



BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



BJP battling infighting, new Gujarat Cabinet waits another day

PARIMAL DABHI & GOPAL KATESHIYA
GANDHINAGAR, RAJKOT, SEPTEMBER 15

THE SWEARING-IN of the new Bhupendra Patel-led government that was scheduled for Wednesday afternoon was put off to Thursday, reportedly after several ministers of the outgoing government protested on being informed that they would not find a berth in the new Cabinet.

BJP state unit president C R Paatil had told *The Indian Express* on Wednesday morning that the swearing-in of the new Council of Ministers "is almost final between 2 pm and 4 pm".

This, after the party gave indications on Tuesday that Thursday would be the date for the oath-taking. By afternoon, posters had come up at the Raj Bhavan venue, bearing Wednesday's date for the ceremony.

However, until Wednesday afternoon, neither the General Administration Department (GAD) nor the Roads and Buildings Department that would have handled the logistics of such an event had any official intimation about the advancing of the date, sources in the two departments claimed.

By 3.30 pm, when *The Indian Express* team visited Raj Bhavan, supporters of Limbdi MLA Kritisinh Rana had reached from Surendranagar on hearing

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PLI SCHEME FOR AUTO, DRONE SECTOR; REFORMS FOR TELECOM

Major relief for telecom sector, Govt gives 4-year moratorium on AGR dues

Will help address liquidity concerns: Vaishnaw; telcos welcome measures

AASHISH ARYAN & KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE UNION Cabinet Wednesday approved reform proposals for the telecom sector, entailing nine structural and procedural measures that aim at alleviating sectoral stress by addressing near-term liquidity concerns.

It also cleared a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile, auto component and drone manufacturers to boost domestic production.

Among the steps approved for the telecom sector, the one that is likely to provide immediate relief to debt-laden companies such as Vodafone Idea is the decision to provide a four-



Union ministers Vaishnaw, Thakur brief the press. PTI

BID TO BOOST PRODUCTION
PAGE 13

year moratorium on payment of all dues arising due to the Supreme Court's September 1, 2020, judgment on adjusted gross revenue (AGR).

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A HELPLINE

TELECOM

■ Non-telecom revenues out of definition of AGR

■ 4-year break from paying statutory dues

■ 100% FDI through automatic route

■ Scrapping of Spectrum Usage Charge for airwaves acquired in future auctions

■ Shifting between prepaid, post-paid to not require fresh KYC

AUTO

■ Rs 26,058 cr PLI scheme

■ Scheme to incentivise high-value advanced automotive technology vehicles and products

Measure will give relief for now to telcos, but may not stop balance sheet bleed

PRANAV MUKUL, SUNNY VERMA & SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE RELIEF package for the telecom sector, while offering the prospect of an annual cash flow breather of an estimated Rs 45,000 crore to the fund-starved industry, falls short of addressing the significant smudges of red already on the balance sheets of a majority of the players.

The measures, all of them prospective in nature, also potentially miss out on fostering a more sustainable tariff regime

which, according to industry players, could have come as a shot in the arm for players in the capital-intensive sector and other stakeholders, such as banks that have an exposure exceeding Rs 1 lakh crore to telecom companies.

Among the measures, the announcement of a moratorium up to four years on dues arising out of the Supreme Court judgment on annual gross revenue (AGR), and on due payments of spectrum purchased in past auctions, is seen as positive in stemming the bleed in the short term.

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Tatas, SpiceJet chief in race as Air India divestment enters the concluding stage

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

AIR INDIA'S disinvestment process has moved into the final stages, with Tata Sons and SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh having submitted their final bids to acquire 100% stake in the national airline.

The stake sale includes Air India's 100% shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50% in Air India SATS Airport Services Private Ltd. "Financial bids for Air India disinvestment received by Transaction Adviser. Process now moves to concluding stage," Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Tuhin Kanta Pandey said in a tweet.

The government had in January last year invited submission of expressions of interest (EOIs) for full stake in Air India, and made certain changes to the bid conditions over time, including allowing interested parties to bid at an enterprise value of the airline, combining the values of both debt and equity. But, soon after the government opened invited bids, the Covid19 crisis had hit and the process had got delayed.

In April this year, the Centre



Over Rs 60,000 cr debt, last try to sell AI in 2017 failed

had finalised the qualified interested bidders and asked them to submit a final bid.

A Tata Sons spokesperson and a source close to Singh confirmed their participation in the disinvestment process. Singh is bidding in his individual capacity. Officials in the Civil Aviation Ministry said that in an ideal situation the transfer of shares was to happen by December, but it is likely to happen by the end of current fiscal.

Notably, the government's 2017 attempt at selling the airline had failed to attract any interest. After receiving feedback from potential investors, it had sweetened the EOI clause relating to transfer of debt to the new investor, giving bidders the flexibility to decide the quantum of

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EXPRESS NETWORK

I-T VISITS PREMISES OF SONU SOOD
PAGE 7

Tribunal posts: Govt claims right to reject, SC flays 'cherry-picking'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE at the unfilled vacancies in various tribunals, the Supreme Court on Wednesday took exception to the Centre's stand that it "has the power not to accept the recommendations made" by the Search-cum-Selection Committee (SCSC), comprising judges of the top court, for appointments.

The court also expressed displeasure at the manner in which appointments were made, saying that "there cannot be any

cherry-picking" of names.

"We are in a democratic country, following the rule of law. It is under the Constitution that we are working. You cannot say that," Chief Justice of India N V Ramana told Attorney General K K Venugopal, who sought to submit that the Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, enables the government to take a decision on the recommendations.

Hearing the matter on September 6, the court, while expressing its anguish over the delay in appointments, had given the government one week to fill the posts.

In an affidavit filed thereafter, the Centre said it had made 84 appointments to tribunals since 2020, including 38 recently — 18 to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT); 1 to the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT); 13 to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT); and 6 to the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT). The government said no name recommended by the SCSC was pending with it.

But the bench, also comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud and L Nageswara Rao, questioned the

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PUNJAB, HARYANA JUST 7% OF TOTAL

Police tie tractor sales to farm protest: Spurt began much earlier

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

A SEEMINGLY unusual jump in tractor sales in Punjab and Haryana during November 2020-January 2021 has been cited by the Delhi Police as proof of a "well-orchestrated conspiracy" behind the protests against the Centre's three farm laws.

The Delhi Police has pointed out that tractor sales growth, year-on-year, in Punjab were 43.53 per cent in November, 94.30 per cent in December and 85.13 per cent in January, while in Haryana, the growth figures

stood at 31.81 per cent, 50.32 per cent and 48 per cent for the same months.

But data from the Tractor and Mechanisation Association (TMA), whose figures the Delhi Police has cited, also show a similar high year-on-year sales growth trend across India — at 51.25 per cent in November, 43.09 per cent in December and 46.75 per cent in January.

What is more, the spurt in sales started in May 2020 (before the farm protests took off) and continued right till April this year (well past the peak of the protests in November to February).

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NEET skewed results in favour of English-medium, well-off, urban, CBSE kids, TN panel finds

RITIKA CHOPRA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE PROPORTION of students from rural areas, economically weaker backgrounds, Tamil-medium schools, and state board affiliated schools in Tamil Nadu's medical colleges has decreased significantly after the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) was introduced in 2017-18, according to data crunched by a government-appointed committee.

The panel's findings formed the basis of the Tamil Nadu government's move to scrap NEET for admission to MBBS programmes in the state.

The nine-member panel,

THE CHANGE

PRE-NEET (2016-17) TO POST-NEET (2020-21)

CBSE students:

0.97% to 38.84%

State board students:

98.23% to 59.41%

English-medium:

85.12% to 98.01%

Tamil-medium:

14.88% to 1.99%

Parents earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh p.a.:

47.42% to 41.05%

Parents earning above Rs 2.5 lakh p.a.:

52.11% to 58.95%

tasked by the state government to assess the impact of NEET on medical admissions, found that the proportion of rural students fell from an average of 61.45% (pre-NEET) to 50.81% (post-NEET).

Candidates from government schools, who were under-represented even before NEET's introduction, fell further behind (see chart on Page 2). On average, government school students made up 1.12% of the first-year MBBS batch in Tamil Nadu pre-NEET. The figure dropped to 0.16% post-NEET (unreserved seats). Last year, the state government introduced a 7.5% horizontal reservation for state-run school students.

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INSIDE

**NCRB DATA SHOWS CRIME DIP, RISE IN CLASHES AMID FARM STRIF, LOCKDOWN****UDDHAV GOVT PLANS OBC ORDINANCE**
PAGES 5, 6

THE WORLD

1 MONTH LATER, ECONOMIC CRISIS STALKS TALIBAN
PAGE 12

Sansad TV gets in Opp's Tharoor, Chaturvedi, to talk all but politics

PAGE 1 ANCHOR**KRISHN KAUSHIK**
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

WHAT DO politicians talk about when they get together? Not necessarily politics, it seems. The Congress's Shashi Tharoor and Shiv Sena's Priyanka Chaturvedi will put that to test as hosts of chat shows on the newly launched Sansad TV.

While Tharoor has been asked to host *To The Point*, a series of interviews with eminent



PM Modi, Speaker Birla at Sansad TV launch Wednesday. PTI

personalities, Chaturvedi will interview women parliamentarians in her show *Meri Kahaani*. However, both shows will steer clear of politics. At least for now.

The channel, set up by merging Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TV, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday. The channel is set to feature a series of shows hosted by sitting and former MPs, beginning with Tharoor and Chaturvedi, both Opposition members, one from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SRIRAM's IAS

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WEB EXCLUSIVE



ANSWERING ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ON THE NEW APPLE IPHONE 13 SERIES

The iPhone 13 series will come to India in the first wave itself. It is the first time this has happened. Also, the prices are the same as last time despite the large storage

EXPLAINED



POLITICS OF FASHION AT MET GALA 2021

Political stances of many attendees stood out this time

ENTERTAINMENT



CURTAINS DOWN ON ERA OF SUPERSTARS?

Is the era of Khans, Kumar and Kapoors over? OTT stars weigh in

EXPRESS AUDIO

Assam's Foreigners' Tribunals

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Tora Agarwala tells us about Assam government's recent directions to Foreigners' Tribunals in the state

AGR dues

In its ruling, the Supreme Court had said that telecom service providers would have to make payments in yearly instalments between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2031. It also said that in case of

The quantum of bank guarantees to be submitted against licence fee and other levies has been reduced by up to 80 per cent, with only one bank guarantee to be submitted for the entire country, instead of one for each li-

But this deferment may only provide temporary relief. “The deferment for AGR dues cannot be construed as waiver since the package only envisages a moratorium of four years on such AGR dues from 1st October 2021 (appointed date) with the interest and penalties accruing for

Gopal Vittal, MD & CEO (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel, said: "These fresh reforms will further boost our efforts to invest in this exciting digital future and enable us to be one of the leading players in India's digital economy. More needs to be done, however, towards a sustainable tariff regime to ensure the industry gets a fair return. This in turn will allow it to continue investing in new technologies and innovation to bring world-class services to customers."

Balance sheet

But this deferment may only provide temporary relief. “The deferment for AGR dues cannot be construed as waiver since the package only envisages a moratorium of four years on such AGR dues from 1st October 2021 (appointed date) with the interest and penalties accruing for

TN govt panel finds dip in students post-NEET

Students from CBSE-affiliated schools benefited more than state board students, according to the panel. Before NEET, 98.23% of students getting into medical colleges were from state board schools, and less than 1% were from CBSE affiliated schools. Now, CBSE students account for 38.84%, while those from state board schools make

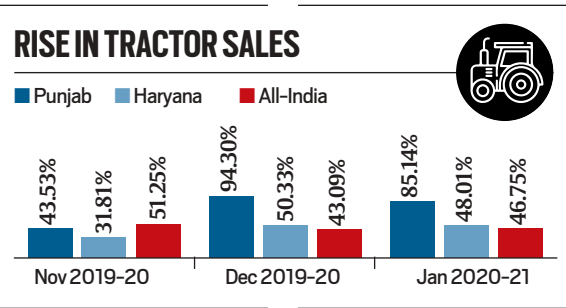
THE CHANGE

PRE-NEET (2016-17) TO POST-NEET (2020-21)	
GOVT MEDICAL COLLEGES	
Rural students: 65.17% to 49.91%	
Urban students: 34.83% to 50.09%	
PVT MEDICAL COLLEGES	
Rural students: 68.49% to 47.14%	
Urban students: 41.51% to 52.86%	

According to Professor Jawahar Nesan, a member of the committee, rural students are now particularly disadvantaged.

Discounting the argument that NEET ensures quality checks, he said: "We have analysed the performance of students in the MBBS programme before and after NEET. Those who came in based on their board marks perform marginally better than those who came in through NEET. When there's hardly any difference in classroom performance then the quality argument in favour of NEET doesn't hold."

Police tie tractor sales to farm protest



only sector that achieved a positive growth rate of 3.6% in fi-

The second possible reason for the high tractor sales is that all agriculture-related activities were exempted from government lockdown restrictions both in the first and second wave of Covid-19. Farmers could, therefore, take advantage of the excellent monsoon rains to both produce as well as harvest their record foodgrain

the new Cabinet would be on Thursday at 1.30 pm. The post was deleted and tweeted again with an added information about Raj Bhavan being the venue.

Gujarat Cabinet

Minutes later, the official handle of the Chief Minister's Office tweeted that the swearing-in of

The new Cabinet would be on Thursday at 1.30 pm. The post was deleted and tweeted again with an added information about Raj Bhavan being the venue.

An MLA, who was a minister in the outgoing Cabinet headed by Vijay Rupani, said some of them protested with the state leadership after they learned that they were not going to find a berth in the new Council of ministers. "All the senior ministers were to be dropped. Not a single one was to be retained in the new Council. Therefore, we had to raise our voice," said the former minister.

Another party leader said some MLAs had sought time for their families to be able to travel for the ceremony and that might have been the reason for it to be put off.

Justice Chandrachud said he was part of the selection committee for the NCDRC and "there also the list was truncated and only a few people have been appointed."

Around 60 new programmes are being planned for the channel, which will focus largely on Parliament and its functioning, besides the role of state legislative bodies and democratic systems in other countries.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, Prime Minister Modi said Sansad TV will ensure that the discourse in Parliament is in touch with the lives of people. 'The creative people in communication often say 'Content is King'. In my experience, 'Content is Connect'. This applies both to the media as well as our democratic set-up,' he said.

Vice President Naidu said, "What we are launching today is a bridge to authentic, meaningful communication between the people and their representatives."

FULL REPORTS ON
www.indianexpress.com

for a comment on why the plan changed. **(INPUTS FROM KAMAAL SAIYED IN SURAT)**

Tribunal posts

Government for making appointments from the waitlist.

"I have seen that for the NCLT, the selection committee recommended nine judicial members and 10 technical members. They kept another 10 in the waitlist for additional vacancies, whenever they arise. By the appointment

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE
Public Auction Tribunal
A, B & F WINGS, Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna – 800 025
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED LIMITED
Vs
M/s Tirraj Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. & Others
(In R.P. Case No. 147/2013 arising out of Certificate No. OA. 158/2012)
E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

As per order dated 21/08/2021, under mentioned property will be sold by **public online e-Auction** on the date and time mentioned herein for recovery of **Rs.3,93,50,776/-** from **M/s Tirraj Cold Storage Pvt. Ltd. & Others**, the sum is recoverable together with interest, cost, charges, as per the certificate. The auction sale will be by way of **online e-Auction**.

Description of Property:

Description of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Date and time of Auction
<p>All that part and parcel of land standing in the name of M/s Tirraj Cold Storage through its Director, Shri Rituj Rai Choudhary S/o Sh. Subodh Kumar Choudhary, Lease for a period of 90 years from 06.11.2011 for land measuring 40,000 sq. ft. comprising of Industrial Plot No.1,2,3,4,5(P), Industrial Area, Gaya in Khersa/Plot No.542(P), Khata No.90, Thana No.352 situated in MauzaTekuna, Gaya Dohi Road, Pargana-Pahara, and bounded as follows:- North: Industrial Plot No.P-53(P), South: 100/-0 wide Industrial Road, East:Gaya Dohi Main Road, and West: 50/-0 wide Industrial Road. Together with all the buildings and structures constructed or to be constructed thereon, fixed plant and machinery attached the earth or permanently fastened to anything attached to the earth, fixtures and fittings erected/installed or to be erected/installed thereon, both present and future, and every part thereof.</p>	<p>Rs. 2,90,00,000/- (Rupees Two Crore Ninety Lacs Only)</p>	<p>Rs.29,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Nine Lacs Only) on or before 05/10/2021 upto 4.00 P.M.</p>	<p>07/10/2021 between 12.30 P.M. to 4.00 P.M. with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required.</p> <p>Bid increment amount of Rs. 30,000/-</p>

Details of e-auction agency:
Company Name/Address:- M/s E-procurement Technologies Limited, B-704/705, Wall Street-II, Opp.-Orient Club, Nr. Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380006
Website add:- <https://drt.auctiontigger.net>
e-mail Address:- bihar@auctiontigger.net, support@auctiontigger.net.
Contact Person: Ram Prasad Sharma and Contact No.: 6351896834
Details of the facilitation center: Address:- HJUDCO, Regional Office, Block B-2, II Floor, Maurya Lok Complex, Dak Bunglow Road, PS: Kowhai, Patna-800011, e-mail ID: pro@hudco.org.
Name of Contact Person:- Satsanarayan Gupta, Senior Manager (Law), Mob.No.9430780213, Website: <https://www.hudco.org>

ACCOUNT DETAIL FOR ONLINE MONEY TRANSFER

ACCOUNT NO. & NAME	NAME	IFSC CODE
142010200000310	AXIS BANK LTD., LOK NAYAK BAWAN PATNA	UTIB0000142

TERMS & CONDITIONS OF SALE:-

- The property shall be sold "as is where is basis".
- The intending bidders should register the participation with the service provider well in advance and get user ID and password for registration in E-auction. It can be procured only when the requisite Earnest Money Deposit be paid by prescribed mode.
- To take part in Auction, each bidder shall deposit Earnest Money (EMD) @ of 10% of the Reserve Price which shall be paid by electronic transfer to the concerned Bank's EMD Account or through DD/pay order drawn in favour of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna alongwith copy of PAN card, Address proof and Identity proof with E-mail ID, Mobile No. of bidder. The Envelop containing EMD alongwith details of documents should be superscribed R.P. No.147/2013 and in case of the company copy of resolution by the Board members of the company or any other document confirming representation/attorney of the company should reach on or before 4.00 P.M. of 05/10/2021 in the office of Recovery Officer, DRT, Patna or should credit the amount in respective Bank's/Financial Institution's account. EMD received thereafter shall not be considered.
- The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% of the sale proceeds (including EMD) on the next working day of sale through the mode as stated above.
- The purchaser shall deposit the balance 75% of the sale proceeds before the undersigned on or before 15th day from the date of sale of the Property, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office day after the 15th day alongwith the poundage fee @ 2% upto Rs.1,00,00/- and @ 1% on the excess of such gross amount over Rs.1,00,00/- by prescribed mode as stated above.
- In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the property shall be resold, after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, may, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.
- The Recovery Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or bids or to postpone or cancel the e-auction without assigning any reasons.
- EMD of unsuccessful bidder shall be returned the same day of auction by DRT/Bank by credit to the account of bidder mention in bid form.
- Prospective bidder may avail online training from service provider.
- Prospective bidders are advised to go through the website for details terms & conditions of sale before submitting their bids or contact Branch Manager of the concerned Branch.

(Kumar Rajiv Ranjan)
Recovery Officer

Dated : 08/09/2021



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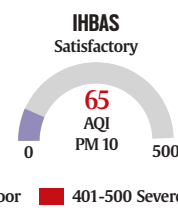
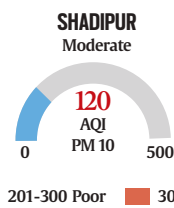
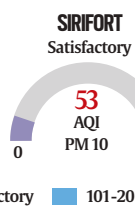
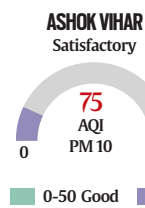
e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)

e- Tender no. : IRCON/2046/S&T/Tender/Sivok.Jn., Dated 13.09.2021

e-Tender for and on behalf of N F Railway is invited from bidders meeting the qualifying requirements for the work of "Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of Electronic Interlocking System conforming to specification No. RD50/SPN/199/2005 with latest amendments including all Indoor, Outdoor S&T works at Sivok Jn. in accordance with Administrative Division of N. F. Railway, in connection with Sivok-Rangpo New Line Project of N.F. Railway."

Estimated Cost of the Work	Rs. 13.93 Crores
Last Date and Time of e-Bid Submission	06.10.2021 up to 15.00 hrs (IST)

For further details and updates, please visit tender section on IRCON's e-tender website <https://tenders.gov.in/e procure/ app>. Amendment / Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. **Chief General Manager/S&T, C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017**



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: Sep 16
Generally cloudy sky.
Light to moderate rain/
thundershowers. Strong
surface winds (20-30 kmph)

MAX: 33 **MIN: 25**
0.8°C below normal Normal

In SC petition, Delhi govt says Centre giving more power to L-G violates Constitution

Approaches top court against amendments to GNCTD Act, says they 'overturn constitutionally stipulated balance between' Delhi govt and Centre

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE DELHI government has moved the Supreme Court, challenging amendments made to the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) Act that give greater powers to the Lieutenant Governor.

In its petition, the Delhi government has contended that the amendments violate the "basic structure" of the Constitution. The plea further states that the changes "diminish the constitutionally guaranteed powers and functions of the elected legislative assembly and council of ministers of the NCT of Delhi, overturn the constitutionally stipulated balance between the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Government, and imper-

missibly overrule the... (2018) judgment" of the court in the "Government of NCT of Delhi vs Union of India" case.

The plea points out that the Supreme Court Constitution Bench had in its 2018 judgment "clarified that the provisions of Article 239AA—including those concerning the powers and functions of the LG—must be interpreted in light of the constitutional commitment to federalism, and to representative democracy". It also highlighted that the court had "interpreted Article 239AA so as to place limitations upon the power of the L-G, in order to ensure that the default situation would remain that of a parliamentary democracy with an elected legislature and a responsible executive, while a certain space was retained for exceptional circumstances, where the L-G would be required to play a limited role".

The Delhi government said that the amendments "impermissibly reverse this delicate constitutional balance, as set out and interpreted by" the court.

"The impugned Provisions are an attempt to treat the L-G as the default administering authority over the NCT of Delhi, by equating the position of the L-G with that of the 'government', by authorising the L-G to withhold consent from bills that, in his judgment, may be 'incidentally' outside the scope of legislative assembly's legislative powers (even though such a bill, if passed into law, would be constitutionally valid under the doctrine of pith and substance), and by empowering the L-G to interfere in the day-to-day administration of the NCT by introducing the requirement of obtaining the L-G's views before executing a decision of the Council of Ministers under any bunch of

laws that are to be specified by L-G, through general orders," it said.

The plea added that the provisions "impermissibly encroach on the scope of the Delhi Legislative Assembly's core legislative functions by interfering with the power of the Assembly to frame its own rules of business or to hold the executive to account, a core function of any legislature".

They "violate the principles of federalism, separation of powers, representative democracy, and the rule of law, which are essential features of the Constitution", and "therefore... violate the 'basic structure' of the Constitution," the government argued.

It said that the Centre, through its amendments, gave more power to the Lieutenant Governor than the elected government of the people of Delhi.

Citing pollution, CM announces ban on sale and use of firecrackers in city

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

AHEAD OF Diwali, the Delhi government has imposed a complete ban on the storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers with immediate effect.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the decision was taken after considering pollution levels in Delhi during the festival over the last three years.

The Chief Minister has also appealed to traders to avoid stocking up on firecrackers. Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the National Green Tribunal had called for a complete ban on the use of firecrackers during the pandemic wherever the air quality levels fall in the 'poor' category.

Kejriwal tweeted that the ban was imposed late last year, leading to losses for traders.

Last year, the government had imposed a blanket ban on firecrackers, including those that were considered 'green,' between November 7 and 30, when the air quality began to worsen.

The NGT had also banned firecrackers last year from November 9 to 30 in the National Capital Region and in all places where the average air quality in November had dropped below the 'poor' category.

Though the announcement comes earlier than it did last year, the blanket ban has still irked some shop owners. Amit Jain, who owns a firecracker shop near Jama Masjid, said he doesn't know what to do with pending stock. Jain owns a permanent

firecracker shop, unlike a few traders who apply for temporary licenses before Diwali. He had stock from last year spread out in front of his shop on Wednesday evening.

"We had not placed any new orders this year since the 'green' crackers from last year were piled up. I'm hoping to pack it up and see if sale somewhere outside Delhi is possible," he said. The firecrackers come from Sivakasi. Jain had also hired 15 people to handle the stock for the Diwali season. They will now be asked to return to their hometowns, he said.

Ajay Mehendiratta, who sets up a temporary firecracker shop at Sadar Bazar every year around 15 days before Diwali, said he had already placed orders from Sivakasi.

"The Delhi Police issues temporary licenses for firecracker sale, and a notification was in the newspapers last Friday saying that application for licenses would be accepted till September 16. We had applied for a temporary license too," he said. Orders for stock are usually placed around two months before Diwali, he said.

A shopkeeper in a permanent firecracker shop in Paharganj, who asked not to be identified, said the shelves were still lined with stock from last year. The boxes are stamped with a sign that indicates they are 'green'—firecrackers developed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, which are supposed to generate less particulate matter compared to regular ones.

Student approaches HC to donate liver to father

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE DELHI High Court Wednesday asked the Delhi government and Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) to respond to a minor's petition seeking permission to donate a part of his liver to his ailing father. ILBS has refused to grant the permission to the boy who is 17 years

The minor's father is suffering from liver failure and doctors have recommended an immediate liver transplantation

and nine months old.

Justice Rekha Palli also ordered that a responsible officer of

ILBS will remain present in the hearing of the case on September 24. The minor's father is suffering from an advanced stage of liver failure and doctors have recommended an immediate liver transplant.

The doctors have already rejected offers made by two other members of the minor's family for donation on medical grounds, as per the petition. Left with no other option, the minor himself

had applied for the donation but the authorisation committee denied him the permission considering his age.

The counsel representing the minor has argued that there is no complete prohibition in law against a minor donating a human organ. Describing the condition of the patient, the minor in the petition has said that if the transplant is not done immediately, his father may not survive.

EXPRESS
explained.Live

New Education Policy: What's changing and how?



Amit Khare

Secretary, Department of Education
Government of India

In conversation with



Ritika Chopra

Senior Assistant Editor
The Indian Express

- A year ago, the government announced the new National Education Policy that made school and college education unrecognisable from what it had been since 1986.
- In schools, the 10+2 pattern was replaced with a 5+3+3+4 structure of foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary education.
- Higher education was opened to foreign universities, and the UGC and AICTE were dismantled.
- The undergraduate programme became four years long, but students who wanted to get off midway, could with a suitable degree.
- And it was mandated that by 2040, there would be no single-stream institutions; only multidisciplinary colleges and universities.
- With the pandemic hopefully near its end, the time for implementing the changes has arrived.
- How will going to school and college change over the next year? How prepared are institutions, teachers, and students for the changes? How will we tackle the inevitable disruptions that will follow?

16 SEP 2021

06:00 PM

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Advt.No.: SNT/R/2021 Date: 15.09.2021

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for appointment to post of **Controller of Examinations**. Online Application Form and other related details are available on the University's Website www.cuh.ac.in. Any further information in this regard shall be uploaded on the University's website only. The last date for submission of online application is **14.10.2021, 05:00 PM**.

REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS is for notice of the General Public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Gooncho Swabhimani Party**. The office of the party is located at H. No. 12/678 behind St. Joaquim Chapel, Borda, Margao, Goa-403601. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951-Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:

President: Swapnesh Sherlekar,
H. No. 284, Shivolkarwada, Mulgao, Bicholim, Goa-403503

General Secretary: Krunal Naik,
H. No. 483, Wadi, Talaulim, Ponda, Goa-403401

Treasurer: Vinay Vithu Borkar,
H. No. 273, Holibhat, Ponda, Goa- 403401

If anyone has any objection to the registration of **Gooncho Swabhimani Party** they may send their Objection with reason thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

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No.: IIIT-Bh/16021/205 Date: 15.09.2021

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR

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Application form and other details can be downloaded from the institute website <https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in>. Hard copy of the filled-in application form along with all supporting documents and application fee must be submitted to the office of the undersigned by **25th September 2021**.

