they came for campaigning in Ansol, they stayed in hotels owned by the coal mafia. Should I bring out the list?" the West Bengal CM said, adding that the TMC wouldn't be intimidated by such actions by the Centre.

Speaking at the same event, Abhishek said he was not frightened of ED summons. "Threatening us with the CBI and ED is not going to stop us," he said.

In April, the ED had told a special court that Rujira and her sister had been paid "substantial amount" in London and Thailand by key accused in the case. It had made the claim while seeking further custody of Ashok Kumar Mishra, the inspector in-charge of Bankura Police Station in Purulia district and reportedly a close associate of alleged kingpin Anup Majee alias Lala.

The ED had claimed that during questioning, Mishra had told officials that the payment was made to Rujira and her sister at the behest of TMC youth leader Vinay Mishra, and the funds were sourced from Majee.

"He admitted that he arranged to transfer around (Rs) 1-1.5 crore to Delhi as asked by Vinay Mishra. This amount was arranged from Anup Majee through Niraj Singh... he stated that Vinay Mishra was the secretary of TMC and was very close to Member of Parliament Shri Abhishek Banerjee... and knowing his clout in the party, he (Ashok) has to obey him (Vinay) or his (Ashok) career will be finished; that he facilitated in transferring funds through non-banking channel from India to London for a close relative of Shri Abhishek Banerjee; ... that the

Farmer protests flare up again

Members of Parliament, MLAs and district presidents were present at the meeting.

The farmers attempted to gather outside the Prem Plaza hotel in Karnal where the meeting was going on, but when they could not reach there, they blocked the national highway at the Bastara toll plaza.

They showed black flags to vehicles carrying BJP leaders and even tried to block their way. But due to heavy police presence, they could not stop the vehicles and kept raising slogans.

When they refused to lift the highway blockade, police used force, charging at farmers with lathis and leaving several injured - they were taken to local hospitals by fellow protesters.

The national highway blockade was eventually cleared, but tension began mounting as more and more farmers reached the spot, reoccupying the toll plaza.

BKU leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni appealed to farmers across the state to reach Bastara toll plaza in large numbers.

"I appeal to all my brethren to immediately reach the toll plazas near their location. If toll plazas are far off from their locations, they should immediately block the nearby highways," Chaduni said in a video message.

Chief Minister Khattar told reporters: "Today, there was a BJP state-level meeting. I condemn the protest call given by them (farmers). Obstructing any organisation's programme for any reason is an anti-democratic step. Second, if they (farmers) had to hold a protest, they should have done it peacefully. Earlier, we had reached an understanding that they would hold peaceful protests. While protesting, if they pelt stones at police and jam highways, then police will also have to do some work. If there is any atrocity on part of the police, they will also be punished. But if there is lawlessness on the part of farmers, legal action will be taken against them too.

ADGP Navdeep Virk said: "Around noon, protesting farm-

ers forcefully blocked the highway and attempted to enter Karnal city. When police personnel deployed there told them that they could not go towards Karnal city, the protesters got violent and a few of them pelted stones at police personnel. Some even attempted to attack police with shovels etc. Police used mild force and dispersed them. The information received so far reveals that four farmers and 10 police personnel sustained injuries."

"On June 7, we had talks with SKM leaders who had given us a written assurance that they would not indulge in any violent protest in future and would only hold peaceful protests. But there have been several instances after that in which farmers have resorted to violence. Whenever a protest gets violent, it becomes the duty of police to maintain law and order," Virk said.

BJP state president Dhankar, however, said: "The circumstances in which police used force on protesters must be thoroughly probed. I have re-

quested the Chief Minister to look into it. Although lathicharge should not have happened, farmers should have also protested within the limits so that a political party's programme is not affected."

Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and leaders of different parties condemned the use of police force on farmers.

In a statement, Hooda said: "This is barbaric. Farmers were peacefully protesting at least 15 km away from the place where the BJP's programme was being held. Such action on farmers clearly shows the ill-intentions of this state government. There should be an impartial investigation into this entire episode and the guilty should be punished. It has become a habit of this government. First, they deliberately create such circumstances of confrontation, engage the farmers in that confrontation by provoking them, and then assault them mercilessly."

subject transaction of Thailand was related to Rujira Banerjee," the ED submission had said.

It had also claimed that Niraj Singh, Majee's accountant, "assisted in transferring substantial funds... to Shri Abhishek Banerjee's close relative (Sister in Law & Wife) at London & Thailand".

The ED had added that records seized from Niraj Singh and digital evidence showed that Mishra received Rs 168 crore as proceeds of crime through illegal coal mining and pilferage in just about 109 days in 2020, and that in the past two years, Majee had generated Rs 1,352 crore through illegal coal mining.

Citing the statement of a "close confidante" of Majee, the ED had said that he conducted his illegal mining business "smoothly by managing senior functionaries of political party of West Bengal through Ashok Kumar Mishra", and that "major fund is distributed to manage the political stalwarts of the ruling party".

On November 27 last year, the CBI's Kolkata Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) had first registered a case of corruption and criminal breach of trust with regard to illegal mining and pilferage of coal from leasehold area of Eastern Coalfields Ltd in certain parts of West Bengal. ECL is a wholly owned subsidiary of PSU Coal India Ltd.

In her reaction to the ED move, Mamata Banerjee also accused the Narendra Modi government of trying to "bulldoze the federal structure" and snatching away rights of states, adding that allocation of rights for natural resources like coal comes under the purview of the Central government. She proposed a meeting of all CMs to fight against "the Centre's authoritarianism".

Tiranga Yatra

Sisodia and Singh, who is the party's Uttar Pradesh in-charge, will attend both rallies.

In Delhi, the AAP-led government is getting 500 high-mast Tricolours installed across the city at a cost of Rs 85 crore.

"The party will organise a series of events over the next one year to mark the 75th year of India's independence. The message is simple: the BJP's so-called nationalism is making India sick. The AAP believes nationalism is about offering people their rights. Be it good education or robust healthcare. For us, love for the Tricolour manifests itself in the form of a vision for the coun-

try, its development and the well-being of its citizens. It is about finding solutions to the most pressing issues of our times such as unemployment," Singh told The Sunday Express.

Singh, who was among the first political leaders to question some land-purchase deals for the upcoming Ram Temple at Ayodhya, said the campaign might be scaled up and cover all 403 constituencies in UP ahead of the Assembly polls early next year. Another AAP leader said that a final decision on stops at the Ram Lalla temple and Hanumangarhi have not been finalised but these are "very much on the cards".

Delhi Chief Minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal not only welcomed the Supreme Court verdict in the Ayodhya title suit case, he had announced that the Ram Temple will be brought under the ambit of the Delhi government's pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens. Three days before the 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, when the Centre had announced the formation of a trust for the construction of the temple, Kejriwal had remarked: "There is no right time for good work".

The AAP has announced that it will contest UP polls. In July, Singh had met Samajwadi Party Akhilesh Yadav, which had sparked talks of seat-sharing, which the AAP has kept alive, saying "political alliances are not new in Uttar Pradesh."

Said an AAP leader: "We are in UP for the long run. Unlike regional parties in the country's east and south, a party with Hindi-speaking leaders and a base in Delhi cannot afford to have no presence in the Hindi heartland. And it is evidently clear that AAP has carved out a space in the minds of people through its work on education, health, and overall governance. But that politics of work will have to be peppered with our definition of nationalism and religiosity that does not involve hating or hurting others."

In Uttarakhand, while announcing Kothiyal as the AAP's CM face, Kejriwal had specifically underlined not just the latter's credentials as a "deshbhakt fauji", but also his role in the reconstruction of the Kedarnath Temple and surrounding areas which were hit by floods in 2013, lending him the sobriquet "Bhole ki fauji".

In Delhi, where AAP is in its third consecutive stint in office, the party has steadily tried to re-frame both nationalism and sec-

ularism. It introduced a dedicated curriculum in schools to "instil the spirit of patriotism and nationhood". The curriculum - called 'Deshbhakti' - will be implemented across schools starting September 27.

The introduction to the curriculum's framework defines "Deshbhakti" as a "celebration of pluralism and diversity of the people of India." The answer to who is a "Deshbhakti," it adds, needs to be situated in the Indian Constitution and its "values of liberty, equality, fraternity, justice, democracy, and secularism."

Chandrachud

Truth, he said, instils "a sense of public trust in democracies", and also plays a key role in creating a shared "public memory" upon which the foundations of a nation can be built in the future. That's why countries set up Truth Commissions immediately upon gaining independence from a totalitarian regime or after coming out of a period fraught with human rights violations, Justice Chandrachud said.

In a different context, he said, this role can also be played by courts and illustrated this by citing the example of how the apex court took suo motu cognizance of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Referring to the multiple truths in the social media age, he stressed the importance of "deliberations" to arrive at a consensus on, at least, the basic facts.

To exercise the right to speak truth to power, it was first necessary to understand what truth means, he said, and pointed out that "while the identification of truth may be singularly at issue in judicial proceedings, the very nature of 'truth' can often be undeterminable in societies".

One of the most common ways to define truth is in terms of facts, Justice Chandrachud said, adding that even the most preliminary facts can be disputed. Another way was to define it in terms of opinion and a glance through history will show that individuals sometimes tend to have opinions that may not be morally justifiable to others.

Referring to the approach to homosexuality and abortion in different parts of the world, Justice Chandrachud showed how the line could be blurred. "I often wonder if facts are even considerably different from opinions in a plural society where there are varied lived experiences of different people," he said.

Power is also a factor in this, he said. In India, since women,

Dalits and others belonging to marginalised communities did not traditionally enjoy power, their opinions were not conferred the status of "truth".

While during the British Raj, truth was the opinion of the King or Queen, after its abolition, truth became the belief and opinion of upper-caste men and "with progress in society and annihilation of the notions of patriarchy and caste supremacy, the opinions of women, Dalits, and other marginalised communities are slowly but gradually starting to be regarded as 'truths' in India".

Quoting American Historian Sophia Rosenfeld, Justice Chandrachud pointed out that the three common means for the determination of "truth" in democracies: by the state, by experts such as scientists, and through deliberation by citizens.

Although all state policy is assumed to be based on the society's truth, that does not mean that states "cannot indulge in falsehood for political reasons, even in democracies," he said. In this context, he referred to the Pentagon Papers exposing the role of the United States in the Vietnam War and the recent trend of some countries "trying to manipulate" data on Covid infection and deaths.

Even claims of experts can be coloured by ideological affinity, receipt of financial aid or personal malice, Justice Chandrachud said. These experts are also often employed by think-tanks who conduct research to support specific opinions and there is the "possibility of cherry picking of facts to manufacture consent."

Urging responsible citizens to put these "truth providers" through intense scrutiny and questioning, Justice Chandrachud said that "it is also equally important for those making truth claims to be transparent and conspicuous".

Flagging fake news, Justice Chandrachud said that while social media platforms allow users to create their own "networks and communities," this also leads to "echo chambers or bubbles where people are only exposed to the viewpoint they agree with and never coming into contact with an opposing one".

"We only read newspapers that align with our beliefs... we ignore books written by people who do not belong to our stream... we mute the TV when someone has a different opinion... we do not truly care about the truth as much as we do about

being right," he said.

Bhavina in final

fund their trips. There is also the cost of the expensive rubbers and ply. "On an average, we end up spending close to Rs 12 to 13 lakhs annually. People think table tennis is cheap. But a quality bat can cost close to Rs 70,000," he says.

The cricketer, who was short-listed for the India team for the 2002 under-19 cricket World Cup, is well aware that to be among the best nothing can be left to chance. Nikul says that their two-storey home has complete wheel-chair access and one of the four rooms has a TT table.

"So for six months during the pandemic, Bhavina trained at home. After a point, we would ask the coach and other wheel-chair players to come home and play against her," he says. With one-fourth of the Patel household occupied by TT, there are days when there are space constraints. "When we have guests at home, we fold the table and sleep on the floor. Ours isn't a very big house but TT has been allocated enough space."

Bhavina, besides table tennis, is an ardent music lover and reputed coker. "If you have the bhajiyas she fries, you wouldn't like it anywhere else," chuckles Nikul to make a point.

The chat is cut short by a chorus of telephone rings in the background. Nikul puts one phone on hold and can be heard telling the caller that Bhavina cannot be connected to the news channel studio as she hadn't slept. He comes on the line again to inform that local channels have reached Bhavina's village.

"This is what a medal does. Before that, even if a Paralympian was living two houses away you wouldn't be aware. But our Subh Laabh Society is different. They all came to say goodbye to her and wish her luck." As he speaks, the telephone chorus in the background picks up again. The fame of India's first ever table tennis Paralympics medallist has gone beyond the two houses.

Jallianwala event

India under Operation Devi Shakti," Modi said, adding that due to "Guru kripa (blessings)", the swaroop of Guru Granth Sahib were also brought back safely.

He said laws have been made taking inspiration from the teachings of Gurus. "Keeping the lessons in humanity given by Gurus in the forefront, the country has made new laws for the people who have suffered," he said, in an apparent reference to the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, that eases citizenship for minorities like Sikhs from neighbouring countries.

With families of martyrs of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre present, the PM talked about how, to mark 75 years of Indian Independence, 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' was being celebrated, with freedom fighters being honoured in every village and places associated with the freedom struggle seeing a revamp, including Jallianwala Bagh. He also said efforts were on to celebrate national heroes whose sacrifices had been forgotten, like those belonging to the tribal community. Work was currently underway in museums to showcase the contribution of tribal freedom fighters in nine states, Modi said.

With elections in Punjab due early next year, Modi listed the steps taken by the Centre to take the legacy of the Gurus to the youth - turning Sultanpur Lodhi into a heritage town, the Kartarpur corridor, air connectivity of Punjab with other countries, interconnectivity of places related to the Sikh gurus and development of the Anandpur Sahib, Fatehgarh Sahib, Chamkaur Sahib,

Ferozepur, Amritsar, Khatkar Kalan, Kalanour and Patiala heritage circuit.

Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh said the Smarak as well as the state government's Jallianwala Bagh centenary memorial remind leaders of the inalienable right of people to conduct peaceful democratic protests, which could not be stifled. The state has been seeing protests for nearly a year now on the Centre's farm laws, with the Modi government virtually closing doors on them.

The CM said his government had constituted a special research team to continue work on a memorial it had built for unknown martyrs in Amritsar.

Singh also urged the PM to bring back the personal effects of Shaheed Udham Singh from the United Kingdom. Udham Singh had assassinated Michael O'Dwyer, the former Lieutenant Governor of Punjab in India, as revenge for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Outreach signal

The reference to the Taliban was omitted indicating that the Taliban was perhaps being seen as a state actor by the UNSC members, including India.

Former India's Permanent Representative to India at the UN, Syed Akbaruddin, who pointed this out on Twitter, said, "In diplomacy... a fortnight is a long time... The 'T' word is gone."

Officials said that the decision to sign off on the statement has been taken in view of changing "ground realities". The Taliban has been responsible for much of the evacuation of foreigners and Afghans-at-risk.

While the US says it has evacuated more than 1 lakh people since August 15, the entire Indian Embassy was evacuated on August 17 - a day after the first UNSC statement was issued.

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.

This, officials here believe, along with the safe passage to those being airlifted would not have been possible had the Taliban not cooperated.

Officials said that while India hasn't engaged with the Taliban in the manner as other UNSC members have, signing off on this statement is a signal that opens up the possibility to engage with the hardline group.

The August 27 statement had strong words on terror but did not hold the Taliban accountable.

"The attacks, which were claimed by Islamic State in Khorasan Province (ISKP), an entity affiliated with Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh), resulted in the death and injuries of dozens of civilians, including children, and military personnel," the statement said. It added: "The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Deliberately targeting civilians and personnel assisting in the evacuation of civilians is especially abhorrent and must be condemned."

Sources said the statement puts India's concerns on terrorism on the frontburner: "The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. They urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard."

Grey Blue Yellow Cyan Magenta Black New Delhi Grey Blue Yellow Cyan Magenta Black

Cop suspended over video from lock-up

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

IN WHAT could lead to red faces within the Delhi Police, a sub-inspector posted with the Special Cell has been suspended — three days after a video came to light purportedly showing brothers Rahul Kala and Naveen Bali, associates of jailed gangster Neeraj Bawana, enjoying liquor and snacks inside the lock-up at its office in Lodhi Colony.

The Indian Express had first reported about the video — at the time, it was unclear whether it was shot in Mandoli Jail, where the brothers are lodged, or the Special Cell office, where they were taken in connection with another case between August 5 and 10. The DG Prisons had eventually said it was not from Mandoli Jail, while a separate inquiry was initiated to look into it and a report was submitted to the police headquarters.

Sources told The Indian Express the lock-up seen in the video is in the same Special Cell



A grab from the video

building complex that houses the offices of two ACPs, an additional DCP and the DCP (Special Cell). It was reconstructed around a year and a half ago.

"In their enquiry report, the sub-inspector was held responsible for allowing people to meet the accused in lock-up. Senior officers from police headquarters are also assessing if there were supervision lapses," said a police source.

Rahul and Naveen have been in Mandoli jail for the last five years. "They were re-arrested on August 5 by a team led by ACPs Hriday Bhusan and Lalit Mohan

Negi in connection with a separate case and were taken on police remand by the Special Cell team. The two were allegedly hatching a conspiracy to eliminate a rival currently lodged in Rohini jail," said the source.

The Indian Express has learnt that four men — Dushyant alias Monu Bajitpur, Amit Asoda, Sachin Barahi, and Mannu — 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. Special Cell personnel found out about the video and informed their seniors," said a police source.

Special CP (Special Cell) Neeraj Thakur, DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwah, and Delhi Police PRO Chinmoy Biswal did not respond to a query about the suspension of the sub-inspector. Biswal had said on Wednesday: "The video is not substantiated and liquor is not served in police lock-up."

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

Delhi govt suggestion: 3 docs for Padma awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE DELHI government has decided to recommend to the Centre the names of ILBS director Dr SK Sarin, LNJP medical director Dr Suresh Kumar and Max Healthcare clinical director (internal medicine) Sandeep Budhiraja for the Padma awards.

The names were picked from a list of 740, suggested by 9,427 people who responded to the call of the Delhi government to send their choices, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said. A committee led by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, with Chief Secretary Vijay Dev and Divisional Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar as members, picked the names.

"It was a very difficult task to

pick three names. These will in a way represent all the doctors and paramedics of Delhi. The doctors and paramedics served us selflessly during the entire pandemic, putting their own lives at risk. It is time to honour them," Kejriwal said.

Dr Sarin, who was part of the Delhi government's expert committee on Covid management, operationalised the "world's first plasma bank," Kejriwal said.

Dr Kumar of LNJP Hospital, which has treated 20,500 Covid patients, started a unique initiative which enabled attendants and patients to interact over video-conferencing, which particularly helped those who don't own smartphones.

Dr Budhiraja, in his leadership capacity, treated not just Delhiites but patients from across North India, the CM said.

Posing as EPFO staffers, 3 men dupe thousands across country

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THREE PERSONS have been arrested by Ghaziabad police for allegedly scamming retired government employees over the past nine years by pretending to be employees of the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Police estimate that more than 10,000 people have been victims of their fraud, with the scam running into crores.

Police identified the accused as Rahul Singh (25), Dharmendra Singh (30) and Ghanshyam Singh (30). Ghanshyam is also facing an FIR in Hyderabad, police said.

"We received information that the accused had been running a tele scam based out of

Gaur City. Calls were being made to persons across country pretending to be EBFO employees. The accused have cases against them in many states. Further details of their operation are being ascertained," said Abhay Kumar Mishra, CO Indirapuram.

Ghanshyam, a resident of Noida, is the alleged mastermind, while Dharmendra would facilitate calls to the targets, said police.

Police said they targeted retired people because they felt they were vulnerable. Dharmendra would hire young men and women and give them a list of people to call.

"The accused would ask for a 'processing fee' after discussing the PF status of people they would call. In some cases, offers for loans or investment on the

policy would be made by the accused. The victims would be convinced that the callers are legitimate employees of the EPFO and they would provide their bank details," said Mishra.

In one case, a Mumbai-based person lost Rs 1 crore after providing his account details.

In some cases, callers would convince retired people to deposit a particular amount with the promise of a substantial sum on maturity.

"The accused had obtained information of government employees and we are probing how they accessed it. It is possible that they acquired the data manually," said Singh.

Police are currently verifying transactions from their bank accounts to track who all have been duped.

No ex parte injunction in Gahlot defamation case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE DELHI High Court has refused to grant any ex parte injunction in the defamation suit filed by Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot against BJP MLA Vijender Gupta for allegedly making scandalous allegations against him with regard to alleged irregularities in purchase and maintenance of buses by the Delhi Transport Corporation.

Listing the suit for hearing on September 20, Justice Asha Menon, in an order released Saturday evening, said, "In the present case, prima facie, no personal allegations appear to have

been specifically made against the plaintiff except to the extent of saying that the entire transaction appears to be a 'scam'. At this stage, therefore, no ex parte injunction is called for."

Relying on the order passed by High Court in the case filed by former diplomat Lakshmi Puri against activist Saket Gokhale, senior advocate Rajiv Nayar, representing Gahlot, submitted, "In this case it is not a vigilante but a political rival. The clarification was given in the House. Now you cannot carry out the exercise outside. You are a responsible MLA."

However, the court in the order said that facts of Puri's case are "vastly different".

Court directs Honey Singh to appear in domestic violence case: 'No one above law'



Hirdesh Singh goes by the stage name Yo Yo Honey Singh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST

A DELHI court Saturday directed singer Hirdesh Singh, who goes by the stage name Yo Yo Honey Singh, to appear before it on September 3 in connection with a domestic violence case filed by his wife Shalini Talwar, after he failed to appear before the court citing poor health.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tania Singh, while hearing the matter, observed that no one is above the law.

Singh's counsel sought the singer's exemption from personal appearance saying that he is unwell, and assured that he will appear on the next date of hearing, when his medical records and income documents will be submitted.

The wife of the singer had approached a Delhi court alleging physical, mental and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband.

Advocate Sandeep Kapur, Apoorva Pandey, and GG Kashyap from Karanjawala and Co appeared on behalf of the woman. They filed an application under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, alleging that Singh had become "extremely arrogant, abusive, harsh and uncaring" to the woman following their marriage in 2011.



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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (IISER) KOLKATA
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Advt. No.: IISER-K/DoFA/SRD/2021/1 Date: 26.08.2021

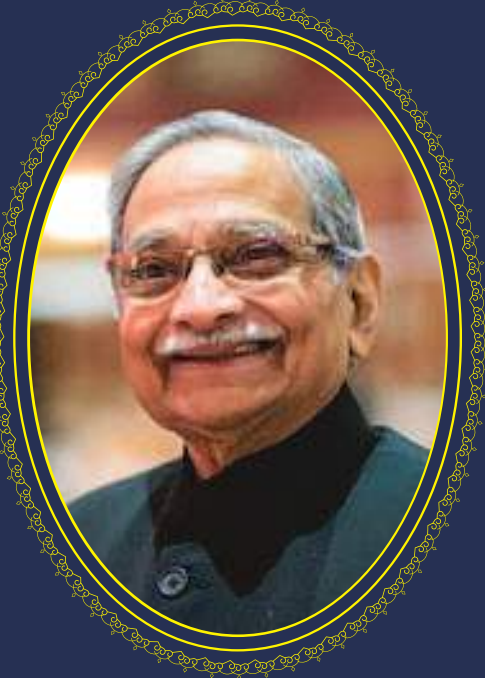
SPECIAL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR FACULTY POSITIONS FOR SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH KOLKATA is a premier autonomous Institute established in 2006 by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, for providing quality science education and to carry out research in basic and frontier areas of science with both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. IISER Kolkata invites ONLINE applications from highly committed and qualified Indian nationals for Faculty positions under **Special Drive for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS** categories. The positions are at the levels of **Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors** in Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Computational and Data Sciences, Earth Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics and Physical Sciences.

For further details please visit the Institute website
[<http://apply.iiserkol.ac.in/faculty/>]

The last date for submission of ONLINE applications is 15.10.2021.
Dean of Faculty Affairs

Tribute



OUR BELOVED FATHER/FATHER IN- LAW/ GRANDFATHER

DR. ANIL KUMAR PRASAD

H/O SMT. SHOBHA PRASAD

Left for heavenly abode peacefully on August 26 2021

He will always be remembered for his warmth, loving nature, generosity and magnetic personality. A man with a fearless spirit who embodied a constant positive attitude throughout his life.

A prayer meeting and shanti paath as a tribute to him will be held on 30th August 2021 Monday at Arya Samaj Mandir GK-2 (Opposite E-Block) New Delhi, at 12:00 pm

In Grief:

Amit and Manjusha Shekhar (son and daughter in law)
Anupam and Neeraj Daftuar (daughter and son in law)
Aditya, Rahul, Eesha and Abhilasha (grandchildren)

Amit shekhar: 9650077258 | Anupam Daftuar: 9871195932

E-Auction Schedule for Industrial Plots in IGC/FP Saha, IMT Rohtak & IMT Faridabad

HSIDC had opened the registration for participation in e-auction for allotment of industrial plots in IGC/Food Park Saha, IMT Rohtak & IMT Faridabad w.e.f. 28.07.2021 with closing date as 17.08.2021. The schedule of e-auction for the same is as under:

Sr. No.	Auction Name	Auction ID	Date of e-Auction	No. of Plots proposed to be offered
1	IGC Saha - 450 sqm size Industrial Plots	280	01.09.2021	3
2	IGC Saha - 1012.50 sqm size Industrial Plots	276	01.09.2021	6
3	IGC Saha - 1800 sqm size Industrial Plots	279	01.09.2021	4
4	IGC Saha - 8100 sqm size Industrial Plots	278	01.09.2021	1
5	Food Park Saha - 450 sqm size Industrial Plots	277	01.09.2021	3
6	Food Park Saha - 1012.50 sqm size Industrial Plots	281	01.09.2021	2
7	IMT Rohtak - 1012.50 sqm size Industrial Plots	270	02.09.2021	6
8	IMT Rohtak - 1800 sqm size Industrial Plots	269	02.09.2021	1
9	IMT Faridabad - 450 sqm size Industrial Plots	265	02.09.2021	7
10	IMT Faridabad - 1012.50 sqm size Industrial Plots	264	03.09.2021	5
11	IMT Faridabad - 1800 sqm size Industrial Plots	263	03.09.2021	2
12	IMT Faridabad - 7875 sqm size Industrial Plots	260	03.09.2021	2
13	IMT Faridabad - 8500 sqm size Industrial Plots	259	03.09.2021	1
14	IMT Faridabad - 10000 sqm size Industrial Plots	258	03.09.2021	2
15	IMT Faridabad - 12000 sqm size Industrial Plots	257	03.09.2021	1
16	IMT Faridabad - 21250 sqm size Industrial Plots	254	03.09.2021	2

i) The Round-1 of each E-auction shall start at 7:00 AM on the scheduled date. ii) The standard closing time of Round-1 of each E-auction shall be 11:00 AM on the scheduled date. All subsequent rounds shall be of 10 minutes duration, subject to extension as below. iii) There will be unlimited extensions-The auction time of the round(s) will get extended by 10 minutes in case of receipt of any bid in the last 5 minutes. iv) In case the e-auction does not conclude till 9:00 PM, the e-auction will pause at 9:00 PM (The round in progress at 9:00 PM shall continue even after 9:00 PM till its closing) and fresh round shall re-start at 7:00 AM the next day. v) The minimum bid increment has been kept at Rs.200/- per sqm in all categories. vi) The H-1 payment shall be scheduled after acceptance of bids by the competent authority, payable within 72 hours of scheduling. vii) The no. of plots indicated above are tentative and HSIDC shall reserve to itself the right to withdraw any site from auction or add any site for auction at any stage without assigning any reason.

All registered bidders may please note the above for participation in e-auction on scheduled date and please note that no separate notice shall be sent in this regard. The detail of plots an offer can be seen on the e-auction portal hsidc.bids.in and www.hsidc.org.in. For further details, including process of e-auction, please refer to the e-auction brochure available on e-auction portal hsidc.bids.in

Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Devel. Corp. Ltd. A State Government Undertaking
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-8, Panchsukla, Ph. 0172-2590481-83, Fax: 2590474, Website: hsidc.org.in, E-mail: contactus@hsidc.org.in, CIN: U29199HR1967SG0034545, <https://www.facebook.com/hsidc> <https://www.instagram.com/hsidc> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hsidc>

EXPRESS

Careers



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नवाबगंज, कानपुर-208002, उ.प्र., भारत

HARCOURT BUTLER TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

NAWABGANJ, KANPUR-208002, U.P., INDIA
(Formerly Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur)

Ph.: 091-0512-2534001-5, 2533812, website : <https://www.hbtu.ac.in>, E-mail: vc@hbtu.ac.in

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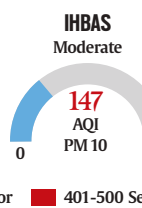
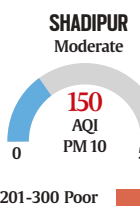
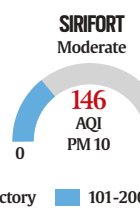
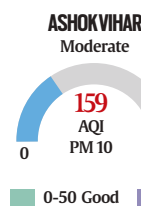
Date : 29-08-2021

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Online Applications in the prescribed format, are invited from eligible candidates for direct recruitment to the regular posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various departments of the university latest by 08.10.2021 (Friday) (mid night) followed by submission of the hard copy of filled application form along with relevant testimonials as per check list up to 18.10.2021 (Monday) to the "The Registrar, Harcourt Butler Technical University, Kanpur, Nawabganj, Kanpur-208002, UP.

Eligible candidates may submit their applications through online mode only by visiting the HBTU Kanpur website <http://www.hbtu.ac.in>. The details of the procedure for online submission of applications, educational qualifications, experience, Screening and Shortlisting criteria etc are available on the university website.

Note: Earlier Advertisement No. Estt.-01/2017/dated 28.09.2017 for faculty recruitment is cancelled due to administrative reasons and the fee submitted by candidates will be refunded in due course of time. (Registrar)



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKYWATCH



FORECAST: August 29
Partly cloudy sky with very light rain/thundershowers

MAX: 34 | **MIN: 27**
0.4°C below normal | 0.5°C above normal

Mayur Vihar-Noida route gets infra boost, commuting to become faster, smoother

Chief Minister inaugurates 'cloverleaf' loop, ramps, service road, cycle track, says will benefit all of East Delhi



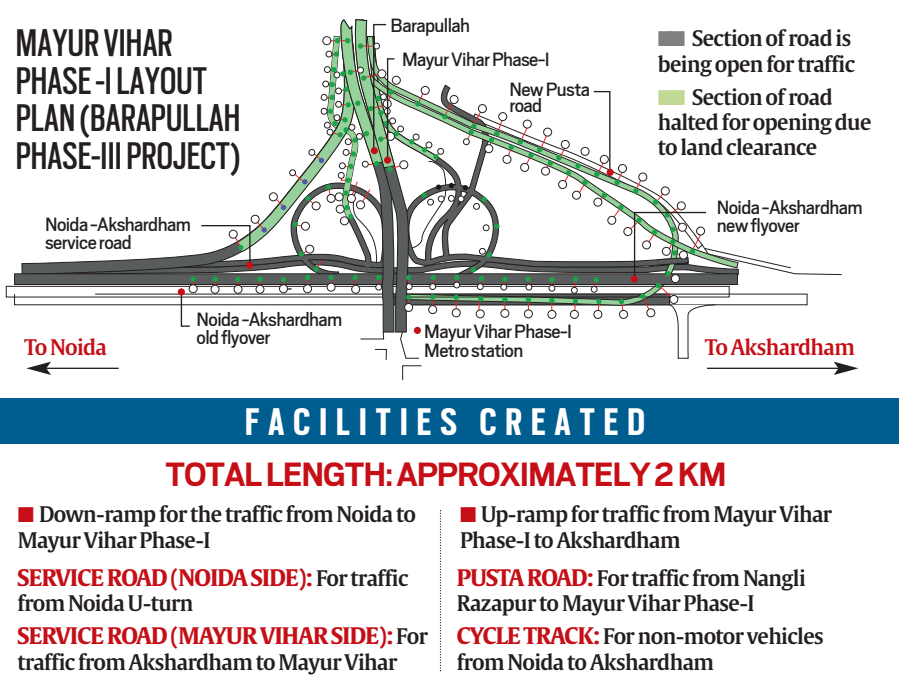
At the inauguration on Saturday. At least five minutes of commuting time will be saved while traveling through these ramps, the PWD said. *Gajendra Yadav*

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

IN A project expected to ease traffic and benefit commuters travelling from Mayur Vihar Phase-I to Noida and Akshardham, and vice-versa, a 'cloverleaf' loop, comprising ramps and service roads were inaugurated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Saturday. The project is part of Barapullah Phase-III.

"The service roads, cloverleaf loop, ramps and cycle track being inaugurated today will bring a huge relief to the people of this region as well as entire East Delhi from traffic jams," said the Chief Minister at the inauguration.

"Ever since the Aam Aadmi Party has come into power, lots of developmental projects have been taken up by various departments. The way PWD (Public Works Department) has been functioning is commendable. They finish projects before deadlines, complete them not only within the estimated costs but also save money, and craft



more sustainable and cost-effective designs. This has been made possible because an honest government is in power. We will now take Delhi's infrastruc-

ture to a whole new level," he said.

Also present at the inauguration were Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and PWD Minister

Satyendar Jain. PWD officials informed the CM that the land acquisition hurdle, which had slowed down progress on the elevated corridor of Barapullah

Phase-III, has been cleared. The new deadline for completion of the phase is March 2023.

Parts of the project inaugurated on Saturday include a down-ramp for the traffic coming from Noida to Mayur Vihar Phase-I, an up-ramp for traffic going from Mayur Vihar towards Akshardham, a service road coming from the Noida U-turn, a service road from the Akshardham side, and a cycle track from Noida to Akshardham.

At least five minutes of commuting time will be saved while traveling through these ramps. According to the PWD, smooth and uninterrupted traffic on the ramps will also reduce emission by 2 tonnes of carbon dioxide per day. Approximately thirty thousand trees would be required to absorb such a large amount of CO₂, the PWD estimates.

The ramps, service roads, loops, and cycle track cost Rs 60 crore. According to officials of the department, the 'socio-economic saving' facilitated by these will be Rs 11.3 crore per year. The PWD calculated this

by taking into account the commuting time, fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emission.

The project had been slowed down due to the lockdowns, both in 2020 and 2021. Gulab (30), a labourer employed by L&T, the company working on the project, said he stayed back during both the lockdowns while most of his colleagues went back home. "My family is in Varanasi and I continued to stay at the labour quarters in Sarai Kale Khan. Those who stay in Delhi with their families and pay rent had no other option but to go back to their villages."

Of 35 labourers, only around 15 stayed back, said Gulab.

The completed Phase III project will extend the Barapullah elevated road and connect Sarai Kale Khan with Mayur Vihar. Chander Kanta (29), a resident of Mayur Vihar, who was present at the inauguration, said that the ramps will make her life easier. "I keep traveling to that side since my maiden home is in Noida. There are times when we are stuck in traffic for almost half an hour. This will make our journey more seamless."

Resume classes for youngest lot, say parents of primary school children

SUKRITA BARUAH
DELHI, AUGUST 28

SEVEN YEAR-OLD Jyoti Kumari and her group of friends play in a park close to their homes in Zamrudpur on Saturday afternoon, running up and down the stairs of the slide.

