JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

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EXPRESS NETWORK

IN ASSAM, CONG **SAYS WILL SNAP TIES** WITH AIUDF PAGE 5



OUTGOING ITBP CHIEF: CAN BE MORE HOSTILE ON CHINA BORDER IF NEEDED

BENGALI WRITER BUDDHADEB GUHA DIES AT 85 PAGE 6

Delhi schools, colleges open tomorrow: 50% class strength, staggered lunch breaks

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI. AUGUST 30

ONLY 50 per cent students per class, staggered lunch breaks, mandatory thermal screening, alternate seating, a quarantine room - these are some of the guidelines that schools and colleges in Delhi will have to follow reopen on Wednesday.

While schools for Classes IX-XII, colleges and coaching institutions will reopen, it will not be compulsory for students to attend physical classes. Online learning will continue for those who opt out. Those who choose offline classes will have to get the permission of their parents/

Delhi Management Authority on Monday issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) to be followed by institutes which decide to open. The schedule has to be staggered to avoid crowding in classrooms and outside; class size has to be limited to 50 per cent of the total strength. Apart from standard precautions on sanitisation, masks and physical distancing, institutes have also been directed to maintain a 'quarantine room' on campus in plays symptoms.

In case of a double-shift system, the institutes will have to maintain a gap of at least one hour between the two batches of students. Further, students, teachers and employees living in containment zones will not be permitted to the institutes.

Meanwhile, several private schools in the city said they not re-open on Wednesday, and would first gauge parents' response, assess how many students would opt for offline classes, and formulate **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



MOST PVT SCHOOLS PUT OFF REOPENING, **CITE LOGISTICAL**

RESPONSE TO TALIBAN

Russia, China, Pak in new regional structure, India calibrates stand

Russian reminder, statements on Putin calls amplify urgency of new reality

RAKESH SINHA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

CALIBRATING ITS response to overtures Sunday by Taliban leader Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, New Delhi is keenly aware of the power structure emerging in the region.

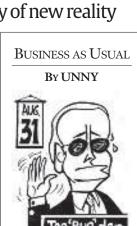
Officials told The Indian Express that much before the Taliban takeover, India was being reminded by Russia of the need to come to terms with the shifting sands in Afghanistan.

China made its stand public when Foreign Minister Wang Yi met a Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in Tianjin on July 28. "The Afghan Taliban," Wang said, "is an important political and military force... expected to play an important role in the country's peace, reconciliation and reconstruction process.'

On August 11, four days before the fall of Kabul, the Extended Troika on Afghanistan, comprising Russia, China, Pakistan and the US, met in Qatar's capital Doha.

That India would not find a place at this table was made amply clear by Zamir Kabulov, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy on Afghanistan.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

TALIBAN AND NEW REALPOLITIK

BY CRAJA MOHAN PAGE 8

WORLD

SEVEN CHILDREN AMONG 10 KILLED IN U.S. DRONE STRIKE, **SAYS FAMILY**

WHITE HOUSE: WE **CAN EVACUATE ALL AMERICANS** PAGE 10

The United States said its missile defence system intercepted rockets fired from cars towards Kabul's international airport on Monday. Aamaj News Agency via Reuters



DAY BEFORE DEADLINE

Anti-conversion law 13-year-old Dalit girl from Delhi in process, deterrent raped, killed; landlord's kin held needed, says Khattar



Manohar Lal Khattar in Chandigarh on Monday. Kamlesh Singh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Monday that a law to target the increasing incidents of forced religious conversion was "in process"

deterrent for people when a wrong thing starts getting into their behaviour. Such incidents have started taking place in a few places in Haryana," Khattar said in response to questions at a press conference he addressed at Chandigarh Press Club on completion of 2,500 days of his government.

"As long as there were only one-two incidents, there was no CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Father says called cops after accused pushed to cremate her

JIGNASA SINHA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A 13-YEAR-OLD Dalit girl from and killed by a relative of her landlord, according to the victim's parents and an FIR registered by police. The relative has been arrested and police said they are investigating the alleged involvement of the landlord and his wife in the case.

According to the girl's father, the accused claimed that the girl

had died due to illness and pressured him to cremate the body, until neighbours intervened and got him to call the police. The post-mortem report revealed severe injuries on her face and private parts, had been raped.

Speaking to The Indian Express, the victim's father, who is a daily wage labourer, said that last month, on the recommendation of the landlord who "was like family", he had allowed his daughter to go with the arrested accused Praveen to work at his

"The landlord's wife told me that her brother had a younger daughter and my daughter can play with her and stay with the her on July 17," the father stated

Speaking to this newspaper, he said that around 3 pm on August 23, he received a call from the landlord, saying his daughter had died of food poisoning. Four hours later, Praveen, the landlord's wife and two others

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Goa rammed through land ownership Bill

despite objections by Revenue, Law, Finance



SHOPPING ONLINE

Amid criticism, **Govt relook at** draft rules for e-commerce

Unhappiness over definitions and 'overreach' by consumer affairs dept

PRANAV MUKUL

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

FACING A pushback from not only the industry but also some sections of the government, the Department of Consumer Affairs is learnt to be revisiting some provisions pertaining to definitions such as 'related party' and e-commerce entity' proposed in the draft e-commerce rules it published in June, multiple sources involved in the exercise have told The Indian Express.

The most significant criticism from within the government is related to the perception of "overreach" by the Consumer Affairs Department – venturing into areas where other departments such as the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Electronics & are already working.

Several contradictions in the draft rules that have triggered confusion among sectoral players have also been flagged, including some provisions that run contrary to the rules governing the sector issued earlier by the DPIIT, officials said.

Among the concerns raised

Pushed by Sawant, the Bill

Rules in last stages of notification

THE DRAFT e-commerce rules were announced on June 21, and invited comments from stakeholders by July 6. However, multiple contradictions flagged by the industry had prompted the Consumer Affairs Department to extend the date to July 21. Stakeholder views have been received, and the department is in the final stages of notifying the

by the industry, the "broad definition" of 'related party' has been flagged — as one "that can potentially include all entities such as those involved in logistics, any joint ventures, etc.", thereby vastly expanding the remit of the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**



ISSUES, EXAMS

PAGE 3

CM DIFFERS WITH DEPUTY, BACKS KARNAL OFFICER

A DAY after Deputy CM **Dushyant Chautala** promised action against IAS officer "Law is enacted to create a Avush Sinha for ordering police to break the heads" of farmer protesters, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said on Monday that while Sinha may have chosen his words badly, strictness had to be ensured; law and order

had to be maintained".

SPORT



AT PARALYMPICS

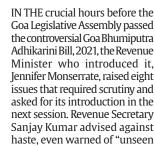


INDIA WINS GOLD IN JAVELIN, SHOOTING

MAYURA JANWALKAR



PANAJI, AUGUST 30



repercussions". The Bill accords the status of

Your Right TO KNOW

AN EXPRESS RTI APPLICATION

bhumiputra (son of the soil) to persons living for at least 30 years in Goa. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant told the House it would allow the "mool Goenkar (original Goans)" the right to stake claim to ownership of their house on land measuring up to 250 square meters.

was introduced on July 29. The dav's session spilled over to July 30, and, according to documents obtained by The Indian Express under RTI, at 2.12 am that day, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Kumar advised "caution as haste can lead us to some unseen

But then it was passed in the Assembly in the evening of July 30 amid a walkout by the Opposition after being introduced in the early hours.

repercussions" in his file noting.

In the previous two days, the state's departments of law and RTI documents revealed.

Among the eight points requiring detailed examination. Monserrate said, was the interest of owners who had rented out their houses that would not be protected if the Bill was passed in its present form. "Government servants staying in quarters will claim right to quarters while staying in the said quarters," she wrote.

She raised the issue of regularisation of properties up to 250 sq m, "whether it will include **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

Memorial to a massacre: Stark Jallianwala passage gets a mural makeover

DIVYAA & KAMALDEEP BRAR NEW DELHI, AMRITSAR,

JALLIANWALA BAGH a century ago, the historian Kim A Wagner wrote in his 2019 book of the same name, was a right trapezoid about 200 yards long and 150 yards wide, "entirely enclosed by the backs of houses and brick walls", the main entrance to which was "a long narrow passage, wide enough for people to pass in both directions, though not so wide as to accommodate vehicles".

From the time schoolchildren first learn about the massacre that took place at the Bagh on Baisakhi day, 1919, they are told about this lane - by blocking which the troops of Gen REH Dyer cut off escape for the crowd assembled inside, and mowed down hundreds at practically pointblank range.

On Saturday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the revamped Iallianwala Bagh, the narrow lane with stark brick walls had transformed into something unrecognisable - a tunnel partially closed to the sky, complete with a new floor, and with the walls on either side





crowded with a shiny mural of dozens of human figures, symbolising the common people who fell to Dyer's bullets that day.

"Devastated to hear that Jallianwala Bagh...has been revamped – which means that the last traces of the event have effectively been erased," Wagner posted on Twitter on Saturday. He called it a "part of the general Disneyfication of the old city of Wagner's tweet set off a

storm of outrage from historians, culture aficionados, and ordinary tourists who had visited Jallianwala Bagh before it was shut for renovation in 2019.

tweeted: "Our history being erased. Why?' There was the other view as

British Sikh MP Preet Kaur Gill

well. BJP MP Shwait Malik, who is also a trustee of the Jallianwala Bagh Trust, argued: "These sculptures in the lane will make visitors conscious of those who walked in on that day... Earlier, people walked this narrow lane without knowing its history, now they will walk with history.

A senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) told The Indian Express that the project was executed entirely by the Union Ministry of CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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HOW PAST RECONSTRUCTIONS OF SOMNATH TEMPLE HAVE REFLECTED POLITICS OF

The narrative of the Somnath Temple's destruction and resurrection has served political purposes, both during the colonial period and in an independent India

TECH

PORTABLE MONITORS

Here are some of the best portable monitors to improve productivity and media viewing

ENTERTAINMENT



Tagged as flop after first season, show was rescued by Netflix and resurrected by fans

MONEY HEIST

EXPRESS AUDIO

The situation 2 years after NRC

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we discuss how people's lives have been affected two years after the NRC was published in Assam, and how over 19 lakh are still stuck in limbo

FROM PAGE ONE

e-commerce

"The definition of related party certainly needs some more clarity, otherwise it will be difficult not only for foreign players like Amazon and Flipkart, but even homegrown companies like Tata and

About the Organisation:

Reliance to have their various brands such as 1mg, Netmeds, Urban Ladder, Milkbasket, etc. sell on their super-apps," a Delhibased retail executive said on condition of anonymity. There was broad consensus in the industry over this issue, the executive said. He gave the example of the

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

POWER (ELECT.) DEPARTMENT

DISPUR::: GUWAHATI-6

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Company and accountable to the Board of Directors and the Government of

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Discipline) and above also will be eligible for above post and may apply.

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Minimum age of the candidate should not be less than 50 years and

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initial tenure of appointment will be for a period of 3 (thee) years. The tenure

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The post carries a fixed pay of Rs.1,60,000/- (Rupees one lakh sixty

thousand) per month (without grade pay) plus other allowance admissible as

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Eligible candidates may submit their applications duly signed along with a

photograph of the applicant, full bio-data/C.V, email address, self attested

copies of testimonials/certificates, pay slip etc. may be submitted online vide

Candidates serving in Government, Public Sector Enterprises or Statutory

Bodies should apply through proper channel with a no-objection from their

Single to and from economy class airfare by shortest route from

residence/place of present posting to the place of interview would be

reimbursed to the candidates called for the interview subject to production

The selected candidate shall have to join the assignment within one month

from the date of issue of appointment letter and an undertaking to that effect

Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,

Power (Electricity) Department,

Dispur, Guwahati-06

limit is relaxable by another one year in case of in-house candidate.

is earlier, subject to satisfactory performance of the incumbent.

under govt. service/regulatory service etc. may be provided.

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Application sent after last date shall be liable for rejection.

present employer at the time of interview.

of original travel documents and receipts.

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TA &D.A for appearing for interview:

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Age of Superannuation: 60 (sixty) years.

Tenure of Appointment:-

Submission of Application:

Salary and Perks:

network besides expeditious and time bound project implementation.

registered office at Bijulee Bhawan, Paltan Bazar, Guwahati-1, Assam.

post of Managing Director, Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited.

joint venture between the Tata Group and Starbucks, which would be considered a related party under the proposed provisions, and would not be able to sell products on a Tata super-app.

The draft rules say every ecommerce marketplace must ensure that nothing is done by related parties or associated enterprises that the e-commerce entity itself cannot do. Sources said the provisions might be changed to have certain exclusions in the definition to accommodate these concerns.

Also, it has been highlighted that in some cases, provisions such as fall-back liability is counter-effective to the DPIIT's policy for foreign funding of ecommerce companies that disallows these firms from having control over their inventory.

Industry players have argued that on the one hand the FDI policy prohibits companies such as Amazon and Flipkart from having control over the inventory sold on their platforms, while on the other, the e-commerce rules of the Consumer Affairs Department holds these platforms liable in case a seller fails to deliver goods or services due to negligent conduct, which causes loss to the customer.

"Provisions like fall-back liability are antithetical to the way e-commerce business models have evolved and they are even in contravention of the existing rules," an industry official said.

An e-mail query sent to the Consumer Affairs Ministry seeking comments on the issue did not elicit a response.

The cross-indexing of rules governing the e-commerce sector among various government departments has also been flagged. The most significant intervention has come from the Niti Aayog, which is learnt to have flagged in an office memorandum that many of the provisions were "beyond the realm" of consumer protection.

Some of the proposed provisions like having a compliance officer, adherence to law enforcement requests, etc., follow in the footsteps of the Information Technology (Intermediary) Rules, 2021 issued by MeitY. These IT rules are facing legal

challenges in several courts. An official of a Bengalurubased e-commerce company noted that the noise over the FDI policy of the DPIIT, which was seen in the US as India adding non-tariff trade barriers, could have been a reason why the government decided to route the new e-commerce rules through the Consumer Affairs Department.

Russia, China

Officials point to an online discussion, reported by Russian news agency Tass on July 20, in which Kabulov suggested that India could not participate in these talks because it lacked "influence" over the Taliban — and that only countries with "unequivocal influence on both sides" could participate.

According to officials, Kabulov was pointing to the new regional structure taking shape - Russia, China and Pakistan, all eyeing stakes in a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

He reminded India that it could play a role once the US exited the country - "post-conflict" was the term he used.

"India's future efforts, in a more expanded format will only be welcomed. This expanded format will involve Afghanistan's post-conflict development. Here, India's clout and its role are rather significant." Kabulov said.

Officials point to statements issued by the Russians in the last one week following Putin's calls to leaders of countries that will shape the new structure. These highlight, they said, the nuances that distinguish each relationship.

On August 24, the day the G7 Foreign Affairs Committee Chairs issued a statement calling for a framework to deal with the Talihan and said "we would like to see India invited to this G7 meeting", Putin was on the line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

New Delhi's statement on the conversation emphasised "it was important for the two strategic partners to work together and instructed their senor officials to remain in touch."

But the Russian President's statement pointed to "their determination to increase cooperation" and the need to "establish a two-way channel for permanent consultations".

Now consider the statements on Putin's conversations with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. These exchanges took place a day later — on August 25. Russia underlined that Putin

and Xi "intend to use the potential of the SCO as much as possible" and step up cooperation "above all between the foreign ministries". On Putin's conversation with

Imran, Russia flagged the need to establish an "inter-Afghan dialogue that would facilitate the formation of an inclusive government" and underlined the agreement to "coordinate approaches to the Afghan issue".

Even Putin's conversation with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi — and this took place on August 18, three days after the fall of Kabul — focused on the road ahead in Afghanistan.

Clearly, reaching out to these leaders, Putin, officials say, is amplifying the urgency of the new reality - and a new regional architecture, one that requires countries to have "permanent consultations", "use the potential of the SCO as much as possible", "coordinate approaches" and remain in "personal contact".

For India, officials say, this is the new challenge: Choices will have to be made and positions calibrated irrespective of ties with the US. The return of the Taliban, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, is "bitter, but we have to deal with it".

Delhi schools

their time-tables which will have to be a hybrid of offline and online classes. Some said they may wait as long as a month to see how the reopening process plays out in other schools.

There are many government schools which are functioning as vaccination and ration distribution centres. These services will not be halted at these schools. According to the SOP, the section of the school used for these activities will be demarcated and separated from the rest of the

The SOP also requires teachers to speak to each student to check on their well-being, and provide emotional support as well as mentally prepare them to resume academic activities offline. They must try and understand the current academic levels of the students and "bridge the learning gaps to strengthen and recapitulate the foundational subject-specific competency of previous class".

Khattar

requirement for such a law. But now several incidents of forced religious conversion by way of coercion, allurements have come to light. To prevent these incidents, such laws are required. That is the reason we recently passed the anti-copying Bill. To ensure that such incidents do not increase, it becomes imperative to enact laws to prevent them," he said.

"The law shall be enacted in Haryana. What I have learnt from the Home Minister (Anil Vij) is that a team has been constituted to study the aspects of such a law. Very soon, a draft shall be prepared, and we shall see if we need to bring an Ordinance or table it in the next session of the Vidhan Sabha. We are considering these possibilities. It shall also be sent to Legal Remembrancer (LR) who shall examine it. It is in process. The law shall be enacted," Khattar said.

Several states including, of late, BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh, have brought laws or Ordinances to prevent or discourage religious conversions only for the purpose of marriage. Hindutva groups have coined the term "love jihad" for the alleged conversion to Islam of Hindu women in the guise of marriage.

Home Minister Vij has been talking of bringing an anti-conversion 'Freedom of Religion Bill' in the Assembly since last year. In November 2020, a committee comprising IAS officer T L Satyaprakash, IPS officer Navdeep Virk, and Additional Advocate General Deepak Manchanda was set up to study the issue. Vij had then said the committee would study the anti-conversion laws enacted by other states.

On November 6, Vij, while speaking in the Assembly on the murder of Faridabad woman Nikita Tomar by her alleged stalker, Tausif, said the government was considering a law to check forced religious conversions.

Earlier in June last year, Chief Minister Khattar had said that the government had decided to pass a 'Right to Freedom of Religion Bill' to stop forced conversions.

A senior Haryana government officer privy to the developments on the Bill told The Indian Express on Monday, "A draft Bill is ready, but there were certain provisions on which discussions are still on. The provisions are being examined by all legal experts of the state government. Objections that were raised earlier are being addressed; certain provisions and clauses are being modified to meet legal scrutiny. Hopefully the final draft shall be ready soon."

multi-storey buildings or only 1 floor is not clear. The dispute that may arise due to the houses in setback area is not clear... Whether the restriction on construction in CRZ, eco-sensitive zone etc. will apply or not while regularising these dwelling units under this Bill is not clear," she wrote.

The Revenue Minister said practical implementation of the Bill by August 1 was not possible even if the Assembly passed it.

Attaching the draft Bill to his note of July 27 to the Revenue Department, Sawant had said the Bhumiputra Adhikarita scheme was announced in his Budget speech for 2021-22 and had to be taken up in the current session. The note was received by the Revenue Department on July 28, the day the Assembly's three-day session commenced.

In his file noting on July 30, Revenue Secretary Sanjay Kumar said the Bill "had not been administratively approved by the revenue minister". The file was nevertheless submitted to Revenue Minister Monserrate stating: "Due to shortage of time, the Bill has not been examined thoroughly and may have unforeseen wider ramifications. Hence, considering the impact of the Bill, the same may be published for obtaining public comments."

On its part, the Law Department noted on July 29 that the Bill would require the consideration of the President of India after it is passed in the Assembly as the provisions of the Bill seek" to deprive the owner from his property due to which provisions of Bill attracts Article 300A of the Constitution of India". The department also advised that provisions of the Goa Mundkars (Protection from Eviction) Act, 1975. be considered to ensure there is no overlap. The next day, Pranab G Bhat,

Under-Secretary, Department wrote in the file that the introduction of the Bill was not recommended. Referring to the provisions which allow a bhumiputra to stake claim to the ownership of house built before April 1, 2019, he pointed out: "This implies that any person who is 30 years resident and is staying in rented

premises or any premises constructed even on 31 March 2019 will get the rights of premises, including govt premises if any. In view of above, the proposal is not recommended in the form it is right now and requires more detailing as land is a precious resource.'

Four days after the Bill was passed. Chief Minister Sawant said the word Bhumiputra that had stirred up sentiments of the state's tribal population, would be dropped. The contentious Bill, that may now be renamed Goa Bhumi Adhikarini Bill, 2021, however, continues to fuel a political storm in the poll-bound state. The Opposition had accused the ruling BJP of "election engineering" and raised concerns over illegal structures being regularised under the protection of the Bill.

Urging the house to pass the Bill on July 30, Sawant had said it was in the interest of the 'mool Goenkar' and people who had been living in their homes for generations but did not have ownership of the house.

Opposition parties including Congress, Goa Forward Party, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party and independent MLAs had met Governor PS Shreedharan Pillai days after the session and urged him not to grant his assent to the Bill and ten other Bills that they said had been passed "in a haste" by the government that was "election engineering".

13-vr-old raped brought the girl's body in a pri-

vate ambulance to Delhi, he said. The FIR states that the girl's father was asked to perform his daughter's final rites. "They had wood and pooja items, and they were ready to cremate her. We were clueless... Our neighbours stopped the cremation. They asked us to examine my daughter's body. When we saw, we were shocked. She had injuries on her face and back. We didn't know they would kill her. We got scared and called the police," the father told this newspaper.

Doctors at Babu Jagjivan Ram Hospital, where the autopsy was conducted, stated in the report that the girl died of "asphyxia consequent upon antemortem manual smothering". The report said there is "positive evidence of vaginal and anal sexual assault" with all injuries being "antemortem" and "recent in duration".

"The landlord and his wife lied to us. We respected them and they killed my daughter. I want them to be arrested. On Raksha Bandhan, I called and begged them to give me the address so that I could see my daughter but they refused. I wish I knew what they were doing to my daughter," said the girl's mother, who works as a domestic help.

The girl lived with her three younger siblings and parents, who hail from Bihar, at a rented accommodation.

A senior Delhi Police officer said: "We sent all details of the PCR call made by the family and post mortem to Gurgaon Police. It was found that the girl was sexually assaulted in Gurgaon and her body was brought to Delhi."

ACP West, Gurgaon, Rajinder, said, "On the complaint of the parents, we registered a murder case against Praveen and his relatives. The girl's body was sent for post mortem to a Delhi hospital. We received a report from them saying the girl was sexually assaulted. We have now registered a case under sections of rape and under POCSO Act. Praveen has been arrested."

An FIR was registered in Gurgaon on August 25, initially under sections of murder and criminal conspiracy, and under the SC/ST Act.

Jallianwala Bagh

Culture, with the ASI supervising. "The project has been implemented under the guidance of a committee comprising eminent historians that was formed in 2019. They met at every stage of the project, and laboriously went through drawings and sketches for things like people's clothing," the official said.

According to this official, the topography of the Bagh was different in 1919. "The narrow lane was not like this at the time - it took shape after houses were built on both sides. Now, when visitors will walk in, they will look at both sides and understand how ordinary men, women and children had walked in cheerfully on a festive day, and the fate they met."

Conservationist Gurmeet Sangha Rai expressed disappointment with the "drama" that had been brought to the lane.

"The spirit of the space has been compromised to create a kind of drama by installing sculptures etc.," she said. "Japan has not converted Hiroshima into a theme park. They have preserved the half-burnt structure to tell its history. When you go to Hiroshima, you come out with a sense that it shouldn't happen again."

The government, she said, could have held an international competition with international jury "to choose the best idea so that the real message of Jallianwala Bagh was conveyed with sensitivity. Installing sculptures doesn't make visitors feel any-

The Rs-20-crore upgradation project for the Jallianwala Bagh monument was sanctioned in 2019 under the National Implementation Committee to mark 100 years of the massacre. The advisory committee had senior officials from the Ministries of Culture and Tourism, besides the ASI and NBCC Ltd, which floated a tender and engaged Ahmedabadbased Vama Communications to

execute the project, officials said. Vandana Raj, founder of Vama, said, "The idea was not to change, but to enhance. For instance, the superstructure around the Matryrs' Well that has been removed was never a part of the heritage structure. It came much later, in the 1960s. when the Bagh was turned into a monument. Now, the glass walls offer a much better view to visitors while also retaining the orig-

inality of the well from 1919." The widespread seepage and in-growth of weeds and algae have been fixed, and the dilapidated and ill-kept buildings have been turned into viewing galleries, Raj said. Unused storehouses have been turned into administrative buildings and a 100-seat theatre.

The ASI official said that the famous and evocative bullet marks on the walls have been conserved by the local circle of the Survey "under direct supervision from Delhi".

Ex-serviceman, environmentalist, and writer Parkash Singh Bhatti (83), remembers the way Jallianwala Bagh was before the first round of renovations in the 1960s.

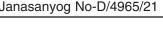
"The Congress government was the first to renovate the Jallianwala Bagh in the late 1950s," Bhatti said. "Before that, there used to be milk and lassi shops on the right side of the entrance lane, and private property on the left side.'

The Congress, Bhatti said, "had politics on its mind, and no objective to protect the history of the Bagh". By the time the renovation was completed in 1961, the Bagh had already lost much of its original character, he said. "The well was covered, the landscape was changed, and some new structures were constructed."

And now, "the BJP government has made it very clear that they too have only politics on their mind and no intention to preserve the history of Jallianwala Bagh," Bhatti said.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

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Other Conditions.

101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor

DU's Ramanujan college looks to introduce mass media diploma

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

UNIVERSITY'S Ramanujan College is looking to introduce a 'skill-oriented' diploma programme in mass media. This will be the first diploma programme run from the DU's undergraduate colleges.

A one-year diploma course in Mass Media and Film Studies to be run from Ramanuian College was approved by the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Humanities last month and has been run through the Academic Council. It will now have to be approved by the Executive Council, following which the college will formulate basic guidelines for the course.

Ramanujan College principal Dr S P Aggarwal stated that this will be the first diploma course for undergraduate-level students to be run from a DU college. It will be open to everyone. not restricted to Delhi University students. "This is basically a skilloriented course aimed at generating employment. It is for 10+2 students, students of B.A. Programme and other programmes to equip them to get a job in media. There will be around 40 sears and for most of the classes, we will be inviting members of the media," he said.

DDMA NOD FOR CLASSES TO RESUME FOR SENIOR STUDENTS

Most pvt schools put off reopening on Sept 1, cite logistical issues, exams

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

MOST PRIVATE schools in the capital won't be reopening for senior students from Wednesday as they are still working out the logistics of classroom seating, running both online and offline classes, and other infrastructure arrangements.

Delhi Management Authority in an order Monday permitted schools, colleges, technical and training institutes, coaching institutes, and libraries to re-open for students from class IX and above, and issued a detailed SOP for the same.

Schools have been directed to design their time-tables and stagger timings in such a way that a maximum of 50 per cent students are in class at a time. Only those students written consent from their parents will return to school while online classes will continue for the rest. Schools have cited challenges of working around these various necessities.

Said Suruchi Gandhi, principal Bal Bharti Public School, Dwarka, "Social distancing means we can't put many students together in one classroom and



Schools have been directed to design their time-tables and stagger timings in such a way that a maximum of 50% students are in class at a time. Archive

they'll have to be split up in groups. This will mean that teachers will have to repeat the same lesson for different groups. We will also have to run both online and offline classes simultaneously and monitor both. This is not simple and is a lot more for teachers to handle. We are more than prepared with our infrastructure arrangements, we just need to plan for our logistics. We are in the process of collecting submissions of consent from parents for classes IX and XI. We had already done it for classes X and XII when it was allowed for some students to come to school for practical and exam-related work At that time, we had got consent from around 45% parents."

The principal of a prominent private school in South Delhi also cited the same challenges.

"The school is already ready because we had class XII students coming for practicals. We had received a 50-50 response from parents of that grade. We'll start testing the waters with parents of other grades this week and prepare our time-table keeping in mind the hybrid model we'll have to follow," the principal said.

Other schools cited different reasons for putting off re-opening for now.

Public School DAV Pushpanjali Enclave, is set to hold internal examinations in the coming fortnight and has decided to focus on these before shifting

planning to conduct these exams offline for classes X and XII, but we might convert the exams to offline mode for classes IX and XI too. It might serve as preparation for their return to offline mode. We will not be re-opening for offline classes this week as we don't disrupt the current preparations and classes happening online," said principal Rashmi Biswal.

Meanwhile, Mount Carmel School. Dwarka has decided to adopt a more cautious approach. School authorities said they are willing to wait for up to a month to assess the re-opening process and learn from others.

"We are happy for the government to take the lead and show us how they implement the Standard Operating Protocol in their schools. We don't want to rush and cause any confusion as of now. Wherever there has been a rush to open schools, there has soon been a rush to close them back again. India's Covid cases are rising again, we don't know which way it will go. We will take at least another month; we're also working to get all our staff, including class 4 employees, vaccinated," said Dean Michael Williams.