Incomplete application and the application received after due date will not be entertained and will be summarily rejected. For further details please visit the Institute website : <https://www.iiit-bh.ac.in>

The authority reserves the right to reject any or all the applications without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director (I/c)

AT : Gothapatna, PO : Malipada, Bhubaneswar - 751003, Odisha, India, Ph : +91-674-2653300, Fax : +91-674-2653309, Web : www.iiit-bh.ac.in

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Last date of submission of online application: **27.09.2021**
Date : 16.09.2021 Regional Manager

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Tele No : 0532-2420772, email : armyschoolallid@gmail.com
School website : armypublicschoolallid.org

Sealed quotation for purchase of Computer Furniture are invited. Sealed quotations to be sent by post or dropped by hand in quotation box of the school by **28 Sep 2021**. Details of tenders are at School website. **PRINCIPAL**

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Senior Security Officer
Senior Officer (Electrical)
Senior Officer (Electronics & Communication)
Senior Officer (Land/Legal)
Senior Officer (Mechanical)
Senior Officer (Geophysics)
Senior Officer (Instrumentation)

C. In 'Grade A' in the pay scale of Rs. 50,000 to 1,60,000:

POST
Confidential Secretary

The last date of receipt of Online Application is **23:59 Hours on 10.10.2021**.
For details visit: http://oil-india.com/Current_openNew.aspx

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti
(An Autonomous Organisation Under Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India)

Invites Online Applications for Admission Against Vacant Seats in Class-IX (2022-23)

Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti invites applications for admissions in Class IX against vacant seats in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas for the session 2022-23. Online portal for submission of applications starts from 13th September, 2021. Application may be submitted free of cost by accessing NVS website: www.navodaya.gov.in OR www.nvsadmissionclassnine.in

Opening of Online window	Last Date to Apply	Date of Selection Test
13-09-2021	31-10-2021	09-04-2022

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Candidates studying in Class- VIII in the academic session 2021-22 in Govt./Govt. recognised schools in the same district where JNV is functioning and to which they are seeking admission, are eligible. A candidate seeking admission must be born between 01.05.2006 and 30.04.2010 (both days inclusive). This is applicable to all categories of candidates including those who belong to the SC/ST categories.

For detailed notification including test pattern and vacancy position in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, NVS website www.navodaya.gov.in, may be visited or Principal, JNV of the District concerned may be contacted.

Issued by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITALVACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
1,64,967

		Total		Vacant
		HOSPITAL BEDS	16,327	
		ICU BEDS	3,516	3,433
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Sept 14	38	15	0	70,308
Sept 15	57	53	0	74,199
Total	404*	14,12,858	25,083	2,66,74,700

*Total active cases

NCRB DATA SHOWS DELHI FARES WORSE THAN OTHER METROS

Crime Capital: Delhi remains most unsafe for women

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

WHILE THERE is an overall dip in the crime rate in Delhi, owing in part to the Covid pandemic last year, the national capital reported the highest number of violent crimes and crimes against women among all the metropolitan cities of the country.

According to the data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), the number of cases registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in Delhi plummeted by 18 per cent between 2019 and 2020.

Last year, more than 2.4 lakh cases -- or over 650 cases a day -- were registered by the Delhi

Police.

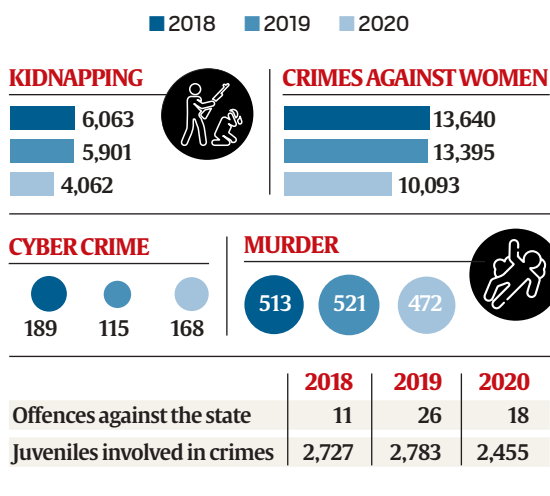
Meanwhile, Bangalore recorded 19,964 cases, and Mumbai 50,000 recorded cases last year.

A total of 472 cases of murder were registered, with 'love affair' and property dispute being the most common motives. In 2019, 521 cases were registered.

The NCRB data shows that kidnapping cases have gone down from 5,900 in 2019 to 4,062 in 2020, out of which more than 3,000 cases were of victims aged between 12 and 18.

Despite the fall, Delhi recorded the highest cases of kidnapping followed by Mumbai with 1,173 cases and Lucknow with 735 cases.

2019 VS 2020: CRIMES ARE DOWN



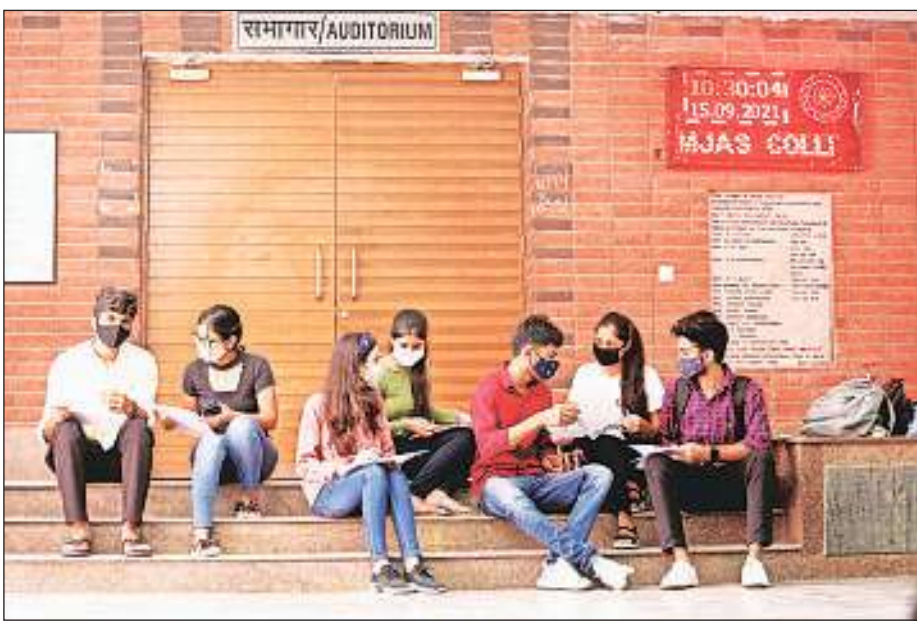
BRIEFLY

Man held hostage; truck robbed on NH-48

Gurgaon: Three unidentified men kidnapped a man and robbed a truck, allegedly at gunpoint, on national highway-48 at Manesar. Police said the accused men are yet to be arrested. According to the police, the incident took place around 2 am Tuesday when two men, identified as Pankaj Kumar, who works as a driver at a cargo moving firm, and his brother-in-law Karan, both residents of Basti district in Uttar Pradesh, were going from Alipuro to Gujarat to ferry cargo.

Faridabad: Gang held for conning 300 job seekers

Gurgaon: Faridabad police on Wednesday said they had busted a gang of three persons, who had allegedly duped over 300 people across the country on the pretext of offering them lucrative jobs. Police said the gang had been operating since the first lockdown was imposed after Covid last year. The accused have been identified by first names as Abhishek, Himanshu and Aarohi. The three had been working from a call centre in Delhi. Police said Aarohi was the kingpin of the gang, who handled the management of their company. Police said that they procured data of potential job seekers from an online job portal and target unemployed persons. **ENS**

Students at Ramjas College after Delhi University reopened, Wednesday. *Praveen Khanna*

DU reopens, attendance thin

SUKRITA BARUAH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

DELHI UNIVERSITY reopened its doors for practical classes on Wednesday to a muted response from students, particularly those from outside the city who are choosing to stay away from now.

From Wednesday, the university and its colleges are open for laboratory and practical work for final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students who can also attend these offline. In this phased reopening, the rooms are to be used only at 50% capacity and all theory classes will continue completely online.

In a university where most colleges have more than half their students coming from outside Delhi, many are waiting for a further easing of restrictions and for certainty that this reopening will continue.

"We had a few students come in for the zoology and computer science practicals today. The physics teachers were also present on campus, but the number of students was very low. We had put out a Google Form for students to let us know whether they will be coming to college for their practicals, but the main is-

sue is that 55% of our students are from outside Delhi. While we are prepared for the students to come, those from outside are preferring to wait for classes to go completely offline because it is difficult, with so much uncertainty, to return for only a part of their work and for the rest to be done online. Our hostel capacity will also be less since there can only be one student per room, and we don't know if PGs are reopening," said Kirori Mal College principal Vibha Chauhan.

Currently the only ones in the college hostel are its three international students who have been there for around a month now.

At Guru Teg Bahadur Khalsa College, around 60 students reported for practicals on Wednesday. Principal Jaswinder Singh said that while the college's women's hostel is ready to accommodate students, not a single student has approached them to avail the facility so far. "I think they are just waiting and watching," he said. Approximately 40% of the college's student strength is from outside Delhi.

G Sai Tanishka, a mathematics honours student at Miranda House from Andhra Pradesh, explained that students like her are weighing several considerations.

"We are so eager to go back to college but there are many factors for us. Going back to Delhi is not an easy process now, and if cases rise again, I will be stuck in Delhi with no one to help me. For hostellers, it's easier, but students like me who do not stay in the hostel will have to look for PG accommodation. My classmates and I were discussing this through video call and the consensus is that we have been doing our practicals online for a year now, so perhaps we can continue doing them online for another semester while waiting to see if other things also reopen or the third wave happens," she said.

At Deshbandhu College, principal Rajiv Aggarwal said: "We had a turnout of around 15% among science and commerce students today, but it was only the first day. We'll get a better sense of turnout in another 10 days I think. I don't think it will be that many more students though because 60% of our students are from outside Delhi and they are hesitant to return to the city, and have been making enquiries about how long this reopening will continue for. Since we don't have a hostel, they will have to make their own living arrangements."

NDMC passes proposal for multi-level parking lots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE NORTH Delhi Municipal Corporation Wednesday passed the proposal to set up multi-level parking facilities in four congested areas of North Delhi--Karol Bagh's Ajmal Khan Road (Bank Street), Old Rajendra Nagar, Shastri Park, and Pusa Lane with a total capacity to house 1,922 cars.

These proposals have evoked criticisms from the AAP as these facilities will be developed by private contractors on a freehold basis under an agreement by which 70% of the car space will be given to the North MCD and the remaining 30% will be with private player. The private concessionaire can use portions of facilities developed commercially that will be based on floor area ratio and will come around one to two floors, depending on plot size.

According to the data, Delhi is the most unsafe city for women.

More than 10,093 cases of crimes against women were registered in the national capital last year -- more than twice the number of cases registered in Mumbai, Pune, Ghaziabad, Bangalore or Indore.

In 2018, 13,640 cases of crimes against women were registered in Delhi, and this number dropped by 300 the next year.

As many as 997 rapes, 110 dowry deaths, 1,840 assaults with intent to outrage modesty, and 326 harassment cases were recorded -- with over half of the victims aged below 30.

The data also shows that in most cases, offenders were

known to the victims (family, neighbours, or partners).

Cyber crimes including online theft, fraud and sexual harassment, increased last year.

In Delhi, more than 168 cases were registered, around 50-60 more than that in previous years.

An average of five to ten people are detained in each case, said police.

The accused are mainly involved in transmitting/publishing sexually explicit content, cyberstalking, fraud and extortion.

As compared to other metros, Delhi saw fewer cyber crimes, said police.

Police also said 28,688 cases pending from last year have been reopened this year for investigation.

Men held for terror plot were told to plan attack 'like 1993 Mumbai blasts'

MAHENDER SINGH
MANRAL

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

A DAY after arresting six men, including two allegedly trained by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the Delhi Police Special Cell has learnt during questioning that the accused were asked to execute an attack "like the 1993 Mumbai bomb blasts", and that the ISI, apart from providing explosives to them, also provided explosives to people in other states as well.

Police and intelligence officials are verifying details of recovered IEDs, weapons and grenades, and assessing if there is



Osama and Zeeshan Qamar were allegedly trained by ISI

a match with the recovery made from the son of the nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who was arrested last month from Jalandhar, it is learnt.

Police said the accused, Jaan

Accused from Mumbai 'took orders from Dawood's brother', has criminal record

SAGAR RAJPUT

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE LAST time Jaan Mohammed Sheikh was arrested was 20 years ago in 2001 for allegedly firing at a Mumbai businessman during an extortion attempt.

On Tuesday, the 47-year-old from Dharavi was arrested again -- this time by the Delhi Police Special Cell, along with five other alleged terror operatives who had allegedly been in touch with gangster Faheem Machmach, a close associate of Dawood Ibrahim since the late 1990s, police sources said.

The Special Cell apprehended him from a train to Delhi, which he had boarded from Mumbai Central railway station in Mumbai. Maharashtra ATS chief Vineet Agarwal said at a press conference that Delhi Police had not informed his unit about their interest in Shaikh, and had carried out the arrest based on their own information.

Agarwal said that Shaikh had been on their radar for his affiliations with the D-gang.



Jaan Mohammed was earlier arrested in 2001

After gangster Machmach died on August 28, Shaikh is believed to have been taking orders directly from Dawood Ibrahim's brother Anees for extortion bids on local businessmen.

During Shaikh's last serious brush with the law in 2001, he had fired at the office of a businessman in the Pydhonie area of south Mumbai. A case was registered and he along with three others were arrested by the Crime Branch.

"The firing was orchestrated and supervised by Machmach on the instruction of Anees," said a police officer.

According to police sources, after that, he came up on the ATS radar once more in November 2020, when Fazlur Rehman Ubed

ur Rehman Khan alias Mujju was arrested by the anti-extortion cell.

Khan, sources said, told police that Shaikh was taking orders from the D-gang, mainly for extortion demands. Following this, police agencies along with ATS started keeping a close watch on his movements.

In his Dharavi neighbourhood, Shaikh was known as someone who kept a low profile. The Indian Express found his home in Dharavi locked on Wednesday, and none of the neighbours knew where his family had gone. Locals claimed that his family is being interrogated by different investigation agencies.

A police officer said there were two cases of extortion registered against him: "We are trying to get details on those cases and whether he was arrested in any other case. He has also committed petty offences like electricity thefts and assault in the central suburbs."

ATS chief Agarwal revealed that Shaikh, who once worked as a driver, was deep in debt. He had taken a loan to buy a two-

wheeler and owed around Rs 20,000.

"After quitting his job as a driver, Shaikh took out a loan, bought a car and drove a taxi for some time. But as he could not pay his monthly instalments, the bank authorities took away the taxi. Later he took another loan and bought a bike from which he was selling gutka," said Agarwal.

A source said that after the lockdown, Shaikh had started selling clothes.

"He would go to Surat, buy clothes in bulk and sell them in Mumbai. While getting these clothes, he would also illegally smuggle gutka from Surat by wrapping it in those clothes," said the source.

A travel agent, who helped him book a train ticket to Delhi -- it was mid-journey on this train that he was caught -- told The Indian Express: "Eight to nine months ago, he asked me to book tickets as he wanted to travel to Ajmer with his family. That's how I knew him. On September 10, he called and asked me to book a railway ticket for him. He said that he wanted to travel to Delhi."

Delhi to earn Rs 10k cr revenue under new excise policy: Sisodia

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

DELHI'S DEPUTY chief minister Manish Sisodia Wednesday said that the city government is expected to earn around Rs 10,000 crore in a year from bidding of liquor shops with the implementation of new liquor policy.

The government has received 215 bids for retail vends in 32 zones across the city, he added. "The government had expected the rise in excise revenue to be around Rs 2,500 crore, but the increase after bidding is now expected to be around Rs 3,500 crore," Sisodia said.

"Under the new policy, the license fee has been increased substantially. While it was around Rs 8-10 lakh earlier, it is now around Rs 6-6.5 crore per vend. The majority of revenue came from excise duty per bottle. For the coming 12 months, the revenue will be around Rs 10,000 crore," he added. While the Delhi govern-

The government has received 215 bids for retail vends in 32 zones. *Archive*

ment saw a reduction of 23 per cent in the amount it expected to collect in taxes and duties this year, the revenue is expected to increase this year because of the new excise policy, Sisodia stated.

The licenses of private liquor shops will end on September 30. The new liquor shops will reopen on November 17. In the interim -- between October 1 and November 17 -- only government-run liquor vends will be

functional in the city.

With the new policy in place, government-run liquor vends will be closed down. All vends, which will now be privately run, will have to be spread over an area of at least 500 square metres, sales counters will have to be placed inside the shop and shouldn't face the street outside. Also Covid protocols should be followed and safety should be ensured by retailers. Sisodia said that with the new policy, the experience of buying and selling alcohol is set to change.

"Over the past two years, revenue in the states was very badly affected. In the year 2020-21, the dip in revenue through different sources was 41 per cent. This year, so far, the dip is 23 per cent, despite conservative budget estimates... Delhi gets no help from the Centre to begin with, despite paying significant taxes... In the midst of these problems, the new Excise Policy has proved to be a silver lining," the minister added.

chargesheet: "Police should not go on asking for dates. People are in jail. Why are you addressing arguments in a circle?" Tahir's lawyer, Rizwan, meanwhile pointed out that this case will not attract IPC section 436 (mischievous by fire or explosive substance with intent to destroy house, etc) as "there is not a single allegation or a statement disclosing the commission of this section".

ASJ Yadav said he agreed with this submission. Rizwan told the court there is no video footage of Tahir on February 25, the witnesses in this case were parties with interests who have similar statements, and the licensed pistol was never used by Tahir. The court asked Rizwan about the missing cartridges in his pistol and why Tahir got his pistol from police station days before the riot. Rizwan said, "I had surrendered my pistol during the Delhi elections. After the elections, I retrieved it from the police station as per the law. In

fact, there are phone calls from the local SHO asking me when I will take my pistol. The riots took place 12 days after results were announced."

Rizwan told the court that "investigation was carried out mechanically" and there was "no sense in the chargesheet". ASJ Yadav said, "The truth will come out, it sets its course."

Rizwan told the court that when the riots broke out, there was heavy deployment in the area and all shops were shut, yet witnesses in this case stated that they were all out buying milk. "The witness is injured and he gives his statement within two hours and identifies the shooter and that he was under instructions by Tahir." Rizwan said that "all the witnesses in this case are omnipresent". The court remarked that it has seen this in several cases and mentioned an instance where the same constable is a witness in at least a dozen cases.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FAN BASE

AFTER CONGRESS MP Shashi Tharoor agreed to anchor an interview show – To The Point – for the newly launched Sansad TV, the producers had to film a promotion video for it. The filming was done on a weekend at Vijay Chowk and Rajpath, with the North Block and South Block buildings in the backdrop, and finally in front of the Gandhi statue, which has been shifted to a new spot due to construction work for the new Parliament building. Being a weekend, it was less crowded on the roads, but tourists visiting the area and Tharoor's popularity posed problems for uninterrupted shoot. The tourists were keen to get autographs and click selfies with the Thiruvananthapuram MP, and he willingly obliged. Tharoor is interviewing renowned cultural personalities for Sansad TV.

RULE CHECK

WITH ASSEMBLY elections nearing, Uttar Pradesh has been witnessing a series of foundation stone laying ceremonies and inaugurations. But BSP MP Danish Ali has taken strong exception to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's move to inaugurate roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Ali pointed out that foundation laying or inauguration of such roads is the right of the local legislator. "This is not just an insult to the MPs but also a clear violation of constitutional provisions and rules," Ali tweeted. To drive home his point, he presented a July 2016 order issued by Ministry of Rural Development, which said that the "foundation stone for a PMGSY road should be laid and the road should also be inaugurated by the Honourable Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) with the function presided over by the local Hon'ble Minister or other dignitary as per state protocol".

DIAGNOSIS, PLEASE

ALMOST TWO weeks ago, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited a CGHS centre under a different name to check its functioning. On Wednesday, Mandaviya again visited another central government health facility. But this time around, he did not hide his identity. The minister's visit to Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital was to have an open and candid discussion with the doctors and hospital staff about the problems they are facing and the solutions to resolve those issues.

TMC's Arpita Ghosh resigns as Rajya Sabha MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

TRINAMOL CONGRESS Rajya Sabha MP Arpita Ghosh resigned from her seat Wednesday. The party said her resignation was part of organisational reforms that are underway.

Ghosh, a theatre personality, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the TMC last year, and was seen as one of the very vocal members of the party. She was among the six TMC MPs suspended during the Monsoon session of Parliament in August for unruly conduct.

TMC chief whip Sukhendu Shekhar Roy said the resignation was a "party decision".

"It was an organisational decision. Our organisation is in the process of undergoing so many changes. So it is part of the organisational reforms. It is not that she will not have any role to play just because she is no longer a Rajya Sabha member. She is very much in the party and she will play other roles in the party," Roy told *The Indian Express*.

Hours after her resignation, the TMC made public a letter she wrote to party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday in which she said she "would be more interested" in working for the party.

Afghanistan may see more turmoil: CDS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE SITUATION in Afghanistan can change further and there could be more turmoil, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Wednesday. He also said that China will step into Afghanistan in the time to come.

Speaking at an event at India International Centre, Rawat said, "What is going to happen in Afghanistan, only time will tell. Let us wait and watch whether everything is moving the way people thought they will move."

"Nobody thought the Taliban will take over the country so fast.



Bipin Rawat

What is going to happen in the future? You don't know what is likely to happen in the future. There could be more turmoil and more changes, which cannot as of now be anticipated," he said.

On the changing global geopolitical scenario, he said, "We are seeing some kind of a jointmanship between Sinic and Islamic civilisations. You can see China making friends with Iran, they are moving towards Turkey... And

Maharashtra to issue ordinance for OBC quota in local body polls

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

MONTHS AFTER the Supreme Court scrapped OBC quotas in local bodies, the Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday gave the go-ahead for promulgation of an ordinance to provide for OBC quota apart from reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes within the 50 per cent ceiling in local bodies.

The cabinet took the decision about making amendments in the law for OBC reservation in rural local bodies such as Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat.

A senior minister said the de-

cision about making a similar provision for urban local bodies such as municipal corporations and municipal councils will come in the next cabinet meeting.

The Indian Express was the first to report on August 27 that the government had devised this reservation formula to accommodate the OBC community, and was planning to build consensus among all political parties, including the opposition BJP.

A State Election Commission source said the ordinance won't be applicable to the ongoing by-elections for OBC seats vacated as per the Supreme Court order in six Zilla Parishads of Dhule, Nandurbar, Akola, Washim, Nagpur and Palghar and

Panchayat Samitis in their jurisdiction. "The decision will be applicable to all the future local bodies polls," said the senior official requesting anonymity.

As per a statement from the chief minister secretariat, the amendments will be made in the Maharashtra Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Act and in the Maharashtra Village Panchayats Act with a provision that "the OBCs will get maximum 27 per cent reservation but the total reservation of SC, ST and OBC will not exceed 50 per cent reservation ceiling". The ordinance will be promulgated by the Rural Development Department, it said.

Speaking to the media after

the cabinet meeting, NCP minister Chhagan Bhujbal said that by-elections were announced recently in some districts as per the apex court order.

"So, some immediate decision needed to be taken. Two meetings were held with all political parties, including Opposition leaders Devendra Fadnis and Pravin Darekar, and various options were discussed. In Tamil Nadu, Telangana and a few other states, they promulgated ordinances to provide reservation to OBCs within the ceiling of 50 per cent reservation and elections are being held there. We are promulgating an ordinance on the same lines," said Bhujbal.

Farm laws will aid food security, says Rajnath

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh Wednesday defended the three farm laws saying they will increase farmers' income and strengthen food security.

Singh was speaking on government reforms at the Indo-US Economic Summit. He said: "There was a need for agricultural reforms for the past many decades, but the previous governments were unable to do the kind of work that should have been done. But our government took a bold decision and passed three new agricultural laws...

And because of these agricultural laws while the Indian farmers will become economically strong and their incomes will go up, it will also strengthen the country's food security."

The minister also spoke about other reforms taken by the government as he invited American industry to invest in India.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

AT LEAST 12 states, including five ruled by the BJP, suggested the minimum support price (MSP) for wheat — in the range of Rs 2,200 to 8,258 per quintal for the rabi marketing season 2022-23 — higher than the MSP of Rs 2,015 per quintal declared by the Centre earlier this month.

The Centre's announcement of MSPs for six rabi crops on September 8 was on the lines of recommendations made by the

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in its report on the 'Price Policy for Rabi Crops: The Marketing Season 2022-23'. The wheat MSP saw an increase of just 2.03 percent, from Rs 1,975 to Rs 2015 per quintal, the lowest in the last 12 years.

The report also shows that the states have suggested higher MSPs for five other rabi crops — barley, gram, lentil, rapeseed and mustard and safflower.

Wheat is the major rabi crop. In the rabi marketing season 2021-22, nearly 50 lakh farmers availed of the wheat MSP.

"There are variations in cost estimates provided by the states and CACP cost estimates. The main reasons for variations in these two sets of estimates are different methodologies and cost concepts used by the states and CACP," the report said.

BJP-ruled Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka and UP, besides Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana and West Bengal suggested MSP for wheat in the range of Rs 2,200 to Rs 8,258/quintal. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

Kanhaiya meets Rahul, likely to join Cong; Mevani in touch too

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

CPI LEADER and former JNU Students Union president Kanhaiya Kumar has met Rahul Gandhi, ostensibly to prepare ground for his entry into the Congress, which has suffered desertion by many young leaders in the past two years.

Sources said Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani too is in touch with the Congress leadership. The Congress had helped Mewani in the last Assembly elections by not fielding a candidate from the Vadgam seat in north Gujarat.

Kumar, sources close to him said, was feeling suffocated in the CPI. He met Rahul on Tuesday and the two are learnt to have discussed his entry into the Congress. When asked about Kumar's possible exit, CPI general secretary D Raja said he has only heard speculation. "I can only say that he was present at the national executive meeting of our party earlier this month. He spoke and participated



Kanhaiya Kumar (left); Jignesh Mevani

in the deliberations," Raja said.

While Kumar did not respond to calls, sources in the Congress said he is keen to play a key role in Bihar politics. The party had been in political wilderness in Bihar for the past three decades. Even in last year's Assembly elections, it performed badly when compared to allies RJD and CPI (ML).

Sources said the Congress believes that the entry of Kumar and Mewani will give it a boost, at least optics wise, since one of the narratives regarding the party in the past two years has been of young leaders — among them Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sushmita Dev, Jitin Prasada and Priyanka Chaturvedi — leaving the party.

Haryana forms panel to talk with SKM on clearing Singhu stretch


EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 15

THE HARYANA government Wednesday decided to form a panel to hold talks with farm leaders on reopening the highway stretch along the Kundli-Singhu border, where farmers have been

protesting against the Centre's farm laws for over 10 months.


Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar chaired a meeting on the issue Wednesday evening.

"The committee shall be headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Rajeev Arora..." Haryana Chief Secretary Vijai Vardhan said.



Government of Haryana


Department of Industries & Commerce



As part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav", a celebration to commemorate 75 years of Independence, the Industries Department is organizing the following events:-

Sr. No.	Event	Dates	Place
1.	<u>Vanijya Utsav</u> Showcasing India as Rising Economic Force in the Haryana State with state level exhibition on exports where buyers and others can see products/ services.	A two-day event on (21 st -22 nd September, 2021)	Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), Apparel House, Institutional Area, Sector-44, Gurugram.
2.	<u>Exporter's Conclaves (Mega Events)</u> Showcasing exportable products and services in districts.	24 th Sept., 2021 24 th Sept., 2021 25 th Sept., 2021 26 th Sept., 2021	Faridabad Faridabad Industries Association Hall, Opp. Bata Factory, Faridabad Panipat Panipat Club, Near PWD Rest House, Panipat Sonepat HSIIDC Auditorium, Kundli, Distt. Sonepat. Karnal Mangalsen Auditorium, Ambedkar Chowk, Karnal.
3.	<u>Exporter's Conclaves (Smaller Events)</u> Showcasing exportable products and services in districts.	A one-day event on any day from (24 th -26 th September, 2021)	In all the districts of the state except Faridabad, Sonepat, Panipat and Karnal.






For more information, please scan QR code



All the exporters of the state are requested to actively participate in the aforesaid events to make them a grand success.

For details in respect of these events, feel free to contact the concerned Joint Director/Dy. Director, District Industries Centre (DIC) in the state.

Director General, Industries & Commerce, Haryana, 30 Bays Building, 1st Floor, Sector-17-C, Chandigarh
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Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana  www.prharyana.gov.in |     **@DiprHaryana**

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh in Dehradun. *PTI*

UTTARAKHAND

Former Dy Army Chief sworn in as Governor

Dehradun: Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh was Wednesday sworn in as the Governor of Uttarakhand. Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court, Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan, administered the oath of office to Singh at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhawan. A highly decorated former Army officer, Singh has succeeded Baby Rani Maurya, who had resigned from the post last week. Born in Amritsar in 1956, Singh retired from service in 2016 after a 40-year career. **ENS**

GOA

CM seeks Centre action over tarballs

Panaji: Goa CM Pramod Sawant said on Wednesday that the state government will write to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change and the Direction General of Shipping, asking them to take action against oil spillage at high seas that leads to tarballs washing up on the state's beaches. Sawant said the problem was faced by the entire west coast. Tarballs are dark, sticky balls of oil that form when crude oil floats on the ocean surface. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Teenager ends life after her 'rapist' gets bail

Nagpur: A 16-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide after a relative accused of raping her was recently released from jail on bail in Nagpur city, police said on Wednesday. The girl, who lived with her father, stepmother and brother, allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling at her home on Monday, a senior inspector said. **PTI**

DELHI

Russia seeks nod for export of Sputnik Light

New Delhi: The Russian ambassador has urged the Indian government to allow the export of single-dose Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik Light produced by Hetero Biopharma, one of the RDI's partners in the production of the jab, to his country till the vaccine gets emergency use authorisation from India's drug regulator. **PTI**

Privilege comes with responsibility: Birla to MPs, MLAs

New Delhi: Cautioning that increased incidents of unparliamentary behaviour by public representatives have tarnished the image of democratic institutions, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday said MPs and MLAs should be aware that their privileges come with responsibilities. Addressing the 81st All India Presiding Officers Conference, Birla said the credibility of legislature is likened to the conduct and behaviour of members so they are expected to observe the highest standards of discipline and decorum, both inside and outside the House. **ENS**

'CRIME IN INDIA' — NATIONAL CRIME RECORDS BUREAU DATA

Crime down, clashes up in year of lockdown, Delhi riots, protests

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

WHILE 2020 — a year marked by months of a national lockdown due to the pandemic — saw fewer "traditional crimes" such as those committed against women and children, among others, it witnessed a big spike in civil conflicts.