Jyoti leaves for tuition classes at 3 pm every day, except Sundays. While schools in Delhi are set to open for classes IX to XII from September 1, and it has been recommended that they also be reopened for classes VI to VIII from September 8, there is no word so far on plans for younger children like Jyoti.

"After reviewing the situation in the two phases, the Directorate of Education may take the decision of opening the schools for primary and pre-primary classes in the third phase," state the recommendations of a committee formed to look into the matter.

"I do the worksheets I get from school on my father's phone with the help of our landlady," said Jyoti. "But I don't know how to understand what I'm reading."

She studies in class III in a municipal corporation school, and her father works as a scrap collector.

Her classmate Nishi says she cannot remember what going to school was like.

With these children having been away from school since March 2020 without a single day of offline school activities, parents of those in government and municipal corporation schools are eager for classes to resume soon.

"My son has been promoted to class IV now after one and a half years without school, but I'm afraid that it will be too much of a burden for him; he doesn't know his reading and numbers. His sister in class IX is doing his work-

sheets for him now. I think every parent wants their child to return to school now," said Raju, who works as a tailor and whose son Alishan studies in a Delhi government school.

Teachers, too, say that they urgently feel the need for young children to return to the classrooms, and that they are regularly fielding questions from parents on this. "Parents come to school and ask me about when their children can come to school but I tell them this can only be decided by the government, it's not in our hands. I hope that after schools open for class VI-VIII, by the end of September, we can have our students back. These small children are the ones losing out the most. What online teaching can you do for a student of class I, who has not learnt to recognise alphabets and numbers?" Their base is not being formed," said a teacher in a municipal corporation primary school in North Delhi.

Last month, ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava had recommended that primary schools be opened before secondary schools, pointing to these children's ability to handle viral infections better, but most states have opted to begin with bringing older children back to school first.

"I'm sure that schools will restart for younger children. The government is just being cautious because Delhi has been the hub of problems in the last wave. In Haryana, we've begun with creative camps for children of classes III, IV, V. We're not immediately getting into learning, we are starting with some socialising activities, art and music, so that kids start feeling a sense of relaxation among each other," said educationist Dr Ameeta Watal, chairperson and executive director, DLF Foundation Schools and Scholarship Programmes.



There is no tentative date for reopening of primary classes

Chargesheet filed against 4 over death of minor Dalit girl

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE DELHI Police Crime Branch Saturday filed a chargesheet against four men, including a crematorium priest, in connection with the death of a minor Dalit girl in Southwest Delhi earlier this month.

The Crime Branch said they chargesheeted Radhe Shyam (55), Kuldeep Kumar (63), Laxmi Narain (48) and Mohd Salim (49) under several IPC sections including murder, gangrape, wrongful confinement, criminal intimidation and causing the disappearance of evidence along with POCSO Act and 3 SC/ST Act.

Chinmoy Biswal, the Delhi Police spokesperson, said the 400-page chargesheet was submitted to Patiala House Court.

"The case was transferred to the Crime Branch on August 5, following which a Special Investigation Team was constituted with ACP Sandeep Lamba and ACP Richhpal Singh. The SIT is under the supervision of Monika Bharadwaj, DCP (Crime)," said Biswal. Police said they collected scientific and technical evidence and recorded statements of witnesses.

"We took help from forensic science laboratory in Rohini and forensic experts on biology and odontology. We also interacted with psychologists during the interrogation of the accused. After

gathering sufficient evidence on record, the chargesheet has been filed," said Biswal.

The girl was found dead inside a crematorium on August 2. Her family said she had gone there to fetch water from a cooler, and her mother was later told by the priest and the other accused that the girl was electrocuted. The family claims the men forced the mother not to inform the police about the death and tried to conduct a hurried cremation. However, locals intervened and stopped it, though only charred remains were recovered from the pyre.

It is learnt that police also examined the water cooler and spoke to locals in detail.

Since the girl's body was burnt, the forensic team was unable to conclusively ascertain rape or assault. An investigating officer said, "We believe the accused concocted the story about the electrocution. Locals told us they did not get any shocks from the cooler the same day. The cooler was also examined by experts, who found that there was no such issue."

Sources also claimed the four had "confessed". Police did not share details of each man's alleged role in the crime.

Biswal said police had committed to filing a chargesheet within 30 days after a high-level review meeting by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The matter will now go to a fast-track court.

BRIEFLY

Wife, mother-in-law among 7 held after man's body found in drain

New Delhi: Days after a 24-year-old man's body was found in a trolley bag in Southeast Delhi's Sukhdev Vihar, seven persons, including the man's wife and mother-in-law, have been arrested. Police said a group of men had allegedly stabbed Naveen Chand after he had a fight with his wife on August 8. The men later put the body in a bag and dumped it in a canal. On August 10, police received information about a decomposing body, and the man's identity was established. DCP R P Meena said, "The man had a tattoo of his name on his hand. Based on that, we started a probe..." **ENS**

Will make Delhi a world leader in skill training: Sisodia

New Delhi: Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday said the city government is making efforts to make the national capital a world leader in skills training. Sisodia and Vice-Chancellor of DSEU, Professor Neharika Vohra visited the varsity campus in Dwarka and IIT at Nizamuddin to inspect the on-ground events of Delhi's first-ever state level competitions. **PTI**

JANTAR MANTAR SLOGANS

Accused 'clearly seen participating', court denies bail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

A DELHI court denied bail to Preet Singh, accused in the anti-Muslim sloganeering at Jantar Mantar, observing that he is clearly seen actively participating in the incendiary speeches along with others.

Additional Sessions Judge Anil Antil, in his order passed Friday, observed that on the basis of material placed on record and submissions by the prosecution, "there has been active participation by the applicant in his individual capacity and also as the main organiser of the event itself, which was conducted at Jantar Mantar despite being denied permission by the Delhi Police and total disregard to Covid-19 protocol issued by the Government of India".

The court said that "given the stature of the applicant, it was expected that he ought to have exercised his authority, in these

circumstances, and prevented participants from airing such inflammatory opinions in the larger interest of the public/committee welfare."

"On the other hand, the applicant is clearly seen actively participating in the incendiary speeches along with his other associates," the court said.

The court observed that the "right to assemble and freedom to air one's thoughts are cherished under the Constitution of India. However, they are not absolute and are to be exercised with inherent reasonable restrictions".

"It is apposite to mention that the applicant not only voluntarily organised the event but also actively participated and provided support to the views and contents of inflammatory speeches, which were being made by the participants/accused persons at that time, by acknowledging and endorsing via gestures and clappings intermittently," the court said.

83 fire calls in 3 months from units with no NOC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

MORE THAN 80 emergency calls were attended by the Delhi Fire Services in the last three months from multi-storey industries and factories across the city. Officials Saturday said that most of these factories, having different manufacturing units, house labourers, and their families.

However, there is no fire safety equipment inside the building and the workers live in

congested rooms making the area "unsafe" in case of a fire.

According to the data released by DFS, 83 fire calls from industries and factories have been attended by the department from May 31 to August 28.

Atul Garg, the DFS chief, said, "We have a procedure where we give fire NOC to commercial buildings. Many of these factories didn't have the NOC from us. Lack of proper windows or ventilation, presence of cooking material and gas cylinders near factory area make it unsafe."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE DELHI government Saturday announced a Rs 139 crore project to digitise healthcare management and hospital-patient interactions in the city through a cloud-based integrated management system and digital health cards.

Officials said the Delhi cabinet has approved the budget and sanctioned funds to set up the 'health information management system', and the contract has been awarded to M/s NEC Corporation India Private Limited.

Chief Minister Kejriwal also announced that the cabinet has approved the setting up of 6,836 new beds across Delhi government hospitals. "This is a very big increase in the city's health infrastructure. Today Delhi has 10,000 beds in government hospitals and 6,800 are being added. This is a 70 per cent increase, this is not a small thing. These will be ready in six months. We can be prepared for the third wave if it comes. Even if it doesn't, these will be ready for the people of Delhi," he said.

According to a Delhi government representative, the system is slated to be ready by mid-2022. It will first be implemented in all government hospitals, and later in private hospitals in a phased manner.

"All hospitals in Delhi are being connected on a common platform and a portal will inform how many beds are empty in which hospital, which medicines are available in what quantity. You will know staff position, medical position, how many ventilators are vacant. You won't need to form long lines at hospitals, you can fix an appointment with doctors over the phone and go according to your conven-

NEW HEALTH SYSTEM: KEY TAKEAWAYS

REGISTRATION

Online registration, appointment, scheduling through web portal, mobile app, kiosks or toll-free health helpline

Facial recognition with biometric authentication of patients

General health screening of through household surveys

OPD

Queue management integrated with barcode

E-prescription with automated templates according to doctor's speciality/department as well as personal style

IPD

'Computer on wheels' for nursing staff

Automated discharge

summary

Real-time bed availability status

Biometric-based authentication for all healthcare staff

PHARMACY

Display boards with estimated wait time and queue management

DOORSTEP

Delivery of medicines

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Geo-tagging of frontline workers

Household surveys using handheld devices

Identification and registration of beneficiaries with Aadhaar and biometric identification to avail state and national schemes

EMERGENCY, AMBULANCE

Real-time integration with Centralised Ambulance Trauma Services (CATS) and Trauma Registry

ience," said the CM.

This is supposed to be a digital and cloud-based system, and citizens will be connected to it through 'e-Health Cards'.

"All patient care-related services like hospital administration, budgeting, and planning, supply chain management, back-end service, and processes will be brought under this system. Health cards will be issued and will be available online for access. This will help the people of Delhi get all information under one roof and immediate help in emergency cases... Under the Health Card Project, QR code-based eHealth Cards will be issued to

the residents of Delhi on the basis of voter ID and population registry from which demographic and basic clinical information of each patient can be obtained. Family mapping will be done through e-health cards for health schemes and programmes. It will be integrated with HIMS for seamless information exchange. Cards with QR codes will be distributed to each person after physical verification," read a government statement.

According to a representative, surveys will be conducted to get these cards made, and they will be distributed through a door-to-door campaign.

Baghel returns from Delhi, says Rahul to visit Chhattisgarh

Raipur: Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Saturday returned to Raipur from Delhi, a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi met him for the second time in a week in a bid to resolve the power tussle between him and state health minister T S Singh Deo.

Rahul Gandhi will visit the state next week, Baghel told reporters at the airport.

The chief minister was greeted by a huge crowd of supporters like one that welcomed him back on Wednesday when he returned from his first meeting with Gandhi after supposedly discussing the issue of leadership change in the state.

Meanwhile, T S Singh Deo, after returning here from Delhi, said that the decision on leadership change, whether it will be carried out or not, lay with the party high command. He did not reveal whether discussions were held on the leadership issue. "They have heard us out. The final decision they will take."

PTI

Gujarat committed to stop 'love jihad', will move SC: Rupani

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 28

THE GUJARAT government will approach the Supreme Court against the recent High Court decision to stay certain sections of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act 2021, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said Saturday, adding that his government is "committed" to stopping "love jihad" in the state.

"The state government is determined. Hindu girls are lured and are made to flee (their homes). Then religious conversion happens. In this context of love jihad, the state government is fully committed. The state government will surely approach the Supreme Court against the High Court decision and whatever necessary needs to be done, the state government will do it," said Rupani.

The CM was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Gandhinagar to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of



CM Vijay Rupani

poet Zaverchand Meghani.

On August 26, a division bench of Chief Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Biren Vaishnav turned down an application of the Gujarat government seeking rectification of the High Court order that stayed eight sections of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021. It had sought lifting the stay on the operation of section 5 that was in the original Act enacted in 2003.

Hours after the order, Minister of State for Home and Law, Pradeepsinh Jadeja, said that section 5 was at the "core of the law" and that the government would move Supreme Court challenging the HC decision.

Rajnath: Work to make India a global defence production hub

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

COMMISSIONING AN indigenously-made Coast Guard ship, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said that in the 75th year of Independence, the country should move towards becoming a defence manufacturing hub for the world.

At an event to mark the commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Vigraha, the last of the seven Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), in Chennai, Singh said the expenditure on security around the world will reach USD 2.1 trillion in the next two years.

Singh said "our companies can work towards making India a defence manufacturing hub, not only for ourselves, but for the whole world" and "it should be our resolve to move forward in this direction" on the 75th anniversary of Independence.



Rajnath Singh at an event to mark the commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Ship Vigraha, in Chennai. [Twitter/rajnathsingh](#)

"Today we have great scope to make full use of our capabilities, take advantage of policies, and move towards making the country an indigenous shipbuilding hub."

The 100-metre ship named Vigraha, the minister said, is

equipped with the latest technology. "From its design conception to development, the ship is completely indigenous." He said its commissioning "showcases significant improvement in our coastal defence capability as also our ever-increasing self-reliance in the defence sector".

2nd FIR filed against UP ex-IPS officer, wife

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 28

ADAY after the Lucknow Police arrested retired IPS officer Amitabh Thakur on charge of abetting the suicide of a suspected rape victim from Ballia and her friend, the police Saturday said Thakur and his wife Nutan had been charged with using criminal force to obstruct an official.

The police said the second case was filed as Thakur resisted arrest when the police went to his home at Viram Khand in Gomti Nagar to take him into custody in the abetment of suicide case.

In a video that has surfaced on social media, Thakur is seen resisting arrest. He allegedly refused to comply with police instructions till he was given a copy of the FIR. Before being shoved into a vehicle, he is heard saying that police were acting illegally.

The second FIR was registered



Amitabh Thakur and his wife have been charged with obstructing police during his arrest on Friday.

based on a complaint from sub-inspector Dhananjay Singh. "On the basis of a video, an FIR was lodged against Amitabh Thakur and Nutan Thakur for criminal force to deter a public servant from discharge of his duty. Nutan Thakur was also creating hindrance for police," said Gomti Nagar SHO KK Tiwari.

Thakur had earlier announced that he would contest the UP poll from Gorakhpur against CM Yogi Adityanath.

Economy AC fares to be 8% less than regular 3-tier coaches: Rlys

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

FARE OF the new air-conditioned three-tier economy class coaches, which are touted as air-conditioned travel for the common man, will be 8 per cent less than the existing AC 3-tier class, the Railways said on Saturday.

The new 3AC economy class coaches will have 83 berths as against 72 in regular 3AC coaches. Regular 3AC coaches have two side berths, which will be increased to three in the new coaches.

The fare is determined to be 2.4 times the base price of existing sleeper class of mail and express trains, officials said. They said 50 such coaches have been

given to different zonal railways.

The newly produced coaches will be attached to existing mail/express trains. In trains running with maximum length, these will replace sleeper class coaches, a Railways Ministry spokesperson said.

The base fare for up to 300 km will be Rs 440, which is the lowest according to the distance, while the highest base fare is Rs 3,065 for travel between 4,951 and 5,000 km, the spokesperson said.

The latest zone to get these coaches is the North Central Railway, which is set to use them in train no. 02403 (Prayagraj-Jaipur express) from September 6, and bookings have been opened from Saturday, officials said. These passenger-friendly coaches have 83 berths and the fare is lower

compared to regular 3AC coaches, they said.

The 3AC economy mail/express/superfast coaches will have normal child fare rules as applicable for existing 3AC coaches of mail/express trains. Concession or free complimentary passes will be at par with the existing 3AC coaches of mail/express trains, an official said.

The eligibility of privilege pass/PTO for railway employees will be at par with the eligibility in 3AC coaches of mail/express trains. Cancellation and refund rules and all other terms and conditions of travel will be at par with the existing 3AC to CC class, they said.

The Railways has planned around 806 new coaches to be rolled out by this fiscal.

BONE HEALTH AND OSTEOPOROSIS

Osteoporosis is a disease of progressive bone loss associated with an increased risk of fractures. The term osteoporosis literally means porous bone. The disease often develops unnoticed over many years, with no symptoms or discomfort until a fracture occurs. Bone loss and bone growth are part of a normal life cycle for any individual, but the problem of osteoporosis arises when the rate of bone loss is faster than that of bone growth. There are several factors that can lead to osteoporosis –

AGING

Everyone loses bone with age. After 35 years of age, the body builds less new bone to replace the loss of old bone. In general, the older you are, the lower your total bone mass and the greater your risk for osteoporosis.

HEREDITY

A family history of fractures; a small, slender body build; fair skin; and Caucasian or Asian ethnicity can increase the risk for osteoporosis. Heredity also may help explain why some people develop osteoporosis early in life.

NUTRITION AND LIFESTYLE

Poor nutrition, including a low calcium diet, low body weight, and a sedentary lifestyle have been linked to osteoporosis, as have smoking and excessive alcohol use.



DIRECTOR And HEAD

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MEDICATIONS AND OTHER ILLNESSES

Osteoporosis has been linked to the use of some medications, including steroids, and to other illnesses, including some thyroid problems.

Any of these factors individually or a combination, may result in fragile bones susceptible to fractures even while doing simple daily activities. Osteoporosis-related fractures

are associated with considerable pain, suffering, disability, and possibly even death in some cases, for the affected patients. It may affect any bone but most commonly affected are the bones of the hip and spine. In addition, osteoporosis causes some patients to lose height, stooped or hunched posture, may limit mobility, which often leads to feelings of isolation or depression.

Increasing life expectancy has resulted in an increasing number of ageing population globally; life expectancy at present is ~67 years in India and is expected to increase to 71 years by 2025 and to 77 years by 2050. Further, ~10% of the Indian population is older than 50 years at present; however, these figures are likely to go up to 34% by 2050. Thus, adding to the risk of osteoporosis. At present, India is home to a very large population of osteoporosis patients.

YOU NOW MUST BE ASKING, IS THERE ANYTHING THAT I CAN DO TO SLOW DOWN OSTEOPOROSIS? I WOULD OFFER THE FOLLOWING ADVICE –

Develop a balanced diet - The health and strength of our bones rely on a balanced diet and a steady stream of nutrients, most importantly, calcium and Vitamin D. Calcium is not made in the body – it must be absorbed from the foods we eat. To effectively absorb calcium from food, our

bodies need vitamin D. There are several nutritional supplements available in the market today that can fulfill the calcium and vitamin D requirements of your body. Your doctor can help you choose the one best suited to your needs.

Build a regular weight bearing exercise regime – Bones adapt based on the stress or demands placed on them. When you work your muscles, they put stress on your bones. In response, your bone tissue remodels and becomes stronger. In this way, you effectively lower the rate of natural bone loss in your body.

Prevent falls – Falling down can cause a bone to break, especially in someone with osteoporosis. But most falls can be prevented. Check your home for dangers like loose rugs and poor lighting. Have your vision checked regularly. Increase your balance and strength by walking every day.

Test the strength of your bones – Knowing how strong your bones are is the only way to know for sure if you have osteoporosis. The most widely used is a scan called dual energy X-ray absorptiometry (DXA or DEXA). The test determines bone health and your risk of fracture due to osteoporosis. Ask your doctor to include it in your annual check up the next time you see him.

ADVERTORIAL

Issued in Public Interest by Dr. Atul Mishra

National Sports Day
GOLDEN RUN FOR 2024

The momentum of merit, as witnessed in the Olympic Games, must be maintained at the grassroots level at all times with consistent performance benchmarks. That means equally stringent coaching, diet and fitness standards from the school level



"IT was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Nobody could have proved the Dickensian observation true in the Indian context than our champions at the Tokyo Olympics, who won the highest number of medals in the history of the Games. Best because such a haul came in the worst of times, India battling a disastrous bout of the pandemic as we struggled to save lives and got busy with the grim reality of fighting to live another day. Best because our medal winners fought the worst of odds with grace under pressure, courage under fire, grit in the face of adversity and resilience despite denial. There was no dream factory that groomed them, Tokyo was their only opportunity to rewrite their destiny. For some, an Olympian feat was about clambering out of poverty, a matter of livelihood. For others, it was about carving a neutral identity, breaking free from the mould of their origins and expectations.

For women, it was about empowerment and jumping over many hurdles of patriarchy, misogyny, bias and humiliation. And as the women's hockey team will tell you, you can win with an undying spirit. So what if only six per cent of women feature in professional sports despite producing more medal winners from that tiny talent pool. For yet others, it was about the refusal to be marginalised by the world. But in the end it was a triumph of self-will and determination, of human effort.

So questions will always be raised about how long can we go on raw talent and passion when we should have a scientific system in place to produce more medallists for a country of our size, considering sports feats are usually seen as one of the markers of development. How then does one explain the athlete glories from Caribbean countries like Jamaica or African countries like Kenya? It is true

that the US and China have spent huge budgets on sports infrastructure, talent and the big Games economy, more than hundred times over what we spend per capita on sports development. However, over the years, the funding has seen an uptick with increased allocations to the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and corporates coming forward to professionalise many disciplines, sharpen training and infrastructure backup and ensuring exposure to global competitions. Professional leagues in football, hockey and tournaments in individual sports have undoubtedly whetted talent and kept it competition-ready. But this hasn't been reflected on medal tallies at world events.

Talent scouting still needs to be done scientifically, sports management needs to be depoliticised and left to experts while an efficient mapping must be done on investing in disciplines with the best medal prospects.

We must legitimise sports as a key element of school education to find and nurture talent. The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP) mandates sports education to become a part of school curriculum. Some States like Haryana have operationalised this mantra of "catching them young" at the primary school level, which explains the State's comparative medal prowess. The momentum of merit must be maintained at the grassroots level at all times with consistent performance benchmarks. That means equally stringent coaching, diet and fitness standards at the junior level. As for athletes, a one-time reward is not enough to keep him/her motivated. A job guarantees security and beyond star performers, many athletes do not have it. And there's no rehabilitation package to fall back on their sunset years. There are four more years before Paris. The potential is there. All we need is the right mechanism to harness it.

MIRABAI CHANU
Silver, women's 49 kg weightlifting
With an 87 kg lift in the snatch, and a 115 kg lift in the clean and jerk, she won a silver medal, losing to Hou Zhihui of the People's Republic of China. She hitched rides with truck drivers carrying sand to save money for her training trips.

PV SINDHU
Bronze, women's singles badminton
After Tokyo, she is the only Indian female athlete to win multiple Olympic medals. She is the second Indian to win a medal twice in individual events at the Olympic Games. She is the fifth female shuttler to win two Olympic singles medals. She has broken the formidable monopoly of the Chinese winning machine.

LOVLINA BORGOHAIN
Bronze, women's welterweight boxing
Lovlina Borgohain began as a compatriot of boxing legend Mary Kom. She defeated 2018 world champion Chen Nien-Chin in the quarterfinals, with the tally closing at 4-1.

MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM
Bronze
Carrying the burden of a medal drought for 41 years, they could have easily crumbled after being defeated 5-2 by eventual champions Belgium in the semifinals. During their bronze playoff against Germany, a medal seemed elusive as India was looking at a 3-1 scoreline. The team came back with four goals in seven minutes.

RAVI KUMAR DAHIYA
Silver, men's 57 kg wrestling
On his Olympic debut, Dahiya has

become only the second Indian wrestler to win an Olympic silver medal. An ordinary farmer's son, he has also maintained our wrestling tradition of returning with at least one medal from every Olympic Games since 2008.

BAJRANG PUNIA
Bronze, men's 65 kg wrestling
Battling hiccups in the initial stages, Punia made a clean 8-0 victory and gave India its sixth wrestling medal at the Olympics since 2008.

NEERAJ CHOPRA
Gold, men's javelin throw
Chopra's first attempt in the final was marked at 87.03m. He became the second individual Olympic champion after Abhinav Bindra (2008, men's air rifle 10m). A first for India in athletics.



Steadfast ATHLETE
NILAKANTA SHARMA
INDIAN HOCKEY PLAYER

Steadfast
CONSORTIUM

ON NATIONAL SPORTS DAY

August 29, 2021

WE THANK YOU!

We at Steadfast take this opportunity to thank all our Olympians for making India shine at the Tokyo Olympics 2020. We are immensely proud of you.



6 GOVT & POLITICS

BENGAL POST-POLL VIOLENCE

CBI arrests 2 in Nadia, files 10 more cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 28

THE CBI on Saturday arrested two people in connection with a case related to alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal. The agency also filed 10 more cases, taking the number of cases it has registered to 21.

The two people arrested were identified as Bijoy Ghosh and Ashima Ghosh. They have been held in connection with an alleged attack on BJP supporter Dharma Mandal in Nadia district's Chapra area on May 14.

In a statement, the agency said it conducted searches at 15 locations in connection with the attack on Mandal. He suffered serious injuries while trying to save one of his relatives who was allegedly being beaten up by the eight accused named in a complaint, officials said.

In the complaint, Mandal's brother Ayan said members of his family and residents of Hridaypur village were known BJP supporters. On May 14, the accused beat up their relative, Sanajit Mandal, and dragged him to a nearby locality, he alleged. The complainant, Dharma, and his nephew Saurav went to save Sanajit when the accused also allegedly assaulted them, according to FIR.

One of the accused, Ujjal Ghosh, allegedly hit Dharma on head with a sharp weapon, leaving him grievously injured, read the FIR registered on August 25. The CBI has invoked IPC Sections 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 307 (attempt to murder), 325 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt), 326 (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons), and 341 (wrongful restraint).

The CBI had taken over probe into these cases on an order of the High Court.

The first case on the list was earlier registered at Dinhat police station in Coochbehar district on allegations that the accused abducted the complainant's nephew on May 3, and took him to Rajaghora river. The victim's bloodied body was found on the river bank. The police took him to Dinhat hospital but he died during treatment, according to CBI.

The second case was registered at Sitalkuchi in Coochbehar after a man accused another of killing his brother, leaving the body in a bamboo field near their home. The third case was earlier registered at Jagaddal in North Parganas after the complainant alleged that the accused, along with others, vandalised his home. The complainant said his mother died of injuries at Kalyani JNM Hospital.

One case filed by CBI was earlier registered at Jamalpur in Purba Bardhaman district. The accused, along with unidentified people, allegedly vandalised the complainant's house while look-

Mamata: 16 TMC workers killed, 5 from BJP dead

Kolkata: Having denied any post-poll violence in the state so far, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday claimed that 16 TMC workers had been killed and only five BJP men had died since the elections. Addressing the media, she criticised the National Human Rights Commission and said, "I have no problem with the CBI; let NHRC work impartially. They had a BJP leader accompanying (the team). While the report says five people from BJP were killed in post-poll violence, 16 other victims were from TMC. Did you send a human rights team to Hathras, to Tripura? I am sorry to say, NHRC members are BJP cadres." **ENS**

ing for him and his son. The complainant's wife reportedly died after being struck with a sharp weapon.

The fifth case was earlier registered at Ilambazar police station in Birbhum. This too was about the alleged vandalism of the complainant's home. The complainant's elder son died on the spot while his other son and their friend were severely injured, FIR states.

The sixth case was earlier registered at Sitalkuchi on a complaint that unidentified men had arbitrarily beaten her husband and shot him. He was taken to Dinhat Hospital where he died during treatment. The seventh case was earlier registered at Mollarpur station in Birbhum on allegations that seven men had attacked the complainant's father, who died during treatment.

The eighth case now filed by CBI was earlier registered at Liluah in Howrah district. The accused allegedly vandalised the complainant's home, and not finding him, sexually harassed his wife. The family fled the area after the complainant was attacked a few days later. When the family tried to return, the accused allegedly demanded Rs 10 lakh.

The ninth case was earlier registered in Liluah after the accused allegedly attacked the complainant's home and molested her two daughters. The accused also allegedly vandalised their home.

The final case filed by CBI was earlier registered at Kankurtala station in Birbhum on allegations that the accused attacked the complainant, and his family with an iron rod, and bamboo sticks. During the attack, the complainant's brother was killed.

(WITH PTI INPUTS)

Mamata calls for meeting of CMs of non-BJP states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 28

ACCUSING THE Narendra Modi government at the Centre of trying to "bulldoze the federal structure" of India, and snatching the rights of the states, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday proposed a meeting of the chief ministers of non-BJP states to fight against "the Centre's authoritarianism".

Referring to the BJP's resounding poll defeat in West Bengal, during her address on the foundation day of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), the chief minister said, "Khela [The game] is over in West Bengal, it will happen in Tripura, Assam and Delhi in 2024. They [BJP] are harassing Uddhav Thackeray and Arvind Kejriwal for everything. They will only use their photo on vaccine certificates. I ask them to use their photo on death certificates. Even my state was using my photo on Covid certificate, but I refused and asked to use the national flag."

Targeting the Centre's National



Mamata Banerjee addresses the TMC's students' wing TMCP, in Kolkata. CMO

Monetisation Pipeline policy, Banerjee alleged that the BJP government was trying to sell the country's assets. "The government is trying to sell off the country. Railways, airports, PSUs, they want to sell everything off. Can you sell the soil of the country?" said the chief minister.

The chief minister also hit out at the Centre over its Afghanistan evacuation policy.

Referring to the Central Armed Police Forces exam paper that had listed questions related to "poll violence in Bengal", the TMC chairperson said the Union government was trying to "divide the central forces now".

Ex-minister, Mukhtar's brother join SP; BJP slams 'mafia link'

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 28

WITH THE Assembly elections getting closer, the Samajwadi Party on Saturday inducted gangster-turned-politician Mukhtar Ansari's brother Sibghatullah Ansari and former minister Ambika Chaudhary into the party.

The induction of Ansari, who is a former MLA from Mohammadabad constituency in Ghazipur district, drew criticism from the BJP, with the ruling party asking what the relationship between "mafia Mukhtar's brother and SP would be called".

Mukhtar Ansari, a BSP leader and five-time MLA from Mau, is currently in jail, while Sibghatullah's other brother Afzal Ansari is a BSP MP from Ghazipur. The Ansari family has sizeable influence in eastern UP districts such as Ghazipur, Ballia, Mau, Azamgarh and Varanasi.

Speaking after Sibghatullah and Chaudhary joined the SP, party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "It will be my attempt that all of Netaji's (Mulayam Singh Yadav's) close people join the party..."



Ambika Chaudhary (left); Sibghatullah Ansari join SP in the presence of Akhilesh Yadav in Lucknow.

Chaudhary appeared emotional on stage at the party headquarters. In 2017, Chaudhary, a long-time aide to Mulayam Singh Yadav, had left the SP saying he was saddened by the way the SP patriarch was treated by his son and then CM Akhilesh.

Contacted by *The Sunday Express*, Chaudhary said that he quit the BSP as he was not given any major responsibility in the party. He refused to comment when asked if his concern regarding treatment of Mulayam by the SP was resolved. Sibghatullah, a former MLA, said that he quit the BSP because



Vishal Srivastava

no one in the party supported his family when they needed it. "No one in the BSP spoke about the injustice being meted out to my brother who is in jail. From the tallest leaders to party workers, no one raised their voice for my brother and family. Akhilesh-ji, despite being in SP, has spoken about it and has tried to heal our wounds. He is a popular leader with a very wide support base," said Sibghatullah. Asked if his brothers may follow him to the SP, he said, "I have joined the SP independently. It has nothing to do with my brothers' future."

After the joining, the UP unit of the BJP tweeted, "This is the real face of the Samajwadi Party. They want to be in power at any cost even if that means shaking hands with mafia Mukhtar Ansari's family. They should not forget who the Chief Minister of UP is."

Reacting to the allegations, SP national spokesperson Juhie Singh said that it is wrong to associate crimes of a person with his entire family. "We welcome Sibghatullah Ansari into the party and he represents his constituency as a leader, and that is what matters," said Singh.

Considering legal action against Parab, studying all options: BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 28

THE BJP on Saturday said it is considering legal action against Shiv Sena leader and Transport Minister Anil Parab for what it termed as "blatant misuse" of power by pressuring the police to arrest Union Minister Narayan Rane in Ratnagiri on Tuesday.

On Saturday, state BJP president Chandrakant Patil said, "We have initiated the process to gather facts and consult legal and constitutional experts."

"We are studying all possible options. The video clip showing Shiv Sena Minister Anil Parab ordering police to arrest Rane at any cost is being looked into. It has reached every household because of social media," he added.

Patil said there was a view within the party that it should file a case against Parab, also the parliamentary affairs minister. "How can a state minister issue such an arrest order? He is not the home minister of Maharashtra," he added.

Earlier this week, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had called Rane to inquire about the developments that led to his arrest during the Jan Ashirwad Yatra.

Meanwhile, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday called Rane to inquire about his health. Rane, who is currently undertaking Jan Ashirwad Yatra at Kankavli in Sindhudurg, was quoted as saying to Singh: "My health is fine... Strangely, someone spread rumours about my health, which are totally baseless..."

Cong's Kerala chief: If progressive, CM should have married off daughter to Dalit

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 28

CONGRESS' KERALA working president Kodikunnil Suresh Saturday courted controversy by saying that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should have married off his daughter to a Scheduled Caste person if he were a truly progressive leader.

Suresh, an MP and prominent Dalit leader, was speaking at a dhama against the alleged misappropriation of SC/ST welfare funds involving CPI(M) leaders.

Suresh said Vijayan had earned a name for being progressive after allowing the entry of women into the Sabarimala Temple. "If Vijayan were a true renaissance leader, he would have married off his daughter to a Scheduled Caste person. CPI(M) has several good young men from Scheduled Caste," he said.

The Congress leader accused Vijayan of neglecting the Dalit community. "The neglect was evident in the formation of the ministry and appointments. Making a Dalit as devaswom (temple affairs) minister was celebrated. At the same time, Vijayan had ap-



K Suresh, Pinarayi Vijayan

pointed his conscience keeper to rein in that Dalit minister," he said, referring to the appointment of K Radhakrishnan as temple affairs minister. Later, former MP A Sampath was made his private secretary.

Even after his comments drew flak from political leaders, Suresh stuck to them, saying he had made an accidental reference to a topic which had been debated by society at large.

A A Rahim, state secretary of DYFI, the youth wing of ruling CPI(M), said the Congress leader's comments were anti-women and against the perspective of a modern society. "His statements are regressive. Any adult has the freedom to pick up his or her life partner. It shows Congress is being led by persons who are yet to embrace a perspective of modern society," he said.

No other state should get CM like Maharashtra: Rane

VALLABHOZARKAR
SINDHUDURG, AUGUST 28

UNION MINISTER and BJP leader Narayan Rane kept up his attack on the Shiv Sena and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government as he continued his Jan Ashirwad Yatra in his stronghold Sindhudurg in Konkarn.

While speaking at Oras in Sindhudurg, Rane, without naming anyone, said: "Covid-19 deaths in the state are the highest in the country... They are number 1 in killing people (due to Covid-19)."

"No other state should get a chief minister like this, who doesn't get out of home... doesn't even go to Mantralaya. He is a caged tiger

Rane needed to be reined in legally: Sanjay Raut

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 28

ATTACKING UNION Minister and BJP leader Narayan Rane over his criticism of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Shiv Sena, party MP Sanjay Raut on Saturday said that legal action had been taken against Rane as he had been using "insulting language" frequently.

Raut, while speaking at a party event in Nashik, said that since Rane became a Union minister, he has been constantly attacking Thackeray, Sena and the



His tongue slipped repeatedly: Sanjay Raut

Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. "Since his tongue was slipping repeatedly, he needed to be reined in legally. The chief minister has done it. The language of the ministers should be polite. The one who takes the oath under the Constitution needs to maintain the civility and dignity of the post," Raut told party workers.