Deploy women officers across all beats: Police chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

DELHI POLICE Commissioner Rakesh Asthana has directed the 15 DCPs to deploy women officers in all beats, especially in areas that have schools, colleges, and which see a high footfall of women. This comes as the Delhi Police PCR unit is set to be integrated with the district teams from September 1. PCR vans will also be known as beat vans from now. The standard operating proce-

dure, issued by DCP (headquarters) Shweta Chauhan, said, "JCPs of ranges with their counterparts in PCR and communication wings will merge existing PCR beats of mobile patrol vans (MPVs) and motorbike patrols into existing beats of police stations. This implies that post-integration, each beat will have a patrol vehicle with a minimum of two personnel patrolling 24x7 in shifts. They will attend PCR calls, other minor law and order issues in the beat, and ensure surveillance over unlawful activities and other issues that are currently the responsibility of the beat, division officers, and PCR MVPs respectively.

Usually, on receiving a call on 112 at the control room, a PCR van shares brief facts of the inciheads to the spot.

As per the new plan, an officer said, "PCR vans will now merge with the district police, and personnel from the local police station will travel with the PCR van.

Chauhan further states, "Beat MPVs will have to resume patrolling after handing over any call that mandates registration of crime to the staff of the investigation wing of the police station. We should prepare a list of all beats, the number of MPVs, and names of the buddy pair of officers of the beat and their shifts. Special attention must be paid to deployment of women officers in the beats, particularly those which have schools, colleges, and other areas having a heavy footfall of women."

Beat MPVs will also have a new uniform, which will be communicated by the PHQ in the coming days.

"Call sign of the reorganised PCR vehicles, which will also have vehicles of the police station, will be assigned by DCP/PCR. All vehicles of PCR and police stations to be merged into a common pool so that all beats have at least one patrol vehicle. Response time of PCR vehicles must be monitored and maintained for citizen's satisfaction," she said.

INDIAN

HC directs parking dispute accused to perform social service at Lok Nayak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

QUASHING AN FIR related to a car parking dispute, the Delhi High Court has directed two brothers, who were accused in the case, to perform social service for one month at Lok Nayak Hospital.

The accused had approached the court for quashing the FIR registered at Gokul Puri police station in 2017. The accused had abused and hit the complainant with an iron rod over a dispute related to car parking. Both the accused and complainant are relatives and neighbours and had settled their disputes in February 2021.

Observing that continuation of the proceedings will only aggravate the bad blood between the parties who live in the same locality, Justice Subramonium Prasad quashed the FIR and ordered the accused persons and complainant to remain bound

by the terms of the settlement. Justice Prasad asked the accused to file a certificate from the Medical Superintendent of Lok Nayak hospital after completion of one month to show compliance with the order.

default or any misbehaviour on the part of petitioners, the same shall be conveyed immediately by the Medical Superintendent, Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, to the SHO concerned, who shall, in turn, inform the learned ASC for the State, for bringing the same to the notice of the Court and for seeking recall of orders passed today," said the court in its order.

The court also imposed a cost of Rs 10,000 each on the six persons of the family so that they do not repeat such activities in the future. The court directed that the cost be deposited with the "Army Welfare Fund

The accused and complainant are relatives and neighbours and had settled their disputes in February 2021

"In case of any absenteeism/

Battle Casualties".





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Sealed quotations for purchase of New Maruti Car (Wagon R) model ZXI (1.2L) are invited Sealed quotation to be sent by post or dropped by hand in quotation box of the School by 20 Sep. 2021.



Jnanabharathi, Bangalore - 560 056. Karnataka State No: Aca-IV /LL.M/Admn/2021-22

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION FOR LL.M COURSE

Ref: Approval of Vice-Chancellor date:16.08.2021 Applications are invited for admission to the I Semester of 2 Years LL.M Course in the University Law College and Department of Studies in Law, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bangalore-560056 for the academic year 2021-22 from candidates who have passed 3/5 year LL.B Degree with not less than 45% (40% only in the case of SC/ST/Category-I).

Application shall be filled online uploading relevant documents by visiting the University website www: bangaloreuniversity.ac.in or www.ulcbangalore.com on or before 03.09.2021 (late fee without fine) and 06.09.2021 with late fee of Rs.200/-. Downloaded application should be filled in and submitted with relevant documents to the Principal & Chairman, University Law College and Department of Studies in Law, Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore University, Bengaluru-560056 on or before 09.09.2021 either in person or through post.

	Application / Processing Fee					
	Particulars General/OBC SC/ST/Cat-I					
1.	Application fee	Rs. 800/-	Rs. 400/-			
2.	Penalty for Late submission	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 200/-			
Sd/-, REGISTRAR						



जिआयपीआर/२०२१-२०२२/१७७१

महाराष्ट्र शासन उच्च शिक्षण संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे-४११ ००१ जाहिरात

केंद्र शासन पुरस्कृत अल्पसंख्याक विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी मॅट्रिकोत्तर (Post Matric) शिष्यवृत्ती योजना सन २०२१-२२

राज्यातील मुस्लिम, ख्रिश्चन, शीख, बौद्ध, पारशी व जैन या अल्पसंख्याक समाजातील गुणवान विद्यार्थ्यांसाठी केंद्र शासन पुरस्कृत मॅट्रिकोत्त Post Matric) शिष्यवृत्ती योजना राज्यामध्ये सन २०२१-२२ साठी ऑनलाइन पद्धतीने राबविण्यात येत आहे. यासाठी विद्यार्थ्यांचे नवीन शिष्यवृत्ती (Fresh) व शिष्यवृत्तीचे नूतनीकरण (Renewal) करण्यासाठी ऑनलाइन पद्धतीने अर्ज मागविण्यात येत आहेत. विद्यार्थ्यांनी www.scholarships.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावरून ऑनलाइन पद्धतीने अर्ज भरणे आवश्यक आहे. फक्त ऑनलाइन (Online) पद्धतीने भरलेले अर्ज स्वीकारले जातील. **कोणत्याही परिस्थितीत ऑफलाइन (Offline) अर्ज स्वीकारले जाणार नाहीत.**

अल्पसंख्याक शिष्यवृत्ती सन २०२१-२२ करिता नवीन शिष्यवृत्ती (Fresh) व नूतनीकरण (Renewal) अर्ज सादर करण्यासाठी भारत गरकारने घोषित केलेले वेळाण्उक

31 9t	कारामचा	आंतम दिनाक नवीन शिष्यवृत्ती (Fresh) व नूतनीकरण शिष्यवृत्ती (Renewal)			
१	विद्यार्थ्यांनी ऑनलाइन अर्ज भरण्याचा अंतिम दिनांक	३० नोव्हेंबर, २०२१			
2	महाविद्यालयाने अर्जांची ऑनलाइन पडताळणी करण्याचा अंतिम दिनांक	१५ डिसेंबर २०२१			
	महाविद्यालयांनी विद्यार्थ्यांचे ऑनलाइन अर्ज फॉरवर्ड करण्यासाठी विद्यार्थ्यांनी ऑनलाइन भरलेल्या अर्जासोबत दिलेल्या कागदपत्रांची तपासणी				

करून त्या अर्जावर विनाविलंब योग्य ती कार्यवाही करून पात्र अर्ज पढील टप्प्यावर तात्काळ फॉरवर्ड करावेत. सर्व महाविद्यालय/ संस्था यांनी त्यांच्या लॉगइनमध्न ऑनलाइन पद्धतीने अद्ययावत अभ्यासक्रमनिहाय फी नमूद करून Profile update करावे महाविद्यालय/ संस्थानी प्रत्येक विद्यार्थ्याचा ऑनलाइन अर्ज तपासणी करताना विद्यार्थ्यांचे Fee Details तपासन बरोबर नसल्यास त्यात दरुस्ती (Edit)

NSP पोर्टलद्वारे सर्व महाविद्यालयांना Aadhar base लॉगइन करण्याची सुविधा देण्यात आलेली आहे तसेच सन २०२१-२२ पूर्वी ज्या महाविद्यालयांनी KYC पूर्ण केले आहेत त्यांनी त्यांच्या NSP Portal वर Institute लॉगइनमध्ये आधार व मोबाइल नंबर नोंदणी (Register) करणे आवश्यक आहे. तसेच सेन २०२१-२२ साठी नवीन महाविद्यालय/ संस्था यांची KYC करण्याबाबतची प्रक्रिया NSP Portal च्या HOME Page वरील Services Option वर Institute KYC Registration Form मध्ये देण्यात आलेली आहे. (KYC करण्याबाबतची प्रक्रिया याची सविस्त माहिती <u>www.dhepune@gov.in</u> या संकेतस्थळावर देण्यात आलेली आहे.) सदर Form भरल्यानंतर State Nodal Officer द्वारे सदरच्या सन २०२०-२१ मध्ये शिष्यवृत्तीसाठी निवड झालेल्या/ शिष्यवृत्ती मिळालेल्या व चालू वर्षी शिष्यवृत्तीच्या अटी पूर्ण करणाऱ्या सर्व विद्यार्थ्यांनी सन २०२१-२२ करिता नृतनीकरणाचा अर्ज ऑनलाइन भरणे आवश्यक आहे. NSP Portal द्वारे ज्या शिष्यवृत्ती लाभार्थींचे आधार कार्ड, मोबाइल नंबर प्रमाणित केलेले आहेत व त्यांचे वय १८ वर्षांच्या वर आहे अशा सर्व (Fresh & Renewal) लाभार्थ्यांना शिष्यवत्तीची रक्कम मिळेल

विद्यार्थ्यांनी व महाविद्यालयांनी अधिक माहितीसाठी तसेच याबाबतच्या नवीन प्राप्त होणाऱ्या सूचनांसाठी www.scholarships.gov.in **व <u>www.dhepune.gov.in</u> या संकेतस्थळाचे अवलोकन करावे.** तसेच संबंधित विभागीय सहसंचालक, उच्च शिक्षण कार्यालयाशी किंवा उच्च रोक्षण संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे-१ येथे दूरध्वनी क्रमांक ०२०-२६१२६९३९/ २९७०७०९८ या क्रमांकावर कार्यालयीन वेळेत संपर्क साधावा नथवा <u>schol.dhepune@gov.in</u> या ई-मेलवर मेल करावा.

सदर शिष्यवृत्तीबाबतची सविस्तर जाहिरात संचालनालयाच्या www.dhepune.gov.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे.

(डॉ. धनराज माने) शिक्षण संचालक तथा नोडल ऑफिसर उच्च शिक्षण, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे-१



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				TOTAL	Vacant	
TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		16,565	16,273	
14,37,736		ICU BEDS		3,560	3,465	
	Cases		Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Aug 29			32	0	51,636	
Aug 30			36	1	51,387	
Total 375*		5*	14,12,280	25,081	2,56,23,431	

BRIEFLY —

Woman attacked. robbed in Narela

New Delhi: A 60-year-old woman was allegedly attacked and robbed by an unidentified man in Outer Delhi's Narela. A video of the incident in which the woman is seen resisting the robbery bid went viral on social media. Rajiv Ranjan, DCP (Outer North), said, "She withdrew money from a bank in the area and put it in her bag. She was walking home when two boys on a bike followed her. One of them got down and tried to snatch her bag. The woman resisted the attempt but the bag got torn and cash fell on the road. The accused took the cash and ran." Raids are on to nab the accused

Senior citizens can nominate others to get ration

New Delhi: The Delhi Food Department has issued an order allowing senior citizens, differently abled people, and those unable to authenticate their biometrics (thumb impression) to nominate others to collect ration on their behalf. The order has been issued to ensure that no PDS beneficiary drops out of safety net due to biometric failures.

Aqua Line's 'fast trains' to halt at more stations

Noida: Noida Metro's fast train will stop at more stations, as demand rises, said NMRC officials. A review meeting on the non-stoppage stations of fast trains was held to decide on including more stations. Fast trains function during peak hours between Sector 51 and Depot in Greater Noida and do not halt at all 10 stations. As per officials, it will stop at Sector 50. Sector 101. Sector 83 and Sector 143 stations from Tuesday.

Administration of Sputnik V stays limited to 4 districts

New Delhi: Despite almost two months having gone by since the rollout of Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine in Delhi, there are only four districts where it is being administered. It was initially being administered in a few private including hospitals, Indraprastha Apollo, Madhukar Rainbow Children's Hospital, Action Cancer Hospital, Batra Hospital and Sarvodaya Medicentre. **ENS**

NCR POPULATION TO OVERTAKE TOKYO BY 2030: DRAFT REPORT

Rapid rail, new townships: NCR board to discuss regional plan

SOURAV ROY BARMAN

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AN AMBITIOUS plan to make Delhi-NCR future ready envisages high-speed rail tracks capable of handling bullet trains, helitaxi services, expansion of airport network, and development of 5-8 townships, with the projection that the population of the region will overtake Tokyo by the year 2030.

The draft Regional Plan-2041 is likely to be taken up by the National Capital Region Planning Board (NCRPB) Tuesday. The board, which comes under the MoHUA. has entire Delhi. 14 districts of Haryana, eight districts of Uttar Pradesh and two districts of Rajasthan under its fold - collectively covering an area of about 55,083 sqkm.

 $The \, draft \, report \, states \, that \, the$ population in NCR is expected to grow to around 7 crore by 2031 and to about 11 crore by 2041. It also said the region will be highly urbanised, around 57% of the total area by 2031 and 67% by 2041.

Among key transport-related proposals in the report is the need to "minimise journey times across NCR and make travel times across NCR limits under 30 minutes by superfast trains and heli-taxis, within 60 minutes by other trains, and two to three hours by car preferably".

It says Delhi should have 30minute connectivity through su-



The report suggests exploring possibilities of increasing the speed of Metro rail

KEY PROJECTS

87 Projects where cost is estimated	₹19,56,164 cr Estimated cost
BREAKTIP	

Economic growth and income generation	₹3,44,084 cr	
Transport and mobility	₹12,07,574 cr	
Tourism and heritage	₹3,500 cr	
Water, drainage and sanitation	₹3,13,841 cr	
Housing and heritage	₹10,900 cr	
Rural development	₹7,951 cr	
Future ready citizen infra	₹52,508 cr	
Environment	₹15,806 cr	
PROJECTS WHERE COST YET TO BE ESTIMAT		

per-fast trains with major cities of NCR. "All RRTS tracks should be Fast Track. Further possibili-

ties be explored to utilise fast

track RRTS lines for 'Bullet Trains'

thus enabling the 30 Minutes

NCR," proposes the report.

Currently, the three RRTS corridors that are being implemented are Delhi-Alwar (164km), Delhi-Meerut (82-km), and Delhi-Panipat (103-km). The be completed by 2023.

The report suggests the possibilities of increasing the speed of Metro rail from existing average of 32-35 km/hr to about 50 km/ hr by 2022 and up to 70 km/hr by 2025 be explored. Currently, the Metro network in Delhi-NCR spans 396 km, including 291 km in Delhi, 34 km in Haryana cities such as Gurgaon and 71.6 km in UP cities such as Noida.

The report alludes to interstate restrictions on movement during the pandemic by suggesting that steps "shall be taken to prevent closure of interstate borders by states in NCR area, except in emergency situations like crime control etc". It also underlines the need to review taxes imposed on commercial passenger vehicles.

On air connectivity, it spells out the need to have one airport in Karnal or Panipat and Meerut or Muzaffarnagar, along with development of proposed international airport at Jewar and an aviation hub at Hisar "on priority": "The six-existing unserved/small airports/airstrips in NCR namely, Karnal, Bhiwani, Narnaul, Meerut, Alwar & Baratapur and Bareilly, Kota and Patiala should be developed by 2025 and made fully operational. Private players should be incentivised to develop these..."

It also identifies industries and MSMEs, economic corridors, skilling and employment, farm incomes, and traditional economy as priority areas.

21% staff shortage across 15 police districts, audit shows

Special Cell only unit with more personnel than sanctioned

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

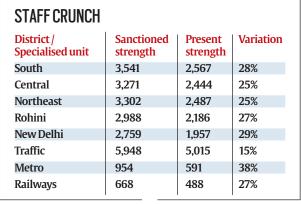
NEW DELHI. AUGUST 30

DELHI POLICE has a staff crunch of 21.03 per cent across its 15 districts - 33,833 personnel against a sanctioned strength of 42,847 – revealed an audit conducted earlier this month by the police headquarters. It also shows that the Special Cell is the only unit where sanctioned strength is 722 but total strength is 1,336, as compared to the districts, security wings, and specialised units.

Police chief Rakesh Asthana. who took charge of the force on July 28, had told the DCPs in his first meeting that he wants to implement a three-shift duty system and enforce separation of law and order over the next two months.

"A few days ago, Asthana reviewed a presentation by the PHQ that was prepared by Special CP (headquarters and general administration) Sivagami Sundari Nanda, in which she claimed that the total sanctioned strength of Delhi Police is 94,353, but they have 78,985 personnel – a shortage of 15,368," a senior police of-

As per the report, the actual shortage is from the level of inspector to constable. "There are 1.455 sanctioned posts of inspectors, but only 1,427 are currently employed; 6,237 sub-inspectors against sanctioned strength of 8,096; 20,355 head constables against 23,717 sanctioned posts; sanctioned vacancy for constables



is 50,969, and there are 41,488 at present," said the officer.

The officer said there are more officers in higher posts as compared to the lower constabulary: 16 Special CPs against sanctioned vacancy of 13; 63 DCPs and additional DCPs against 54 total posts.

Nanda informed the police chief that South district is facing the highest shortage of 974 personnel. "Sanctioned strength of South district is 3,541 and they have only 2,567 personnel. It is followed by Central district, which is facing shortage of 827 personnel against sanctioned strength of 3,271. The third is Northeast, which has a shortage of 815 personnel against sanctioned strength of 3.303." said the officer.

Nanda also told the police chief that 12 proposals are pendng with the Ministry of Home Affairs. "Some of these proposals are to increase staff strength, creating posts for CyPad (cyber unit of special cell), and for fingerprint

bureau (crime)," a senior police officer said.

"Nanda also showed data from 16 specialised units, including special cell, crime branch, traffic, PCR. She said among other units, special cell has the highest number of personnel at 1,336, excluding strength of the cyber cell unit, As per data, total sanctioned vacancies of inspectors in the special cell is 32, but they have 45; sanctioned strength for head constables is 131 and they have 331; sanctioned posts of constables is

980, and they have 962. Asthana was informed that the security units, including the Prime Minister's security wing, is also facing a shortage — 25,620 personnel against sanctioned strength of 27,368. In all the battalions of Delhi Armed Police, there are 7.739 staff against 8.189 sanctioned posts, data revealed.

227, but they have 650," an officer

said, adding that sanctioned posts

for personnel in crime branch is

North MCD to move proposal to hand hospitals to Centre

ABHINAV RAJPUT NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE NORTH MCD plans to move a proposal in the standing committee to hand over hospitals under its jurisdiction to the Centre, citing fund constraints in managing them.

This comes after the Delhi High Court had pulled up the corporation last week, saving it did not exhibit a sense of urgency in considering the proposal of handing over its six hospitals and medical college to the Centre or Delhi government, and warned that any default in timely payment of salaries and pensions to its employees will lead to attachment and sale of its properties.

Standing committee chairperson Jogi Ram Jain said the proposal has been put up by the executive wing but the deliberative wing is not in support of it. He said the proposal was placed following the court observation.

The development has led to sharp reactions from AAP with spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj saying that "after pushing the MCDs to bankruptcy, the BIP-led North MCD now plans to sell hospitals and medical colleges.. they have emptied the MCD's assets to such an extent".

Jain said the AAP has forced MCDs to take such steps. "It has curtailed funds for years leading to such situations. However. we are going to reject the proSenior officials said though

the proposal would be defeated, the corporation is not in a position to hold on to the hospitals in its current financial situation where it has a budget deficit leading to delay in salary and pensions becoming a regular feature. "These hospitals are from the time when the MCD was unified and had sound finances," said a senior official.

A similar proposal was placed during a standing committee meeting in 2018, but it was never executed.

The six hospitals under the civic body are Hindu Rao, Kasturba, Rajan Babu Institute of Pulmonary Medicine and Tuberculosis, Girdhari Lal, MVID, and Balak Ram. Hindu Rao, the biggest hospital, has 900 beds. In comparison, the East and South corporations have just one hospital each — which are smaller in size, with 370 beds and 100 beds respectively.

While annual expenses of the hospitals amount to Rs 500 crore, another Rs 40 crore is spent on medicines, and there are maintenance costs as well, said a sen-

ior official in the administration. Health staff of North MCD have gone on strike more than five times since the Covid outbreak over salary delays. The civic body employs at least 1,000 senior doctors, 500 resident doctors, and 1,500 nursing officers across five medical facilities.



RAZED

Slums demolished at Dhobi ghat in Jamia Nagar's Batla House area last week. Gajendra Yadav

HC declines to hear plea on EWS beds not reserved during 2nd wave

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE DELHI High Court has declined to entertain a contempt petition alleging that the requirement of reserved beds for EWS patients was not adhered to during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It is common knowledge that during the second phase of the pandemic there was absolute emergency and dearth of beds, therefore, whoever came

to the hospitals was first accommodated and attended to. Not doing so would have been against the medical ethics," said Iustice Naimi Waziri in an order.

The plea before the court alleged that government hospitals and those private hospitals, which have been allotted land at concessional rates by the State, were in violation of a March 2007 HC order. The order had said that these hospitals shall provide free treatment to indigent persons to the extent of 10 per cent of beds in the IPD and 25 per cent of patients

The court in 2007 had passed the directions in a petition filed by Social Jurist, a lawyers' group, which alleged that the conditions of allotment of land to hospitals and nursing homes in respect of providing free treatment to the poor and indigent persons was not being complied with.

The contempt petition alleging non-adherence of the 2007 directions was withdrawn by the petitioner after it did not find favour with the court.

Get old vehicles scrapped: Transport dept issues advisory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

NOT ALL provisions of the Centre's automobile scrapping policy, under which old vehicles clearing an automated fitness test are allowed to ply, will be applicable in Delhi as existing provisions mandating phasing out diesel vehicles older han 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years will remain enforced in the city.

The Delhi Transport Department has issued a public notice, advising owners of such vehicles not to take them out on the roads and get them scrapped under the end of life vehicles policy notified by the Delhi government in 2018. There are six authorised centres where old vehicles are scrapped.

Under the Centre's policy, vehicles are classified into commercial and personal categories, unlike Delhi where classification is done based on fuel type. The Central policy states that commercial vehicles over 15 years old and personal vehicles over 20 years old are marked for scrapping if they fail an automated fitness test. However, in Delhi's case, diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles over 15 years old "shall not ply" and are "liable to be impounded and invite necessary penal action under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988" due to the city's hazardous



Existing provisions mandate phasing out diesel vehicles older than 10 yrs and petrol vehicles older than 15 vrs

levels of air pollution.

Authorities are, however, not yet cracking down on old vehicles, deciding to raise awareness first. Such vehicles, including two-wheelers, number around 37 lakh out of over 1 crore registered vehicles. The Transport Department has also clarified that notwithstanding the fact that Registration Certificates are valid for 15 years, diesel vehicles cannot ply beyond 10 years.

However, no-objection certificates will be issued to diesel vehicles aged between 10-15 years old for re-registration in certain states. "NOC can be obtained for diesel vehicles beyond 10 years but less than 15 years for states which have conveyed their concurrence for registration of such diesel vehicles," says the notice.

'Don't Want The Same To Happen To My Children'

Among Afghan refugees outside UNHCR office, woman assaulted by Taliban

ASHNA BUTANI NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

KHATERA HASHMI (32), an Afghan refugee living in Lajpat Nagar, has a faint recollection of what happened on June 7, 2020, the day she lost her eyes. She says she was assaulted by the Taliban while she was three months pregnant, and then her

dren. I want to go back to them, or I want them to come here..." Khatera used to work for the Afghan police in Ghazni before

eyes were removed because she

saw their faces. Outside the UN-

HCR office in Vasant Vihar on

Monday, she says, "I do not want

the same to happen to my chil-

the assault in June 2020. She and her husband suspected that Khatera's father, who was a Talib, had a role in ordering her assault as he did not approve of her working as a policewoman.

Last November, the couple came to India for two reasons: because they had been shaken up by the attacks, and because they hoped that Khatera could undergo eye treatment in India after it had been unsuccessful in Afghanistan. At the time, she was seven months pregnant. Doctors in Delhi too said there was no way for her to see again. In January, she gave birth to her youngest child at Indraprastha Apollo in Delhi.

According to her medical reports, she was assaulted on her



In November last year, Khatera Hashmi and her husband came to Delhi so she could undergo eye treatment. They were unable to return. Her five children are back in Ghazni; (right) outside the UNHCR office in Vasant Vihar. Abhinav Saha



head, chest, neck, and back. The records read that she had 'eviscerated eyes' and that she underwent a craniotomy. While the scars on her face have healed. she has been on medication for a frontal headache. Another medical record stated that she had a history of bullet injury with some operative history'. Holding her daughter, Bahar,

she says, "This is not the life I had imagined for her... I speak to my five other children; three sons and two daughters, over the phone. They cry a lot... they ask me to come back to get them." The children continue to stay

(Afghan Afghanis) from the government because I served in the police force... but ever since the Taliban came, I have not been getting anything. She hopes to go back to

in their rented home in Ghazni.

She says, "I used to get compen-

sation of around 13,000 AFN

Afghanistan or to a third country with her entire family. Her husband, Nabi (36), spends the entire day taking care of the baby. He says, "We came to India by ourselves... back then, we felt unsafe but we thought we would return to get our children after my wife's treatment. Little did we know that the situation would worsen and we would not be able to go back." In Afghanistan, he used to their UNHCR refugee cards a few days ago. They have also been getting monetary assistance from a family in America. Khatera says that while her

work as a shopkeeper. They got

mother and sister visit her children to help them with food, cleaning, and laundry, it has become tougher now: "My eldest son is 15. He takes care of the younger ones... he tells me that people with guns take rounds of the house. They are very scared of guns and want me to go back so that I can protect them."

Several Afghans have been asking the UNHCR to help look for jobs for them or to send them to other nations with more opportunities.



5 GOVT & POLITICS





On His Mark, Get Set...

WITH THE BJP national leadership eyeing Telangana as its next focus state, state party chief Bandi Sanjay Kumar has embarked on the tried-and-tested method of mass mobilisation – padayatra – to begin his preparations for the next elections. Kumar, who has received the go-ahead from both BIP chief I P Nadda and Home Minister Amit Shah, is on a walkathon towards 'Democratic Telangana'. Started from Hyderabad's Charminar on August 28, the yatra, covering 750 km in the first phase, will be completed in 55 days. Around 300 BJP karyakartas have enrolled themselves to walk along with Kumar on the first day. He is expected to highlight various welfare schemes introduced by the Centre, besides listening to people's grievances. Party leaders say this will be the beginning of BJP's election preparations in the southern state.

ONWARD JOURNEY

SENIOR DIPLOMAT P Harish has been named India's ambassador to Germany. Harish has been Indian envoy to Vietnam and is now a senior official in South Block. As Indian envoy in Berlin. he will have to navigate the relationship with Germany, where German Chancellor Angela Merkel is slated to leave office.

FAREWELL TO ARMS

OUTGOING ITBP D-GSS Deswal, who retires on Tuesday, has the unique distinction of having headed every Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) barring the CISF. As ITBP D-G, he was given additional charge of various forces in the absence of regular chiefs six times - twice for BSF and NSG, and once each for CRPF and SSB. At one point during his tenure he was commanding CRPF, BSF and ITBP together, putting him next only to the Army chief as commander of so many personnel (close to 7 lakh). Many in these forces will likely heave a sigh of relief on Tuesday, as whenever he took charge of any of these forces he made all officers and personnel walk hundreds of kilometers, leading the contingent himself in a bid to keep everyone fit.

Afghan situation shouldn't be allowed to promote cross-border terror: Rajnath

KRISHNKAUSHIK NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE SITUATION in Afghanistan the national security perspective, and India is monitoring the developments there, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday. He said India is also concerned that "anti-national" forces should not take advantage of the changed scenario and promote cross-border terrorism.

"What is happening in neighbouring Afghanistan is raising new questions from the security point of view. Our government is constantly monitoring the situation there. Along with the security of Indians, our government also wants that by taking advantage of the situation being created there, anti-national forces should not encourage cross-border terrorism," Singh said.

"At the same time, there are some other concerns as well, which can become a challenge from the point of view of national security but our government is alert, and is capable of facing any kind of situation."

Delivering the third Balramji Dass Tandon memorial lecture virtually, the Defence Minister also spoke about the security chal-

drug running and weapon trad-

ing racket is aimed at reviving the

The case relates to the March

18 interception of a boat with the



Rajnath Singh

lenges posed by China, Referring to the nearly 16-month military standoff in eastern Ladakh, which began in May 2020, he said the reason behind the "controversy" was that the "Chinese forces had ignored the agreed protocols". "It is true that there has been a perceptional difference regarding the border with China for a long time" and "despite this, there are some such agreements, protocols, following which the armies of both countries do patrolling." But, he said, "we cannot allow the Chinese Army to act on the LAC in a unilateral manner under any circumstances, and will never allow it to happen."