According to the latest data on 'Crime in India' released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), communal riots registered an increase of 96% in 2020 over the previous year. Similarly, caste riots saw an increase of close to 50%, agrarian riots 38% and riots during 'andolan/morcha' increased by 33%.

The report says that due to the complete lockdown from March 25 and May 31 last year, the number of cases registered for crimes against women, children and senior citizens, theft, burglary, robbery and dacoity, among others, dropped by about 2 lakh. Murder registered a marginal increase of 1% even as offences falling under the category of "violent crimes" decreased by 0.5%.

The year also saw a significant drop in cases related to 'Offences against the State', with a drop of

A JUMP IN NUMBERS

OFFENCES	2019	2020	% increase
Communal riots	438	857	96%
Caste riots	492	736	50%
Agrarian riots	1,579	2,188	38%
Andolan/Morcha riots	1,442	1,905	33%
Promoting Enmity Between Groups	1,058	1,804	70%
TOTAL RIOTS (including other causes)	45,985	51,606	12%

Offences Against The State decreased by 27%, but UP only major state where they increased

Source: NCRB

27% over 2019. UP, however, was the only major state to record an increase in this category, mostly due to the large number of 'Damage to Public Property' cases registered by the state, many of them during the anti-CAA protests.

'Offences against the State' include cases related to sedition and waging war against the nation, those falling under provisions of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), Official Secrets Act and Damage to Public Property Act.

According to the NCRB data, 2020 saw 857 cases of communal riots being registered across the

country as compared to 438 in 2019. Most of the 2020 cases are attributed to the Northeast Delhi riots of February last year. Delhi Police alone registered 520 cases of communal riots in the year.

Bihar is at second spot with 117 cases, Haryana and Jharkhand 51 each, followed by Maharashtra (26) and Gujarat (23). Uttar Pradesh did not record a single case of communal violence in 2020, according to the data.

Cases of caste conflict increased from 492 in 2019 to 736 in 2020. Bihar recorded the highest number in this category at 208, followed by Maharashtra (125),

UP (116), Karnataka (95) and Tamil Nadu (69).

NCRB data reflects the number of cases registered by police and hence, the data often hinges on the responsiveness of the police personnel on the ground.

The year, that saw unprecedented protests against the three farm laws passed by the Centre, recorded 2,188 agrarian riots, a jump from 1,579 in 2019.

Interestingly, Punjab reported zero cases of agrarian riots and Haryana 34. The highest number of cases have been reported from Bihar (1,286), followed by Maharashtra (279), Karnataka (148), UP (142) and Jharkhand (83). In cases of rioting during 'andolan/morcha', it is Kerala that has recorded the highest number of cases at 1,798, accounting for almost 95% of all such cases in 2020.

The year saw the number of attacks on police personnel decrease from 1,054 to 616 in 2020, a drop of almost 40%.

In 2020, 1,804 cases of 'Promoting Enmity Between Groups' were registered across the country as compared to just 1,058 in 2019. The highest number of such cases were reported from Tamil Nadu (303) followed by UP (243), Telangana (151) and Assam

(147).

In the category of 'Offences Against the State', 2020 saw 2,000 fewer cases being registered as compared to 2019, which recorded 7,656 cases. Out of 5,613 cases registered this year, 80.6% of cases were registered under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act (4,524 cases) — suggesting state crackdown on violent protests — followed by 796 (14.2%) cases under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

UAPA cases, in fact, registered a decrease of 35% in 2020 over 2019. The highest number of UAPA cases were registered in J&K (287), followed by Manipur (169), Jharkhand (86), Assam (76) and UP (72). UP was the only state in the top five with no ongoing insurgency to record such high numbers.

UP is also the only major state to have recorded an increase in the number of cases under 'Offences Against the State'. Total number of cases under the category recorded in the state increased from 2,107 in 2019 to 2,217 in 2020. All other big states, the data show, have registered a decrease in the number of cases in the category.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

28% crime surge, mostly Covid violations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

IN A year impacted massively by the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns, overall crime numbers in the country increased by 28 per cent in 2020 over non-pandemic year 2019, according to the latest report of the NCRB. However, this increase has been largely attributed to crimes registered for Covid-19 violations as other crimes actually decreased in 2020



Covid violations significant contributor to cases. *File*

compared to 2019.

The NCRB released its crime data for 2020 on Wednesday, recording a total of 66,01,285 cognizable crimes comprising 42,54,356 IPC crimes and 23,46,929 Special and Local Laws (SLL) crimes. It shows an increase of 14,45,127 (28.0%) in registration of cases over 2019 (51,56,158 cases). Crime rate (number of cases registered per one lakh population) also increased from 385.5 in 2019 to 487.8 in 2020.

"Major increase was seen in

the cases registered under Disobedience to order duly promulgated by Public Servant (Sec. 188 IPC) from 29,469 cases in 2019 to 6,12,179 cases in 2020 and under 'Other IPC Crimes' from 2,52,268 cases in 2019 to 10,62,399 cases in 2020," the NCRB report says.

According to Ministry of Home Affairs lockdown orders during the pandemic, those violating the Centre's guidelines on Covid containment were supposed to be booked under Section 188 of the IPC and the Disaster Management Act.



ON A WARPATH

Applicants demanding recruitment in vacant teaching posts jostle with the police during a demonstration in Lucknow on Wednesday. *Vishal Srivastav*

Ex-Haritha leaders flay IUML leadership

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 15

FORMER leaders of Haritha — the Indian Union Muslim League's dissolved women students' wing — Wednesday came out strongly against the party, saying it is answerable for the sexual insult they faced from its male student mem-

bers as well as the resulting trauma.

They said they would continue to fight within the IUML as they felt political ideology was more important than individual leaders.

IUML had disbanded the state committee of Haritha last week after its leaders refused to withdraw a sexual harassment complaint filed with the state women's commission against

three MSF leaders, including its president P K Navas.

Speaking to the media in Kozhikode, Haritha's former state general secretary Najma Thabshera said the women workers of MSF value their self-respect.

Another ex-officer bearer, Mufeeda Thesni, said the IUML had disappointed its women workers. **FULL REPORT ON**
www.indianexpress.com

only be commented upon after completion of epidemiological investigation, but prima facie, the probable cause of the outbreak could be the unhygienic conditions and illegal drinking water pipe connections that led to contamination of drinking water. Some deaths may be due to pneumonia and gastroenteritis," said Arora.

"The situation is under control. We are keeping a strict vigil," he said. "House-to-house active search for fever cases is being done by the health teams... All anti-larvae activities like fogging, checking water bodies etc. are being carried out in the affected area," he said.

At Chillli village: officials found leak in a pipeline of drinking water, suspect contamination. *Pavneet Singh Chadha*



214% rise in cases relating to fake news, rumours

APURVA VISHWANATH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

INCIDENTS OF circulation of "false/fake news" and rumours, a crime under the Indian Penal Code, saw nearly a three-fold rise in 2020 over 2019, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.

A total of 1,527 cases of fake news were recorded in the pandemic year — a 214 per cent increase — against 486 cases in 2019 and 280 cases in 2018, when the category was first included.

Telangana with 273 cases tops the list of states followed by Tamil Nadu (188) and Uttar Pradesh (166). Hyderabad tops the list of cities with 208 cases, followed by Chennai (42) and Delhi (30).

While addressing fake news has been crucial in containing the spread of the virus, several states labelled those raising an alarm over shortage of beds and oxygen as spreading fake news.

In April, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the stringent National Security Act will be invoked against social media posts on shortage of oxygen. In April 2020, a local BJP leader was booked under sedition after he al-

Several states labelled those raising an alarm over shortage of beds and oxygen as spreading fake news

legedly posted on Facebook urging people to make donations as there were "no ventilators" in Ludhiana to treat Covid patients.

IPC Section 505, a broad provision relating to "statements conducing to public mischief", punishes acts of rumour mongering and circulation of false news. "Whoever makes, publishes or circulates any statement or report containing rumour or alarming news with intent to create or promote, or which is likely to create or promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, feelings of enmity, hatred or ill-will between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, shall be punished with imprisonment which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both," it states.

Domestic violence, however, was the most prevalent crime against women, according to the records.

More than 1.1 lakh cases of domestic violence were recorded across the country, with West Bengal recording the highest number at 19,962. It was followed by Uttar Pradesh with 14,454 cases and Rajasthan at 13,765 cases.

National Commission for Women Chairperson Rekha

Sharma told *The Indian Express* that these numbers may not represent the reality.

"In our meeting with all DGPs also we found that the police had fewer cases registered but NCW received more complaints compared to the previous year which was not impacted by lockdowns. Women perhaps are unable to reach the police station and seek help due to the lockdown," Sharma said.

Stadium murder: 2nd accused in kidnap case of 2017 to be killed

JOHNSON T A

BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 15

THE 27-YEAR-OLD murdered at a Bengaluru stadium on September 12 — Aravind, alias Lee — is the second person named in a high-profile 2017 political kidnapping case to be murdered in gang rivalries in Bengaluru, according to police.

On February 27, 2019, Prashant Kumar, 30, who, along with Aravind and 10 others, was named in a 2018 police chargesheet for attempted kidnapping of N S Vinay, BJP leader and currently state minister K S Eshwarappa's personal assistant, was killed in a gang attack in east Bengaluru.

Both Aravind and Prashant were part of a gang allegedly hired in May 2017 by N R Santhosh, then personal assistant of former CM B S Yediyurappa, to kidnap Vinay, police sources said. Sources said the two murders were not linked to the 2017 case but was the result of gang rivalries.

On February 27, 2019 evening, Prashanth was killed at the entrance to Horamavu, in east Bengaluru, by a gang al-

legedly led by one Shivaraj. The gang had allegedly murdered Prashanth's brother, Vinod Raj, and in retaliation Prashanth's gang had attacked Shivaraj, according to reports.

4 held in football stadium murder

Four people have been arrested in connection with the murder of Aravind on September 12, police said Wednesday. Police identified them as Stalin, Jack, Arun and Vijay — all residents of New Bagalur Layout in east Bengaluru.

Police sources said Aravind had allegedly assaulted Stalin's brother, Subhash, a few months ago and was arrested in that case. He had allegedly also assaulted Vijay six months ago. Aravind, sources said, was allegedly involved in fights with Vijay and Arun. The gang allegedly decided to kill Aravind six months months ago and were waiting for an opportunity.

Bengaluru police DCP (Central) Anucheth MN said that among the accused, Stalin is a rowdy-sheeter with criminal cases against him. The others were first-time offenders, he said.

Water contamination 'likely cause' of fever outbreak in Haryana village

VARINDER BHATIA & PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
CHANDIGARH, GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 15

A PRELIMINARY investigation into the deaths of seven children in the last three weeks in Chillli village, over 20 km from Palwal, has indicated that the "probable cause of the outbreak could be the unhygienic conditions and illegal drinking water pipe connections that led to contamination of drinking water," the Haryana government said on Wednesday.

Most of the children had shown similar symptoms — high fever, rash, vomiting, low platelet

count — and died within three-four days of reporting a fever.

Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajeev Arora said the outbreak started on September 9. "The rapid response team visited the affected areas on September 12, and a household survey was done wherever deaths were reported," he said.

"Officials found a leakage in the drinking water pipeline, and public health officials have been instructed to repair it at the earliest. A temporary medical camp has been set up in the area and cases are being treated symptomatically and referred as per the severity," he said.

"The final cause of deaths can



At Chillli village: officials found leak in a pipeline of drinking water, suspect contamination. *Pavneet Singh Chadha*



84,000 FEWER CANDIDATES THIS YEAR

JEE-Main results: 44 score 100 percentile

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

AROUND 84,000 fewer candidates took the JEE-Main in 2021, compared to 2020, with a dip registered across candidates from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC (non-creamy layer) categories, according to numbers shared by the National Testing Agency (NTA), which declared the result for the engineering entrance exam in the early hours of Wednesday.

In a statement, the NTA announced that 44 candidates across India scored 100 percentile in the exam, which was held over four sessions between February and September.

Among these 44 candidates include seven each from Delhi and Telangana, six each from Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, and five from Maharashtra. Twenty-four candidates each had scored 100 percentile in 2020 and 2019.

The NTA said 20 candidates were found using unfair means and were debarred from appearing in JEE-Main for three years.

JEE (Main) exams are held for admission to undergraduate engineering programmes — BE/B.Tech — at NITs, IITs, other Centrally Funded Technical Institutions (CFTIs), and certain institutions or universities recog-

nised by some state governments.

According to the NTA, 9.39 lakh unique candidates appeared in all four sessions of JEE-Main held in February, March, July, August and September this year. In 2019 and 2020, when each candidate could take the test two times each, 11.47 lakh and 10.23 lakh candidates, respectively, had appeared. The best performance of a candidate, who has appeared in multiple sessions of the exam, is taken into account while tabulating the scores.

Data also shows that 86,000 candidates from the SC category took the exam in 2021, compared to 97,000 and 1.08 lakh in 2020 and 2019, respectively. It says 33,000 applicants from ST category appeared in the exam this year, as against 38,000 in 2020 and 43,000 in 2019.

Moreover, 3.34 lakh OBC (non creamy layer) candidates appeared in JEE Main in 2021, while the corresponding figures were 4.02 lakh in 2020 and 4.46 lakh in 2019.

However, at 4.01 lakh, the number of general category candidates who took the exam rose marginally this year compared to 3.91 lakh in 2020. In 2019, 5.05 lakh general category candidates had taken the exam, which was conducted in 925 centres across the country and abroad this year.

NEET anxiety in TN: 17-yr-old dies; 3rd death by suicide in four days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 15

A 17-YEAR-OLD girl from a village in Tamil Nadu's Vellore district died by suicide on Wednesday, police said, adding that she was worried she would not clear the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to undergraduate medical courses.

The number of NEET-related suicides have risen to three in a span of four days, starting with that of Dhanush on September 12 when the test was held.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin and other political leaders have appealed once again to the student community to not take such extreme measures.

Addressing the student community in a video message, Stalin said, "I beseech you again and again to not take your life, the future of this country lies in your future; let us live and prove to be successful."

The government announced a dedicated toll free number — 104 — which offers

counselling to those who have appeared for NEET.

Soundarya, who died on Wednesday, was from Thalayarampattu village near Katpadi in Vellore district. She had appeared for NEET on Sunday, and was dejected with the thought that she may not be able to clear the test, police said.

She hanged herself on Wednesday morning by 9.30 am in her house using a saree, a Katpadi police officer told PTI.

She was the 17th medical education aspirant to die by suicide in Tamil Nadu in a span of four years, following the introduction of NEET.

Stalin said he was shattered to learn about her suicide. He called the government at the Centre "stone-hearted" for refusing to exempt Tamil Nadu from the ambit of NEET.

He reiterated his staunch opposition to the test, and assured that he would work to remove its application to Tamil Nadu.

"We will melt the stone-hearted people, we will not rest until the injustice of NEET is eliminated," he said.

No waiting list: Kerala CPM opens door to Congress turncoats

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
SEPTEMBER 15

DEFECTORS FROM other parties having to wait at the doorstep of the CPI(M) in Kerala to prove their credentials to gain entry appears to be a thing of the past. At least that is what two high-profile defections in the past two days suggest.

On Tuesday, minutes after AICC member and KPCC general secretary K P Anil Kumar quit the party, a long line of CPI(M) leaders led by politburo member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan were waiting to embrace him to the party fold. Kumar did not feel any ideological hurdle to move to the CPI(M) after being in the Congress for the past four decades. Neither did the CPI(M) feel that he should be made to wait.

On Wednesday, another KPCC general secretary, G Rathikumar, followed suit. After announcing his decision to quit the Congress, Rathikumar, who till recently defended his party on social media, directly drove to the CPI(M) state headquarters — to be received with red garlands.

While elsewhere disgruntled Congress leaders may be looking to join the BJP, the party of choice currently for turncoats in Kerala is the CPI(M). This is largely because, being in power, it can accommodate them in various government agencies, where political ap-

pointments can be made.

In the past, the party had rehabilitated Congress turncoats in government or quasi government bodies.

Kumar and Rathikumar have announced that they were going to the CPI(M) camp unconditionally, but the party has stated that they would be given decent accommodation.

CPI(M) central committee member and Rajya Sabha MP Elamaram Kareem justified the swift decision to admit the turncoats. "We have not made Kumar a party member. Depending upon his eligibility and exposure in political work, the CPI(M) would give him a deserving slot. The party has taken a decision to absorb the Congress leaders who leave that party. The CPI(M) accommodates leaders from other parties only after reviewing their political stand," he said.

In the coming days, the CPI(M) is likely to highlight that Kumar left the Congress in protest against its inability to fight against BJP. The other day, he had alleged that KPCC president KSudhakaran is a Sangh Parivar man.

"The CPI(M) would not be hesitant to make any Congress leader part of the Communist party if he is steadfast on secular values. The Congress has lost its secular credential. In such a scenario, we cannot push a Congress leader to an extreme Hindutva party like BJP," Kareem said.

I-T department surveys six premises linked to Sonu Sood

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE INCOME Tax (I-T) Department on Wednesday surveyed at least six premises in Mumbai and Lucknow connected to actor Sonu Sood, official sources said.

The sources said the department is looking into a land deal between Sood's firm and a real estate company in Lucknow following complaints of alleged tax evasion.

The department survey began on Wednesday morning and continued till at least 7 pm. The tax department has so far not made any seizures in the case, said a source.



Actor Sonu Sood

Sood, 48, who has acted in several films, was recently appointed brand ambassador of the Delhi government's 'Desh ka mentors' programme. The programme is designed to help students with career choices.

Coming out in support of Sood, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

NOTICE

For "A" Class Shareholders (Ordinary Members)

Notice is hereby given to all the "A" Class Shareholders registered till 31st March 2021 (Ordinary Members) of Lokmanya Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd., Belgum, that the 27th Annual General Body Meeting of the Society for the financial year 2020-21 will be held on Thursday 30th September 2021 at 4.30 p.m. at Lokmanya Rang Mandir, Konwal Galli, Belgum — 590001, Karnataka. All "A" Class Shareholders (admitted as members of the Society as on 31/03/2021) are requested to attend the same.

PLEASE NOTE: a) A copy of the Annual Report for the F.Y.2020-21 has been uploaded on the website of the Society. www.lokmanyasociety.org "A" Class Shareholders (Ordinary Members) registered till 31st March 2021 can download the same from the website for their perusal. b) Any member who intends to seek any clarification on any matter at the AGM, shall send a query in writing, so as to reach the CEO at the registered office of the Society at least 2 days prior to the AGM. c) All members attending the AGM shall follow all COVID-19 protocols as set by the Govt. Authorities, such as wearing masks, maintaining social distance etc. As a matter of abundant precaution w.r.t. COVID-19, no tea, coffee etc., shall be served at the meeting.

For Lokmanya Multipurpose Co-operative Society Ltd., Sd/- Kiran D. Thakur (Chairman) Date : 15.09.2021 Place: Belgum

FORM NO.15

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Wing : A, B & F (2nd Floor) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.

O.A. No. 64 of 2021 Punjab & Sind Bank

APPLICANT

Vrs.

Mr. Durgesh Kumar Singh & ors DEFENDATNS SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

To 1. Mr. Durgesh Kumar Singh s/o Mr. Yogendra Narayan Singh, Mohalla-Suryalok Colony Bagbari, P.O. - Mirzanhat, P.S.- Mozhaidpur, O.P.- Babarganj, District-Bhagalpur.

2. Mr. Shailesh Kumar Singh s/o Mr. Yogendra Narayan Singh, Mohalla-Suryalok Colony Bagbari, P.O. - Mirzanhat, P.S.- Mozhaidpur, O.P.- Babarganj, District-Bhagalpur.

3. Mrs. Babita Kumari w/o Mr. Durgesh Kumar Singh, Mohalla -Suryalok Colony Bagbari, P.O. - Mirzanhat, P.S. - Mozhaidpur, O.P.- Babarganj, District-Bhagalpur.

4. Mrs. Bela Rani w/o Mr. Shailesh Kumar Singh, Mohalla-Suryalok Colony Bagbari, P.O. - Mirzanhat, P.S. - Mozhaidpur, O.P.- Babarganj, District-Bhagalpur.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for the Recovery of a Sum of Rs. 38,78,527.90 (Rupees thirty eight lakh seventy eight thousand five hundred twenty seven and paise ninety only).

The above mentioned defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 29.09.2021 at 10.30 a.m. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for by the applicant should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 16th day of August, 2021.

Registrar DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA

4734/HRV

PT. B.D. SHARMA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, ROHTAK

No. UHSR/Acad./A-II/2021/7572 Dated: 14.09.2021

Notification

Applications are invited for admission to M.Phil in Psychiatric Social work for Academic Session-2021-23. Prospectus and application form can be downloaded from the University Website www.uhsr.ac.in. Application form along with relevant documents and Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Controller of Finance of Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak of Rs. 2,400/- for general category (Rs. 600/- SC/BC category candidates of Haryana) must reach in the office of the Controller of Examinations, Pt. B.D. Sharma University of Health Sciences, Rohtak on or before 18.10.2021 upto 05.00 PM. Cost of application form can be deposited through Debit Card/Credit Card also. The University will not be responsible for any delay due to any reason whatsoever. No application will be entertained after due date and time.

Sd/- DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Kejriwal said the actor has the prayers of lakhs of families who got his support in difficult times.

"There are millions of difficulties on the path of truth, but the truth always wins. With Sonu Sood ji, there are prayers of lakhs of families of India who got Sonu ji's support in difficult times," Kejriwal tweeted.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic Sood has helped many people through his many charitable interventions.

—WITHPTINPUT

NOTICE

L. Suman Talwar wife Santosh Talwar resident of A/03 Dwyra CGS-131 Plot 21 Sector 10/Dwarka, New Delhi have applied for conversion from Leasehold to Freehold of the flat (File F.8152160/191GH/024) The Original share Certificate bearing number 157 and Original allotment letter of the above flat have been lost. WCT to the effect has been lodged with Crime Branch Delhi side LR No. 877643 dated 10/09/2021. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection, or found in possession of original documents may contact at 9811594531 within 15 days. The person claiming any right, interest, objections in respect of the above property can personally inform or write to Lease Admin Officer (LAD), DDA, Group Housing Society, C-11, 2nd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, Delhi.

FORM NO.15

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

Wing : A, B & F (2nd Floor) Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (GPOA), Near Rajiv Nagar Thana, Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025.

O.A. No. 68 of 2021 Punjab & Sind Bank

APPLICANT

Vrs.

Ajay Kumar Mandal & ors DEFENDATNS SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993.

1. Mr. Ajay Kumar Mandal s/o Ram Das Mandal, Village/Mohalla - Kulkuila, Shankarpur, P.O. - Kawashpur, P.S. - Kahalgau, District-Bhagalpur.

2. Mr. Hast Kamal Mishra s/o Mr. Bhabesh Mishra, Nayachak, Budhiya Kalisthan, Ishakchak, Bhagalpur - 812002.

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 against the defendants for the Recovery of a Sum of Rs. 34,87,890.90 (Rupees thirty four lakh eighty seven thousand eight hundred ninety and paise ninety only).

The above mentioned defendants are, therefore, hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on 29.09.2021 at 10.30 a.m. (forenoon) as to why reliefs prayed for by the applicant should not be granted.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this tribunal on this 17th day of August, 2021.

Registrar DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, PATNA

Bhanwari Devi murder case: Key accused Indra Vishnoi granted bail

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 15

THE RAJASTHAN High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Indra Vishnoi, a key accused in the Bhanwari Devi murder case. With this, all 17 accused in the high profile case are now out on bail.

Like in the other bail pleas in the case, her counsel relied on bail granted to one of the accused by

the Supreme Court. In July, the Supreme Court had granted bail to Paras Ram Vishnoi, observing "that the matter in issue is a serious one and the offence is also heinous. However, we are faced with a position where the appellant, amongst other accused, has been in custody for eight-and-a-half years." The SC had observed that "some of the accused seek to lead defence evidence" and this would take time. "We are of the

view that pending the trial we cannot keep a person in custody for an indefinite period of time." the top court had said while granting bail to Paras Ram Vishnoi.

In the High Court, Indra's lawyer Hemant Nahta submitted that she has been behind bars for more than four-and-a-half years and is being tried for the same offence as Paras Ram Vishnoi. Nahta also said Indra wants to lead defence evidence.



Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University
Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
Mohaan Road, Lucknow- 226017

Advt. No. - 47/2021-22
The Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow (Govt. of Uttar Pradesh) invites applications for posts in Artificial Limb & Rehabilitation Centre, Bachelor of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology and Bachelor of Prosthetics and Orthotics program.
The details w.r.t various post(s), eligibility criteria, online and general instructions are available on <http://dsmru.up.nic.in>. Online application portal shall remain open from 18.09.2021 to 18.10.2021. The last date for submission of the hard copy of the application form alongwith necessary enclosure is 22.10.2021 upto 05:00 p.m. addressed to The Registrar, Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Mohaan Road, Lucknow- 226017 by Speed/Registered Post only.

Dated: 13.09.2021
Recruitment Notice
Registrar

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)

Ministry of Railways (Railway Board) invites applications to fill up one post of Registrar, Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT), Principal Bench, Delhi, in pay scale of Rs. 18,400-500-22,400 (pre-revised as per 5th CPC) {corresponding Level 14 of 7th CPC pay matrix} on regular basis on transfer on deputation/transfer basis from:-
(a) Officers of the Central (including Railways) / State Govts., High Courts:
(i) holding analogous posts on a regular basis; or
(ii) with 3 years' regular service in pay scale of Rs. 14,300-400-18,300/- (pre-revised as per 5th CPC) {corresponding Level-13 of 7th CPC pay matrix} or equivalent; and
(b) Possessing the following educational qualifications and experience;
(i) Degree in law from a recognized University or equivalent; and
(ii) 10 years' experience in Court procedures, Commercial/Railway Claims matters including administrative experience at Gr. 'A' level.
2. The applications should reach within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in employment news/rojar samachar.
For further details please log on to: www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard then click for IR personnel and then vacancy circular then general vacancy circular.
2068/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile

झारखण्ड सरकार
अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति,
अल्पसंख्यक एवं पिछड़ा वर्ग कल्याण विभाग

प्रवेशिकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमों में अध्ययनरत अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र/छात्राओं के लिए छात्रवृत्ति योजना वर्ष—2021–22 हेतु आवेदन से संबंधित आवश्यक सूचना
(P.R. No.-249939)
आम सूचना

पोस्ट मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति योजना के अन्तर्गत अनुसूचित जनजाति, अनुसूचित जाति एवं पिछड़ी जाति के छात्र-छात्राओं को झारखण्ड सरकार के द्वारा शैक्षणिक सत्र—2021–22 में पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन (P.R. No.-249939) के क्रम में पूर्व से निर्धारित तिथि को संशोधित करते हुए निम्न प्रकार विस्तारित किया जाता है :-

ऑनलाईन आवेदन की समय सीमा:-

क०	प्रक्रियात्मक कार्यवाही	ई-कल्याण पोर्टल खुलने की तिथि	ई-कल्याण पोर्टल बन्द होने की तिथि
1.	नए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा ई-कल्याण पोर्टल पर पंजीकरण एवं पंजीकृत संस्थानों द्वारा नवीनीकरण हेतु आवेदन।	15.09.2021	30.09.2021
2.	संबंधित छात्र/छात्रा द्वारा छात्रवृत्ति हेतु आवेदन करने की प्रक्रिया।	26.07.2021	25.10.2021
3.	शैक्षणिक संस्थान द्वारा छात्र/छात्राओं के आवेदन का सत्यापन।	17.08.2021	30.10.2021

पूर्व में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार शेष दिशा निर्देश Website-ekalyan.cgg.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

PR 253351 Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department(21-22)#D आदिवासी कल्याण आयुक्त



SBI State Bank of India
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna- 800001
Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

SALE OF IMMOVABLE ASSETS CHARGED TO THE BANK UNDER THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The undersigned as Authorized Officer of State Bank of India has taken over Symbolic Possession of the following properties/ies u/s 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002. Public at large is informed that e-Auction under SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the charged properties/ies in the below mentioned cases for realisation of Bank's dues will be held on "As is where is, As is what is and Whatever there is" Basis. The Auction will schedule on 25.10.2021. The other details of the Auction are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Borrower(s)	Amount of Demand (as per SARFAESI notice)	Description of the property	Name of Mortgagor/ Guarantor	Date of (13/2) Date of (13/4) under SARFAESI Act	Reserve Price below which the property will not be sold EMD Bid Increment Amount
1.	Smt Archana Devi W/o Sri Birendra Kumar	₹44,88,818.00 as on 19.04.2017 plus accrued int., charges & other miscellaneous expenses etc.	Owner of Property: Smt Archana Devi W/o Sri Birendra Kumar. Lease deed situated at Khata No.179, Khesra No.1687, Tauzi No.-804, Thana No.-390, Mauza-Phulwaria, Mahal-Tulsipur, Pargna Malki under Barauni Notified area. Total Lease Land-10 Katha, 17 Dhur i.e. 37.057 Decimal in the name of Smt. Archana Devi W/o Sri Virendra Kumar Vide Sale Lease Deed No.5978 dated 28.12.2010 (45 years Lease term). This property is bounded by: North-Nilam Devi & Sunil Kumar Singh, South-Ahmad Miyan, Rajendra Mahto & Others, East-Sarak & Khakhoran Mahto, West-Khesra No.1686.	Smt Archana Devi W/o Sri Birendra Kumar	20.04.2017 19.06.2017	₹1,80,00,000/- ₹18,00,000/- ₹10,000/-

E-auction Terms and Condition
1. Date & Time of e-auction: 25.10.2021; Time: 120 Minutes. From 12:00 Noon to 02:00 P.M. with unlimited extension of 5 Minutes each. Date and time for submission of request letter of participation/KYC Documents/Proof of EMD etc.: On or before 22.10.2021 till 04:00 PM.
2. The auction sale will be "online through e-auction". The intending Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website <https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>.
3. The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register on portal (<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) using their mobile number and email-id. Further, they are requested to upload requisite KYC documents. Once the KYC documents are verified by e-auction service provider (may take 2 working days), the intending Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount using online mode in his Global EMD Wallet before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal. The registration, verification of KYC documents and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before the auction.
4. Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) amount as mentioned above shall be paid online through NEFT/Transfer after generation of Challan from (<https://mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet. NEFT transfer can be done from any Scheduled Commercial Bank, however for Transfer the bidder has to visit Indian Bank Branch. Payment of EMD by any other mode such as Cheques, etc will not be accepted. Bidders, not depositing the required EMD online will not be allowed to participate in the e-auction. The Earnest Money Deposited shall not bear any interest.
5. MSTC Central Helpdesk Number (for any technical help): 033-40645207, 40609118, 40645316, 40602403, 40067351, 40628253. SBI contact no. (for property related enquiry): 9709119255 & 9431425483.
6. The General Terms and Conditions of e-auction sale is available on the website: <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>.
7. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims/rights/dues/affecting the property, prior to submitting their bid. The e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank. The property is being sold will all the existing and future encumbrances whether known or unknown to the bank. The Authorised Officer/Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims/rights/dues. The sale shall be subject to rules/conditions prescribed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. This publication is also a 30 days notice to all the borrower/guarantors require under Rule 8(b) of Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002. NB: 30 days Sale Notice to Borrower/Guarantors has already been sent by Regd. Post at their last known address. In case they do not receive the said notice then this E-auction sale Notice may be treated as substituted mode of service. The other terms and conditions of the e-Auction are published in the following websites. <https://sbi.co.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/auction-notices/sarfaesi-and-others>

Date : 14.09.2021
Place : Begusarai

AUTHORISED OFFICER
STATE BANK OF INDIA, SARB, PATNA

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

New Delhi

Education Secy Amit Khare is expert at Explained today



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

IT HAS been a year since the Centre announced the new National Education Policy (NEP) to transform school and higher education.