Virtual exhibitions launched to mark 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

UNION MINISTERS Anurag Thakur and G Kishan Reddy, accompanied by ministers of state L Murugan, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakshi Lekhi, inaugurated an e-photo exhibition titled 'Making of the Constitution' and a virtual film poster exhibition called 'Chitrangali@75'.

The event was organised as part of the 'Iconic Week' being celebrated by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, along with various media units, to mark the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. It is aims to showcase the journey of "new India" and celebrate the contribution of freedom fighters, including the "unsung heroes" of the freedom struggle.

Speaking at the event, Union I&B minister Anurag Thakur said the purpose of the e-photo exhibition is to inform people about the making of the



Union ministers at an event held as part of 'Iconic Week' being celebrated by I&B Ministry to mark 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. I&B Minister Anurag Thakur announced that the government will soon run a 'Know Your Constitution' programme to encourage youths to partner in efforts to propagate the founding principles of the Constitution.

Constitution. The minister announced that the government will soon run a 'Know Your Constitution' programme to encourage the youth to partner in efforts to propagate the founding principles of the Constitution.

Speaking about the virtual poster exhibition, the minister said, "Chitrangali@75 represents 75 years of Indian cinema and I am sure it's going to evoke sacred memories of our freedom fighters, our social reformers and the valour of our soldiers."

'Petty, ahistorical': Cong slams ICHR for 'omitting' Nehru pic

Controversy unnecessary, no ulterior motive, says Council

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE CONGRESS on Saturday criticised the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR) for omitting Jawaharlal Nehru's image from a digital poster on the 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75th year of India's Independence.

The Council, on the other hand, called the controversy "unnecessary" and said there was no ulterior motive behind its choice of freedom fighters for the poster. ICHR Member Secretary K Ratnam told *The Sunday Express* that the Council is not into pitting one icon against another.

The controversy began on Friday when several leaders of the Congress party shared screenshots of the 'Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' poster on the ICHR website. The poster carries photographs of

Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, B R Ambedkar, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Madan Mohan Malviya and VD Savarkar.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh termed the move "atrocious" while party spokesperson Gaurav Gogoi said no country removes the first prime minister from a website about the freedom struggle and said it was "petty" and "injustice".

"It is not merely petty but absolutely ahistorical to celebrate Azadi by omitting the pre-eminent voice of Indian freedom, Jawaharlal Nehru. One more occasion for ICHR to disgrace itself. This is becoming a habit!" Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor posted on Twitter.

"Not surprising from this regime and its toadies masquerading as scholars but atrocious nevertheless," his party colleague and Rajya Sabha MP Jairam

Ramesh added. "ICHR's removal of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Abul Kalam Azad is petty and an injustice. India will not forget that the RSS chose to stay away from the Indian freedom movement," the party's deputy leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said.

When asked for a comment, Ratnam told this newspaper, "Just because one icon is not on the poster doesn't mean we are denying them their legacy. We could have accommodated everyone. We have Bhagat Singh on the poster. Does that mean we do not acknowledge what Chandra Shekhar Azad did for the freedom struggle? Similarly, how can we deny Jawaharlal Nehru's contributions? This is an unnecessary controversy... This is just one poster. There will be more since this is an ongoing celebration and we will try to accommodate as many freedom fighters as we can."



Indian Army seeks 350 light tanks for fighting adversaries in South Asia

WHEN Chinese troops ingressed past the Line of Actual Control (LAC) into Ladakh, it was a wake-up call for the Indian Army. Fighting the aggressor at high altitude battlefields, it realised the need to buy some firepower by way of light battle tanks and retain its strategic edge.

As China amassed its battle tanks at the Depsang Plains in April 2020, the Indian Army began the search for light battle tanks with a Request for Information (RFI) to buy 350 of them.

The RFI came nearly a year after the Indian Army got the government approval for emergency procurement of the light battle tanks for its critical defensive and offensive role along the LAC. The Army proposed a new generation fighting machine that is less than 25-tonne in weight, transportable by air and would easily augment its firepower in high-altitude areas.

According to RFI documents, the light battle tanks will be taken up under the 'Make in India' initiative and the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) template of 2020, with requisite transfer of technology.

During the face-off with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China in eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army had managed to deploy its heavier Russian-origin T-90S and T-72 main-battle tanks, each weighing between 40 and 50 tonnes, against the lighter Chinese variants.

Some of these heavier tanks were also taken up to the Rezang La—Rechin La heights in the Kailash Range to the south of Pangong Tso (lake) in late August last year in a counter move that surprised the Chinese. However, these



heavier tanks are facing terrain-related restrictions that may handicap operations. As the RFI said, the proposed light tanks' "physical dimensions should not impede its transportability by rail, road, air and water."

With a capacity to accommodate a three-member crew and thermal night-fighting capabilities, the light tanks should have weapons for anti-aircraft and ground roles, including smart munitions with gun tube-launched anti-tank guided missiles.

"In the foreseeable operational scenario, the need for an agile and mobile light platform, with adequate firepower, protection, surveillance and communication capabilities is increasingly finding its operational relevance," said the RFI documents.

The light tanks must have the versatility to execute operations in varying terrain conditions, across diverse threats and equipment profiles of ad-

versaries, as well as have "rapid overseas deployment capability."

The RFI also sought information on the vendors' capability to offer other features such as anti-drone capability, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle jammers and some Artificial Intelligence technologies.

India's options would be limited if it were to procure light tanks off the shelf from foreign vendors as only a few make them. Even the United States (US) has recently embarked on a Mobile Protected Firepower Programme through BAE Systems for a light tank, which is now at a prototype stage.

Russia has an air-liftable Sprut SDM1 light tank that is sold to international customers by Rosoboronexport. It has commonalities with the T-72 and T-90 that are a major part of India's armoured forces inventory. But clearly, India has no option but to prioritise the best that global innovation has to offer.

Pioneering Self-Reliance in Shipbuilding — Enhancing Nation's Maritime Capability

GRSE's story of pioneering warship & portable steel bridges construction in India is as much about nation-building of India. Being the only Indian shipyard to build and deliver over 100 warships (107 to-date) and over 5300 portable steel bridges meeting the requirements of Indian & International maritime & land forces, the shipyard has several firsts to its credit. From building the 1st indigenous warship of independent India for the Indian Navy in 1961 to constructing the 1st Indian Coast Guard Ship in 1980, building the first and only indigenous Fleet Replenishment Tanker INS Aditya, delivering the 1st warship for export, to delivering ASW Corvettes & LCUs with 90% indigenous content, GRSE has come a long way since becoming a DPSU in 1960.

From 5-ton boats to 24600-ton Fleet Replenishment Tanker, the shipyard has proven capabilities in design & construction of warships & other vessels. Frigates, Corvettes, Amphibious Landing Ships, Fleet Tanker, Survey Vessels, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Fast Attack Crafts, Fast Interceptor Boats, Hovercrafts etc. - the repertoire is rich & varied.

The Shipyard has modern infrastructure in line with the best in the world & has a 100+ strong design



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi handed over GRSE built FPV SCG PS Zoroaster to the President of Republic of Seychelles, His Excellency Wavel Ramkalawan



Launch of 1st P17A Advanced Frigate



The Leadership Team

team supporting the efficient Project Management and Production teams. Further, a State-of-the-Art Virtual Reality Lab aids in reduced cycle time for shipbuilding & developing better ergonomics. The Design House of GRSE has been recognised by the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology for its performance. GRSE is currently executing six

shipbuilding projects involving 17 ships including three Advanced Frigates, four Survey Vessel (Large) & eight ASW Shallow Water Crafts for the Indian Navy, one FPV for Indian Coast Guard and one Ocean Going Passenger cum Cargo Ferry for Republic of Guyana. The shipyard has also won an order for six patrol boats for Bangladesh Govt on competitive basis.

A Miniratna Category 1 Company under the Ministry of Defence, Govt. of India, GRSE is an ISO 9001-2015, PCMM Level II Certified Company listed on BSE & NSE. The shipyard has been recognized for its performance with prestigious awards including Defence Minister's 'Best Performing Shipyard' Trophy for four years in a row, and award for in-house design of the OPV, CGS Barracuda for Mauritius.

GRSE's strategies revolve around shifting to smart manufacturing (Industry 4.0), with innovations in automation, robotics and the industrial internet of things. Introducing Artificial Intelligence,

Machine Learning, Interoperability and secured connectivity enabling real time monitoring, control and optimization of processes, resources and systems shall enable workload consolidation across Design, Production & Supply Chain Management, significantly in the future. With all this and more, GRSE is truly poised to transform into a world leader in Shipbuilding & Engineering.

CONGRATULATIONS to India on its Independence Day from Pratt & Whitney. We have powered India's aerospace and defence growth for over seven decades and we are committed to propelling India's future ambitions. As makers of the world's most advanced jet engines, Pratt & Whitney is proud to power Indian Air Force's (IAF) leading platforms. Our F117 engines power IAF's C-17 Globemaster IIIs that carry out critical humanitarian and military missions, including India's fight with the COVID-19 pandemic. India's young pilots earn their wings on PT6A powered PC-7 Pilatus trainers. With India's push for self-reliance, we look forward to collaborating on various possible fronts, including India's indigenous NAL-SARAS aircraft, the PW127G on the C295 and the F100-PW-229 on the F-15EX."

ASHMITA SETHI, President and Country Head, Pratt & Whitney

AS INDIA progresses towards its 'Aatmanirbharta' vision, it has opened up massive opportunities for both local and global organisations to work together and strengthen the country's industrial ecosystem. Thales has been a trusted partner of India for decades, contributing significantly to the country's growth across defence, aerospace, digital identity, security and transportation sectors. We are proud to have built long-term partnerships with the Indian industry and academia and have a strong team of over 1,800 employees who are working with us and our JVs in India. Going forward, we look forward to leveraging our expertise in digital technologies such as unmanned systems, cybersecurity, IoT, AI, big data, among others, across sectors to support the country's digital transformation mission while continuing to strengthen our local teams, collaborations and innovation ecosystem to contribute to the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India.

ASHISH SARAF, Vice President and Country Director for Thales in India

INTERVIEW | Rear Admiral VK SAXENA, IN (Retd.), Chairman & Managing Director, GRSE

GRSE now poised for global markets

How is GRSE moving towards self-reliance?

We at GRSE are proud of the fact that the First Indigenous Warship of Independent India, INS Ajay was built and delivered to Indian Navy in 1961 by GRSE and so was the First Warship to Indian Coast Guard, CGS Rajahans in 1980. GRSE is also, the only Indian Shipyard to have delivered 107 warships. Over the years, GRSE has established well proven capabilities for in-house ship design & shipbuilding and has made significant contribution to the success of indigenous warship construction program. With modernized integrated construction facility and augmentation of infrastructure across its three ship production locations, the shipyard can concurrently undertake construction of 20 ships including 8 large and 12 medium to small ships. This strength is backed by a 100-member strong multidisciplinary in-house design team and thus, GRSE is poised to cater to the current & future requirements of the Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard.

With 90 % indigenous content on board Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes & Landing Craft Utility Ships delivered to Indian Navy, the shipyard in its journey over the years, has remained committed to its resolve of achieving self-reliance in maritime security. GRSE



has emerged as a leading shipyard of India, building a wide array of vessels, from Fast Attack Crafts to state-of-the-art Frigates. The shipyard is currently executing 6 projects for 23 vessels including 3 prestigious warship projects of the Indian Navy, one of the Indian Coast Guard and a project each from the Republic of Guyana & Govt. of Bangladesh.

Apart from shipbuilding & ship repair, GRSE is a diversified engineering company having delivered over 5300 portable steel bridges to Indian Army, BRO & other organizations in India & also to neighborhood countries. This shipyard also manufactures Deck Machinery Items which are supplied even to other shipyards in the country. We also have an Engine Plant at Ranchi, Jharkhand from where we provide indigenous product support for MTU Engines operated by the IN and ICG.

This is an organization that caters to requirements of the maritime forces on one hand and land forces on the other. I can confidently say that the nation needs to look no farther than GRSE for her maritime needs.

How is GRSE focusing on enhancing its footprint in the global market?

This shipyard has the unique distinction of building the first warship for export from India, a Multirole Offshore Patrol Vessel, CGS Barracuda for the Govt. of Mauritius. Taking the export initiative forward, GRSE amidst the pandemic, delivered an FPV to the Republic of Seychelles in 2021 & has recently bagged two export orders on competitive bidding, from Bangladesh & the Republic of Guyana as mentioned by me earlier. All this bears testimony to GRSE's emphasis on exports and re-aligning marketing strategies to match with the dynamic global environment. With proven expertise of having delivered 10 Corvette Class Warships, 08 Landing Crafts and a large number of Fast Attack Crafts & Fast Patrol Vessels over the years, GRSE is well placed to deliver quality ships to friendly nations and establish our footprint across the globe.

GRSE has been a pioneer in manufacturing pre-fabricated steel bridges in India and has

supplied these bridges to neighborhood countries including Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar & Sri Lanka.

How is GRSE handling the COVID situation?

The shipyard maintained strict protocols and ensured all possible support and assistance to its Officers & employees during these trying times. The shipyard has established a dedicated COVID care response team working 24x7 along with a dedicated COVID vaccination centre set up within our premises for the employees. The shipyard has continued its CSR initiatives focused towards Covid Relief & Prevention and is taking up projects with major hospitals & other stakeholders in the state of West Bengal towards setting up oxygen plants, distribution of oxygen cylinders etc. Amidst the COVID 19 pandemic imposed challenges, the shipyard continued to meet its production milestones including the launch of the 1st P17A Advanced Frigate ahead of schedule, delivery of three major warships, keel laying of five ships & start production on four ships since March 2020. GRSE continues to remain focused & determined in its commitment towards its customers.

Indo-Russian joint exercise for security cooperation

THE 12TH edition of the Indo-Russian joint military exercise, IN-DRA 2021, was held at Volgograd, Russia from August 1 to 13. It was pivoted on the conduct of counter-terror operations under the United Nations (UN) mandate by a joint force against international terror groups.

A total of 250 personnel from both nations took part. The Indian Army contingent, comprising a Mech-



anised Infantry Battalion, underwent rigorous training at different locations

in India to refine its drills for participation in the joint exercise.

INDRA-21 further strengthened mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian armies besides enabling sharing of best practices. The exercise will be another milestone in strengthening security cooperation and will reinforce the long-standing bond of friendship between India and Russia.

गार्डन रीच शिपबिल्डर्स एण्ड इंजीनियर्स लिमिटेड

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COTTON, SOYABEAN PRICES UP

August dries up hopes of farmers, monsoon revival key to kharif fortune

GOPAL KATESHIYA & HARISH DAMODARAN
RAJKOT, NEW DELHI, AUG 28

RAO GULAB Singh Lodhi planted soyabean on 12 out of his 16 acres on July 11, a day before the south-west monsoon revived after a three-week-long “break” phase. “It rained well in the first half of June. But we were advised on DD Kisan channel not to sow, as those rains were due to the Cyclone (Yaas) and wouldn’t last,” says this farmer from Nanhegaon village of Madhya Pradesh’s Narsinghpur district. The strong rains on July 12-13 were followed by “rimjhim baarish (intermittent showers)” throughout July. August, however, has been “poora sookha (totally dry)”. If it doesn’t rain in the next seven days, “my soyabean crop (which has completed flowering and is in early pod formation stage) will fail,” fears Lodhi, who sowed moong (green gram) in his balance 4 acres on August 15. The maturity



Farmers on rally in Morbi, seeking Narmada waters

period for soyabean is 90-94 days and moong about 75 days. Lodhi’s worry encapsulates the situation for India’s kharif (monsoon) season crop. An extended dry spell from around June 20 to July 11 resulted in farmers missing the main kharif sowing window between mid-June and mid-July. The monsoon’s revival, though, led to brisk plantings. By July 30, the cumulative area under kharif crops, at 848.15 lakh

hectares (lh), was only 4.7% lower compared to the 889.99 lh during the corresponding period of 2020. This gap has further narrowed (1,064.04 lh versus 1,083.09 lh) as on August 27, according to the Union Agriculture Ministry. But what is of concern is rainfall in August being 26.4% deficient for the country as a whole. The overall area-weighted cumulative precipitation from June 1 to August 28 has been 9.6% below the “normal” long period average. The crop, whose sowing was already delayed, is currently facing moisture stress. All hopes are on a low pressure area formed over North-west and West-central Bay of Bengal off the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh coasts. The India Meteorological Department expects this system to bring enhanced rainfall activity over Southern Peninsular India until August 30 and over Central and West India from August 29 onwards. A quick revival of the monsoon is what Munna Ughreja is also desperately seeking. The 38-

year-old from Sultanpur village in Gujarat’s Morbi district has sown cotton on 100 out of his total 200-bigha (80 acres) holding. On the balance, he has planted groundnut and soyabean on 40 bigha each and sesamum on 20 bigha. On Saturday, Ughreja participated in a rally of farmers from 14 villages of Morbi’s Maliya taluka, demanding release of water into the Maliya Branch Canal of the Narmada dam project. Gujarat, unlike most other states, recorded deficient rainfall even during July. “We had a good spell in June. But it has hardly rained in the last 72 days, barring a light drizzle early this month. If there are no rains or no release of Narmada water now, our crops will completely wilt,” Ughreja told The Indian Express. Water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam irrigates some parts of Saurashtra (Morbi, Surendranagar, Botad and Bhavnagar districts) and Kutch (Rapar, Bhachau and Anjar talukas). But given the poor rain-

fall in the Narmada catchment areas, the Gujarat government has decided to prioritise supplies for drinking water over irrigation. High prices for crops – especially soyabean and also groundnut and cotton – had made farmers keen to take up sowing this time. Kapas (raw un-ginned cotton) and groundnut are trading at Rs 7,000 per quintal each, way above their respective government-declared minimum support price of Rs 5,726 and Rs 5,500. It’s even better in soyabean, which is quoting at Rs 6,700-7,400 per quintal at Narsinghpur’s Kareli wholesale mandi, as against the MSP of Rs 3,950. “What use are these prices if there isn’t any crop to harvest?” asks Lodhi. The sentiment is shared by Ughreja. He had sown soyabean for the first time after his groundnut crop suffered damage for two straight years – from excessive rains. “I took soyabean because the price was excellent and it can tolerate excess rains better than groundnut. But my experiment looks like failing,” he admits.

TRACKING THE **SECOND SURGE**

545
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 44,405
ACTIVE CASES: 3,68,754
VACCINATIONS: 62,29,89,134

DAILY DEATHS
451

TOTAL DEATHS
4,37,821

WEEKLY CFR
1.34%

OVERALL CFR
1.36%

TESTS TODAY: 19,10,939 | TOTAL TESTS: 51,87,98,541
WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 2.15% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.30%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES				
STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	31,265	205,361	18.21%	2,77,51,648
■ Maharashtra	4,831	51,821	2.38%	5,63,32,375
■ Tamil Nadu	1,551	17,559	1.00%	3,07,74,537
■ Andhra Pradesh	1,321	14,853	2.13%	2,77,97,949
■ Karnataka	1,229	18,923	0.73%	4,00,28,946

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS				
STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	153	20,545	0.75%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	129	140,546	3.05%	2.20%
■ Odisha	68	7,818	5.43%	0.79%
■ Tamil Nadu	21	34,856	1.26%	1.35%
■ Andhra Pradesh	19	13,807	0.77%	0.69%

Note: Data as on Aug 28; vaccination numbers as of Aug 27. Deaths include those from previous days.

Kerala: Case count stays high, CM says night curfew from Monday

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 28

WITH NO let up in the consistently high Covid-19 cases, the Kerala government Saturday decided to impose night curfew beginning Monday. It will give a larger role to the police in implementing preventive measures and convene a meeting of experts to chart out a course of action. On Saturday, for the fourth consecutive day, Kerala reported more than 30,000 new cases, contributing 70 per cent of the country’s daily addition of cases. The number of active cases in the state

rose to 2.04 lakh. This is at a time the entire country has an active caseload of 3.59 lakh. The test positivity rate has been above 18 per cent in Kerala and the same has been below 3 per cent at the national level for more than a month. After a meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told reporters that night curfew would be in place across the state from 10 pm to 6 am. Complete lockdown would be introduced in local bodies where the weekly infection population ratio (WIPR) is more than seven. Earlier, it had been 10. (WIPR is the total number of Covid-19 infections reported in a week multiplied by 1,000 and divided by the total

population of that local body). Vijayan said a meeting of health experts, doctors with experience of Covid treatment, and leading virologists would be held on September 1 “to analyse the present situation and to devise strategies for the way ahead.” In a departure from the practice of IAS officers being sent to districts for Covid-19 management, it was decided at the meeting to depute senior IPS officers. Besides, an officer of the rank of additional SP will function as Covid control nodal officer in each district. The CM said the spurt in cases was due to the easing of restrictions for the Onam festival.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE CENTRE Saturday extended its Covid-19 guidelines till September 30, asking states to ramp up testing and curb large gatherings during the festive season. It pointed to a “downward trend” in enforcing Covid-appropriate behaviour, which, it said, is a cause for concern in the wake of rising cases. The orders were issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Disaster Management Act. The order was followed by a letter from the Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla to chief Secretaries of all states and administrators of all Union Territories. “Enforcement of COVID-19



Covid testing at a Navi Mumbai hospital on Saturday. The Centre has asked states to ramp up testing. Amit Chakravarty

appropriate behavior is essential for tackling the pandemic on a sustained basis. Weekly Enforcement Data, received from States/UTs regarding wear-

ing face mask(s) in public, maintaining social distancing norms, imposition of fines etc., indicates a downward trend in enforcement. States and UTs are re-

quested to augment their enforcement efforts for effectively checking transmission of the disease,” Bhalla’s letter has said, asking states to make officers personally responsible for any laxity. Acknowledging that the pandemic is at a stable stage, Bhalla has cautioned states against complacency. “The overall pandemic situation at the national level now appears to be largely stable, except for the localised spread of the virus in a few States. Moreover, the total number of active cases and high case positivity in some districts continues to remain a matter of concern,” Bhalla said in the letter. Bhalla has asked states having high positivity in their districts to take proactive containment

measures to arrest the spike in cases and contain transmission. “It is important to identify warning signs of potential surges early on and to take appropriate measures to curb the spread. This would require a localized approach,” the letter has said. Bhalla advised states to take measures to curb large gatherings during the coming festive season and, if required, impose local restrictions with a view to curb such large gatherings. “In all crowded places, COVID Appropriate Behaviour should be strictly enforced. We need to continue focus on the five-fold strategy i.e. Test-Track-Treat-Vaccination and adherence to COVID Appropriate Behaviour, for effective management of COVID-19,” the letter said.

National Sports Day

Celebrating the many contributions of Indian sportspersons

National Sports Day not just marks the birth anniversary of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand but is also a day to commemorate India’s most famous wins and victories in the field of sports

CELEBRATED every year on August 29, National Sports Day marks the birth anniversary of India’s hockey wizard — Major Dhyan Chand. He is greatly remembered as the hockey player who won gold medals in Olympics for India in the years — 1928, 1932 and 1936. According to his autobiography, “Goals”, Major Dhyan Chand scored 570 goals in his career spanning from 1926 to 1949. No wonder, he is considered as a legendary figure in the Indian and world hockey who left an indelible mark on the international hockey arena whilst serving India to achieve pinnacles of glory multiple times. His magic with the stick can never be forgotten and, therefore, those who saw Dhyan Chand play remember him fondly as “India’s Hockey Wizard”. Recently, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna was renamed as the “Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna”. Announcing this, PM Modi tweeted, “I have been getting many requests from citizens across India to name the Khel Ratna Award after Major Dhyan Chand. I thank them for their views. Respecting their sentiment, the Khel Ratna Award will hereby be called the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award!” National Sports Day is in fact a day to celebrate the remarkable achievements of all those exemplary sportspersons who have represented India in various sports and made our nation proud. Celebrating this day is like saluting the tenacity and determination of our sportspersons. On this day, we not only pay tributes to Major Dhyan Chand but also laud the outstanding support given by the families, coaches and support staff towards the success of our talented athletes. It is the result of such support that India has over the years bettered its performance in various sporting events, be it hockey, cricket, shooting, world championships, Olympics etc. When it comes to sporting events, Olympics occupies a special place in the heart of Indians. For a country



like ours, no matter what the sporting event is, we always have high expectations from our sportspersons. During Olympics, these expectations are a notch higher. It’s never easy for our sportspersons to rise to the occasion to fulfil the expectations of over 130 billion people. In recent times, we have witnessed many such outstanding victories achieved by our sportspersons in various games. For instance, our Olympic champions showed great grit and dedication to deliver spirited performance in the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020. Like true champions, they demonstrated their inner strength and

mental resilience in making India register its best-ever performance at the Olympics, winning 7 medals, including 1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze. The whole country went into jubilation in extending its hearty congratulations to all the Olympians who made the mark with their exemplary wins, bringing fame and glory to the country. Some of the celebrated names associated with Indian sporting history are — P.T. Usha, Milkha Singh, Mary Kom, Abhinav Bindra, Sachin Tendulkar, Pullela Gopichand, Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Sania Mirza and Leander Paes, among others. One can never forget the day India went on to win its first ever Cricket World Cup in 1983, when the Kapil Dev led Indian Cricket Team rose to the occasion from being called “dark horse” to being “Champions” after defeating the indefatigable West Indies Team. Such wins not just create history but also strengthen the morale of generations to come. Similarly, one can never forget how Abhinav Bindra went on to win Gold medal for the Shooting event in the Beijing Olympics in 2008. India will also never forget the historic javelin throw of Neeraj Chopra, who not only scripted history by winning gold medal in Athletics ending the country’s 100-year wait, but also became the nation’s spotlight overnight. On the National Sports Day every year, the nation also honours its sporting heroes with recognitions such as the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna, Arjuna Award, Dhyan Chand Award and the Dronacharya Award. These are conferred in a special ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

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New Delhi

Post-graduates recruited for improving technical education demand absorption

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

POSTGRADUATES FROM top technical institutes across the country, who were recruited as faculty for the Ministry of Education's Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), have been protesting in New Delhi, demanding absorption in their project institutes.

Under the ongoing phase of the project, those protesting had been engaged as assistant professors in the institutes concerned

since January 2018, and the project is set to end on September 30. These faculty members are now pointing to a clause in the project implementation plan which stated that the funding under the project "will be based on an understanding with state governments that well-performing faculty hired using project funds will be retained post-project, all else unchanged".

They began their protest outside Shastri Bhavan on Wednesday.

TEQIP, initiated with the support of the World Bank, is a project aimed at improving the quality of technical education, especially in low-income states and 'special category' states by providing resources and highly qualified faculty members to existing engineering colleges.

In response to a question in the Lok Sabha last month on the employment of people involved in the project beyond its closure, Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Ministry of Education has written to the Chief Secretaries of Focus States requesting to plan for the continuation of activities undertaken during

TEQIP-III, for maintaining the quality of education."

However, an official in the Madhya Pradesh technical education department stated there were no administrative posts available under which they can be absorbed. The project implementation unit of Chhattisgarh has written to the institutes concerned that the faculty can only continue as guest faculty on an hourly basis, with a maximum pay of Rs 21,000 per month that TEQIP faculty members say is not comparable to the Rs 70,000 per month they were earning under the project.

Punjab Congress crisis: Rawat briefs Rahul, to visit Chandigarh

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 28

A DAY after meeting AICC chief Sonia Gandhi, party general secretary in-charge Harish Rawat on Saturday met Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Delhi and briefed him about the situation in Punjab.

After the meeting, Rawat told the media that the issues would be sorted out soon.

"I will come to Chandigarh within a day or two and meet both Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, PPCC (Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee) chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and other leaders. Everything will be sorted out."

About the revolt in the Punjab unit, Rawat said, "It is not good to call those leaders rebels. They are all very courteous people but they have their distinct styles of saying things. Calling them rebels is being unfair to them."

He added that he had also informed Congress president Sonia Gandhi about the situation, "We will sort this out with her guidance," he said.

FIR filed after locals object to Muslim man running dosa stall named 'Shrinath'

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

AN FIR has been filed at Mathura's Kotwali police station after some local residents allegedly objected to a Muslim man running a dosa stall that is named 'Shrinath'.

According to the FIR, the complainant, Irfan, alleged that some people came to his stall on August 18 and asked why he had named it 'Shrinath'.

The accused thereafter allegedly tore the banners and warned him to remove his eatery from Vikas Market in the city, according to the FIR.

Varun Kumar CO, City, Mathura, said: "A video on social media was brought to our notice in which some people can be heard making objectionable comments on the naming of a stall. An

FIR has been filed in connection with the case and we are ascertaining identity of the accused."

Workers at the eatery said it is owned by a local resident named Rahul, who pays them Rs 400 per day to run it. Irfan, who runs the stall — Shrinath Dosa Corner — said, "We have been running this eatery for the last five years; there has been no problem on the name. We did not even imagine there could be an issue. That day, some people came and tore the banners and said that Muslim people cannot run a shop with a Hindu name. They seemed to have had an issue with the name."

In a video that emerged on social media, some men can be seen purportedly heckling the dosa-seller. The accused can be heard purportedly telling Irfan that "Hindus would come to eat", as the stall is named Shrinath.

Dawood aide dies of Covid in Pak

Mumbai: Gangster Fahim Ahmed Sharif, also known as Fahim Machmach and believed to be a close associate of Dawood Ibrahim and Chhota Shakeel, died due to Covid-19 on Friday. Senior officers from Mumbai

Police crime branch said that he was declared dead at a hospital in Karachi. Sources in the crime branch said Machmach was wanted in several cases of extortion, murder and attempt to murder registered in Mumbai. ENS

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Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/hypothecated/Pledged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 30.09.2021. Details are as under:

Sl. No.	Name/Address/ Contact No./ A/c No. & IFSC Code of the Branch	Name and Address of the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagee(s)	Outstanding in Rs.	Details of Property	Reserve Price (in Rs) EMD Bid Multiplier
1.	Dibhiya Branch, Vill+ PO-Dibhiya, PS- Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas Bihar-821107 Mob: 8210998539 A/c No. 8359296000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008359	Borrower/ Mortgagee: M/s Bhawani Enterprises, Prop. Sri Santosh Mishra, S/o Late Karuna Shankar Mishra, Vill + PO-Barahari, PS-Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas, Bihar 821107. Guarantor: Sri Tej Narayan Rai, S/o Late Bishwanath Rai, Vill-Sawan Bahar, PO-Barki Akhori, PS-Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas, Bihar 821107.	Rs. 9,41,928.00/- as on 17.08.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Santosh Mishra, S/o Late Karuna Shankar Mishra, Khata No.43,80,69, Plot No.617,363,531,618, of Vill-Sawan Bahar, Thana No.329, Area-1.13¼ Acres and Khata No.93, Plot No.952 of Vill-Akhori, Thana No.130, Area-0.58 decimal. Total Area- 1.71¼ Acres [As per 13(2) and 13(4)]. Location: Vill-Sawan Bahar, PO-Barki Akhori, PS-Kargahar, Dist-Rohtas, Bihar 821107. Boundary (as per Possession Notice): North-Nagendra Mishra, South-Paras Nath Mishra, East-Gali, West-Dwarika Pathak.	₹10,00,000/- ₹1,00,000/- ₹10,000/-
2.	Hilsa Branch, Hilsa Patna Main Road, Bihar- 801302 Mob: 8210998546 A/c No. 8359296000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008359	Borrower/ Mortgagee: (a) M/s Kamdhenu Dairy Farm and Agro Industries, Prop. Sri Shailendra Kumar Verma, S/o Late Devnandan Singh, Vill+PO- Mirzapur, PS-Chiksaura, Sub district- Hilsa, Dist-Nalanda 802207. (b) Late Smt. Mala Verma, W/o Sri Shailendra Verma, Vill+PO- Mirzapur, PS-Chiksaura, Sub district- Hilsa, Dist-Nalanda 802207.	Rs. 30,62,593.00/- as on 17.08.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	1. EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Shailendra Verma, S/o Late Devnandan Singh, Khadra No.121, Plot No.232, Sub district- Hilsa, Dist-Nalanda, Total Area- 2.5 Dismal As per Possession Notice dated 12.10.2017. Boundary: North-Gali and House of Nirajan Singh and Suresh Singh, South-Rasta, East-Rasta and H/O Chandrasekhar Singh, West-H/O Suresh Singh. 2. EMT of land and building in the name of Late Smt. Mala Verma, W/o Sri Shailendra Verma, Plot No.221, Khadra No.350, Mirzapur, Chiksaura, Sub district- Hilsa, Dist-Nalanda, Total Area/extent of land- 12.50 Dismal as per Possession Notice dated 12.10.2017. Boundary: North-Khanta (Deep Gorge), South-Arvind Singh in same plot, East-Khanta (Deep Gorge), West-Mukesh Kumar in same plot.	₹17,59,000/- ₹1,75,000/- ₹10,000/- ₹7,52,000/- ₹75,000/- ₹10,000/-
3.	Bikramganj Branch, Surya Complex, Ara Road, Bikramganj, Dist.-Rohtas, Bihar-802212 Mob: 8210998534 A/c No. 8359296000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008359	Borrower/ Mortgagee: M/s Maa Akshami Traders, Prop. Sri Pankaj Kr. Singh, S/o Sri Ram Chhabila Singh, Mahadev Market, Arra Road, Bikramganj, Dist.-Rohtas-802212. Guarantor: Smt. Bina Kunwar, W/o Ram Chhabila Singh, Shyam Tajik, Sasaram Road, Bikramganj, Dist.-Rohtas-802212.	Rs. 14,70,407.17/- as on 17.08.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	EMT of land and building in the name of Sri Pankaj Kumar Singh, S/o Sri Ram Chhabila Singh, Khata No.2, Plot No.457, Thana-526, Mouza-Dharopur, Thana+Anchal-Bikramganj, Dist.-Rohtas, Total Area-3.90 Dimal/1.25 Katha (As per deed no.4377 dated 06/06/2015). Boundary: North-Budhu Singh, South-Budhu Singh, East-Plot No.458 & 459, West-Rasta.	₹14,05,000/- ₹1,40,500/- ₹10,000/-
4.	Kidwaiपुर (e-Syndicate) Patna S K Nagar Branch Mob: 9431821926 A/c No. 8361295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008361	Borrower/ Mortgagee: 1. M/s Chandra Computer, Prop. Sri Rajesh Kumar S/o Sri Ram Babu Ram, Shanti Bhawan, S.P. Verma Road, Patna-800001. 2. Smt. Madhu Devi W/o Sri Rajesh Kumar Shanti Bhawan, S.P. Verma Road, Patna-800001.	Rs. 14,44,412.23/- as on 31.12.2019 + interest & other cost till realization.	All that part and parcel of the property (land) consisting of Sale Deed No.4048 dt 30.05.2014, Mauza-Devkali, Thana-Dhanraua, Thana No.77, Tauzi No.6200, Khata No.251, Khadra No.1130(part), Area-01 katha 03 dhur, out of PMC Area, Mortgagee Name Smt. Madhu Devi W/o Sri Rajesh Kumar, Boundary: North-Mr. Siya Sharan Singh, South-Mr. Deepak Kumar, East-Mr. Sitaram Singh, West-4 ft land left for rasta by the purchaser.	₹4,64,760/- ₹46,476/- ₹10,000/-
5.	Patna City Branch, Mob: 8210998429 A/c No. 8361295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0008361	Borrower: M/s Om Dal Mill, Prop.-Mr. Om Prakash Gupta, Simli Pandariwan, Chhoti Mandir Gali, Patna City Guarantor: Smt. Preeti Gupta W/o Mr. Om Prakash Gupta, Simli Pandariwan, Chhoti Mandir Gali Patna City, Patna Pin 800008	Rs. 44,56,583.07/- as on 30.11.2019 + interest & other cost till realization.	Land and building in the name of mortgagee Mr. Om Prakash Gupta situated at Mohalla-Simli, Pandariba Patna City, P.S.-Malashami, Dist-Patna, Circle No.218, Holding No.46/38, Ward No.37/32, M.S. Plot No.554, 555, 556, measuring 1 Katha. Boundary: North-Shishupal Verma, South-Sahdev Prasad, East-Gali Corporation, West-Sahdev Sah.	₹48,00,000/- ₹4,80,000/- ₹10,000/-
6.	Samastipur Branch, Piro, Bhojpur Mob: 8210998513 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower: M/s Computer Plaza, Prop. Suresh Kumar, Sasaram Road, Jwala Market, Piro, Bhojpur-802207	Rs. 78.54 Lakh as on 12.04.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	1. Title holder- Suresh Kumar, 1 Katha 18 Dhur & 10 Kanma Residential Land at Sari Tola Chakmurad, Anchal-Warisanagar, Sub registry Kishanpur, Khata no.16(N) 9(O) 9(N) 10(N), Area-13 dhur. Boundary: North-Heirs of Kamla Singh, South-Raj Narayan, East-Ram Narayan Singh, West-PWD Road.	₹73,93,000/- ₹7,40,000/- ₹10,000/-
7.	SME Hajipur Branch, Mob: 8210998317 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower: M/s Manpasand Ready-made Store, Prop. Jay Prakash Kumar ilas Jay Prakash Yadav, Pethia Gachi Road, Bidupur, Vaishali-844124	Rs. 33.32 Lakh as on 22.05.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	1. Title holder- Late Ramavtar Rai S/o Late Rittal Rai Now legal heirs of Ramavtar Rai, Moh-Barahbatra (Bagmali), east of Anjanpir Chowk, Hajipur, Khata no.52, Khesra No.77, Halka No.11, Thana No.150, Survey Ward No.3 under Nagar Parishad Hajipur, Area-1¼ Dec. Boundaries: North-Road, South-10 ft wide road, East-10 ft wide road, West-Pukar Rai.	₹29,79,000/- ₹2,98,000/- ₹10,000/-
2.	Title holder- Late Ramavtar Rai S/o Late Rittal Rai Now legal heirs of Ramavtar Rai, Moh-Barahbatra (Bagmali), east of Anjanpir Chowk, Hajipur, Khata no.52, Khesra No.77, Thana No.150, Survey Ward No.3 under Nagar Parishad Hajipur, Area-1.35 Dec. Boundaries: North-10 ft pvt Road, South-Vidya Singh, East-Nagendra Rai, West-Nand Kishore.				₹13,27,000/- ₹1,30,000/- ₹10,000/-
3.	Title holder- Smt. Tetri Devi W/o Late Ramavtar Rai, Mauza-Dayalpur, Khata No.606, Plot No.1723, Rev. Thana No.259, Halka No.05, Anchal Hajipur, District Vaishali, Area- 5.33 dec. Boundaries: North-Gramin Rasta, South-Rajeshwar Singh & Late Kailash Sah, East-Laxmi Sah, West-Purchaser A/P Rajeshwar Singh.				₹7,15,000/- ₹71,000/- ₹10,000/-
4.	Title holder- Late Ramavtar Rai S/o Late Rittal Rai Now legal heirs of Ramavtar Rai, Mauza-Dayalpur, Khata No.606, Plot No.1723, Rev. Thana No.259, Halka No.05, Anchal Hajipur, District Vaishali, Area- 8 dec. Boundaries: North-Gramin Rasta, South-Rajeshwar Singh & Late Kailash Sah, East-Laxmi Sah, West-Purchaser A/P Rajeshwar Singh.				
8.	Dhurlakh Branch, Mob: 8210998481 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower: M/s Shiv Khad Bhandar, Prop. Mr. Raja Ram Sah, Dubarabanna, Kishanpur, Warisanagar, Samastipur, Bihar-848301.	Rs. 20.78 Lakh as on 10.05.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	Title holder- Sri Raja Ram S/o Nathuni Sah & Sri Nathuni Sah S/o Late Yogendra Sah. Land & Building situated at Mauza-Kharaj Gulam Haider Pragana Kasma, PS and Anchal Warisanagar, Sub Registry Kishanpur, District Samastipur, under Tauji No.5541, Thana No.140, Khata No.32, Khesra No.108(O)/109, Area-2.9½ Katha. Boundaries: North-Maulvi Zamil Ahmad, South-Road, East-Triveni Sahu & others, West-Dhanik Sahu.	₹21,38,000/- ₹2,14,000/- ₹10,000/-
9.	Jamuaon Branch, Piro, Bhojpur Mob: 8210998320 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower: M/s Shivam Medical Agency, Prop. Shiv Kumar Prasad, Sasaram Road, Jwala Market, Piro, Bhojpur- 802207.	Rs. 34.02 Lakh as on 05.05.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	Title holder- Shiv Kumar Prasad S/o Vishwas Prasad. At Mauza-Piro, Plot No.2946(N), 1768(O), C.S Khata no.659(N) 67(O), Thana No.88, Ward no.09, PO+PS- Piro, Dist- Bhojpur, Area- 3.3/8 Katha. Boundaries: North-Narbdeshwar Rai, South-Brajomohan Sahay, East-Hridaynand Chaudhary & Others, West-Bihar Govt Rasta.	₹54,50,000/- ₹5,45,000/- ₹10,000/-
10.	Daulatpur Branch Mob: 7004089424 A/c No. 6959295000001 IFSC Code: CNRB0006959	Borrower: M/s Vaishali Diary Product, Prop. Sri Manoj Kumar S/o Late Mahendra Prasad, Vill+Post- Ghatato, Vaishali-844119.	Rs. 17.53 Lakh as on 11.05.2021 + interest & other cost till realization.	Title holder- Sri Manoj Kumar S/o Late Mahendra Prasad. Mauza-Ghatato Chaturbhuj, PS-Kartahna, Vaishali, Khata no.927, 2681, 2678, 2674, Khesra no.2168, 3452, 3430, 3429, Thana No.300, Area-37.67 Dec. Boundaries: North-Manoj Kumar, South-Anutha Devi, East-Bairam Prasad, West-Thakurbadi.	₹36,96,000/- ₹3,70,000/- ₹10,000/-

Last Date of EMD 27.09.2021 at 4.00 P.M. For Detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in www.canarabank.com

Date : 27.08.2021
Place : Patna

Authorized Officer
(Canara Bank)

TAMIL NADU HOUSING BOARD

HOSUR HOUSING UNIT

Hosur Housing Unit of TamilNadu Housing Board has proposed to sell the Commercial sites (Totally – 46) items through sealed Tender–Cum–Open Auction.

Please visit TamilNadu Housing Board website “www.tnhb.tn.gov.in” from 29.08.2021 for further details regarding scheme. Code No, Plot No, Plot Extent, Upset – price, EMD 15 % amount, Auction date, Cost of Application, Period of Sale of Application and conditions. Also contact below mentioned address for further details.

Address : -
Tamil Nadu Housing Board,
Hosur Housing Unit,
Bagalur Road, Hosur - 635 109.
Telephone No. 04344 - 242 306. Exe.Engr. & Adm.Officer,
Hosur Housing Unit.

DIPRI 768 /DISPLAY/2021

“சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாத்தை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்”

SBI State Bank of India

STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH(SARB)PATNA

2nd Floor, SBI Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800 001

Demand Notice u/s 13(2)

A notice is hereby given that the following Borrower & Guarantor have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned unserved and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

Name of the Borrower	Details of Properties/Address of Secured Assets to be Enforced	Date of Notice & Date of NPA	Amount outstanding
M/s Ram Bricks Industries, Prop.: Smt. Meena Devi (Mortgagor) W/o Sri Ramesh Prasad Sah. Vill.- Maheshpur, PO- Kahalgao, Dist.-Bhagalpur 813203 R/o Sikargarh Tola, Near Govt. Hospital (Old), PO-Kahalgao, Dist.-Bhagalpur, Pin-813203	All that part and parcel of the property of land, building & structures as per details hereunder: 1. Equitable Mortgage of land & building vide Sale Deed No.465 dated 24.05.1999, Khata No.62, Khesra No.186, Area 29 Dismal, Situated at Ward No./Halka No.-09, Thana No.-161, Mouza-Maheshpur, PS-Sabour, Distt. Bhagalpur in the name of Smt. Meena Devi W/o Sri Ramesh Prasad Sah. The boundaries of this property are: North-Nava Kumara & Mina Devi, South-Nityanand Sah & Shankar Sah, East-Prahalad Singh & Munni Lal Singh, West-Niz Meena Devi & Binay Kumar Singh. 2. Equitable Mortgage of land & building vide Sale Deed 24.05.1999, Khata No.62, Khesra No.186, Area 29 Dismal, Situated at Ward No./Halka No.-09, Thana No.-161, Mouza-Maheshpur, PS-Sabour, Distt. Bhagalpur in the name of Smt. Meena Devi W/o Sri Ramesh Prasad Sah. The boundaries of this property are:- North-Nava Kumara & Meena Devi, South-Nityanand Sah & Shankar Rajak, East-Prahalad Singh & Munni Lal Singh, West-Purchaser Meena Devi & Binay Kumar Singh.	20.07.2021 & 28.12.2014	₹34,39,189.00 (Rs. Thirty four lakh thirty nine thousand one hundred eighty nine only) as on 20.02.2021

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower and/or their Guarantor(s) (whenever applicable) are hereby called upon to make payment of outstanding amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
The borrower attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date : 26.08.2021
Place : Patna

Authorised Officer
State Bank of India, SARB, Patna

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम (A Govt of India Undertaking)

आन्ध्रा Andhra

कार्पोरेशन Corporation

Patna City Branch, Mahalaxmi Complex, Gurhatta, Ashok Rajpath, Patna City, Patna-800008
Tel : 0612-2641100/2642200

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable property) [Rule 8 (1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised officer of the Union Bank of India under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 has issued a demand notice on below mentioned date calling upon the borrowers & Guarantors to repay the below mentioned amount together with future interest within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rules 8 of the said rules on the following date. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Union Bank of India for an amount mentioned below inclusive of interest. The Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor attention is invited to provisions of Sub Section 8 of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the Secured Assets.

Name of Borrower & Guarantor	Date of Demand Notice & Dues As on Date of Possession	Description of immovable Property
M/s Shashi Raj Yam House Prop. Vikash Shri Raj Kumar Singh	23.04.2021 Rs. 22,59,950 as on 31.03.2021	All piece & parcel of land measuring 1230 sqft with house under Mauza Mahrajhat Holding No 118A/95 Sheet No 240 Municipal plot No 159, 168 & 169 ward no 65/23/30 P.S Khajekalan, Patna City Dist.-Patna Boundary - North - Anil Kumar Singh, South - Shree Devi Lal & Balak jee, East - Anil Kumar Sinha, West - kedar Rai & corporation Gali
Vikash Kumar, Co Applicant Vikram Raj Raj Kumar Singh	23.08.2021 Rs. 24,32,227.00 as on 31.03.2021	All piece & parcel of land measuring 1230 sqft with house under Mauza Mahrajhat Holding No 118A/95 Sheet No 240 Municipal plot No 159, 168 & 169 ward no 65/23/30 P.S Khajekalan, Patna City Dist.-Patna Boundary - North - Anil Kumar Singh, South - Shree Devi Lal & Balak jee, East - Anil Kumar Sinha, West - kedar Rai & corporation Gali

Place :- Patna
Date :- 23.08.2021

Union Bank of India
Authorised Officer

BRIEFLY

UTTAR PRADESH Cops: AIMIM councillor shot dead in Meerut

Meerut: AIMIM councillor Zuber Ansari was shot dead by bike-borne assailants outside his residence in Meerut's Shastri Nagar locality Saturday morning. The suspects are yet to be identified. Ansari was preparing to contest the 2022 UP Assembly polls on an AIMIM ticket. "It appears that the councillor was shot dead following a business rivalry in his property business. We have found some documents from his car which revealed that he had recently bagged a major contract for building a colony in Dehradun," said Vineet Bhatnagar, SP(Meerut city). ENS

MADHYA PRADESH Man stitches wife's pvt parts over 'infidelity'

Singrauli: Suspecting his wife of infidelity, a 55-year-old man allegedly stitched her private parts in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli district, police said on Saturday. The victim was admitted to the district hospital, where she underwent treatment for her injuries, police. The incident took place in Raila village under Mada police station area, around 30 km from the district headquarters, on August 24, ASP Anil Sonkar said. The accused, who is a quack, suspected his 52-year-old wife of having an extramarital affair, the official said. PTI

J&K 'Theft' arrest leads to Mysuru robbery suspect

Jammu: A resident of Poonch, who was arrested over a burglary in Rajouri, turned out to be one of the eight suspects who looted a jewellery store in Mysuru earlier this week, police said. Manzoor Ahmed Sheikh was arrested over a theft case and was found with Rs 46,410 in cash and 234.8 gm of gold, police said. Being questioned about the cash and gold, he allegedly revealed his involvement in the armed robbery which left one person dead in Mysuru, police said. ENS

BIHAR Cops recover Rs 18 lakh from official's car

Patna: Muzaffarpur police have found Rs 18 lakh in cash from the vehicle of a Rural Works Department (RWD) engineer from Darbhanga. The seizure came during a vehicle check following a tip-off at Fakuni checkpoint in Kudni on Friday. Police have intensified searches in view of the upcoming panchayat polls in September. RWD superintending engineer (Darbhanga Rural) Anil Kumar and his driver are being questioned over the source of the money, police said. ENS

AUCTION SALE

Wet water affected craft paper 46 roll app 10,900 kg, waste paper app 600 kg, Semi damaged rolls 720 kg. Iron scrap app 5,000 kg, plant & machinery scrap app 1,000 kg and aluminium wiring & cables app 200 kg for auction on "as is where is basis with all faults at Firozabad U.P. Security money DD Rs 20,000/- in the name of Paper packers, Dhul pura, Firozabad is required to be deposited at UNITED INDIA INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED BO-FIROZABAD, LIC BUILDING, SECTOR-1, SUHAG NAGAR, FIROZABAD- 283203 U.P. on or before 8th Sept, 2021 (12.30 PM). Bid shall be opened at 1.30 pm on 8th Sept, 2021. Price to be quoted per kg for craft paper, Iron & plant & machinery scrap and aluminium wire. Bids received after due time shall not be entertained. The Auctioneer has every right to reject any bid without assessing any reason. Interested party can visit Paper packers, Dhul Pura, Firozabad U.P. (Mobile no. 9857888732) Ashim Kr. Srivastava (Appointed surveyor and loss assessor) 9838776404, 9415027774



EMERGING JHARKHAND

ADVERTORIAL



“Jharkhand is a land of unlimited opportunities. We welcome all investors with open hands. We will provide you with every possible facility. From scratch to production, our government will stand with you. This will create employment opportunities for our young skilled workforce and assure you excellent growth”

HEMANT SOREN
Chief Minister, Jharkhand



urban and institutional infrastructure in its vicinity, this cluster has been planned with state-of-the-art infrastructure facilities, much needed to attract electronics-related industries. Already 15 companies have signed up with two of them set to roll out LED bulbs, TVs, mobile parts, automobile electronics. Some foreign investors are, therefore, keen to establish their facilities here. The skyline of Adityapur is dotted with marvels of modern architecture, each building and office telling its own story. It consists of a trade pavilion with an administrative building, a five-storeyed flattened factory, warehouse and truck parking. The job-generating potential of the EMC is huge with 15,000 people expected to be absorbed into the new workforce. So far 22 acres have already been allotted to 30 units. Five acres have been set aside for future-ready buildings, where 92 units can begin operations on a micro scale. The investment potential is

estimated at Rs 400 crore. The industrial policy is geared to encourage and motivate such industries for increasing the volume of exports. It will also focus on export items manufactured from 100 per cent indigenous inputs normally done by the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprises) sector and to establish linkages between OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) and MSME/ancillary industries. The Adityapur cluster is creating a favourable ecosystem for investors with the next big idea.

AUTOMAJORANDEV LAB

This cluster is being driven by Soren himself, capitalising on existing advantages in this sector. He has conceived a series of tempting incentives like a 50 per cent capital subsidy for common infrastructure facilities, 75 to 80 per cent SGST reimbursement and 100 per cent electricity duty exemption. With many auto-grade steel plants being set up and the presence of auto majors like Tata Motors since the 1950s, Jharkhand offers unique advantages with respect to savings in freight cost for sourcing cold-rolled sheets. The automotive industry here produces a wide range of products from simple nuts and bolts to complex items like shafts, radiators and axles

EMC Adityapur
Developed industrial infrastructure with roads, power back-ups and uninterrupted water supply
Ready to move in flattened factory
State-of-the-art industrial processes
Raw material support from resource-rich catchment areas
Trained manpower
Employee hostels
Satellite township complete with high security, social and economic infrastructure.

the State has taken adequate measures for the revival of cotton wool weaving. The Government of Jharkhand is committed to upgrade the facilities in Industrial Training Institutes for apparel production. An autonomous institute of quality apparel training will be set up on its own or in joint venture/collaboration with multiple agencies/institutes.”

Jamshedpur has many firsts to its credit, among them many that redefined nation-building in the early years after Independence and laid the template for the future. When Jamsetji Tata thought about setting up India's first steel plant here and tapped into the rich mineral bowl around it, it was the beginning of an industrial cluster and SEZ as we know it today. When he conceived of a planned township around it, it was the precursor of smart cities that we have reimagined today. And when some of India's pioneering entrepreneurs set up heavy industries and got together the country's best engineering talent to nurture them, we had our first knowledge hub. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, rooted to the soil and shaped by the progressive changes around Jamshedpur, has since then focussed on taking that legacy forward and being a changemaker. And helming the State now, he has envisioned a growth strategy that will see this region turn into a modern manufacturing hub that can be an arrowhead for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Jharkhand has already been a pioneer of traditional industry. Soren wants to build on this superstructure and get the first mover advantage in consolidating sunrise sectors like electronics, electric vehicles, IT, pharmaceuticals and biotech. He wants to transform the image of Jharkhand from being just a repository of mines and minerals to a state full of opportunities across multiple sectors. Soren has been working tirelessly to create an investor-friendly ecosystem. In fact, he wants his State to be the first and foremost investment destination, become a sectoral manufacturing hub in south and southeast Asia, explore new markets in the neighbourhood and give India a tech edge to emerge as a global player, offering better advantages than existing producer-countries. The State Government is even facilitating B2G interactions to generate interest among foreign investors.

Many years after Tata, Soren has chosen Adityapur, which incidentally skirts Jamshedpur, as the pillar of his industrial vision and the laboratory of his focus sectors. It will become India's biggest electronics cluster, ushering in a new paradigm of development. He has already created an enabling environment for Jharkhand to power its way into the new economy with a competitive edge, incentivising investment with a single window clearance and norms for ease-of-doing business. The Jharkhand Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy, 2021, aims to attract an investment of up to Rs 1,00,000 crore. It focusses on 15 priority sectors and Soren has circled off seven of them as high-priority—textile and apparels, automobile, auto components and electric vehicles, agro food processing, meat processing industries, pharmaceuticals and electronics system design and manufacturing (ESDM).

The JIPPP also envisages industrial parks, private, joint venture or PPP (public-private partnership) mode in apparel fibre (textile park), specialised hubs for IT and software technology (STPI), gems and jewellery, biotech and herbs, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, food and meat processing beside automobile vendor and ancillary industries. And to create a talent pool and a creative economy for holistic development, the Chief Minister has also envisaged a knowledge park and Film City.

Jharkhand is progressing fast on adopting investor-friendly best practices and generating avenues of employment. Measures like Jharkhand Investment Promotion Board, single-window clearance, online payments, online verification, third-party certifications, self-certification, time-bound approvals, availability of information online, standard operating procedures for approvals and deemed approvals have been adopted by most departments and government agencies. The accelerators are in place.

Soren is now working on an investment promotion board, drawing up an action plan for executing the one district one product (ODOP) scheme aimed at maximising core efficiencies, planning investment in industrial parks and forming a MIS (management information system) for the survey of beneficiaries under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme. Jharkhand has always had the manufacturing edge, one that has attracted indigenous and foreign investment. All Soren wants is not to rest but seize a slice of the new economy. So he is creating a conducive matrix that goads industries to be innovative and globally competitive. And being a true son of the soil, he wants sustainable industrial development anchored by capacity-building at the grassroots level. Jharkhand is poised to make its way to the top of this growth pyramid.

ADITYAPUR: ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING CLUSTER

Adityapur is the pivot of Soren's dream to elevate Jharkhand into a manufacturing hub not just in India but across south and southeast Asia and could very well propel the momentum for an Atmanirbhar Bharat. It has a greenfield electronic manufacturing cluster (EMC) under the ESDM (Electronic System Design and Manufacturing) Policy, 2016. Spread over 3,000 acres, Adityapur is one of the largest industrial areas of the country, and houses more than 800 functional MSME units, including 600 auto ancillary industries, providing direct employment to more than 75,000 people. The EMC is a greenfield project spread across 82 acres. The campus has 92 flattened factory units ready with plug and play facility. About 49 acres has been booked for open infra, which is ready to be allocated for 51 electronic manufacturing units. Adityapur is also a part of Jamshedpur Urban 1 Agglomeration, which is home to Tata Motors (producer of about 45 per cent of heavy commercial vehicles in the country) Tata Steel and other big industries. With an established social,

JHARKHAND 4.0: Incentives for investors

Comprehensive Project Investment Subsidy (CPIS) of 25% of investment made in fixed capital investment or FCI (Cap at Rs 1 crore for micro, Rs 5 crore for small, Rs 10 crore for medium, Rs 25 crore for large, mega and ultra large units).

Capital interest subsidy for manufacturers: This will be 5% for new units for five years. The maximum limit will be Rs 50 lakh per unit.

Subsidy on GST: 80% SGST reimbursement for five years for new MSME units, 75% for large projects.

100% exemption of electricity duty for export-oriented units after 10 years.

Easy allotment of land to export-oriented units in industrial area. Land cost can now be given in six half yearly instalments.

Transport subsidy for shipment to ports, up to Rs 20 lakh during a financial year.

Export development assistance through market surveys, product development and participation in international trade fairs and buyer-seller meets.

100% reimbursement of stamp duty and registration.

100/75% (ultra/mega) of Net State GST reimbursed for 5/7/9/12 years for MSME/large/mega/ultra mega (Cap at 100% of FCI).

Assistance for reverse buyer-seller meet, which will be organised every alternate year to boost exports.

Refund of expenses incurred for compulsory marking like Conformity European (CE), by 50 per cent, maximum of Rs 2 lakh per unit per annum.

A brand equity fund and market research fund of Rs 1.50 crore per year for each.




MoU/ strategic partnership / task force engagement with IIFT, DGFT and FIEO for the promotion of exports.

Export oriented units will be declared as essential services / public utilities services.

A nodal agency to coordinate with all government departments and export promotion councils to provide a favourable environment for the exporter.

Start-up incubators shall get reimbursement up to Rs 1 crore on capital spent.

Start-up units to get up to Rs 3 lakh per start-up as seed-funding

ESDM
 IT reimbursement for five years (not covered under the 25 per cent cap)
 Capital/Investment reimbursements: 10 per cent of FCI, up to Rs 10 crore
 Reimbursement of 100 per cent electricity duty for 10 years

supported by Tata Motors as the anchor company. The auto giant has also been ahead of the curve with its range of electric vehicles (EVs). So Jharkhand already has a base for automobile and EV ancillaries, precision, electronically and computer operated machine tools and farm equipment industries. In fact, with the global focus now on reducing carbon footprint and technology advances mainly in the battery pack manufacturing sector, the scope for adoption of e-vehicles has become viable. India's electric vehicle market could be worth \$206 billion and the sector will attract a cumulative investment of \$180 billion in vehicle production and charging infrastructure until 2030 to meet India's EV ambition. The auto hub at Adityapur is based on this premise. Jamshedpur and its surrounding areas have quite a number of electric vehicles in use with charging stations. This could very well inspire car owners in other cities and towns and create a swell in EV demand in climate-sensitive times. Soren wants Jharkhand to be ready to feed that demand and even spur exports.

TEXTILES: NEW SILK ROUTE

Envisioning Jharkhand as a textile hub, the new policy highlights how “there has been phenomenal growth in the sericulture sector and the State has the highest production of tasar silk in India. Jharkhand primarily exports tasar silk to the US, the UK, Germany, France, Turkey, Japan, Australia, Sweden and Switzerland. In addition to silk weaving,

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE INVESTORS' SUMMIT



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who is on a mission to make his State the most attractive investment destination and usher in a new era of industrial development, particularly in new-age sectors, held a round table with top-notch industrialists in New Delhi.

Introducing the State's new industrial policy at an investors' meeting on August 27 and 28, he laid particular emphasis on the draft electric vehicle (EV) policy, one that will enable Jharkhand to become a manufacturing hub of EVs and take the lead in demonstrating a model of the green economy in climate-challenged times. He also sought their suggestions on the new investment schemes.

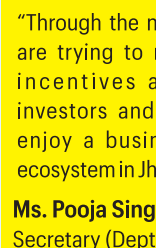
The TATA, Dalmia, Honda, Hyundai, Maruti Suzuki, NTPC, SAIL, GAIL and Vedanta groups took part in the one-on-one B2G meetings with the Chief Minister. Dalmia Cement has already agreed to invest Rs 500 crore in the State and will be signing an MoU today. Soren discussed opportunities available for EV makers at the already operationalised Adityapur auto-cluster and Adityapur Electronic Manufacturing cluster.

“The State Government wants to move forward with the cooperation of the investors. We are trying to leverage the infinite resources which nature has gifted to Jharkhand and walk the path of development.”

Hemant Soren
Chief Minister, Jharkhand



“The government of Jharkhand will support the investors throughout the process and stand by them to actualize their investments into returns and growth.”
Mr. Sukhdev Singh I.A.S
Chief Secretary



“Through the new policy, we are trying to maximize the incentives available to investors and ensure they enjoy a business-friendly ecosystem in Jharkhand.”
Ms. Pooja Singhal I.A.S,
Secretary (Dept. of Industries)



“Jharkhand has a very progressive industrial policy and the Tata group has had a good run here. It is the only State where we have been running end-to-end operations from mining to steel and are now excited by the new EV policy and incentives. Tata Steel will invest Rs 3,000 crore over the next 3 years. We will expand capacities of coal and iron ore mines and downstream value-added steam portfolios.”
T. V. Narendran,
Tata Steel
Chairman cum Managing Director



12 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Protesters take cover during clashes at the Gaza border. AP

WEST ASIA

Palestinian child dies week after being shot at Gaza border

A 12-YEAR-OLD Palestinian boy who was shot in the head by Israeli forces during a demonstration at the Gaza-Israeli border last week died of his wounds Saturday, Gaza health officials said. Hassan Abu al-Neil was shot on August 21 during the demonstration organised by Gaza's Hamas rulers to protest the crippling blockade imposed by Egypt and Israel. Violence erupted when Palestinian protesters began throwing rocks and explosives at Israeli troops near the fortified border. Israeli troops responded by opening fire, wounding over 40 Palestinians, including al-Neil. **AP**

MALI

Ex-president, PM released from house arrest

MALI'S FORMER interim president Bah Ndaw and prime minister Moctar Ouane have been released from house arrest by the authorities who ousted them in May, a committee monitoring the post-coup transition said on Friday. Their detention by military officers in May marked Mali's second coup since the overthrow of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita the previous August. An international body tracking this political transition has been pushing the current interim authorities to release the two from house arrest. **REUTERS**

USA

Louisiana braces for Hurricane Ida

RESIDENTS ACROSS Louisiana's coast Saturday were taking one last day to prepare for what is being described as a "life-altering" Hurricane Ida which is expected to bring winds as high as 225 kph when it slams ashore. A combination of voluntary and mandatory evacuations have been called for cities across the region including New Orleans, where the mayor ordered a mandatory evacuation for areas outside the city's levee system and a voluntary evacuation for residents inside the levee system. But since the storm quickly escalated in intensity, the mayor said it wasn't possible to order a mandatory evacuation for the entire city. **AP**

2 ISLAMIC STATE 'PLANNERS' KILLED IN DRONE STRIKE NEAR PAK BORDER

US starts troop withdrawal from Kabul, retaliates for airport blast

Taliban largely seal off airport

REUTERS & AP
KABUL, AUGUST 28

US TROOPS have begun their withdrawal from Kabul airport, the Pentagon said on Saturday, following a two-week scramble by Washington and its allies to fly out their nationals and Afghans at risk of reprisals under Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

As it neared the end of a 20-year military involvement in the country, the US said it had killed two Islamic State militants planning attacks in Afghanistan following a deadly bombing outside the airport on Thursday.

American officials also warned of a high risk of further attacks by the group — enemies of both the West and the Taliban — as it winds up its mission. The US and allied foreign forces are seeking to withdraw by a Tuesday deadline set by President Joe Biden.

The airport blast, which killed scores of people including 13 US troops, highlighted the peril of the final stages of the mission. Biden promised on Thursday that Washington would go after the perpetrators.

An overnight US drone attack killed two Islamic State planners and wounded another in Nangarhar province, US Army Major General William Taylor said, referring to an eastern area that borders Pakistan.

As of Saturday, there were fewer than 4,000 US troops at Kabul airport, the official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters, down from 5,800 at the peak of the evacuation mission.

The White House said the next few days were likely to be the most dangerous of the evacuation operation. The United States and allies have taken about 111,900 people out of Afghanistan in the past two weeks, the Pentagon has said.



UK troops return. AP

FINAL UK EVACUATION FLIGHT LEAVES KABUL

London: Britain ended evacuation flights from Kabul airport on Saturday and began bringing troops home, even as the UK's top military officer acknowledged "we haven't been able to bring everybody out". Britain's defence ministry said the final flight for Afghan citizens had left Kabul and further flights over the weekend will bring home British troops and diplomats, though they may also carry a few remaining UK or Afghan civilians. Britain's ambassador to Afghanistan, Laurie Bristow, said from Kabul airport that it was "time to close this phase of the operation now". **AP**

US officials said another attack against the Kabul airport was a near certainty, and there were fears that it could be more destructive than Thursday's attack. The US embassy in Kabul warned Americans to avoid the airport.

Taliban forces sealed off the airport on Saturday to most Afghans hoping for evacuation. Taliban leaders deployed extra forces outside the airport to prevent large crowds from gathering. New layers of checkpoints sprang up on roads leading to the airport, some manned by Taliban fighters. Areas where large crowds had gathered over the past two weeks were largely empty.



Families evacuated from Kabul arrive at Washington Dulles International Airport, in Chantilly, Virginia, on Friday. AP

Taliban prepare to set up govt as US evacuation nears end

Mounting frustration in Kabul over economic hardships

REUTERS
AUGUST 28

THE TALIBAN said on Saturday they would announce a new government for Afghanistan in the coming week and expected the economic turbulence and sharp currency falls that followed their take-over of the city two weeks ago to subside quickly.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the movement's main spokesman, made the comments to Reuters as the US military winds down its mission to evacuate US citizens and vulnerable Afghans and withdraw troops from Kabul airport ahead of an Aug 31 deadline.

Mujahid condemned an overnight US drone strike against Islamic State militants



Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid

following Thursday's suicide attack near the airport as a "clear attack on Afghan territory".

But he appealed to the US and other Western nations to maintain diplomatic relations after their withdrawal, which he expected would be completed "very soon".

There is mounting frustration in Kabul at the severe economic hardship caused by a plummeting currency and rising food prices, with banks still shuttered two weeks after the fall of the city to the Taliban.

Mujahid said officials had al-

ready been appointed to run key institutions including the ministries of public health and education and the central bank.

UN officials have warned that Afghanistan faces a humanitarian catastrophe, with large parts of the country suffering from extreme drought conditions.

The economy, shattered after four decades of war, also faces the loss of billions of dollars in foreign aid, following the withdrawal of Western embassies from the country.

Mujahid said the economic problems being experienced would be eased once the new government was in place. "The fall of Afghani against foreign currency is temporary and it is because of the situation that suddenly changed," he said.

'Didn't need to happen': Pentagon seeks answers for attack

IDREES ALI
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 28

BY WEDNESDAY night, US intelligence agencies were near certain that an attack was imminent outside Kabul airport, triggering a State Department warning to American citizens to leave the area immediately.

Just over 12 hours later, a suicide bomber walked through the large crowds to a gate manned by US troops and detonated explosives, killing a reported 170 Afghans

and 13 US service members.

It was a tragic coda to America's 20-year war in Afghanistan, the largest loss of life for the US military there in a decade, on the cusp of the full withdrawal of troops by Aug. 31 ordered by President Joe Biden.

Among the most pressing questions as the US military launches its investigation: How did the bomber make it through Taliban checkpoints? Why were US troops in such a concentrated space when they knew an attack was imminent?



Local officials said as many as 170 people were killed. NYT

"It was a failure somewhere," General Frank McKenzie, the head of US Central Command, told reporters hours after the at-

tack, which was claimed by Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K).

But at some point, McKenzie added, troops had no choice but to come in contact with people trying to board evacuation flights, screen them, pat them down for weapons, and ensure they did not make it into the airport if they posed a threat.

US officials said the conditions for the attack were set months in advance.

They said weeks before the evacuation from Kabul airport began following the Taliban's

takeover of the capital, the military had been seeking approval to get at-risk Afghans out of the country.

But the slow tempo of processing and inability to secure housing for the evacuees in third countries slowed down the pace of departures, according to the officials, at one point halting all flights from Kabul for six hours.

That meant troops were on the frontlines at the airport gates in the face of chaos outside.

"This didn't need to happen," a US military official told Reuters. **REUTERS**

Pentagon, China military holds talks for 1st time under Biden

IDREES ALI
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 28

A SENIOR Pentagon official held talks with the Chinese military for the first time since President Joe Biden took office in January to focus on managing risk between the two countries, a US official told Reuters on Friday.

The US has put countering China at the heart of its national security policy for years and Biden's administration has described rivalry with Beijing as "the biggest geopolitical test" of this century.

Relations between China and the United States have grown increasingly tense, with the world's two largest economies clashing over everything from

Taiwan and China's human rights record to its military activity in the South China Sea.

Despite the tensions and heated rhetoric, US military officials have long sought to have open lines of communication with their Chinese counterparts to be able to mitigate potential flare-ups or deal with any accidents.

Michael Chase, deputy assis-

tant secretary of defence for China, spoke last week with Chinese Major General Huang Xueping, deputy director for the People's Liberation Army Office for International Military Cooperation.

"(They) utilised the US-PRC Defence Telephone Link to conduct a secure video conference," the US official said, on condition of anonymity.

"Both sides agreed on the importance of maintaining open channels of communication between the two militaries," the official added.

Officials said US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin has yet to speak with his Chinese counterpart, in part because there was a debate about which official was Austin's counterpart. **REUTERS**

2 OF ROBERT F KENNEDY'S SONS SAID THEY BACKED SIRHAN SIRHAN'S RELEASE

RFK's assassin a 'changed man', granted parole

JULIE WATSON
& BRIAN MELLEY
SAN DIEGO, AUGUST 28

FOR 15 years, Robert F. Kennedy's assassin was denied parole by a California parole board that maintained Sirhan Sirhan did not show adequate remorse or understand the enormity of his crime that rocked the nation and the world in 1968.