Ever since India became Independent, "it has been a constant attempt by many anti-India forces to create an atmosphere of instability within India, either on the borders, or through the borders", Singh said, and added, "a massive effort has been made for

Assam Cong decides to split ties with AIUDF over 'praise for BJP'

TORA AGARWALA GUWAHATI. AUGUST 30

CITING THE All-India United Democratic Front's (AIUDF) "continuous and mysterious praise" for the BJP, the Congress in Assam Monday announced that it will sever ties with its Mahajot alliance partner, which it had paired up with in January 2020 ahead of the Assembly elections.

The resolution was passed after a four-hour core committee meeting of the party in Guwahati on Monday afternoon. A communique from Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) said that it was "unanimously decided that AIUDF can no longer remain an alliance partner of Mahajot" as its "behaviour and attitude in relation to BIP party" had "baffled" the members of the Congress.



AIUDF MLA: What about 2 Cong MLAs who joined

"The AIUDF leadership's and senior members' continuous and mysterious praise of the BJP party and the Chief Minister has affected the public perception of the Congress party," the statement said, adding that an intimation would be sent to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on the matter. It said the high command would take a decision on the Bodoland People's Front, another Mahajot partner which has in the last few months expressed its reluctance to remain with the alliance.

Reacting to the development,

a very "immature" decision by the Congress, and a step that would "ultimately benefit the BJP". "The only way we can edge out the BJP in Assam is by the smaller parties allying," he said. On the Congress's allegation that the AIUDF has been praising the BJP", Islam said that "only one AIUDF politician had complimented the CM". "But at least two Congress MLAs have left the party to join the BIP. What do they have to say to that?' Congress leader and Lok

Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi Wednesday said it was time for the Congress "to be independent of the Mahajot". Bypolls to at least five con-

stituencies (Tamulpur, Gossaigaon in Bodoland, and Mariani, Majuli, Thowra in Upper Assam) are scheduled in the next couple of months.

Selection of district party chief exposes rift within Kerala Cong

SHAJU PHILIP THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 30

DISQUIET IS brewing in the Kerala unit of the Congress over the appointment of party chiefs in 14 districts in the state. The selection of a new crop of leaders has demonstrated the declining sway of senior leaders Oommen Chandy and Ramesh Chennithala, who would share the party slots at all rungs between them for nearly two decades.

A day after Chandy and Chennithala openly expressed their displeasure over their nominees not being considered as

'Vindictive

politics': BJP

MLA joins TMC

Kolkata: BJP MLA Tanmoy Ghosh

joined the Trinamool Congress

(TMC) on Monday, and alleged

that the saffron party was in-

attempting to trigger chaos in

party, Ghosh told reporters, "The

Assembly election, they even

tried to win Bengal by force. The

BJP is also using government

machinery to meddle into mat-

ters of the state and ruin the his-

State BJP spokesperson

Shamik Bhattacharya said, "Not

all people are capable of han-

dling the pressure Opposition

tory and culture of Bengal."

leaders have to face.

After being inducted into the



Oommen Chandy, Ramesh Chennithala

DCC presidents, senior Congress leader A V Gopinath, who lost the race for the Palakkad district, quit the party on Monday.

Former party legislator K Sivadasan Nair and KPCC general secretary K P Anil Kumar were suspended from the party after

they criticised the new list, while KPCC secretary PS Prasanth was expelled after he wrote to senior party leader Rahul Gandhi, raising allegations against AICC general secretary K C Venugopal.

Prasanth had come out against the appointment of Palod Ravi as DCC president in Thiruvananthapuram and called Venugopal a Congress "terminator" in Kerala.

Kerala Congress president K Sudhakaran said, "Till now, decisions had been taken by them (Chandy and Chennithala) without any discussions... It is quite natural that they get uneasy when that practice is over...only merit would matter in Congress.'

Congress Odisha in-charge steps in to solve feud

BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 30

(AICC) Odisha in-charge A Chella Kumar reached Bhubaneswar on Monday amid reports of factionalism and rifts spiralling in the party's state unit and held a meeting with senior state leaders.

Kumar's visit comes in the backdrop of remarks by Congress's chief whip in the state Assembly, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, holding Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee president Niranjan Patnaik responsible for the downward trend of the party's performance in the state. The friction is a matter of concern for the party as the state is gearing up for rural body polls scheduled for early 2022.

Reacting to the fallout between Patnaik and Bahinipati, Chella Kumar said such activities would not be tolerated in the party. After a meeting convened with the senior Congress leaders of the state, Chella Kumar also assured that the discord has been mended. "Party would not take any disciplinary action against Bahinipati as he has already ac-

2 UP Cong leaders quit

Meanwhile, two senior AICC Singh denied the allegations.



BJP DEMANDS REOPENING OF TEMPLES: BJP workers protest in Thane, Maharashtra. The BJP on Monday staged protests in several cities of the state against the government's stand to not reopen temples, which remain shut due to Covid-19 restrictions. Deepak Joshi

ED searches 7 locations linked to Sena MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NAGPUR, MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday carried out searches at seven places, including an educational institute, connected to Shiv Sena MP Bhavana Gawali in Washim in reference to an offence registered at Risod town in the district last year.

'The offence was in connection with alleged misappropriation of Rs 16 crore. Searches were



Shiv Sena MP Bhavana

conducted at seven places in

Gawali

Washim district in connection with the offence." ED sources said. Last week, senior BJP leader Kirit Somaiya had told The Indian

Express that action would be taken

against Gawali in connection with

"a Rs 100-crore fraud".

Somaiya's car was attacked with stones and ink last week when he was in Washim district to visit Shri Balaji Particle Board Limited unit at Risod, which is at the center of the alleged fraud.

Gawali, the five-term Sena Parliamentarian from Yavatmal-Washim, said the ED raid "is akin to the Emergency and all the Shiv Sena leaders are being targeted". "When there was some mismatch in the accounts, I myself had lodged an FIR regarding my institution. But, picking up a single sentence and single number from it and making it look like a big thing is being done by some political leaders. Children from rural areas have been studying in my institution for the last 20 years," said Gawali, while speaking with media persons, after the ED raids on

her institution. "I was not given any notice by the ED. The ED officials have come to my institutions and are investigating. This is akin to the

AISHWARYA MOHANTY

ALL INDIA Congress Committee

cepted his mistake," he added.

members from Uttar Pradesh, Shailendra Singh and Rajesh Singh, have resigned from the party's primary membership, alleging that old and loyal Congress leaders are being neglected. Congress state secretary Raghavendra Pratap

WITH PTI FROM LUCKNOW



ness had to be ensured." "Also, the lathicharge took

"At Bastara toll plaza, where lathicharge took place, another

sentiment was turning against

Concerned over Gaza escalation, need to address causes: India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

INDIA ON Monday expressed concern over the escalation at the Gaza Strip and called for restraint on the part of all parties saying they should refrain from acts that could worsen the security situation of the region.

and Palestine.

cent escalation in the Gaza Strip, which once again underscores the fragility of the ceasefire and the urgent need for addressing the underlying causes that have triggered the escalation," said Shringla, who chaired the UNSC meeting as president of the Security Council for the month of August.

FARMERS SET DEADLINE FOR ACTION



Farmers at a mahapanchayat by Sanyukt Kisaan Morcha in **Karnal on Monday.** PTI

Day after Dy CM sought action on SDM, Haryana **CM** defends him

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

A DAY after Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala said that the state government will act against the Karnal SDM for his controversial remarks, purportedly asking the police to beat up protesting farmers, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar Monday said that "although the officer's choice of words was not correct, strictness had to be ensured at the venue (of BIP meeting), where law and order had to be maintained".

Farmer unions condemned Khattar's "soft stance" on IAS officer Ayush Sinha's action, and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) expressed "deep shock and objection against the Chief Minister's defence of the officer".

The Karnal SDM had earlier told The Indian Express that the video clip of his remarks that went viral on social media "was doctored", and that "only a selected portion" of his briefing to the police personnel deployed at his naka was made viral.

Replying to questions on Monday, Khattar said: "If any action has to be taken (against the officer), it would first have to be assessed by the district admininto it. We shall see it later. To maintain law and order, strict-

place at Bastara toll plaza, while the video of the officer that went viral was at a distance of 15 km from the place where lathicharge took place. There is no relation between the two incidents. It is not due to the officer's briefing that the lathicharge took place," Khattar said.

duty magistrate was posted," he

Khattar also said that public

AT UNSC

Speaking at the UN Security Council meeting in New York on the Middle East Peace Process, including the Palestine Ouestion. Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla also expressed hope for early commencement of highlevel negotiations between Israel

"We are concerned by the re-

Opp Cong to move NHRC Chandigarh: A delegation of Haryana Congress leaders under the leadership of

Lathicharge:

state Congress In-charge Vivek Bansal will submit a complaint to the National Human Commission Tuesday regarding the "barbaric" lathicharge on farmers in Karnal on Saturday.

Congress MLAs led by former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda will meet Haryana Governor

In its meeting with the Governor, the Congress will seek a judicial probe into the lathicharge.

The complaint to the NHRC will demand action against those who ordered and carried out the action.

farmers. "I am getting phone calls that they (farmers) need to be dealt with strictly. But, we are exercising restraint."

The SKM, meanwhile, deregistered against the officer. A Kisan Panchayat organised in Gharaunda grain market also issued an ultimatum to the Harvana government, by setting a September 6 deadline for acting against all police officials involved in the lathicharge.

At Gharaunda meeting, farmers asked the state government to lodge an FIR against officers responsible for the lathicharge, or face an indefinite gherao of Mini Secretariat on

September 7. BKU leader Gurnam Singh Chaduni demanded cancellation of all "false" cases lodged against the protesting farmers.

CJI to administer oath of office to nine new SC judges today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

NINE NEW judges, including three women, will be administered oath of office as judges of the Supreme Court by Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Tuesday. It is for the first time that nine

judges will be taking oath of office at one go. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at the auditorium of the Supreme Court's additional building complex.

Traditionally, the oath of office for new judges was administered in the CJI's court room.

With the swearing-in of the new judges on Tuesday, the strength of the Supreme Court will rise to 33, including the CII. "This is for the first time in the

history of the Supreme Court of India when nine judges will be taking the oath of office in one go. In another first, the venue of the ceremony is shifted to the auditorium. This is done keeping in view the need for strict adherence to Covid norms," said a press release issued by the SC's public relations office.

Probe into Lanka boat intercepted with drugs, rifles may suggest LTTE revival: Kerala, TN officials including books relating to LTTE Rajan met Sri Lankan drug lord Central agencies to explore the **ARUN JANARDHANAN** eration was Sri Lankan Tamil in August and was later taken into and several cellphones, gadgets Madhush Lakshitha alias CHENNAI, AUGUST 30 Suresh Rajan, a resident of

ONGOING National Kundrathur, a Chennai suburb, for Investigation Agency (NIA) probe some time. into the seizure of 300 kg heroin, Multiple sources in Kerala and five AK-47 rifles and 1,000 live Tamil Nadu intelligence agencies rounds of 9mm ammunition off said they failed to closely look at the coast of Vizhiniam near the case as it was being probed by Thiruvananthapuram has led to the Narcotics Control Bureau speculation that an international (NCB). "The NCB was about to

Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group in and probed further," said an intelligence officer attached to Kerala Police. following an intelligence input. labourers. Meanwhile, Rajan was

chargesheet six Sinhalese who

were on board when NIA stepped

Colombo who had been living at

The NIA probe would later contraband by the Coast Guard find that six Sinhalese were custody by the Tamil Nadu Qbranch for his links with LTTE groups still active in Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka.

But after the NIA stepped in and took over the probe, they found scientific evidence of a Dubai link from a Thuraya handset (considered an advanced satellite phone) which was seized from the boat. "That was the crucial evidence that led to the arrest of Suresh and his associate Soundararajan," the officer said.

During searches conducted by NIA at premises linked to the accused in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, several incriminating documents,

and SIM cards were seized. According to the officer, the

March 18 incident was not an isolated case. "Evidences collected from Rajan after his arrest, including those of transactions worth crores, shows that he was an international drug smuggler with active links with Pakistan-based drug runner Haji Salim, who often shuttled between Dubai, Pakistan and Iran. Rajan held a prominent role in drugs and arms trafficking to Sri Lanka through the backyard of India," the officer

A Tamil Nadu intelligence officer said there was evidence that

'Makandure Madush', who was killed in a shootout in the island nation in October 2020, "Rajan also was in touch with Salim," said the officer.

There was also evidence that Rajan and Soundarajan worked closely with individuals who are being monitored for their sympathies for LTTE and its reported revival mission. "If drugs were to earn money, the five AK-47 rifles seized from the boats were supposedly for LTTE sleeper cells," the officer said.

Officers in Kerala and Tamil Nadu familiar with the NIA probe said they are closely working with

LTTE angle. "We cannot ascertain at this moment whether there is already a revival (of LTTE) in Sri Lanka or Tamil Nadu, or if it is a group earning money in the guise of reviving the group," said an of-Two similar seizures of Sri

Lankan boats — before and after the Vizhinjam incident — are still being probed by the NCB. In March, the Coast Guard intercepted a Sri Lankan boat off Minicov with six crew members and seized another Sri Lankan boat off Kanyakumari in November with 120 kg of narcotics worth approximately Rs 1,000 crore and five weapons

EXPRESS NETWORK



Waze was allowed to be admitted to hospital to treat a heart condition

MAHARASHTRA Court refuses NIA custody of Waze, Mane

Mumbai: A special court on Monday rejected an application filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking custody of dismissed Mumbai Police officers Sachin Waze and Sunil Mane in connection to the Ambani terror scare case. Special Judge Prashant R Sitre, meanwhile, allowed Waze to be admitted to a hospital to undergo treatment for his heart condition. With just a few days left to file its chargesheet in the case, the NIA had sought Waze's custody for two days and Mane's custody for five days.

JAMMU & KASHMIR 2 killed during 'infiltration bid'

Jammu: Two militants were killed during an infiltration bid from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir during the early hours of Monday, the Army said. Defence PRO, Lt Colonel Devender Anand, said Army troops detected the infiltration bid by effective use of the integrated surveillance grid, On being challenged by the troops, the infiltrating militants opened fire, leading to a fierce firefight, he said. ENS

NEW DELHI Thakur launches Fit India app

New Delhi: Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur launched the Fit India mobile application at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday, on the occasion of National Sports Day as well as the second anniversary of the Fit India Movement. "The Fit India mobile app brings ease of checking fitness levels right into the palm of every Indian. It has some unique features like 'fitness score', animated videos, activity trackers and 'my plan' catering to individual specific needs," the minister said.

Uttarakhand: 5 dead in heavy rain following cloudburst

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN, AUGUST 30

AT LEAST five women were killed and two others were reported missing after they were trapped in a flood of debris following a cloudburst in Jumma village in Dharchula tehsil of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district late Sunday, officials said Monday.

Five bodies were recovered from the debris and sludge by Monday afternoon during the search and rescue operation run by NDRF, SDRF, SSB, revenue department and police personnel. Among the bodies recovered

were those of siblings Sanjana (15), Renu(11) and Shivani(9). The other deceased were identified as Sunita Devi and Parvati Devi.

Pithoragarh DM Ashish Chauhan said two people are still missing and search and rescue operations will continue. He said ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh has been sanctioned for the next of kin of

each deceased. "Five bodies, including those of three children, have been recovered, while the search for two more still missing is underway,"

SSB commandant M P Singh said. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami spoke with Pithoragarh district officials and took stock of damage and rescue operations.

Our forces can be more hostile on China border if needed: outgoing ITBP chief

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

INDIAN FORCES can be "more hostile" to Chinese troops if needed "in case of national interest and to protect our borders", and are enhancing their capabilities regularly to face any situation, according to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) chief SS Deswal.

Speaking to The Indian Express on Monday, a day before he retires from service, DGP Deswal also said that forces under his command had to "take multiple steps on a daily basis" to secure India's embassy and consulates in Afghanistan and ensure the evacuation of its diplomats and nationals.

Apart from guarding the India-China border, the ITBP had been responsible for securing Indian missions at Jalalabad, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Kandahar,

VALLABHOZARKAR

THANE ASSISTANT Municipal

Commissioner (AMC) Kalpita

Pimple and her security detail

were grievously injured Monday

when a street vendor attacked

them with a knife during an anti-

attack, and Somnath Maruti

Palve, her security guard, lost

one finger, as both used their

hands to fend off the attacker.

Both are in hospital undergoing

as Amarjeet Singh Yadav, a veg-

etable vendor. He was arrested

on the spot even as he threat-

ened to harm himself with the

knife if the police came near him.

incident took place when Pimple

was leading an anti-encroach-

According to the police, the

The attacker was identified

Pimple lost two fingers in the

MUMBAI, AUGUST30

encroachment drive.

treatment.

ANTI-ENCROACHMENT DRIVE

is a 1984-batch Haryana-cadre IPS officer, who served as ITBP chief for two years and 10 months.

Describing the India-China border as an "active border" from 2020, the ITBP chief said: "Any attempt to disrupt the equilibrium between the two countries will not be permitted. We have the capabilities and those capabilities...were reflected last year also. Wherever such attempts to change the ground situation were made, our forces gave complete resistance. Galwan was an example. We have brave soldiers who are always willing to sacrifice their lives for the country."

Deswal was referring to the border clash in June last year in the Galwan valley where 20 Indian Army personnel and an unconfirmed number of Chinese troops were killed. Since then. the ITBP has been a part of Corps Commander-level talks to achieve disengagement.

Thane civic official loses fingers

in knife attack by street vendor

Thane AMC Kalpita Pimple

after the attack. Deepak Joshi

ment drive against street ven-

dors. Her team had upended

Yadav's scattered vegetables, he

came at her with a sharp knife.

Pimple tried to block the knife

with her hands, and two fingers

from her hand got cut off. She

also suffered injuries on her head.

guard, attached with the Thane

The police said her security

As Pimple moved on from

Yadav's vegetable kiosk.



Kabul airlift a result of

Asked about the delay in talks on friction points after the Pangong Tso disengagement this year, Deswal said: "We can't be tired out as a nation (by Chinese delays in negotiations). In case of national interest and to protect our borders, our security forces can be more hostile to them. Hostility is not one-sided. It is need-based. When it is needed by our country, our forces can be extremely hostile. We should not fear the hostility of our counterpart. We are more capable of be-

Municipal Corporation, rushed

to save Pimple, but the vendor

attacked him too, and he lost a

finger. Two policemen and three

policewomen were deployed for

the anti-encroachment drive,

but according to their seniors, it

happened so quickly that they

power him after a few minutes,

and took to him station where he

was booked and subsequently

had no past criminal record, and

said that he was angry that his

Inspector of Kasarvadavali police

station, said, "The accused has

been booked under relevant sec-

tions of Indian Penal Code for at-

tempted murder, assaulting and

deterring public servant while

performing duty. He will be pro-

duced in the court on Tuesday."

kiosk had been upended.

A police source said Yadav

Kiran Khairnar, Senior Police

The police were able to over-

had no time to react.

placed under arrest.

He said India was increasing the capabilities of its forces at a faster pace than earlier. "Sometimes, it is deceptive of our counterparts to show strength that they actually may not have. We are enhancing our capabilicounterpart is doing.

is always give and take during the negotiations, which are go-

He pointed out that disengagement at Pangong Tso was achieved also due to "diplomatic and political efforts". "Urgency to complete negotiations is not the issue. The issue is that our claims must be accepted by the

Afghanistan, Deswal said: "Hostile elements have always threatened our embassy there. It was a collective security envi-

ronment created mainly by US and NATO forces on which our assessment of what would happen (as the Taliban advanced) was based. It was not under our control. Our control was only on how to protect our embassy in the given situation.'

However, he said, the "total system changed in the past one month since the US withdrew". "We have taken steps on a daily basis in view of the emerging situation. That is how we were able to successfully evacuate all our people in the embassy," he said.

Incidentally, Deswal's daughter Yashaswini was a member of the Indian contingent at the Tokyo Olympics, participating in the 10 m air pistol event.

FULL REPORT ON

Mysuru rape accused arrested earlier in sandalwood theft cases, got bail in Feb

KIRAN PARASHAR

BENGALURU, AUGUST 30

A KEY accused in the Mysuru gangrape case was linked to at least four sandalwood theft and smuggling cases in the region since 2019, with the latest of those filed in January this year, it has emerged.

Police are now looking at the possibility of the sandalwood theft gang's involvement in other attacks and robberies in Mysuru, which may have not been reported on account of fear among the victims.

Bhupathi, alias Keeri, 24, a resident of Talavadi town in Tamil Nadu's Erode district, a key accused held in the August 24 gangrape case, was arrested, along with three others, on January 8 after Mysuru police seized 40 kg sandalwood pieces from a car with Tamil Nadu registration. A senior officer said the seized sandalwood was worth Rs 5.5 lakh. "He was on the (police) radar, but not for crimes against women. He was out on

Before that, in 2019, Bhupathi and an associate. Praveen Kumar. alias Thambi, 20, were accused of stealing sandalwood trees on November 29 and December 1, from the premises of Sandalwood Oil Factory and the forest department, respectively, in Mysuru.

bail," the officer added.

In another case registered last year, Bhupathi is accused, along with Praveen, of stealing a sandalwood tree from the home of a Mysuru resident named

Chirag Mehta on July 9-10 night. Bhupathi was linked to the

2019 and 2020 cases after his arrest this January. While he got bail in the latest sandalwood theft and smuggling case on January 30, he was was released on bail in the earlier three cases on February 26 this year.

A vital clue that led to the ar-

rest of Bhupathi and four other

suspects from Tamil Nadu on August 28 — four days after the gangrape of a student and assault on her male friend in Lalithadripura near Chamundi Hills road of Mysuru – was a bus ticket for travel between Talavadi Nadu and in Tamil Chamarajnagar, Karnataka. Police sources said the ticket found at the crime scene, the language the suspects spoke in, and cell tower information of

Bhupathi was a key link in the case, leading to the arrest of four others.

Tamil Nadu phones that were in

use at the crime spot led police

to the suspects.

Police sources said Bhupathi and a second person allegedly involved in the gangrape were also involved in the sandalwood theft and smuggling cases. "They would come to Mysuru

often and visit the banana market. Their recent visit, when the crime was committed, was also to the market," a source said. Bhupathi and Praveen Kumar

were due to attend a court hearing in connection with the sandalwood theft cases of 2019 and 2020 on August 27 this year. **FULL REPORT ON**

www.indianexpress.com

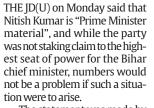
ties irrespective of what our multiple steps: SS Deswal Asked whether India lost a chance to negotiate on the Depsang Plains issue while it had leverage on the south bank of Pangong Tso, Deswal said: "You can't negotiate just one point. It

ing on successfully.' counterpart," he said.

Speaking on ITBP's role in

Numbers will not be a problem if Nitish Kumar becomes PM: Kushwaha

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA PATNA, AUGUST 30



The statement was made by JD(U) parliamentary board chief Upendra Kushwaha, who brushed aside remarks by some Bihar BJP leaders that one needed the support of 272 MPs to become the PM, and that the JD(U) was unlikely to win as many seats on its own.

"Kyun nahin ho sakta hai (why can't it happen)?" Kushwaha said when asked if Kumar could muster the requisite numbers in view of the limited reach of the JD(U), which has little presence



Upendra Kushwaha

The former Union minister, however, hastened to add, "We are not making a claim to the PM's post at present. We are with the NDA and acknowledge the leadership of Narendra Modi. But, if people talk about a hypothetical future, then nothing can be dismissed as impossible.'

Nitish, however, sought to make light of Kushwaha's remarks. On Sunday too, the CM had refused to respond to gueries by journalists, who asked him for his take on the party's projection of him as a veritable cult figure.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

NEW CASES: 29.606 ACTIVE CASES: 3,70,385

TOTAL VACCINATION: **63,43,81,358**

DAILY DEATHS | TOTAL DEATHS | WEEKLY CFR OVERALL CFR



WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 2.37% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.28%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

	CASES	CASES	POSITIVITY	VACCINATION
■ Kerala	19,622	2,09,961	18.57%	2,81,52,494
■Maharashtra	3,741	51,834	2.37%	5,71,66,822
■ Tamil Nadu	1,523	17,085	0.98%	3,16,02,266
■ Karnataka	973	18,418	0.66%	4,10,47,158
■ Andhra Pradesh	878	14,862	2.21%	2,89,39,289

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

	DEATHS	DEATHS	CFR	CFR
■ Kerala	132	20,752	0.80%	0.56%
Odisha	67	7,954	5.70%	0.80%
■ Maharashtra	55	1,40,734	2.97%	2.20%
■ Tamil Nadu	21	34,899	1.23%	1.35%
Assam	15	5,655	1.25%	0.97%
Note: Data as on Aug~30; vaccination numbers as of Aug~29. Deaths include those caused by compared to the contract of the co				by comorbidities.

Thinc session examines need for jobs with dignity for migrants in urban areas, policy changes needed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

SINCETHE pandemic began, "migration" in India has gained a negative connotation. But the problem may not be migration itself, but the fact that large chunks of migrants come from source regions facing economic distress.

In the destination areas, there is the problem of finding jobs with dignity, coupled with states politically driven to keep migrants out. It may fall on the private sector, as much as the government, to figure how to change this.

The latest edition of Indian Express Thinc, presented by Omidyar Network India, focused on this subject, starting with thoughts from keynote speaker Meher Pudumjee, chairperson of Thermax Limited. In September last year, Thermax joined hands with like-minded corporates across Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad, in partnership with NGO Dasra, to launch an initiative called SoCo or Social Compact. The initiative aims at assuring standards for the workforce, including safety and social security cover.

Speaking about SoCo, Pudumjee said: "... It's a selfdriven journey by companies committing to ensure a set of standards for their workforce."

He cited the example of health insurance -- usually set for one year, despite the fact that some employees are for six months. How can companies ensure they

ŮΝ OHIDYAR NETWORK INDIA → ♦ The Indian EXPRESS → MIGRATION

get insurance for that period? Similar concerns set the tone for a panel discussion, hosted by Udit Misra, Deputy Associate Editor, The Indian Express. Pudumjee was joined by Rajiv Khandelwal, founder of Aajeevika Bureau; Manish Sabharwal, chairman of TeamLease; Radhicka Kapoor, fellow at ICRIER and Deepak Mishra, professor at INU. Mishra, who has recently

come out with a volume on contemporary migration in India, shed light on what's holding back employment generation. "The first thing for a policy maker is to move away from a generalised description of migrant workers to look at specificities of groups and how they are incorporated in the larger labour market." he said.

Assessing the impact of Covid on India's already strained migrant workforce, Kapoor said it was "the circular migrant who bore the brunt last year". "Basically, the ability of the manufacturing sector to exercise a pull from agricultural sector has been weaker... so where were people being employed?... The fact that cities were generating relatively lacklustre employment opportunities meant much of this migration was circular..."she said.

Looking at policy changes, Sabharwal said: "...Urbanisation isn't shoving more people into [existing cities]. It's creating more cities with more than a million people. We need better cities..."

Khandelwal, the founder of Aaieevika Bureau, which has collaborated with SoCo, said if Covid-19 added to an existing migrant crisis last year, this year, people went back to cities quickly. "There was no employment crisis. It is actually a wage, quality of work and work condition crisis, which existed, and has continued," he said

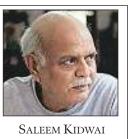
Noted Bengali author dies at 85: 'His works

'Generous, encouraged people to be comfortable with their sexuality'

ASAD REHMAN LUCKNOW, AUGUST 30

THE CONSENSUS among those who knew historian, scholar and queer rights activist Saleem Kidwai is that he never said no to share the "wealth of knowledge he possessed". "He was very generous with his knowledge, which was immense and he was one of the most humble people I have known," said author Rana Safvi, speaking after Kidwai's death due to heart-related complications at his residence in Lucknow on Monday morning.

Kidwai, who was openly gay, taught medieval history at Delhi University's Ramjas College for 20 years till 1993, when he returned to Lucknow after taking early retirement to focus on scholarship. He is survived by his three sisters. His burial was conducted in his ancestral village



Badagaon in Barabanki district. Kidwai was one of the first ac-

1951-2021

ademics to publicly speak as a member of the LGBT community. He co-edited the book Same-Sex Love in India: Readings in Indian Literature with Ruth Vanita, an Indian academic who teaches at University of Montana. It was a collection of writings on same-sex love from over 2,000 years of Indian literature.

"The idea behind the book was

to contradict this idea that homosexuality as a concept emerged from the West and was adopted by Indians...it was the British who came to India with their Victorian values who villainised it," said Lucknow-based author and journalist Mehru Jaffer, a close friend of Kidwai. "I think one of his bigger contributions was that he encouraged people to be comfortable with their sexuality."