The policy document makes an ambitious proposition to re-place the 10+2 structure of school education with a 5+3+3+4 system of foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary education. In higher education, the three-year



DATE: 16 September 2021
TIME: 6 pm

TO REGISTER:
SMS - IEXP <space> PD
<space> Your name and
email ID to 56161.
Confirmation SMS will be
your registration.

undergraduate programme would now be a year longer, but students who wanted to get off midway could with suitable certification.

Foreign universities will be able to set up campuses here, and

Niti members meet Jharkhand CM

Ranchi: A team from the Niti Aayog met Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and other officials to discuss the state's grievances on 22 points pertaining to the Centre's outstanding dues from

a single authority will replace regulatory authorities such as UGC and AICTE.

As we learn to live in a pandemic-altered world, the time for implementing the changes has perhaps arrived. So, how will going to school and college change over the next year? How prepared are India's institutions, teachers, and students for the changes?

The Indian Express has invited Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare to answer some of these critical questions. As Higher Education Secretary, he helped shape the NEP. For the past year, he has also been the key person in the government tasked to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the education sector.

Expert Guest at the latest edition of Express explained.Live, a unique series of explanatory conversations that The Indian Express hosts, Khare will be in conversation with Ritika Chopra, senior assistant editor, The Indian Express.

Kerala diocese apologises after its book sparks Muslim protest

Thiruvananthapuram: Days after a Catholic bishop in Kerala triggered a row with his claim that there is an organised "narcotic jihad" targeting non-Muslims, a diocese under the Syro-Malabar Church has brought out a catechism textbook with several defamatory and derogatory statements against Islam.

The book has been published by the Catholic diocese of Thamarassery. On Wednesday, several Muslim organisations asked the government to impound the book. The catechism book is for students of classes X to XII. Besides the derogatory statements, the book states that "love jihad" is a reality and goes on to detail how Christian women are allegedly trapped.

The book claims that this is an organised activity, and warns the youth against accepting invitations for events from Muslims, two-wheeler rides, and even visits to ice cream parlours.

Following protests, the diocese of Thamarassery tendered an apology. It said the book was meant only to retain the youth within the Christian faith and protect women. Its press release claimed that 160 women of the diocese had been "trapped" in "love jihad".

Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine sent to top lab for testing

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

TEST BATCHES of US pharma giant Johnson & Johnson's single-dose Covid-19 vaccine have been sent to the country's top testing laboratory in Himachal Pradesh by its Indian partner Biological E Limited, to pave the way for commercial production, The Indian Express has learnt.

However, top government sources said the government has still not granted indemnity against the cost of compensation for adverse side effects due to vaccination, as sought by Johnson & Johnson.

According to sources, talks on the indemnity issue are still pending, and commercial rollout of the single-dose vaccine is likely to place after a final decision is taken.

"Biological E had imported the bulk drug material, which they have made into test batches. These test batches need to be approved by the Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli. If the test batch gets approved, they will be ready for commercial production," said a top government source.

On August 7, Johnson &

Johnson was granted emergency use authorisation, paving the way for its Indian subsidiary to introduce the first single-dose Covid-19 vaccine in the country for commercial use.

Johnson & Johnson's vaccine, developed by its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceutical, recorded 85 per cent efficacy in its Phase 3 clinical trials. It was the second vaccine to be granted emergency use authorisation through a fast-track approval route by the Indian drug regulator.

On April 13, India changed its policy on regulatory approvals for foreign manufacturers to commercially market their Covid-19 vaccine, by waiving the pre-condition on conducting phase 2-3 clinical trials for vaccines that have been granted emergency approval by the US, EU, UK, Japanese regulators, including those listed by the WHO.

On June 29, US's Moderna became the first foreign company to be granted emergency use approval for its mRNA vaccine under the liberalised regulatory regime.

There have been multiple rounds of discussions with Pfizer, Moderna and J&J on the supply of their vaccines in India.

However, the pharma giants, globally, have supplied their Covid-19 vaccines only after indemnities were given against the costs of compensation for adverse effects due to vaccination. In India, negotiations on the contentious indemnity clause are now in the final stages.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

563 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

NEW CASES: 29,895

ACTIVE CASES: 3,43,282

DAILY DEATHS 433

TOTAL DEATHS 4,43,930

WEEKLY CFR 0.73%

OVERALL CFR 1.35%

TESTS TODAY: 16,85,224 TOTAL TESTS: 54,77,41,020 WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.89% OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.09%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY
Kerala	17,681	1,91,234	16.48%
Maharashtra	3,783	49,034	0.98%
Tamil Nadu	1,658	16,636	1.04%
Andhra Pradesh	1,445	14,603	2.34%
Mizoram	1,185	12,899	12.99%

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
Kerala	208	23,066	0.48%	0.56%
Goa	70	3,289	12.50%	1.89%
Maharashtra	56	1,41,826	1.03%	2.19%
Tamil Nadu	29	35,246	1.61%	1.35%
West Bengal	14	18,613	1.84%	1.20%

Note: Data as on September 15; Deaths include those from previous days.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. Com-Enquiry-DNR-21

E-Tender invited vide notice No. Com-Enquiry-DNR-21 through www.ireps.gov.in with scheduled opening date is on 22.09.2021 for award of contract for manning of enquiry through video conferencing, face to face enquiry (manual) announcing, feeding of data of TIB & CIB etc. of Danapur Division for three years (1096 days) is cancelled.

Divisional Railway Manager (Comm./ECR) Danapur PR/0812/DNR/Comm./C/21-22/20

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dhanbad, Dated: 13/09/2021

E-Tenders are invited for execution of the following works by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:-

S.N. 1. E-Tender No.-91-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Hiring of 04 nos. truck for transportation of P/Way materials etc. in the section of SSE/P. Way/LTHR, SSE/P. Way/TORI, SSE/P. Way/BRWD & SSE/P. Way/DNR under jurisdiction of ADEN/LTHR & ADEN/DTO. 36 (Thirty Six) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 95.63.502.64

2. E-Tender No.-92-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Reconditioning of worn out switch rails, crossing assembly, SEJs and removing seized/ corroded/ broken rail/plates screw from sleepers of point-xing under ADEN/LTHR & ADEN/DTO. 08(Eight) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 52.63.502.64

3. E-Tender No.-93-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: GMD- Up gradation of Electric Loco Shed of GMD under ADEN/1/ GMD, 03 (Three) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 77.89.276.43

4. E-Tender No.-94-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Elimination of level crossing by subways LC No. 6A/B/3T at Km-50/5-6 between PEH-GHANDIHI in DHN-PEH (1 No.) & LC No. 1/B/T at Km. 6/11-12 between PKA-RKJE, 2A/C/T at Km. 8/3-4 between RKJE-SDBH, 2B/C/T at Km. 17/9-10 between SNMY-SNDT in PKA-SINDRI (3 Nos.) under AEN/2/DHN, E.C. Rly Dhanbad Division. 12 (Twelve) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 14.14.6.119.67

5. E-Tender No.-95-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: GHD-CPU section- Elimination of level crossing by subway (04 nos.) LC No. 46/C/T at Km.-57/1-2 between WDM-MXY, 67/C/E at Km.-89/10-11 between JQ-MPF, 56/C/E at Km.-69/20-21 between MXY-DXN & 65/C/T at Km.-84/ 5-6 between DXN-JRQ in GHD-CPU section under ADEN/RNQ E.C. Railway, Dhanbad. 12 (Twelve) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 14.17.4.798.35

6. E-Tender No.-96-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: Shallow/Deep screening, dressing/boxing and other miscellaneous P. Way work for speed raising between Koderma (Km. 0.5) excluding to NGRH (Km. 107.700) including yard. 09 (Nine) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 98.06.968.00

7. E-Tender No.-97-DHN-2021-22, Name of the work with its location & completion period: MHDA, yard remodeling of Mahadiya yard for provision of two additional looplines, wharf and shunting necks under ADEN/CPU 06 (Six) Months, Approx. cost of work (In Rs.): 2.36.15.479.13

Date & Time for closing and opening of e-tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 17:00 hrs. on 06.10.2021

Date of opening of e-tender from 12:00 hrs. on 07.10.2021

Website particulars: <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

For Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), East Central Railway/Dhanbad PR/0802/DHN/ENG/T/21-22/100

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

O/o Chief General Manager (Engg.) O&M Circle-IV, S.R.Nagar, Hyderabad-500 038. T.S.

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. & Date Name of Work

No. 119/ICGM(E)/O&M, IV/ 2021-2022, Date: 13.09.2021

Engaging of Outsourcing Personnel Semiskilled and Skilled in various peripheral circles of GHMC taking over the sewerage system by HMWSSB under various O & M Division-IX, X(A), X(B), XII, XIII, XIV, XV and XVI through outsourcing agency for a period of 12 months.

1) Tender Documents will be available online from dt.13.09.2021 from 5.30 P.M onwards and the last date for receipt of tenders is dt.20.09.2021. 2) Name & address of Chief General Manager (Engg), concerned - Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle-IV, HMWSSB, SR Nagar, Hyderabad-38. 3) The Contractors/ firms are requested to upload the information in the 'ZIP' format preferably. 4) Further details can be seen at <https://www.tender.telangana.gov.in>

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg.) O&M Circle-IV, S.R.Nagar, Hyderabad - 500 038. T.S.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND

Department of Mines & Geology Directorate of Geology

Engineer's Hostel No-2, 2nd Floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi

Expression of Interest

Notice No.-02/2021-22 for Date Extends

Expression of Interest Notice no. 02/2021-22 was published on 02.09.2021 in different News Papers vide PR.No.- 252510 (Mines and Geology) 21-22. Last date of submission of EOI was 13-09-2021. Due to unavoidable circumstances, last date of submission of EOI is extended till dated 24-09-2021 upto 5.00 P.M.

• Terms, Conditions & Application form are available on our website www.jharkhand.gov.in and also at our office notice board

Sd/- (Vijay Kumar Ojha) Director, Geology

PR 253329 (Mines and Geology) 21-22 (D)

UJJAIN SMART CITY LIMITED

उज्जैन स्मार्ट सिटी लिमिटेड

Mela Office, Kothi Road, Ujjain (M.P.) 456001 Ph. 0734-2525856

NIT No.- USCL/120, Tender ID- 2021_UAD_159153_1 Dated: 09-09-2021

Ujjain Smart City Limited invites proposal for "Survey, Design, Widening Reconstruction of Existing Selected Roads including Construction and Retrofitting of Underground Utilities in Ujjain" Interested bidders may purchase and submit their proposals online at www.mptenders.gov.in

Probable Amount of Contract: Rs. 13,03,26,345.31/-

Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 10,00,000/-

Cost of Document Rs. 30,000/-

Pre bid Meeting Date 20/09/2021

Last date for purchase of tender and submission of Technical and Financial Bid (Online) 30/09/2021 upto 17:00 hrs

For more details please visit <https://www.mptenders.gov.in>, Any Corrigendum or amendments shall be uploaded on this website only.

For, Ujjain Smart City Limited

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited

(CIN : U40108JH2013SGC001702)

Regd. Office: Engineering Building, H.E.C., Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004, Email:- itcellbjvnl@gmail.com , Telephone:-0651-2400826 & Fax: 0651-2400799

2nd Extension Notice

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. and Description of Item	Extended online bid uploading / submission end date	Last Date of Physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	90/PR/JBVNL2021-22 Appointment of Software Service Agency for Design, Development, Implementation & maintenance Support for Web & Android Based Mobile Application. Software for Photo Spot Billing & Collection System Metering, Billing, Collection (MBC), Customer Information System (CIS) and Meter Data Management System (MDMS) of JBVNL on OPEX Model for 2 years date	27.09.2021 upto 17:00 Hrs.	28.09.2021 upto 13:00 Hrs.	28.09.2021 upto 17:30 Hrs.

i. Submission of tender fee / EMD will not be accepted by courier / Regd. Post.

ii. Further details can be seen on website <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431709163 / 7739147383. NIC Helpline No. 0651 – 2400178.

स्वच्छ एवं सशक्ति से ऊर्जा बढ़ावे। कृपया अपनी बिक्रान्तों को 18003456670 (कोल सेंटर) पर दर्ज करावे।

PR No. 250693 PR 253311 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd(21-22)D

GAYA COLLEGE, GAYA

(A Constituent Unit of Magadh University, Bodhi)

Website : www.gayacollege.ac.in Email : principalgaya@yahoo.com, Ph: 0631-2222442, 2221944, 9431073303

Ref. No. PR/379/2021 Date, 14.09.2021

QUOTATION NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited by registered post or by hand so as to reach the undersign office up to 22.09.2021 for wall panelling, false ceiling and fixed chairs for Bursar cum Incharge Room through reputed & registered firms having GST No. For more details visit the undersign office between 10.00 A.M. to 05.00 P.M. on working day. Preference should be given to those firm who has turn over more than one crore in a year.

The undersign shall have the right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason there of.

Principal Gaya College, Gaya

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tenders Notice

OHE work in Ankorah siding Open e-tender notice No TRD-OT-03-ANH-21-22 E-tenders are invited from reputed contractors having proven experience, electrical license, successful execution of similar works and sound financial standing supported by the valid documents for the work as per details given below:-

Name of work with location : OHE work in ANKORHA (ANH) yard remodeling due to Coal transportation siding of NPGCL in DDU Division. Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 3,47,14,173.38, Earnest Money to be deposited: Nil, Last date and time for submission of tender : Upto 05/10/2021 on 15.00 hrs, Website particulars from where the details of e-tender can be obtained : www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divnl. Elec. Engineer (Tr-D), East Central Railway/DDU PR/0807/DDU/ETRD/T/21-22/28

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

No.-MC/05/Open/2021-22 Dated: 13.09.2021

For and on behalf of the President of India/E-Tenders on "Two Packet System" are invited from the Firms/Agencies/ Contractors of repute having technical expertise and financial solvency for the following work:-

Name of work with its location and Completion period : Annual Maintenance & Operation Contract (AMOC) of Bio-Toilet (DROE Type) in coaches of Dhanbad Division for two years. Completion period : 02 Years. Approx. cost of the work : Rs. 10,46,52,453.60 (Rupees Ten Crore forty six lakh fifty two thousand four hundred fifty three and sixty paise) only. Earnest money to be deposited: Rs. 0.00/- . Submission of " Bid Security Declaration" as per Annexure B in lieu of Earnest Money Deposit. Date & Time for closing of e-Tender : 17:00 hrs. on 04.10.2021 Date & Time for opening of e-Tender : 12:00 hrs. on 05.10.2021 Website particulars : <https://www.ireps.gov.in> No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

Divl. Mechl. Engineer (C&W) /Dhanbad PR/0804/DHN/MECH/T/21-22/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, East Central Railway, Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of Union of India invites Tender from competent and experienced Contractors having technical expertise, financial solvency through E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railway for execution of the following works.

Tender No. & Date : EL-TRD-06-ET-21-22 (Open), Name of the work with its location & completion period : OHE modification work for removal of infringement in connection with construction of ROB in lieu of LC.No. 163/SPL/3E at Loc.168/9-10 LC.No. 175/B/3T at Loc. 186/10-12, LC.No 1/1/SPL at Loc. 28/24-26 LC.No. 11A/T at Loc no. 12/30-13/2 & LC.No.18A/C/2T at Loc.1/8-11 in between KVC/VKWR including SGL-RXL section of SPJ Division. Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 70,91,037.12/- Earnest Money : Nil Date & Time for closing and opening of tender : Date of Closing of e-tender at 12:00 hours on 05.10.2021. Date of opening of e-tender from 12:30 hours on 05.10.2021. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen : <http://www.ireps.gov.in> in DRM (Elect) Office/TRD/SPJ.

Divisional Electrical Engineer/IC (TRD), Samastipur PR/0806/SPJ/ETRD/T/21-22/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Open E-Tender No.- TRS-DNR-RRRJPB -OT-2-21-22

The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C. Railway Danapur invites online (E-Tendering) open tender from the reputed firms/contractors which have valid contractors license from any state/Central Govt. licensing board on behalf of the President of India for the following work:

01. Name of its work with its location: Letting out of maintenance (management) contract of Running Room/RJPB for a period of two years (730 days). 02. Approx. cost of the work: Rs.1,14,90,756.40/- (Rupees One Crore Fourteen Lakhs Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Six & Paise Forty Only). Cost of tender document - Rs.5,000/- 03. Earnest Money to be deposited: Obtaining Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security (As per Railway Board letter No. 2020/CE-1/CT/3E/GCC/Policy, dated 30.12.2020) 04. Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: 21.09.2021 at 05.10.2021 at 12:00 Hrs. and 05.10.2021 at 12:30 Hrs. 05. Website particulars, notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from here the tender form can be purchased etc.: Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria & tender documents can be seen from the CRIS website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> & full details of notice can be seen on notice board of Sr. DEEE(OP)/E.C. Railway/Danapur. All corrigendum will be uploaded on website if required. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (OP) East Central Railway, Danapur PR/0800/DNR/EOP/N/21-22/48

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-tender is invited on behalf of the President of India for the Under mentioned work:-

E-tender No.: ECR-CAO-C-S-ETEN-41-21-22

Name of Work: Construction of ROB (At Km. 660/11-13) in Railway portion only (1x60.0 M Span Box String Girder) and construction of FOB/Ramp (At Km. 660/20-24) in lieu of LC. No.70-B in between Buxer-Baruna Rly station.

Approx. cost of the work in (Rs.): 15,84,64,727.06, Cost of tender form in (Rs.):0.00, Earnest money in (Rs.):0.00 Period of work completion: 18 (Eighteen) Months, Date and time for closing of tender: 01.10.2021 at 15:30 hrs.

Any e-tenders which is sent by Post/ Courier/Fax or by hand will not be accepted. All such manual submission of tender even if it is on firm's letter pad or received in time will not be accepted.

The above e-tender document alongwith full information is available on website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>

Note: In case of any discrepancies found in tender notice, English version will be final. Tenderers are requested to visit the website <https://www.ireps.gov.in> atleast 15 days before last date of closing, for latest corrigendum/corrections etc in connection with this e-tender.

Any change/addendum/corrigendum will be published on IREPS website only

For CAO/Con/South EC Rly.MHX, Patna PR/0801/CON/ENG/T/21-22/44

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender No.-C740- Lease-VP-03307-03308 Dated: 10.09.2021

E-Tender is invited for execution of the following work by Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), E.C. Railway, Dhanbad:-

1. Name of work: Leasing of 24 tonnes LVPH parcel space on round trip basis in Tr. No. 03307/03308 Ex Dhanbad to Firozpur and back. 2. Reserve Price Ex. Dhanbad to Firozpur and back (Rs.): For first-three years - Rs.2,18,322/- per round trip basis. For four-year, Rs.2,40,155/-per round trip basis. For fifth year- Rs. 2,64,171/- per round trip basis. 3. Cost of Tender form (in Rs.) non refundable: Rs. 2000/- 4. Earnest money: Rs. 4,00,000/- 5. Period of contract: Five (05) years. 6. Date & Time for closing and opening of e-Tender: Date of closing of e-tender at 15:00 hours on 06.10.2021, Date of opening of e-tender after 15:30 hrs. on 06.10.2021. 7. Website particulars: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering.

Tenderers have to pay levy of 2% development charge + GST (as applicable) in addition to offered rate by him. Railway reserves the right to change the train numbers, stoppages, timings, etc when regular service resume.

The Railway Administration reserves the right to cancel all or any tender without assigning any reason. ACMDNHR For Divl. Railway Manager (Comm.) E.C. Railway, Dhanbad PR/0799/DHN/COM/L/21-22/40

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

NO. -M/29/AC Coach/Escorting/MFP & BJU/20/Tender Date : 14.09.2021

For and on behalf of the President of India Sr. DME/C&W/SEE invited e-open tender (E-Tender Notice no.-CW-Sonpur-07-2021) from experienced contractor for the work given below:-

Name of the work with its location:- Escorting, Operation & troubleshooting of AC plants in AC Coaches of Sonpur Division (Train no. 12557/58, 15227/28, 15203/04/05/06, 12521/22, 15231/32) on e-route for two years. Location - Coaching Depot BJU & MFP. Approx cost of the work: Rs. 1,14,20,916.78 (Rs. one Crore Fourteen Lac Twenty thousand Nine Hundred Sixteen and Seventy eight paise only). Earnest Money to be deposited : Nil (In compliance to the MOF Memorandum No. F.94/2020-PPD, Dt. 12.11.2020 and Rly. Bd. L. No 2020/CE-I/CT/3E/GCC/ Policy, Dt. 30.12.2020 bidder to submit Bid Security Declaration in lieu of Bid Security / Earnest money deposit). Date & time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Tender submission date : 11.10.2021 upto 12:00 Hrs. Opening date: 11.10.2021 after 12:00 Hrs. Website particulars, Notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc: website :- <https://www.ireps.gov.in/> Railway administration reserves the right to postponed/modify or to cancel the tender anytime without assigning any reasons. DEET/LAC/Sonpur PR/0805/SEE/MECH/T/21-22/48

102% given 1st vaccine dose: Goa CM

Panaji: Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday claimed that the state government has vaccinated 102 per cent of its eligible population with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine. He also said that opposition parties questioning the government's claim were work-

ing against the interest of Goa. He also announced that PM Modi will interact with Goa people virtually on September 18. Goa has vaccinated much more than the state's adult population based on electoral data and projections of the Registrar General of India, he said.

Government of Jharkhand

Department of Mines & Geology Directorate of Geology

Engineers' Hostel No-2, 2nd floor, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004 Email: dir-geology@jharkhandmail.gov.in

Important Notice

Annulment of NIT No. 02/2021-22

e-Auction of Ajitaburu Iron and Manganese Block

NIT No. 02/2021-22 was published on 15.06.2021 in different News Papers vide PR No. – 247927 (Mines and Geology) 21-22 & its Corrigendum vide PR No. – 248436 (Mines and Geology) 21-22 dated 24-06-2021 have been annulled due to some unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/- (Vijay Kumar Ojha) Director Geology-cum-Chairman Tender Evaluation and Bid Finalisation Committee PR 253340 Mines and Geology(21-22)#D

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

T.N. Mang. Lalbagh, Lucknow Ph-Fax : 0522-2612639 Email : nrlko@up.nic.in website : <https://etender.up.nic.in>

Ref. No. : D/95/EE/21122 Date : 14.09.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE (2nd CALL)

DESIGN, DEVELOP, SUPPLY & IMPLEMENT 100 TPD AT (DBOT) BASIS (1NO.) CONSTRUCTIONS & DEMOLITION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT AND CONSTRUCTION OF 8 WASTE POINT COLLECTION CENTER AT LUCKNOW ON EPC MODE.

Lucknow Municipal Corporation invites online request for the proposals from the reputed firms having experience in similar nature of jobs for DESIGN, DEVELOP, SUPPLY AND IMPLEMENT 100 TPD at (DBOT) Basis (1No.) CONSTRUCTIONS AND DEMOLITION WASTE PROCESSING PLANT and Construction of 8 waste Point Collection Center AT LUCKNOW on EPC MODE. The last date for submission of bids is 24.09.2021 till 15.00 PM. Technical bids will be opened on same day at 16.00 PM.

For further corrigendum/addendums in this regard, please regularly visit <https://etender.up.nic.in>

CHIEF ENGINEER

WESTERN RAILWAY

STORES DEPARTMENT

E-AUCTION SALE DURING OCTOBER, 2021 FOR P-WAY & OTHER VARIOUS SCRAP

Special Attention : All Steel Purchasers & Re-Rollers

Public e-Auction for disposal of P. way scrap, Rail scrap & other various scrap material will be held in October, 2021 as per program given below :-

1st Round	2nd Round	Depot	Depot officer in Charge	Contact No.
04.10.2021	18.10.2021	Bhavanager	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BVP	0278-2444360 09724093774
05.10.2021	19.10.2021	Sabarnati	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - SBI	079-27500080 09724093774
07.10.2021	20.10.2021	Ratlam	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - RTM	0741-2230080 09724093774
08.10.2021	22.10.2021	Vadodara	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BRC	0265-2641592 09724091750
09.10.2021	23.10.2021	Dahod	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - DHD	02673-241295 09724094055
11.10.2021	25.10.2021	Mumbai Central	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - MMCT	022-23084142 09004495906
11.10.2021	21.10.2021	Pratapnagar	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - BRC	0265-2641592 09724093774
12.10.2021	26.10.2021	Rajkot	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - RJT	0281-2476943 09724093774
13.10.2021	27.10.2021	Ahmedabad	Sr. Divisional Materials Manager - ADI	079-22205888 09724093750
14.10.2021	28.10.2021	Mahalaxmi	Deputy Chief Materials Manager - MX	022-24929571 09004495750

For detailed information, please contact the concerned Depot Officers. Note: 1. Railway reserves the right to withdraw any lot from e-Auction. 2. e-Auction will start at as per scheduled time. 3. e-Auction catalogues will be available on site www.ireps.gov.in e-Auction portal. 4. In case of any assistance required regarding e-Auction, digital signatures, Registration procedure and participation, please contact above mentioned Depot Officer. 5. All payment transactions shall be done through the online payment gateway. (No.SIII/Auction Programme-1/October-



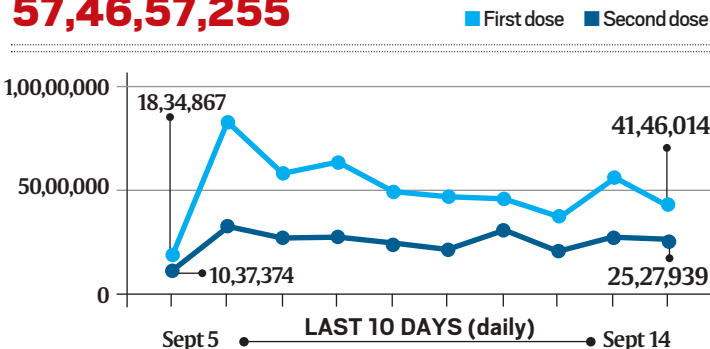
@ieExplained

#ExpressExplained

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

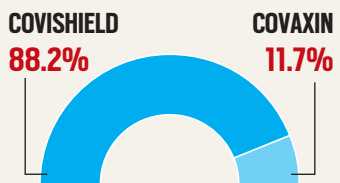
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
57,46,57,255



TOTAL DOSES
75,89,12,277

(Sputnik V's 8,56,168 doses not represented in pie)

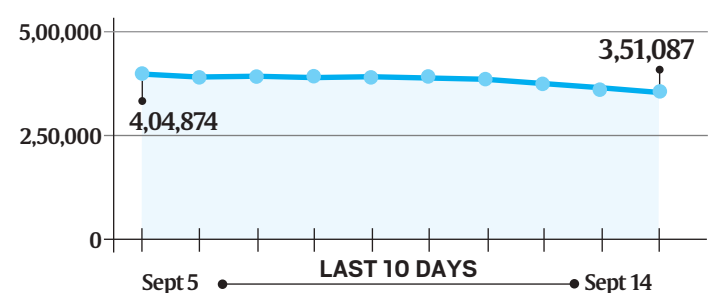


DOSES ON SEPT 14 66,73,953

SEPT 13: 84,00,681 (1st doses: 56,76,493; 2nd: 27,24,188)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

3,51,087



Note: The Sept 14 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 15

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,33,16,755

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 15

New EU body for new pandemics

THE EUROPEAN Union announced on Wednesday the creation of a new biomedical authority designed to better respond to future pandemics, as it seeks to avoid repeating the mistakes of its early response to the coronavirus.