But on Friday, the two-person panel said he appeared to be a different man, even from his last hearing in 2016, and granted the 77-year-old prisoner parole. Two of RFK's sons, going against several of their siblings' wishes, said

they also supported releasing him and prosecutors declined to argue he should be kept behind bars. But the governor ultimately will decide if he leaves prison.

The board found Sirhan no longer poses a threat to society, noting that he had enrolled in more than 20 programmes including anger management classes, Tai Chi and Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, even during the coronavirus pandemic.

"We think that you have grown," Parole Board Commissioner Robert Barton said.

Douglas Kennedy was a toddler when his father was gunned down in 1968. He told the board panel that he was moved to tears



Sirhan Sirhan

by Sirhan's remorse and that Sirhan should be released if he's not a threat to others. "I'm overwhelmed just by being able to view Mr Sirhan face to face," he said. "I've lived my life both in fear of him and his name in one way

or another. And I am grateful today to see him as a human being worthy of compassion and love."

Six of Kennedy's nine surviving children, however, said they were shocked by the vote. They urged Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is facing a recall election in California, to reverse the parole board's decision and keep Sirhan behind bars.

"He took our father from our family and he took him from America," the six siblings wrote in a statement late Friday. "We are in disbelief that this man would be recommended for release."

The statement was signed by Joseph P Kennedy II, Courtney Kennedy, Kerry Kennedy, Christopher G Kennedy, Maxwell

T Kennedy and Rory Kennedy.

But another sibling, Robert F Kennedy Jr, has spoken in favour of his release in the past and wrote in favour of paroling Sirhan. He said in the letter that he met him in prison and was moved by Sirhan, "who wept, clinching my hands, and asked for forgiveness".

"While nobody can speak definitively on behalf of my father, I firmly believe that based on his own consuming commitment to fairness and justice, that he would strongly encourage this board to release Mr Sirhan because of Sirhan's impressive record of rehabilitation," he said in a letter submitted during the hearing to the board. **AP**

Biden to Israeli PM: US has options if nuclear diplomacy with Iran fails

TREVOR HUNNICUTT
& MATT SPETALNICK
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 28

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden told Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett in White House talks on Friday that he was putting "diplomacy first" to try to rein in Iran's nuclear program but that if negotiations fail he would be prepared to turn to other unspecified options.

After a one-day delay due to a suicide bombing in Kabul during the chaotic US evacuation from Afghanistan, Biden and Bennett held their first meeting seeking to reset US-Israeli relations and narrow differences over how to deal with Iran's nuclear advances.

US intel agencies fail to reach conclusion on Covid-19 origins

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 28

THE US intelligence community has failed to reach any firm conclusion on the exact origin of Covid-19 and is split on whether it leaked from a lab in China or emerged in nature, even though it does not believe the virus was developed as a biological weapon, according to results of a detailed review ordered by President Joe Biden.

The Director of National Intelligence in a report on Friday said SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, probably emerged and infected humans through an initial small-scale exposure that occurred no later than November 2019 with the first known cluster of Covid-19 cases arising in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

However, there was no unanimity among the intelligence community on the origins of the coronavirus.

"The virus was not developed as a biological weapon. Most agencies also assess with low confidence that SARS-CoV-2 probably was not genetically engineered; however, two agencies believe there was not sufficient evidence to make an assessment either way," said the unclassified version of the report.

The report did not name the intelligence agencies.

The intelligence committee also assesses that China's officials did not have foreknowledge of the

US' Director of National Intelligence said in a report that the virus probably emerged and infected humans through an initial small-scale exposure that occurred no later than November 2019

virus before the initial outbreak of Covid-19 emerged, it said.

"After examining all available intelligence reporting and other information, the IC (intelligence committee) remains divided on the most likely origin of Covid-19. All agencies assess that two hypotheses are plausible: natural exposure to an infected animal and a laboratory-associated incident," the report said.

Acknowledging the receipt of the report, Biden in a statement said his administration will do everything it can to trace the roots of this outbreak that has caused so much pain and death around the world so that they can take every necessary precaution to prevent it from happening again.

Reacting to the report, China said the US intelligence community's report on Covid-19 origins is "not scientifically credible" and Washington's assertion of lack of transparency on the part of Beijing is only an excuse for politicising and stigmatising the issue. **PTI**



The Wuhan Institute of Virology. File

Risk of hospitalisations higher with Delta variant: British study

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, AUGUST 28

THOSE INFECTED with the Delta variant of Covid-19 in the UK have been found to be twice as likely to be admitted to hospital compared to the Alpha variant, according to a large new study.

The study, carried out by Public Health England (PHE) and Cambridge University and published in *The Lancet* journal on Friday, is the first of its kind to compare the hospitalisation risk of the two variants and highlights the need for people to be fully vaccinated.

It confirms previous reports that Delta — first identified in India — is more infectious than Alpha, which was first identified in Kent, England.

"This large national study found a higher hospital admission or emergency care attendance risk for patients with Covid-19 infected with the Delta variant compared with the



An information sign in Bolton, UK, in May. Reuters

Alpha variant," note the researchers in their analysis.

"Results suggest that outbreaks of the Delta variant in unvaccinated populations might lead to a greater burden on health-care services than the Alpha variant," they conclude.

The study looked at 43,338 Covid cases that occurred between March and May when both Alpha and Delta were circulating in the UK. The bulk of the infections were in people who had not yet been vaccinated. **PTI**

EXPLAINED

Major differences remain

THOUGH THERE was no public acknowledgement of disagreements, Biden and Bennett differ on key issues. While Biden is keen on reviving the Iran nuclear deal, Bennett is strongly against it. Biden is an advocate for the two-state solution, a long-held US position that Trump had distance himself from. Bennett opposes the idea of a Palestinian state, and promotes more Israeli settlements in occupied land — an issue that is likely to test US-Israeli ties in the future.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, both leaders touched on Iran, one of the thorniest issues between them, but mostly they papered over their disagreements.

Biden said they discussed "our commitment to ensure Iran never develops a nuclear weapon."

"We're putting diplomacy first and we'll see where that takes us. But if diplomacy fails, we're ready to turn to other options," Biden added, without offering specifics. A White House statement issued later said the two also "reviewed steps to deter and contain Iran's dangerous regional behaviour".

Bennett was expected to press Biden in private to harden his approach to Iran and back out of talks to revive a nuclear deal with Tehran. **REUTERS**

13 ECONOMY

₹24,713-CR DEAL WITH RELIANCE RETAIL

Future Retail moves SC against Delhi HC order: 'Unimaginable' damage if no deal

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 28

FUTURE RETAIL (FRL) on Saturday moved the Supreme Court against an order by the Delhi High Court to maintain status quo in relation to the Kishore Biyani-led company's Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Retail and directing it to enforce the Singapore-based Emergency Arbitrator's (EA) order.

"Please be informed that the company has filed a special leave petition before the Supreme Court against the impugned orders dated February 2, 2021 and March 18, 2021 passed by 'Ld. Single Judge'. The SLP will be listed for hearing in due course," FRL said in a regulatory filing. It has argued that if the deal with Reliance doesn't go through, it would cause

"unimaginable" damage to the group, including possible job losses for 35,575 employees, and put at risk roughly Rs 28,000 crore in bank loans and debentures.

Amazon, which has been involved in a dispute with Future, accuses FRL of violating contracts when it sold its retail assets to Reliance Industries (RIL) last year.

On February 2, a single-judge bench of the Delhi HC had directed FRL to maintain status quo in relation to its deal with Reliance Retail, an RIL arm, which was objected to by Amazon. Justice J R Midha said the court was satisfied that an immediate interim order was required to be passed to protect the rights of Amazon.

Later, on March 18, the court upheld the Singapore-based EA's order restraining FRL from going ahead with its deal with Reliance

EXPLAINED
Objection from Amazon

LAST AUGUST, Reliance Retail said it would acquire the retail, wholesale, logistics and warehousing business of Future Group for Rs 24,713 crore. The deal has been contested by Amazon, an investor in Future Coupons that in turn is a shareholder in Future Retail Ltd. The SC had on August 6 upheld Amazon's plea.

with RIL and held that the Future Group willfully violated the EA's order. The high court rejected all the objections raised by Future Group and imposed a cost of Rs 20 lakh on it as well as its directors.

Earlier this month, Future Group promoters — including Biyani and several group holding companies — had approached the Supreme Court against an order passed by the Delhi High Court directing to enforce the order of the Singapore-based EA.

Passing an interim order, the EA of Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) had on October 25 last year restrained Future Group from going ahead with its deal with RIL to sell its retail and wholesale business, and the logistics and warehousing business. Amazon, which has 49 per cent stake in one of Future's

unlisted firms, Future Coupons Ltd had approached the SIAC.

In August last year, Reliance Retail had said it would acquire the retail and wholesale business, and the logistics and warehousing business of Future Group in a deal worth Rs 24,713 crore. The scheme of arrangement entailed consolidation of Future Group's retail and wholesale assets into one entity Future Enterprises Ltd and then transferring it to Reliance Retail.

The deal has been contested by Amazon, an investor in Future Coupons that in turn is a shareholder in Future Retail Ltd. The apex court had on August 6 upheld Amazon's plea.

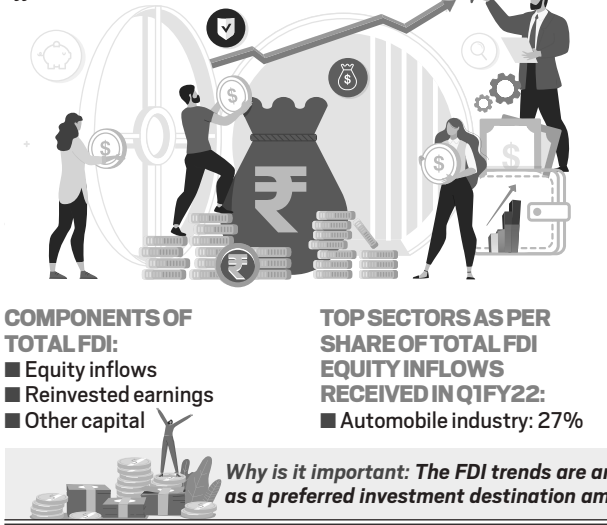
It had ruled in favour of Amazon and held that an award of an EA of a foreign country is enforceable under the Indian Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

Retail to sell its business, which was objected to by Amazon.

Justice Midha directed FRL not to take further action on the deal

FDI equity inflows up 168% to \$17.57 bn during Apr-Jun

FDI inflow into equities in the country rose by more than twofold to \$17.57 billion during April-June this fiscal, an official statement said



■ Computer software and hardware: 17%
■ Services sector: 11%

\$6.56 billion

FDI equity inflow during April-June 2020-21

\$22.53 billion

Total foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow during the first three months of 2021-22, against \$11.84 billion in the same period of the last year

■ Karnataka: 48%
■ Maharashtra: 23%
■ Delhi: 11%

Source: Commerce Ministry/PTI

Forex reserves slide for second straight week, down \$2.47 bn

AMID FALL IN CURRENCY ASSETS		
	August 13 2021	August 20 2021
Foreign currency assets	576,374	573,009
Gold	36,336	37,249
SDRs	1,544	1,541
Reserve tranche position	5,111	5,096
Total	619,365	616,895

in million US dollars; source: Reserve Bank of India/Reuters

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE COUNTRY'S foreign exchange reserves declined by \$2.47 billion to reach \$616.895 billion in the week ended August 20, RBI data showed on Friday.

In the previous week ended August 13, 2021, the reserves had declined by \$2.099 billion to \$619.365 billion.

In the reporting week, the decrease in the reserves was due to a drop in the foreign currency assets (FCAs), as per weekly data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

FCAs declined by \$3.365 billion to \$573.009 billion.

Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.

Gold reserves were up by \$913 million to \$37,249 billion in the reporting week, the data showed.

The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) dipped by \$3 million at \$1.541 billion.

The country's reserve position with the IMF slipped by \$15 million to \$5.096 billion.

DRAFT OF DECLARATION

Withdrawal of retro tax demands: 'Irrevocable' undertaking by cos to drop cases against government

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

FOLLOWING THE decision to scrap the retrospective taxation provision, the Income Tax Department on Saturday released rules that will help close tax demands against companies such as Cairn Energy and Vodafone Plc.

The rules provide details for companies to give an 'irrevocable' undertaking to withdraw all legal cases against the government as well as an undertaking to not pursue any in future.

Earlier this month, the Centre had brought in The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 stating that no tax demand shall be raised for any indirect transfer of Indian assets if the transaction was undertaken before May 28, 2012.

The government had, in 2012, retrospectively amended the Income-tax Act. This was in response to a Supreme Court verdict, which had held that Vodafone cannot be taxed for a 2007 transaction that involved its

CRUDE WATCH

OIL POSTS 10% WEEKLY GAIN

New York: Oil benchmarks rose 10 per cent for the week, in the biggest weekly gains in over a year. On Friday, Brent rose 2.3 per cent to \$72.70 a barrel, while US WTI crude rose 2 per cent to 68.74. For the week, Brent gained over 11 per cent and WTI over 10 per cent. **REUTERS**

STATE RECEIVES PROPOSED INVESTMENT OF OVER ₹9,000 CRORE

Soren launches 2021 industrial policy: We're trying to leverage Jharkhand's infinite resources

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 28

THE TWO-DAY Investor Summit held by the Jharkhand government here saw a proposed investment of over Rs 9,000 crore in the state, with the launch of the Jharkhand Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy (JIIPP) 2021.

Companies which have been already active in the state, such as Tata Steel, Dalmia Group, Steel Authority Limited of India (SAIL), Adhunik Power and Prem Rubber Works, have given in writing their proposed investment in the coming three-four years.

As per documents sent by the Chief Minister's Office, Dalmia Group signed an MoU of Rs 500 crore to expand their cement plant and the proposed commencement of production will be March 2023.

The documents stated that Tata Steel has "expressed their intent" to invest Rs 3,000 crore over next three years with "expansion of capacities" of coal and iron ore mines and "downstream" value added steel portfolio.

SAIL, too, has expressed intent to invest Rs 4,000 crore in Gua Mines in West Singhbhum district for over a period of three years, as per the document. IT will upgrade Gua mines from 4 MT capacity to 10 MT capacity and install a pallet plant of 4 MT capacity. As per the press release issued by the state government, Adhunik Power will invest Rs 1,900 crore and another company Prem Rubber Works will also invest Rs 50 crore.

At the launch of the JIIPP 2021, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said, "The state government wants to move forward with the cooperation of the investors. We are trying to leverage the infinite resources which nature has gifted Jharkhand and walk the



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, with Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh (left) and Additional Chief Secretary—Health Arun Singh (right), at the launch of Jharkhand Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy 2021, in New Delhi, on Saturday. Prem Nath Pandey

path of development. The government has stepped up and we will not stop here. From the very beginning, the state government has been deliberating upon how to generate employment in Jharkhand. Our focus largely revolved around industries based on mines and minerals... but we are now also working in the field of tourism, education, renewable energy, food processing, automobile, pharma and textile."

He added that in renewable energy, the state is coming up with a "big project" and planning to establish India's "largest floating solar plant", and emphasised that Jharkhand also has potential in tourism, pharma, educational institutes among others.

Soren said these investments in the coming months will lead to around 20,000 direct and around 1.5 lakh indirect employment. "All potential investors who would commit to engage 35 per cent of their workforce from scheduled tribe/scheduled caste communities will be incentivised over and above the existing provisions of the new JIIPP 2021," he added.

During the event, Jharkhand Chief Secretary Sukhdev Singh said, "Our human capital is very healthy and very law-abiding. You will never have to face labour

unrest in Jharkhand. We have a very good law and order situation. You will never hear of any organised extortion gang. Even Naxalism has shrunk to a few remote pockets of Jharkhand and it is likely to be eliminated from the geography of Jharkhand in a couple of months. Jharkhand invites you, invites you with open arms." He added that seven bureaucrats travelled to Delhi from Ranchi to "solicit and woo" investors.

"It's a beautiful state with a beautiful landscape. It is a state with a vast range of flora and fauna. Thirty per cent of our land is covered with forest, with such vast production of minor forest produce that it is a paradise for anyone interested in the agro-food processing industry," the Chief Secretary further said.

Jharkhand Industries Secretary Pooja Singhal said the state has prepared a Single Window Clearance Policy in various sectors to invite investors. She said the state government has a "land bank of 1,000 acres" for setting up industries, and threw light on various aspects related to why investors should invest in Jharkhand. She also talked about the JIIPP 2021, ethanol policy, road connectivity, electric vehicle policy, Adityapur Cluster through a presentation.

FTA talks with nations like UK, UAE progressing fast: Goyal



Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal File

New Delhi: India is fast progressing in discussions on different free-trade agreements (FTAs) with countries, including the UK and the UAE, to further enhance trade and investment ties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Saturday.

Under an FTA, two trading partners reduce or eliminate customs duties on the maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they liberalise norms to enhance trade in services and boost investments. Goyal said India is engaging with nations having transparent rule of law and with whom India can have confidence that it will get a fair deal. **PTI**

Google Play app store revenue reached \$11.2 bn in 2019, lawsuit says

PARESH DAVE
OAKLAND, AUGUST 28

ALPHABET INC's Google generated \$11.2 billion in revenue from its mobile app store in 2019, according to a court filing unsealed on Saturday, offering a clear view into the service's financial results for the first time.

Attorneys general for Utah and 36 other US states or districts suing Google over alleged antitrust violations with the app store also said in the newly unredacted filing that the business in 2019 had \$8.5 billion in gross profit and \$7 billion in op-

erating income, for an operating margin of over 62 per cent.

The figures include sales of apps, in-app purchase and app store ads. Google is fighting the charges that it abuses its alleged monopoly in app sales for Android devices. A trial date has not been set. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

Dahod Workshop

New Delhi: Alok Kansal, General Manager of Western Railway, has inaugurated the renamed Dahod Workshop via video link. The previously named 'Loco Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Dahod' has been renamed 'Rolling Stock Workshop, Dahod'.

CII poll of CEOs

New Delhi: A significant economic recovery is on the anvil in 2021-22, as indicated by a chief executive officers poll conducted among 117 senior CEOs at the recent meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) National Council. **ENS**

RECENT INFLATION READINGS 'CAUSE FOR CONCERN', HE SAID AT JACKSON HOLE CONFERENCE

Why Powell still thinks high inflation is 'temporary'

ANNSAPHIR
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 28

US FEDERAL Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Friday pushed back against concerns that swiftly rising prices could be an enduring feature of the economy, forcing the central bank to raise interest rates and cut short the recovery.

While recent inflation readings are "a cause for concern," Powell told the Kansas City Fed's annual Jackson Hole economic symposium, responding to what he sees as likely to be a temporary trend by tightening monetary policy could be a "particularly harmful" mistake. It was a provocative

case to stake out at a time when inflation is sapping consumer sentiment and becoming a political hot potato just as President Joe Biden weighs Powell's appointment for a second term as Fed chief.

Powell's decision to build the case for why inflation isn't a worry — rather than sketch out what could go wrong — drew praise from advocates of the year-old policy framework he championed that emphasizes the Fed's full employment goal and rejects the kind of preemptive inflation-fighting rate hikes that were the stock-in-trade of the Fed in its previous incarnations.

It also sparked criticism from those less sanguine about the



At Friday's Jackson Hole Conference, US Fed Chair Jerome Powell said he was in favour of the Fed starting to reduce its \$120 billion in monthly asset purchases this year. Reuters file

risks, with Harvard University's Jason Furman, who was a former senior economic aide in the

Obama administration, saying that Powell was "failing to take seriously any arguments on the

other side."

And, of course, it comes as Fed officials themselves fully join their own internal debate about when to start backing away from the emergency measures implemented to shield the economy from the disruptions — still ongoing to some degree — of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Indeed, Powell used his speech on Friday to acknowledge that, at least as of last month's policy meeting, he was in favour of the Fed starting to reduce its \$120 billion in monthly asset purchases this year, with inflation already meeting the bar to do so, and further progress on the employment front expected. **REUTERS**

Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

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The gravest downside will be prices. Once monetised, the PSU will cease to be a price-stabiliser in the market. If there are one or two or even three private players in the sector, there is bound to be price-fixing and cartelisation. We have found this to be true even in a so-called competitive market in cement. The United Kingdom was shaken to find this true in the banking industry. My apprehension is that prices will rise in many sectors

THE BIG Lie has been exposed. For the last seven years, Mr Narendra Modi and his ministers have vociferously denounced the Congress governments (and all other previous governments including, ironically, Atal Bihari Vajpayee's) for "doing nothing and building nothing for 70 years". It was as if India had attained Independence only in May 2014. On August 23, 2021, the Finance Minister released a list of assets that were proposed to be 'monetised'. However, she failed to disclose when those assets were built. The answer is, during the maligned '70 years'!

THE LIST INCLUDED

- 26,700 km of roads,
- 28,698 ckt km of power transmission assets,
- 6,000 mw of hydel and solar power assets,
- 8,154 km of natural gas pipelines,
- 3,930 km of petroleum products pipeline,
- 210,00,000 mt of warehousing assets,
- 400 railway stations, 90 passenger train operations, 265 goods sheds,
- Konkan Railway and Dedicated Freight Corridor,
- 2,86,000 km of fibre and 14,917 telecom towers,
- 25 airports and 31 projects in 9 major ports, and
- 2 national stadia.

By a stroke of the pen, Mr Modi and his Finance Minister have threatened to re-

duce India's public sector assets to near zero. They are exulting in the estimate that the government will collect a "rent" of Rs 1,50,000 crore a year and hold on to a piece of paper that it is the "owner" of the asset. They also boast that the heavily depreciated asset will be "returned" to the government at the end of the transfer period. This is the crux of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

OBJECTIVES, CRITERIA
ABSENT

The policy of disinvestment and privatisation has evolved over the years. All governments since 1991 have fine-tuned the policy. Revenue was only **one** of the goals of privatisation. Other objectives were enhanced capital investment, infusion of modern technology, expansion of markets for products, creation of jobs etc. Certain criteria were also set for choosing the units that will be privatised. Among them were:

1. PSUs in a strategic sector will not be privatised — e.g., nuclear energy, defence production, Railways, strategic ports.
 2. Chronically loss-making units could be privatised.
 3. A PSU having a minimal market share for its products could be privatised.
 4. A PSU will be privatised if it will promote competition; it will **not** be privatised if it may lead to a monopoly.
- These criteria have been thrown out of the window and no alternative criteria

have been announced. Surprisingly, Railways has been removed as a strategic sector. It is now classified as a non-core asset even while market economies such as the UK, France, Italy and Germany have retained railways (or the bulk of the country's railway system) in the public sector.

ROAD TO MONOPOLIES

There is genuine concern that the NMP will lead to monopolies (or, at best, duopolies) in key sectors such as ports, airports, solar power, telecom, natural gas pipeline, petroleum pipeline and warehousing. India is relatively a newcomer to the private-sector led economy in industry and services. Such economies will inevitably reach a point when monopolies will emerge. The United States can teach us many lessons in this regard. Presently, the US Congress and government are deliberating on laws and other measures to contain the monopolistic and unfair trade practices of Google, Facebook and Amazon. South Korea has cracked down on its *chaebols*. China is taking action against some of its technology companies that had become 'too big to be regulated'. On the other hand, the NMP promises to take the country in the opposite direction! Apart from the glaring absence of criteria in the choice of PSUs that have been brought under the NMP, it is not clear what the objectives are. Consider the objective of collecting a "rent" of Rs 1,50,000 crore a year. What is not disclosed is the annual revenue **currently** yielded by the chosen

assets. The revenue 'gain' (or 'loss') to the government will only be the **difference** between Rs 1,50,000 crore and the current annual revenue. There is also no clarity on jobs and reservation. Will the present number of jobs in the 'monetised' units be maintained, and eventually enhanced? Will reservation for SC, ST and OBCs be maintained or abolished?

HATCHED IN SECRECY

The gravest downside will be prices. Once monetised, the PSU will cease to be a price-stabiliser in the market. If there are one or two or even three private players in the sector, there is bound to be price-fixing and cartelisation. We have found this to be true even in a so-called competitive market in cement. The United Kingdom was shaken to find this true in the banking industry. My apprehension is that prices will rise in many sectors. Finally, the process reflects the conspiratorial manner in which Mr Modi's government operates. There was no draft paper on NMP. There was no consultation with the stakeholders, especially the employees and the trade unions. There was no discussion in Parliament and there never will be. The policy was hatched in secrecy and announced suddenly. The media was sufficiently tutored by the government and the captains of the private sector to hail the leader and the policy. Get ready for the Grand Bargain Closing Down Sale. Get ready to welcome the monopolists.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

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India can
defeat
jihadi Islam

THIS HAS been a difficult week for those who write topical columns. Even as I sat down to write about the latest economic reform by the Modi government, tragic images from Kabul continued to distract me, forcing a difficult choice. It is not that the murder by jihadist suicide bombers of desperate people waiting to be evacuated and American soldiers who died trying to help them is not important. It is important and deeply distressing. It is also a reminder that India needs to fortify her defences in a region that is becoming increasingly poisoned with violence and hatred, directed especially at us 'infidels'.

The triumphalism in Pakistan at the return of Taliban rule in Afghanistan indicates that they see this as a crucial victory in their forever war against India. High officials in Imran Khan's government have said as much, and added that the Taliban will now help Pakistan 'liberate' Kashmir. India can prevent further jihadist terrorism in Kashmir by restoring full statehood, holding elections and making Kashmiris realise that economic prosperity is more useful than religion. It is something we need to do in all of India. As someone who knows the Islamist republic next door well, believe me nothing frightens Pakistan more than the possibility that India will race so far ahead of it economically that it will make ordinary Pakistanis realise that religion is a weaker glue than prosperity.

In this column I have said before that the main reason why I supported Narendra Modi was because I believed him when he said that he would move India in a new economic direction. By this I mean that he would move firmly away from the Nehruvian socialism that kept India poor by putting the main levers of the economy in the hands of the State. He has not succeeded in doing this because every attempt at real reform has met with jeers from our socialist Opposition leaders, and sly but strong resistance from bureaucrats who derive power from the complex infrastructure of regulations, rules, inspectors and licences that decades of socialism created. Modi like Manmohan Singh has been forced to reform by stealth. He seems still to believe that 'government has no business to be in business' but not a single major public sector company has been privatised since he became PM. Not even Air India. The word 'privatisation' cannot be uttered without people like Rahul Gandhi immediately shrieking about the 'crown jewels' being sold. This happened last week when the Finance Minister announced a National Monetisation Pipeline. She explained defensively that this is not privatisation but an attempt to monetise public sector assets.

As someone who believes that the public sector is a bottomless pit that sucks up money that could be better spent on improving public services, I welcomed the policy and was vilified by Dynasty loyalists and sundry socialists. They accused me of not understanding that the public sector was meant to create jobs and not make profits. Well, the truth is that it has created too few jobs for too much investment. The charge that truly astounded me was that the private sector must not be trusted because it created NPAs (non-performing assets) and corruption. Almost every public sector company is an NPA. And, there is no shortage of crooks and corruption. We just hear too little about them. It is true that Vijay Mallya and Nirav Modi fled without paying their loans, but why do we hear so little about Ravi Parthasarathy who did the same thing? Was it because the company he headed, IL&FS, is a public sector company whose main investor has been the Government of India? In 2018, just before this company posted a loss of Rs 99,354 crore, Mr Parthasarathy, a famous socialite and bon vivant, fled to London supposedly to receive treatment for cancer. When the noise died down, he returned to Mumbai and lived quietly while his subordinates went to jail. Parthasarathy was safe, until last June, because he had cultivated some of the most powerful men in Delhi through an interesting system of bribery. The sons of senior officials and politicians always found jobs in IL&FS and those who needed funds for expensive foreign educations were also helped, as were wives who wanted foreign exchange on trips abroad. Parthasarathy is now rotting in a Chennai jail because in June the Tamil Nadu Economic Offences Wing managed to surprise him at home and arrest him.

Not only are public sector companies often dens of more iniquity, nepotism and corruption than private companies, they have less excuse because instead of creating wealth for India they have served mostly to suck it up. They are so unprofitable that it is estimated that five companies account for 40% of all profits. The public sector needs real reform, and the Prime Minister deserves praise for attempting it. India will never see real prosperity until we realise that socialism was a bad idea that should have been abandoned long ago. Never has India needed more to show that it can become the economic hub of the subcontinent. This does not mean that our problems with jihadi Islam will die a quiet death. They will not. And we must never forget 26/11 because it can happen again. We need to become strong enough to prevent it.

inside
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



LITERARY LOCK-UP

A DISPUTE between the above 100 years old Calcutta Club and the heirs of renowned Bengali writer Nirad C Chaudhuri threatens to escalate into a major scandal. In 2000, Chaudhuri's son Prithvi Chaudhuri, who is the sole executor and authority for the author's estate, had loaned to the club's library rare memorabilia belonging to his father for display only. Prithvi acknowledges that there was no written agreement as it was done in good faith. A special Nirad Chaudhuri corner was created in the library. The expensive items on display included paintings by Claude Monet, Nandalal Bose, Sarat Chandra Bose, among others. In the author's book collection are some valuable first editions, including his own famous work, *Autobiography of an Unknown Indian*. The crown jewel of the collection is an original first folio of Shakespeare. (A first folio of similar vintage was auctioned last year in New York for \$10 million.) Prithvi, who spends much of his time in Dehradun, received word from Kolkata some time back that the Nirad Chaudhuri corner had been temporarily closed for repairs. He got suspicious when the club refused to permit the loaned items to be even photographed to facilitate a well-known producer who is making a documentary on Choudhuri for his 125th anniversary. The club's CEO continues to be evasive about producing the artefacts, which are said to be locked away in a cupboard. In its last reply to Prithvi, the club suggested that it would first vet the documentary script before proceeding, forgetting it does not own the pieces, which were presented as a loan.

DIFFERENT STROKES

The Indian government is said to be completely out of the loop in Afghanistan, with Pakistan trying to ensure that there is no rapprochement with the Taliban. Nevertheless, till the Kabul airport bomb blasts, India managed its large-scale emigration operations fairly smoothly. Although the Kabul airport is guarded on all sides by the Taliban, the Indian government managed to sneak in batches of evacuees seeking shelter in India. The refugees were brought from a shelter where they are being temporarily accommodated. However, there are differences between the MEA and the Home Ministry as to who should be granted asylum in India, apart

from Hindus and Sikhs. The HM insists that extra caution is necessary, which is why e-visas were introduced. In the turmoil after Kabul was taken over, a large number of Indian passports went missing and are feared to be in Pakistani hands.

POT VS KETTLE

Narayan Rane, arrested by the Maharashtra government for a speech threatening to 'slap' Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, feels it is a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Uddhav once threatened to beat up UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath with slippers for failing to remove his footwear before paying homage to Chhatrapati Shivaji. Maharashtra has a long tradition of outstanding orators, with author-poet Acharya Pralhad Keshav Aatre setting a high standard even before Independence. But in recent times Maharashtra leaders get so carried away, their utterances can make audiences blush with embarrassment. Bal Thackeray's harsh language towards opponents led to the phrase "Thackeray bhasha". Leaders from all parties have got into hot water because of colourful language. The late Pramod Mahajan once compared Sonia Gandhi to Monica Lewinsky. Maharashtra NCP minister Chhagan Bhujbal, when in the Sena, wanted statues of Nathuram Godse all over the country.

INNOVATIVE SCHEMES

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's National Monetisation Pipeline scheme offers diverse opportunities for Indian and foreign private capital to raise funds, without impacting government ownership. One innovative suggestion is for private parties to handle rail operations to tourist destinations. Another is for urban municipalities to hire out little-used stadia, which are in urgent need of repair.

RISKY BUSINESS

Poll surveys of the mood of the nation have been embarrassingly inaccurate in the past and consequently many media barons have abandoned this expensive exercise. A major media group which commissioned a Mood of the Nation survey before Independence Day perhaps developed cold feet after seeing the ratings. The survey indicated that the support for Modi as PM had plummeted from 66% to 24% in a year and that Yogi Adityanath had an 11% rating, making him the second most popular prime ministerial candidate, although his home state, UP, is still recovering from the after effects of the Covid pandemic. The group's magazine waited discreetly till after Independence Day to release the data and focused more on the economic survey. The group's Hindi channel ignored the poll findings entirely.

She
SAID

FARIAH SAIDI



SINCE THURSDAY, my phone hasn't stopped ringing. The Kabul airport carnage has left my family and colleagues in Afghanistan shaken. Scared for their lives, they say they have no option but to leave their homes and contemplate lives as refugees in foreign lands, with nothing but a set of clothes and hope for survival. Besides, for many of my colleagues at Zan TV, Afghanistan's first television channel for and by women, the Taliban takeover could also snatch away their hard-earned freedoms and careers. Their spokesperson has already asked working Afghan women to stay at home as Taliban soldiers are "not trained to respect them".

Afghanistan is used to the vicious circle of gruesome war and occasional peace. During one such brief period of calm in 2017, Zan TV was set up to give voice to women and tell their stories. For instance, one of the stories that we broadcast was on widows of men who lost their lives in the war. We got the most inspiring narratives, where many of these women had become successful entrepreneurs to earn a living.

While there were women in the media in Afghanistan, the industry had been largely male-dominated. One of my colleagues (whom I can't name to ensure her safety) told me how when she told her family she wanted to become a journalist, after graduating from college, they were apprehensive. So she took up teaching, considered a job suitable for women in Afghanistan. But when she heard about Zan TV, she convinced her family and got the job. Her income helped her family too. Then there were families who were unsure about their daughters coming in front of the camera for news reports.

Among the 50-60 employees at Zan TV — writers, producers, directors, reporters and anchors — many of them in their 20s, such stories were commonplace. Some of my colleagues were also the sole breadwinners of their families.

The job gave them a chance to go out on the streets and get sound-bites of other women on issues that mattered. They were also secure in the knowledge that their work will be understood by editors back at the office, which was not the case in other media outlets where the editorial lens was largely male.

In the past year, our show *Women of Impact*, hosted by one of my colleagues based in Germany, gained a lot of popularity. It helped us connect with Afghan

Play it again, Zan: In
Kabul darkness, a beam



Girls of a Shaolin Wushu Club show off their skills in Kabul in 2017. File/Reuters

women achievers across the world — politicians, academics, entrepreneurs, activists, among others. In a country where women were once not allowed to leave their homes and fear of torture and death loomed large, the show gave role models to young girls and women. It gave them hope of achieving their true potential.

Many of those dreams may never see the light of the day now. Given their past record, the Taliban cannot be trusted, and that is why my Afghanistan-based colleagues want to leave. But as I share their pain over long phone calls and advise them, I am also aware that life as a refugee is very difficult. These women had thriving careers in Afghanistan, but in a new country, where they might not even understand the language at first, proving their credentials will be very tough. Some of them who have managed to flee have left behind their school and college degrees. They will have to start from scratch. All the progress of the past years will come to naught.

My family was forced to leave Afghanistan in the mid-'90s during the Mujahideen regime. I was in junior school then, and would often hear stories of war and persecution from my mother and grandmother. But along with those, there were also accounts of grit and courage shown by Afghan women and how they kept their families afloat. They didn't just survive, they thrived.