Born in Lucknow in 1951, Kidwai belonged to an influential family from Badagaon. He also knew Begum Akhtar very closely as she was his neighbour. Kidwai's friend Askari Naqvi

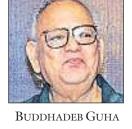
who is a performing artiste, said, "When Kidwai sahab was alive, he told me how it had rained the day Begum Akhtar died and that was a way for nature to mourn her death. Today, when I am heading for his burial, there is intense rain and I am reminded of what Kidwai sahab had told me."

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA, AUGUST 30

NOTED BENGALI writer Buddhadeb Guha, who authored several popular books including Madhukari (Honey Gatherer), died of post-Covid complications after cardiac arrest at a private hospital on Sunday night. He was 85. Guha had contracted Covid-19 in April and was hospitalised for 33 days. Earlier this month, he was hospitalised after complaining of breathlessness and urinary infection.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar all condoled his death. Guha is survived by his two

daughters. His wife Ritu Guha, an eminent Rabindra Sangeet exponent, died in 2001. Guha's elder daughter Maleni



1936-2021

said on social media, "Buddhadev Guha is no more. He was blessed as to be one with the Divine on the night of Janmashtami (Lord Krishna's birthday) 2021. Do join his family and friends in celebrating his life. Born on June 29, 1936 in

Kolkata, Guha had spent his childhood in Rangpur and Barisal districts of East Bengal (now Bangladesh). His childhood experiences and travels left

displayed great sensitivity to environment' a deep imprint on him, which were reflected in his works. His novels and short stories

> have been highly acclaimed by critics which helped him win several awards, including the Ananda Purashkar and Sharat Puraskar. He was also a noted classical singer and proficient illustrator.

Besides Madhukari, some of Guha's notable works include Koeler Kachhe, Sobinov Nibedon and Baba Howa. He was also popular among children as he was the creator of the fictional character Rijuda, a hunterturned-conservationist, and his side-kick Rudra. Most of his works focused on the theme of nature and forest.

PM Modi tweeted, "Shri Buddhadeb Guha's writings were multifaceted and displayed great sensitivity to the environment. His works were enjoyed across generations, particularly among youngsters. His passing away is a big loss to the literary world. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti."

OVERALL

Banerjee said, "I am deeply saddened by the demise of the eminent writer Buddhadev Guha. He passed away in Kolkata last night. He was 85 years old. Buddhadev Guha, the prominent author of Bengali literature, has written notable books, including 'Koel', 'Kojagar', 'Madhukari', 'Jangalmahal', 'Charibeti' etc. He is also the creator of two popular fictional characters in Bengali literature -Rivu and Rijuda.'

Dhankhar tweeted. 'Saddened at passing of eminent Bengali writer Buddhadeb Guha, author of many notable works such as 'Madhukari' (Honey Gatherer). His works of fiction reflected his closeness to nature and forests of eastern India. Pray Almighty to bestow eternal peace on the departed soul."

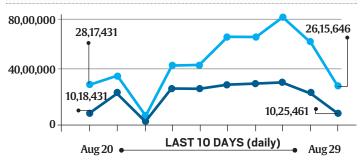
If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)

48,88,28,085







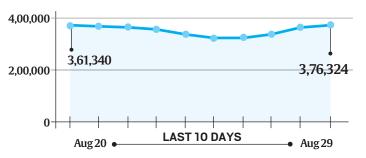
DOSES ON AUG 29 36,41,107 **AUG 28:** 68,41,684 (1ST DOSE: 53,35,740; 2ND: 15,05,944)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

3,76,324

COVAXIN

12.2%



Note: The August 29 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on August 30

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,27,37,939 Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on August 30

Combo antibody treatment reduces hospitalisation: study

IN AN observational study, Mayo Clinic researchers have found that a combination of casirivimab and imdevimab - two monoclonal antibody treatments that have emergency use authorisation from the US Food and Drug Administration — keep high-risk patients out of the hospital when infected with mild to moderate Covid-19. The study has been published in

EClinicalMedicine.

Of the nearly 1400 Mayo Clinic patients enrolled in this study, 696 received the drug combo between December 2020 and early April. An equal number of patients didn't receive the drug combo. Upon evaluation of their status at 14, 21 and 28 days after treat-

ment, the numbers for hospitalisation were found to be significantly lower for the treated group, at each stage.

At 14 days, 1.3% of the treated group was hospitalised, while 3.3% of the non-treated group was hospitalised. At day 21, the percentages of people hospitalised from the treated and non-treated groups were 1.3 and 4.2, respectively. At day 28, 1.6% of the treated patients were hospitalised compared to 4.8% of the non-treated patients.

From this data, it can be inferred that there was 60%-70% relative reduction in hospitalization among treated patients, Mayo Clinic said in a press release.

The release quoted Raymund

Razonable, a Mayo Clinic infectious disease specialist and senior author of the study, as saying that when a combination of monoclonal injections is used to treat patients who are at high risk due to a range of comorbidities, and contract a mild or moderate case of Covid-19, they get an opportu-

nity to recover without being hospitalised.

"Our conclusion overall at this point is that monoclonal antibodies are an important option in treatment to reduce the impact of Covid-19 in high-risk patients," Dr Razonable was quoted as saying.

Source: Mayo Clinic

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Is Covid now endemic in India?

WHO chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan has said India seems to be entering some stage of endemicity. If the virus is present all the time, what are the implications for immunity, future waves, and vaccination?

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE, AUGUST 30

AS INDIA gets ready to face a possible third wave of SARS-CoV-2, World Health Organization (WHO) chief scientist Dr Soumva Swaminathan has said that "India seems to be entering some stage of Covid-19 endemicity where there is low-to moderatelevel transmission". Earlier this year, scientists had indicated in a survey carried out by the journal Nature that the SARS-CoV-2 virus is set to become endemic and would continue to circulate in pockets of the global population.

What is endemicity?

Endemic means something that is present all the time. For example, said leading virologist Dr Shahid Jameel, influenza is endemic, unlike smallpox which has been

"Only those pathogens can be eradicated that don't have animals (another species) as a reservoir. Smallpox and polio are human virus examples, rinderpest is a cattle virus. This means if there is a virus/pathogen that is present in some animal reservoir like bats, camels or civet cats, then it can transmit again once the level of immunity wanes in the population against the disease caused by it," Dr Jameel said.

"In the case of coronavirus disease, it will continue to circulate as it is present in the animal reservoir. This also means that it will cause disease to the extent that people have had no vaccination against or exposure. If, however, enough people are vaccinated or have been exposed to the infection, then the virus will cause symptomatic infection but not disease. So, that is what is considered becoming endemic – it is there but not causing disease," Dr Jameel said.

When is SARS-CoV-2 likely to become endemic?

That will depend on how fast it spreads and mutates. There are many variables that have to be considered, Dr Jameel said, and there is no clear answer regarding when the virus is likely to be endemic. "Instead of getting bogged down on whether the virus has become endemic or not, the need is to focus



Scientists believe a large section of the population has developed antibodies against the virus, either due to vaccination or natural infection. Reuters

on vaccination and limit transmission. It is not possible to predict when the virus is going to be endemic," Prof Jameel said.

The last serological survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had shown from a representative sample of the population – 70 districts out of 718 – that roughly two-thirds of the population have antibodies. Again, out of those two-thirds, some would have had the antibodies because they have now been fully vaccinated. However, since vaccination rates are still fairly low, the general assumption is that most people who have antibodies have been infected but not all have had disease. This means a majority will be protected from symptomatic disease later on, Dr Jameel explained; they may get infected but are pro-

"Again, that is assuming the virus is not going to change to a form that transmits easily and evades immunity. One cannot predict if and when the virus mutates into something where vaccines start failing," Prof

How long can the antibodies be expected It is an open question, said Professor

Partha Majumder, National Science Chair, Government of India. "Most everybody now has antibodies that likely reduces the chance of infection and even if infected may not develop severe disease. This virus is going to stay with us. We may already have developed herd immunity, which indicates that most of us have antibodies — either due to infection or vaccination — and hence if infected we may not develop severe disease," he said. "From its rate of spread and its rate of mu-

tation, many of us indeed expect that this coronavirus will never be eradicated - not just in India, but globally – and will become endemic to stay with you without causing major health problems, since the vast majority would have developed protective antibodies," he said. Clinical epidemiologist Colonel (retired)

Dr Amitav Banerjee, too, referred to country-wide serosurveys that indicate almost 67 % Indians, including a large proportion of children, have IgG antibodies. "As the antibody levels wane over time, the immunity persists due to memory and T cells. We can assume that a much larger proportion beyond this 67 % have encountered the virus and would have had immunity due to natural infection. There is a need for more serosurveys for IgG levels to be carried out," Col (Banerjee said.

Can an additional vaccine dose help?

Whether or not a booster dose of a vaccine is required, Professor Majumder said, depends on how quickly the antibody level comes down in the average individual. There are wide variations in the trend of waning of antibody level among persons; sufficient data have not yet accumulated to definitively determine the need for a booster dose," Professor Majumder said.

"While vaccine effectiveness does appear to decline over time, there is still expected to be substantial protection. It is likely that a third shot or booster might be necessary in the future and in fact, a regular booster shot, just like for influenza, might be indicated,' said Professor Gautam Menon, Professor of Physics and Biology at Ashoka University,

Should we worry about numbers rising

According to Professor Menon, one can

expect a more or less constant level of infection within the population, with the likelihood of severe illness, hospitalisation or death becoming increasingly small as people are vaccinated. The Delta variant now dominates new in-

fections around the country. Viruses mutate constantly, but the question, Professor Menon said, is whether a new variant will come along that is much more transmissible than Delta and can evade a immune response from either a prior infection or vaccination. "As long as it does not, we might expect

that a small background of reinfections and vaccine breakthroughs will help maintain numbers of infected at a low, constant level. It is more likely that there will be a steady level of cases, with some regions, especially of low prior seroprevalence and low vaccination rates, seeing spikes. It is completely unlikely that we will see case numbers comparable to the second wave," Prof Menon said.

- THIS WORD MEANS: VACCINE TRAVEL LANE -

Singapore's latest concept for vaccinated fliers

PRANAV MUKUL

FIGURE 1

NEW DELHI AUGUST 30

SINCE THE end of last year, several countries have experimented with various concepts to allow international travel in the aftermath of Covid-19. These have included air bubbles, vaccine passports, travel corridors and even a traffic light system. The latest addition to this list is Vaccinated Travel Lane (VTL), introduced by Singapore. While still in its early days, experts believe it could become a pro forma for jurisdictions opening up to vacci-

What are Vaccinated Travel Lanes? VTLs are basically an extension of travel

corridors, albeit only for travellers who have been fully vaccinated. As of date, Singapore has established VTLs with two jurisdictions

Germany and Brunei Darussalam — allow- vaccinated — an individual will be considered **fully vaccinated?** ing fully vaccinated passengers from these fully vaccinated 14 days after they have rements, which are otherwise mandatory for those flying to Singapore.

How will these VTLs work?

Singapore will designate specific flights with the country on the other side of the lane only for passengers who have a Vaccinated Travel Pass (VTP) issued by the Singapore government. Fully vaccinated passengers will be able to apply for a VTP from September 1 for travel from September 8 onwards on the designated flights. Singapore citizens and permanent residents do not need to apply for the VTP to travel back home under the VTL.

What do travellers need to do? To apply for a VTP, travellers must be fully

TABLE 1

HOW POLICE DEALT WITH PEOPLE

How many times did you

Impose penalty on people

Let them go after

Use force

minor punishment

Detain/arrest them

who violated lockdown rules

Note: Rest did not answer. Figures in %

the Serum Institute of India's Covishield. Applications for a VTP must be made be-

tween 7 to 30 calendar days before the intended date of arrival in Singapore. Quarantine requirements have been done away with for passengers arriving on VTL flights. However, they must still get an RT-PCR test done 48 hours ahead of the scheduled departure time and prepay for their post-arrival Day 3 and Day 7 Covid-19 PCR tests when applying for the VTP. It is also important to note that travellers to Singapore must have only been to their country or region of departure and/or Singapore in the last 21 consecutive days before departing for Singapore.

What about passengers who are not

A few

times

24

32

27

25

50

34

12

Rarely

10

13

27

25

Never

14

17

35

35

Designated flights between Germany two places to arrive in Singapore for any ceived the full regimen of a vaccine authorand Singapore (by Lufthansa and Singapore travel purpose without quarantine require- ized by WHO for emergency use. This includes Airlines) and Brunei Darussalam (by Royal Brunei Airlines and Singapore Airlines) will only carry passengers with a VTP. However. in addition to these, usual flights from these countries and others under agreements with Singapore will also be allowed to fly. In those flights, passengers without a VTP can travel but they will be subject to stringent quarantine requirements upon arrival in Singapore.

> German carrier Lufthansa will start operating its VTL flights between Frankfurt and Singapore from September 16, flying twice a week on Thursdays and Saturdays. Singapore Airlines will operate its VTL flights between Frankfurt and Singapore on September 7 and between Munich and Singapore on September 8.

How pandemic changed nature of police work, relations with public

VIBHA ATTRI

THE NATIONAL Covid-19 lockdown was imposed with a four-hour notice in March 2020. The stringent curbs on movement were intended to stem the chain of infection. The lockdown was tough on the community.

Many sections of society faced police action in an unusual context. And the police themselves faced an enormous challenge – they were the authority entrusted with pre-

venting panic and maintaining normalcy in notso-normal circumstances.

The nature of policing changed during the lockdown, reveal data from the recently released Lokniti-CSDS and Common Cause report. Nearly 9 out of 10 police personnel (88%) felt that the nature of policing

was different compared to normal times. Enforcing a lockdown was a whole new ball game, for which India's police forces were neither well equipped nor trained.

The 'Policing in the Covid-19 Pandemic' study was conducted among 2,409 civilians and 1,198 police personnel in 19 cities spread across 10 of the worst affected states after the first wave of Covid-19.

Fear of police

The general public expressed a somewhat mixed opinion of the police's behaviour during the lockdown. More than half

(56%) witnessed the police providing help but at the same time, about 1 in 3 (30%) reported the police were rude, and a nearly equal proportion (36%) said they saw them use force against civilians (Figure 1).

Increased restrictions led to confrontation between people and police – 33% said this was a common sight. But a significant majority (40%) reported they did not come across such incidents, or witnessed them rarely (20%).

The use of force by police in some cases resulted in fear of arbitrary state violence.

Data reveal that the fear of police ('a lot' and 'somewhat' combined) was high among people. Among the biggest of fears and anxieties were those of fines (57%), followed by that of police beatings (55%). More than 2 out of 5 people (43%) reported they were afraid the police

would force them to undergo testing for Covid-19, or detain or arrest them (Figure 2).

How police saw things

NUMBERS

FROM LOKNITI ARCHIVES

More than a quarter (27%) of police personnel reported that managing pandemicstricken people during the lockdown was their biggest challenge. Two in five (45%) said there were confrontations with people while checking their travel passes, and in containment zones (42%). Confrontations at local shops selling essential food items (38%) and during food distribution (37%) were also reported.

Asked about the actions they had to take,

HOW PEOPLE SAW POLICE WHEN LOCKDOWN WAS IN PLACE, DID YOU WITNESS... Police helping a civilian in need Police using force on a civilian Police speaking rudely to people ■ Yes ■ No All figures in % FIGURE 2 DID PEOPLE FEAR POLICE? DURING LOCKDOWN, HOW MUCH DID YOU FEAR POLICE... a fine or to hospital for coronavirus confiscating ■ A lot ■ Somewhat ■ A little ■ Not at all

Note: Rest did not answer. All figures in %

half the police personnel said they often im-

posed fines; about one-fourth (24%) reported

Two out of 3 (66%) police personnel inter-

having done so a few times (Table 1).

WHAT POLICE SAW CHANGING

Police perception of complaints and crime rates during lockdown	Increased	Decreased	No change
Complaints or FIRs/NCRs in your PS	10	78	7
Theft, murder, kidnapping, murder etc	7	81	9
Trade of alcohol or tobacco products	17	65	13
Cybercrimes	30	48	15
Domestic violence against women	27	48	20
Note: Rest did not answer. Figures in %			

(32%) claimed this had happened a few times. viewed said they let people go after minor

punishments (at their discretion) for offences. Seven per cent reported having used One out of three (34%) said they or their team force frequently, and about one fourth (27%) had done this often, and another one-third claimed to have done so a few times. Twelve

New Delhi

per cent resorted many times to detaining or arresting people. About a quarter said they had done so a few times. The evidence from police interviews sug-

gests the police got the most support from affluent localities, followed by the middle class, and then from the poor — probably because the lockdown was the harshest on the lowest strata of society, which was, therefore, more anxious and less supportive of police.

Shift in crime dynamics

With fewer people venturing out, a substantial dip was reported in the crime rate. However, this is not official, countrywide data provided by the government; it is based on accounts of police personnel.

An overwhelming proportion of police personnel (79%) reported a drop in the overall crime rate. A look at individual crimes shows that while police personnel reported that general crimes such as theft, robbery, kidnapping, and murder seemed to have reduced significantly during the lockdown, offences committed in the private space - such as cases of domestic violence against women and incidents related to cybercrime - saw an upward trend. (*Table 2*).

The 'stay at home' restrictions brought to light the dynamics of interaction between citizens and police. Although the majority of people rated the behaviour of the police as good, there were many instances of confrontations and altercations as well. The lockdown not only led to a sudden change in the pattern of daily life, but also triggered a shift in crime dynamics and policing duties.

WORDLY WISE

NATIONAL IDENTITY IS THE LAST BASTION OF THE DISPOSSESSED. BUT THE MEANING OF IDENTITY IS NOW BASED ON HATRED. — UMBERTO ECO

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ FOUNDED By ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Taliban and new realpolitik



For Delhi, Panchatantra offers a sensible strategy — divide potential adversaries and strengthen internal unity

C Raja Mohan

'Break Their Heads'

SDM's brutish diktat highlights how the official machinery has switched off farmers' protests, sees them as enemy

OBODY MUST BE allowed to breach the security cordon without a "broken head". That was the brutish, illegal instruction sub-divisional magistrate Ayush Sinha — caught on camera—gave to the police on Saturday in Karnal, where farmers had gathered to protest against a BIP meeting led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. In the aftermath of a lathi charge that left several farmers injured, the officer has claimed the video recording was selective and that no crackdown on protesters happened in his vicinity. The chief minister says the officer's "choice of words" was not correct, but that "strictness" was required to maintain law and order, even as his deputy from another party has promised appropriate action against the SDM. The question for the Haryana Chief Minister is this: How can any notion of "strictness" in a democracy get away with being so flagrantly anti-people? And what does it say about the Haryana government if the law and order machinery treats the farmers as the enemy, not citizens with a grievance and a constitutional right to protest? The larger question is this: Where is politics, and the politician? The scenes from Karnal on Saturday have once again underlined that politicians have all but abdicated their responsibility to play the mediating and moderating role vis a vis the farmers' movement against the Centre's three farm laws. Political interventions are actually reactions, after the event, For the most part, protesting farmers have been left to confront a stonewalling and quelling police force — even as what is most needed are not check-posts and barricades but outreach by the people's representatives, and a listening state.

It is true that the Centre has conducted 11 rounds of talks with the farm union leaders and that in round 10, the NDA government bent enough to place on the table an offer to suspend the farm laws. And that the dialogue broke down in January because the farmers refused to relent from their maximalist demand of a complete repeal of the laws, and a legal guarantee for MSP, and then, due to the movement's brief lapse into violence on January 26. But what is also true is that the Centre's dialogue had come too late, and after too much namecalling. By then the movement had already surged and strengthened on the back of fears and insecurities of farmers, mainly in Punjab and Haryana, over the new legislation shortchanging them while benefiting big corporates. That the Centre was seen to push through the changes last year, first as ordinance amid pandemic, without consultation, and then as law through Parliament without adequate debate, laid the ground for the distrust that has only thickened since

Now, nine long months after the mobilisation moved to Delhi's borders, and with assembly elections to Punjab only months away, it is essential that politics finds its way back in. The farmers' problem cannot be kicked down the road, it is not going to go away by a strategy of wearing them out. There is no alternative to the government engaging the farmers through their representatives and leaders, and persuading them about the benefits and efficacy of the new laws.

AAP's JOURNEY

Tiranga yatra is an attempt to take the fight to the BJP. But AAP will also have to navigate strategy's pitfalls

HE BJP'S SUCCESS in framing nationalism and aligning it to its politics of Hindutva has been remarkable. On the other side of the political fence, is the Opposition's failure in separating Hinduism from Hindutva, or demarcating a more encompassing notion of patriotism that also appeals to the people. The Aam Aadmi Party's decision to take out a "Tiranga Yatra" in Ayodhya on September 14, with likely stop-overs at the Ram temple and Hanumangarhi, is clearly an attempt to take the battle to the BJP on both fronts. To do so successfully, however, the AAP will need ideo clarity and political finesse - else, its experiment risks succumbing to the failures of the metoo "soft Hindutva" strategies that have been tried by non-BJP parties in the past.

The Tiranga Yatra is evidently a culmination of a series of symbolic and policy actions by the AAP. In November 2020, as the pandemic raged, Arvind Kejriwal conducted a "Diwali Pujan". His government introduced a "Deshbhakti" curriculum in the city's schools, "embedded in constitutional values", and is putting up 500 national flags across the capital at a cost of Rs 85 crore. Announcing former Colonel Ajay Kothiyal as the AAP's chief ministerial candidate for the upcoming Uttarakhand assembly elections, Kejriwal underlined his credentials as a "deshbhakt fauji (patriotic soldier)" and the party has publicised his work in rebuilding the Kedarnath temple, devastated by the 2013 floods. The AAP has made it clear that it will contest elections in UP, Uttarakhand and Gujarat and that part of its strategy to challenge the BJP is to draw associations between patriotism with governance, and highlight its own record in education and health in Delhi as evidence of its success in the latter.

This experiment of wedding patriotism with development and moving the conversation around nationalism beyond demonising the "Other" could be a welcome addition to the political repertoire and conversation. However, the strategy also has potential risks and pitfalls. The AAP's temple visits and flag marches could have the unintended effect of entrenching and solidifying the terms of political debate set by the BJP. Unless it is specifically guarded against, this politics could normalise the invisibilisation of minorities and harden categories like "anti-national". The AAP has shown an innovative streak with a politics of civic governance earlier. How it navigates these pitfalls going ahead will be closely watched. It will, for better or worse, have a bearing on the robustness of Opposition politics.

JHAJHARIA'S FEAT

His gold in 2004 had marked a turning point for Indian para sport. His silver now shines even brighter

OKYO CONTINUES TO bring happy tidings for India as the Paralympics take off from where the Olympics left. At halfway mark, India have gone past their bestever medal count, securing two historic gold medals with a world record to boot. Shining in that glittering star cast is javelin para-thrower Devendra Jhajharia whose silver is as bright as any gold. Jhajharia, 40, won his first gold medal at the Paralympics in 2004 at Athens, and 17 years and one pandemic postponement later, returned to Tokyo to win his third Para Games medal to become one of India's greatest sportspersons. In what is a testament to the Rajasthan legend's longevity, resilience and continued commitment to excellence, his latest silver came on the back of his personal best throw of 64.35 metres -aprogression from his historic hurls that fetched him gold medals in Athens and at Rio.

Jhajharia's gold in 2004 had marked the turning point for Indian para sport, and it had owed almost entirely to the efforts of his mother to bolster his confidence when he was young. Undeterred by the accident that led to amputation of his left arm as a child, she told her son that there was no reason to fear the outdoors and reinforced in him the self-assurance that he belonged on the sports field. No impairment could pull him back from self belief as one of India's most inspiring figures aiming for and achieving the very best in global sport.

On Monday, Jhajharia would achieve success again on the javelin field, the scene of Neeraj Chopra's gold a fortnight ago. Having spent years taking the help of scientific advances in training techniques and seeking expertise from some of the best coaches in Europe, Jhajharia would also raise the bar of excellence. The country will do well to learn from Jhajharia that smart solutions exist to help the differently abled to not just survive, but excel — on the field, and off it.

ASTHE LAST American soldiers fly out of Kabul airport and the world adapts to the return of the Taliban, three uncomfortable but enduring features of international politics have come into sharp focus. The human tragedy unfolding in Afghanistan, India's enormous emotional investment in the Kabul government that collapsed this month, and Delhi's strong concerns that the Taliban's connections with Pakistan should not muddy our thinking about the ways of the world.

That victories on the battlefield have political consequences is one of the fundamental features of international politics. Governments have no option but to come to terms, now or later, with the victor. There is no reason, then, for the Indian discourse to be surprised at the rapid normalisation of the Taliban by the international community.

On August 2, the UNSC warned the Taliban against pursuing a military solution to the conflict and establishing an Islamic Emirate; on August 16, both the references were dropped as the Taliban took charge of Kabul. And last week, the UNSC stopped referring to the Taliban by name and moved to a general appeal against letting Afghan territory be used by terror groups.

The UNSC's sensitivity to the rapidlychanging ground situation reminds us of the legendary headlines of a French newspaper as Napoleon escaped from confinement in Elba and marched on Paris in March 1815. Here is a rough sense and sequence of the headlines: "The Cannibal has left his den". "The Monster has landed", "The Tyrant has passed through Lyon"; "The Usurper is 60 leagues from Paris"; "Bonaparte is advancing, but will never enter Paris"; "Napoleon will be below our ramparts tomorrow"; "The Emperor has arrived at Fontainebleau"; "His Imperial Majesty is in the Royal Palace".

All students of politics know that total wars of the kind that we have seen in Afghanistan change the domestic and international politics of a nation. Whether it likes the new and victorious sovereign or not, a government has the obligation to secure its national interests - ranging from the protection of its citizens and property to maintaining the regional balance of power. India is not immune to this essential principle of international relations and will find ways to protect its stakes in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

That brings us to the second enduring feature of world politics — that there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent

Although these reports are disconcerting to many, the conditions on the ground mean the US needed the Taliban's support for the safe

interests. Consider reports that the US is pro-

viding intelligence inputs to the Taliban on the

terror threats from ISIS-K.

evacuation of its citizens in the last couple of weeks, as well as in the future. When asked whether he trusts the Taliban, US President Joe Biden told the press that "It's not a matter of trust — it's a matter of mutual self-interest." "It's in their self-interest that we leave when we said (August 31) and that we get as many people out as we can," Biden added. The convergence of US and Taliban inter-

ests may be more than tactical. The US would want to explore if the Taliban can help secure long-term American interests in preventing a regrouping of international terror outfits like the al Qaeda and ISIS in Afghanistan. The Taliban on the other hand would want American and Western support in rebuilding Afghanistan. It is by no means clear if such a deal can be clinched, given the big risks it presents to both sides. But the two sides seem ready to explore the possibilities.

The same can be said about the prospects for long-term cooperation between India and the Taliban-led government. For Delhi, the main interest is in preventing Afghan soil from being used by anti-India terror groups. At least a section of the Taliban is eager to continue political and commercial engagement with India.

Last week, in a major speech on the Taliban's approach to domestic and international issues, the head of the Taliban political commission Sher Mohammad Stanikzai underlined the movement's interest in continuing the partnership with India. This is part of a natural quest for a diversified set of international partnerships. Delhi would be right to keep its fingers crossed on the Taliban's ability to deliver on these promises and stand up against the Pakistan army's pressures to keep India out. But it would certainly want to find out if the Taliban means what it says and if there are any cracks in Pakistan's relationship with Kabul's new rulers.

Finally, the US engagement with the Taliban to counter the ISIS-K has been met with derision across the world. Critics say all these groups are part of the same school of terror, driven by similar religious zeal and nurtured in Pakistan's sanctuaries.

India's extensive experience of dealing with Pakistan-supported terror lends credence to the narrative on Rawalpindi's masterful choreography of the unending terror ballet in our region. But Delhi should not rule out contradictions between Pakistan and the terror groups it has spawned as well as among various jihadi organisations.

Differences even among the closest of friends are natural and always offer openings to adversaries. History tells us that movements based on ideology - either secular or religious – are especially prone to internecine conflict. Ideological outfits squabble over the interpretation of the scripture and on the appropriate strategies for realising the declared goals.

Recall that in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi exploited the divisions in the Indian Communist movement for promoting her dominance over the Congress and reorienting India's politics. In the US, President Richard Nixon and his adviser Henry Kissinger actively exploited the differences between Russian and Chinese communists. Across Asia, conservatives actively used splits in the communist parties to establish their political dominance.

Despite its powerful appeal, religious ideology has failed to build durable political coalitions within and across nations. Pan-Islamist movements have quickly splintered amidst sectarian tensions as well as the clash between nationalism and ethnicity on the one hand and the calls for religious solidarity on the other.

Afghan history, too, bears witness to perennial political schisms. The Afghan communists who seized power in Kabul in the 1978 revolution could not overcome their internal differences on how to modernise their nation or the role of the Soviet Union.

The various religious groups that Pakistan supported could not unite after the Soviet army was ousted from Afghanistan. It had to create the Taliban to counter the Mujahideen. The Taliban's capture of power in 1996 produced a new set of ethnic and religious divisions within Afghanistan.