The European Commission, which negotiated for vaccines on behalf of member countries, was criticized for the sluggish beginning of its vaccination programme.

Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said the new Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, or HERA would "make sure that no virus will ever turn a local epidemic again into a global pandemic".

But its exact role remains unclear, as EU members each run their own health policies.

THE NYT



PRANAV MUKUL

THE ATTACKS on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington DC on September 11, 2001 showed up the fragility and vulnerability of air travel. Unlike the Covid-19 crisis, where the fear of travelling by air is largely limited to the passenger side, the 9/11 terrorist attacks shook up things on both the consumer as well as the operator end.

The attacks led to profound, permanent changes in the way the world flew — a range of new processes were implemented to improve security at airports and within aircraft. These steps were intended to instill confidence in people that flying was safer than before — but for some time at least, they ended up causing a further decline in non-essential air travel.

Today, as another crisis of a different kind forces the aviation industry into watershed changes in the ways it operates, learnings from the terror attacks 20 years ago — and to a lesser extent, other global disruptions in the years in between — are coming in handy to chart the path to recovery.

How flying changed

In the United States — and most other places — flying was a relaxed, enjoyable activity prior to 9/11. People could go till the boarding gate of aircraft to see off loved ones, passengers could carry baseball bats and small cutting devices on board, and many pilots invited some wide-eyed passengers into the cockpit to enjoy the marvel of flying from the front row.

The 9/11 attacks changed everything. Hijackers who took knives and boxcutters on board had taken over aircraft and turned them into bombs — and among the most significant security changes was in the way passengers and their baggage were checked before they were allowed to get on planes.

Only 5 per cent of bags in the US were screened before 9/11; this was ramped up to 100 per cent, according to PBS. Mandatory identity verification of passengers and their luggage was implemented at places it wasn't already being done. Over the years, the verification of identity has evolved from matching with government-issued IDs to fingerprint and biometric scanners and, now, facial recognition technology.

Frisking or pat-downs of passengers was made mandatory — full-body scanners at airports were still some years away. Passengers travelling to the US were required to subject all carry-on items to a security check before boarding.

In November 2001, the George W Bush administration established a new body, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), to take charge of security at airports

EXPLAINED POLITICS

Unity and faultlines: Leuva and Kadva Patidars in Gujarat politics

GOPAL KATESHIYA

RAJKOT, SEPTEMBER 15

BHUPENDRA PATEL, the 17th chief minister of Gujarat, is the fifth politician from the Patidar community to occupy that office. However, he is arguably the first chief minister from the Kadva sub-group of Patidars. (Anandiben Patel was a Leuva married to a Kadva Patidar.)

Who are the Patidars — the Leuvas and the Kadvas — and what role have they played in the politics of Gujarat over the decades?

The community

The word 'patidar' describes "one who owns a strip of land". In medieval India, members of the community were among the more industrious farmers, and rulers of the erstwhile princely states made them tenants of the best and largest tracts of land in their kingdoms.

After Independence, when tenants got land-ownership rights, Patidars became owners of large swathes of prime agricultural land.

The traditionally land-owning community has a reputation for enterprise and risk-taking as well. Some Patidars ventured into industry in the 1970s and 1980s — and over time came to wield significant clout in the field of business and trade.

Many left India — Patidars today make up a very large chunk of Gujarati immigrants in the United States, United Kingdom, and Africa.

Patidars are estimated to constitute around 1.5 crore of Gujarat's 6.5 crore population. The OBC Kolis are believed to be more numerous than Patidars, but the community is divided into many sub-castes, and has been unable to leverage their numbers for political gains.

Among Patidars, by contrast, the sense of both community and political constituency has been strong. Although the customs and social norms of the two major sub-castes, Kadvas and Leuvas, differ, they have by and large voted as a single political group for more than two decades.

The community came together behind the BJP in the 1980s as a reaction to the Congress effort to consolidate a Kshatriya-Harijan-Adivasi-Muslim (KHAM) coalition. Rallyed by the late Keshubhai Patel, the Patidars, along with other upper caste groups, propelled the BJP to power in Gujarat for the first time in March 1995.

The party has ruled the state ever since, except for a brief period of President's Rule, and a year and a half in 1996-98 when Shankersinh Vaghela's Rashtriya Janata Party was in power.

Leuvas and Kadvas

Patidars or Patels claim to be the descendants of Lord Ram; the Leuvas and Kadvas claim to have descended from Ram's twin sons, Luv and Kush respectively. The Leuvas worship Khodal Ma as their clan deity; the Kadvas worship Umiya Mata.

Barring the tribal belt in the east of the state, Patidars are spread all over Gujarat, with higher concentrations in North Gujarat, Saurashtra, Central Gujarat and in Surat in South Gujarat. To keep community bonds strong, Patidars prefer marriages within the sub-groups.

Leuva Patels marginally outnumber Kadvas. They dominate Saurashtra and Central Gujarat; the Kadvas are dominant in North Gujarat. South Gujarat has a mixed population, thanks to the migration of members of the community from other



Hardik Patel led a powerful agitation for reservation in 2015. Bhupendra Rana

parts of the state to Surat.

The Patidars of Central Gujarat have sub-groups such as Chh Gaam (six-village) Patidars and Sattavis Gaam (27-village) Patidars, who get their name from particular villages in the Charotar region.

There is also the community of Chaudhary Patels who are concentrated in North Gujarat, and are listed as OBC.

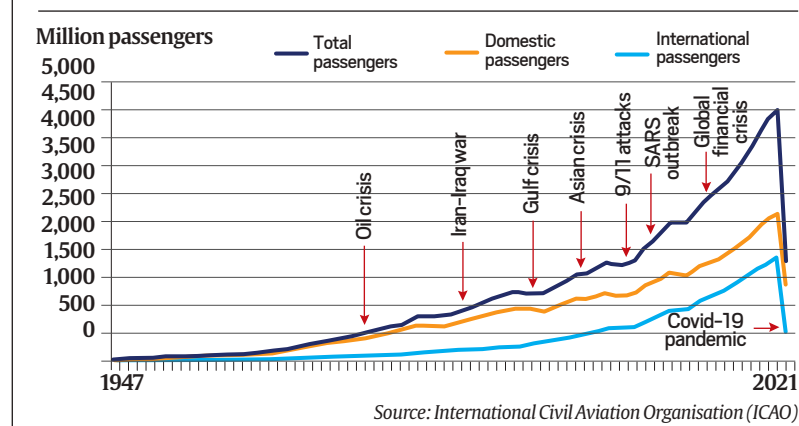
Patidar chief ministers

In 1973, Chimanbhai Patel of the Congress and later Janata Dal, became the first Patidar to be elected to the top office in the state. He was succeeded by Babubhai Jashbhai Patel in 1975 as the leader of the coalition of the Congress (O) and the Janata Morcha.



A day before the second anniversary of 9/11 in 2003, a TSA screener uses a hand-held device at Boston's Logan airport. The New York Times/Archive

WORLD PASSENGER TRAFFIC, 1945-2021



and other transportation points — jettisoning the earlier practice of outsourcing to private security agencies appointed by airlines or airports. More than 60,000 employees were recruited to the TSA across the country, American media reports said.

Steps were taken to seal off the cockpit, making it difficult for terrorists to commandeer aircraft.

Aircraft manufacturers standardised bullet-proof and locked cockpit doors on commercial aircraft, and regulators prohibited passengers from entering the cockpit during flight.

As part of regulations that are now standard everywhere, pilots were required to make

sure who was trying to enter the cockpit before the door was unlocked. Most aircraft are now equipped with cameras above the cockpit door to allow crew to check who is knocking.

The US doubled down on having in-flight air marshals, and increased the numbers of these security personnel on board aircraft.



PART 5

NEXT:

How Indian diplomacy changed

How the aviation industry coped

The shock of the attacks, and the impact of the changes in air travel, lingered for several years. According to the US Bureau of Transportation Statistics, it took five years for US-based airlines to recoup their losses. And this was after the Air

STANDARD PRACTICE NOW

- Bullet-proof and locked cockpit doors are standard on commercial aircraft
- Passengers are prohibited from entering cockpit during flight
- Full security checks, including full-body scans prior to boarding; baggage screening
- Larger numbers of air marshals on board
- In the US, TSA was created to handle airport security, replacing private security agencies
- Identity verification of passengers and their luggage. This has now evolved to sophisticated face recognition at many airports

Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (2001) provided \$5 billion in compensation and \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

As per the International Air Transport Association (IATA), global airline revenues plummeted to \$307.5 billion in 2001, compared with \$328.5 billion in 2000. In 2002, they fell further to \$306 billion.

In comparison, the global Covid-19 crisis saw the industry's revenues fall from \$838 billion in 2019 to \$328 billion in 2020.

Lessons that were learnt

Other major disruptions followed 9/11, including the 2005 SARS outbreak, the global financial crisis in 2008, and the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland that wrecked airline schedules across western and northern Europe for a week.

Airline executives say the impact of 9/11 on aviation shows the ways in which a black swan event triggers extraordinary reactions, followed by efforts directed at restoring confidence and putting all stakeholders on the path to recovery.

And therein lies a lesson for today. "The Covid-19 crisis is like never before but we saw shadows of what happened after 9/11 in how people reacted to the crisis... But it also really highlighted the fact that these shocks for the industry only persist for a short while. All we can do now is work towards bringing back traveller confidence," an official with an Indian low-cost airline said.

At a Covid briefing in April last year, the IATA's then director general Alexandre de Juniac had said: "... We don't want to repeat the mistakes made after 9/11 when many new processes were imposed in an uncoordinated way. We ended up with a mess of measure piled on top of measure. And nearly 20 years later, we are still trying to sort it out. In this case, we have some, if limited, time to build consensus around how to do this most effectively".

Minister in 2014, his long-time associate Anandiben, a Leuva married to a Kadva, was made CM. But she had to resign after two years in the wake of the Patidar quota agitation.

The Patidar rebellion

The BJP won 127 of the 182 seats in the 2002 elections, its best performance ever. But the Patidars were smarting after the sidelining of Keshubhai, and a rebellion had started brewing within the BJP.

Over the next five years, even as Modi tightened his grip on the state and party, Leuva MLAs such as Dhiru Gajera and Bavku Undhad defected to the Congress. Gordhan Zadaia, who was minister of state for home in 2002, floated the Mahagujarat Janata Party (MJP) in 2007 to challenge Modi on the strength of the Patidar constituency, but failed.

In 2012, Keshubhai came out in the open to protest the alleged "injustice" to Patidars, and started the Gujarat Parivartan Party (GPP) to take on Modi's BJP. Zadaia joined the GPP, but the new outfit could win only two seats in the Assembly elections of that year. Zadaia himself lost.

The GPP merged with the BJP in 2014, paving the way for Zadaia's return to the BJP, and marking Keshubhai's retirement from active politics.

Hardik Patel's agitation

In mid-2015, Hardik Patel, a then 23-year-old Kadva Patel, launched an agitation demanding that Patidars be recognised as OBC on the ground that most members of the community were poor due to dwindling landholdings, and needed quotas in government jobs and higher education.

The agitation had a pronounced anti-BJP tone, and rallied lakhs of Kadvas and Leuvas

behind Hardik. Perceiving a threat to their authority, leaders of established community organisations such as Umiyadham Sidsar (Kadva) and Shree Khodaldham Trust (Leuva) in Saurashtra; Umiyadham and Unjha (Kadva) in North Gujarat; Vishv Umiya Foundation (Kadva) and Sardardham (both) in Central Gujarat; and Surat-based Samast Patidar Samaj (both) in South Gujarat, banded together.

These organisations, which are mostly inclined towards the BJP, formed a coordination committee to try to unite Kadvas and Leuvas so that the political heft of the community was not lost. On the other hand, agitators like Lalit Vasoya took out an Uma-Khodai Yatra in Saurashtra to bring together Leuvas and Kadvas as one community, and eventually channelled it against the BJP to become MLA on a Congress ticket.

BJP's political jugglery

Following the quota agitation, Parshottam Rupala (a Kadva) and Mansukh Mandaviya (a Leuva) were made ministers at the Centre in July 2016. The following month, Anandiben was replaced by Vijay Rupani, a Jain Baniya, and Nitin Patel, a Kadva, was made deputy CM. The anger from the quota agitation, however, persisted, and in the Assembly elections of 2017, the BJP barely scraped through with 99 seats, its worst performance since 1995.

Community leaders say the quota agitation brought the two sub-caste groups closer, but weakened the community as a political constituency. They see hope in the fact that the stir has largely petered out now, and its prominent faces — Hardik, Gopal Italia, and Reshma Patel — have joined the Congress, AAP and NCP respectively.

WORDLY WISE
I MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF A COMMUNITY
BY THE DEGREE OF PROGRESS WHICH WOMEN
HAVE ACHIEVED. — B. R. AMBEDKAR

The Indian **EXPRESS**
FOUNDED BY
RAMNATH GOENKA
BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LEAGUE OF MEN

Kerala Muslim League fails to stand up for its women cadres.
This is sexist, retrograde politics

THE INDIAN UNION Muslim League (IUML) sees itself as the voice of Muslims and has been successful in converting the community's backing into electoral gains, though mostly in Kerala. Post Partition, the party made itself relevant by transforming itself into a communitarian outfit that skillfully negotiated with the political mainstream to ensure that Muslims were adequately represented in government and their concerns addressed in public policies. However, its approach to gender issues has hardly been inclusive and begs the question if the party can claim to represent the women in the community. The IUML leadership's recent response to a harassment complaint made by leaders of Haritha, the women's wing of its student outfit, Muslim Students Federation (MSF), against the state president and two others of the parent body, is revealing for the patriarchal outlook that pervades its understanding of social relations, law, and politics. Last week, the IUML leadership disbanded the Haritha state committee after its leaders complained to the Kerala Women's Commission against MSF leaders. The IUML accused the Haritha leaders of "grave indiscipline" conveniently ignoring the fact that the women moved the statutory body because the party was seen to be backing the accused men. The IUML's shocking move to discipline Haritha comes at a time when the #MeToo movement has forced institutions, including political parties, across the world to lift the veil on male privilege and censure predatory behaviour — high-profile minister and journalist MJ Akbar resigned after former colleagues accused him of sexual harassment. A gender bias has always prevailed in the IUML, which may have resonated with its large conservative vote base and influenced its choices. For instance, the party's reluctance to let women contest assembly and general elections: Just one of its 27 candidates in the recent assembly election was a woman — the first in 25 years — and the party has never fielded a woman candidate in the general election or to the Rajya Sabha. This is despite the reasonably large presence of women leaders in IUML, having been forced to field women in local bodies elections on account of 50 per cent reservation. In fact, the party appears blind to the radical changes within the Muslim society in Kerala, especially among women who have made remarkable gains in education and are now a visible presence in the state's workforce. The IUML's conservatism also looks out of place when Muslim women are at the forefront of public protests to protect constitutional values and civil rights.

The IUML's regressive outlook should not be seen in isolation: it reflects a dominant tendency in Indian politics, which refuses agency to women in spite of having witnessed leaders such as Indira Gandhi, J Jayalalithaa, Mayawati, Mamata Banerjee and Sushma Swaraj. The resistance to removing the gender glass ceiling is perhaps best illustrated by the fate of the Women's Reservation Bill, which was first introduced in Parliament two decades ago, and put in cold storage thereafter, in the face of abrasive behaviour by male MPs.

HATHRAS, A YEAR ON

The plight of the Dalit victim's family
speaks of a larger abandonment

A YEAR AGO, a young Dalit woman in Hathras, Uttar Pradesh, was gangraped; her body forcibly cremated in the dead of the night by the police against her family's wishes — another chilling moment in the long, shameful history of sexual violence against women in India. The spectacle that followed was disquieting still. Opposition politicians were stopped by the UP government from entering Bool Garhi village and meeting the family; the police arrested four upper-caste men for the crime but senior officials denied it was rape till they could deny it no more; the Yogi Adityanath government arrested journalist Siddique Kappan on the way to report the crime, and charged him under the UAPA. A year later, the political dust has settled. No politicians line up to meet the family in Bool Garhi village. If the rape of the 19-year-old woman underlined the double vulnerability of Dalit women to sexual violence, caste lines have been drawn with more vigour in its aftermath. According to a report in this newspaper, the Dalit family has been forced into a life of ostracism and stigma.

The horror in Hathras exists on a continuum of impunity. It recalls the violence of Khairlanji and the December 16, 2012 assault in Delhi, and echoes across multiple violations of Indian women at home and outside — the most recent instance being that of the woman brutalised in Saki Naka, Mumbai. The protests against the gangrape of a young paramedic in a moving bus in Delhi in 2012 were a milestone, not only for the anger and anguish of generations of women on the streets of Delhi, but also the examination of the sexist underpinnings of many aspects of social life that it inspired. It led to the revolutionary charter of the Justice Verma Committee report, which recommended a review of AFSPA and the criminalisation of marital rape, exempting neither the state nor family from its scrutiny. That counsel was as good as binned. Instead, wary of anger against sexual violence turning into volatile political mobilisation, governments have chosen to double down on a narrative of harsher punishment and death penalty. In contrast, the more difficult work of speeding up trials or establishing fast-track courts or addressing the vulnerabilities of "lower-caste" women or working to expand the substantial freedoms of women, rather than cage them in a narrative of safety, has not even been attempted.

In the absence of such institutional fixes, families such as the one in Hathras are left to fend for themselves — and wait for closure and justice.

CAUSE COUTURE

Political statements were made aplenty at the recent Met Gala. A notable omission was support for Afghan people

ELSA SCHIAPARELLI, WHO dominated the fashion world between the two World Wars, famously said, "In difficult times, fashion is always outrageous." The Italian designer's words may have resonated with those who gathered at the Met Gala on September 13, even as the world beyond the red carpet grappled with the Covid pandemic, political and economic instability and climate emergency. Known for its mix of haute couture and weirdness, the Gala's red carpet this year featured some of the most jaw-dropping looks seen recently. Kim Kardashian's black full-body suit which covered even her face, popstar Lil Nas X's three-stage costume and singer Billie Eilish's throwback to Hollywood's Golden Era — all created an escapist fantasy.

But reality did intrude on the evening, mostly as political statements via fashion, such as politician Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's gown, which declared "Tax the Rich". Rights for women, the LGBTQ+ community, BIPOC, animals — causes of all kinds got a shout-out. One cause, however, that got a mere whisper of support was that of the Afghan people. Huma Abedin, former aide to Hillary Clinton, wore the "memorial blue" ribbon for 9/11 with the flags of the US and Afghanistan over it, conveying her hope that "we will not forget what the people of Afghanistan are facing as they go through this monumental and uncertain time".

As the theme of the evening was inward-looking — "American Independence" — it may have been too much to expect attention for the fate of the Afghans. Never mind that one of the evening's attendees and wearing a gown that demanded, in big, bold letters, "Equal Rights for Women", was politician Carolyn Maloney who, in 2001, had worn a burqa to the House of Representatives and supported the invasion of Afghanistan in the name of its women. With the last US troops having left that war-torn land, perhaps Afghanistan is no longer a fashionable enough cause.

Children locked out

Prolonged closure of schools has taken a heavy toll. A strategy to deal with this crisis is nowhere in sight



JEAN DRÈZE

INDIAN CHILDREN HAVE been "locked out" of school for almost a year and a half. This lock-out, one of the longest in the world, has played havoc with their lives and the country's fragile schooling system. As primary and upper-primary schools finally begin to reopen, it is important to wake up to the damage and think about how to repair it.

Last month, dozens of volunteers (mainly university students) fanned out to underprivileged neighbourhoods around the country to meet school children and their families. They interviewed nearly 1,400 households, and in each household, one child enrolled at the primary or upper-primary level. The findings, released last week, are more than alarming.

The School Children's Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) survey, as we call it, found that online education had a very limited reach: The proportion of sample children who were studying online regularly was just 24 per cent in urban areas and 8 per cent in rural areas. This is all the more striking as three-fourths of urban households and half of rural households in the sample had a smartphone. Aside from smartphone ownership, the multiple challenges of online study include smartphone access, adequate connectivity, recharge money, intelligible material and a conducive environment. Among parents of "online children" (those who were studying online, regularly or occasionally), only a small minority were satisfied with their child's study material. More than two-thirds felt that their child's reading and writing abilities were higher before the lockdown than they are today — a severe indictment of online education.

If online children had a hard time staying afloat, the rest ("offline children") were mostly left to drift away or sink. In rural areas, nearly half of offline children were not studying at all at the time of the survey. Except for a small minority who could afford private tuitions, those who were studying were mainly doing so at home on their own. The figures do not change much when the reference period is extended to the preceding three months. Access to education during the lockdown has been particularly restricted for Dalit and Adivasi children, who needed it the most.

A simple reading test confirmed that child literacy rates have sunk well below ordinary levels. In the age group of 8-12 years, for instance, only half of rural children were able to read a simple sentence. Among those currently enrolled in Grade 3, only one fourth could read more than a few words. Comparisons with the last population census, the National Family Health Surveys and the ASER surveys, all suggest that child literacy is in freefall.

Efforts were certainly made in some states to support offline children (say, by giving them homework), and many individual teachers also went out of their way to help them. Judging from the SCHOOL survey, however, these efforts were not very effective. In both rural and urban areas, about 80 per cent of the parents of offline children felt that their child's ability to read and write had declined during the lockdown. Most of them (97 per cent in rural areas) wanted schools to reopen as soon as possible.

A simple reading test confirmed that child literacy rates have sunk well below ordinary levels. In the age group of 8-12 years, for instance, only half of the rural children were able to read a simple sentence. Among those currently enrolled in Grade 3, only one-fourth could read more than a few words. Comparisons with the last population census, the National Family Health Surveys and the ASER surveys, all suggest that child literacy is in freefall.

Literacy is a basic tool of self-defence in a modern society. Without it, children are exposed not only to economic hardship but also to lifelong powerlessness and exploitation. Literacy is also a springboard for further study. A resurgence of mass illiteracy among children, if it is allowed to happen, could have dire and lasting consequences.

Instead of helping disadvantaged children, however, the schooling system is simply catapulting them two grades ahead of the class they were enrolled in before the lockdown. Children who have forgotten the Hindi alphabet are now saddled with thick English textbooks. The disconnect between the school curriculum and the learning levels of disadvantaged children is a chronic problem in India's stratified education system, but it is now taking absurd proportions. Without radical changes in curriculum and pedagogy, these children have no chance.

Alienation from the curriculum is just one part of the price children are likely to pay for this extended lockdown. For almost a year and a half, they have been deprived of the wide-ranging benefits of school participation — peer learning, new ideas, a safe environment, nutritional support, among others. Parents inter-

viewed in the SCHOOL survey shared many concerns related to their children's whereabouts, attitudes, activities and associations during the lockdown. It will take months if not years of patient work to restore children's intellectual, psychological, social and nutritional wellbeing. For some, like those who have dropped out or become child labourers, it is already too late — or perhaps not.

The central government, alas, seems to be in denial of the schooling crisis. This year, when extra resources were urgently needed to renovate schools, train teachers, prepare new learning material and initiate health-related precautions, the Finance Minister blissfully reduced the budget of the Department of School Education by 10 per cent or so, even as the Union Budget as a whole increased by more than 15 per cent. To this day, the central government persists with its delusional faith in online education. In the Prime Minister's own words last week (as reported by PTI): "The challenges (of education) were many, but all of you found solutions to those challenges swiftly. Online classes, group video calls, online projects, online exams, etc. were not even heard before. But our teachers, parents and our youth have easily made them a part of their daily life!" Really?

An enlightened strategy to deal with the schooling crisis is nowhere in sight. All eyes are on the country's educationists — thinkers and practitioners — for a way forward. As things stand, the system seems to be heading for business as usual (with the odd "bridge course" thrown in) as and when schools reopen. This is a recipe for disaster.

Incidentally, the closure of anganwadis in the last 17 months raises similar issues. Like schools, they should reopen as soon as possible, with due safeguards: Anganwadis provide many essential services to women and children. In anganwadis at least, the transition is likely to be easier — there is no case for hesitation.

The author is visiting professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University (the SCHOOL survey report is available at roadscholarz.net)

HISTORY LESSONS FOR TALIBAN

Given its pluralist past, Afghanistan can't compromise on spiritual democracy



VINAY SAHASRABUDDHE

AS THE WORLD observes September 15 as World Democracy Day, India has rightly advocated the need for an inclusive government in Afghanistan. Delhi also voiced its genuine concerns and clearly outlined its expectations that the Taliban doesn't allow the use of Afghan soil for terrorism. The global community would concur with such expectations.

This is important as no one knows what policy Afghanistan's new Taliban government will adopt — officially and in practice — in so far as the country's non-Islamist traditions are concerned. Given the Taliban's obscurantist and exclusivist background, it is hard to imagine that they will adopt an inclusive approach of their own accord. Besides their impact on the fate of Afghanistan's non-Muslims, Taliban's policies will have wider ramifications in other Islamic countries in Central Asia.

A brilliant article in *The New Yorker* on August 31 has quoted Ryan Crocker, former US ambassador to Afghanistan and several other Islamic countries. He says, "We left behind the gift — to them — of a much reinforced and revived Islamic militancy. We left behind a restored Al Qaeda-Taliban axis that brought us 9/11." Crocker also says, "That is a gift for which our children and grandchildren will pay. Unlike Vietnam, what happens in Afghanistan in the currency of Islamic jihad doesn't stay in Afghanistan."

In the light of these serious international dimensions, the global community would do well to first mount pressure on the Taliban to ensure spiritual democracy, an antidote to the jihadi mindset. This is urgently needed for at

The new rulers in Afghanistan must be made to realise that the country's Gen-Next desperately wants freedom of choice. There are scores of examples to suggest that a reasonable code of conduct may be accepted, rules and regulations may be honoured but straitjacketing will be opposed tooth and nail by millennials of all types. The new rulers in Kabul must be compelled to appreciate that only adherence to a true spirit of 'accommodation' will get them global legitimacy.

least three reasons. First, spiritual democracy has been a part of Afghanistan's ancient traditions. Without understanding these multi-religious traditions of the past, the gravity of the damage done by spiritual monopolists of the Taliban kind cannot be fully grasped. Afghanistan is the land of the Gandharas. One comes across several references to the tribe in ancient literature, especially the Rigveda. References to Gandharas are also found in other literary works such as the Atharvaveda and Aitareya Brahmana. Before the advent of Islam, southern Afghanistan was home to Zoroastrians. Zoroastrianism originated here between 1800 and 800 BC, and Zoroaster lived and died in Afghanistan's Balkh province. The remains of the monumental statues in Bamiyan are a testimony to Afghanistan's rich Buddhist traditions. Buddhism here dates to 305 BC, much before the advent of Islam. As recently as 1890, the Nuristan region was referred to as Kafiristan — the land of the infidels — as people there practised animism or ancient Hinduism. Afghanistan needs to be taken back to its roots, its pluralistic ancient history that rejects a spiritual monopolist approach.

Secondly, spiritual democracy has the strength to serve as the fountainhead of the revival of other variants of democratic traditions. "*Ekam sat vipra bahuda vadanti* (truth is one, wise men describe it differently)" is the foundational principle of spiritual democracy. Without spiritual freedom, political democracy will remain questionable. Gender justice and equal economic opportunities for all cannot be ensured without the freedom of belief

systems. The global leadership must realise that the path towards achieving most Sustainable Development Goals passes through this fundamental spirit of accommodation, inherent to the idea of democracy.

Third, the new rulers in Afghanistan must be made to realise that the country's Gen-Next desperately wants freedom of choice. There are scores of examples to suggest that a reasonable code of conduct may be accepted, rules and regulations may be honoured but straitjacketing will be opposed tooth and nail by millennials of all types. The new rulers in Kabul must be compelled to appreciate that only adherence to a true spirit of 'accommodation' will get them global legitimacy. There are enough early warnings to the new rulers suggesting that the war-ravaged country may face serious challenges to its territorial integrity if a monopolist perspective is mindlessly thrust upon this fundamentally pluralistic society.

The global community would do well to first realise and then impress upon the new Afghan leadership that in the name of accommodation, one cannot accommodate doctrines that have thrived, in the first place, on intolerance. No aspirational community can accept straitjacketing in matters of belief systems. Humanity has paid a heavy price for monopolist approaches when it comes to spirituality. Now, in the lure of re-establishing democratic credentials, it would be foolhardy to recognise those who refuse to recognise others.