Despite the ongoing wars, the level of education among them was high, many

completed their graduation. A large number of them spoke English and some even went on to join the Parliament. It was this other side of the Afghan woman, one that the world had seen very little of, that Zan TV captured and which inspired me to join them. It gave me the role models that I needed in my life too.

Unfortunately, since Taliban forces surged through the Capital and other parts of the country, the broadcast has stopped. We have been updating news on the outlet's online platforms, but that's all. But as we find our way through this difficult time, some memories bring a smile to my face and revive hope. Once, when an acquaintance and I were talking about my work, he told me about his cousin in Afghanistan who wanted to become a journalist and how she struggled to convince her family, but then went on to do very well. He said the family was really proud of her. Turns out, she was the same girl who had taken up teaching before joining Zan TV!

What is happening now is heart-breaking, but with women like my grandmother, mother and the many employees of Zan TV who are determined to grow and thrive, a new beginning may be around the corner.

Canada-based Fariah Saidi is programme director at Zan TV (As told to Ankita Dwivedi Johri)

National Editor Shalini Langer curates the fortnightly 'She Said' column

history
HEADLINE

DIVYAGOYAL GOPAL

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AS THE last batches of Afghan Sikhs and Hindus arrive in India from the Taliban-besieged nation, many members have been asserting that 'We are Afghans' and not 'Hindustanis', as being portrayed by some. The reality is that, like in case of most communities, history is interlinked. The roots of Sikhism in Afghanistan date back to the 16th Century, when Guru Nanak visited the country to spread the message of "peace, brotherhood and tolerance". As per his travel history recorded in the earliest *Janamsakhis*, during his fourth *udaasi* (travel) between 1519-1521, he visited present-day Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad and Sultanpur, with Bhai Mardana.

Afghan or Indian? A long identity battle

Soon, Guru Nanak's followers grew and many Sikhs from Kabul began to visit Punjab to pay their respects to Sikh gurus. Later, the seventh Sikh Guru, Har Rai, also played a pivotal role in sending Sikh missionaries to Kabul and a *dharamsall* (gurdwara) was established in the city.

"Several documents record the thriving trade of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghan society, but today 99% of them have left the country. Afghanistan... refuses to acknowledge them as their natives but they have made contributions to their motherland despite a turbulent journey. Can an Afghan be a Hindu or a Sikh? History says YES," notes historian Inderjeet Singh in *Afghan Sikhs and Hindus: A History of A Thousand Years*.

From an estimated one-two lakh in the 1970s, the number of Hindus and Sikhs in

Afghanistan has been dwindling since 1992, following the Soviet War when the government fell and Mujahideen rebels took over Kabul. Between 1992 and 2001, the communities faced persecution at the hands of both the Mujahideen and then the Taliban, and many members took refuge in Canada, Austria, the US and UK.

Many of those old fears were revived recently when a suicide bomb attack killed at least 18 Hindus and Sikhs in July 2018, including Awtar Singh Khalsa who was then running for parliamentary polls. He was father of current Afghan MP Narendra Singh Khalsa who arrived in India last week.

Last year, on March 25, when a terror attack by an Islamic State gunman killed 25 Sikhs at Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul, the Sikh-Hindu population in Afghanistan

stood at 650, with around 400 moving to India soon after. As Taliban forces took over, just 280 of them were left.

But even as they find new homes in new countries — and are viewed through the prism of their religion and ties to India — their clothes, language, food and culture all bear a distinct Afghan identity. The Sikhs from the region can be broadly divided into three categories: Pashtun Sikhs, who hail from provinces such as Khost and Paktia and speak Pashto and Dari; Sikhs from Kabul, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Kunduz, Laghman and Logar, who speak the Hindko dialect of Punjabi; and the Siraiki-dialect speaking Sikhs from Kandahar, Urugzan.

But with Dari (Persian) and Pashto being spoken all over, most members of the community are proficient in at least one of

these languages. Hindi entered their lives through Bollywood films in the 1980s and 1990s, and while many understand the language now, not all of them speak it. The way Afghan Sikhs wrap their turbans too is different from Indian Sikhs, and their food, with delicacies such as *Ashak* and *Mantu*, has more in common with other Afghan communities than with the cuisine of Punjab. Attan Milli, an Afghani dance, is also a part of their culture.

"We are Sikhs, but not Hindustanis. We are Afghans," says Pritpal Singh, a London resident who visited Afghanistan in 2012 to film a documentary in his father's ancestral town Jalalabad. "We had to flee in 1992 and I see the same happening again. My children, who have grown up in London, may never be able to visit Afghanistan."

A LETTER FROM
BANARAS

UTTAR PRADESH



VANDITA MISHRA

SOMETHING WAS different about 'Pappu ki Dukan'.

There is still no banner or board announcing it in the chowk. It's still just there, a short walk through twisty lanes from Assi Ghat, where, as they do every monsoon, the Ganga's waters have risen past the steep ghat steps to lap at the doors of homes and hotels.

Banaras is a city that savours the rituals of argument and banter nearly as much as it relishes its vivid varieties of street food. For the everyday debate, Pappu's tea shop, small and ill-lit, a couple of smudged tables and benches against world-weary walls, is a daily nook.

Here, you don't wait for the noise to fade or the crowd to clear before arguing. Perhaps because this knowing city and its cramped tea shop have a heads-up — they know that the mess and the noise, the beauty and the squalor, are part of the to-and-fro, not outside of it. And that you can't cordon off the debater or the debate.

At Pappu's tea shop, during elections and in between them, you will always find a political conversation you can join or poke, no matter what your own politics may be. On a given day, you could swap with a poet or a retired bureaucrat, a professor who has ambled in from the Banaras Hindu University campus next door, a politician in search of an audience, a daily wage-earner on a break. The discussion, no matter how heated it gets, could end with your sparring partner buying you the tea. It could leave you with a brief flash of insight, an unexpected frisson of understanding.

During a visit in February 2020, after a particularly sharp and angry exchange on the anti-CAA protests that raged at the time, just before the coronavirus forced the protesters indoors, it suddenly seemed to be written on the tea shop wall: It's intent, not law. The amended citizenship law, which excludes Muslims from the list of groups to be given fast-tracked citizenship, and the proposed National Register of Citizens that threatens to make the citizen's sense of home hostage to documents and cut-off dates, are the distillation of a political message. There is no point in quarrelling about legal clauses or details.

As we sit again at Pappu's on a sweaty August afternoon, waiting for the *chai*, purposeful looking men, *tilaks* on foreheads, come in and gesture in a peremptory sort of way. Space must be cleared on the benches for a prominent BJP leader and his entourage. The leader makes an entry and his band of supporters fill up the tiny shop barely long enough for a cup of tea over talk about the party's "*chunavi tayyari* (election preparedness)", and take a round of selfies.

But a moment has been marked that goes against the tea leaves in Pappu's *chai* shop. In this Banaras corner, debate was the great equaliser, power an idea to be played with, punched holes into. It was not to be deferred to. Or ceded the tea-shop bench. Not anymore, it seems.



Renovation of the Kashi Vishwanath temple under the temple corridor project, whose foundation stone was laid by PM Modi in March 2019, is racing towards completion. It is expected to keep its inauguration deadline of November 30. Anand Singh

Tea, talk, tally and temple

Below the Ganga waters, there are undercurrents, a desire for '*naya chehra*', discontent over prices, bitterness over Covid, disquiet over religious rift. However, will it matter in 2022? One can't say with Banaras

Ajay Kumar Gautam, 32 years old, and Manish Kumar Pandey, 24, two young men who drive taxis in the city, live in villages nearby. Ajay and Manish are as different from each other as a Dalit can be from a Brahmin in caste-ridden Uttar Pradesh. But the pandemic has pounded and flattened their stories, bringing the same underlying precarity to the surface.

Ajay, a Dalit, returned to work in the first week of this month, after the pandemic-induced lay-off of over a year, starting from the first lockdown in March 2020. In this period, he went back to his village Sadalpur in district Chandauli, worked on his small patch of land, and did construction jobs for daily wages. Before the pandemic, he had worked as a driver since 2018 in a Banaras hotel, which laid him off after guests dried up due to Covid. Earlier, he worked for one-and-a-half years in a Maruti factory in Gurgaon, but was forced to return in 2013, along with other young men from the district, after they ran foul of the factory's management. They had mounted a "*dhama pradarshan* (agitation)" to demand adequate compensation and a job for the family of a fellow worker, who lost his arm while working. "This could have happened to any of us", says Ajay.

Ajay commutes from his village to Banaras every day and rising fuel prices have meant that Rs 120 worth of petrol in his bike is barely enough to make the daily trip to the city and back. He got a TV as dowry when he got married in May 2017, but hardly gets time to watch it, "not even Modi's speeches", because he reaches back home late in the night, and must leave for the city again early next morning at 6.30-7.

Ajay belongs to the same sub-caste as Mayawati, but his family has been voting BJP, because "the BSP government favours only a few, not the poor", and the SP brings the fear of "*Yadav raj*". But next time elections come, he and his wife will break away from the family, they want change. Next time, other factors will prevail — the local (BJP) MLA is unhelpful, but the (SP) MP is benevolent, he says.

Ajay ran from one hospital to another to arrange oxygen for his mother-in-law and his sister's mother-in-law, when both were infected by Covid. No hospital took in his mother-in-law, she died at home. For his sister's mother-in-law, one hospital asked for Rs 1.5 lakh for oxygen, "no guarantee", and the family spent Rs 60,000 for treatment at a second hospital, but she died too. Giving the lie to the ubiquitous government posters that promise free vaccines, Ajay has just paid Rs 100 to register for his first shot.

"My two-year-old son runs to me every evening when I get back home, asks *papa kya le ke aaye* (what have you brought me). How do I tell him, Rs 120 *ka toh tel hi bharwa diye* (Rs 120 went only in filling petrol)".

"*Koi naya chehra* (a new face)" is needed again, says Manish Kumar Pandey, a Brahmin, who also commutes daily to Banaras, from village Jalhupur, 10 km away. "We were Congress, but voted for Modi in 2014. We thought he has risen from below, sold tea, *gareebon ka samjhenge, karenge* (he understands poverty, will work for the poor)".

"*Sanskriti*" or culture is important, says

Manish, but the main issue is "*bhookhmari* (hunger)", "*Ghar bhi toh chalana hai* (we have to run our households too)".

Manish's father died in 2007, casting the burden of earning on the young boy of 10, who headed to Gorakhpur the next year to wash plates at Anuradha Coffee Centre, and from there to work in a poultry farm in Kushmi Jungle outside the town.

From there, Manish went to Mumbai, worked as a coolie-cum-helper in a garment factory. He taught himself to stitch and sew, and earned much better for the next six years, saving enough money to send home — in 2015, he remembers sending up to Rs 18,000 a month. Then, *notebandi* (demonetisation) happened in November 2016, and the *karigar* (craftsmen) bore the brunt. They were not paid on time or in full. Manish had to come back to Banaras in 2017, where he picked up work as a driver. He remembers the day he bought his own car to ply as a taxi, as if it were yesterday — August 1, 2019. Then, Covid struck.

"In the three months of the first lockdown, the car stood still. Business is now picking up, but people are still not travelling freely... About 50 per cent market *sahi ho gaya hai* (has recovered), but diesel is Rs 90/litre. It means that if I earn Rs 2,000 in 12 hours, Rs 1,200 goes on diesel."

"Earlier, edible oil was Rs 50 a litre, now it is Rs 200, and the gas cylinder is touching Rs 920. *Kam kharcha karte hain* (we have cut our expenditure)," he says.

Manish is a devout Hindu, visits the Kashi

Vishwanath temple regularly, but "*insaani hee nahin raha, toh mandir kya karega* (of what use is a temple when survival becomes difficult)".

If a city has a voice different from the sum of its parts, you can't be sure if Banaras would agree fully with Manish — so mindful does it seem to the rhythms of devotion, so readily does it give devotees the right of way.

At the congested Godowlia *chauraha*, spread across the facade of a building that offers multi-level parking, a giant TV screen is a splash of moving light and colour above the busy crowds — in July-August, the month in the Hindu calendar dedicated to Lord Shiva, it shows rituals inside the *garbha griha* or sanctum sanctorum of the Kashi Vishwanath temple, live. Even the Covid lockdown days were shifted in Banaras to accommodate the pilgrim rush on "*Sawan ka Somwar*", the Mondays of July-August, when devotees flock to the temple to seek "Baba's" blessings.

There is the grand temple to Lord Ram that is being built across the state in Ayodhya. More importantly for Banaras residents, "*Baba ka vistarikaran*", the large-scale expansion and renovation of the Kashi Vishwanath temple under the temple corridor project, whose foundation stone was laid by PM Modi in March 2019, is racing towards completion.

The inauguration of the renovated temple will keep its deadline of November 30 this year, says head of the Mandir Nyas Executive Committee, Divisional Commissioner Deepak Aggarwal. Houses have been demolished, compensation paid, and many allege even as the Commissioner refutes, several

smaller temples brought down, to make way for the 24 grand new structures being built in eight kinds of stone. All the better for pilgrims, who come mostly from the country's south, to make their way to the temple, and to connect the temple to the Ganga.

On a wet Sunday, the temple complex is a hive of buzzing activity, massive machines noisily at work, heaving, lifting, pumping, as pilgrims make their way, seemingly undeterred by Covid or the slashing rain. The Yatri Suvidha Kendras (pilgrimage facilitation centres), guest houses, viewing gallery, museum, hospice, food court, souvenir and book shop, ramps, lifts and escalators — they are there in skeletal forms, in different stages of completion.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visits Varanasi and the Kashi-Vishwanath temple about twice in a month, people here say, and his visits continue amid Covid. PM Modi came here roughly once in three months, before the pandemic.

A message has travelled from West Bengal to politically aware Uttar Pradesh, and it pierces the inevitability of Modi. Vis-a-vis the Yogi government, too, there are mounting signs of disbelief, even within the saffron camp — from complaints about the temple renovation project to the wider Covid suffering and economic distress, from grumbling about political favours to the Yuva Vahini and Thakurs to resentment against "*taana shahi*" and/or "*bhasha shaili*" (authoritarianism, abrasive politics). But come elections, the economic distress that seems so pulsating and concerns that seem so irrefutable now, may well be overlaid. Will they be rubble under the temple, is the question.

The Kashi Vishwanath temple complex is adjacent to the compound of the Gyanvapi mosque — this *mandir-masjid* dispute is still unresolved, still in court. The entry from the road is common to the temple and mosque. "If we build for the temple, mosque goes will benefit too," says Commissioner Aggarwal.

Yet in the run-up to another election, old anxieties are being stoked again.

"They will play the Hindu-Muslim card when the election comes," says a Muslim sari-seller in an upscale locality, who doesn't want to be named. He refers to the line that divides his Muslim dominated *mohalla* from the Hindu neighbourhood next-door as the "border", in a normalised, matter-of-fact way.

So what has changed after the BJP swept to power in 2017? "Earlier, every few days, two or three times in a month, I would go with my family to the banks of the Ganga, to roam on the *ghat*, rent a boat, have dinner, and not worry about the evening fall. Now we try to get back home before dark. Now we hesitate to go out... *ched-chaad aur badtameezi karte hain* (they trouble and threaten us)," he says. "People from good families have stopped venturing out of the *mohalla* after dark".

And then, many point out, the Opposition seems unresisting or absent. In Yogi *raj*, under Akhilesh Yadav, the Samajwadi Party has seemed more active on Twitter. Mayawati's tightly controlled BSP does not easily come out on the streets anyway. "Leaders of the Opposition need to vigorously stand up to the Yogi government's bid to silence political disagreement and protest, they should be prepared to even go to jail..." a former journalist says.

"*Banaras ke logon ka kuch theek nahin hai, seedhe chalte-chalte kab ghoom jayen, kuch pata nahin* (the people of this city can take you by surprise, you make a prediction at your own peril)," the Banaras resident will say.

Banarasi exceptionalism is real as well as imagined. Yet it would indeed be foolish to second guess this "*galiyon ka sheher*", this city of narrow lanes, where traffic must weave and reverse to move forward, where lines lose their straightness, and where negotiation is a daily staple.

THE SUNDAY PROFILE

A Justice, denied

As Supreme Court finally gets nine new judges, one name remains conspicuously out: Justice Akil Kureshi. The long and short journey of the judge from a Gujarat family once close to Mahatma Gandhi

APURVA VISHWANATH
& SOHINI GHOSH

THE IMPASSE over appointment of judges to the top court has finally ended with the government clearing all the nine names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium. However, one of the names that remains out, despite being No. 2 in the All-India List of seniority for judges of high courts, is of Tripura Chief Justice Akil Kureshi.

One of the reasons for the impasse over the appointments, that lasted two years, is said to have been the Collegium not including Justice Kureshi's name for elevation. Supreme Court judge Justice Rohinton Nariman, who reportedly insisted on it, retired on August 12; the Collegium's list of nine came just five days later. It's not the first time that the career of Justice Kureshi, who is originally from the Gujarat HC, has hit a wall.

Justice Akil Abdulhamid Kureshi was born in 1960 to an illustrious Gujarat family. Prof Anamik Shah, former vice-chancellor of Gujarat Vidyapeeth, says Justice Kureshi's grandfather Ghulam Rasul Kureshi was part of '*Arun Tukdi*', which would walk the route of Dandi March ahead of Mahatma Gandhi's arrival.

His father Hamid Kureshi was a senior advocate and a trustee of the Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust, and among the last people to have been born and lived at Sabarmati Ashram, founded by Gandhi in 1917.

In 2016, when he died, he was cremated as per his wishes, in line with Gandhian principles.

After graduating in Mathematics in 1980 and Law in 1983, Justice Kureshi followed in his father's footsteps. After almost 20 years at the Bar, in 2004, he was appointed Additional Judge of the Gujarat High Court. He served for 14 years in the court but was transferred just when he was due to become Chief Justice.

During his time in the High Court, Justice Kureshi gave two important verdicts which were an embarrassment to the then Narendra Modi government in the state. In 2010, he set aside a trial court order and granted the CBI two-day custody of then Gujarat Home Minister and now Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the Sohrabuddin Sheikh counter case. (In 2014, Shah was cleared in the case by a Special CBI Court.)

In 2011, a Bench headed by Justice Kureshi upheld the then Gujarat governor Kamla Beniwal's decision to appoint former high court judge RA Mehta as the state's Lokayukta. It had been opposed by CM Modi.

Justice Kureshi was expected to become Gujarat Chief Justice when the post fell vacant in November 2018, as the senior-most judge of the court. However, Justice A S Dave was named Acting Chief Justice and Justice Kureshi

was transferred to the Bombay High Court, where he would be fifth in seniority.

Over 1,200 lawyers of the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association launched a strike against the move and petitioned the Supreme Court. While Justice Kureshi's transfer to Bombay was stalled, in May 2019, the government sent back the Collegium's recommendation to appoint him as Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court instead. Finally, in September, the Collegium recommended him for the post of Tripura Chief Justice.

This meant that from looking at heading a court with 53 judges, Justice Kureshi found himself leading one with just four.

Acquaintances in Gujarat vouch for Justice Kureshi's integrity, pointing out how in 2014, he had recused himself from hearing a PIL alleging encroachment on the premises of the Sabarmati Ashram Trust, Sabarmati Harijan Ashram Trust and Manav Sadhna Trust.

As the Tripura Chief Justice, he took up the case of trafficking of a 14-year-old girl in 2020 suo motu; directed a probe into a woman and her husband's suicide following some leaked videos, with the accused tried for moral policing; and took up a PIL on the state government's handling of Covid, following which the latter "slightly corrected" its vaccination claims.

A judge in the High Court said Justice Kureshi was "hardworking", "independent" and "excellent in reasoning" while recording his opinions. A court official noted the "exceptionally high" disposal rate of cases since he took over in 2019, with only 1,500 cases pending now compared to 3,000 at that time.

But if the Centre is not seen as favourable to Justice Kureshi, many in the legal circles question the judiciary's "hesitation" in resisting it. "Before anyone blames the government for not appointing a judge, one must ask the judiciary why the name was never sent. Be it Justice Kureshi or Saurabh Kirpal... the government might object, but we will only know when the ball is in the government's court," a Delhi-based senior advocate said. The Collegium has been deferring nominating the openly gay Kirpal as a judge of the Delhi High Court, reportedly due to the government's objections.

Yatin Oza, who heads the Gujarat High Court Advocates Association and is a former BJP MLA, said they are not looking at any legal route now. "It will send a wrong signal, and if there are bleak chances of Justice Kureshi coming to the Supreme Court, those will be destroyed as it has only one vacancy left." Also criticising the Collegium, Oza added, "If you have the powers to appoint and if you are not able to exercise that power or you are not able to see to it that government acts on your recommendation, whether the power is with you or government, what difference does it make?"

WITH DEBRAJ DEB



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



SPOTLIGHT
A Lonely Vigil
The exhausting protest of
a Kerala nun



BOOKS
● Review of Jairam Ramesh's *The Light of Asia: The Poem That Defined the Buddha*
● Review of UL Baruah's *A Bangladesh War Commentary: 1971 Radio Dispatches Volume I*
● Review of Vir Sanghvi's *A Rude Life: The Memoir*

In the Light of Yesterday

Before the Taliban took control of Afghanistan this month, once there was a Kabul that was a city of dreamers and poets, kite flyers and children trudging to school — a city with a future

Taran N Khan

THROUGH THE incessant rain outside my window in Mumbai, in my mind's eye I see glimpses of the Paghman range, the mountains that were visible from every room of my first apartment in Kabul. It was the spring of 2006 and I thought nothing of sitting out on our small balcony or standing by the windows. Later, I would be warned about both these things.

In the mainstream media, the events of last week appear as a sudden shift. But Kabul changed long before the Taliban took over last Sunday. For years, many voices tried to tell us this moment was coming.

Suhail (name changed) was one of the first people I met in Kabul; he gave me my first cup of green tea and my first language lessons ("Afghan for the person, Afghani for the money"). It was only in the last few months that I heard him speak about trying to leave Afghanistan. I called him days before the city was captured by the Taliban. "They will do something," he had said confidently, about the international forces that were arriving in the capital. "They won't just let everything go."

In 2014, the International Security Assistance Force or ISAF formally ended its combat operations in Afghanistan. The year before that, many people I knew either left Kabul or made plans to depart. They saw no future for themselves in the city.

Suhail was different. He travelled abroad for his work and to study. And he always went home to Kabul. His family was growing and he had built them a house on a hill. From each of the windows was a view of trees. He had spent his childhood as a refugee in neighbouring Pakistan. We never spoke about it, but I think he did all this so his children did not feel unmoored.

In my photos there is one taken in Qargha, a scenic artificial lake a short drive north of Kabul, where Suhail took us soon after Nauroz in 2006. I remember his laughter tinged with pride as I exclaimed at the beauty of the landscape, which I found breathtaking. Behind the ruined mud walls on the edge of the city, I saw houses rising, like green shoots in the spring.

What I remember from those rainy mornings in 2006 is the cautious sense of optimism. You could speak of the city in the future tense.

In his memoir *In a Land Far from Home: A Bengali in Afghanistan* (2015; translated from the original *Deshe Bideshe*), writer Syed Mujtaba Ali describes living in Kabul in the



THOSE WERE THE DAYS
(Clockwise from here) Children playing with kites; streets of Kabul; an old wreckage of an aircraft in the valley



GETTY IMAGES

late 1920s. He wrote about its vistas and its markets, its homes and its people, in a way that felt familiar to me. For Ali, Kabul was a city marked by its independence from British colonial rule, and he envied Kabulis this freedom. At the time, King Amanullah

was implementing his controversial agenda of modernisation in Afghanistan. By the time Ali published his memoir, it was 1943. Mohammed Zahir Shah was on the throne. He would be the last king of Afghanistan. Soon after his overthrow in a coup in 1973



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/CHRISTOPHER KILLALEA

would come decades of war.

A few years ago Suhail's son had been shot in the arm. He had been around 12 years old

then, and had been playing in his living room when a bullet came through the window, straying from a street fight.

When Suhail was his son's age, he had been taken by his teachers on a class picnic. They had gone to the Bagh-e-Bala, the summer

palace of Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, the ruler installed by the British as they withdrew after the second Anglo-Afghan war in 1880. The preceding violence had left Kabul damaged; the British handed over a capital of ruined monuments and gardens to the new Amir.

Since Kabul had come under the Taliban's control, Suhail had tried to reach the airport twice. Once, he was almost caught in a stampede, he said. As I write, I wait for his news. I think of an afternoon in Panjshir visiting a different friend's family, who talked about the resistance to the Taliban from the valley in the 1990s. I heard such talk of resistance — small and large — from people I met in Kabul over the years. I didn't hear much from Afghans about Afghans being saved — these were stories I gathered from the English mainstream media.

Among the many kinds of violence faced by Afghans is their erasure from narratives about Afghanistan. They are often described either as noble victims, or eternal warriors. Afghanistan is described as a "graveyard of empires", or the setting for "the Great Game". There is a tone of certitude in such stories — that this ending was pre-ordained, that this violence had to come. Such stories erase the brutalities that unfolded across the country and in Kabul before the current takeover by the Taliban. They also blot out the very idea of a future.

Mujtaba Ali was in Kabul when a revolt erupted against King Amanullah. He ended up being evacuated in an airlift from the city in early 1929. From the window of the plane as it took off, he saw his Afghan manservant Abdur Rahman running through the snow, waving his white turban. "*Ba aman e khuda*," they had said to each other in parting.

The same words my friends end each conversation with these days. "In the care of God," they say.

Kabul appears in the rain outside my window, and I draw on a memory of hope that glimmers like the snow glimpsed on the Paghman range. Of a Kabul imagined by those who watch it receding from a plane window, who watch it on the news from afar, or who watch it from the windows of their homes; a city of peace, a city with dreamers and poets, kite flyers and children trudging to school, kicking pebbles on their way. The city I saw, a city with a future.

Taran Khan travelled to and worked in Kabul between 2006 and 2013. Her first book, *Shadow City: A Woman Walks Kabul* (2019) won the Tata Literature Live! First Book Award and the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year award

Play, Paused

In the last two decades, Afghanistan's long history of storytelling had found a voice through women's theatre groups. An artistic director, who had nurtured some of these groups, on how that stands threatened now

Dipanita Nath

AT THE centre of the Pashto play *Backbiters* are a young girl who refuses to be sold in marriage to an older man and her friend who intends to go for higher studies. Women in the latter's neighbourhood in northern Afghanistan gossip that she intends to go to university, where she'd sit next to boys and wear lipstick. By the end of the show, these women are made to realise that their chatter is not only harmful, it is also against Islamic tenets. Until recently, *Backbiters* was a hugely popular plays espousing women's rights. Today, its performers are hiding from the Taliban, who took control of Afghanistan recently.

"Our women's theatre groups in Afghanistan were very successful. Theatre training is good for confidence building and the women learnt to stand straight, not keep their eyes down as they had done since childhood and speak clearly. Many went on to hold public offices and become provincial youth leaders. It is disheartening to see all the good work reversed in days," says Joanna Sherman, artistic director, Bond Street Theatre, which has been working in Afghanistan since 2003, with the support of the US embassy and the US Institute of Peace, among others. The collabo-



COURTESY: JOANNA SHERMAN, BOND STREET THEATRE

SEPIA TONES

Memories of a theatre workshop in Afghanistan

ration resulted in four women's theatre companies across Afghanistan.

Bond Street's first view of Afghanistan was of a demolished landscape. "Most places looked like stones had been piled on stone. People were eking out an existence between two walls that had fallen on top of each other. What struck us was that the people were determined to get life going again," she says.

Theatre in Afghanistan had also been subjected to these political upheavals, brought about by years of the *mujahideen*, civil war and the Taliban regime. A group of some of the best actors, directors, playwrights had escaped from Afghanistan during the first Taliban regime and had formed Exile Theatre in Peshawar, where they did theatre performances about different social topics. But Afghans have a long history of

storytelling. At the Bharat Rang Mahotsav, the theatre festival of the National School of Drama in Delhi, a few years ago, a puppet theatre artiste had said, "If bombs go off, all of us freeze mid-dialogue for a few seconds and then we start acting immediately and ignore everything else." This was evident when the Kabul Theatre Festival was held in 2005, and 50 groups turned up from across the country, made up of many young Afghans who had never seen a play. "At the festival, 49 stories were about the war. It showed that theatre is intrinsic to human nature and people want to tell stories and act it out," says New York-based Sherman.

The last 20 years have also been a time of experiments and transformations, with music beginning to play in weddings and people enjoying Turkish dramas and Bollywood films. Young performers were ready to shed realism and explore new movements in theatre. Bond Street Theatre partnered with Exile Theatre in their work in Afghanistan. "Initially, we faced resistance from certain quarters... Women were also not allowed to perform in public, especially in conservative areas. We had to go to religious leaders and say the women were only going to perform for other women on topics such as health issues and voting rights. In areas where we did our performances about voting, women's voting went up by 80 per cent," says Sherman.

The women who performed were mostly either teenagers yet to be married or over 35 years of age, who had fulfilled their childbearing duties and were ready to explore their artistic sides. While male actors put up street shows in marketplaces, women's theatre was staged in the homes of women or women's parks, each performance of about 30 minutes. "The audience was delighted because it was like live TV coming home. We hear about men playing women, but in our plays, women play the men. They are really good because they know how the abusive husband is or how the dismissive policeman behaves," says Sherman.

With the US deadline to leave Afghanistan only hours away, the theatre company is "deluged with requests for asylum". One of the women they are trying to get out is an actor they had come across in a theatre festival in 2005, when she was merely 14 years old. She has become an outspoken activist since and features on the Taliban's list.

Another young woman, an orphan who once performed with the group before her relatives put a stop to it, will stay back. "Maybe she'll have a hard life but she will always remember that she had been strong and mighty on stage and the women in the audience had listened to her because she had something to say that was important, and the boldness to say it," says Sherman.

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The Light Fantastic

In his new book, Jairam Ramesh presents a profound and deeply immersive biography of Edwin Arnold’s influential book on the life of the Buddha

Tansen Sen

JAIRAM RAMESH is a well-known author of books on Indian politics, politicians, and international affairs. Although *The Light of Asia* significantly deviates from his previous writings thematically, it preserves Ramesh’s hallmark embrace of archival research and his zeal for storytelling. The story he tells this time is not about a person or event but concerns the global life of a fascinating book by the 19th-century English polyglot Edwin Arnold (1834–1904), titled *The Light of Asia or The Great Renunciation* (*Mahabhinishkramana*) *Being the Life and Teaching of Gautama: Prince of India and Founder of Buddhism*. Ramesh’s latest publication is a biography of this immensely influential book.

Published in July 1879, Arnold’s narrative of the life of the Buddha is “an epic poem written in blank verse,” that is, “poetry written with regular metrical but unrhymed lines.” Intricately knitting together the various phases of the Buddha’s life – his conception, his worldly experiences at his father’s palace, the “four sights” that led him to renounce familial attachments and the luxuries of palace life, the sensual temptations crafted by Mara as he meditated in forest, the attaining of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, his teachings of the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, and the final cessation of his life – Arnold’s biography quickly became popular among Indian and foreign intellectuals, Nobel laureates, and politicians, including both Mahatma Gandhi and Winston Churchill among its admirers. It was translated into several Indian and European languages, performed in theatres, and made into films. For those unfamiliar with Arnold’s work, I recommend the beautifully illustrated 1885 edition published by JR Osgood & Co. in Boston, which is freely available online.

Ramesh’s objective is not to analyse the Buddha’s biography, nor is it to explore the literary merit of Arnold’s “blank verse.” His task is rather to enlighten us about Arnold and the history and the various entanglements of *The Light of Asia*. The result is a captivating study of a man who called himself “one who loved India and the Indian peoples” and his most famous work, as well as the impact the two had on a slew of renowned individuals across the world and on one of the most important sites of Buddhist pilgrimage. Ramesh’s book is a delightful read, being exceptionally educational and remarkably impressive in respect of its research and investigative work.

Ramesh’s *The Light of Asia* is divided into four sections. The first section covers three phases of Edwin Arnold’s life prior to 1879; the second is an entwined history of Arnold and his *The Light of Asia* as the two journeyed around the globe; the third deals with the afterlife of *The Light of Asia* after Arnold’s death; and the short final section narrates the “curious” cases of Arnold’s translation of a “verse-saying” of a Kashmiri saint and princess named Lallesvari, and the “discovery” of Arnold’s grandchildren, their connections to the Indian subcontinent, and the fact



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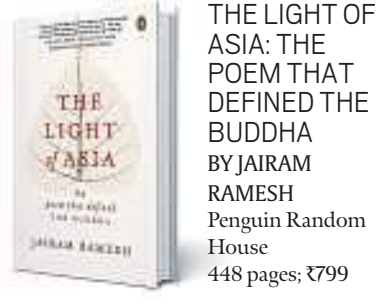
that they had embraced different religions. Ramesh’s book ends with “A Final Word,” in which he underscores the “enduring appeal” of *The Light of Asia* and the remarkable life and contributions of its author, who, according to Ramesh, “was a man of his times, firmly anchored in late Victorian society, a quintessential British imperialist but deeply in love with other cultures, most notably India and, towards the end of his kaleidoscopic life, Japanese as well.”

A student of the classics at Oxford

WHAT THE BUDDHA TAUGHT

An 18th century Thangka painting of Shakyamuni Buddha

University. Arnold’s love for India started in late 1857, when he accepted the position of Principal of Poona College (now the Deccan College). During his two-year stay at Poona, Arnold learnt Sanskrit, started translating Indic texts, and championed the cause of education and literacy, including women’s education. After his tenure in Poona, he spent over a decade and half (1860–76) in London as a writer, journalist and poet. During this time, he published a translation of the *Hitopadesa* and wrote a two-volume work on Lord



THE LIGHT OF ASIA: THE POEM THAT DEFINED THE BUDDHA BY JAIRAM RAMESH Penguin Random House 448 pages; ₹799

Dalhousie’s reign in India. In late 1875, his rendition of the *Gitagovinda* appeared as *The Indian Songs of Songs*. With the latter publication, Ramesh notes, “Arnold made a name for himself in England and India as well.” Indeed, two years later, Queen Victoria conferred the prestigious Order of the Star of India upon him.

The publication of *The Light of Asia* firmly established Arnold as one of the leading scholars of India and Indian religions. Ramesh outlines in invigorating detail the significance of this work beyond the fame it brought to its author. He does this by demonstrating the impact the poem had on various people and organisations in India and abroad, the multiple translations that were published down to the 21st century, and the reason “it occupies an important place in the historiography of modern Buddhism.” Regarding the latter, Ramesh explains the influence Arnold and his *The Light of Asia* had on the members of the Theosophical Society, especially Colonel Henry Steel Olcott, who lauded the book for doing “more for Buddhism than any other agency,” and Anagarika Dharmapala, who played an important role in asserting Buddhist claims over the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhi Gaya then under the control of a group of Shaivites. Arnold himself, Ramesh shows, was deeply involved in advocating the preservation of the Temple as a Buddhist site under Buddhist control.