Given this history, it is unwise for Delhi to paint the external challenges arising from the Afghan tumult as a single coherent force; and to believe in leveraging the external threat for domestic political ends. The Panchatantra has a more sensible strategy to offer - try and divide your potential adversaries and strengthen

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for

The Indian Express



FRIEND OF INDIA

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In the mid-1990s, Stanley Weiss was a wise and empathetic ally India could rely on

C Uday Bhaskar

INDIA AND the US were "estranged" democracies for many decades and gradually moved towards cautious "engagement" after the end of the Cold War, during the Narasimha Rao-Bill Clinton phase. Among the many individuals and institutions who were part of the vast bilateral ensemble that contributed to this transformation was Stanley A Weiss, former chairman of BENS (Business Executives for National Security) who passed away in London on August 26. Weiss played a critical role as a discreet enabler both in the Beltway and corporate America of the mid-1990s.

At that time - when the India-US relationship was estranged - IDSA (Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses) was often referred to as the "lion's den" by American academics and analysts for its fierce defence of why India remained outside the NPT (Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty). In a lighter vein, India experts alluded to the late K Subrahmanyam, long-time director of the institute, as the "lion king". But it was also deemed mandatory for members of the American strategic community on their first visit to India to stop by at Sapru House and be "given a stern tutorial by Subbu" — as the late Steve Cohen used to quip.

In early 1997, the IDSA was informed that a business team from the US would be in India

When the India-US relationship hit rock bottom after the tests and the White House was 'mad' with India for crossing the nuclear Rubicon, Weiss was the solitary American voice to provide an empathetic interpretation of the Indian decision.

later in the year and that we (I was then the deputy to Air Commodore Jasjit Singh, who was the director) were to coordinate the visit. What seemed like one more foreign delegation acquired a different texture when the then Indian ambassador to the US. Naresh Chandra. met Subbu and Jasjit and indicated that this was more than a routine visit and that the PM would also meet the BENS team.

Events moved swiftly after that and I was nominated as sherpa from the Indian side and tasked to plan the BENS visit with the US embassy, ably led by ambassador Frank Wisner and Raphael Benaroya, the India expert assisting Weiss. Most members of the BENS delegation were CEOs of top US companies. They had never visited India and were exploring business options after economic liberalisation.

The result was a very successful BENS visit to Delhi in 1997. The team met the top brass of the Ministry of Defence and the military, and finally called on Prime Minister I K Gujral. Weiss conveyed to the PM that the real India story was not being heard in the Beltway and Gujral suggested that he (Stanley) could tell the story in his widely read column in the International Herald Tribune.

What was the outcome of the quiet role played by BENS apropos the bilateral relationship? In response, Weiss would point to the lead story of The Telegraph (Calcutta), which noted in its September 26, 1997 report: "Why did the US President Bill Clinton, undoubtedly one of the busiest heads of state, seek a meeting with the Indian Prime Minister, I K Guiral, in New York (at the United Nations)? The answer is a four-letter word: BENS. Business Executives for National Security.'

Subsequent events moved in a rollercoaster manner after Prime Minister A B Vajpayee took office in Delhi and India conducted its nuclear tests in May 1998. When the India-US relationship hit rock bottom after the tests and the White House was "mad" with India for crossing the nuclear Rubicon, Weiss was the solitary American voice to provide an empathetic interpretation of the Indian To their credit, the apex political leadership

on both sides and their tireless diplomats were able to reach a rapprochement after the Kargil war of 1999 and Bill Clinton's visit to India in early 2000 was testimony to the tentative "engagement" between the two prickly democracies. Stanley A Weiss, a World War II veteran and mining tycoon, will be long remembered as a wise and empathetic friend of India.

The writer is director, Society for Policy Studies,



AUGUST 31, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

TEHRAN BOMBING

A POWERFUL BOMB rocked the prime minister's office in Central Tehran on August 31 wounding the President Mohammad Ali Rajai and the Prime Minister Mohammad Javed Bahonar, the official Iranian media reported. Pars, the official Iranian news agency, reported that at least five persons were killed with some and 15 wounded with some of the bodies burnt beyond recognition. The Iranian cabinet held an "emergency meeting" and adopted certain decisions to cope with the blast's aftermath and condemned the episode as a "last ditch attempt by American hirelings". The blast, which sent a fire raging through the building, appeared to be the most serious in Iran since a bomb killed more than 70 of the Iran's religious and political leaders in Tehran.

Advantage Urs

D DEVARAJ URS was unanimously elected president of the state unit of Karnataka Congress (U). Before the meeting, D Chandra Gowda and his followers resolved to join the Congress (I) at a parallel meeting of the KPCC (U). Gowda had to be content with very little support even though he had claimed support of 150 members of the party.

IMPASSE ON DA

REPRESENTATIVES OF CENTRAL government

employees have rejected the government offer of merging a part of the dearness allowance with basic pay if they agree to the impounding of the 50 per cent of instalments of the DA payable. The matter came up at an informal meeting of the representatives of the standing committee of the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM) called by the Cabinet Secretary.

NIHAR RAY DEAD

INTELLECTUALS AND EDUCATIONISTS bade a tearful farewell to Nihar Ranjan Ray, historian and art critic. Ray, ICHR chairman, was a staunch critic of the Left Front government's education policy.

-KATHMANDU POST

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE

The great unknown in Kabul

No single actor has the power to control events in Afghanistan. That's why the Taliban takeover bodes ill for the world



Anju Gupta

EVER SINCE THE fall of Kabul a little more than two weeks ago, the long-anticipated collapse of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), a "half-determined" President Ashraf Ghani fleeing the country, the "mightier" Taliban walking into Kabul and the "much weaker" Panjshir holding out have dominated the narrative on Afghanistan. Amidst tragic events, several puzzles remain. They hold the key to a proper appreciation of the threats that Afghanistan, the region and the world could face in the next decade.

All stakeholders have often repeated that the ANDSF was expected to take on the Taliban but failed to do so. Under an elected government, with funding up to 2024 and assurance of off-shore training and maintenance, over-the-horizon support from the US Central Command for common counter-terrorism targets, diplomatic and humanitarian assistance and security of Kabul airport by Turkish forces, the ANDSF did conduct itself professionally till early August. It is widely known now that the unspoken Western assessment was that despite all support, the ANDSF could hold out for one or two years.

The earnest recruiting and training of the ANDSF by the US-NATO started around 2009, when the US initiated a troop surge to reverse the Taliban's momentum and give time and space to the ANDSF to grow. On January 1, 2015, total security responsibilities were handed over to the young security outfit, which had 3,00,000 troops, according to the US auditor SIGAR. Since then, the ANDSF has been at the forefront of the conflict, suffering

Till the signing of the Doha agreement, the ANDSF prevented the fall of provincial capitals and border crossings, stopped the Taliban from taking permanent control of highways, maintained control over more than 250 district centres - though some districts did change hands — and did not allow ISIS or Pakistan proxies like ISKP or AQIS to increase their footprint across Afghanistan. The outfit faced complex challenges in managing police functions, safeguarding borders, protecting people and fighting Pakistanbacked insurgency. The terrain in Afghanistan did not permit permanent posts and patrols across many parts. Such areas became the Taliban's bastions. Since the ANDSF was dependent on foreign funds, financial compulsions may have prevented mobilising troops to defeat the Taliban at several places. The stakeholders, therefore, resolved that a negotiated political settlement was the

The Doha agreement disregarded the fact that the foreign forces and the ANDSF had teamed up successfully, forcing the Taliban to the peace talks — this implicitly allowed Pakistan to take all the credit. The agreement negotiated a deal for "no attacks" on foreign forces, leaving the Taliban with more resources to take on the ANDSF. The ANDSF's demoralisation started from this point. Post-Doha, the ANDSF and civilians faced very high levels of violence. The reduction of foreign forces from January this year further demoralised the ANDSF, giving the Taliban an incentive to not negotiate with the Afghan

government at all. The change of regime in the US had raised hopes that the drawdown could slow down



or reverse to help the ANDSF push the Taliban to negotiate on reasonable terms. However, the April 16 announcement of complete withdrawal by September gave a fillip to the Taliban. According to SIGAR, by June-end, less than 1,000 foreign personnel remained. Thousands of contractors were gone, severely disabling the Afghan Air Force and jeopardising the transport of frontline special forces which held the key to defeating the Taliban across Afghanistan,

Still, between April 16 and July 2, the ANDSF ensured that provincial centres were not overrun and border crossings were safe. The withdrawal from Bagram on July 2 sent the final signal that the ANDSF was on its own. The Pakistan-Taliban combine began a forcible occupation of border crossings, highways and provincial capitals. Notably, even in July, the ANDSF proved its mettle by pushing back the Taliban in key capitals of Lashkargah and Kandahar

However, between August 6 and 15, all provincial capitals fell without much fight. Did the ANDSF sense that political manoeuvres were overtaking professional assessments and that its own government was powerless to influence external actors? The pictures of Mullah Baradar as a state guest at Doha and elsewhere in the region signal the lack of real involvement of Afghanistan in deciding its own future. The ANDSF must have been acutely aware that retribution was a reality, should the Taliban join an interim government or form one. Did the agency feel that political, moral and functional support for it had become only notional? There was no Northern Alliance, nor was any significant country offering help.

On August 14, many embassies started emergency evacuations and the next day, the Taliban was at the gates of Kabul. They looked equally unprepared, clueless about managing even traffic or crowds. It appears that, though powerless, the Afghan top brass directly supervising the ANDSF - and the ANDSF itself - could see the

Recent events have thrown up many puzzles. Won't Afghanistan become opaque to the world the day the evacuations are over? With the internet, airport and borders shut, the only access to Afghanistan will be through the Taliban. Will Russia-China or the West contemplate supporting resistance movements to keep the Taliban in check? Will ANDSF become part of this resistance? Will the big powers rely on the Taliban an entity lacking professional skills and one that needs to prove its intentions — for counter-terrorism operations? Can big powers afford to give legitimacy and aid to the Taliban and ensure

writing on the wall and moved out of harm's way well in time.

The pro-withdrawal narrative that the region was a "free beneficiary" of the security provided by the US and NATO had gained currency. Was the narrative so strong that it disregarded the potential reversal of gains made over 20 years? Or has the Great Power competition with China and Russia tipped the balance with the expectation that these powers will have to get sucked into Afghanistan?

Recent events have thrown up many such puzzles. Won't Afghanistan become opaque to the world the day the evacuations are over? With the internet, airport and borders shut, the only access to Afghanistan will be through the Taliban. Will Russia-China or the West contemplate supporting resistance movements to keep the Taliban in check? Will the ANDSF become part of this resistance?

Will the big powers rely on the Taliban an entity lacking professional skills and one that needs to prove its intentions - for counter-terrorism operations? Can big powers afford to give legitimacy and aid to the Taliban and ensure funds are not used by extremists? Will the Taliban be able to show "absence of corruption" in its dealings with citizens, a key yardstick for Western aid?

Will Pakistan be comfortable with a Pashtun Amir-ul-Momineen in Afghanistan gaining traction in its tribal belt? Will Pakistan allow all key Taliban leaders, such as Qayyum Zakir and Maulvi Kabir, to move their families and assets to Afghanistan and lose full control?

Much more is likely to emerge from this conundrum in the coming weeks and months. There is no single actor — including the Taliban – who knows it all or can guide events to come. This means that the fall of Afghanistan is a bad omen for countries far beyond the region.

> The writer is an IPS officer. Views are personal

Why Dara Shikoh matters

"Ironically, Nepal has been re-elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council despite the country's failure to address the outstanding issues of insurgency-era crimes. Nepal is now preaching on the global stage what it is

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

unable to put into practice at home."

He lost the battle for Mughal empire, but won the war of ideas for India



Tariq Mansoor

AT A TIME when incidents of intolerance in the name of faith are being reported from Afghanistan, Dara Shikoh, one of India's most enlightened thinkers, needs to be remembered. He was a champion of interfaith understanding, philosopher, artist, architect, translator, poet and administrator. Although in 1655 his father and Mughal emperor Shah Jahan declared him the Crown Prince, he was assassinated by his younger brother, Aurangzeb, in a bitter struggle for the throne on August 30, 1659. Dara Shikoh was 44 at the time of his death. Even though he lost the battle against Aurangzeb, he won the war for India. It is that victory we are celebrating as a proud nation, representing the best example in the world for unity in diversity.

Though Dara Shikoh had very little military experience as Shah Jahan had kept him in the court, his father chose him as successor over his other sons who were sent as governors of various states. Shah Jahan was aware that due to India's deep spiritual roots, it could not be governed by force alone, but only by upholding the ideals of peaceful coexistence, tolerance and winning the hearts of people. It is these values that bind the people of a nation together. What might have been the history of the Indian subcontinent had Dara Shikoh prevailed over Aurangzeb in the battle for succession has been debated for centuries. Though he could not become an emperor, his imprint on Indian civilisation is no less than that of any emperor in the Subcontinent's history.

Dara Shikoh, who had a deep understanding and knowledge of major religions, particularly Islam and Hinduism, is known as a pioneer of the academic movement for interfaith understanding in India. He strove to develop cordial relationships between people by finding commonalities between Hinduism and Islam and bringing their cultures into dialogue. His most important works, Majma-ul-Bahrain (Mingling of Two Oceans) and Sirr-i-Akbar (Great Mystery), are devoted to the cause of establishing connections between Hinduism and Islam. He not only discovered commonalities but even said that the foundation of the two religions is the same. which is the belief, "One Reality and One God". He had a pluralistic outlook and understood India's syncretic culture.

Dara Shikoh acquired proficiency in Sanskrit and Persian, which enabled him to play a key role in popularising Indian culture and Hindu religious thought. He translated the Upanishads and other important sources of Hindu religion and spirituality from Sanskrit to Persian. Through these translations, he was responsible for taking the Hindu culture and spiritual traditions to Europe and the West. During those years, the Europeans did not read Sanskrit but were able to read Persian, and so they read the texts in Persian that were later translated into Latin. This is how a new movement of studying India's religious and cultural texts spread in the world. After this, the Europeans also started to study Sanskrit. In this way, it was Dara Shikoh's pioneering work that led to the dissemination of India's culture outside the Subcontinent. This is his outstanding contribution to India's intellectual and religious heritage. Subsequently, it became fashionable among the philosophical circles to admire the Upanishads.

Dara Shikoh had a keen interest in the fine arts and architecture. An album he dedicated to his wife is a treasure of Indian art. A rare miniature painting showing him with his spiritual masters is preserved in the library of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). As a talented architect, he designed the beautiful Pari Mahal Garden Palace in Srinagar, and many other monuments.

The importance of interfaith connections cannot be overemphasised in our multi-religious and diverse society. At the centenary celebrations of AMU recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, like a true statesman, delivered a speech that has been much appreciated globally, wherein he portrayed AMU as a unique symbol of India's composite culture by labelling it as "Mini India". Modi also exhorted AMU to undertake study and research in India's rich cultural heritage to give new energy to India's cultural relations with the world.

AMU is committed to the development of interfaith understanding among all the religions of the world. To foster a culture of tolerance and national integration by bringing communities together, AMU, in its centenary year, has started the Dara Shikoh Centre for Interfaith Dialogue and Understanding. While history may not have given Dara Shikoh his due, AMU has initiated course correction by taking up the task of popularising his legacy. The Centre has started undertaking important milestones such as translation of Dara Shikoh's works in other languages, creation of a repository of writings and research undertaken in India and abroad on the life and works of Dara Shikoh, formulation of bibliographies of works done on Hindu religious texts by Muslim authors and viceversa, among others. This is an initiative undertaken with a liberal mind and vision. AMU's founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, himself undertook the work of understanding scriptures of other faiths by writing commentaries on them.

Dara Shikoh, as a true child of India, is an icon for tolerance, harmony and togetherness. It is due to these values that we Indians, despite many diversities, have been living in unity and oneness for centuries. India's neighbours and their regimes can learn from this.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Management, Dara Shikoh Centre, AMU

My competitor, my comrade

funds are not used by

Neeraj Chopra shows respect for rival is most important lesson of sports

extremists?

Jeev Milkha Singh

SPORTSPERSONS RESPECT each other, regardless of gender and nationality. We respect each other for our achievements, no matter how big or small. That's one of the most important things that sports teaches you. You respect a person for what he or she is and for what he or she has achieved or done. That's what Neeraj Chopra has done by speaking up for what is right and standing up for Arshad Nadeem after people on social media went after the Pakistani javelin thrower for picking up Chopra's javelin in the final at the Tokyo Olympics.

While Neeraj became the Olympic champion, Arshad finished fifth. He kept pushing Neeraj to do his best. Athletes should respect their competitors because they have all proved themselves good enough to be there. Any of the 12 athletes in the final could have won on that day and I give full marks to Neeraj for appreciating each of his competitors, including Arshad. That's the way it should be. Who knows, tomorrow I may miss a putt, while my competitor sinks his and wins the tournament. I can't belittle his efforts or speak against him just because he is of a different nationality.

During my time in the US, while on a golf scholarship, I met players and people

from many different cultures. The experience taught me to conduct myself well, to appreciate each competitor, to thank evervbody on the golf course as well as in life. That was the best education. At that time, I looked up to Fred Couples, who went on to win the 1992 US Masters. I did not realise this at that time, but I liked how he conducted himself on the golf course, taking the time to talk to the galleries. It made me aspire to be like him some day. Over time, he has become a good friend and we played in Dubai some years ago. I told him that to tee off along with him is a privilege and it is one of the things that has made me the most nervous in my whole career. When I see Neeraj or Arshad or other athletes admiring each other's efforts, I can only think of how good the sporting world is.

During my amateur days, I made many trips to Pakistan and made friends with golfers like Taimur Hassan Amin, a 16-time Pakistan national champion. Over the years, we have played together in Dubai and we often meet and share our memories of our amateur days. It was because of golf that we became friends and we are competitors only

on the golf course. Like javelin throwers, golfers too use

their personal equipment in tournaments, with the difference being that others are not allowed to use the equipment. But having played on the PGA Tour, European Tour, Asian Tour and Japan Tour, apart from major championships, I have tried or got to know about the clubs used by different players. I remember taking advice from golfer Daniel Chopra and even asking Fred Couples about his clubs. I have also asked younger players, like Shubhankar Sharma, about their choice of clubs. But each one of us plays on his own and it's our effort which rewards us.

Having travelled and played around the world, I have seen that every country cheers and looks out for its own sporting heroes in a competition. But it depends on you to find a place for yourself. Being a good human being, performing well and conducting yourself well – these things win you the respect of different countries and different cultures.

That's what my father Milkha Singh got from Pakistan, a country he had to flee during Partition, after seeing many deaths and much tragedy. But then, as he would say, "Halat mande hunde ne, bande nahi (The conditions are bad, not the individuals)". The kind of love my father got from Pakistan cannot be described in words. He will be known as the Flying Sikh for as long as the world remembers him. The name was given to him by Pakistan. After my father's death, I had a conversation with Mohammad Ejaz, son of Abdul Khaliq, one of my father's biggest competitors on the world stage. Ejaz made sure to thank me because my father had asked about his father's well-being when the latter was a prisoner of war in Meerut after the 1971 war. I told him that someday, if I were to play in Pakistan and get taken as a prisoner of war, somebody there would give me respect as a sportsperson. That's the power of sports.

For me, Neeraj is a true champion. He did not think about his parents or coaches; he dedicated his gold medal to my father moments after he became the Olympic champion and spoke about my father's dream. His gesture and the way in which he has supported Arshad make him a true champion.

I don't know if my son Harjai Milkha Singh will make a career in sports. But I am sure his time in sports has taught him to be fair and to respect his competitors — and to applaud their effort.

> The writer is a 14-time international winner in golf

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University, censor THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'No single story' (IE, August 30). Delhi University's decision to remove texts based on the fear that it will corrupt the minds of students as it goes against ethics and culture takes me back to the era of Victorian morality when several voices like the famous Hardy (for example in Tess) were censored. The trend continued even in the modern era when great writers like James Joyce were forced to change "explicit content" to more euphemistic writings. In the Indian context, this trend seems to continue even today as the literature of the past is seen with the lens of culture and morality to weigh whether it deserves to be taught. In doing so, the decisionmakers are forgetting that "offensive" is a subjective word and can be interpreted by anyone according to their own belief systems.

Anamika Priyadarshani, Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'No single story' (IE, August 30). The Delhi University registrar defending the removal of works by two Dalit authors Bama and Sukritharani, and that of Mahasweta Devi's 'Draupadi' on the specious ground of "culture and ethics" smacks of bias. According to him, the syllabus can't have content that "hurt the sentiments of any individual". Is the university advocating that literary works originating from inequitable exploitative caste-based society, should be sensitive towards sentiments of oppressor class? By this logic, the great Munshi Premchand's work needs to be banned — he portrayed Brahmins in poor light in the

IDEAS ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

HOW GOVERNMENT IS **FAILING PARLIAMENT: BINOY VISWAM**

TRUTH ABOUT ASSET MONETISATION: **HARDEEPS PURI**

www.indianexpress.com

story 'Sadgati'.

LR Murmu, Delhi

ENEMIES TO FRIENDS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Let's say never again' (IE, August 30). India and Pakistan are the key players, without whose cooperation there can be no peace in the South Asian region. We must look at the other nations, which had once been inflicting sufferings of titanic proportions upon each other, and are now living in peace. An appropriate example is that of France and Germany who had a long blooded history finally concluding into the invasion of the former by the latter during the Second World War, but now stand together as the friendliest of the neighbours. Hatred and vendetta only sink the ties to abysmally horrible depths.

Vinay Saroha, via email

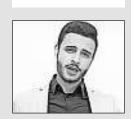
10 THE WORLD



Britain CLIMATE PROTESTERS BLOCK TOWER BRIDGE

Demonstrators from the Extinction Rebellion group, which is demanding urgent action by governments and business to limit climate change, staged a sit-down protest that stopped traffic from using Tower Bridge in London on Monday. Extinction Rebellion is targeting London's financial district — located close to Tower Bridge — in a two-week series of protests.

WORLD



Youtuber Shadi Srour

EGYPT

After months, Egypt frees reporter, activist, YouTubestar

EGYPT HAS released an online comedian, a journalist and a political activist after they spent months in pre-trail detention, two lawyers said on Monday. It was the latest in a series of recent releases amid concerns by the United States and international rights groups over the arrests and harassment of rights advocates and critics of President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi's government. Youtuber Shadi Srour, journalist Shaimaa Sami and activist Ziyad Aboel-Fadel walked free late Sunday from a police headquarters in Cairo, said the two lawyers, Khalid Ali and Ismael el-Rashedi.

SOUTH KOREA Lawmakers to vote on cameras in operating rooms

after surgery deaths SOUTH KOREAN lawmakers will vote as early as Monday on whether to require hospitals to place surveillance cameras in operating rooms after a series of medical accidents involving unqualified staff who stood in for surgeons. If the Bill is approved by parliament, South Korea will be the first developed country to require closed-circuit cameras to record surgical procedures. The push for having cameras in operating theatres intensified after a case in 2016 in which surgeons at clinics were accused of assigning nurses or underualined doctors to periorm procedures, sometimes with fatal results. REUTERS

US aims start to Bali bombing war crimes case at Guantanamo

THREE PRISONERS at the Guantanamo Bay detention centre are expected to get their first day in court after being held for 18 years in connection with the deadly 2002 Bali bombings and other plots in Southeast Asia. Indonesian prisoner Encep Nuriaman and two Malaysians are to be arraigned Monday before a military commission on charges that include murder. conspiracy and terrorism. It is the first step in what could be a long legal journey for a case that involves evidence tainted by CIA torture. AP

AMERICAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE TODAY

US shoots down rockets aimed at Kabul airport as final pullout looms

THE NEW YORK TIMES

AUGUST 30

AS THE US military raced toward a Tuesday deadline to withdraw from America's longest war, sporadic violence in the Afghan capital underlined the perils ahead for a country already buffeted by insecurity, a humanitarian crisis and a terrorist threat.

The US military shot down rockets aimed at the Kabul airport on Monday morning, a day after it said that one of its drones struck a vehicle full of explosives. The US has warned that more attacks, like the one last week outside the airport that killed nearly 200 people, are possible before it withdraws on Tuesday. Islamic State Khorasan claimed responsibility for that bombing, which also killed US troops.

A US official said the rockets aimed at the airport were brought down by a counter-rocket system, and that there were no initial reports of casualties. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the rockets. The airport remained open, according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss operational details.

It followed another US strike on Sunday, when the US military said it conducted a drone strike that blew up a vehicle in Kabul that officials said was laden with explosives and headed toward the airport. Afghans said the drone strike killed as many as 10 civilians, including children, and the US military said it was investigating.

Even as violence gripped Kabul, the United States was scrambling to prepare for its departure, including the evacuation of the 300 Americans who remain in the Afghan capital.

The US is unlikely to keep diplomats in Afghanistan after the US military departs, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said.

Officials said they expected that the US would open a diplomatic mission for Afghanistan in a country elsewhere in the region, in part to continue helping the surge of expected refugees obtain necessary departure documents. That effort could be based in Pakistan or the United Arab Emirates, an official said.



Children walk in an area between tents at the Ramstein US Air Base in Ramstein, Germany, on Monday. The largest American military community outside the US houses thousands of Afghan evacuees in a tent city at the airbase. AF

US has capacity to evacuate all Americans from Afghanistan: NSA

Washington: The United States has the capacity to evacuate the approximately 300 US citizens remaining in Afghanistan who want to leave before President Joe Biden's Tuesday deadline, senior administration officials said, as rocket fire in Kabul and another US drone strike against suspected Islamic State militants underscored the grave threat in the war's final days.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said Sunday that for those US citizens seeking immediately to leave Afghanistan by the looming deadline, "we have the capacity to have 300 Americans, which is roughly the number we think are remaining, come to the airport and get on planes in the time that is remaining".

others were fatally wounded in

adjacent rooms, family members

said. An Afghan official confirmed

that three of the dead children

were transferred by ambulance

Ahmadi's daughter Samia, 21,

was inside when she was struck

by the blast wave. "At first I thought

it was the Taliban," she said. "But

the Americans themselves did it."

outside, choking, and saw the

bodies of her siblings and rela-

tives. "I saw the whole scene."

she said. "There were burnt

ancé, Ahmad Naser, 30, a former

Among the dead was her fi-

pieces of flesh everywhere."

Samia said she staggered

from the home on Sunday.



Students at a school in Bay Harbor Islands, Florida. Florida school districts can legally require their students to wear masks, a judge has ruled. AP

US records a daily average of 100,000 **Covid hospitalisations**

DAN LEVIN AUGUST 30

THE DAILY average for hospitalised Covid-19 patients in the United States is now more than 100,000. That average, calculated over the last seven days, is higher than in any previous surge except last win-

ter's, before most Americans were

eligible to get vaccinated. The influx of patients is straining hospitals and pushing health care workers to the brink as deaths have risen to an average of more than 1,000 a day for the first time since March.

Hospitalisations nationwide have increased by nearly 500 percent in the past two months, particularly across Southern states, where ICU beds are filling up, a crisis fueled by some of the country's lowest vaccination rates and widespread political opposition to public health measures like

In Florida, 16,457 people are hospitalised, the most of any state, followed by Texas, according to data from the US Department of Health and Human Services.

With the surge pummeling the nation and overwhelming hospitals, a shortage of bedside nurses has complicated efforts to treat hospitalised coronavirus patients, leading to longer emergency room waiting times and rushed or inadequate care.

This month, one in five American ICUs had reached or ex**EU recommends** travel curbs on US visitors

Brussels: The European Union recommended Monday that its 27 nations reinstate restrictions on tourists from the US because of rising coronavirus infections there. The decision by the European Council to remove the US from a safe list of countries for non-essential travel reverses advice that it gave in June, when the bloc recommended lifting restrictions on US travellers before the summer tourism season. The guidance is non-binding, however, and US travellers should expect a mishmash of travel rules across the continent. "Non-essential travel to the EU from countries or entities not listed... is subject to temporary travel restriction," the council said in a

ceeded 95 per cent of beds full. Alabama was one of the first states to run out, and the crisis is

concentrated in the South, with small pockets of high occupancy elsewhere in the country. As cases and hospitalisations surged, the University of Tennessee Medical Center in Knoxville on Thursday requested assistance from the

Seven children among 10 killed in US drone strike, family says children were killed inside his car:

MATTHIEU AIKINS AUGUST 30

HOURS AFTER a US military drone strike in Kabul on Sunday, Defence Department officials said that it had blown up a vehicle laden with explosives, eliminating a threat to Kabul's airport from the Islamic State Khorasan group. But at a family home in Kabul

on Monday, survivors and neighbours said the strike had killed 10 people, including seven children, an aid worker for an American charity organisation and a contractor with the US military.

Zemari Ahmadi, who worked for the charity organization Nutrition and Education International, was on his way home from work after dropping off colleagues on Sunday evening, according to relatives and col-



Samia Ahmadi's (right) father and fiancé were both killed on Sunday in a US drone strike in Kabul. NYT

leagues interviewed in Kabul. As he pulled into the narrow

street where he lived with his three brothers and their families, the children, seeing his white Toyota Corolla, ran outside to greet him. Some clambered aboard in the street, others gathered around as he pulled the car

into the courtyard of their home. It was then that they say the

The missile hit the rear end of the Corolla in the narrow courtvard inside the walled family compound, blowing out doors, shattering windows and spraying shrapnel. Ahmadi and some of the

army officer and contractor with the US military who had come from Herat, in western Afghanistan, in the hopes of being evacuated from Kabul.