The writer is MP, Rajya Sabha and former national vice-president of the BJP

SEPTEMBER 16, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

ESSENTIAL SERVICES BILL

THE LOK SABHA'S marathon voting on the Essential Services Maintenance Bill went into late hours as the Opposition fought the measure all the way. Earlier, the House gave its consent to take up the bill for consideration after a 14-day resistance spread over three days. Before moving to the second stage, the House rejected by 216 votes to 69 a statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the ordinance which the Bill seeks to replace. With amendments exceeding 500, the Opposition forced the House to divide repeatedly for one hour just to decide, whether or not to take up the consideration of the

clauses. The Opposition lost its battle after 40 minutes to stall the extension of the strike ban coverage to a wide spectrum of private and public sector industries. Home Minister Giani Zail Singh made light of the Opposition amendments saying they were "reasonable but not acceptable".

ANTULAY'S TRUSTS

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi's inability to decide on the future of the trusts set up by A R Antulay is, in turn, delaying a decision on the fate of the Maharashtra Chief Minister. According to sources, the party high command has not been able to ascertain the extent of

Antulay's fund collections for the various private trusts set up by him. The reports of the central investigative agencies asked to probe Antulay's trusts have not yet been processed.

EGYPT EXPELS DIPLOMATS

THE EGYPTIAN CABINET has given the Soviet Ambassador to Cairo, Vladimir Poliakov, 48 hours to leave the country. Six other Soviet diplomats were also told to leave Egypt. The move follows charges in the official press that four Soviet diplomats, a Hungarian diplomat and four Soviet journalists were Soviet secret service agents involved in a plot to overthrow the Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

THE IDEAS PAGE

A win-win bargain

States should give up their demand for extension of GST compensation mechanism. In return, the Centre should offer resources during economic downturn



ARVIND SUBRAMANIAN
AND JOSH FELMAN

TOMORROW, THE GST Council is set to meet. Although the agenda focuses on specifics, the time is ripe to take up a broader objective: Leaving the disputes behind and constructing a way forward for GST, one of the major policy achievements of the government.

What has set back the GST for the past year and a half? The contributors are many but the critical one has been simply a lack of revenues. The chart tells the story. In 2016-17 the various taxes that were folded into the GST yielded revenues of Rs 9.7 lakh crore (Economic Survey, 2017-18). Initially, the GST performed well, with collections soaring to Rs 11.8 lakh crore in the first full year of implementation in 2018-19. But in 2019-20, the growth rate decelerated sharply. And in 2020-21, collections actually fell.

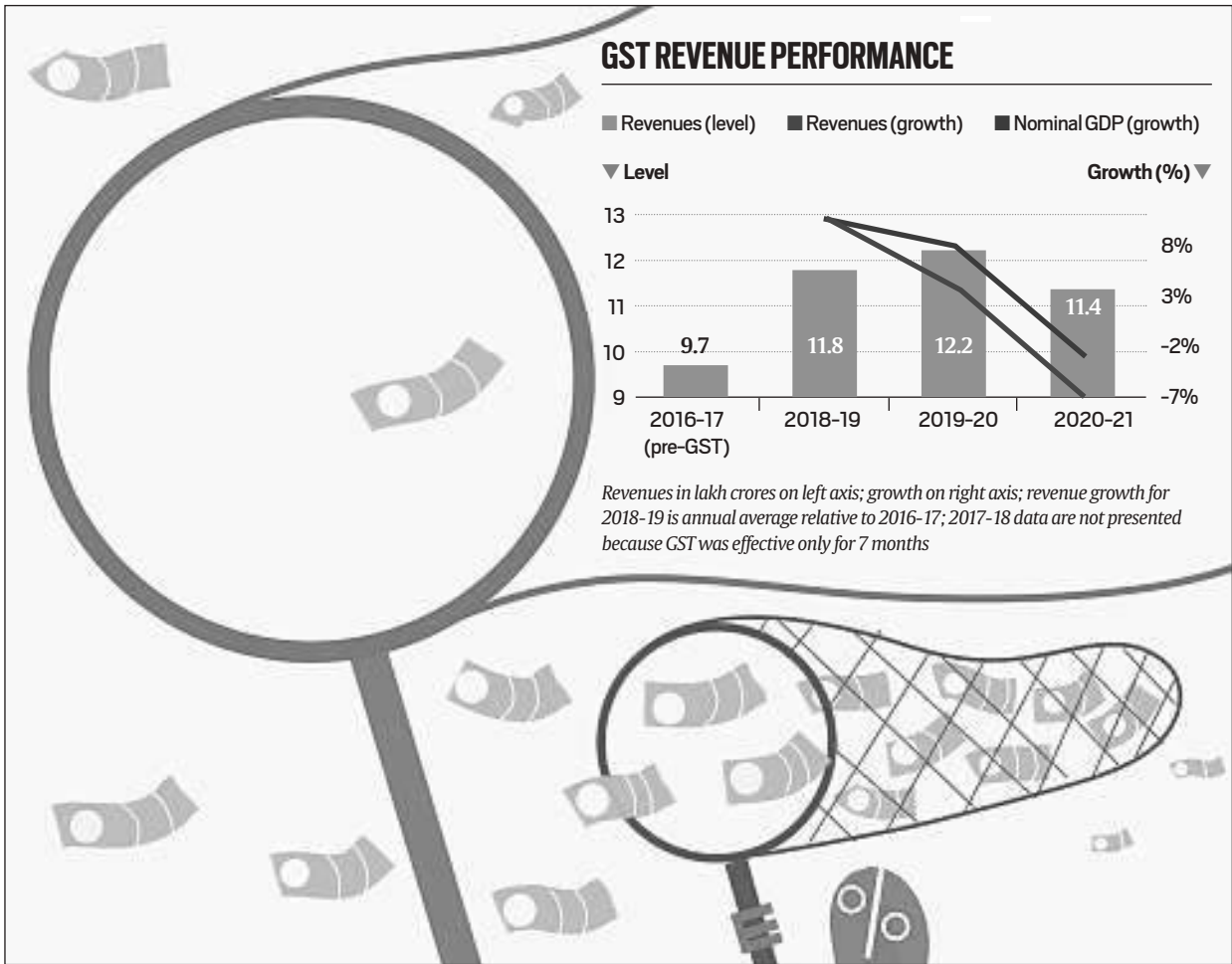
As a result, there have not been enough resources to satisfy the needs of the Centre or the states. Moreover, because future collections became uncertain, a gap opened up between the amount that the Centre felt it could afford to promise and the minimum that the states felt they needed and were entitled to. Spanning this chasm has proved difficult.

More recently, however, confidence in GST has improved. Collections have revived, averaging Rs 1.1 lakh crore in the first five months of the current fiscal year, exceeding even pre-pandemic levels. Even more important, the GST's past performance now seems much better than it once did. We now know the economy turned south after 2018-19, with nominal GDP growth slowing from 10.5 per cent in 2018-19 to 7.8 per cent the next year and -3 per cent in 2020-21. Moreover, as the RBI has pointed out, the effective tax rate has fallen by nearly 3 percentage points because of reckless rate cutting in 2019, in which both the Centre and states were complicit. Thus the weak revenue performance of the GST now seems attributable to wider economic difficulties and policy actions, rather than problems with the tax itself.

Consequently, most of the ingredients for a compromise are now in place: A sense that the country is in this together and confidence that sufficient resources will be available. So, what is to be done?

In our view, three key changes are necessary: Re-casting compensation, simplifying the rate structure, and improving governance. First, the principle of compensation must be re-cast, because the original needs have vanished and new ones have taken their place. The logic of the five-year compensation was simple: The GST was a new tax, so states needed to be guaranteed against the teething troubles that would inevitably arise. Five years on, this logic is less compelling. The GST is no longer an infant; of course, it still needs improvements but as a tax reform it has reached maturity, well understood by producers, consumers, and tax officials.

At the same time, the last few years have exposed the vulnerability of the states to shocks. When Covid arrived, states' revenues collapsed, eviscerating their ability to spend on health and welfare precisely at the time when such spending was needed most and when states found their fiscal space constricted. To prevent this situation from recurring, the authorities should create a revenue



CR Sasikumar

buffer that could be tapped in a time of need. And the most obvious source of funding is the GST, which accounts for over 40 per cent of the states' own revenues.

In sum, there is a bargain waiting to be struck: The states give up their demand for an extension of the compensation mechanism, while the Centre offers a new counter-cyclical buffer. Put another way, the compensation guarantee should be converted into revenue insurance. As the figure shows, in good economic times, GST revenues will be robust but it is against downturns that states need protection.

The details of this insurance would need to be negotiated, including the threshold for triggering the mechanism, as well as the amount and timing of the compensation. But just to give one example, states could be promised transfers equivalent to 1 percentage point of GSDP for every 3 percentage point shortfall from an agreed trend rate of growth. The transfers would be paid quarterly following any two quarters in which the shortfall exceeded 3 percentage points.

The shift to revenue insurance, in turn, should allow the compensation cess to be abolished. This siloing of what is a common pot of money has led only to accounting shenanigans and bickering. Once it is gone, all payments could again be made from the consolidated fund of India.

Second, the GST structure needs to be simplified and rationalised, as recommended by the Fifteenth Finance Commission and the Revenue Neutral Rate report that one of us authored. To achieve the promised Good and Simple Tax, a new structure should have one low rate (between 8 and 10 per cent), one standard rate (between 16 and 18 per cent) and one rate for all demerit goods. The average incidence of the GST will increase as the rate cuts effected since 2019 are reversed, as they must. The single rate on demerit goods also requires eliminating the cesses with all their complexity. For example, taxes/cesses

After one and a half years of dispute, and with the economy showing signs of recovery, a path forward for the GST finally seems visible. This opportunity needs to be seized — and not just because of the inherent importance of the GST. India will fly or falter on the stake of cooperative federalism. And cooperative federalism is not a gesture or one-off outcome. It is, above all, a disposition, resulting from quotidian democratic practice. By rehabilitating cooperative federalism's finest achievement — the GST — the Centre and states can help restore India's broader economic prospects.

based on the length of cigarettes are an absurdity deserving immediate abolition.

Finally, the GST Council's working needs tweaking. Under Arun Jaitley's stewardship, all GST decisions were taken by consensus. But that can be sustained only if there is a shared sense of participatory and inclusive governance. Nearly two decades ago, when the VAT was being introduced, Yashwant Sinha established a culture of consensual discussions on indirect taxes. He did this by requiring the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers to be headed by a finance minister from an Opposition-run state government, such as Asim Dasgupta from West Bengal (during the NDA government's tenure) and Sushil Modi from Bihar (during the UPA's tenure).

The spirit of this idea could be translated to the GST Council. For example, discussions in the Council could be steered by the central Finance Minister (Chair), aided by a finance minister (Vice-chair) from an Opposition state, rotating periodically. The agenda-setting and technical work could be done jointly by these two, and they could even take turns chairing council meetings. The council secretariat would report to both officials.

In sum, after one and a half years of dispute, and with the economy showing signs of recovery, a path forward for the GST finally seems visible. This opportunity needs to be seized — and not just because of the inherent importance of the GST. India will fly or falter on the stake of cooperative federalism. And cooperative federalism is not a gesture or one-off outcome. It is, above all, a disposition, resulting from quotidian democratic practice. By rehabilitating cooperative federalism's finest achievement — the GST — the Centre and states can help restore India's broader economic prospects.

Subramanian, a former chief economic adviser, is with Brown University and Felman, former IMF resident representative in India, is Principal JH Consulting

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“Booster jabs and vaccines for older children are not a cure-all. The government should be taking other measures to keep us safe this year.”

— THE GUARDIAN

Joy of learning

In education, fun should not be restricted to ‘song and dance’ alone but has to be integral to the process of learning



DISHA NAVANI

MOST OF us have probably heard the song, “*Padhoge likhoge toh banoge nawab; Jo tum kheloge-kudoge toh hoge kharaab*”, from the film, *Malik* (1958). This rather strange binary between studying and playing also willy-nilly hierarchises human emotions and experiences and the rewards associated with them, where one (abstaining from pleasure) is a desirable state and the other (indulging in pleasure) is not.

However, the idea of joy is not alien to the Indian education discourse. It has been around for sometime, and finds focused attention yet again in the NEP 2020. The word “fun” and its various synonyms (fun activities, joyful classrooms/project, enjoyable manner of teaching, enjoyable and uplifting literature, fun course) appear at several places in the policy document and is also used along with terms such as activity-based, experiential learning, arts-integration, sports-integration and storytelling-based pedagogy etc. One can hardly doubt both the intention of the policy makers behind this idea or its underlying objective — the need to reduce the burden caused by a didactic pedagogy and a stressful examination system. The central assumption here is that didactic pedagogy associated with traditional classrooms is boring and burdensome, bereft of any joy and, therefore, needs to be replaced with a joyful and interactive pedagogy.

One would argue that this is a reasonable expectation. However, the only problem is in the way one understands joy, what will lead to joy and whether joy is the objective or a means of attaining something else. Most people confuse “fun of learning” and “fun in learning”. While the former foregrounds learning, the latter emphasises joy. Fun is important, but we need to also understand what it is that will lead to fun — the process (visible aspects of pedagogy) or the outcome (as gauged by assessment). Process and outcomes of learning are both inter-linked but separate. A joyous process need not necessarily lead to learning and a mentally-taxing process need not always add to a child's burden. On the other hand, one cannot deny that learning in schools is serious business. Sometimes, a singular focus on ease/joy of learning can also be counterproductive as it may lead to falsification/trivialisation of important concepts/ideas.

It may perhaps be ideal if both process and outcome are given equal importance but emphasising one at the cost of the other may prove damaging. One needs to reimagine the idea of fun as not being restricted to “song and dance” alone, but as integrally linked to the idea of learning, where the learner makes connections, actively engages and relates what is happening in the classroom to her own experiences and knowledge.

Similarly, activity-based learning, which is often confused with manifest physical ac-

tivity, in principle refers to inter-connections a learner makes between ideas and concepts with the help of carefully designed activities and tasks. While physical movement is important for children, all learning activities may not require physical movement and facial expressions on the part of teachers and students. Whenever one plans an activity within the classroom or outside, one must have clarity in terms of what one is ultimately trying to achieve through that activity. In the context of teaching-learning resources, it's important that they actually aid or facilitate learning rather than merely add colour to the classroom wall and be visually appealing. It's also important to recognise the importance of a child's agency and provide them with a positive, non-threatening learning environment in which they make sense of their own selves in relation to the world around them. For a long time however — and even now — it was believed that a good learner is one who is quiet, attentive and obedient. In other words, a good learner is one who passively absorbs all that a teacher says in class, is written on the black-board or given in the textbook.

The idea of joy is often also associated with programmes for the poor, positioned as innovative, alternative or child-centred. It's not difficult to understand why joy as an ingredient is considered important while conceiving programmes for socially-disadvantaged groups, as it helps shift attention from correcting structural limitations in the system to song and dance and even banal physical activities/facial expressions in the name of joyful learning.

So then how does one look at the fun/joy of learning? Can the following conditions be seen as contributing to children experiencing the joy of learning in schools?

A feeling of being acknowledged, respected and treated with dignity, the most obvious manifestation of which is the infrastructure of the school. For example, the presence of a toilet may not cause happiness but the lack of one would definitely cause anxiety. Not feeling a sense of shame in calling out the name of the school one studies in; not getting lost in a large number of students in class which means a reasonable pupil-teacher ratio; being taught by teachers who are qualified, socially-sensitive, conceptually sound and who take pride in their profession; being heard and appreciated by the teacher in the class; sharing one's opinion and experiences freely in class; reading textbooks which neither ignore nor misrepresent the social group or community one belongs to; being assessed in ways which are enabling and support learning; not living with the fear of being labelled, ridiculed and belittled; and experiencing pleasure in being assessed for what one knows and not quizzed for what one does not know.

There may be several other sources of joy in school, provided they lead to a positive ecosystem facilitating learning, be it, understanding concepts, making sense of the world outside, applying the knowledge gained in schools to one's life/education/job, building perspectives, raising questions and developing critical thinking.

The writer is professor and dean, School of Education, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BIGOTRY GALORE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘JAM & Abba jaan’ (IE, September 15). The UP CM's bigoted remarks have removed the fig leaf from the government's welfare for all policy. More disquieting is the al-lusion that Muslims have been appeased at the expense of the majority — thereby pitting citizens against each other. A welfare state by definition guarantees rights and benefits to everyone without discrimination. The CM should desist from making such statements and concentrate on development for all.

Ila Railkar, Mumbai

CAUGHT UNAWARES

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Limits of Shanghai regionalism’, (IE, September 14). The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was expected to play a significant role in the eventuality of a foreign military withdrawal from Afghanistan. The Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the SCO was supposed to tackle the threats of terrorism in the larger region. The Afghan Contact Group of the SCO is building consensus amongst member states and searching for common approaches to facilitate the peace process in Afghanistan. The sudden collapse of the Kabul regime has left the SCO members without any alternatives but to better their chances bilaterally with the Taliban regime.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Capital for their courage’ (IE, September 14). For balanced and consistent economic development, not just inclusion but integra-

tion of women in the financial sphere is imperative. Exclusive incentives and ease in availability of credit for entrepreneurs setting MSMEs must be considered.

Melvin Thomas, Bhopal

CLIENT STATE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘With friends like these’ (IE, Sep 15). Contrary to popular perception that America was fooled by Pakistan, the ground reality is that Pakistan has always been a convenient geostrategic tool for the US. In the Cold War era, for a few million dollars, Pakistan was used as a client state to stop Russian expansion towards South Asia. When Russians invaded Afghanistan, religious fanaticism was invoked and nurtured by America to defeat communism. Pakistan is still paying a price for that. After 9/11, the US forced Pakistan to side with them. Now, when the Americans want to refocus their strategic sights towards China, they have walked away from the AF-Pak region. Pakistan may be gloating today over the Taliban victory but it will soon realise the challenges posed by Pashtun nationalism.

HN Bhagwat, Chiplun

DIVISIVE TACTICS

THIS REFERS TO the report, ‘Govt for small farmers, says PM, invokes Charan Singh legacy’ (IE, September 15). Appropriation of icons of other parties or with different backgrounds is of a piece with the BJP's electoral strategy. It is now appropriating Jat leaders Chaudhry Charan Singh and Mahendra Pratap Singh to weaken the farmers' agitation against its three farm bills.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur



M KUNHAMAN

EVERY FUNCTIONING system needs regular corrections. Otherwise, it accumulates undesirable tendencies. This applies to the largest democracy, which is often praised for conducting “free and fair elections”. It is high time we asked whether we have imbibed the democratic spirit and if we exercise it without fear or favour.

Democracy is quintessentially about freedom. Rosa Luxemburg famously opined that real freedom is the freedom to disagree. In a functional sense, democracy means discussion, debate and dissent. But in India, these are fast disappearing. There is a deliberative deficit. Public space is shrinking. There are only some spaces provided by political parties wherein discussions are directed and controlled. It is a “give and take” exercise, leaders give and cadres take — but not in the sense we are familiar with. Structurally, democracy must mean equality; but equality is possible only in a non-hierarchical situation.

In India's case, inequality is the very base of our culture, an unquestioning acceptance of a “culture of inequality.” Democracy is not an end in itself; it is a means to an end that should be socially defined and determined. For instance, development, in a democratic sense, must be inclusive, equitable and sustainable. People should be the primary

agents in the formulation, implementation, overseeing and evaluation of programmes and projects. In the dirigiste era, people were regarded only as the objects of development. Development “occurred” intransitively: Roads were constructed for them and houses were built for them.

There is no gainsaying that India has an accommodative democracy. It accommodates socio-economic inequalities, regional and sectoral imbalances, and what not?

Under the much-acclaimed democratic decentralisation, what really happened was the devolution of certain centrally determined functions, responsibilities and resources to lower tiers of administration, without changing the power structures — social, economic, political, and religious.

Power, whether at the national, regional, local, corporate or family level, always tends towards centralisation. In this sense, power cannot be decentralised. In other words, centralisation of power is not the problem and its decentralisation is not the solution. Power itself is the problem, as it is always used by the powerful against the powerless, by the strong against the weak, by the rich against the poor. History testifies that in a class-divided society, the state, which epitomises power, protects the rich and powerful from or against the poor

and the oppressed. Thus, the state is an instrument of oppression. The more unequal a society, the more authoritarian the state. Ideally, in an egalitarian system, state power has no place. Marx had said that in a classless society, state would wither away. In India, because economic inequalities are egregious and increasing, the state is becoming more and more authoritarian. It is even argued that India is becoming a democracy without freedom. Rulers fear freedom. Always and everywhere, rulers are enemies of freedom.

Leaders are a vanishing species. We have only rulers. We have efficient rulers, efficient administrators, and an efficient police force. Democracy means efficient administration, strengthening and maintaining the status quo, and not changing the system. Stability and continuity are preferred. Questioning inequities invites draconian laws, reminding us of the statement made in the Madras High Court by famous lawyer and human rights activist Kannabiran: “Crime is defined by law, but the criminal is determined by the state.” Recall how migrant workers were treated in the lockdown last year. Or the incident in 2018 in which a starving Adivasi in Attappadi, Kerala, was beaten to death for stealing some food.

Real democracy is economic democracy,

as Ambedkar stressed. A starting point is ensuring economic security to all, not through an income transfer programme (universal basic income), but through the provision of universal property rights. The poor should be treated not as welfare scroungers, but as consumers, active producers, and potential entrepreneurs. This should be ensured by the new economic package being put in place by the Modi government.

MGNREGA allocation must be utilised not for creating wage-employment but for building the asset base of the poor, developing entrepreneurship (business as well as social) among them, building idea/incubation centres and helping undertake production/business units, individually or on a group basis. Let them pursue and explore the fortunes on the margins, like C K Prahalad's exhortation to explore the “fortune at the bottom of the pyramid”. The founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank Muhammad Yunus describes the poor as “natural entrepreneurs”. Let's treat the underclass not just as wage workers/passive recipients of welfare benefits, but as potential producers. Let's trust them. And build a democracy of “freely associated producers.”

The writer is an economist

TOPOF THE WORLD



Gavin Newsom

UNITED STATES
California Gov beats Republican recall effort

Sacramento: California Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday emphatically defeated a recall aimed at kicking him out of office early, a contest the Democrat framed as part of a national battle for his party's values in the face of the coronavirus pandemic and continued threats from "Trumpism." Newsom bolted to a quick victory boosted by healthy turnout in the overwhelmingly Democratic state. He cast it as a win for his handling of the pandemic and liberal issues, and it ensures the nation's most populous state will remain in Democratic control as a laboratory for progressive policies. **AP**

NORTHERN IRELAND
Police arrest four over killing of journalist

Belfast: Northern Irish police said on Wednesday they had arrested four men in relation to the 2019 killing of journalist Lyra McKee in Londonderry, whose death sparked outrage in the British-run province. The men, aged 19, 20, 21 and 33, were arrested under the Terrorism Act by officers investigating McKee's murder, police said. The New IRA, one of a small number of groups that oppose the 1998 peace accord that ended three decades of conflict between opponents and supporters of British rule, said one of its members shot the reporter dead when they opened fire in the direction of police during a riot. **REUTERS**

HAITI
Prosecutor seeking charges against PM fired

Havana: Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry on Tuesday replaced the chief public prosecutor who had been seeking charges against him as a suspect in the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, plunging the country into a fresh political crisis. Moise was shot dead on July 7 when assassins stormed his private residence in the hills above Port-au-Prince. Prosecutor Bed-Ford Claude said last week that phone records showed Henry had twice communicated with a man believed to be the mastermind behind Moise's killing on the night of the crime. **REUTERS**

PAKISTAN
7 soldiers, 5 militants killed in gun battle

Peshawar: Seven Pakistani soldiers and five terrorists were killed in a gun battle in Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan Wednesday, the military said. Based on a tip-off, the soldiers launched a cordon and search operation in South Waziristan near the Afghanistan border. Exchange of fire began near a private compound, where the seven soldiers were killed, and the forces neutralised all five militants, the ISPR said. **PTI**

One month after fall of Kabul, economic crisis stalks Taliban

UN agency fears food could run out by Sept-end, pushing 14 mn into starvation

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 15

A MONTH after seizing Kabul, the Taliban face daunting problems as they seek to convert their lightning military victory into a durable peacetime government.

After four decades of war and tens of thousands of deaths, security has largely improved, but Afghanistan's economy is in ruins despite hundreds of billions of dollars in development spending over the past 20 years.

Drought and famine are driving thousands from the country to the cities, and the World Food Programme, a UN agency, fears food could run out by the end of the month, pushing 14 million people to the brink of starvation.

While much attention in the West has focused on whether the new Taliban government will keep its promises to protect women's rights or offer shelter to militant groups like al Qaeda, for many Afghans the main priority is simple survival.

Long lines still form outside banks, where weekly withdrawal limits of \$200 or 20,000 afghani have been imposed to protect the country's dwindling reserves.

Even with billions of dollars in foreign aid, Afghanistan's economy had been struggling, with growth failing to keep pace with the steady increase in population. Jobs are scarce and many government workers have been



Afghans line up outside a Kabul bank to withdraw money after the Taliban takeover. Reuters file

unpaid since at least July.

International donors have pledged over \$1 billion to prevent what United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned could be "the collapse of an entire country."

But world reaction to the government of Taliban veterans and hardliners announced last week has been cool, and there has been no sign of international recognition or moves to unblock more than \$9 billion in foreign reserves held outside Afghanistan.

Although Taliban officials have said they do not intend a repeat of the harsh fundamentalist rule of the previous government,

they have struggled to convince the outside world that they have really changed.

Widespread reports of civilians being killed and journalists and others being beaten, and doubts about whether the rights of women really will be respected under the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic law, have undermined confidence.

In addition, there has been deep mistrust of senior government figures like the new interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, designated by the United States as a global terrorist with a \$10 million bounty on his head.

To make matters worse for

the Taliban, the movement has had to fight speculation over deep internal splits in its own ranks, denying rumours that Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar had been killed in a shootout with Haqqani supporters.

Taliban seize \$12.4 mn from top ex-officials

The Taliban-controlled central bank said it had seized nearly \$12.4 million in cash and gold from former top government officials on Wednesday, including former vice president Amrullah Saleh. Saleh's whereabouts are unknown.

CHINA BACKS TALIBAN DEMAND TO UNFREEZE ASSETS

Beijing: China Wednesday supported the Taliban's demand that the US unfreeze Afghanistan's assets.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said, "These assets belong to the Afghan people... They (the US) should respond to the legitimate requests of the Afghan people and stop the wrong practice of sanctions and stop making obstacles for Afghanistan's peace and reconstruction." **PTI**

AFGHAN WOMEN FOOTBALLERS REACH PAKISTAN

Islamabad: Thirty-two women football players from Afghanistan, who were facing threats from the Taliban, have reached Pakistan along with their families.

The national junior girls' team had been originally due to travel to Qatar, where Afghan refugees have been housed at a facility for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, but were left stranded after a bomb blast at the Kabul airport on August 26. **PTI**

TRUMP AIDES AIM TO BUILD OPPN TO AFGHAN REFUGEES

Washington: As tens of thousands of Afghan refugees fleeing the Taliban arrive in the US, a handful of former Trump administration officials are working to turn Republicans against them.

It is a collaboration based on mutual conviction," said Stephen Miller, the architect of the former US President's most conservative immigration policies and among those engaged on the issue. **AP**

EVERY REGION REPORTS DECLINE IN CASES
WHO reports big drop in new Covid infectionsASSOCIATED PRESS
GENEVA, SPETMBER 15

THE WHO said there were about 4 million coronavirus cases reported globally last week, marking the first major drop in new infections in more than two months.

In recent weeks, there have been about 4.4 million new Covid-19 cases.

In its weekly update released on Tuesday, the UN health agency said every region in the world saw a drop in Covid-19 cases compared to the previous week.

Although the worldwide number of deaths decreased to about 62,000, with the sharpest

Sunak, Patel retain top jobs as Johnson reshuffles Cabinet

ADITI KHANNA
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 15

BRITISH PRIME Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday undertook a reshuffle of his top team, keeping two of his senior Indian-origin Cabinet ministers Rishi Sunak and Priti Patel in their posts.

Sunak will remain next door to Johnson at Downing Street as his Chancellor of the Exchequer and Patel, who had been at the centre of some speculation of being moved, remains in her post as Home Secretary.

However, the senior ministers being shuffled around include Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, who accepted a demotion to take charge as the new Justice Secretary, alongside his other roles of Lord Chancellor and Deputy Prime Minister.

Raab, who came under fire in recent weeks over his handling of the aftermath of the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban and the evacuation efforts from Kabul, had been at the centre of speculation about his future as the head of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) — one of the top-most Cabinet posts in the British government.

He has been replaced by Liz



British PM Boris Johnson exits 10, Downing Street. AP

Truss, promoted from her role of International Trade Secretary.

Raab, meanwhile, will instead step into the post previously held by Robert Buckland, who was among three major sackings from the Cabinet, including Education Secretary Gavin Williamson and Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick.

Earlier, Downing Street said Johnson would be reshuffling his top team to "put in place a strong and united team to build back better from the pandemic."

Johnson was expected to complete the reshuffle of his Cabinet late on Wednesday, with changes to lower ministerial ranks to be finalised on Thursday. **PTI**

ICC judges authorise investigation into Philippine 'war on drugs' campaign

ASSOCIATED PRESS
THE HAGUE, SEPTEMBER 15

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL Court judges on Wednesday authorized an investigation into the Philippines' deadly 'war on drugs' campaign, saying the crackdown "cannot be seen as a legitimate law enforcement operation."

The court's former prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, sought permission from judges earlier this year to investigate the Philippine government's campaign.