Given the details provided by Ramesh, the wish list for additional material is a short one. Ramesh could have examined Olcott’s comment about the significance of *The Light of Asia* to the Buddhist revival movements across Asia in more detail, going beyond just the issue of the Mahabodhi Temple. Equally important is the need to explain the use of the term “Asia” in the title of Arnold’s book. This is pertinent because one of the figures Ramesh discusses in the context of the Mahabodhi Temple is Okakura Kakuzo, who famously wrote that “Asia was One” and who was instrumental in popularising the idea of pan-Asianism. Was Okakura influenced by *The Light of Asia*, especially Arnold’s Preface, where the poet describes Buddhism as the “great faith of Asia” and claims that the Buddha’s “spiritual dominions” extended “from Nepal and Ceylon over the whole Eastern Peninsula to China, Japan, Thibet, Central Asia, Siberia, and even Swedish Lapland”? The late-19th century was a critical period for the emergence of an Asian consciousness in India, Japan, and China. Did *The Light of Asia* help trigger it?

Tansen Sen is director of the Center for Global Asia and professor of History, New York University, Shanghai

Writing for the Ear

How the AIR commentaries shaped public opinion during the Bangladesh War of Independence

Syed Akbaruddin

VISUALISING JOURNALISM as a vocation in India today brings forth images of newspapers, magazines, television, and now, the omniscient social media and digital apps. Rarely does radio figure in that list, except as an afterthought. We live in times when capsules of news within a sequence of musical records form the staple of most radio broadcasts. A lack of awareness that radio journalism, too, once thrived may well be forgiven.

The art of “writing for the ear” is different. It requires skills of a higher order than the investigative and literary abilities of a good journalist. Listeners seldom give radio their undivided attention. Building a narrative, when words are evanescent and those who utter them invisible, is no simple matter. When narratives are in competition as was in South Asia in 1971, the challenge becomes stiffer. Reading UL Baruah’s *A Bangladesh War Commentary* brought back childhood memories of when All India Radio (AIR) bulletins were the only source of “breaking news” for ordinary Indians. In hindsight, such AIR commentaries can be termed as a form of “public diplomacy” as they were competing for mind space and seeking to mould national opinion in India and beyond. In the “technology-deficient” environment of India of the early-1970s, AIR helped Indians make sense of “current events” and shaped incipient world views of many, like me.

Across terrains, war despatches are popular. The narratives of World War II about the heroics of the Allied Forces were crucial to the golden age of radio in the West. Baruah, who was a broadcaster during World War II before going on to become the director general of AIR towards the end of his career, appears to have understood that well. The manuscripts of his radio despatches of 1971, which were retrieved from oblivion through the assiduous efforts of his journalist son, Amit Baruah, are in the same vein. The news stories are told in a conversational way that ordinary people can easily comprehend. The subject matter reflects an archetypal Indian viewpoint.

Writing of the emergence of Bangladesh, Baruah puts it pithily, “The house that jinnah built has collapsed. Political philosophers, who stressed the subjective element in the making of a nation, have been proved wrong... Appeals in the name of Islam and Pakistani ideology ceased to have any meaning for the Bengalis.”

Baruah follows an interesting approach. He consistently draws from Pakistani sources to embellish his commentaries while pointing out the fault lines in their society. Of particular interest is his depiction of the story relating to the until-then-favoured “establishment” journalist Anthony Mascarenhas, covering the events in East Pakistan for the Karachi newspaper, *The Morning News*. It was Mascarenhas who, in an article

in *Sunday Times* on June 13, 1971, unveiled the genocidal intentions of the regime, told to him repeatedly by Pakistani officers. The horrific nature of the details shared by Mascarenhas and related by Baruah included the willingness to kill two million people, elimination of the intelligentsia, resettlement of non-Bengalis and redistribution of Hindu property. Baruah also generously uses Western correspondents’ assessments of the situation in both wings of Pakistan. Perhaps, this was to appeal to the audiences in Pakistan, as his commentaries were also broadcast in Punjabi, Pashto, Sindhi and Urdu as part of AIR’s outreach efforts.

The surge of social media now means the medium of messaging has changed. Internet has made radio broadcasters audio-content creators in a multi-platform world. All this is reinvigorating the notion of “writing for the ear”. The reappearance of Baruah’s long-forgotten radio despatches, written 50 years ago, takes us back to what may seem as a quaint era, when measurement of audio success was not tracked by electronic audience measurement but by working for a larger common cause. It is a pity that only the manuscripts survive and the audio broadcasts are no longer available in the AIR archives. They would have made for a compelling auditory companion volume. After all, the attractiveness of radio is in the tone, pace and manner of delivery. Alas, that part of Baruah’s magic, and our heritage, seems lost forever!

The writer, a former diplomat, is dean, Kautilya School of Public Policy, Hyderabad

SHELF LIFE

Dark Places

Jonaki Ray



IN PLAIN SIGHT BY MOHAMED THAVER HarperCollins 264 pages ₹399

IT’S YOUR first day in a new job in a new city. You do not know the language or how to proceed on your assignment, forget the right (or wrong) people to contact to get it done. Now, fill in the X factors – the city you find yourself in is Mumbai, and the job, that of a crime reporter. *The Indian Express*’s crime reporter Mohamed Thaver’s debut novel, *In Plain Sight*, starts with this intriguing premise and proceeds to unpack the inner workings of both – the crime beat of a newspaper as well as that of “one of the premier investigating agencies in the country”: the Mumbai crime branch.

Rohan is a rookie reporter in the

Maximum City, having arrived from Allahabad via Delhi. While he is not sure whether he wants to take up journalism as a career in the long term, he feels that the crime beat would give him a ringside view of “things that has always fascinated him – the brooding cop, the wily criminal, the mind games, the chase, and the final unravelling.”

After reporting on a couple of low-key cases which teach Rohan the ropes of the beat – which police personnel to have good terms with, getting past the local dialect and its abbreviations, or how to decode various leads (after all, “a good story was just a question away”), he gets to cover a series of murders in Nehru Nagar, a low-income area in the city.

The first murder doesn’t really seem

newsworthy, but that changes soon. The repetition and brazenness of the subsequent crimes bring into focus the ineptitude of the crime branch. A race to solve the case begins and the focus of the story alternates between Rohan’s attempts to keep pace with the investigation and the accounts of various investigating officers trying to find the perpetrator before public opinion about them plummets further.

Crime fiction that devotes itself to describing and solving the crime from the investigating officer’s point-of-view is a popular genre in literature. PD James’ immortal Adam Dalgliesh, Elizabeth George’s Inspector Lynley and, closer home, Anita Nair’s Inspector Gowda and Vaseem Khan’s Inspector Chopra series come to mind. What makes *In Plain Sight* unusual is the perspective of the reporter, that adds depth to the narrative. The machinations involved in new reportage,

in fact of what passes as news, is as important a part of the story as the actual solving of the crimes.

The interplay between politicians, the police and the media is brought out in the novel, as is the internal politics between not just various newspapers, but also within the various departments of a newspaper. Who gets the lead and how, what makes for a “story” worth printing is shown through Rohan’s eyes. There’s also the wrangling and politics within the various branches of the police that make the book an exciting read.

A tighter editing, especially of the middle when the mystery is heating up, and more focus on the characters would have improved the storyline, but this is a debut of promise and one that ends with the hope of more to come.

Jonaki Ray is a Delhi-based poet and writer

Friends and Strangers

Vir Sanghvi’s memoir is an engaging account of the life and times of friends in high places

Coomi Kapoor

VIR SANGHVI had a charmed life as a journalist. Somehow, all doors opened for him. Besides his immensely readable style, he has always been a shrewd, and often caustic observer of men and matters. He also had the good fortune to have friends in all the right places. Even with his newspaper proprietors, Vir was on breezy first-name terms, unlike most editors who maintain a respectful distance. His autobiography, which he dubs rather grandly “the memoir”, offers insightful nuggets about the people who ruled India during his years as the editor of *The Hindustan Times* and the now-de-

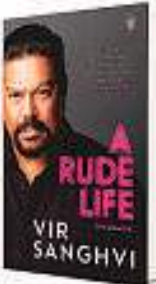
funct Sunday magazine. Some of these insider stories seem to have been withheld earlier because of his proximity to the sources.

The author provides a telling picture of the all-important role the late Brajesh Mishra played, virtually running the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, and offers a peep into Mishra’s battle with LK Advani. For instance, Advani assured the US government that India would send troops to Iraq. Mishra scuttled the deal, using Natwar Singh as a conduit and instigating the Congress party to protest against the proposal. Vajpayee promptly proffered the excuse of domestic opposition to wriggle out of the commitment. Occasionally, Advani got the better of the PM’s principal secretary-

cum-national security-advisor. He brushed aside Mishra’s choice of Krishan Kant as the presidential candidate. Vajpayee, Sanghvi writes, performed a balancing act between the two.

According to Sanghvi, Manmohan Singh was Sonia Gandhi’s first choice as prime minister even at the time when PV Narasimha Rao was appointed party president. He claims that the Congress did not bring up Singh’s name then because it would have been unacceptable to the allies.

Some of the book’s insider tales are hilarious. As prime minister, HD Deve Gowda was annoyed by the Delhi newspapers placing photographs of him dozing off at meetings on the front page. He gave Sanghvi a lengthy explanation that he was weighed down by the worries of the nation and tossed and turned in his bed. He, perforce, had to take Calmpose sleeping pills by early



A RUDE LIFE: THE MEMOIR BY VIR SANGHVI Penguin Viking 400 pages ₹699

Rashtrapati Bhavan.” Singh, on the other hand, was convinced that the Rashtrapati Bhavan was bugged by the government and took Sanghvi to the privacy of his garden when he wanted to chat.

morning and, consequently, could not always keep his eyes open during the day.

Rajiv Gandhi, as prime minister, spoke frankly of his rift with then-president Zail Singh to Sanghvi, admitting he did not send any government papers on Punjab to the Rashtrapati Bhavan because of Singh’s tendency to meddle in Punjab politics. He acknowledged that he had nixed most of the president’s requests to go abroad because “the man is an embarrassment”. When Mani Shankar Aiyar, then Rajiv’s aide, protested that the PM was being too candid, Rajiv retorted that, “I didn’t reveal any really bad stuff like womanising at the

Rajiv Gandhi also had a sense of humor; writes Sanghvi. When someone referred to Chandra Shekhar’s palatial residence in Haryana’s Bhondsi as an *ashram*, he corrected him loudly and said it was more of a country club. Sanghvi also discloses the genesis of actor Amitabh Bachchan’s unlikely friendship with Amar Singh. The late political fixer got Chandra Shekhar, when he was prime minister in the early ’90s, to close the case, instituted by VP Singh as finance minister, against Ajitabh Bachchan, Amitabh’s brother.

Some of the more riveting descriptions in the book are about the author’s own life. The suave Mumbai boy felt constricted in sleepy Kolkata and cannot resist an occasional dig at the idiosyncrasies of his former boss Aveek Sarkar and the work culture at the *Anandabazar Patrika* group, which seemed trapped in the last century. His caustic comments appear a tad ungrateful, considering the publication funded his five-star lifestyle, which was the envy of most editors.

The flaw in this very enjoyable book is that

Sanghvi’s objectivity appears coloured by his proximity to his sources, whether to the Gandhi camp or to Vajpayee’s foster family. He is dismissive of their adversaries. Narasimha Rao, for instance, is described as a “small time manipulator masquerading as a statesman”. He also glosses over uncomfortable details in his own colourful life. His move from print to full-time television came about after his name figured in the Radia tapes (2010). His defence, allegedly ignored by the *Outlook* magazine for years, was that his telephone conversations with (Niira) Radia were doctored, and, in any case, happened after the 2G allotments. A pioneer in news and feature television, Sanghvi got his fingers burnt after a disastrous experience with Peter Mukerjee and his wife Indrani, who were running the NewsX channel in those days. Today, Sanghvi has opted to move away from news and current affairs and focuses his multitalented persona on food and lifestyle, a sphere which he covers equally engagingly.

Coomi Kapoor is contributing editor, *The Indian Express*

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,Tannu Shah D/o Kamal Shah W/o Mohit Bansal R/o F-26/102,Ayodhya Chowk Sector-7,Rohini Delhi-110085,changed my name to Kavya Bansal permanently. 0040582263-4

I,Krishnan Nair Ajith Kumar,S/o-Sivarama Pillai Krishnan Nair,R/o A-83,8th Floor,Krishna Residency,Vijay CGHS Ltd Plot No.17,Sec-18,Dwarka-110075,have changed my name to Ajith Kumar for all future purposes. 0040582263-7

I,Kehkashan Begum,D/o Ahmed Din,R/o H.No.126, Katra-Gokul Shsh,Jama Masjid,Delhi-110006,that in her son's school-records my name has been wrongly-written as Kehkashan instead of Kehkashan Begum which may be amended accordingly. 0040582258-3

I,Gulzar Ahmad Lodhi R/o-A-35,Second Floor,Ghafoor Nagar,Jamia Nagar,Okhla,New Delhi-110025,have changed,my daughter's name from Zainab Jahan to Zainab Gulzar for all,future purpose. 0040582265-7

I,AMARENDRA KUMAR,S/O SHRI,JHALAK PRASAD SINHA,R/O,F- 85/B, MANGAL-BAZAR LAXMI-NAGAR,DELHI-110092,THAT INSTEAD MY SON NAME IN SCHOOL-RECORD MENTIONED IS AMISH SINGH HE WOULD BE KNOWN & CALLED AMISH AS PER AADHAN CARD,THAT I REQUEST TO YOU PLEASE CHANGE THE NAME OF MY SON IN YOUR RECORD FROM AMISH TO AMISH SINGH, FOR FUTURE ALL PURPOSES. 0040582258-4

I,Virindran Kumar Sharma S/o Madan Mohan Sharma R/o QU-256-C, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Virender Kumar Sharma. 0040582263-8

I,SUDHARSHAN NANGRU S/o RAMSARUP NANGRU R/o 7A/2 Street No- 11 New Govindpura Delhi have changed my name to SUDARSHAN NANGRU. 0040582206-1

I,Rajeev Saxena S/o Shri Ramesh Kumar Saxena R/o M-701, Antriksh Golf View-1, Sector-78, Noida, have changed my name to Raajeev Saaxena 0040582219-1

I,Raghvendra Mohan S/o Surendra Mohan Mathur R/o Flat no- 1601-B, Tower-1 Puncnshef Wellington Crossing Republic, Ghaziabad (UP)-201016 have changed my name to Raghvendra Mohan Mathur. 0070751812-1

I,Prince S/o Naresh Kumar R/o-A-62, Jhilmil Colony, Delhi-110095, have changed my name to Prince Khanuja for all future purposes. 040582222-1

I,Nimrit Gujral/Nimrit Kaur Gujral W/o Satinder Singh, R/o 24/8, F/F, Old Middle Income Group Flats, Prasad Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-05, have changed my name to Nimrit Kaur for all purposes. 0040582183-1

I,Mohd Tammne S/O Jaleel born on 03/04/1999 residing at 42 E-43/A D-Block New Seemapura East Delhi, 110095, have changed my name to Sarfaraz Ahmad vide affidavit dated 25/08/2021 at SDM Court 0050183251-1

I,Masarrat D/o. Mr. Mohd. Zamir Khan R/o. 161/55A, Zamir Apartment, 3rd Floor, Jogabai Extn., Batia House Chowk, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name from Masarrat Khan to Masarrat for all future purposes. 0040582201-1

I,Jatinder Pal Singh s/o Late S.Tirath Singh Gujral, R/o 36, F/F, Road No.73, West Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-26, have changed my name to Jatinder Pal Singh Gujral for all purposes. 0040582183-2

I,Bhoodeo Prasad alias Bhoodeo Prasad Singh S/o Late Sh.Kewal Ram R/o H.No.11, Block-G, Jaipuria Sunrise Green, Opposite Asia Columbia Hospital, NH-24, Shahpur Bamnetha, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002 have changed my name to Bhoodeo Prasad Singh for all purposes. 0040582193-5

It is for general information that I,Shweta,R/o Rajiv Kumar,residing at,B-244 Priyadarshni-Vihar,Delhi-110092,declare that name of my minor daughter Saara Arora age-13years has been wrongly-written as saara in her school-records.The actual-name of my minor daughter is Saara Aroa which may be amended accordingly. 0040582258-6

I,hitherto know as Nazmin alias Nazmin Abdul Karim,D/o-Fakruddin and W/o-Abdul Karim Hemant,R/o H.No.D-20/13,Block-D,Okhla Vihar,Jamia Nagar,South Delhi,Delhi-110025,have changed my name and shall,hereafter be known as Nazmin Abdul Karim.It is certified that,I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040582265-8

I,VEENA CHOPRA DEWAN,W/O. GURVINDER SINGH AHLUWALIA, ADD-A-101,3RD-FLOOR PANDAV-NAGAR EAST DELHI-110092.changed my name to VEENA AHLUWALIA,permanently. 0040582258-1

I,Seema Rani,D/O Shri Raj Kumar Jindal,R/O Vaid Shyam Singh Street,Near HDFC bank,Mansa, Punjab,have changed my name to Seema Bansal. 0040582263-5

I,Rajat Agarwal S/o Vijay Prakash Agarwal R/o C-37, Sector-26, Noida(U.P.) have changed my name to Rajat Vijay Agarwal for all future purposes. 0040582213-1

I,Pratiksha Dutta,W/o Rahul Kumar Singh R/o.Flat.No.218 DDA LG Flat,Hastasl Uttam Nagar,D.K Mohan-Nagar,Delhi-59 changed my name to Pratiksha. 0040582265-1

I,PISA YAMA,D/O PISA Tarak,R/o-Private Residence,H-551/W-15-C-Sector,Near-Satellite Complex,C-Sector,Iitanagar, Papum Pare,Arunachal Pradesh-791111,have changed my name,from PISA YAMA TO RIDO YAMA,for all purposes in future. 0040582258-7

I,Nitin kumar S/O Devendra Singh R/O H.No-9, Shankar Vihar-II, Chhipiyana Buzurg Gautambudhnagar-201009, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Devendra Singh and Devendra Singh Laur are the name of same and one person i.e. my father. 0040582194-1

I,Nitin kumar S/O Devendra Singh R/O H.No-9, Shankar Vihar-II, Chhipiyana Buzurg Gautambudhnagar-201009, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Nitin Kumar and Nitin Kumar Laur are the name of same and one person. 0040582195-1

I,Mukesh Kumar Verma S/O Sh.Satyapal Verma R/o-C-104, BK Dutt Colony,Lodhi Road,New Delhi-110003,have Changed My Name to Mukesh Verma for all future purposes. 0040582265-2

I,SIDHARTH TALWAR, S/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,Jagmohan Lal S/o Maulik Ram R/o B-59, Pushpanjali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034,declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jagmohan Goyal in the school record of my minor daughter Mishi Goyal, aged about 12 years. The actual name of mine is Jagmohan Lal, which may be amended accordingly. 0070751841-1

I,Ishan Bhandula S/o Sh. Rakesh Bhandula R/o A/54, Jeevan Bima-Apptt., East-Arjun Nagar, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110032,have changed my name to Isshaan Bhandula. 0040582263-6

I,Brijbhusan Das Kalani S/o Ballabh das kalani R/o-B-214,Top-Floor Lok,Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,inform that my Father's name wrongly,written Ballab Das in my passport but father's correct name is Ballabh Das Kalani. 0040582263-2

I,Brij Bhushan Kalani S/o Ballabh Das Kalani R/o-B-214,Top-Floor Lok,Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,changed my name to Brijbhusan Das Kalani. 0040582263-1

I,Aaronn Chawla S/O Gaurav Chawla R/o 6A Jamuna Road Civil Lines Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Aaron Chawla. 0040582263-3

I have changed my name from Renu Kumari to Renu Sharma for all future purpose. Renu Sharma W/o Vipin Kaushik R/o 7B Jagriti Apartment, Sector-71 Noida Gautambudh Nagar 201301 0070751844-1

I,Vijay Kumar S/o Late Shri Raja Ram Sonkar R/o 0116, Mohalla Khatik Gur Mandi, Malka Gani Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Vijay Sonkar for all purposes. 0040582265-3

I,Sailli Adhikari D/o Mohan Singh Adhikari R/o H.No. C-60/ B, Gali No-3, Near Adharshila School, Dayalpur, Karawal Nagar, North East, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Samiksha Adhikari for all purposes 0070751845-1

I,Meenashri alias Meenashri Chauhan alias Meenakshi Chauhan alias Meena Shri D/o Sh. Arun Kumar W/o Sh.Saurabh Agarwal R/o E-20, Lalpat Nagar-III, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Nishu Agarwal for all purposes. 0040582193-4

I,Manish Samar R/o A-66A, Sector-23, Noida, U.P have changed my minor daughter name from Shivi to Shlvi Samar for all future purposes. 0040582217-1

I,GEETA W/o HARISH CHAND R/O OF HOUSE NO B 20 GALI NO 27 BURARI 110084 CHANGE MY NAME TO GEETA DEVI. 0070751810-1

I,Durgesh Varshney S/o Anand Prasad Varshney, R/o Plot-270 S-1, Vaishali Ghaziabad, I have put Surmane Varshney in front of my son's name Manas in future. Manas will be known and believed in the name of Manas Varshney for all future Purposes. 0070751857-1

I,Anil Goyal S/o-Narendar Goyal R/o-372, Deepali Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Parishl Goyal to Jyotsna Goyal for all purposes. 0040582200-1

I,SANTOSH/SANTOSH GUPTA, W/O,RAM NIWAS JINDAL, ADD-83-C, SECOND-FLOOR GAUTAM NAGAR,SOUTH DELHI-110049,changed my name to SANTOSH JINDAL permanently. 0040582258-2

LOST AND FOUND

We, Salil Kumar & Ms. Deepika, both R/O 402/71, Rosary School Road, Dhurpur, Delhi-110009 hereby declare that our original booking receipt, customer ID NO. KTC-10036, TDI Kundli is misplaced somewhere. If anybody finds,please contact 9810145674. 0040582193-1

I,Neetu Saini W/o Late Anil Saini R/O C-2, Housing Society, NDSE Part-I, New Delhi have lost my Original Sale Deed dated 26.07.2007 of First Floor Flat portion of Property No.1556, area measuring 921 sq.ft.s, Part of Khasra No.637/350, at Tula Nagar (Abadi Wazir Nagar), Gurudwara Road, Kotla Mubarak Pur, New Delhi-110003 executed by Sh.N.P.Gupta & Sh. Gini Raj in favour of Smt. Neetu Saini.Finders may contact at above address. 0040582193-2

I,Anjali Sharma have lost my original Diploma Certificate for Diploma in Personnel Management (2004),Roll no. 42040070 from Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad. 0050183250-1

I,ARUN LATA ROHATGI,W/O-LATE SH.SURESH CHAND ROHATGI,HAS LOST ALL THE ORIGINAL-DOCUMENTS OF MY PROPERTY DDA-FLAT#397-C,POCKET J&K,DILSHAD-GARDEN,DELHI-110095.ANYBODY MAKING ILLEGAL USE OF THEM,SHALL SOLELY BE RESPONSIBLE.POLICE-COMPLAINT REGISTERED LR NO.625144/2021 DTD 27.08.2021.FINDER CONTACT:9810388542. 0040582258-10

My Name is Jitendra Singh,S/o Charan Singh.I lost my five original-document E-1 Form of M/s Namdhari Industrial Traders Pvt.Ltd. For FY-2016-2017 & 2017-2018 Document.No.034946-034923-034924-034925 -034922it's very Important Document for me.if get anyone please-contact with this no:9717441133. 0040582258-8

My Name is Jitendra Singh,S/o Charan Singh.I lost my four original-document E-1 Form of M/s Mahavir Transmission Limited For FY-2016-2017-Document.No. 003674-003675-003676-003696it's very Important-Document for me.if get anyone please-contact with this no:9717441133. 0040582258-9

Original Allotment Letter of Flat-No.84 & 88,Block-A,DDA-Flats,New Ranjeet-Nagar,N.Delhi-110008,allotted to Ranjeet Singh,S/o Hari Singh by DDA has been lost.Founder contact:Mr. Tarandeep Singh at Mobile-No.9990002096. 0040582263-1

I, Aaronn Chawla S/O Gaurav Chawla R/o 6A Jamuna Road Civil Lines Delhi-110054 have changed my name to Aaron Chawla. 0040582263-3

I have changed my name from Renu Kumari to Renu Sharma for all future purpose. Renu Sharma W/o Vipin Kaushik R/o 7B Jagriti Apartment, Sector-71 Noida Gautambudh Nagar 201301 0070751844-1

I,Vijay Kumar S/o Late Shri Raja Ram Sonkar R/o 0116, Mohalla Khatik Gur Mandi, Malka Gani Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Vijay Sonkar for all purposes. 0040582265-3

I,Sailli Adhikari D/o Mohan Singh Adhikari R/o H.No. C-60/ B, Gali No-3, Near Adharshila School, Dayalpur, Karawal Nagar, North East, Delhi-110094, have changed my name to Samiksha Adhikari for all purposes 0070751845-1

I,Meenashri alias Meenashri Chauhan alias Meenakshi Chauhan alias Meena Shri D/o Sh. Arun Kumar W/o Sh.Saurabh Agarwal R/o E-20, Lalpat Nagar-III, New Delhi-110024 have changed my name to Nishu Agarwal for all purposes. 0040582193-4

I,Manish Samar R/o A-66A, Sector-23, Noida, U.P have changed my minor daughter name from Shivi to Shlvi Samar for all future purposes. 0040582217-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

"General public at large is hereby informed that my client, Ms. Anika Kaushik W/o Lt. Shri Charan R/o H. 103, Gali No. 5, Gautam Colony, Narela, Delhi-40 has severed all her relations from her son, Mr. Jatin Kaushik and his wife Mrs. Bharti Sharma D/o Sh. Sukum Chander, presently residing at Flat No. 209B, Ground Floor, Pooja, Sector-9, Shri Shakti Apartment, DDA Area, Narela, Delhi-40 for want of control and their extortive conducts and also has decided not to claim over the properties and immovable properties. Any person dealing with aforesaid: Mr. Jatin Kaushik and his wife Mrs. Bharti Kaushik should be doing at his/her own risk and the same shall not be binding on my aforesaid client in any manner, who is fully informed that Smt. Anika Kaushik W/o Lt. Shri Charan R/o H. 103, Gali No. 5, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

LOST AND FOUND

To be known to all that my client, Smt. Neetu Chopra W/o Sh. Vipran Chopra R/o H. No. D-117, Swasthya Vihar, Delhi-110092 has been lost original documents i.e. Bid Form, Allotment-cum-demand for electric connection from the Office Flat No. 193, (F.F), Cycle Market, Jhandewalan Phase-1, New Delhi-110092 said office flat was purchased from DDA in the name of "MS ELL DEE INDIA Prop. Sh. Rakesh Arora S/o Dattataram" vide file No. F-4-4775/Inst. ad FIR to this effect has been lodged with Station House Officer, Crime Branch, New Delhi with LR No. 620492021, dt. 21.08.2021. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents with the above named person at above Address/ Mobile No. 9811415415 within 30 days from the date of publication of the same. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to DDA's Deputy Director, Commercial Estate Branch, DDA, Vikas, DDA, New Delhi-110023.

Sd/- Sudhir K. Sanjela D-4860-1984 Chamber No. 48, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all that my client Shri Surandeep Singh son of Late Shri Ajit Singh, aged about 56 years, resident of D-13, Second Floor (Front side), Manohar Park, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, with the consent of his wife Smt. Manjit Kaur, aged about 48 years, have disownned his son Shri Tarandeep Singh, aged about 25 years, resident of D-13, Second Floor (Front side), Manohar Park, East Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi-110026, due to bad habits, harassment and illegal activities being committed by said Shri Tarandeep Singh, son of my client, shall have no right in the real and immovable properties of my client, Shri Swaran Singh and his wife Smt. Manjit Kaur. An Affidavit to this effect has also been executed by my client today.

S.P. AGGARWAL ADVOCATE 215, Civil Side, Tis Hazari Courts Delhi-110054

TO WHOM SO EVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform all concerned that, Sh. Jiwan Jyoti S/o Sh. Narinder Nath (herein after "my client") is the owner and occupant of First Floor, C-3A, road side facing Sharda Puri, Ramesh Nagar, New Delhi -110015 by virtue of duly drawn and registered gift deed, vide registration dated 10/12/2014. Said my client gathered that, some persons posing as property dealers are holding out the property as available for sale which is not correct. Any body dealing with the property shall do so at its/his/her/their own risk, cost & consequences. Through this public notice, I am cautioning against such mischief.

Rahul Khanna (Advocate) Delhi High Court, C/16, UGF Rajouri Garden New Delhi-110027 Email: bloomroom@gmail.com Enrl. no. D-3734/2009 Mobile: 9810837900

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that We Aranjit Singh Ahuja S/o Sh. Jasraj Singh Ahuja and Smt. Bandana Ahuja W/o Sh. Aranjit Singh Ahuja both are R/o 1617 E-East Patel Nagar, Delhi have purchased a residential plot no. 8 C 38 Sector 44 Noida (Gautam Budh Nagar) UP from Sh. Anek Kumar Saha S/o Sh. Sh. Ak Sahu R/o C-22 Sector 29 Noida. The Transfer Deed/Sale Deed of the above said property was executed by Mr. Rohan Rajgaria S/o Sh. Madan Mohan Singh C-4 Sector 39 Noida as General Power of attorney holder of Sh. Anek Kumar Saha. The said General Power of Attorney was executed by the sub registrar Noida vide application no 201900743077628 bailt no 4 R/o no 1502 pages 192 to 146 karnameak 1462 dated 12.09.2019. The Transfer deed was executed in the office of sub registrar Noida dated 10.03.2021. The said property is being mutated in the name of Sh. Aranjit Singh Ahuja and Smt. Bandana Ahuja. In case any person has any right title/ interest/ claim whatsoever may Please contact the 620 Residential, P.O. Department Administrative Block 6 Noida within 30 days of publication of this notice.

Sd/- SUDHEEP ADVOCATE D/1849-02 Nagari, No. 45, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Mr. Kamal Kumar Singh (CCI) Home Finance Ltd. for Loan to purchase property belonging to Mr. Faridabad (P.O. 315 on Third Floor in Block-B, Satyapal of built on Property belonging to Mr. Faridabad bearing No. 05, and Plot bearing No. 06, out of Khazra No. 40, 41, situated at Krishna Colony in the Village Chaitanyia, District of Telhrai District Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) Boundaries: East - Plot No. 05, West - Other Colony, North - Road No. 36, and South - Other plot, belonging to M/s K.D. Housing through its partner Mr. Kamal Singh vide three Sale deeds dated 09-07-2019 in respect of Plot No. 01, 02 & 03, regd. as document No. 13985, 13986 & 13987. As of now M/s K.D. Housing is the registered owner of above said property (as claimed) and as per our information there are no dispute of any kind pending on above said property. In case if any information is received from any individual/ Bank/ Authority/ Board or any other entity having objection to the said property or vested interest over the same may contact or advocate Mr. Ajay Kumar Gini within 10 days of this publication either through his mobile phone No.01405012627, 2819014515, post or visit his office at H.No. 26/161, Ground Floor, Double Storey, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi. That there has been a New Delhi 110024 along with supporting documents. It may be further noted that the lapse of aforesaid period no claim in any manner shall be entertained and same will be considered as waived or abandoned.

Ajay Kumar Gini, Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public at large is hereby informed that my client Ms. Sarita Kamra W/o Shri Anil Kamra is the owner of property bearing No. 24/4, Ground Floor, Double Storey, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi. That Mr. Ajit Kumar is the owner of property bearing No. 24/4A, First Floor, Double Storey, Ashok Nagar, New Delhi. That there has been a collaboration Agreement for the construction of the Building in the aforesaid premises between shri Pawan Mehta and Mr. Ajit Kumar. Wherein Shri Pawan Mehta represented my client as her representative and entered into a Collaboration Agreement dated 09.05.2019 with Mr. Ajit Kumar. It is informed that said representation is without any legal authority and hence the property is in progress of construction. If anybody entered in to any transaction (sale & purchase etc.) with respect to aforesaid premises with Shri Pawan Mehta or Mr. Ajit Kumar or both is/ are doing at his/her/their own risk, cost and consequences as my client having valuable right in the aforesaid property and she is the absolute owner in regard to the maximum portion of the property.

My client, having given any power of attorney to Shri Pawan Mehta and Mr. Ajit Kumar for selling of portion of my client. That Pawan Mehta and Mr. Ajit Kumar have no right in the said property and a litigation regarding the same is pending in the court of Sh. Prashant Sharma, LD ADJ, Tis Hazari Courts at Delhi. If any body enters into their (Shri Pawan Mehta and Mr. Ajit Kumar) shall deal with his/her/their own risk and consequences.

Sd/- Purshotam Gini Advocate Chamber No. 54B, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all the General Public that my clients namely Mr. Maninder Singh Grover s/o Mr. Gurchar Singh Grover & Mrs. Indrapal Grover w/o Mr. Maninder Singh Grover R/o-87 A/25, Eita Apartment, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi - 63 has severed all their relations with the daughter-in-law Mrs. Jaspreet Kaur w/o Mr. Ramesh Singh C/O Mr. Raghubir Singh Sethi R/o- Moti Narela, Delhi with immediate effect. My clients also debarred and disownred her from their moveable & immovable properties and assets and in future she could not claim over the properties and assets of my clients. Any unauthorized use of their property shall be punishable as per law and shall be prosecuted in the court of law. SURAJ PAL SINGH Advocate, C/o. No.683, Saket Court, Delhi-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE

ON THE INSTRUCTIONS OF MY CLIENT SMT. YASMINA wife of Sh. Mahender Pal resident of E-16/6553, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, this is to inform all that her husband has dispossessed her son MR. TARUN, his wife MRS. RITIKA from all her moveable and immovable Properties due to their rude behavior, bad accompany and bad intention of demanding more from her. It is further that my clients shall not be responsible for any deed is done with MR. TARUN, his wife MRS. RITIKA, financially or non-financially.

Sd/- R.P. GUPTA Advocate Office: 47, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi

KARIMNAGAR SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED

Karimnagar, Telangana KSCCL intends to tender the following projects under Smart Cities Mission in Telangana e-procurement platform. www.tender.telanganagov.in (I) Remediation and Reclamation of Existing Dumpsite through Biomining in Karimnagar under Smart City Mission on Design, Build, Operate and Transfer (DBOT) Basis. NIT No. 22/KSCCL/2021-22, dated : 27-08-2021.