Demand surges in US for deworming drug despite no evidence it can treat Covid

compared the phenomenon to **EMMA GOLDBERG** last year's surge of interest in hy-

AUGUST 30

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ivermectin, a drug typically used to treat parasitic worms that has repeatedly failed in clinical trials to help people infected with the coronavirus, have risen sharply in recent weeks in the US, jumping to more than 88,000 per week in mid-August from a prepandemic average of 3,600 per week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ivermectin was introduced as a veterinary drug in the late 1970s, and the discovery of its effectiveness in combating certain parasitic diseases in humans won the 2015 Nobel Prize for medicine.

Though it has not been shown to be effective in treating Covid-19, people are now clamouring to get the drug, trading tips in Facebook groups and on Reddit. Some physicians have

Hurricane Ida traps Louisianans,

droxychloroquine, though there are more clinical trials evaluating ivermectin. While sometimes given to humans in small doses for head

lice, scabies and other parasites. ivermectin is more commonly used in animals. Physicians are raising alarms about a growing number of people getting the drug from livestock supply centres, where it can come in highly concentrated paste or liquid forms. Calls to poison control cen-

ters about ivermectin exposures have risen significantly, jumping fivefold over their baseline in July, according to CDC researchers, who cited data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers. Mississippi's health department said this month that 70 per cent of recent calls to the state poison control centre had come from people who ingested ivermectin from livestock supply stores. NYT

Worry over leading broadcaster's survival under Taliban

DAN BILEFSKY AUGUST 30

OVER THE past two decades, the Afghan broadcaster Tolo has been known for provocative programmes like "Burka Avenger." in which an animated superheroine uses martial arts to vanquish villains trying to shut down a girls' school. Millions of Afghans have also

tuned in to its racy Turkish soap operas, its popular "6 pm News" and the reality show "Afghan Star," featuring female singers.

Since the Taliban captured Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, on Aug 15, however, Tolo's usual lineup is being supplemented by something else: educational programming about Islamic morality. Whether its menu of hosts will survive in the Taliban's Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will be a barometer of the insurgents' tolerance for dissenting views and values.

pop music and female television

"To be honest, I'm still surprised we are up and running." said Saad Mohseni, Tolo's coowner, an Australian-Afghan former investment banker who started Moby Group, which owns Tolo, in 2002. "We know what the Taliban stand for."

Keen to gain international legitimacy, the Taliban have been seeking to rebrand themselves as more moderate since they stormed Kabul, offering former rivals amnesty and urging women to join the government. They have vowed to support media freedom, on the condition that outlets subscribe to "Islamic values." A Taliban

Saad Mohseni, Tolo's coowner, said, "To be honest, I'm still surprised we are up and running." NYT

spokesman even appeared on a Tolo news programme hosted by a female anchor just days after the group captured Kabul.

But journalists and human rights advocates say there are ominous signs that a violent media clampdown is underway.

nalist from Deutsche Welle, the German broadcaster, who had already left the country, shooting dead a member of his family and seriously injuring another, according to the broadcaster. Mohseni said Ziar Khan Yaad.

Taliban fighters hunted a jour-

a Tolo journalist, and a cameraman were beaten by five Taliban at gunpoint while out reporting on Wednesday. He said the Taliban jumped out of a Land Cruiser and confiscated their equipment and cellphones.

The Taliban have also barred at least two female journalists from their jobs at the public broadcaster Radio Television Afghanistan. And the female anchor at Tolo, who grabbed global headlines when she interviewed a Taliban spokesman, has since fled the country, along with many other journalists Many Afghan social media influencers have also deactivated their Facebook and Twitter accounts and gone underground.

Khadija Amin, an anchor with the public broadcaster, said in a phone interview that, on the day the Taliban entered Kabul, one of the militants took her place at the station.

The Taliban also warned the women of Afghanistan that it might be safest for them to remain home until rank-and-file Taliban fighters have been trained how not to mistreat them.

"We are in a very bad situation." Amin said, adding that male journalists were now afraid to sit next to their female colleagues or even talk to them. "There is no longer space for us here," she said.

China limits children to three hours of online gaming a week

ASSOCIATED PRESS BEIJING, AUGUST 30

CHINA IS banning children from playing online games for more than three hours a week. the harshest restriction so far on the game industry as Chinese regulators continue cracking down on the technology sector.

Minors in China can only play games between 8 pm to 9 pm on Fridays, weekends and on public holidays starting Sept. 1, according to a notice from the National Press and Publication Administration.

That limits gaming to three hours a week for most weeks of the year, down from a previous

Part of broader crackdown THE LIMITS on gaming time

come amid a broader crackdown by the Chinese government on technology companies, which have come to be seen as having too big an influence on society. China has also recently implemented regulations that target anticompetitive behaviour among the country's rapidly growing tech sector.

restriction set in 2019 that allowed minors play games for an hour and a half per day and three hours on public holidays. The new regulation affects

some of China's largest technology companies, including gaming giant Tencent, whose Honor of Kings online multiplayer game is hugely popular globally, as well as gaming company

Tencent's stock price closed down 0.6% at 465.80 Hong Kong dollars on Monday ahead of the regulator's announcement. Its market capitalisation of \$573 billion is down more than \$300 billion from its February peak, a decline equal to more than the total value of Nike or Pfizer.

New York-listed NetEase's stock was down about 9% at the market's open.

Renewed activity at N Korea nuclear reactor deeply troubling: IAEA

REUTERS VIENNA, SEOUL, AUGUST 30

NORTH KOREA appears to have restarted a nuclear reactor that is widely believed to have produced plutonium for nuclear weapons, the UN atomic watchdog said in an annual report. adding that the findings were "deeply troubling".

The signs of operation at the 5-megawatt (MW) reactor, which is seen as capable of producing weapons-grade plutonium, were the first to be spotted since late 2018, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in its report dated Friday.

"Since early July 2021, there have been indications, including the discharge of cooling water, consistent with the operation,' the IAEA report said of the reactor at Yongbyon, a nuclear complex at the heart of North Korea's nuclear programme. More plutonium could help

North Korea make smaller nuclear weapons to fit on its ballistic missiles, said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security. While intelligence on North Korean nuclear weapons is limited, making it impossible to know their number, Albright estimated the country had the capacity to produce material for up to six bombs a year.

millions lose access to electricity REBECCA SANTANA, **KEVIN MCGILL & JANET MCCONNAUGHEY**

RESCUE WORKERS set out in hundreds of boats and helicopters to reach people trapped by floodwaters and utility crews mobilised Monday after a furious Hurricane Ida swamped the Louisiana coast and shattered a large swath of the state's electrical grid in the swel-

tering, late-summer heat.

NEW ORLEANS, AUGUST 30

One of the most powerful hurricanes ever to hit the US mainland weakened into a tropical storm overnight as it pushed inland over Mississippi with torrential rain and shrieking winds, its danger far from over.



A collapsed building in New Orleans on Monday. AP

Ida was blamed for at least one death — someone hit by a falling tree outside Baton Rouge — but with many roads impassable and cellphone service knocked out in places, the full extent of its fury was still coming into focus.

The hurricane "came in and did everything that was advertised, unfortunately," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said. All of New Orleans lost power right around sunset Sunday as the hurricane blew ashore on the 16th

anniversary of Katrina, leading to

an uneasy night of pouring rain

and howling wind. The weather

died down shortly before dawn, and people began carefully walking around neighbourhoods with flashlights, dodging downed light poles, pieces of roofs and branches. "I had a long miserable

night," said Chris Atkins, who was in his New Orleans home when he heard a "kaboom" and all the sheetrock in the living room fell into the house. A short time later, the whole side of the living room fell onto his neighbour's driveway.

ECONOMY



\$70.33



⊙ ₹62,063

SENSEX: 56,889.76 ▲ 765.04 (1.36%) NIFTY: 16,931.05 ▲ 225.85 (1.35%) NIKKEI: 27,789.29 ▲ 148.15 HANG SENG: 25,539.54 ▲ 131.65 FTSE: 7,148.01 ▲ 23.03 DAX: 15,878.19 ▲ 26.44

SECTOR WATCH **AUTOMOBILES**

'High input costs' weigh: Maruti to raise prices for third time in 2021

September hike could be up to 4%

SANDEEPSINGH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

IN A move that may dampen consumer sentiment ahead of the festive season. Maruti Suzuki India Ltd announced that it will increase the price of its vehicles in September, following the sharp rise in input cost over the last 15 months. This will be the third price hike announcement by the market leader this calendar year.

While the company had announced a hike of 1.4 per cent in January, in April it raised the price of its vehicles by another 1.6 per cent. While the company did not disclose the quantum of increase in September, sources say it could be 3-4 per cent.

In its communication to the stock exchanges, the company said, "We wish to inform you that over the past year the cost of company's vehicles continue to be adversely impacted due to increase in various input costs. Hence, it has become imperative to pass on some impact of the additional cost to the customers through a price rise. The price rise has been planned across models in September 2021." Following the stock exchange announcement, the shares of MSIL rose on Monday and closed at Rs 6,797, a gain of 2.9 per cent.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Shashank Srivastava, senior executive director, marketing and sales at MSIL, said while input cost pressure has been there for last 15 months, MSIL did not raise prices proportionately and tried to avoid passing the input cost on to the consumer as it hurts affordability and demand. "We tried improving our efficiency and manage it hoping that the prices would soften. But they are left with no choice but to go for another hike. This time it would be a substantial hike."



GDP DATA FOR JUNE QUARTER TO BE RELEASED TODAY

Growth likely between 18-29%: Exports, govt spending key supports on low base

second wave of the

ery is now underway. Barclays

India, which has projected a GDP

growth rate of 21.2 per cent, said,

a stumbling block to the robust

recovery that was underway. Still,

the economic damage appears to

be less than previously expected.

With the second outbreak

brought under control, a rapid re-

covery appears underway." State

Bank of India has projected a

growth rate of 18.5 per cent for

April-June, while Nomura has

projected a growth rate of 29.4

Rise in job postings in IT sector between July 2020 and July 2021 amid

19%: For software roles

8-16%: For other roles

such as project head, engineer

per cent.

The second Covid wave acted as

now underway

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

INDIA'S GROSS Domestic Product (GDP) growth is seen growing to a record high for the April-June quarter as the low base effect of

last year's sharp contraction of 24.4 per cent after the outbreak of the Covid pandemic comes into play. Most economists have projected GDP growth for April-June ranging from 18-29.4 per cent, the data for which will be released officially by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Tuesday.

The country's GDP growth had been slowing for eight quarters after the January-March quarter of 2017-18 financial year, which was exacerbated in the April-June quarter last year, amid the impact of the nationwide lockdown imposed against will show a record high number, economists said the number is deceptively high as private consumption expenditure remains 'GDP EXPECTED TO STAY BELOW PRE-COVID LEVEL'

'DECEPTIVELY HIGH': The GDP, however, is expected to stay below the pre-Covid level. "... the doubledigit expansion expected in YoY terms in Q1 FY2022 is deceptively high, as it benefits inordinately from last year's contracted base" Icra said

RECOVERY UNDERWAY: Some economists said the

low as households savings have dwindled and disposable incomes have shrunk with high expenditure on health and job losses in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Healthy Central and state government capital spending, strong merchandise exports and demand from the farm sector along with the low base effect are expected to support the GDP growth. Some economists stated that the expected damage from the second wave of the pandemic has been less and hence, a recov-

pected in YoY terms in Q1 FY2022 is deceptively high, as it benefits inordinately from last year's contracted base. We forecast the GVA and the GDP to have shrunk by around 9 per cent each in Q1 FY2022, relative to the pre-Covid level of Q1 FY2020, highlighting expected damage from the the tangible distress being experienced by economic agents in pandemic has been less the less formal and contact-intenand, hence, a recovery is sive sectors," Icra said. It expects GDP in April-June to have grown by 20 per cent.

to stay below the pre-Covid level.

"... the double-digit expansion ex-

India Ratings said that the Indian economy had begun to witness a consumption slowdown even before the COVID-19 pandemic hit it. "On an annualised basis, PFCE growth had declined to 5.5 per cent in FY20 from 8.1 per cent in FY17. The decline was even sharper on a quarterly basis where PFCE growth declined to 2 per cent in 4QFY20 from 11.2 per cent in 3QFY17. The lockdown caused by Covid in FY21 only aggravated it as jobs, livelihoods and household budget were se-

The impact of the pandemic

on GDP growth this year has been

more severe in view of the spread

of the pandemic to rural areas.

"Unlike Covid 1.0, which was largely an urban phenomenon, Covid 2.0 spread to rural areas as well. Even if the agricultural output/income remains intact in view of the progress of monsoon so far, rural households are unlikely to loosen their purse strings in view of the Covid induced rise and/or a likely rise in the health expenditure as also the uncertainty/insecurity associated with the likely future waves of Covid. In fact, the largest chunk of the rural population consists of daily wage earners and not farmers. Rural wage growth both for agricultural and non-agricultural activities has declined lately. Wage growth even in urban areas has been muted. In fact, urban households, besides the rise in health expenditure, are facing the double whammy of income loss/ stagnation coupled with high consumer inflation. All this has severely dented their disposable income," it said.

'Ola readies for up to \$1 bn IPO; scanning for banks'

ADITISHAH& **SCOTT MURDOCH**

NEW DELHI/HONG KONG,

AUGUST 30

RIDE-SHARING COMPANY Ola plans to raise up to \$1 billion through an initial public offering (IPO) and is finalising banks to advise on the fundraise, three sources told Reuters, becoming the latest startup to join the capital markets boom. Ola, backed by Japan's Softbank Group, has roped in Citigroup, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

It has also brought Kotak $Mahindra\,and\,Morgan\,Stanley\,on$ board, said two other sources. The company, which competes with Uber Technologies, is also in talks with Bank of America and IP Morgan, one of the people said.

Ola, JP Morgan and Kotak Mahindra did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Bank of America, Citi and Morgan Stanley declined to comment.

Meanwhile, as per a separate report, MapmyIndia, which powers Apple maps in India, will file draft papers for an IPO worth Rs 10-12 billion this week, a source said. **REUTERS**

ting pressure on vehicle manufacturers Almost all automothe outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though the first bile manufacturers have raised prices of their vehicles over the quarter GDP data for this fiscal last six months on account of

Srivastava said prices of steel and copper, which are key input metals, have nearly doubled over the last 15 months and even the price of precious metals, such as rhodium, has risen from around Rs 18,000 per gram to over Rs 64.000 per gram now. "While prices of precious metals have gone up, it is important to note the quantum of precious metal used in vehicles has gone up

since BS-VI switch-over, thus it

At a time when steep rise

has been a double whammy,'

Maruti Suzuki plant in

he said. Commodity prices

have been rising over the last

one year and it has been put-

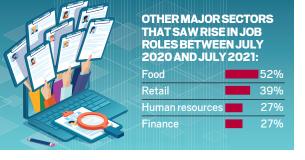
the rising input cost.

Manesar. File

in fuel prices have hit the affordability of running a vehicle, Srivastava feels that the price hike of vehicles will also have an impact on consumer sentiment and revival of demand. "There has been some revival over the last couple of months but it is still far from wherewewere in 2017-18 and 2018-19. While there are worries over the third wave and rising cases in Kerala and parts of Karnataka, monsoon in August has also raised some concerns. The price hike will also have its impact. On the positive side aged by rural demand," he said, adding the chip shortage has

'Overall hiring has touched pre-pandemic level'

Overall hiring activity has reached pre-pandemic baseline (February 2020) level and consumption economy will be key in driving job growth further, an Indeed report said



60% Growth in demand for housekeepers, caretakers, and cleaners amid sharpened focus on hygiene and sanitization for both employers and job seekers

in driving job growth further

Recovery in job market: The reopening of the economy and the efforts by businesses to work around the challenges presented by Covid-19 have pushed the Indian job market towards

demand for retail and food jobs indicates that the consumption economy will play a vital role

Fall in job seekers' interest in July 2020-July 2021:

(-)25%: Aviation (-)19%: Media

(-)8%: Accounting (-)7%: Customer relations

(-)6%: Administration Sectors tied to the reopening of the labour market are leading the

way, giving some hope that these gains can continue going ahead Consumption economy vital: While tech jobs continue to be of high relevance, the renewed

Source: Indeed/PTI

Dovish Fed stance gets Sensex thumbs up

57,200

PPP model of BharatNet: DoT likely to float bids by Sept-end The implementation of

AASHISHARYAN NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has started prebid meetings with various stakeholders with respect to the public-private partnership model implementation for BharatNet. The DoT has so far conducted two meetings and hopes to conduct some more to understand the needs of the projects before releasing the final bids, senior government officials said.

"We have also been taking feedback from some of the states which took the lead on the PPP model under BharatNet phase two. There is a need to understand what will work and what are the hindrances so that optimal utilisation of funds can be done to coma senior DoT official said.

The DoT hopes to come out with the bid for the PPP mode implementation of BharatNet not

Sensex Intra-day, Aug 30

56,889.76

The DoT has conducted 2 meetings and hopes to conduct some more before releasing the final bids, said senior government officials

later by September end, the official said. Earlier this year in June. the Union Cabinet had approved a plan to rope in the private sector to complete the pending work on BharatNet, the Central government's flagship scheme to provide internet connectivity to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country.

As part of the plan, under a PPP model, the concessionaire will be selected through a competitive international bidding process and upgradation, operation, maintenance and utilisation of BharatNet. The revised strategy will be followed in 16 states for now.

BharatNet under PPP model is estimated to cost Rs 29,432 crore, of which the government will spend Rs 19,041 crore as viability gap funding. The PPP model will initially be launched in Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, UP, MP, Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh, with an aim to connect 3.61 lakh villages. The government has created 9 packages among these 16 states, and no player will be allowed to bid for over four packages. A package will be roughly equal to a telecom licensed area or a circle, which can either be a state or group of states.

The Indian Express, in January 2020, reported that with the panchavat internet connectivity scheme floundering at the last mile agencies, the DoT was looking to rope in the private sector to complete pending projects under Phases 1 and 2 of BharatNet

BRIEFLY —

AY21 refunds

New Delhi: The I-T Department has asked taxpayers to "quickly" send an online response to expeditiously process their pending assessment year 2020-21 refunds.

Bank directors Mumbai: The RBI said the

fair value of share-linked incentives paid to CEOs, whole-time directors and other key functionaries by private banks should be recognised as an expense in the relevant accounting period.

Depositinsurance New Delhi: Depositors of

stressed banks will get up to Rs 5 lakh back from November 30 as the government has notified the amendment to the DICGC Act.

Nod to PhonePe

New Delhi: PhonePe said it has received in-principle approval from Irdai to be a broker to sell life and general insurance products.

SFB applications

New Delhi: Tally Solutions Pvt Ltd and Cosmea Financial Holdings Pvt Ltd have applied to the RBI for small finance bank licences.

Sebi ban quashed

New Delhi: The SAT has quashed an order by Sebi that barred Yashovardhan Birla and others from securities market for two years. **PTI**

FUTURE-RELIANCE DEAL

been another area of concern.

Amazon to Sebi: Direct exchanges to withdraw 'observation letters'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AMAZON HAS written to Sebi requesting the regulator to direct stock exchanges to withdraw the 'Observation Letters' that were issued related to the proposed Rs 24,713-crore Future-Reliance deal. It has also urged the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to take necessary action to comply with the recent Supreme Court judgment related to the deal.

In its letter dated August 17, Amazon.com NV Investment Holdings LLC noted that the SC had on August 6 held that the order of the Singapore-based Emergency Arbitrator in the case was an 'order' referable to and made

under Section 17(1) of the Arbitration and Conciliation (A&C) Act. Thus, the arbitration order can be enforced under the provisions

of Section 17(2) of the Act.

In January, Sebi had given its go-ahead to Future Group's sale of assets to Reliance with some riders, based on which the BSE granted its "no adverse observation" report for the Rs 24.713crore deal. The BSE, in its observation letter on January 20, said it has "no adverse observations with limited reference to those matters having a bearing on listing/de-listing/continuous listing requirements within the provisions of Listing Agreement, so as to enable the company (Future) to file the scheme with Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal."

Wall St at record **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**

DOMESTIC STOCK markets on

Monday rallied by 1.36 per cent after the US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said the central bank is not in a hurry to raise interest rates. While the benchmark Sensex surged by 765 points to a new peak of 56,889.76, the Nifty50 shot up 226 points, or 1.35 per cent, to 16,931.05 on sustained buying support.

The rupee also surged by 40 paise to close at 73.29 against the

Meanwhile, US and global equity benchmarks hit all-time highs on Monday, as per a Reuters report. The Dow Jones rose 0.02 per cent to 35,461.80 and the S&P 500 gained 0.56 per cent to 4,534.56 by 02:50 pm ET. Separately, crude oil edged higher on Monday.

8.2% jump in Aug so far: What next? SANDEEPSINGH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

WHILE THE anxiety around the US Federal Reserve's Jackson Hole symposium has subsided, following the chairman's remark on no rush on interest rate hikes, experts said domestic factors such as rise in vaccinations and control in fresh cases would lead to consumption demand and faster recovery of the overall economy, which was providing fresh impetus to the markets.

How much have the markets risen?

EXPLAINED While the Sensex has jumped over 4,300 points, or 8.2 per cent, in August to date, broader indices have joined the rally over the last 10 days, even as they lagged in the

56,800 56.600 6.329.25

> 18, the mid- and smallcap indices have risen 2.3 per cent and 1.7 per cent, respectively, in line with Sensex's gain of 2.3 per cent.

first half of the month. Since August

What is providing strength to the markets?

There is support from global markets. The Dow Jones Industrial was trading in the green. Almost all Asian markets ended higher on Monday. On the domestic front, a control in rise of new Covid cases and an uptick in vaccinations have lifted sentiment. The anxiety around the Fed's Jackson Hole Symposium has also subsided Even as inflows by foreign portfolio investors have remained weak and they invested a net of only Rs 986 crore in August (till Friday), domestic retail and institutional participation has been very strong.

Will the momentum continue? If strong earnings in June quar-

ter provided a boost, an uptick in vaccination, alongside a control in fresh rise of cases, is adding to the improved sentiment. Full report on

www.indianexpress.com

HSBC Asia names Rajnish Kumar independent dir **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** index on Friday rose 0.7 per cent to close at 35,455, and, on Monday, MUMBAI. AUGUST 30

HSBC HAS appointed former State Bank of India Chairman Rajnish Kumar independent non-executive director of its Asia entity. He will also be a member of HSBC's Audit Committee and Risk Committee, Kumar retired from SBI in October 2020.

He is currently a director of India's Lighthouse Communities Foundation, an independent director of Larsen & Toubro Infotech Limited, a senior advisor of Baring Private Equity Asia Pte Ltd in Singapore and an advisor of Kotak Investment Advisors Ltd in Mumbai.

Peter Wong, chairman of Board of HSBC, said: "Rajnish's breadth of experience will be an invaluable addition to the Board of the Group's flagship Asian entity."

Airtel's ₹21K-cr fundraise key to expansion plan

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE BOARD of directors of Bharti Airtel has approved the company's

plan to raise up to Rs 21,000 crore by way of a rights issue. The company's chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal chaired an investor call on Monday to apprise investors of the rights issue.

How a rights issue works

Under company laws, a rights issue is one of the many ways by which a company can raise additional capital when it needs it. A rights issue gives investors



Sunil Bharti Mittal. File

the option, or a right, to buy new shares of the company at a discount to the current market price. This means instead of going to the public at large, only existing shareholders can buy additional shares in the company if they wish to.

Companies also declare a rights entitlement ratio when declaring a rights issue. For example, if a company declares an entitlement ratio of 1:4, it means that for every four shares that a shareholder already has, they can buy one more share in the rights issue. In some cases, if there is a belief

that funds being raised via rights issue are for a positive intent and may help the company in the short or long run, the stock price as well as market capitalisation of the company increases.

Bharti Airtel's plan

Bharti Airtel's board has approved raising up to Rs 21,000 crore by way of the rights issue. For every 14 shares held by an existing shareholder, they will be allowed to purchase one share. This is the third fundraising round by Airtel over the last three years.

With the additional capital, Bharti Airtel is likely to go for expansion of its current capacities.

At the investor call, Mittal explained that the funds raised by the company will give Bharti Airtel the chance to shift gear to next phase of growth and tap opportunities by accelerating investments in the roll out of newer technology such as 5G. Shares of Bharti Airtel closed 5 per cent higher at Rs 625 on Monday on the NSE.

Go Airlines gets Sebi nod for ₹3,600-cr IPO

New Delhi

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

worth Rs 3.600 crore.

GO AIRLINES, which has rebranded itself as 'Go First', has received market regulator Sebi's goahead for an initial public offer

The airline plans to garner up to Rs 3,600 crore through sale of shares, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). It also plans to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore by way of a pre-IPO (initial public offering) placement.

PRE-IPO PLACEMENT

■Go Airlines also plans to raise up to Rs 1,500 crore by way of a pre-IPO (initial public offering) placement.

The carrier, which filed its preliminary papers in May, received its observations on August 26, according to Sebi's latest update on processing status of the draft offer

Aus plans laws for e-wallets by tech giants Sydney: Australia is considering

new laws that would tighten the regulation of digital payment services by tech giants like Apple, Google and WeChat. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, in

a piece in the Australian Financial Review, said he would "carefully consider" recommendations of a government-commissioned report into whether payments system had kept pace with technology advances. Services like Apple Pav. Google Pav and WeChat Pav are not currently designated as payment systems. **REUTERS**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Amit Khurana S/o Late Sh.Ramesh Khurana R/o B-546, First Floor, Avantika Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed the name of my minor son from Kavya Khurana to Kavyansh Khurana for all purposes. 0040582320-3 I Pradeen Kumar Aggarwal S/O. Shri Ratan Lal Aggarwal R/o B-61 1st Floor. Pradhan Appartments, Central Park. Dlf Colony, Bhopura Ghaziabad UP have changed my name to Pardeep Kumar Aggarwal

0040582332-1 I Jammala Ramadevi W/O, B. Benjamin Rao R/o Rzf -10, Gali No 22, Sadh Nagar, Part -ii. Palam Colony, Delhi 110045 have changed my name to Beulah Jasmine Rao for all 0040582331-1

l Karthiyayini Angiah Muthu Shanmuga Sundaram W/O Angiah Santhanaswamy R/O B-85, Sector-41 Noida. Have Changed My Name to Karthiyayini Angiah For Future Purposes.image.gif

purposes.

0070751943-1

I Manav S/o Late Ram Mohan R/o F-235-A, MIG Flats, GTB Enclave, Mandoli, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Manay Vasan for all purposes. 0040582320-4

I,Vandana Gargya W/o Abhishek Shukla R/o D-1404,

Noida(U.P) have changed my name to Vandana Shukla for all future purposes. 0040582333-1 I,Tarlochan Singh S/o Gurbax

Prateek Wisteria Sector-77,

Singh R/o D-89,Sudarshan Park Ramesh Nagar Delhi-110015.changed my name to Trilochan Singh. 0040582354-4

I,Smt.Taja, W/O-Late Ghulam Rasool Malik, Ex-Hav, No-1513635, R/O/,P/O-Sonerwani Bandipora, Tehsil/District-Bandipora. in my husband's service records my name and (DoB) has been wrongly mentioned as Taja Begum (D o B-04-02-1943 instead of Taja (D o B-16-06-1944 as in Aadhaar card. It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities within seven days.

I,PARVEEN JOSHI,W/o SUNIL JOSHI,R/O PLOT.NO.F-21,WZ-76, THIRD FLOOR, STREET, NO.1. OPP.METRO PILLAR.NO.345, RATAN-PARK, RAMESH-NAGAR.NEW DELHI-110015, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME.FROM PARVEEN KUMARI TO PARVEEN JOSHI. 0040582378-3

I,Jaspreet Singh s/o Jasbir Singh Tikka, R/O A-274 Defence

changed my name to Jaspreet Singh Tikka, permanently. 0040582354-7 I.Hariinder Prasad Pawar S/o Ram Jeevan R/o-329/20, Gali

colony New Delhi-110024.have

No.4,Nai Basti Bahadurgarh Jhaiiar Harvana-124507 changed my name to 0040582354-5 I,Gobinda Agarwalla,S/o

Hariram Agarwalla, R/o House.No.3A/81,WEA, Sat Nagar, Karol-Bagh, New Delhi-110005, have changed my name to Gobinda Agarwala,S/o Hariram Agarwala, For all, future 0040582378-5

I.FAIZAAN KHAN,S/o Firoz Khan,R/o A-446,DDA-Colony,Khyala,District-West Delhi, New Delhi-110018.Declare that name of My father and mother name wrongly-written as FEROZ KHAN & AYESHA in my 12"Class Secondary-School Examination,2019 Certificate.No.2268103.The actual-name of my father and my mother as Firoz Khan & Asha, Which may be amended accordingly.