She said that a preliminary probe she began in February 2018 found "a reasonable basis to believe that the crime against humanity of murder has been committed" in the Philippines between July 1, 2016 and March



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

16, 2019, the date the Philippines withdrew from the court.

In a written decision, judges who considered Bensouda's request found a "reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation" into killings committed as part of the war on drugs.

The court said in a statement that the judges ruled that "the so-called war on drugs" campaign cannot be seen as a legitimate law enforcement operation, and the killings neither as legitimate nor as mere excesses in an otherwise legitimate operation".

Sri Lanka minister resigns after threatening to kill Tamils prisoners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, SEPTEMBER 15

SRI LANKA prisons minister Lohan Ratwatte resigned on Wednesday after an uproar over his alleged remarks to kill Tamil prisoners during his recent visit to a jail in the island nation's north central region.

Ratwatte tendered his resignation after outrage from the Tamil political parties which sought his exit from the Cabinet and arrest over the remarks.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has accepted Ratwatte's resignation, a presidential spokesman said.

On September 12, Ratwatte went to the Anuradhapura prison in the country's northern central region and allegedly forced two prisoners to kneel and threatened to kill them, as per reports.

His act prompted the Tamil parties to condemn his behaviour and call for his resignation. The minister's office has denied any such incident involving him.

The incident and act of the minister has also been condemned by the United Nations. The UN Resident Coordinator in Sri Lanka, Hanaa Singer-Hamdy, said that it is the duty of the State to protect the rights of prisoners, the *Colombo Gazette* reported.

"In our work on prison reform and drug rehabilitation, UN Sri Lanka works to strengthen capacities to uphold the rights of all those in custody and condemns any ill treatment of prisoners," Singer-Hamdy tweeted on Wednesday.

Kim sister warns of 'destruction' of Korean ties

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 15

THE POWERFUL sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Wednesday criticized South Korea's president and threatened a "complete destruction" of bilateral relations after both of the countries tested ballistic missiles hours apart.

The launches of missiles underscored a return of tensions between the rivals at a time when talks aimed at stripping North Korea of its nuclear program are stalled.

Kim's sister, Kim Yo Jong, criticised South Korean President Moon Jae-in for comments he made while observing his country's missile tests, including its first of a submarine-launched ballistic missile. Moon said South



Seoul residents watch a news programme reporting North Korea's missiles on Wednesday. AP

Korea's growing missile capabilities will serve as a "sure deterrence" against North Korean provocations.

The tests came hours after the South Korean and Japanese mil-

itaries said North Korea had fired two ballistic missiles into the sea.

In a statement carried by state media, Kim berated Moon for describing North Korean weapons demonstrations as a

provocation, and warned of a "complete destruction" of bilateral relations if he continues with what she described as slander of North Korea.

She said North Korea is developing its military capabilities for self-defense without targeting a specific country, and that South Korea is also increasing its military capabilities.

"If the president joins in the slander and detraction (against us), this will be followed by counter actions, and the North-South relations will be pushed toward a complete destruction," she said. "We do not want that."

The rival nations are still technically in a state of war since the 1950-53 Korean War, which pitted the North and ally China against the South and U.S.-led U.N. forces, ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.



Alyona Popova (centre) with members of her campaign during a meeting in Moscow. AP

have faced resistance from authorities.

Yulia Gorbunova, senior researcher for Human Rights Watch in Russia and Ukraine, said the available statistics sug-

gest Russia isn't much different from the rest of the world. She cited World Health Organization data that showed one in three women around the globe suffers from physical or sexualized vio-

lence by her partner or others, "and in Russia, the numbers are quite similar".

"Unfortunately, Russia differs from other countries in a bad way, with its inadequate response — lack of legislation, lack of a normal system of supporting the victims," she added.

Simple assault against a family member was a criminal offense only briefly in 2016 under a measure passed by lawmakers, but it prompted a backlash from conservative groups.

In December 2016, Vladimir Putin was asked about parents who could face imprisonment for spanking a child, which the questioner said was "quite traditional" Russian discipline.

Putin responded that "it's better not to spank children and not to cite traditions," but agreed that "unceremonious interfe-

ence with the family is unacceptable," and promised to review the law. It was decriminalized the next year and was downgraded to a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of about \$68.

Valentina Matvienko, the speaker of the upper house of parliament, acknowledged the problem in 2019 and vowed to have a domestic violence bill by the end of the year.

It faced weeks of stiff resistance from conservative groups and the Russian Orthodox Church, arguing that the state shouldn't interfere in family matters. As a result, it was watered down and never came up for a vote.

"Our state is sending us a signal that violence is a staple (of the regime), and nothing should be done against this staple, because otherwise the entire system will fall apart," Popova said. **AP**



GOLD

₹46,214



RUPEE

₹73.50



OIL

\$72.52



SILVER

₹62,140

Crude oil (Indian basket) as of September 14

SENSEX: 58,723.20 ▲ 476.11 (0.82%) NIFTY: 117,519.45 ▲ 139.45 (0.80%) NIKKEI: 30,511.7 ▼ 158.39 HANG SENG: 25,033.21 ▼ 469.02 FTSE: 7,023.90 ▼ 10.16 DAX: 15,676.73 ▲ 46.26

International market data till 1900 IST

TAXATION WATCH
RETURNS FILING

Deadline for Infosys over, but I-T portal issues stay: Refund, e-verification errors

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE DEADLINE outlined by the government for Infosys to fix the issues in the income tax portal ended on Wednesday, but the taxpayers continued to raise concerns about the glitches. Tax experts and taxpayers flagged various continuing glitches while filing returns such as delayed pre-validation by the banks, troubles in registering digital signature certificate, inability to file adjournment in ongoing assessment cases, failure to re-issue refund requests and errors in e-verification of the returns.

The Finance Ministry had on August 23 "summoned" Infosys CEO and MD Salil Parekh to explain the issues resulting in disruption of the portal developed by the software major. In the meeting with Parekh on August 23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had expressed "deep disappointment" over persisting glitches for more than two months after portal launch and had given a deadline of September 15 to Infosys to resolve the issues.

After over three months of the launch on June 7, taxpayers continued to complain about the glitches on the portal. "Information is not updated on I-T Portal because of that we are unable to file refund reissue requests as the portal is showing that 'you have no refund failures to raise reissue requests.' Also, response to outstanding demand option is not working. We are not able to see the status of demand of the assessee. The message appearing on the portal is: the notice for demands prior to AY 2020-21 shall be made available shortly," Mukul Bagla, Chair, Direct Tax Committee, PHD Chamber of Commerce said. Bagla added there are difficulties in filing of ITR 2 and 3, rectification under Section 154 cannot be submitted electronically.

Taxpayers flagged various continuing glitches like delayed pre-validation by the banks, troubles in registering digital signature certificate

Nangia & Co LLP's partner Shailesh Kumar said though the government has indicated it is aware of the portal's challenges by extending the return filing deadlines, but there is a genuine hardship for taxpayers, who have paid self assessment tax, but not able to file ITR due to portal issues. "They are still required to pay interest at 1% per month (except senior citizens, who have paid entire taxes by 31st July) for delay in filing the ITR. The Government should give a waiver of interest to those taxpayers, who have already paid their entire tax liability, if they file their ITR within the extended time limit of 31 December," he said.

"On some days, the portal works fine, on some other days, it faces technical glitches in some of the modules. Even though the functioning has improved over the past few weeks, still problems persist making it difficult for some taxpayers while filing the ITR," he added. Queries sent by *The Indian Express* to the Income Tax Department and Infosys on this matter went unanswered.

The income tax department had last week extended various filing deadlines, citing difficulties reported by taxpayers. The due date for ITRs for individuals whose accounts are not to be audited has been extended to December 31 from the earlier extended deadline of September 30, while that for companies has been extended to February 15, 2022. On September 8, the department said a number of technical issues on the new ITR portal are being progressively addressed.

EXPECTED TO ATTRACT ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT OF ₹42,500 CR: GOVT

To push production, Cabinet clears ₹26K-cr PLI for automotive sector

Incentives worth ₹120 crore for drone manufacturers in Production Linked Incentive scheme

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE UNION Cabinet on Wednesday approved a Rs 26,058-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for automobile, auto component and drone manufacturers to boost their domestic production capabilities. The scheme aims to enhance manufacturing of advanced automobiles, including electric vehicles, and auto components in India.

According to the government, the scheme is expected to attract additional investment of Rs 42,500 crore to the automobile sector and generate 7.6 lakh jobs, according to the government. The total outlay of the scheme is, however, less than half of the previously announced Rs 57,000 crore expenditure that was planned for the

automobile sector.

"The scheme will strengthen the manufacturing capacity of advanced automobile vehicles and drones," said Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, adding the scheme was expected to generate incremental turnover of Rs 2.3 lakh crore in the automobile sector. The scheme includes incentives of Rs 25,938 crore for the automobile and auto component manufacturers and Rs 120 crore for drone manufacturers. When asked about the smaller outlay than what was previously announced, Thakur said the scheme had been designed after consultations with the industry.

"It is necessary to increase India's share of global automotive trade from 2 per cent currently," Thakur said, adding the scheme would also help reduce annual automobile component imports of \$17 billion and help

EXPLAINED
Investment criteria

SELECTED AUTO companies have to put in a new investment of minimum Rs 2,000 crore in five years and for 2-3 wheeler firms, the target is Rs 1,000 crore. Similarly in the component segment, selected firms would have to invest Rs 250 crore in five years and Rs 500 crore for new investors.

Indian companies become part of the global supply chain of advanced automobile components.

Selected auto companies have to put in a new investment of minimum Rs 2,000 crore in

five years and for 2-3 wheeler firms, the target is Rs 1,000 crore. Similarly in the component segment, selected firms would have to invest Rs 250 crore in five years and Rs 500 crore for new investors.

Thakur clarified that besides this scheme, manufacturers would continue to get benefits under the existing Rs 18,100 crore PLI scheme for advanced chemistry cells and the Rs 10,000 crore Faster Adoption of Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.

"Encouraging production of auto components using advanced technologies will boost localisation, domestic manufacturing and also attract foreign investments. This will help component manufacturers strive for scale, which will require setting up of new facilities and create more jobs," said Girish Wagh, executive director at Tata Motors.

Incentives for auto manufacturers will range from 13 per cent for turnover of Rs 2,000 crore to 16 per cent for sales of up to Rs 4,000 crore. Additionally, automobile companies reaching a cumulative turnover of over Rs 10,000 crore over five years will get further incentive of 2 per cent. Auto component manufacturers will get incentives ranging from 8 per cent for turnover of Rs 250 crore to 11 per cent for turnover of up to Rs 750 crore as well as an additional incentive of 5 per cent for manufacturers of battery vehicles and hydrogen fuel cell components.

"This will strengthen battery and powertrain manufacturing in India," said Thakur about the incentives for auto component manufacturers.

The PLI scheme for drone manufacturing is expected to attract investments of Rs 5,000 crore over three years and create 10,000 jobs.

'PE, VC investments rise to \$ 10.7 bn in August'

Investments by private equity and venture capital funds surged to \$ 10.7 billion in August from \$ 2.2 billion in the same month last year, said a report by IVCA and EY

Volume numbers were up with August recording 137 transactions as against 83 in the year-ago period and 77 in July

Initial public offerings like that of Zomato led to exits worth \$7.3 billion in August, and took the overall number to \$30.7 billion in 2021

Exits have already surpassed the previous best on the back of 22 IPOs, it said, adding that August recorded 38 deals totaling \$7.3 billion, as against 25 deals of \$1.2 billion in July, and \$ 67 million in 17 deals in the year-ago period

E-commerce has seen the highest interest accounting for nearly a fourth of all the investments in 2021, and is followed by financial services and technology



PE/VC juggernaut has propelled investments and exits to life-time highs within the first 8 months of the year

Investments in the first eight months of the year are at \$47.3 billion, which is almost at par with the previous full-year high recorded in 2020

Source: IVCA, EY/PTI

BRIEFLY

5G spectrum

New Delhi: The 5G spectrum auctions will "most probably" be held in February 2022, and the government may even try for a January timeline, Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Wednesday.

TCS m-cap

Mumbai: TCS on Wednesday crossed the \$200 billion milestone in market capitalisation. For the company, the first \$100 billion came after 50 years and the next \$100 billion took 3.5 years. TCS closed 1.79 per cent higher at Rs 3,954.80 on the BSE. **ENS**

iPhone 13 in India

New Delhi: Apple's latest lineup of iPhones, including iPhone 13 mini and iPhone 13 Pro Max, will be available in India from September 24 with prices starting at Rs 69,900.

Flipkart centres

New Delhi: Flipkart on Wednesday said it has added 66 new large-scale fulfillment and sortation centres across the country and created 1.15 lakh additional seasonal jobs. **PTI**

Microsoft buyback

Bengaluru: Microsoft Corp on Tuesday said it will conduct an up to \$60 billion share buyback program, raise its quarterly dividend by 11 per cent, and appoint company President Brad Smith as vice chair. **REUTERS**

Sebi bars Poonawalla Fincorp MD, 7 others in 'insider trading case'

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has barred eight persons, including Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd (formerly Magma Fincorp Ltd) Managing Director Abhay Bhutada, from the markets and also impounded Rs 13.58 crore from the bank accounts of the eight persons to the extent of their respective liability in an insider trading case.

The eight persons are: Abhay Bhutada, Saumil Shah, Surabhi Kishore Shah, Amit Agrawal, Murlidhar Bagrangal Agrawal, Rakesh Rajendra Bhojgadhiya, Rakesh Rajendra Bhojgadhiya and Abhijit Pawar.

According to a Sebi order, there were insider trading alerts in the scrip of Magma Fincorp for the month of February 2021, which was around the same time when the corporate announcement was made regarding acquisition of con-

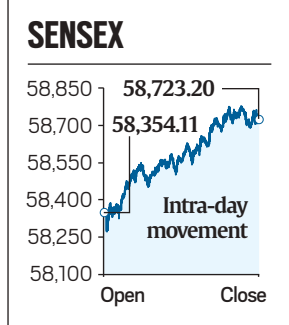
THE ORDER

■ As per a Sebi order, there were insider trading alerts in the scrip of Magma Fincorp for the month of February 2021, which was around the time when corporate announcement was made regarding acquisition of controlling stake in the company.

trolling stake in the company. The Poonawallas of Serum Institute group acquired Magna Fincorp and renamed the company.

"It is noticed that there were phone calls among the eight entities during the relevant period and the said phone calls were followed by transfer of funds ... persons enjoying connection through phone calls ... traded in the scrip of Magma in advance of the event...", Sebi said.

Sensex hits record on govt packages



Mumbai: Domestic stock markets on Wednesday surged to a new peak even as the government announced packages for the auto and telecom sectors. The Sensex shot up by 476 points to a new high of 58,723.20 and the NSE Nifty Index rose by 139 points to 17,519.45 on sustained buying support.

Markets cheered the Union Cabinet decision to clear Rs 26,000 crore PLI scheme for the auto sector to boost production of electric vehicles and hydrogen fuel vehicles. Reports of approval of a relief package for the telecom sector including moratorium on AGR payment will provide relief to the debt-laden sector, analysts said. Bharti Airtel gained 4.53 per cent and Vodafone Idea gained 2.76 per cent. **ENS**

RailTel
(A Government of India Undertaking)
CIN No. L64202DL2009GOI107905

Tender No.: RCIL/ER/2021-22/1311 Dt. 15.09.2021
RailTel/E-Region invites E-Tender from eligible bidders for "Deployment of maintenance team for maintenance of optic fibre cable network and upkeep of associated gears like AC, DG, Stabilizer and Change over unit, Shelter and Wi-Fi Equipments in Dhenkanal Section of RCIL/ER."

Tender Notice & Tender Document are available on www.railtelindia.com and <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Addendum/corrigendum will be uploaded in RailTel website only.

SB
Platform Engineering-I Department, State Bank of India, Global IT Centre, Sector-11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400614

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP No.: SBI/GITC/PE-I/21-22/792 Dated: 16.09.2021

Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Procurement of Comprehensive Endpoint Security Solution for State Bank Group. For details, please visit "Procurement news" at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and e-Procurement agency portal <https://etender.sbi/SBI/>

Commencement of download of RFP: From 16.09.2021 at 10:00 hrs

Last date and time for submission of bids: 18.10.2021 up to 16:00 hrs

Place: Navi Mumbai

Date: 16.09.2021 **Platform Engineering-I Department**

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता जल संसाधन वृत्त उदयपुर
NIB Code:-WRD2122A0209
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2021-22

इस कार्यालय की निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 वर्ष 2021-22 वाले Repair & Renovation of distributory No. 1 of LMC & Dhoinda minor of RMC of Rajasamand Tank District Rajasamand के कार्य जिसकी अनुमानित लागत रुपये 490.12 लाख के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में जल संसाधन विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संलग्न/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों से जो कि राजस्थान के "ए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in वेबसाइट से दिनांक 07.09.2021 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से दिनांक 27.09.2021 सायं 6 बजे तक डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड की जा सकेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> पर भी देखा जा सकता है।

UBN: WRD2122WSOB00819
DIPR/C/9010/2021

हस्ता:-
(सावित्र हर्षन)
अधीक्षण अभियंता
जल संसाधन वृत्त उदयपुर

Government of Rajasthan
Directorate Medical Education,
Chikitsa Shiksha Bhawan, Govind Marg, Jaipur
Email ID: r.mes@rajasthan.gov.in
No. F7(100)/Rajmes/Acad/PMC/2020/2789 Dated 08.09.2021
Corrigendum

The "TimeSchedule" in reference to Bid Invitation Notice No. 07/2021-22 issued by this office vide no. Dated 19.08.2021 regarding the work of "Project Management and Supervision Consultant for Construction Supervision of Medical Colleges and Hospitals in Rajasthan" is revised as under due to administrative reasons:-

S. No.	Schedule	Date	Time
1	Document Upload Start Date	09.09.2021	09:30 AM
2	Document Download / Upload End Date	27.09.2021	12:00 PM
3	Submission of Demand Draft/Banker Cheque of Processing Fee, Tender Fee and Bid Security Declaration at the Office of Commissioner, DME, Jaipur	28.09.2021	1:00 PM
4	Technical Bid Opening Date	28.09.2021	3:00 PM

Other terms and conditions of Bid Document shall remain the same.

Sd/-
(Shivangi Swarnkar)
Commissioner
Medical Education

DIPR/C/9155/2021

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Donimalai Complex,
Donimalai Township, Sandur Taluq, Ballari Dist., Karnataka - 583118.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent, experienced and financially sound contractors for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Tender No. & Date	Name of Work	Cost of Work (₹)	Download period From-To	Last date of Submission upto 15.00 Hrs.
1.	CE/W/1(88/1) 2021, Date: 17-09-2021	"Repair of Road from Bus Stop to Office Premises at Screening Plant DIOM"	₹ 23.60 Lakhs	17-09-2021 to 16-10-2021	16-10-2021
2.	CE/W/10(147) 2020, Date: 17-09-2021	"Construction of 1 no RO Plant at Navalatti Village including Electrification works under CSR works"	₹ 20.54 Lakhs	18-09-2021 to 18-10-2021	18-10-2021
3.	CE/W/10(151) 2021, Date: 17-09-2021	"Renovation of Existing Multipurpose Community Building including Electrical works at Narsingapura Village under CSR Activity"	₹ 27.27 Lakhs	22-09-2021 to 21-10-2021	21-10-2021
4.	KIOM/OTE/ EX/2021, Date: 16-09-2021	"Hiring of 1 to 1.2 M3 capacity back-hoe excavator trenching / pitting of stockpile at KIOM for 1300 hrs for 2 years."	₹ 41.42 Lakhs	16-09-2021 to 07-10-2021	07-10-2021

For further clarification : Sl.No. 1 to 3 may contact by e-mail to dlomcivl@nmcdc.co.in / Fax No. 08395-274644 and for Sl.No. 4 may contact by e-mail to kiom.nmcdc@gmail.com / Fax No. 08395-274640. Detailed NIT and tender documents of above can be viewed and / or downloaded from NMDC's website <https://www.nmcdc.co.in/nmcdc/tender/default.aspx> or Central Public Procurement Portal <https://www.eprocure.gov.in>. For Sl. No. 4 download from website <https://gem.gov.in> and the bid must be submitted through online at Gem only.

Further, for any corrigendum, amendments, clarification etc may please follow the above website.

For and on behalf of NMDC Limited
General Manager (Production)

Office of The Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Region-Kota

Notice Inviting Bids

Bids for various works under JJM are invited from interested bidders upto 04-10-2021, 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the <http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>, and <http://rajwater.gov.in> departmental website detail are following:-

NIT.No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Date & time for online submission of tender
61/2021-22	Work of Augmentation of RWSS Undal-Khanpuria-Motipura of Sub division J.Patan to provide FHTC including one year Defect Liability period under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Jhalawar Distt. Jhalawar. UBN No. PHE 2122WSOB07264	125.98	14.09.2021 at 10:00 Hrs to 04.10.2021 (up to 18:00 Hrs)
62/2021-22	Work of Augmentation of RWSS Sojpara Ghaghrawata of Sub division Khanpur to provide FHTC including one year Defect Liability period under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Jhalawar Distt. Jhalawar. UBN No. PHE 2122WSOB07265	206.36	
63/2021-22	Work of Augmentation of RWSS Bankshera of Sub division Aklera to provide FHTC including one year Defect Liability period under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Jhalawar Distt. Jhalawar. UBN No. PHE 2122WSOB07266	161.48	

Sd/-
(Mahesh Jangid)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Kota

DIPR/C/9203/2021

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, NEUTAN RATHOUR, wife of JITENDRA SINGH RATHOUR, Mother of RAN VIJAY SINGH RATHOUR resident of H. No-41/4, Old Wellington Camp New Delhi- 110003 have changed my name to NEUTAN RATHOUR to SULOCHANA RATHOUR (as new Name) vide affidavit dated 13-09-2021. 0040583940-7

It is for general information that I, Pooja, W/o Late. Rajesh R/o Flat-No.43, Site-I, Vikaspuri, New-Delhi-110018, declare that my husband name has been wrongly-written as Pankaj Kaushik in my daughter Ishika School-record. The actual name of my husband is Rajesh respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040584669-3

I, AMARJEET SANDHU, S/O. HARBANS SINGH, H.NO. 1/9153A, NEAR-GYANI DHABA ROHTASH-NAGAR SHAHDARA-EAST DELHI-110032, Changed my name to AMARJEET SINGH, permanently. 0040584670-3

I, Susheel Kumar Oberoi, S/O Banarsi Dass Oberoi R/O, 43/9, 1st-Floor, Ashok-Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New-Delhi-110018, Have Changed my name to Sushil Oberoi. 0040584665-8

I, Sunit Dasgupta S/o Kalyan Dasgupta R/O-H-182, Ramakrishna Vihar, 29 (I.P.Extn.) Patparganj Delhi-110092, Have Changed my Name To Sunit Dasgupta. 0040584665-4

I, Sunder Singh, S/o. Ranjeet Singh, Residing At -9/4828, Gali.No.6, East Old-Seelampur, Gandhi-Nagar, Delhi-110031, Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Daksh Aged-11 Years And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Daksh Singh. 0040584670-9

I, Sujete Jha R/o- 149, Raja Pur Village, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, inform that in my, daughter's school records her name Juli kumari and mother, name Roshan Devi Wrongly-written instead of her, correct name Julie Kumari and mother, name Geeta Jha. Please amendment accordly. 0040584666-2

I, Satya Goel W/o Gopal Dass Goyal R/o-Dinco, House, Near Dharuhera Chowk Circular, Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my name to Satya Goyal. 0040584673-5

I, Sachin S/o Sh. Harish Ahuja R/O G-27/117, First-Floor, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi- 110085, have changed my name Sachin Kumar, for all purposes. 0040584670-6

I, Neha, spouse of Dhananjay Kumar, resident of, SMQ-101/4, Air-Force Station, Chandigarh, Baghpatt, UP, have changed my name, from Neha, to Neha Kumari vide- affidavit dated-14-September-2021 before, Ghaziabad court. 0040584666-7

I, Mahima Jaiwant Malviya, D/O Jaiwant Malviya R/O-253/1, Railway-Flats Shakur Basti Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Mahima Jai Malviya. 0040584687-2

I, MOHD RAFIQUE, S/o MOHD JUBER, ADD-153, INDRRA CAMP. NO.4, GALI.NO.05, VIKASPURI, NEW DELHI-110018, Changed my name to MOHOMMAD RAFIQ ANSARI. 0040584665-6

I, MEHAQ SINGHAL/DIYA, D/O RAJINDER KUMAR SINGHAL, R/O C-2/156, WEST ENCLAVE, CHANGED MY NAME TO DIYA SINGHAL. 0040584670-1

I, MANJEET SINGH S/O SUBAG SINGH R/O C-54/3, RAJNIT VIHAR, NILOTHI EXTENSION, WEST-DELHI-110041, CHANGED MY NAME TO MANJEET SINGH GORAYA. 0040584666-6

I, KM SANDHYA RANI W/O KAMAL KUMAR R/O 1165-A/76, DEVA, RAM PARK, GANESH-PURA, SHEETLA MATA-MANDIR, ONKAR-NAGAR, DELHI-110035, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDHYA. 0040584665-7

I, Inder Pal Singh S/o-Darshan Singh Juneja, R/o S-307 2nd-Floor, Greater Kailash-1, Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Inder Pal Singh Juneja. 0040584665-3

I, Hitesh Kumar Goyal S/o Gopal Dass Goyal R/o-Dinco, House, Near, Dharuhera Chowk, Circular, Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my minor son's name Tanmay Goel to Tanmay Goyal. 0040584673-4

I, Hitesh Kumar Goyal S/o Gopal Dass Goyal R/o-Dinco, House, Near, Dharuhera Chowk, Circular, Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my minor daughter's name Dhriti Goel to Dhriti Goyal. 0040584673-3

I, Hitesh Goel S/o Gopal Dass Goyal R/o-Dinco, House Near, Dharuhera Chowk Circular Road Rewari-123401, Haryana, changed my name to Hitesh Kumar Goyal. 0040584673-1

I, Ajay Kumar Gaur, R/o-60, Second Staff Quarter, Opposite Masjid, Friend Colony, New Delhi-110065, inform that in my, some documents my, father's name wrongly-written as Shri. Bacha Lal Gaur instead of actual name Shri. Masuria Gaur, both are same person. 0040584666-1

I, Harminder Kaur kohli, W/O. Kuldeep Singh kohli R/O.D-84, Fateh-Nagar, jail road, New-Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Harmohinder kaur kohli, for all purposes. 0040584670-7

I, Gopal Dass Goel S/o Ganesh Lal R/o-Dinco, House, Near, Dharuhera Chowk Circular, Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my name to Gopal Dass Goyal. 0040584673-6

I, Geeta Chaudhry W/o Sunder Singh, Residing At-9/4828 Gali.No.6, East Old Seelampur, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031, Have Changed My Name to Geeta Singh, For All Purposes 0040584670-8

I, Gagan Kumar, s/o manoj kumar, Add-village Diyul teh Chamba sahu himachal pradesh-176314, have changed my name, from Gagan to Gagan Kumar, for all future purposes. 0040584669-9

I, Dilipkumar Prabhudas Kamdar, S/O Prabhudas Bhagwanji Kamdar, R/o K-11/17, Second-floor, DLF-City Phase-2, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122002, have changed my name to Dilip Prabhudas Kamdar. 0040584670-5

I, Davinder Singh Nayyar, S/O Amar Singh Nayyar R/O-24-A, Third Floor, Gali.No-13, Krishna Park, Tilak-Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Davinder Singh. 0040584669-1

I, Damini D/o Shri Raj Kumar R/O CP-115, 1st-Floor, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Parul Sharma, for all purposes. 0040584670-2

I, Charu Sharma W/o Inder Pal Singh Juneja R/O S-307 2nd-Floor, Greater Kailash-1 Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Namrata Juneja. 0040584665-1

I, ARYAN S/O.VIJAY KUMAR, ADD-B-657, G-D-COLONY MAYUR-VIHAR PHASE-3, EAST DELHI-110096, changed my name to ARYAN SHARMA, for all, future purposes. 0040584670-10

I, Vikas Panwar S/o. Sharvan Kumar Panwar R/o-RZ-D28, West Sagherpur, Delhi-110046 do hereby notifies that in my school documents mine & my father's name is wrongly mentioned as Vikas and Sharvan Kumar. The correct names are Vikas Panwar and Sharvan Kumar Panwar. 0040584597-1

I, Vandana Rani alias Vandana, D/o Late. Ram Kishan Gupta, W/O Umesh Kumar Agarwal R/o-3/113, Karan Street, Vishwas-Nagar, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Vandana Agarwal, for all purposes. 0040584669-5

I, Swarn Lata W/o Tilak Raj No 1458270K HAV, R/o K-759, Street-No.-1, Gautam Vihar, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-53, have changed my name to Swarn Lata. 0040584669-7

I, Manisha D/o Ravinder Kumar R/O-H.No.333 Pkt-5 Sector-22 Rohini Delhi, has changed my name to Manisha Sharma. 0040584598-1

I, Sunita W/o Lt. Ashwani Kumar R/o, X/1852, Gali no-12, Rajgarh Ext.-02, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-31, have changed my name to Sunita Devi. 0040584669-8

I, Shalini w/o Harvinder Singh R/o House no.-130, New Defence colony, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201206 have changed my name to SHALINI KAUR permanently. 0040584591-2