S.No.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1.	Bid doc. download start date	30-08-2021, 4 PM
2.	Pre-bid Meeting	08-09-2021, 11 AM
3.	Presentation of Initial Implementation and Operation Plan (IOP)	16-09-2021, 11 AM
4.	Last date for submission	23-09-2021, 4 PM

DIPR No: 2121-PPIC-LAGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Sd/- Managing Director, KSCCL

कार्यालय नगर निगम, जोधपुर दक्षिण

(नगर निगम भवन, पोलोस्टैडिक कॉलेज परिसर, २बीबीडी रोड, जोधपुर) (ceo_njn@rediffmail.com, Tel: 0291-2651464)

क्रमांक: F15 / गैजेट / 2021-22 / 1232 दिनांक: 24.08.21

ई-निविदा सूचना F15/ गैजेट/2021-22/1185 दिनांक 12.08.2021 में संशोधन नगर निगम जोधपुर दक्षिण के वार्ड 1 से 40 में सफाई एवं नगर निगम के अन्य कार्यों हेतु ट्रैक्टर मय चालक व ट्रैक्टर ट्रॉली मय चालक निविदा शर्तों अनुसार दो अथवा दो के लिए उपलब्ध करवाने के कार्ड हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 1185 दिनांक 12.08.2021 को जारी की गई। उक्त निविदा में आंशिक संशोधन करते हुए उक्त निविदा 25.08.2021 को 2.30 बजे तक प्राप्त कर सायं 3.00 बजे खोलने के स्थान पर अब दिनांक 01.09.2021 को दोपहर 2.30 बजे तक प्राप्त कर उसी दिवस को सायं 3.00 बजे खोली जायेगी तथा प्रि-बिड मीटिंग दिनांक 27.08.2021 को सायं 3.00 बजे रखी जायेगी। निविदा शुल्क, धरोहर राशि/ बिड सेक्युरिटी घोषण पत्र, प्रक्रिया शुल्क के डी.डी./ बैंकर्स चेक की मूल प्रति गैजेट प्रमोरी सं.नं. 111 नगर निगम जोधपुर दक्षिण के कार्यालय में दिनांक 01.09.2021 को 2.30 बजे तक जमा करा सकेंगे। निविदा की अन्य सभी शर्तें यथावत रहेगी जिसको www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in एवं www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/mcjs पर पढ़ा जा सकता है।

राज,संवाद / सी / 5315 / 2021-22 आयुक्त

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

(Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education) P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248006

File No. XX16/2020-21/Auction/IT/STR/ICFRE Dated: 28.08.2021

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited on behalf of Director, Forest Research Institute, P.O. New Forest, Dehra Dun for the auction of old/obsolete, unserviceable/condemned/Scraped IT Items of ICFRE, Dchradun on "As is where is basis".

The prescribed Tender Form can be obtained from Store Section, FRI, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun-248006 against a payment of Rs.1000+18% GST Rs 1180/- (Including GST) each by Demand Draft drawn in favour of Director, Forest Research Institute P. O New Forest, Dehra Dun 248006 on all working days from 02.09.2021 to 28.09.2021 up to 1.00 pm. Sealed Tender addressed to Store Officer, Forest Research Institute, P.O. New Forest, Dehradun must reach on or before 28.09.2021 up to 2.30 pm. The tender will be opened on 28.09.2021 at 3.00 pm at Store section, Forest Research Institute.

Registrar, Forest Research Institute

From bad to worse

Manchester City thrash Arsenal 5-0 as Gunners record worst start to season

REUTERS
AUGUST 28

MANCHESTER CITY made light work of thrashing a hapless 10-man Arsenal 5-0 in the Premier League on Saturday, a result that means the Gunners have lost their opening three league games of a season for the first time since 1954-55.

Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta, back at the Etihad Stadium where he worked as an assistant between 2016 and 2019, watched in horror as his team fell apart early on, with Ilkay Gundogan and Ferran Torres giving City a 2-0 lead inside 12 minutes.

The visitors remained masters of their own chaotic downfall as Granit Xhaka inexplicably got himself sent off for a two-footed lunge in the 35th minute, making an already difficult task that bit more challenging for Arteta's men.

City could then afford to take their foot off the gas but the goals still flowed as British recording signing Jack Grealish set up Gabriel Jesus for City's third just before halftime.

Rodri added a fourth early in the second half, before Torres scored his second late on to complete a miserable afternoon for Arteta and his side.

Another loss means Arsenal are back at a point, or even a goal, from their three games so far this season, while City, temporarily at least with rivals in action later in the weekend, are back on top of the standings.

"Arteta knows how I love him," City boss Pep Guardiola said. "In the two or three years he was here he was important to what we built. People want results right away; with the players he had today, Ben White, Thomas Partey were missing, many players they invested in were missing, without that it is difficult.

"I know his awareness as a manager and as a leader, the moment everyone is back he will do an excellent job. I know this because I know him, I know the job he can do. Today we scored some goals that we didn't deserve. We didn't play that good to score a goal," said Guardiola.

Right from the off in the Etihad sunshine, the Spaniard's confidence in his current forward options was understandable as the hosts blew Arsenal away, even if the visitors gave them more than a helping hand.

Jesus was allowed far too much time get a seventh-minute cross into the middle, Calum Chambers then got his angles all wrong as he let the ball float over his head and Gundogan stole in to head home.

Things went from bad to worse for Arsenal as a Bernardo Silva cross was then allowed to drift past several defenders before Torres, who could not believe his luck, stroked the ball home.

Arteta cut a frustrated figure on the touchline. Already under pressure after Arsenal finished eighth for the second successive season last term, the Spaniard watched them concede



Ilkay Gundogan directs his header towards Bernd Leno's goal for Manchester City's first of the game. *Reuters*

EPL RESULTS

Newcastle	2-2	Southampton
Brighton	0-2	Everton
West Ham	2-2	Crystal Palace
Norwich	1-2	Leicester
Man City	5-0	Arsenal
Aston Villa	1-1	Brentford
Liverpool	1-1	Chelsea

two goals inside 12 minutes for the first time since 2017. Xhaka's recklessness must have made Arteta consider making an early exit himself. Since the start of the 2016-17 season, no player has been sent off more often in the Premier League than the Swiss midfielder.

Grealish then had an impact as he easily squared for Jesus to make it three, before Rodri drilled a well-placed strike into the net from distance to put City on course for a big score. Substitute Raheem Sterling should have made it five late on, before Torres arrived right on cue to put the icing on the cake as City made it back-to-back 5-0 wins at home.

Liverpool, Chelsea share draw

Chelsea had to stay content with a 1-1 draw against Liverpool at Anfield after a contentious penalty was awarded to the host team at the stroke of half-time. Chelsea would also lose Reece James to the same handball incident that match referees and VAR deemed as a red card. Mo Salah took the resulant penalty and scored. The visitors had earlier taken the lead through Kai Havertz in the 21st minute.

A defensive debacle

Arsenal's nightmarish start to the EPL, three losses in three games, has been their worst in history and at the heart of it lies a decade-old problem. A slew of stop-gap, washed up, criminally poor central defenders have found refuge at the Emirates over the years. Today in the 5-0 capitulation to an ordinary Manchester City, Arsenal's backline consisted of Cedric at right back, Callum Chambers at right centre back, Rob Holding as the centre back, Sead Kolasinac at left centre-back and Kieran Tierney at left back. Barring the fourth goal, every goal that the Gunners conceded was down to poor marking in and around the box and an inability to defend one-on-one positions. Their first goal conceded – a cross into the box was essentially five Arsenal defenders against three, shorter Man City players. Callum Chambers leapt for the ball, completely missed it and allowed Ilkay Gundogan to score the easiest header of his life. The shape of their backline was stretched and pulled and toyed with repeatedly – a charge that solely lay at the feet of manager Mikel Arteta. Arsenal provided enough over 90 minutes for a full-blown video session on what not to do when defending against a top team.

Zverev denies allegations, backs ATP domestic abuse rules

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 28

OLYMPIC TENNIS gold medalist Alexander Zverev again denied abuse allegations made by a former girlfriend and said he would support the introduction of a domestic violence policy by the men's pro tour.

Zverev, a 24-year-old German who was the runner-up last year at the U.S. Open, which starts Monday, issued a statement about the matter and then briefly addressed it at a pre-tournament news conference.

The former girlfriend, Olga Sharypova, first made the accusations last year and provided a new, detailed account this week via a Slate.com article.

"I've always said that the allegations and everything that has been said is untrue. The court confirmed that," Zverev said at the news conference. "So there's nothing else to say from my side because, as I said, the court confirmed that it's untrue."

Zverev was granted a preliminary injunction in Germany against the author and publisher of the allegations. "The court followed our arguments and states, the accusations are defamatory and false," his statement said. No action was sought against Sharypova.

Sharypova, a former tennis player, alleged last year that Zverev attempted to strangle her with a pillow and hit her head against a wall at a New York hotel before the U.S. Open in 2019. She said she feared for her life at the time. Zverev has denied the allegations.

The ATP said last weekend it would begin an independent review of its safeguarding policies, which it said is expected to include recommendations pertaining to domestic violence. On Friday, Zverev said he would favor a policy. "It's going to get sorted in these kind of situations," he said. "I think it's good that the ATP is kind of renewing their rules a little bit because they've been there since the '80s and nothing has been changed in a way."



Alexander Zverev won gold in Tokyo followed by the Cincinnati Masters. *File*

2 Afghan athletes reach Tokyo to compete in Paralympics

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, AUGUST 28

TWO ATHLETES from Afghanistan have arrived in Tokyo to compete in the Paralympics, the International Paralympic Committee said Saturday.

The two-person team of Zakia Khudadadi and Hossain Rasouli had flown from Kabul to Paris before continuing on to Tokyo, the IPC said.

Khudadadi will be Afghanistan's first female athlete to compete at the Paralympics since Athens 2004.

She will challenge in the women's 44-49-kilogram weight category in taekwondo on Thursday, and her teammate will line up in the heats of the men's 400 meters T47 event on Friday.

The Paralympics close on Sept. 5. The IPC said the two were met in Tokyo at the Paralympic Village by IPC president Andrew Parsons. The IPC said the two will not be available for interviews and have been given permission to skip the usual press conferences.

"Twelve days ago we were informed that the Afghan Paralympic team could not travel to Tokyo, a move that broke the hearts of all involved in the Paralympic movement and left both athletes devastated," Parsons said in a statement provided by the IPC.

"That announcement kick-started a major global operation that led to their safe evacuation from Afghanistan, their recuperation by France, and now their safe arrival in Tokyo," he added.

Chelsey Gotell, the IPC Athletes' Council chairperson, welcomed them in a statement also provided by the IPC.



Afghan paralympic athlete Zakia Khudadadi will be the country's first female to compete in the Games since Athens 2004. *Reuters*

"On behalf of their fellow 4,403 Paralympic athletes competing at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games," she said, "I welcome Zakia and Hossain to the Paralympic Village. This is their home for the next nine days and as a community we are 100% behind them."

"Both athletes have been extremely clear that after years of training they wanted to compete on the biggest stage of all, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games," Gotell added.

"The fact that so many authorities have combined to make this possible is truly wonderful."

Rakesh sails into pre-quarters, Shyam exits

Tokyo: Rakesh Kumar continued his impressive run of form to storm into the pre-quarterfinals while his teammate Shyam Sundar Swami made a second round exit as Indian compound archers had a mixed day at the Paralympic Games here on Saturday.

A day after he shot the highest score – 699 out of a maximum 720 – by an Indian para archer in the qualification round, the wheelchair-bound 36-year-old Kumar easily overcame Ka Chuen Ngai of Hong Kong by a massive 13-point margin at the Yumenoshima Park here.

Kumar, who won an individual gold medal at the 7th Fazza Para Archery World Ranking Tournament in Dubai earlier this year, had near perfect four ends, dropping just one point each enroute to totalling 144 out of a possible 150.

Overall, he shot nine perfect 10s including four closest to the centre (X), as his Hong

Kong rival paled in comparison shooting four 10s (three Xs) for a total of 131. In the last-16 round on Tuesday, the third seeded Kumar will face 14th seed Marian Marecak, a two-time 49-year-old Olympian from Slovakia.

Earlier, 21st seed Sundar, who also got a bye into the second round, had a narrow 139-142 defeat against 2012 Paralympics silver medalist Matt Stutzman, the armless archer from the USA who shoots with his feet. From being 55-all at the halfway mark, Stutzman took a three point lead with a perfect 30/30 fourth end and sealed the fixture by three points, despite some late challenge by the Indian.

Meanwhile, India's javelinist Ranjeet Bhati bowed out of Paralympics after failing to register even a single valid throw in his six attempts in the men's class F57 final, here on Saturday. **PTI**

BRIDGE

Dealer: West Vulnerable: North/South

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ Q82		1H		1NT
♥ 762		Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ 9543				
♣ A108				
SOUTH				
♠ KJ93				
♥ J5				
♦ J102				
♣ Q962				

East bid 1H and South overcalled with 1NT. West chose to pass but this is a good enough hand that it might have considered a penalty double. One reason for not doubling is that East opened in third seat. He could have a light opening bid. Your jack of hearts lead wins and your continuation goes to East's queen and South's ace. Do you wish you had doubled 1NT?

The South Hand: S-1076H-A104D-AK875C-KJ
The East Hand: S-A54H-KQ983D-QC-7453

Probably not. That dummy has six points and you have eight. Add in sixteen or so for declarer and you know your partner is minimum or sub-minimum. Declarer plays the ace and king of diamonds, your partner following with the queen and then discarding the three of clubs. Declarer continues diamonds and you win. On this one East plays the four of clubs. What do you return?

Partner said he did not want a club lead and you can't lead a diamond or a heart. You are out of them. The only question is which spade to lead. Which spade is it?

Lead the jack. This is a surrounding play. The play suggests your partner has the ace of spades. When you lead the jack, declarer can do one of two things. He can play low in dummy, in which case the jack will win. You will lead to partner's ace of spades and he will finish the heart suit. A spade back to you will let you finish the spade suit. Declarer can try the queen but again, East will win and do the hearts and return a spade. Even if South has the ten of spades, you have the K93 over him and it is possible that you will run the ten of spades.

On this hand, as you can see in the diagram, South has 1076 of spades and he is about to lose a lot of tricks. Your side will get four spades, four hearts, and a diamond. Nine tricks. Perhaps you should have doubled. Dealer: South Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ J10		2NT		
♥ Q754		3C		3D
♦ K4		3S		3NT
♣ J653		Pass	Pass	

The opening lead by West is the queen of diamonds. South counts his tricks and sees that he has six sure tricks plus another solid one by promotion in hearts. Where can South obtain two more tricks?

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.

The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people ____ you ____ - Walter Bagehot (3,6,2)

MRAAO	ANOCNN
■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■
FYOST	MONDAY
■ ■ ■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■ ■ ■

SOLUTION: AROMA, SOFTLY CANNON, DYNAMO
Answer: The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do - Walter Bagehot

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2336

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- Unpleasant (12)
- Imaginative identification with another's thoughts and feelings (7)
- Utter misery (7)
- Pilasters formed at the terminations of a wall? (5)
- A single dot as punctuation (4,4)
- Russian space travellers (10)
- Norse god (4)
- Check (4)
- In the long run (10)
- Frightening, unnerving or scaring (8)
- An abalone? (5)
- German POW camp (7)
- Reassemble in new clusters (7)
- The gearbox complex, etc (12)

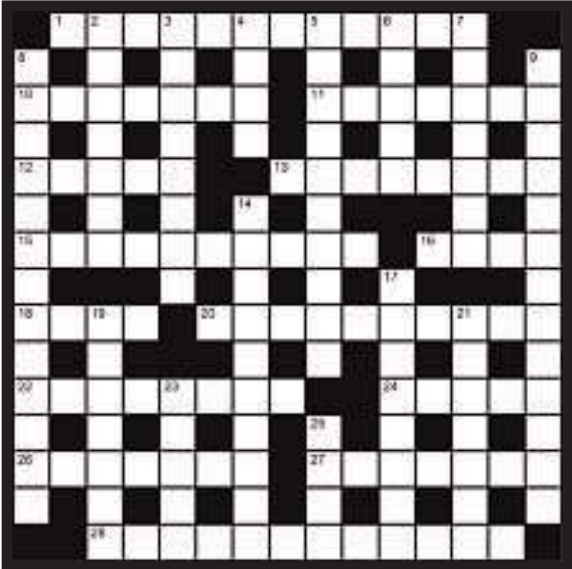
DOWN

- Momentum (7)
- On the summit (2,3,3)
- Beams of light (4)
- Finding the worth or quality of by trying or testing (10)
- Jewish bread roll (5)
- Forced out (7)
- Disobedience, obstinacy (13)
- Mark of sudden understanding (3,5,5)
- Coats iron with zinc (10)
- Like that American man behind the wheel with an empty tank? (3,2,3)
- Small onion (7)
- African river (7)
- Indian wheaten flour (5)
- "I ran" anagram for a man's pet name? (4)

CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- Just a dummy when his partner has the contract (6,6)
- Evita, for example, making false claim about American (7)
- Power unit going over the water to the french artist (7)
- Some of the poor wretches may try to be sick (5)
- They care for others (8)
- Love-apple post office in South Dakota delivers a mantis-shrimp (10)
- Mr Flintstone is loud and colourful (4)
- Horse is only partly shackled (4)
- Isis is come adrift with equality of earthquake shocks (10)



- Strong spirit makes after-school doze an afterthought (8)
- Tea break about six for Mrs Peron (5)
- Which Asian island wins approval in one Australian state? (7)
- Ape-like? (7)
- You may like a hip from this dog (5,7)
- Together they'll succeed (2-5)
- It's not the drier the button has got stuck in, sir? (7)
- You can count on them (5)
- French friend old lady returns for, that is (4)

Solutions to 2335

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Warships, 5 Glowee, 9 Abalone, 10 Abolish, 11 Extracts, 12 Tedium, 14 Twelfth man, 18 Upper class, 22 Genius, 23 Jealousy, 24 Cartel, 25 Singular, 26 Last, 27 Inherits. Down: 1 Weaved, 2 Reacts, 3 Hookah, 4 Pretty well, 6 Libretti, 7 Williams, 8 Resuming, 13 Gaswegian, 15 Surgical, 16 Up in arms, 17 Argument, 19 Plague, 20 Nuclei, 21 Cyprus. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 1 Schiller, 5 Mob-cap, 9 Relation, 10 Icard, 11 Bird's eye, 12 Bowleg, 14 Decreasing, 18 Scientific, 22 Unruly, 23 Scarlett, 24 Icebox, 25 Highball, 26 Grills, 27 Adam Bede. Down: 1 Scrubs, 2 Hilary, 3 Latest, 4 Epoxy resin, 6 Old woman, 7 Chaplain, 8 Pedagogy, 13 Brain-child, 15 Assuming, 16 Disraeli, 17 Antions, 19 Graham, 20 Debate, 21 Attlee.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday August 29

Your instincts are strong, and while they're often right, they're not always so. Listen to your heart, act when you have checked with partners friends and experts.

Monday August 30

Make practical choices over commonsense questions. Fun is based on good planning and there'll be time for it, after you have laid the groundwork. Don't worry if a partner is impatient.

Tuesday August 31

It's a day for fun and frivolity, so let your hair down and enjoy yourself, letting serious matters wait for tomorrow. If you want to plan for the coming year.

Wednesday September 1

Venus is forming a relationship with your chart. You can expect happy news over the coming month. Those of you entering a new romantic liaison will hear declarations of undying love.

Thursday September 2

It's an optimistic day, success comes when you look on the bright side, and hope can overcome most difficulties. There has to be a future where your best efforts are rewarded and destiny steps in with a helping hand.

Friday September 3

It's a day to chop and change, trying a little of this and doing a little of that. It's a year to alternate between sticking to tested ways, and breaking out to try new.

Saturday September 4

You'll be in search of pastures new. Before you imagine that the grass is always greener on the other side, pause for thought. You must be sure that you're making the right move.

SUDOKU 4578

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4577



NBA REFS TO BE VACCINATED THIS SEASON
NBA referees will all be vaccinated against the coronavirus this season. The NBA announced Saturday that it has struck a deal with the National Basketball Referees Association on that requirement. Part of the referees' agreement with the NBA also says that those working games will receive booster shots once they become recommended. The NBRA voting on the issue took place earlier this week. **AP**

BRIEFLY

US Open protocols changed: Fans need vaccination proof

New York: U.S. Open spectators now must show proof of at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to attend matches, a change made less than 72 hours before the tennis tournament starts. The U.S. Tennis Association announced Friday that the New York City mayor's office decided to require proof of vaccination to go into Arthur Ashe Stadium, the main arena at the National Tennis Center. The USTA then opted to extend that rule to cover all ticket-holders who are 12 and older and enter the grounds during the two-week Grand Slam tournament that begins Monday. The event is returning to 100% capacity after all fans were banned from attending a year ago because of the coronavirus pandemic. A CDC vaccination card — or a photo or photocopy — are among the acceptable ways of proving vaccination. Earlier in the week, the USTA said spectators would not be required to wear masks or show proof of their vaccination status to attend matches at the U.S. Open. **AP**

Verstappen leads in dramatic Belgian GP qualifying

Paris: Red Bull's Max Verstappen mastered the treacherous conditions at a rain-soaked Spa-Francorchamps track to seize pole position from surprise star George Russell in a crash-interrupted qualifying session for the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix on Saturday. The Dutchman lapped the seven-km track in one minute 59.765 seconds. Russell briefly looked like he would seize a shock pole in his Williams, with even Mercedes's championship leader Lewis Hamilton unable to beat him, but was ultimately pipped by Verstappen with a lap that was 0.321 seconds quicker. Hoping to join Hamilton at the champion team next season, Russell inadvertently ends up being a buffer between the seven-time champion, who will start third, and his Red Bull title rival. McLaren's Lando Norris walked away from a heavy shunt during the final phase of qualifying that forced a 40-minute halt to the session. **REUTERS**

Mirza-McHale reach finals in Cleveland

Cleveland: Indian tennis player Sania Mirza and her American partner Christina McHale sailed into the women's doubles final of the Tennis in the Land tournament with a straight-set win over Ulrikke Eikeri and Catherine Harrison here. Mirza and McHale took one hour and 23 minutes to defeat the Norwegian-American pair 7-6 (5) 6-2 in the semi-finals of the WTA 250 tournament on Friday. The unseeded Indian-American pair will battle it out for the top honours with top seeds Shuko Aoyama and Ena Shibahara of Japan in the summit clash. Mirza and McHale had notched comprehensive wins without dropping a set in their previous two games. **PTI**

From 215/2 to meltdown

India lose eight wickets for 63 runs, suffer a defeat by an innings and 76 runs as England level series

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
AUGUST 28

INDIA SLIPPED in the corridor of uncertainty. England learnt from their mistakes on the third day and hardly bowled anything on the leg stump with the second new ball on the fourth morning. Eight wickets fell in less than two hours. From overnight 215/2, India slumped to 278 all out to lose the third Test by an innings and 76 runs. Yesterday's resolve evaporated into thin air.

Six catches went behind the stumps today, either to the wicketkeeper or in the slip cordon. Pujara's LBW was down to misjudging the length and movement of a delivery in the channel. Mohammed Shami was bowled through the gate off a big off-break from Moeen Ali. Indian batsmen became uncertain and hung their bat, as England seamers targeted the off stump channel, bowling an impeccable length.

England's celebration after securing the victory was a tad low-key. There was no mad rush to collect the stumps. Ollie Robinson took one to savour his second five-for in Test cricket. He was the Man-of-the-Match and thoroughly deserved the memento. In an innings where James Anderson returned with one wicket, the 27-year-old from Sussex spearheaded England's pace attack. Only about a couple of months ago, Robinson's career was thrown into uncertainty after being hauled up for some offensive tweets he posted as a teenager. He has shown strong character to put the controversy behind and raise his game. With 16 wickets at 19.06, Robinson is his team highest wicket-taker after three Tests.

When England suffered a crushing defeat at Lord's, and Root losing the plot on the final day contributed more to the loss than anything else, things looked bleak for the hosts. Bereft of four frontline players – Ben Stokes, Jofra Archer, Stuart Broad and Mark Wood – their comeback has been spectacular. By letting their cricket do the talking, they gave India a rude awakening.

Unravelling

India's batting unravelled on the fourth day. England took the second new ball right at the start and Anderson was right on the money. Gone were the freebies he offered yesterday. His every delivery was a challenge for Virat Kohli. First three overs were maidens. Against such pressure, indecision crept in. Pujara shouldered-arms to a Robinson delivery that broke back off the seam. It was full enough to take a good chunk of the off stump, which the DRS confirmed. Pujara was out on 91, without adding anything to his overnight score.

The DRS saved Kohli, when the India captain reviewed a caught behind decision on Ajinkya Rahane's insistence. The bat had clipped the pad. A four off Robinson took him to his half-century. Another four came on its heels; a half-volley was driven past mid-on. A couple of rare loose deliveries later, Robinson regained his discipline – a length ball angled into the corridor and straightened with extra bounce. Kohli pushed at it and Root got a catch at first slip. On the third day, during his unbeaten 45, he was n't beaten even once outside the off stump. It was a different ball game today, with England bowlers asking tougher questions.

Rahane didn't look troubled to start with. A couple of fours came from the meat of the bat. But England were keeping things simple, a probing line ball after ball. An angled delivery from Anderson from a little wide of the crease drew him into a defensive push. The ball straightened to take the edge to Jos Buttler. His half-century in the second innings at Lord's feels like an aberration.



Virat Kohli added 10 runs to his overnight score before being dismissed by Ollie Robinson for 55. Reuters

Knee scan for Jadeja

New Delhi: Ravindra Jadeja was taken to a hospital in Leeds for precautionary scans to know the extent of a knee injury he sustained during the third Test. Jadeja, who has played all the three Tests, apparently hurt his knee while fielding on the second day of the match. As of now, the Indian team management doesn't seem to be too worried as it might not be "very serious". **PTI**

The sun shone bright and the Headingley pitch was still perfect for batting. India were done in by England's precision. Rishabh Pant has become a case of angling ball and dangling bat. Yet again, he reached for a wide one from Robinson to offer a catch to Craig Overton at third slip. He has been averaging 17 in this series. England have figured him out. After being bundled out for 78 in the first innings, the only way they could have come back into this Test was through excellent bowling. But the bowlers, too, were inconsistent. Today, once the first three wickets fell quickly, the writing was on the wall.

A good team doesn't become bad overnight. Until this Test, India dominated the series. Rain denied them a victory at Trent Bridge and they went one-up at Lord's with a thumping win. As it turned out, Leeds was a bad Test for them. However, a defeat as humiliating as this demands a shake-up.

The next Test starts at the Oval in five days and India have a short turnaround time. "We like to be in the situations where people start coming at us with doubts and start questioning the ability of our team," Kohli said at the post-match press conference.

You can't hit your way out of trouble, you have to build your innings: Kohli

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
AUGUST 28

INDIAN SKIPPER Virat Kohli has ruled out playing an extra batsman following the innings defeat to England at Headingley.

"I don't believe in that balance (extra batsman) and I have never believed in that balance because either you can try and save a defeat or you can try and win a game. And we have drawn games in the past with a similar number of batters," Kohli said.

"If your top six or seven don't do the job, then that extra guy is no guarantee of bail-ing you out every time. You have to take pride in taking responsibility and doing the job for the team. If you don't have the ability or re-sources to take 20 wickets in a Test match, then you are already playing for two results and that's not how we play," he added.

"Concentration and precise decision-making", these are Kohli's prescribed anti-dote to England pacers' length-choke. Hitting one's way out of trouble is not an option in seaming conditions that give the batsmen very little margin for error.

"We have to accept that they (England) won't make run-scoring easy for us and we have to put in double effort to score runs. We have to keep double concentration and we should take that as an opportunity; a test of our character, patience and resolve. We have

to get out of that situation, building our in-nings slowly. Because here (in England) you cannot hit your way out of trouble. You have to build your innings," Kohli said at the post-match press conference after India suffered an innings defeat in the third Test.

Three England fast bowlers, James Anderson, Ollie Robinson and Craig Overton, bowled 19.3 overs on the fourth day and the pitch map showed very little dots on and around the leg stump. But more than the line, the nagging length undid India's batting.

"The areas they bowled with the (second) new ball, especially the length they hit, you have to be precise in your decision-making to face every ball. It's not that you make a mistake and the ball is wide enough not to take the edge," Kohli said, putting emphasis on partnership batting. "Eventually, it's how many partnerships you are putting on. Here, even a first innings total of 250 or 300 can be big enough. It's about putting on partnerships of 50-60 runs. If you can do that, you have done the job for your team. We have to focus on how we can do partnership batting more effectively."

After the first day batting implosion that saw India were all out for 78 in their first in-nings followed by losing eight wickets for 63 runs in the second innings today, batting has been put under the scanner. But during England's innings, India's bowling was inconsistent as well. Kohli agreed that England bowled better than India.

SCORECARD	
ENGLAND vs INDIA	
HEADINGLEY	
Toss: India, chose to bat	
IND 1ST INNS	78
ENG 1ST INNS	432
IND 2ND INNS	278 (o/n 215/2)
C Pujara lbw b Robinson	91 (189b, 15x4)
V Kohli c Root b Robinson	55 (125b, 8x4)
A Rahane c Buttler b Anderson	10 (25b, 2x4)
R Pant c Overton b Robinson	1 (7b)
R Jadeja c Buttler b Overton	30
(25b, 5x4, 1x6)	
Mohd Shami b Ali	6 (8b, 1x4)
I Sharma c Buttler b Robinson	2 (5b)
J Bumrah not out	1 (6b)
Mohd Siraj c Bairstow b Overton	0 (2b)
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 5, w 2)	15
Total (99.3 overs)	278
FoW: 1-34 (Rahul, 18.6 ov), 2-116 (Rohit, 47.4 ov), 3-215 (Pujara, 83.3 ov), 4-237 (Kohli, 89.6 ov), 5-239 (Rahane, 90.6 ov), 6-239 (Pant, 91.5 ov), 7-254 (Shami, 94.2 ov), 8-257 (Ishant, 95.5 ov), 9-278 (Jadeja, 99.1 ov), 10-278 (Siraj, 99.3 ov)	
Bowling: J Anderson 26-11-63-1, O Robinson 26-6-65-5, C Overton 18.3-6-47-3, S Curran 9-1-40-0, M Ali 14-1-40-1, J Root 6-1-15-0	
England won by an innings and 76 runs	

LEADING FROM THE FRONT

27 Root became England's most successful Test captain, surpassing Michael Vaughan's 26 wins. His tally of 17 home Test wins as skipper is only behind Andre Strauss' 19.

"Basically, they bowled a lot better than us in this game. Yesterday we batted well. Today, if I and Pujara would have stuck together for one more session in the morning, it would have been easier for us," the India captain said, as his team failed to see off the second new ball.

Long rope for Pant

Rishabh Pant is a case in point about how the lack of hitting space has made him a sitting duck. Pant has 87 runs from three Tests in the series and more than the runs, he has been repeatedly getting out to deliveries outside the off stump, playing with an angled bat.

Kohli backed the left-hander. "With one loss, I cannot start analysing that as a captain. Definitely the management is not going to start analysing that. We failed in this game as a team and we take responsibility for that. Similar conversations were being initiated about Pujara as well, which seem to have disappeared after yesterday. We want to give Rishabh all the space to play his game. You can't judge people all the time on numbers. There's still time in this series. After two more Test matches, we can look back and reflect and analyse."

Kohli also dropped a hint about rotating his fast bowlers in the next two Tests.

"That's bound (rotation) to happen as it's a logical and sensible thing to do. We don't want to push individuals to a place where they break down and that conversation is important."

TRANSFORMATION STORY

Ill-disciplined to well-prepared, Robinson plotting wickets with serene menace

SANDIP G
AUGUST 28

SEVEN YEARS ago, after Yorkshire sacked fledgling seamer Ollie Robinson, then coach Jason Gillespie lamented: "When you see a very skillful young cricketer continually display unprofessional behaviour, at what point do you continue to tolerate when you have the whole squad being very professional? It's not your right to play for Yorkshire, it's a privilege." Robinson was devastated, he felt the world was crumbling around him.

Robinson apparently had a long list of disciplinary breaches. Several times, he turned up late for practice sessions, sometimes he didn't turn up at all, and there were instances when he popped up at the wrong ground. Robinson could not keep time because he was too home-sick and missed his friends at home, in Kent, and ended up shuttling between the two places. Besides, he says, he was naive, a reminder of which popped up in June when he was banned for racist comments he had posted nine years ago on Twitter. But those days are clearly behind him.

But as he had demonstrated seven years ago, as well as now, he only harnessed the hurt to transform his career. Sacked from Yorkshire, he joined Sussex, where his career turned around and from 2018, he has been the most

successful bowler in the county circuit, a marker of consistency that earned him an England invitation. He later reflected: "Getting sacked by Yorkshire was a blessing in disguise. It made me switch my life around and realise that I wanted to be a professional cricketer."

Vindication of calibre

Similarly, the most recent setback would only fuel him to assert himself at the Test level. After briefly fiddling with thoughts of taking an indefinite break, he has bounced back with 16 wickets in three Tests against India. Two of them were five-fors, the second at Headingley a vindication of his calibre as a world-class seamer.

The spell with the second new ball that blew out the flickers of India's resistance, was an attestation of his skill, discipline and intelligence. The strip was flat, the sun was pounding down, and in the middle were two of India's finest batsmen, Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, both revitalised after runs on the third day and determined to carry India's hopes. The new ball would invariably ally some movement, but the shining cherry would not automatically reap him a harvest. Robinson knew he had to plot his wickets. And he did with a serene menace.

He first nailed Pujara with a humungous nip-backer, which the Indian batsman had fatally shouldered arms. It was not a fleeting



Ollie Robinson — with a bit of Josh Hazlewood and a touch of Kyle Jamieson about him — has harassed the Indians with his line, length, swing, seam, and height. Reuters

lapse in focus, but a clever change in length. Until then, or mostly throughout the match, he had bowled in the shorter side of good length, but here he pushed the length by a foot but not too full either. Most batsmen tend to

leave a tall bowler on his length, assuming that the natural height and hence the bounce would take the ball over the stumps. The fuller length surprised Pujara. The massive bend was to fool him next. Robinson was mostly taking

the ball away or angling it in from wide of the crease. Here, to go with the angle, the ball broke back fiendishly into his pads. The ball had not deviated off the surface as alarmingly as it had on that particular ball.

Extra bounce, ancillary device

The Kohli-wicket over summed up his career the best. Kohli struck him for two gorgeous boundaries, a flick and an on-drive. But he produced one that jagged away off the seam after pitching. Lulling Kohli into a false sense of security and then hurling the knock-out punch. Unlike Pujara, Kohli read the length as well as the line, but the extra bounce surprised him (just as lack of bounce had surprised Pujara). Robinson doesn't use bounce as his primary weapon, as most tall fast bowlers are tempted to, but an ancillary device. Then kicked in the away movement — a fraction and not extravagant. Ala Kyle Jamieson.

Like the Kiwi, he has far more subtle tricks in his repertoire than you think he has. Back in his Yorkshire days, he just knew to seam the ball into the right-hander. Now, he seams it away and has learned to swing the ball both ways too. He's picked reverse swing from Stuart Broad and the leg-cutter from James Anderson. In between, he squeezed in time to play club cricket in Australia for a couple of years for "holistic cricket education," ac-

quaint with the Kookaburra balls and make friends with his role model Josh Hazlewood, who handed over the club cap for the St George Club.

He is so much of a cricket nerd that his Sussex teammates call him the "Badger." Maybe, right from childhood, there was too much cricket around him. His grandfather gifted him a cricket bat when he was three and used to take him to matches before he turned five. His father Ian was an active presence in the club circuit while his mother is so obsessive about the game that she has earned the nickname 'Richie Benaud' for the cricketing advice she dishes out to her son. "If I get out badly, I'll get a message from my mum saying 'that was a rubbish shot, wasn't it?'" he told BBC. His stepfather is former England keeper and assistant coach Paul Farbrace.

Ironically, overseeing his transformation is Gillespie, who joined Sussex in 2018. "I would say he is comfortably the most researched and well-prepared fast bowler I have come across in professional cricket. He does his homework and comes to team meetings just full of ideas. He watches the footage, gets information and formulates plans for each batsman with either the new or old ball," he told The Guardian.

This comment of Gillespie would please him more. "He is a great example to others." It sums up his transformation story. And of course, the wickets that keep piling up.