I, R.A Singh R/o-6-A MIG,Flats

0040582378-2

0040582354-6

Ashok Vihar-3 Delhi-52,changed my minor granddaughter's name Baby Sisodiya to Bhaanu Sisodia. 0040582354-9

I, Ashok Kumar alias Ashok Kumar Tara,S/o Sh.Narain Das.R/o I-45 Lal Kuan.MB Road, New Delhi-110044, have changed my name to Ashokk

I.Aniali Kumari.W/O Abhishek Kumar Shukla, R/O A-045, Omicron-2, Greater Noida Gautam Buddha-Nagar, Uttar-Pradesh-201308, Have Changed my Name Anjali Shukla. 0040582354-1

I.ASHA SHARMA.W/O PRADEEP KUMAR SHARMA, HO.NO. 201, SAI NIWARA BHARAT VIHAR.SECTOR-14.DWARKA. DELHI-110078, changed my

name to PALAK DOGRA.

0040582378-4

I.ABDUL MANNAN.S/O ABDUL AZIZ GAZI R/O-2853, Gali Shankar,Behind Kalan Masiid.Sita Ram Bazar.Delhi-110006, Have changed my name to ABDUL MANNAN 0040582378-1

I, Samsuddin S/o Hamid Khan,R/o B-158, Gali.No.19, Maan Singh Nagar, Old-Mustafabad, Delhi-110094,have changed my name to Shamsuddin.

0040582354-8

I, Yogendra Singh Yadav, S/o Ram Karan Singh, R/o E-130/1, Lajpat Nagar, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad U.P., declare that in my Army Documents my Son's name is wrongly mentioned as Prashant Kumar instead of Prashant Yadav. 0070751939-1

L Vinkal Kumar, R/o Flat C-602. The Crescent, Plot F2, Sector 50, Noida, UP-201303, have changed my minor child's name from Tanisha to Tanisha

, Ramneet Ray Chaudhari, D/o-Late Satnam Singh Bhatia, R/o-Plot No-1069, Flat.No-G-1, Niti Indirapuram,Ghaziabad, U.P-201014.have changed my name to Ramneet Kaur

Bhatia, forever. 0040582354-3

I, Nirana Ram R/o Vill and Post-Bharang, distt- Churu, Rajasthan-331302 have changed my minor daughter name aged 14 years from Pratibha Choudhary to PRATIBHA SAHARAN

0070751942-1

I. Mohit Kumar, S/o Hari Krapal Singh, R/o Village-Kayatha, Post- Kayatha, Firozabad, UP-283203, have changed my name to MOHIT CHAUHAN for all future purposes. 0070751940-1

I, Harpreet Singh Arora, S/o-Parminder Singh Residing-10A/31,Upper Ground Floor, East Patel Nagar, Delhi.have changed my name to Harpreet Singh,for all 0040582354-2

I, Hari Kripal Singh S/o Ram Babu Singh R/o. Village-Kayatha, Post - Kayatha, Firozabad, UP-283203, have changed my name to HARI KRAPAL SINGH for all future 0070751941-1

I, Azra,W/o Imran Baig,R/o 1390. Haveli Kalukhawas Chitli Qaber,Delhi-110006,have changed my name to Azra Begum, for all future purposes.

0040582354-10

I Vijaya Bhandari S/o Ram Prasad R/O-63-A, Surya Vihar Part-2, Faridabad-121003 have changed my name to Bijaya

I Tarun S/O, Kailash Yadav R/o H.no 128, Gali No.26 Block B Jawahar Coloney Nit Faridabad With Affidavit No.49aa 903785 have changed my name to 0040582330-1 Tarun Yadav

I Amit S/o Anup Singh R/o H no 56, Prahladpur bangar delhi- 42 have changed my name to Amit Kumar 0070751984-1

LOST AND FOUND

Lost oringinal share certificate no-380/22 Phase value of rs.100/-of Tej pal singh S/o Shri.Nathu Ram mamber.no-72 D-19 Adarsh-Bhawan CGHS Ltd.sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085 on.25/8/21FIR registered online vide S.O No 430/2014,Delhi police.on.27/8/21.If found call-9968070760. 0040582378-6

I have lost my IDBI Bonds. (1) Folio No. - DDO-0494386, DDO-0674440, DDO-0494384, DDO-0494383, DDO-0494385, If Found please contact Ravinder Kumar Bhatia. email-

kabhatia@gmail.com, Mob-9810980868 0050183307-1 I PAWAN CHOWDHRI W/O MR. lost the Original General Power of Attorney dated 9th February, 2005 of my property SPACE/UNIT NO.D-16-A, ON FIRST FLOOR, PLOT NO.3, IN BLK-

D, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW

DELHI in case found, please contact at above address. 0040582320-1

I Kamlesh Chawla D/o Mohan Lal Aimani have lost my Share Certificate of Property No. 430 Bhera Enclave Paschim Vihar Delhi issued in the name of Satish Kapoor, and SanctionedLetter of Building Plan Property No.430 Bhera Enclave, Paschim Vihar, Delhi Dt 29/11/2004 issued in the name of kamlesh chawla by the MCD vide LR number:631733/2021 DT

29/8/2021 Finder Contact 9811821430. 0040582354-11 I BHUPINDER CHOWDHRI S/O MR. SUNDER CHOWDHRI have

lost the Original General Power of Attorney dated 9th February, 2005 of my property SPACE/UNIT NO.D-16-B, ON FIRST FLOOR.PLOT NO.3, BLK-D. CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI, in case found, please contact at above address.

0040582320-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Ram Rattan Vashisht S/O Diwa ngh Vashisht and Wife Madhu Sha V/O Shri Ram Rattan Vashisht R/O -26/83, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085 hereby disown/debar their son Priv art Vashista, his wife Manisha Vashis art Vashista, his wife Manisha Vashista drandsard from their I dorandson Anyaart Washista from their I movable and Immovable properties and vered all relations from them, anybody alling with them, will do at his own costs dirisks. My above named clients will not responsible for any act, deed Or dealing by in past or in future.

S.K. Gupta (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Promila Malhotra I/o Late Sh. Ram Lal Malhotra R Z-206F, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 has lebarred/disowned her both debarred/disowned her both aughters Smt. Neeraj Alagh W/ Sh. Dinesh Alagh & Smt. Rajni Khanna W/o Sh. Pawan Khanna om her family & all her movable rom ner family & all ner movable mmovable properties & assets wit immediate effect due to their certain misdeeds. Any person dealing with them shall do so at leir own risk & cost. My client sha mot be responsible for the same in

Adv Ishvinder Singh, K-23 Fateh Nagar, Delhi 9811773177

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

haw S/o Sh. Raja Ram and Mrs. Sang evi W/o Mr. Amit Shaw both R/o H 382/178, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Pura-E 2382/178, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Pura-B, Nagar, Delhi- 110035 have disowned served their all relations with their son Arnav Gupta presently resides at H. I 2382/178, 2nd Floor, Ganesh Pura-B, Nagar, Delhi- 110035 due to his bad, a social & uncivilized behavior and attitu. wards my clients and other fam embers. My clients have also debarn n from all their moveable and immovab ssets & properties. Anybody deals w im shall be responsible him/her self an by clients shall not be responsible for h

PUBLIC NOTICE e it known to all that my client Sh aresh Kumar s/o Shri Mohan L 110083 has severed his relations with his son VIKRANT aged about 2-years and his daughter in law RACHNA WIFE OF VIKRANT aged oout 25 years and debarred and sowned both of them from all his lue to their unsocial and mi ehavior. That my client will no esponsible in future for their any act Sd/- Sandeep Dabas (Ad Dharma Complex, Main Rohta Road, Opp. Nangloi Metro Statio

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nangloi, Delhi- 110041

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that our clients Mr. Jugal Kishor Chawla and Ms. Mamta Chawla both resident of Satya Niketan Moti Bagh, New Delhi have disowned their son Mr. Hitesh Chawla and his wife Ms. Sonam Chawla from their movable and immovable properties and have out off their famel relations from both due to their disobedient and quarrelsome nature and our clients will/shall not be responsible for any acts and actions of Mr. Hitesh and Ms. Sonam in any manner. That anyone transacting any business with Mr. Hitesh and Ms. Sonam shall be doing at his/her own risk. t his/her own risk. Sd/- VIDUR SIKKA (Advocate) D-1036/02

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to the PUBLIC at large that Ms. Shipra Arora D/o Sh. PK Arora R/o No. N-115, 2nd Floor Northern Side, Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi-110048 (OWNER) is selling the said Property. A public notice dated 17.08.21 was published seeking written objections. In the absence of any written objections having been received, the Owner is proceeding with the sale of

the said property.
Pranav Proothi,Advocate Ph. No.: +91-9560205151

PUBLIC NOTICE It is hereby informed to all general public th my client Sh. Dilip Singh S/o Lt. Sh. Kesar SIn & Smt. Mohinder Kaur W/o Sh. Dilip Singh bo R/o I/40A, Moti Nagar, Near Durga Mata Manc Smt. Mohinder Kaur Witz Burder Maddir, ob 1640A, Moh Magar, Near Durge Mata Mandir, ew Delhi-10015, had disinherited/disowned heir daughter Smt. Paramjet Kaur Wio Sh. Zharanjeet Singh & her son laspreet Singh from all their moveable & Immoveable properties & assets vide Public Notice Dated 09.12.2020 in Times of India & Jansatta Newspapers. Hereinafter whatspeer matter has beer Hereinafter whatspeer matter has beer

PUBLIC NOTICE: That my client Smt.Saroj Malik Wife of Sh.Dalveer Malik Residents O BZ-62, Q3, Dabri Extn, Main Palam Palam Village, New Delhi-45, have disowned and debarred her swaven Malik with his wife Kavits from all myself acquired, movable ind immovable properties have severed all relation with him with immediate effect and all marita obligation stands suspended since ong due to their wrong activities Any persons dealing with him shal do so at their own costs and risk.

AJAY KUMAR ADVOCATE AJAY KUMAR ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE Nagar, North-West Delhi- 110035 have severed all relations/connections and disowned her son Mohd. Sadiqeen from all her movable, immovable properties due to misbehavior, harassment and cruelty committed by him against my client. Anybody dealing with him about 10 to 4 their crue ricks and the control of th vith him shall be at their own risks and consequences. My client shall be in no av responsible for his acts, deeds an

NAGAR, NEW DELHI-59

Abhishek Chaterjee (Advocate Ch. No. F-619, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-32.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

Public at large are hereby informed that my ilient Smt. Nirmala wife of Shri Ram Roop, currently residing at E-182 Rama Vihar, E Block, Mohammad Pur Majir, Karala, North Vest Delhi, Delhi-110081 intends to mortgage West Delhi, Delhi-110081 intends to mortgage its property bearing number E-182 Rama Whar. E Block, Mohammad Pur Majri, Karala, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110081 (Property) with Hero Housing Finance Private Limited having there registered office at 07, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057. Any person, who has got, rights, interest, title, claim, encumbrances, charges of any nature whatsoever in respect of the above sald Property or any part thereof, can send their bjections with their documentary evidence at below address within 15 days from the date of bublication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that the said Property in entirely is free from all such claims, interest, charges, programmages de-

Ravi Sachdeva (Advocate) JRS Associates, B-88, Sector 40, Noida -201301 Dist: Gautam Budh Nagar (UP)

PUBLIC NOTICE Kaur has lost her entire orignal file of Shor

No. 14, LSC C Block, DDÅ Market Vikas Puri. File Containing (Vide file no. F12/127/93/CE). 1. Orignal allotment cum Demand Letter. 2. DDÅ Possession Letter. 3. Site Possession. 4. Electric and Water NOC. 5. All Bank Challan etc. and all orignal chain of property like GPA, agreement to sell, Will, Receipt, Affidavits etc. If someone found it please inform at 9810802959 within 15 days. Whosoever misuse it will be liable for legal action our misuse it will be liable for legal action ou client would not be held liable for it. MANOJ MITTAL (ADVOCATE Ch. No. F-623, Karkard

Delhi-110032 PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to General Public that my client Sh. Purushotam Khushwaha S/o Lt. Radhy Shyam R/o H.151, J-Block, Dakshinpuri, New Delhi-110062, have severed all relations with his daughters namely (1)Smt. Chander Prabha, W/o Ashok Kumar & her all children & (2) Hemlata D/o Purushottam Khushwaha, disowned both of them from all his movable and immovable properties and also from other consideration of any kind whatsoever may be related to them, my client shall not be responsible for any act/acts deeds done by them in any

PRABHU DAYAL (Advocate

W Callery

For All Advertisement Booking

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. KMML (A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) (An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company,

Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691 583 Kollam, Kerala, India, Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217. Fax: +91-0476-2680101. Email: contact@kmml.com , URL:www.kmml.com

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

1 2021_KMML_436058 1 For fabrication and Supply of

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com Tender ID

Condensing Column Cooler E204-205 Chavara 30.08.2021 sd/-, DGM(Mtls) For The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Sillimanite

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike No.SADH(WEST)/TEND/PR/01/2021-22

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), BBMP, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003. Date: 30-08-2021

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT) (Two-Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only) The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West)

(Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eliaible and experienced Persons/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks, Medians and engaging Labour for Shredder, Providing Security. Supplying of Water, Cleaning and Maintenance to Toilets in Parks and Borewell Maintenance. Ward No and Estimated Cost

SI.	Ward No. and	Estimated Cost	Category
No.	Area	(In Rs.)	Outegory
	Park Mainter	nance	
1	35 - Aramanenagar	1,48,44,000/-	Others
2	36 - Mathikere	5,92,000/-	Others
3	45 - Subedarpalya	3,92,000/-	Others
4	64 - Rajmahal Guttahalli	13,13,000/-	ST
5	65 - Kadu Malleshwara	6,95,000/-	SC
6	66 - Subramanya Nagar	43,60,000/-	Others
7	77 - Dattatreya Temple	26,04,000/-	Others
8	94 - Gandhinagara	1,73,07,000/-	Others
9	96 - Okhalipuram	6,54,000/-	Others
10	120 - Cottonpete	3,11,000/-	Others
11	121 - Binnypete	4,51,000/-	Others
12	136 - J.J. Nagar	3,35,000/-	Others
13	137 - Rayapura	8,68,000/-	Others
14	139 - K.R. Market	3,72,000/-	Others
15	140 - Chamarajpet	12,27,000/-	Others
16	141 - Azadnagar	2,70,000/-	Others
17	67 - Nagapura	93,00,000/-	Others
18	43 - Nandini Layout	43,27,000/-	Others
19	44 - Marappana Palya	20,45,500/-	Others
20	68 - Mahalakshmipuram	37,36,500/-	SC
21	74 - Shakthi Ganapathi Nagar	19,01,000/-	SC
22	75 - Shankar Mutt	36,29,000/-	-
23	102 - VrushabhavathInagara	3,86,000/-	Others
24	97 - Dayananda Nagar	2,79,000/-	Others
25	98 - Prakash Nagara	45,35,000/-	Others
26	99 - Rajajinagar	32,15,000/-	ST
27	100 - Basaveshwaranagar	24,06,000/-	Others
28	101 - Kamakshipalya	16,79,000/-	ST
29	107 - Shivnagar	19,56,000/-	SC
30	108 - Sri Rama Mandira	13,38,000/-	Others
31	103 - Kaverlpura	31,39,000/-	Others
32	104 - Govindarajanagar	22,61,000/-	SC
33	105 - Agrahara Dasarahalli	50,10,000/-	Others
34	106 - Dr. Raj Ward	28,41,000/-	Others
35	125 - Marenahalli	23,12,000/-	Others
36	126 - Maruthi Mandira	36,06,000/-	Others
37	127 - Mudalapalya	9,37,000/-	Others
38	128 - Nagarabhavi	64,61,000/-	Others
39	131 - Nayandahalli	81,32,000/-	Others
	Security		
40	65 - Malleshwaram	63,41,000/-	Others

0		,,	
37	127 - Mudalapalya	9,37,000/-	Others
38	128 - Nagarabhavi	64,61,000/-	Others
39	131 - Nayandahalli	81,32,000/-	Others
	Security	/	
40	65 - Malleshwaram	63,41,000/-	Others
41	94 - Gandhinagar	38,05,000/-	Others
42	140 - Chamarajpet	33,82,000/-	SC
43	68 - Mahalaksmipuram	38,05,000/-	Others
44	99 - Rajajinagar	54,96,000/-	Others
45	104 - Govindarajanagar	1,05,69,000/-	Others
46	64 - Malleshwaram	4,23,000/-	Others
	Maintenance of E	Borewells	
47	65 - Malleshwaram	16,67,000/-	Others
48	94 - Gandhinagar	10,75,200/-	Others
49	140 - Chamarajpet	4,30,100/-	SC
50	68 - Mahalaksmipuram	29,57,000/-	Others

52 104 - Govindarajanagar 26,88,000/-SC **Providing Cleaning and Maintenance Services to Toilet in Park** 53 65 6.08.000/- Others

12,36,500/-

51 99 - Rajajinagar

- Malleshwaram

			-,,	
54	94	- Gandhinagar	3,10,000/-	ST
55	140	- Chamarajpet	6,08,000/-	Others
56	68	- Mahalaksmi	20,08,000/-	Others
57	99	- Rajajinagar	12,08,000/-	SC
58	104	- Govindarajanagar	44,98,000/-	Others
59	64	- Malleshwaram	6,08,000/-	Others
		Watering	g	
60	65	- Malleshwaram	14,86,000/-	Others
61	94	- Gandhinagar	14,86,000/-	ST
62	140	- Chamarajpet	14,86,000/-	Others
63	68	- Mahalakshmipuram	14,86,000/-	SC
64	99	- Rajajinagar	14,86,000/-	Others
65	104	- Govindarajanagar	14,86,000/-	SC

65 104 - Govindarajanagar Earnest Money deposit (EMD) declaration: Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Notification: 30-08-2021. (2) Tender can be downloaded from: 08-09-2021. (3) Tender Closing Date: 20-09-2021, 4:00 p.m. (4) Technical bid opening Date: 21-09-2021, 4:00 p.m. onwards. (5) Financial Bid Opening Date: **27-09-2021** if possible. Further particulars can be obtained rom the above office during working hours on working days or rom website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.ln

Sd/-, Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West), Malleshwaram, BBMP.







'IMPORTANT

advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contants. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any oss or damage incurred as a result transactions with companies, associations or individuals adversing in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DELHI(DRT 3)4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Case No.: 0A/1053/2019
Summons under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, read with sub-rule (2A) of rule 5 of the Debt Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.

Exh. No.: 3226
INDIAN BANK VS M/S GOLDY SPORTS AND ORS

1) DEEPA BATRA B 59 GROUND FLOOR OLD RAJINDER NAGAR DELHI CENTRAL, DELHI-110060 2) MANJU ARORA

28/79 II AND III FLOOR WEST PATEL NAGAR DELHI CENTRAL, DELHI-110008 SUMMONS

NHEREAS, OA/1053/2019 was listed before Hon'ble Presiding Officer/Registrar or 12/04/2021.

NHEREAS this Hon'ble Tribunal is pleased to issue summons/ notice on the said Application under section 19(4) of the Act, (OA) filed against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 10089223.00/- (application along with copies of documents etc. annexed). In accordance with sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Act, you, the defendants are directed

i) to show cause within thirty days of the service of summons as to why relief prayed for should not be granted;

(ii) to disclose particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the original application; (iii) you are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets

and properties disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application, pending nearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties; (iv) you shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of his business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/ or other assets

and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of the Tribunal; v) you shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realised by sale of secured assets of

other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the bank or financial institutions holding security nterest over such assets. You are also directed to file the written statement with a copy thereof furnished to the applicant and to appear before Registrar on 27/09/2021 at 10:30A.M. failing which the

application shall be heard and decided in your absence. Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose: - (i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/software; (ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing gua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head. (iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph.No.23748469.

Signature of the Officer Authorised to issue su



Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 25/08/2021.

Biomedical Equipment Maintenance. The Managing Director, Punjab Health Systems Corporation (PHSC) hereby invites online bids from eligible bidders for hiring of Service provider for Maintenance of Biomedical Equipment installed at various government health facilities

across the State of Punjab upto the level of the PHCs.

managerprocphsc@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Proposals

For hiring of Service provider for

2. Further details regarding the eligibility criteria and other Terms and Conditions for the above Rate Contract are given in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tendering process shall be carried out online through https:// eproc.punjab.gov.in. For any clarifications/difficulty regarding e-tendering process, please contact 0172-2791326, 0172-2791226,

3. Corrigendum/Addendum/Corrections, if any, will be published on the website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

The schedule of major activities/ KEY DATA in this regard is

	as under :-	
	Availability of the RFP document on website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in	From 01.09.2021 to 22.09.2021 till 11:00am
	Date, time and place of Pre-bid conference	07.09.2021 at 11:00 am in the Committee Room of PHSC and through V.C
	Last date & time for Submission of Bids online	22.09.2021 till 11.30 am.
	Last date and time for submission of hard copies of EMD and Tender fee in the PHSC Office.	22.09.2021 till 04:30 pm in procurement section of this office.
	Time & date of opening of Bids (technical bids)	23.09.2021 at 11:30 am.

The Managing Director, PHSC, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagai (Mohali) reserves the rights to accept/reject any or all the bid(s) without assigning any reason.

Sd/-**Managing Director**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our

e-TENDER NOTICE No.03/CAO/C/ SC/ST/21-22 Dated:27.08.2021

The following tenders are invited b the undersigned for and on behalf of the President of India for Manufacture and Supply of the following track material to South Central Bailway (Construction) through e

e-Tender No. 03-SCRCON PWST 2021. Description of Material & Quantity: Supply of At welding porting (with standard set of consumables) for welding of 60 Kg (UIC)/60 E1, R260 rails with 60 KG (UIC)/60E1, 90 UTS rails (Combination weld) as per RDSO specifications - 1000 Nos. Tender Value (in Rs.): 35,00,000.00. Due date of closing & Time: 20.09.2021 @ 15.00 hrs.

The above tender has been floated through e-procurement.

Offers received from vendors approved by RDSO only will be

All the vendors are requested to obtain Class-3 Digital Signature Certificates from any licensed certifying authority and register with IREPS. For this purpose, they have to

log on to www.ireps.gov.in. Vendors are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in. →SCRly./Con and submit their offers It may be noted that offers submitted manually or on paper will not be

accepted. Offers sent by post also will not be entertained.

Tender closing time is 15.00 hrs of the due date of tender i.e. 20.09.2021.

Note: New vendors, where an application for registration with IREPS will appear. In case of any difficulty in registering, they can contact the 'Help Desk' in the website.

Chief Administrative Officer/Const. Stores/Secunderabad

TENDER NOTICE No.48 to 51-DRM-W-HYB dt.27.08.2021

On behalf of the President of India Divisional Railway Manager/Works Hyderabad Division, South Centra Railway, Secunderabad invites Oper Tenders for the following works through e-procurement upto 15.00 hours of 20.09.2021.

S.No.1. Tender No: 48-DRM-W

HYB. Name of work: HYB Division SC - DHNE section: Ancillary works for working with BCM under the jurisdiction of DEN/Lines/HYB (20 Kms). Approx. Value Rs. 10394246/-S.No. 2. Tender No: 49-DRM-W-HYB. Name of work: Annua

maintenance of existing lawns/garder in Central Hospital/Lallaguda Jogging Park area, IRISET Eco park area, Kalarang area and Lancer colony park etc. for a period of 2 years Approx. Value Rs.: 6657853/-S.No. 3. Tender No : 50-DRM-W HYB. Name of work: Annual maintenance of existing lawns/ garden in officers bungalows No.102

to152, 99/1, 302, 303, 92, 22,1003, 410, 411,1001,1002, 531 at SLGD B.N.606/1 at Lancer colony B.N.607 to 614 at GOC area B.N.615 to 622,625/2 & 626/1 at Rail Nilayam Colony for a period of 2 years Approx. Value Rs.: 9126860/-S.No. 4. Tender No : 51-DRM-W-HYB Name of work: Mudkhed .In. Secunderabad Jn.- TRR(S) - 2.100 km. Secunderabad Jn.-Dhone Jn. CTR(S) - 0.200 km, TRR(S)- 4.880 km

& TSR(S) - 0.660 km (Yard Lines) and Wadi - Secunderabad Jn. (Yard Lines) - CTR(S) - 1.570 km TRR(S) - 0.760 km (Work to be executed to Secunderabad Jn.-Dhone Jn. TRR(S) of 07 Loop Lines for a length of 4.88 Km only) **Approx. Value** Rs.:5046183/-

For further details visit the website www.ireps.gov.in Divisional Railway Manager/Works

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at

https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Uttar Pradesh Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitisa Vigyan Vishwavidhyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura (U.P.) -281001.

Advertisement No.01/2021

Date: Aug 31, 2021

FACULTY RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT-2021 Applications from citizens of India, on prescribed forms, are

S.No.	Name of the Post	Pay and level in the pay matrix	Number of Posts
1	Professor	(Pay Rs. 144200-218200 Leval-14)	10
2	Associate Professor	(Pay Rs. 131400-217100 Leval-13A)	14
3	Assistant Professor	(Pay Rs.57700-182400 Level 10)	26

invited by the University for filling up the following posts.

For more details please visit university website www.upvetuniv.edu.in. The last date of submission of application forms is 30-09-2021.

RAGISTRAR

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, PIU NIRAMAN BHAWAN, Plot No. 27-28, Area Hills, BHOPAL PHONE No. 0755-2559571 E-mail:- apdpiubhopal@gmail.com

S. No.	Tender Portal No.	Name of work	District	Probable Amount Contract (Rs. in lakhs)	Money Deposit (EMD) (in Rs.)	Bid Document (in Rs.)	Period of completion (In months i/c Rainy Season)
1	2 2021_PWPIU_ 156339_1	3 CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING PROJECT OF 100 BEDDED DISTRICT HOSPITAL AT HARDA IN DISTRICT HARDA OF M.P.	4 Harda	5 1478.25	6 1000000	30000	8 18 month i/c Rainy season
2	2021_PWPIU_ 156446_1	CONSTRUCTION OF MINOR ORIGINAL WORK / LEFT OVER WORK BY THE CONTRACTOR AND WORK UNDER PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE OF BUILDINGS FROM THE DEPOSITS OF ORIGINAL CONTRACTOR UNDER PIU HOSHANGABAD DIVISION (ZONAL CONTRACT)	Hoshangabad	114.55	114550	12500	12 month i/c Rainy season
3	2021_PWPIU_ 156440_1	MINOR ORIGINAL WORK/LEFT OVER WORK BY THE CONTRACTOR AND WORK UNDER PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE OF BUILDINGS FROM THE DEPOSITS OF ORIGINAL CONTRACTOR UNDER PIU RAISEN DIVISION	Raisen	114.55	114550	12500	12 month i/c Rainy season

Bid Document(s) can be purchased after making online payment of portal fees through Credit/Debit/Cash Card/inter

Banking.

The Bid Document(s) can be purchased only online from 10:30 (time) 23.08.2021 (date) to 17.30 (time) 06.09.2021 (date). Other key dates may be seen in Bid Data Sheet.

Amendment(s) to NIT, if any, shall be published on website only, and not in new

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी. टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपनाना दो गज दूरी। ADDITIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR G-16198/21

New Delhi

PWD PIU BHOPAL

Pant in corridor of uncertainty Indian cricket loses its margdarshak

Indecision about when to attack and when to defend has left youngster confused

SANDIP G AUGUST 30

WHAT IS eating Rishabh Pant? It could be Ollie Robinson getting him four times in five outings. Or the back-of-length trajectory from over the stumps that slants across him. Or could be his decision to station himself too far outside the crease. Or it could be his eagerness to influence a match. Or it could be one reason leading

Let's start with Pant's travails against Robinson. On three of the four occasions, he got out prodding at a back-of-length delivery angled across him. Often, he got out to balls he could have left alone. With Robinson bowling quite wide off the crease there was slim chance of the ball creeping back or even holding its line. Yet, the batsman couldn't resist the attempts at playing at those.

Pant was dealing with similar deliveries, albeit at a quicker pace, in Australia fairly comfortably. Maybe, an adjustment that several batsmen make in England standing outside the crease to smother the swing better — might have contributed to exacerbating this vulnerability.

The benefits of this ploy are many — the ball has less distance to traverse before reaching the batsman, which could reduce the assistance a bowler gets in the air. It could force the bowler to shorten his length as well as change the trajectory and the release point of the ball. The flipside is that it makes batsmen, especially left-handers, just a touch unsure of the off-stump. More often than not, a batsman ends up playing at deliveries, he would have otherwise left alone.

Maybe, that explains Pant's indecision outside off-stump and the consequent flirtations with deliveries that he could have left.

More than a technical glitch, it's his frantic approach that has been at the heart of his slump. The seven-ball blowout in the second innings in Leeds was a classic case study. The very first ball he faced, he sashayed down the track and attempted to heave Anderson out of the ground. He missed, yet did not surrender. The next over, he pulled out a repeat, off Robinson, and gloriously failed. Four balls later, he reached out to a wide ball and edged to third slip. If counterpunching was his intention, Pant failed miserably.

Since landing in England for the World Test Championship final, Pant has struggled. The 41 in the second innings of the WTC match best sums up his neither-here-northere approach. There were times in that innings he looked to knuckle down, even resisting boundary balls, before, in a burst of madness, he would attempt a reverse-lap



Ollie Robinson has dismissed Rishabh Pant four times in five innings. AP

or brazenly come down the track to Kyle Jamieson. Pant veered between extremes.

Man of his own methods

Someone like Pant shall always live and die by the sword, his best and worst moments would be entwined in his shothappy ways, but here he had looked too hurried and jumpy, going either too hard or too timidly at the ball, as if the old defend-or-destroy dilemma had relapsed. Just at a time when it had seemed that he had cracked the code of batting in Tests and seemed to genuinely enjoy the challenges it threw up.

Even beneath his audacious strokes, like reverse-lapping James Anderson over the slip cordon en route to his last Test hundred, there was genuine method in his approach. Even in that innings of blinding stroke-play, he bade his time. It was not chancy chancing of arms but an intelligently-constructed innings. He had absorbed 82 wary balls to reach his half-century, before accelerating and rounding off his second half-century in 33 more deliveries. It was his rewarding blueprint in Australia too. In Brisbane, he was 11 off 33 balls, then 34 off 72, before ending up on 89 off 138 balls. There was a particular phase when he blocked 20 scoreless balls. In Sydney where he scored 97 off 118 balls, he was at one stage just five off 34.

More instructive is how he went about

those innings. Of those 34 balls, he defended 14 times, left seven times, and the rest comprised taps and dabs to point and cover and nudges to mid-on. He played and missed, but not when attempting an extravagant shot, but when looking to defend. Not even the offie Nathan Lyon, against whom he eked out two runs off 16 balls in the phase, broke his resolve to stick around. Not a single reckless stroke he contrived Later in the innings, Pant didn't spare the off-spinner though, and launched a scathing onslaught on Australia's secondmost prolific spinner ever. In Brisbane too, he attempted nothing extravagant until the 41st ball he faced, when he tried to swing wildly at a tossed-up Nathan Lyon ball.

He did counterpunch, but picked the situations and the bowlers.

It's this clarity of thought, the awareness of the ripest moment to dial the big shots, that has been missing from Pant's game in England. It's not that he should temper his batting, eschew risks completely, but reacquaint with the maturity that his batting had blazed in Australia and later against England in India.

A time when the madness and methods of his batting aligned in harmonious symmetry. It's this harmonious symmetry that he would look to reconquer when he reaches the venue of his first Test hundred, three years ago. And it's not Robinson that's eating him, rather his own cluttered mind.

SRIRAM VEERA

MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

OF ALL the vignettes that capture the influence of Vasoo Paranjpe, a club cricketer, mentor, coach, and margdarshak to so many cricketers from Sunil Gavaskar to Rohit Sharma, it's Ramesh Powar's tears that tell the story. It appears in Jatin Paranjpe's heartfelt ode to his father, 'The Cricket Drona for the love of Vasoo Paranjpe', a book of gratitude from many cricketers whose lives he touched, shaped and formed before retreating silently into the shadows.

Powar breaks down as he recounts his emotional debts to his "sir". The young Powar had lost his father, his brain addled with self-doubts, his soul weary of the game when Paranjpe came calling. "While I thought I was a nobody, Vasoo Sir had faith in me. I won't call him my guru, because a guru is someone who just teaches you. To me, he is much more than that: a guiding light that appeared in my life at the right time. Without him, I would have been nowhere," Powar sobs in the presence of the co-author Anand Vasu.

It's a familiar theme in the life of Paranjpe: A flamboyant character who first awes people and later becomes their Jambavan, the mythical character from Ramayana who made Hanuman realise his capabilities and motivated him to fly across

It was Paranjpe who Sachin Tendulkar thanks for his early climb up the cricketing ladder, "Yeh lagne wala player nahi, Lagane wala player hai," Tendulkar recalls Paranjpe's words to the late Raj Singh Dungarpur which convinced the board president to take a leap of faith on a 16-year old. It was Paranjpe who told a 14-year old Rahul Dravid, who was playing as a second wicket-keeper who could bat a bit, that "you are going to play for India but not as a wicketkeeper".

It was Paranjpe who first recognised and made Anil Kumble, who had come to a camp as a batsman, realise that he could be a good leg spinner instead. The book has an extremely cute letter from a 17-year old Kumble to his "dear sir" where he informs about his admission to an engineering college – "One of the best in Bangalore", an ankle injury and typhoid that disrupted his cricketing season and ends with "I hope I will make up for the loss this year. Wishing you a very happy New Year". It tells so much about trust, love, and openness in the rela-

Hopeful novices and grizzly veterans turned to him for validation and direction. It's Paranjpe whom Gavaskar turned for clarity in his career, apologising for a bad shot with a promise he would make up in the next - a cracking double hundred against



Vasoo Paranjpe was instrumental in shaping the careers of Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar and Rohit Sharma. PTI

West Indies in 1983. Only Paranjpe can comment with authority about Gavaskar, a great batsman with almost unparalleled achievements: "He still couldn't do justice, I believe, to his stroke-making talents." Or ... "It has been remarked that Sunny did not always face the best bowling attacks. For my part, I always believed Sunny could play a convincing innings against any formidable attack." A compliment that almost reads like a sigh about what could have been about a batsman who first broke the 10,000-run barrier. He knew which buttons to press, how to tailor it according to the stature of the players. Whom to inspire by talking them up, who to inspire by reminding they could do more.

Father figure to Rohit Sharma

In his tribute in the book, Rohit Sharma calls Paranipe as his "father figure". Impressed with what he saw in the nets, Paranjpe had a quiet word with the captain and drafted Sharma in the U-17 team. And kept shaping his game in the ensuing years. Sharma writes about how he would ask, "anything?", and would eagerly await Paranjpe's feedback about his game even in the latter days. "When I look back, I realize how shrewdly Sir had forged the path that led me to the world stage of cricket. I was not from a big club or a big school or a college team. I was an outlier. But Sir's recommendations to Pravin Amre. Kiran More and Dilip Vengsarkar got people talking about me, and I delivered on that promise. Without Sir by my side in those early years, I would not have been able to achieve as much as I fortunately have.'

Former India batsman and selector Dilip Vengsarkar shared his memories of Paranjpe. "He has a great knack of spotting talent. I still remember I was playing Times Shield final at Parsee Gymkhana and he came and said, "Ek ladka hai Sachin, tu uski batting dekhne chal.'(there is a boy Sachin, come watch him)

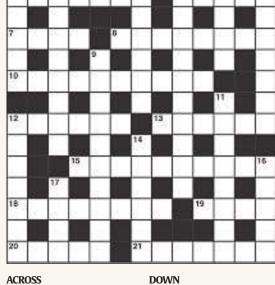
I asked where? He said at Azad Maidan, he is playing Harris Shield School final. If Vasu has spotted him that means he has to be special. I went and saw Sachin bat and later he was picked in the Mumbai team. Vasu's best art was how he would add humour to convey a message. It was his best quality. I have known him since I was 15 years old. He was Dadar Union coach, Mumbai coach. He is the last man of that era who were mad about cricket. They did without expecting anything in return. A selfless man with a great sense

There is something so 'Malgudi Days' about the life of Paranjpe as described in the book. The thumbs up beverage that Paranjpe sipped after three of his teeth were knocked out by a bouncer in a club game, the old rickety car he would drive to matches, the spotless cricketing attire that even Gavaskar would admire. The little moments in a club game for his beloved 'Dadar Union', the endearing cussedness of a Vijay Patil, Paranjpe's friend and team-mate who wouldn't let the plavers celebrate with beer, Ajay Jadeja's hilarious first memory of "buddha pagal hai" the old man is mad)... the list is endless.

Not many sportsbooks whisk us to our childhood days. Jatin Paranjpe's Cricket Drona is one of the happy exceptions. Page after page, famous cricketers across India and even abroad pay their guru-dakshina to the popular cricket mentor but the aftertaste that lingers is something beyond even Vasoo Paranjpe. By conveying his unadulterated love for

the game and his hand in their fate, the cricketers yank us to a state of cricketing adolescence. If he could do that to us, mere fans of this great game, imagine the effect on the cricketers who play it. No wonder, he has earned such love, respect, and gratitude from all cricketers. He saw in them what they couldn't see, a mark of a true

CROSSWORD 4522



1 A loud story not factual but

friendly(7) 4 Pop's executors? (5) 7 A good likeness (4) 8 Is around perhaps but it disappeared ages ago (8) 10 Not altogether how pyramids are built (2,2,1,5) 12 To people one is a danger

13 Stays will alter a waist

15 The cold wind is a great disappointment (6,4) 18 Was successful as an improver? (4.4) 19 Michael may shortly use it for broadcasting (4) 20 Mother's taken on at the

lodge(5) 21 Prominent foreigner in the way (7)

Solutions Crossword 4521: Across: 1 French bread. 9 Octagon. 10 Burro. 11 Task. 12

DOWN

1 Impressive stamp edged with gold - the last word in France (5) 2 The kind of capital in a buoyant economy?(8) 3 He has an important job on paper(6) 4 Land and labour required for a foundation (10)

5 Over fifty eggs are this shape 6 Groups of wild pirates (7) 9 Understanding that's becoming popular (8,2)

11 It is inclined to disappear when troubles intervene (8) 12 It's the most you can expect(7) 14 Sharpens games up (6)16 Point in question raised by farmer(5)

17 Love of French poems (4)

Builders, 14 Opener, 16 Leased, 18 Exporter, 19 Tsar, 22 Strum, 23 Airport, 24 Go into space. Down: 2 Rites, 3 Nigh, 4 Hang up, 5 Rebelled, 6 Airless, 7 Controversy, 8 Considerate, 13 Ferryman, 15 Esparto, 17 Legato, 20 Stoic, 21 Trip.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong





MARVIN

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 secret of my__has always been that it remained secret. - Salvador Dali (9)



ESSTNU **AADECF**

SOLUTION: AERIE, BLUNT, SUNSET, FACADE

Difficulty Level 5s 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 =

SUDOKU

			4	6		3		8
		9				245		5
	8		2	3	9		7	
3	F	П				1		
5		4		8	1			П
9	3							
2						7		

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4579

6 9 5 4 8 7 1 3 2 9 4 7 8 1 3 5 9 1 7 5 4 2 3 168 3 1 7 8 6 9 5 4 3 5 4 6 1 8 7 1 8 2 5 9 3 4 6 6 2 9 3 7 4 5 8 1

9 3 8 6 5 4 7 2

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You're confident that your ideas are right, and you are in a fine position to astound people who have doubted your

word, but you may also embarrass them, if you wish Whether this is the correct thing to do in the present circumstances is another matter.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) The main planetary change of mood will occur while you're still fast asleep, so by the time the morning gets

under way, certain important decisions will have been taken on your behalf. Whether you like it or not, you will have to deal with fundamental financial questions.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) You really must listen carefully to what loved ones are

saying, for somebody to whom you are very close emotionally, will supply you with a dose of hope and optimism that until now has been lacking. If necessary, take a short journey in search of

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) Today's exceptionally

secretive stars suit your basic astrological character. There's little that you like better than knowing more than anyone else, and keeping vital information to yourself! On the other hand, when the time comes for partners to be informed, you'd better be quick

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Your social stars are

off the mark.

quite splendid, and you may enjoy the entire range of human contacts from intimate and passionate affairs through to the most casual meetings. At work, your ideas should be listened to very

carefully, for you really have got

your finger on the pulse. VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) One very useful path



New Delhi

to take is to develop any spiritual interests and mystical aspirations.

These are the things that it is impossible to put into words, but a knowledge of them will help you establish your own sense of destiny and hence to manage your day-to-day affairs much better.

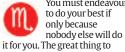
BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

What transpired last week should have made you see that you badly underestimated someone. If you haven't learnt this valuable lesson, I fear you may still be stumbling around in the dark, so wise up! An emotional

mistake could carry a price tag,

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) You must endeavour



by the way.

remember is that your stars are looking delightfully prosperous and that, with the right moves, you will make a handsome profit. Not only that, but emotional riches are yours for the asking.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) There is an emotional power-

struggle under way, almost certainly concerning home affairs. If by any chance work is the focus of today's tensions, you should

recognise that colleagues' feelings must be acknowledged and understood. Keep your eyes open for a passing cash offer.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) I don't mean today's forecasts to sound

boring, but there is nothing to do but press on with all routine chores and necessary tasks. Look on this as a valuable time to clear the decks and make more time for pleasure later on.

Don't worry, your rewards will come. AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Today's lunar



romantic fulfilment, so you have only yourself to blame if you insist on looking on the dark side. You do have the chance to take control, that's for sure. But you need to carry other

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You may turn a

people with you.



inconvenient facts if you wish. There is nothing to be gained from facing up to the unpleasant

side of life if it is going to do you no good and benefit nobody. Besides, what is wrong with living a fantasy? Absolutely nothing

Why was discus thrower Kumar's bronze cancelled

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

PARA-ATHLETE Vinod Kumar, who had won the bronze medal in the discus throw event (F52 category) at the Tokyo Paralympics on Sunday, had his result declared void following a re-assessment by a classification panel.

Kumar, 41, produced a best throw of 19.91m to finish third behind Piotr Kosewicz (20.02m) of Poland and Velimir Sandor (19.98m) of Croatia.

Kumar was found to be ineligible for the men's F52 discus medal as the classification panel was 'unable to allocate' him a 'sport class' after observation and re-assessment, a statement issued by the Games' technical delegates read. The decision meant Kumar did not win a medal.

What is classification in Para sports?

The purpose, according to the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), is to make sure the best athlete wins, based on criteria such as skill, fitness and tactics, instead of the athlete with the 'lowest level of impairment.' Athletes are classified according to the impact their impairment has on key sporting activities. To ensure a fair and level playing field all athletes competing must be given a sport class and sport class status.

How are athletes classified?

The athletes undergo evaluation on-site by classifiers who are trained by every sport's respective international federation and they

decide on the classification status based on the sport and impairment type.

What happens after the athletes are classified?

After the evaluation is over, the classification panel designates 'sports class status' to every athlete, which indicates if evaluations are required on the same athlete in the future.

What happened in Kumar's case?

Kumar was evaluated on August 22 and cleared to compete in the F52 category at the time. According to the IPC, athletes who take part in the F52 category have 'good shoulder muscles and mildly weak to full elbow and wrist muscles which are required for throwing an implement'.

"Finger flexor and extensor muscles are non-functional making grip of the implement difficult. The non-throwing hand usually requires strapping to the throwing frame," the IPC rule states.

If Kumar was cleared on August 22, why was he classified again after Sunday's event?

According to the World Para Athletics database, Kumar's classification status for the current year was already under review. PCI president Deepa Malik could not be reached for a comment on this. However, she was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India: "Classifications done previously can be challenged during competitions and can be overruled also. There is nothing that India can do now"

Why are athletes re-evaluated?

As per the World Para Athletics classification rules, a classification panel can decide to conduct further evaluation sessions on an athlete 'based on a number of factors.' These, the rules state, include but are not limited 'to situations, where the Athlete has only recently entered Competitions, sanctioned or recognised by World Para Athletics; has a fluctuating and/or progressive Impairment/Impairments that is/are permanent but not stable; and/or has not yet reached full muscular skeletal or sports maturity.'

Spear mints medals

Big day in javelin as Sumit Antil wins gold, Devendra Jhajharia silver and Sundar Singh Gurjar bronze in respective categories at Paralympics







(*L-R*) Sumit Antil broke the world record three times before winning gold in F-64 class with a throw of 68.55m; Devendra Jhajharia bagged a silver (F-46), his third medal at the Games while Sundar Singh Gurjar finished third in the same event.

AP/Reuters/@ParaAthletics

NITIN SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

A PARALYMPICS debutant who had competed with able-bodied rivals including Neeraj Chopra earlier this year; an inspiration for a generation of para athletes; and, an athlete on a mission to wipe out heart-breaking memories — three javelin throwers with unique storylines won a gold, silver and bronze for India in different categories Monday in Tokyo.

This haul from track and field came on the day India got a historic shooting gold, with Avani Lekhara winning the 10m air rifle event, and its Para Games medal count reached a best-ever seven. Having won four medals last time in Rio, India is now 26th on the medal ladder.

The day's showstopper was Sumit Antil, 23, who broke the world record thrice before winning gold in the F-64 category (based on level of disability) with a throw of 68.55m—about two metres more than his effort at the March 2021 Indian GP, which also had Tokyo Olympics gold-medallist Chopra.

Devendra Jhajharia, 40, won his third Paralympic medal with a silver-medal winning throw of 64.35m in the F-46 category. And his fellow Rajasthan athlete Sundar Singh Gurjar claimed the bronze in the same category with a throw of 64.01m.

Later, Antil's mother Nirmala recalled those tough days of struggle. "I still remember the day Sumit lost his left leg after his bike was hit by a tractor near Sonepat (Haryana) as he was returning from tuition classes. When the doctors decided to amputate his leg, Iasked myself what my son's future would be like. But the way Sumit made his recovery and started a new life in sport was something I could not imagine. To see him win gold has made us forget that fateful day finally," Nirmala told The Indian Express.

Antil's father Ram Kumar, who had served in the IAF, died in 2004 due to cancer. Sumit, the youngest of four siblings, initially trained as a wrestler at his village Khewra before joining the SAI Centre at Bahalgarh. It was on January 5, 2015, that he met with the accident and spent more than 53 days at the Base Hospital at Delhi Cantt.

"I remember being conscious and making the call to the ambulance on my own. Each day...in hospital was like a long wait but then I would see videos of Paralympian Oscar Pistorius. I made sure that I joined sports after I came home and got the prosthetic leg from Pune," Antil had said on Sunday before his event.

It was Antil's meeting with para athlete Ram Kumar, which led him to 2018 Asian Para Games silver medallist Virender Dhankar in Sonepat before training under Dronacharya awardee Naval Singh. Initially, Singh made Sumit try the discus throw, but was impressed by his action and started training him in javelin, even renting a room for him near the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi.

"He had a prosthetic leg and I initially made him practice throws in the long jump pit from a distance of 25-30 m. I would tell him to walk and not run as running led to bleeding with the prosthetic leg rubbing against the knee. Suffering pain, he would try the throw while lying down in a hammer throw net," said Naval Singh.

In the last three years, Antil has broken the world record several times. At the Paris Grand Prix in 2019 he set a new mark of 61.32m and later bettered it with a throw of 62.88m at the World Para Championships in Dubai. "In 2017, we took him to the Finland trip and it helped his technique too... now Antil does not fall due to the prosthetic blade," the coach said.

Jhajharia, meanwhile, dedicated his silver medal to his father who succumbed to cancer last year. "My father had wanted to see me win another medal but sadly I lost him last year due to cancer. I did my best today and I am happy having won my third medal," he said.

For Gurjar, who hails from a village on the Jaipur-Bharatpur NH-11 highway, it was redemption after heart-break in Rio in 2016 when he missed the final due to a 52-second delay in reporting at the venue.

Gurjar was once a regular on the able-bodied circuit, winning bronze in the 2013 national youth Athletics championship where Neeraj Chopra had won gold. However, Gurjar's life changed on a holiday to a nearby village in 2015, when he lost his left hand after a tin fell on him from a roof.

"Those were not 52 seconds (in Rio), those were like 52 years for Sundar. That night, he contemplated suicide and I was with him every night in the following months. I would tell him that he could do better and when he resumed training, he would tell me that in Tokyo, he would win the medal and end the agony of those 52 seconds. To see him do that today feels special for both him and me," Gurjar's coach Mahaveer Singh Saini said.

Paralysed from waist down, Jaipur's rifle ace Avani wins gold

NITIN SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

AS 19-YEAR-OLD Avani Lekhara won the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle Standing event in the SH 1 category at the Tokyo Paralympics, father Praveen was filled with emotions.

In 2012, the whole Lekhara family met with an accident on their way to Dholpur from Jaipur. The then 11-year-old Avani suffered a spinal cord injury and was paralysed below the waist. As the teenager became Paralympic champion with a record score of 249.6 in the final, Praveen - who works in the Revenue Appellate Authority - remembered the fateful day.

"I was posted as ADM at Dholpur at that time and we were travelling from Jaipur to Dholpur when our car skidded and turned turtle. Avani suffered spinal cord injuries and was paralysed from waist down," Praveen told The Indian Express.

In Tokyo on Monday, Avani fired a round of 621.7 in qualification after a shaky start but recovered to be placed seventh after the qualification round and make the final. In the final, she led from the start to win gold.

After the accident, Avani spent more than three months at SMS Hospital in Jaipur before another four at the Indian Spinal Injury Centre (ISIC) in New Delhi. For the next two-and-a-half years, the family would take her for treatment at various hospitals in Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

In 2014, Praveen took his daughter to the Jagatpura Shooting Range to keep the youngster occupied as well as setting a target for herself. "I was in hospital when doctors told me that Avani has been paralysed below the waist. After initial treatment in Agra, she was shifted to SMS Hospital in Jaipur before spending time at ISIC in Delhi. Doctors had told us that we have to keep her physically as well as mentally fit to have any chance of recovery and that's why I got her enrolled at the shooting range in Jaipur," remembers the father.



Avani Lekhara has won India's first Paralympic gold in shooting. Reun

In 2016, Avani started training under coach Chandra Shekhar and he made her focus on 50m rifle events apart from 10m air rifle events. Apart from winning titles in the National Para Shooting Championship, she would win a silver medal with a junior world record at the WSPS World Cup in Al Ain in 2017 and a bronze at the WSPS World Cup in Bangkok the same year. It took the coach some time to work on Avani's technique but he found Avani's mental fortitude as her biggest strength.

"Besides the physical or technical aspects, shooting remains a mental sport at the core and that's what made Avani a good shooter even in her initial days. I understood that I cannot put her under more physical load so we would work on the basics in small sessions apart from training with a Feinwerkbau 800 junior rifle, which was much lighter compared to other rifles. Once she was comfortable shooting in the wheelchair and the adjustments, we went from 50 shots to 200 in a session. Slowly, she built accuracy. Later, she practised for 3-4 hours in the 50m rifle event too and it showed her physical strength too," remembers the coach.

Fine-tuning

In 2018, Avani would also start training under coach Suma Shirur at the Lakshya Shooting Club in Mumbai or online sessions and practising with a computerised digital target at home provided by the Sports Authority of India. She would win the silver medal in the WSPC world Cup in Croatia in 2019 before another one at the WSPC World Cup in Al Ain earlier this year.

"Initially when she came to train with me, we worked upon having consistency in her shooting. It was a mix of offline and online sessions. It was very demanding to train a para shooter. The shooting remains the same but as a coach, I had to improvise. It was about understanding the best load position for her and amalgamation of her technique and biology. We also had to make adjustments to establish her base with only the upper body which is not the case with a normal shooter, who uses the feet for balance," says Suma.

needed to go the extra mile for Avani. "The other shooters lift her wheelchair with

The academy and its other trainees also

her in it. When the academy was built (first floor), we were short of funds and didn't have a lift. She is the 'Jaipur ki Maharani' for all of us, simply because she's so adorable. We had also redone the washroom at the club to make it para-athlete friendly," Suma says. She considers Monday's performance as

one of Avani's best. "I am happy the way she held her nerve in the final and displayed confidence. She made a shaky start in qualification but after a few shots, we had a talk and once she found her technique, there was no looking back for her," she says.

After the disappointment at the Tokyo Olympics, Suma returned to India before going back for the Paralympics. Indian shooting had been looking for a morale-booster, and Suma said Avani's achievement has come as a breath of fresh air. "After I came back here (Tokyo), I was feeling so much better. I felt this was necessary and important for me to come back here because I didn't want to leave this place on a bad note. I'm glad I got a chance to get back here."

NOVAX CLUB

Despite a lot at stake, players have been stubbornly slow to get the jab

BENROTHENBERG

When the U.S. Tennis Association announced Friday that proof of coronavirus vaccination would be required for all spectators 12 and older to enter the grounds of the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, it widened a gulf between the spectators and the players they'll be watching at the U.S. Open.

Adults in the stands will now be roughly twice as likely to be vaccinated as the players on court: The WTA said "nearly 50%" of its players were vaccinated, while the ATP said its vaccination rates were "just above 50%."

Despite the possible consequences of not being vaccinated — illness, of course, but also the inability to play and make money — tennis players have been stubbornly slow on the uptake, even as many have lost opportunities to play in major tournaments because of positive tests. While some players are openly skeptical of the need for a vaccine as a healthy young person, some simply haven't prioritized it. French veteran Gilles Simon, who was disqualified from the U.S. Open on Friday for "medical reasons," confirmed in an interview

with L'Equipe that he was removed because he hadn't been vaccinated. Simon's coach, Etienne Laforgue, tested positive for the coronavirus after arriving in New York, and Simon was disqualified because he was deemed a "close contact."

"I was not against it to the point of never being vaccinated, I'm just saying I didn't feel the need or the urge," Simon told L'Equipe. Simon would have remained eligible to compete in the tournament, with increased

testing, if he had been vaccinated.
"I'm not very scared of COVID, actually,"
Simon said. "My basic philosophy is: 'If you're
afraid of it, you get vaccinated; if not, no.' It's
still a choice."

Simon must now isolate in his hotel room for 10 days, according to federal and New York City guidelines. Simon, 36 and ranked 103rd, rued that his hotel room, where he will stay during what he admitted might have been his last U.S. Open, lacks a nice view.

"If your last memory of a U.S. Open is 10 days in a room, it is not one you want to keep," he said. The highest-profile tennis player to miss this year's U.S. Open is fifth-ranked Sofia Kenin, who, despite disappointing results this year, remains the highest-ranked American



Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece caused an uproar after saying he would only be vaccinated if it were required to compete.

on either tour under the pandemic-adjusted ranking system. Kenin said she had tested positive despite being vaccinated.

"Fortunately I am vaccinated, and thus my symptoms have been fairly mild," she said.

Many tennis players have been able to take advantage of on-site vaccination programs set up by tournaments as they travel on tour. Topranked Ashleigh Barty, whose native Australia has lagged in its vaccination rollout, was able to get vaccinated in April at a tournament in Charleston, South Carolina. Before she did, Barty made sure that she wasn't cutting in line.

"That was important to me, knowing that those who were the most vulnerable were able to get it first," she said in April.

Simon's contention that vaccination should remain a choice is supported by both tours, even as they urge players to choose vaccination. Other sports have been more successful at getting their athletes to get the shot. The WNBA said in June that 99% of its players were vaccinated. The MLS Players Association said in July that it was "approaching 95%." This week, the NFL announced it had reached a player vaccination rate of nearly 93%, Michele Roberts, executive director of the National Basketball Players Association, said in July that 90% of NBA players were vaccinated. This month, the NHL said its player vaccination rate was at 85%, and its union warned that unvaccinated players might lose pay if they tested positive.

In tennis, where each player is an independent contractor, there is no player union to encourage unified behavior and no general manager or team owner to encourage vaccination for the team's competitive benefit. Other individual sports are still ahead of tennis, however: The PGA said early this month that its player vaccination rate was "above 70%."

"While we respect everyone's right to free choice, we also believe that each player has a role to play in helping the wider group achieve a safe level of immunity," the ATP said in a statement. "Doing so will allow us to ease restrictions on-site for the benefit of everyone

on Tour."

The WTA said it "strongly believes in and encourages everyone to get a vaccine," and has set a goal for 85% of players to be vaccinated by the end of the year. But it is "not requiring players to get a vaccine as this is a personal decision, and one which we respect."

Third-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas caused an uproar in his native Greece earlier this month after he said that he would get vaccinated only if it were required to continue competing.

"I don't see any reason for someone of my age to do it," said Tsitsipas, 23. "It hasn't been tested enough and it has side effects. As long as it's not mandatory, everyone can decide for themselves."

Giannis Oikonomou, a spokesperson for the Greek government, said Tsitsipas "has neither the knowledge nor the studies nor the research work that would allow him to form an opinion" about the necessity for vaccination, and added that people like athletes who are widely admired should be "doubly careful in expressing such views."

Top-ranked Novak Djokovic has drawn scrutiny for his approach to health issues throughout the pandemic, and has declined to disclose his own vaccination status. Djokovic said it was a "personal decision" when asked about vaccine protocols Friday. "Whether someone wants to get a vaccine or not, that's completely up to them," Djokovic said. "I hope that it stays that way."

Andy Murray, a member of the ATP player council, said that "there's going to have to be a lot of pretty long, hard conversations with the tour and all of the players involved to try and come to a solution" on the high number of players holding out on vaccination. He said he appreciated the privileges New York City regulations afforded him as a vaccinated person, such as eating indoors in restaurants.

"I feel like I'm enjoying a fairly normal life, whereas for the players that haven't, it's different," Murray said. "I'm sure they'll be frustrated with that."

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