I, Sager Ahmed s/o, Abdul Hameed R/o H.N.206, Gali Shankar, Sita Ram Bazar, Delhi-110006 has changed my name from Sagheer Ahmed to Sager Ahmed for all documents and future purposes. (Affidavit dated-14 Sep 2021). I will use this name for all my documents and future purposes. 0040584595-1

I, Namrta Juneja W/o Inder Pal Singh Juneja R/o S-307 2nd-Floor, Greater Kailash-1 Delhi-110048, Have Changed My Name To Namrata Juneja. 0040584665-2

I, NAVDEEP KAUR D/O MANJEET SINGH GORAYA R/O C-54/3, RAJNIT VIHAR, NILOTHI EXTENSION, WEST-DELHI-110041, CHANGED MY NAME TO NAVDEEP KAUR GORAYA. 0040584666-5

I, NASEEM AHMED S/O- SAMI ULLA R/O- E-12-D, TILAK VIHAR, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-18 have changed my name to MOHD NASEEM. 0040584665-5

I, Miti Kaur, W/o Pawan Singh, R/o Gurudwara Singh Sabha, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have changed my name Neeti Kaur. 0040584687-1

I, CHANDENDRA SINGH, S/O- CHANDU SINGH, R/O C-99, UPPER S. F. CHANDER VIHAR, NILOTHI EXTENSION, WEST DELHI-110041, CHANGED MY NAME TO MAHINDER SINGH for all purpose. 0040584666-8

It is for general information that I, Pooja, W/o Late. Rajesh, R/o Flat-No.43, Site-I, Vikaspuri, New-Delhi-110018, declare that my husband name has been wrongly-written as Pankaj Kaushik in my son Bharat School-record. The actual name of my husband is Rajesh respectively which may be amended accordingly. 0040584669-4

I, Jyoti Rawat W/o Sandeep Singh Rawat, R/o 12B Pocket-C2, Janta Flats, Mayur Vihar Ph-3, Delhi, have changed my name Jyoti pawar to Jyoti Rawat for all future purposes. 0040584571-1

I, Jaivir Singh Balian, S/o Shri. Dayaram Singh, R/o C-1, Savitri-Apartment, 4/19, Sector-2, Rajendra-Nagar Sahibabad-Ghaziabad, U.P.-201005, have changed my name, from Jaivir Singh Balian to Jaivir Singh to Jaivir Singh Balian, for all, future purposes. 0040584669-2

I, HIMANSHU GUPTA S/o Late Ram Niwas Gupta, R/O F-12, 1st Floor, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48, have changed the name of my minor daughter ANAYA GUPTA, aged 08yrs and she shall hereafter be known as NIAH GUPTA 0040584632-1

I, Gouri Bajaj D/o Harish Bajaj R/O-C-66 Panchsheel-Enclave, Ground-Floor Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Gouri Sabherwal for all purposes. 0040584669-6

I, Eknoor d/o Harvinder Singh R/o House no.-130, New Defence colony, Muradnagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201206 have changed my name to EKNOR KAUR permanently. 0040584591-1

I, Duraisamy, S/o Mr. Kanda Swamy, R/o H.No. S-126/577, K. D. Colony, Sector-12, R. K Puram, New Delhi-110022, have changed my name to Dorai Swamy. 0040584666-4

I, Dhruv S/o Jitender Kumar R/O T-2506, Subhash Nagar Karol-Bagh Delhi-110005, have changed my name to DHRUV MEHENDIRATTA. 0040584687-3

I, BRIJENDER KR SAXENA, S/O SHRI BHAGWAN DASS SAXENA, R/O-92, MAIN MARKET, BADARPUR, JAITPUR, SOUTH DELHI-110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BRIJENDRA KUMAR SAXENA. 0040584666-3

I, Sonam Luthra D/o Naresh Luthra W/o Saurabh Girdhar R/O-AA-172 Shamir Bagh Delhi-110088, changed my name to Sonam Girdhar. 0040584673-7

I, Sabir Hussain S/o Kamal Tailor R/O B-150/1, Satya Enclave, Prem Nagar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West, Delhi-110086 is also known as Sonu Yadav and Sonu. All names are of one and the same person. 0040584579-6

I, RAKSHIT KUMAR KHANNA S/O SUBHASH SHANKER KHANNA, R/O C-104, GANDHI NAGAR, LANE NO.6, MORADABAD-244001 Have changed my name from RAKSHIT KUMAR TO RAKSHIT KUMAR KHANNA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0050184200-1

I, Pappu S/o Habeeb Ahmed R/o 138, Jhuggi Jhopdi, A-89, Sector-10, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301 have changed my name to Sharif Ansari for all purposes. 0040584579-7

I, Mukesh, S/O Rohtas Singh Gandas R/o 39/9, Kishan Garh, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110070 have changed my father's name to Rohtas Gandas for all purposes. 0040584588-1

I, Mamta Malik D/o-Sh.C.B. Malik R/o-164, Pkt.-H-17, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Vandana Sachdeva for all purpose. Mamta Malik & Vandana Sachdeva is the one and same person. 0040584587-1

I, Jullie W/o-Sh. Ahmad Ali Hussain R/O-E-107, Vijay Vihar, Phase-II, Rohini, Delhi-85, have changed my name to Afrin Khatoon for all purpose. Jullie & Afrin Khatoon is the one and same person. 0040584586-1

I, Durgesh Gupta W/o-Anurag Gupta R/o-299, Rajdhani Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Bhawna Gupta for all purposes. 0040584589-1

I, Dhappo Devi alias Deepa Devi D/o Late Sh. Deva Ram W/o Late Sh. Gulab Ram R/O T-915/1, Road No.20, Near Mata Ka Mandir, Bheel Basti, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O., Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 have you changed my name to Deepa Devi for all purposes. 0040584579-8

I, Dipti Dilip Kumar Kamdar, D/o-Umedlal Padamsini Kothari, R/O-K11/17, Second-floor, DLF PHASE-2, Gurgaon (Haryana)-122002, have changed my name to Dipti Dilip Kamdar, W/o-Dilip Prabhudas Kamdar. 0040584670-4

I, Swati Goel W/o Hitesh Kumar Goyal R/o-Dinco, House Near, Dharuhera Chowk Circular Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my name to Swati Goyal. 0040584673-2

I, Swati Goel W/o Hitesh Kumar Goyal R/o-Dinco, House Near, Dharuhera Chowk Circular Road Rewari-123401, Haryana changed my name to Swati Goyal. 0040584673-2

Lost my original property share-certificate, No.672/48 dt.14.01.1987. Rs 100 name of Deepak Tuli s/o M/L Tufilat, No.613, Gobind Apartment, 82 Vasundhara enclave, Delhi-110096, founder may contact-9350927536. 0040584669-11

LOST & FOUND

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CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF HARYANA
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University
MAHENDERGARH - 123031 (HARYANA)

TENDER FOR MANPOWER AND SECURITY SERVICES

Sealed tenders are invited for providing manpower and security services in the Central University of Haryana, Mahendergarh. Detailed tender documents, terms and conditions can be downloaded from the University website www.cuh.ac.in

The last date of receipt of tender is **08.10.2021 upto 02:30 PM**. Any addendum/corrigendum/notice etc. in this regard shall be uploaded on the University website only.

DEPUTY REGISTRAR (EM&A)

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ई-निविदा शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निम्नलिखित निविदाओं जो कि दिनांक 04.10.2021 को खोली जानी है, के निविदा प्रपत्र के पृष्ठ संख्या 11 से 14 पर स्थित "23 (ii)" में इस कार्य के लिये Similar nature of work for this tender means" को एवं 23 (iii) Tender value more then 50 lakhs को निम्न प्रकार पढ़ा जाए :

क्र.सं.	एन्डाईटी संख्या	23 (ii)	23 (iii)
1	ईएल / टीआरडी / जेपी / 07 / 2021-22	S. No.: 2 of below table is applicable for this tender	Applicable for this tender
2	ईएल / टीआरडी / जेपी / 08 / 2021-22	S. No.: 13 of below table is applicable for this tender	Applicable for this tender

यह बदलाव www.nwrps.gov.in पर भी कर दिये गये है। निविदा को अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

485-SP/21 वरिष्ठ मण्डल विजली इंजीनियर (ट्रेक्शन)-जयपुर

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LTD.
e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for the works with Spec No AP-T-e-63/21-22 for "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of by making 220KV L.L.O of 220KV Dommuru - Vijeswarani stage-I & II DC line to 400/220KV Venugiri Substation in EG District" on lumpsum basis. Available on e-procurement site from 16.09.2021 at 5:00 PM. Further details can be seen at <http://approcurement.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, APTRANSCO, Visakhapatnam Zone
DIPR No.378PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt:15/09/2021

PUBLIC WORK DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works (West) Division, Aurangabad
Address : Public Works Premise, Padampura, Aurangabad-431005
e-Mail address: westaurangabad.ee@mahapwd.com
Telephone / Fax No. 0240-2331288

e-Tender Notice No. (06) of 2021-2022

e-Tender for the following work in B-1 Tender Form is invited via online e-Tendering system from Eligible Contractor by the Executive Engineer, Public Works (West) Division, Aurangabad on behalf of Public Works Department, Government of Maharashtra. Tender Document are downloaded from government portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Right to select or reject is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public Works (West) Division, Aurangabad. Conditional Tender will not be accepted. (No. 04 works).

All information of e-Tender is available on following portal:
a) <http://mahapwd.com>
b) <https://mahatenders.gov.in> (If any change made in this e-Tender is informed on above portal)

Sd/-
**- Executive Engineer,
Public Works (West) Division,
AURANGABAD**

(dgjpr/2021-2022/1977)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 42 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** Tattoo on Right hand, **Wearing:** Pant & Shirt only, was found dead on Platform No. 16, at New Delhi Railway Station, on 10.09.2021 at 01:30 PM.

In this regard a DD No. 28A, dated 10.09.2021 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/258/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-23744073, 8750871305

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely:** Babita, **D/o:** Kesho Ram, **R/o:** H.No. 307, Station Block Gali No. 09 Kirari Suleman Nagar, Prem Nagar-1st, Delhi, **Age:** 20 Years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black, **Wearing:** Mehandi Colour Suit-Salwar & Black Colour Slipper Chhapat in feet has been missing from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 97-A, Dated 03.09.2021**, has been lodged at **P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi**.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/1051/RD/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Unknown D/o Unknown** R/o Unknown. Age about 25-26 years, Height 5', Complexion Wheatish, Wearing Black Suit, Pink Salwar & Sleeper in feet was found dead due to railway accident at Ele. Pole No. 21/17-15, Up between Ghewara & Mundka Railway Station, Delhi on 11.09.2021. In this regard a DD No. 18-A dated 11.09.2021 U/s 174 Cr.P.C has been lodged at PS Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this deceased female may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

SHO
PS Sarai Rohilla Rly. Stn., Delhi
Ph. 011-23691106, 23693611, 23691335

DP/257/RLY/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON



General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo) namely Manjesh Kumar S/o Bijender Yadav R/o WZ-604, Tihar Village, Near Shiv Mandir, Hari Nagar, Delhi **Agid :** 21 years, has been reported missing from his house since 12.08.2021 at about 03:00 P.M. In this regard a DD No. 98A Dated 16.08.2021 has been lodged at Police Station - Hari Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Complexion : Fair, **Height :** 5'5", **Face :** Round, **Build :** Medium, **Clothing :** Black colour pant, black & red colour shirt and chappal in feet.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing person may inform SHO, Hari Nagar, Delhi at **E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Tele No.: 24368638/24368641, Fax: 24368639.**

SHO : P.S. Hari Nagar, New Delhi
Ph. : 011-28125719, 8750871128

DP/542/WD/21

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(*A State Govt. Undertaking*)
Press Tender Notice
(E-Tendering Mode Only)

ONLINE TENDERS are hereby invited on turnkey basis (two part bid) by the undersigned for & on behalf of Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd., Shimla-4, from the Bidders/Joint venture firms/Co-operative societies of Retired Employees of HPSEB Ltd., having A-Class Electrical contractor license from Chief Electrical Inspector, for the following work:-

Tender No.	Description of work	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	Earnest Money (₹)	Cost of tender Documents inclusive GST (Non refundable)	Completion Period
No.HPSEB/CEOM&C/No.04/Advt./F/Chandil/2021-22	Providing additional 3311KV 1x3 15mVA Transformer at Ghundal under ED Sunni To proposed HP Judicial Academy at Ghundal under ESD HPSEB/Dhami	₹ 150/- Lacs only	₹ 3.90/- Lacs	₹ 5900/-	12 Months
Key Dates					
Date of online publication		24.09.2021			
Start date and time of bid submission		24.09.2021 (at 11:00 AM)			
End date and time of bid submission		11.10.2021 upto 11:00 AM)			
Date and time of opening of techno comm. bid		12.10.2021 (at 11:00 AM)			

The bid document is available online and bid shall be submitted on line on website <https://www.hpsebs.gov.in>. Bidders would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidders are required to have digital signature certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized certifying authority (CA). Aspiring bidder who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPSEB may obtain the same from the website <https://www.hpsebs.gov.in>. DSC is mandatory to participate in e-tendering. Bidders already possessing valid DSC issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation (ER.GC Shandilya)
Chief Engineer (OP) South HPSEB Ltd., Shimla -4

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-66								
Section-A Notice Inviting Tender								
Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items –								
Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Contract Period/ Quantity	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/ downloading of e-tenders	Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tenders	Date & Time for opening of e-tenders
1	Automatic Machine made Ghee Tins with C.Boxes - 9Ltr - 1 Ltr - 2 Ltr - 5 Ltr	09 Lac 13 Lac 01 Lac 0.25 Lac	Verka Head Office, Sector 34 A, Chandigarh 0172 5041837-38	200/-	800,000/-	16.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	30.09.2021 up to 10:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 02:00 PM
2	Kaju Pinni Rolls	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Chandigarh Dairy, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh. 0172-5041901-02, 5041917, 5041924	-	20,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 up to 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
3	Dry Fruits -Kaju (4 pcs) -Kashmish -Badam gni -Pista	-do-	-do-	-	100,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
4	Flavours and Colours	-do-	-do-	-	50,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
5	Rose Isse Stabilizer - Padme-MRS - Padme-YM 115L (CP Kelco) - Kromaze Yo Sab 502	-do-	-do-	-	100,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
6	Sweet Boxes (500 gms, 400 gms, 2 kg)	-do-	-do-	-	20,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
7	Nitric-Acid	-do-	-do-	-	30,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
8	Punjabi Kull pouches, ice candles rolls (40 ml) & ice cream bar rolls (40ml), preformed pouches for 65 ml Mango dust	-do-	-do-	-	30,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
9	1.25 litre ice cream brick cartons	-do-	-do-	-	20,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
10	Punjabi Kull Sticks	-do-	-do-	-	20,000/-	17.09.2021	30.09.2021 upto 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 30.09.2021 at 12:00 PM
11	Providing Un-Skilled, Skilled, Semi-skilled and High-skilled labour etc.	Annual Rate Contract	Verka Mohali Dairy (Ph. 0172-2271754, 020, 5093350-351)	100/-	90,000/-	18.09.2021 from 03:00 PM	04.10.2021 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 05.10.2021 at 12:00 PM Financial Bid 14.10.2021 at 12:00 PM
12	Purchase of Liquid Nitrogen (Ln2)	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	500/-	25,000/-	17.09.2021 from 01:00 PM	30.09.2021 up to 04:00 PM	Technical Bid 01.10.2021 at 12:30 PM Financial Bid 04.10.2021 at 12:30 PM
13	Hiring of Godown (Store) for storage of Skimmed Milk Powder	12000 Sq. feet to 14000 Sq. feet area	Verka Sangrur Dairy (Ph. 01672-262052)	500/-	50,000/-	18.09.2021 from 10:00 AM	02.10.2021 up to 12:30 PM	Technical Bid 04.10.2021 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 07.10.2021 at 02:00 PM
14	Hiring of Cold Store for Storage of White Butter	Approx. 1000 Metric Ton	-do-	500/-	50,000/-	18.09.2021 from 10:00 AM	02.10.2021 up to 12:30 PM	Technical Bid 04.10.2021 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 07.10.2021 at 02:00 PM
15	Outsourcing of housekeeping activities of Old Dairy, New Dairy and E.T.P at Verka Amritsar Dairy	Annual Contract	Verka Amritsar Dairy Ph. 73555-95922, 73555-48163	500/-	30,000/-	17.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	06.10.2021 up to 03:30 PM	06.10.2021 at 11:30 AM
16	Supply of Rice Husk	500 MT	Verka Gurdaspur Dairy 01674-220155	200/-	50,000/-	20.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	05.10.2021 up to 03:00 PM	Technical Bid 06.10.2021 at 3:00 PM Financial Bid 07.10.2021 at 03:00 PM
17	Hiring of Vehicles for Sale Depot Bathinda and Verka Bathinda Dairy for Supply of Ghee, Butter, Powder, Panji, Teta pack & other products all Punjab & other states. Capacity 1.5 Ton Capacity 3.0 Ton Capacity 5.0 Ton Capacity 7.0 Ton	As per requirement	Verka Bathinda Dairy Ph No. 0164-2214825, 2212825	500/-	50,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	08.10.2021 up to 05:00 PM	Technical Bid 11.10.2021 at 11:30 AM
18	Disposal of the unserviceable material on One Time Rate Contract Basis	One Time Rate Contract	Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Ph No. 01682-238157	500/-	30,000/-	23.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	07.10.2021 up to 03:30 PM	Technical Bid 08.10.2021 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 08.10.2021 at 03:30 PM
19	Disposal of the unserviceable material on Annual Rate Contract Basis	Annual Rate Contract	-do-	500/-	30,000/-	23.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	07.10.2021 up to 03:30 PM	Technical Bid 08.10.2021 at 11:30 AM Financial Bid 08.10.2021 at 03:30 PM
20	Hiring of Road Milk Tanker for lifting of Raw milk from various BMC/MCC to Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy. Capacity- 10,500 Kg Capacity- 1500 Kg	Qty. 01 No 01 No	-do-	500/-	100,000/-	18.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	03.10.2021 up to 05:00 PM	04.10.2021 at 11:00 AM
21	Essar and Ashoka Leyland are required for lifting the milk from various BMC/MCC to Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Capacity- 10,500 Kg	Qty. 01 No	-do-	500/-	100,000/-	18.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	03.10.2021 up to 05:00 PM	04.10.2021 at 11:00 AM
22	Tata 10T0 are required for lifting the milk from various BMC/MCC to Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy Capacity- 1500 Kg	Qty. 01 No	-do-	500/-	100,000/-	18.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	03.10.2021 up to 05:00 PM	04.10.2021 at 11:00 AM
23	Hiring of insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Ludhiana city and adjoining towns	One year with extension up to one year	Verka Ludhiana Dairy Ph No. 0161-5203300, 5203301, 5203334	500/-	60,000/-	17.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	07.10.2021 up to 12:00 PM	Technical Bid 08.10.2021 at 11:30 AM
24	Annual Rate Contract for supply of skilled manpower for various day to day activities of engineering section of Verka Ludhiana dairy	01 No.	-do-	500/-	150,000/-	24.09.2021 from 03:00 PM	12.10.2021 up to 11:00 AM	Technical Bid 13.10.2021 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 20.10.2021 at 11:00 AM
25	a) Supply of Super Market Freezer/cooler (open door chill) for storage of fresh milk products. b) Supply of Super Market Freezer/cooler (Glass door Freezer) for storage of ice cream.	One time purchase/ 2 No's 1 No	-do-	500/-	15,000/-	27.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	15.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	Technical Bid 16.10.2021 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 20.10.2021 at 11:15 AM
26	Supply of display rack for display of ambient products -Wall rack -Centre racks -Front racks	One time purchase/ 50 ft. Approx. 25 ft. Approx. 2 Pcs.	-do-	500/-	15,000/-	27.09.2021 from 11:00 AM	15.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	Technical Bid 16.10.2021 at 11:00 AM Financial Bid 20.10.2021 at 11:15 AM
27	Steam Coal having Calorific Value not less than 5500 Kcal/kg.	500 MT Approx (200 MT Per Month)	Verka Jalandhar Dairy Ph. 73555-56749, 73555-01750	500/-	150,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	13.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	14.10.2021 at 10:30 AM
28	Atta (Whole Wheat Flour)	140 MT per Month Approx	-do-	500/-	200,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	13.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	14.10.2021 at 11:00 AM
29	Besan (Bengal Gram)	50 MT per month	-do-	500/-	250,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	13.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	14.10.2021 at 11:30 AM
30	Vitamin Premix	150 kg per month	-do-	500/-	25,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	13.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	14.10.2021 at 12:00 PM
31	Mineral Premix	1500 kg per Month	-do-	500/-	25,000/-	21.09.2021 from 05:00 PM	13.10.2021 up to 01:00 PM	14.10.2021 at 12:30 PM

Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-tendering portal i.e. sproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website sproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable.

Section-B Sealed Tenders are hereby invited on the prescribed Proforma for the purchase of following items:-								
Sr. No.	Name of the Work/Item	Period	Consignee/ Place of Tender Opening	Tender Cost (Rs.)	E.M.D (Rs.)	Date & Time for Sale/ of the sealed Tender	Last Date & Time for Submission of tender	Date & Time for opening of tender
1	Tutti Frutti	Annual	Verka Chandigarh Dairy, Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh 0172-5041901-02, 5041917, 5041924	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
2	Sponge cake (veg)	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
3	Calcium Chloride	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
4	Kassatta box	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
5	Plastic tray for Kassatta slice	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
6	Shrink bags (2 kg, 400g & 500g)	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
7	Kassatta dibbi	-do-	-do-	-	10,000/-	-	30.09.2021 up to 02:00 PM	30.09.2021 at 02:30 PM
8	Sealed tender for disposal of unserviceable material	Total 3 items	Verka Amritsar Dairy Ph. 73555-95922, 73555-48163	200/-	5,000/-	17.09.2021 from 03:00 PM	04.10.2021 up to 12:00 PM	04.10.2021 at 12:30 PM
9	Outsourcing of Milk Booth at Milk Booth at CMD Office Ludhiana	Three Years	Verka Ludhiana Dairy Ph No. 0161-5203300, 5203301, 5203335	200/-	25,000/-	18.09.2021 from 11:30 AM	04.10.2021 up to 03:00 PM	05.10.2021 at 11:30 AM

Interested parties may obtain detailed Tender Documents from the office of Consignee where tender is to be opened on any working day from (9AM to 5 PM). If any clarification is required may contact on Phone Numbers given above. The Tender Notice may also be seen at Verka Website (www.verka.coop). **TENDER (S) WITHOUT EARNEST MONEY ARE LIABLE TO BE REJECTED.** The Consignee reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

General Manager (PLM/Purchase)

Young Boys have last laugh

How Biden prompted WADA’s rethink on cannabis suspension

Siebatcheu comes off the bench to score stoppage-time winner against United



SUBSTITUTE JORDAN Siebatcheu scored a stoppage-time winner to earn Young Boys a 2-1 victory over 10-man Manchester United in their Champions League opener on Tuesday. Siebatcheu pounced on a woeful back pass from Jesse Lingard in the fifth minute of stoppage time to spark wild scenes of celebration and ensure United got their Champions League campaign off to the worst possible start.

United looked to be cruising to victory after Cristiano Ronaldo, who equalled the all-time Champions League appearance record in Bern, matching former Real Madrid team mate Iker Casillas' 177 games, fired his side in front in the 13th minute.

But United's task was made more difficult after fullback Aaron Wan-Bissaka was sent off for a lunging tackle on Christopher Martins with 35 minutes on the clock, and the home crowd sensed an upset was on the cards. United brought on French defender Raphael Varane at halftime and went to five at the back to try to see out the victory, but the hosts got a deserved equaliser through Nicolas Moumi Ngamaleu at the near post in the 66th minute.

Ronaldo was then replaced in the second half as United again changed formation, with the visitors needing a fine late save from goal-keeper David de Gea to keep Young Boys at bay. But the drama was not over and Siebatcheu's strike, timed at 94 minutes and 22 seconds, was the latest winning goal in a Champions League match since Lucas Moura's effort for Tottenham Hotspur against Ajax Amsterdam in the 2019 semi-finals. "That's football, people make mistakes," United captain Harry Maguire said. "We're not blaming Jesse. I'm sure everyone on that pitch today has made a mistake. I'm sure Jesse will pick himself up.

"It's the first game in the group. We've got many games to bounce back and we must do. We'll try and pick up three points in our next game and build momentum from there."

Sublime cross

In a raucous atmosphere in the Wankdorf Stadium, it was the home side who had the first chance, with Meschak Elia dragging a strike just wide. Yet it was the visitors who opened the scoring. Ronaldo, the Champions League's all-time leading goalscorer, moved on to 135 in the competition with another predatory finish after being picked out by a sublime cross from Portugal team mate Bruno Fernandes. Young Boys, who became the 36th different side Ronaldo has scored against in the Champions League - no player has found the net against more opponents in the competition - were then gifted a way



Cristiano Ronaldo's 13th-minute opener wasn't enough to seal the match for United. AP

'IT IS WHAT IT IS': PIQUE AFTER BARCA'S DEFEAT

Madrid: Barcelona needs to brace for some tough times ahead while adjusting to the post-Lionel Messi era. That message was clear after the 3-0 loss at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League on Tuesday, the team's first defeat since Messi left amid the club's financial struggles. "It is what it is, we are what we are now," veteran Barcelona captain Gerard Pique said after the Catalan club was outplayed from the start at the Camp Nou. "It's a complicated season." Looking nothing like the team that used to thrive when Messi was on the field, Barcelona couldn't get a single shot on goal the entire match and saw Bayern constantly threaten the other way.

back into the match by Wan-Bissaka. The fullback's first touch was heavy, leaving him reaching into the tackle, studs up on Martins. The referee showed no hesitation in brandishing the red card.

MAN UNITED	1-2	YOUNG BOYS
Ronaldo 13'		Ngamaleu 66'
		Siebatcheu 80'
CHELSEA	1-0	ZENIT
Lukaku 69'		
BARCELONA	0-3	BAYERN
		Müller 34'
		Lewandowski 58', 85'

Christian Fassnacht then almost immediately levelled, volleying just wide as the hosts looked to make their numerical advantage count. Against the run of play, Ronaldo raced clear early in the second period and went down looking for a penalty, but nothing was given. The hosts were piling on the pressure, and got a deserved equaliser through Ngamaleu, who battled to get to the ball ahead of Varane and send the home crowd into delirium. Ronaldo was then replaced by Lingard, before Siebatcheu had the final say, with the United substitute getting his pass back to De Gea all wrong, and the scenes of celebration continued long after the final whistle.



Months after the White House reportedly intervened following Richardson's positive test, WADA said they will review their rules on the use of marijuana by athletes. Reuters

MIHIR VASAVDA
SEPTEMBER 15

THE WRITING, perhaps, was on the wall the moment United States President Joe Biden said: "Rules are the rules... Whether they should remain that way, whether that should remain the rule, is a different issue."

Months after Biden's statement, the 'rule' is being reviewed. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), on Wednesday, said they will initiate a scientific review of the cannabis ban for athletes. The anti-doping watchdog said the review is being undertaken "following receipt of request from a number of stakeholders", without going into further specifics.

It is now being suggested that the agency's marijuana prohibition - which came under fire after American sprinter Sha'Carri Richardson tested positive for it - could soon be relaxed.

Why is marijuana being re-examined as a banned substance?

Even though WADA did not mention Richardson's case specifically in its statement, it is believed that Wednesday's decision is the outcome of the backlash it faced back then.

In July, Richardson - who clocked the sixth-fastest 100m time of all time - tested positive for cannabis during the US selection trials for the Tokyo Olympics. As a consequence, the US Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) banned her for a month, and she was not included in the American team. Her disqualification reignited the debate over the cannabis ban in Olympic sports, given that it is legal in many American states.

Following Biden's comments, which came



soon after it became clear that Richardson would miss the Tokyo Olympics, the Financial Times reported that the White House would 'push' WADA for a rethink on cannabis use in sport. The USADA, too, said back then that it was 'time to revisit the rules.'

The American view assumes significance because the country contributes more money to WADA than any other country and website insidethegames.biz reported that this year, they are due to pay \$2.9 million.

Isn't marijuana legal in several countries?

In 2013, Uruguay became the first country to make buying and selling of marijuana for recreational use legal. Canada followed in 2018 and several countries have decriminalised it to a certain degree, including Australia, the Netherlands, Spain and South Africa. In the USA, marijuana use is legal in a lot of states, including Oregon where Richardson tested positive. India, however, has not legalised it.

Then why is it banned by WADA?

WADA, according to its code, prohibits substances that meet two of three criteria: It enhances, or could potentially enhance an athlete's performance; poses a health risk to athletes; and/or violates 'the spirit of sport.'

It does not specifically say which criteria are violated because of the consumption of marijuana. However, in 2011, a paper co-authored by WADA's executive director (sciences and international partnerships) Olivier Rabin noted that athletes who smoke cannabis 'potentially endanger themselves and others because of increased risk taking, slower reaction times and poor executive function.' The paper also said that cannabis might relieve the stress

of competition, giving the athlete some sort of an advantage.

Does it actually aid performance?

This has for long been a subject of debate. In fact, some experts have offered a contradictory view to that given in the paper published in 2011, saying that performance is in fact adversely affected after smoking cannabis, thus arguing that it isn't a performance-enhancing drug. Alain Comtois, the director of the department of sports science at the University of Quebec in Montreal, told the BBC earlier this year: "You have to take the big picture. Yes, anxiety levels go down, but in terms of actual physiological data, it shows that performance is reduced."

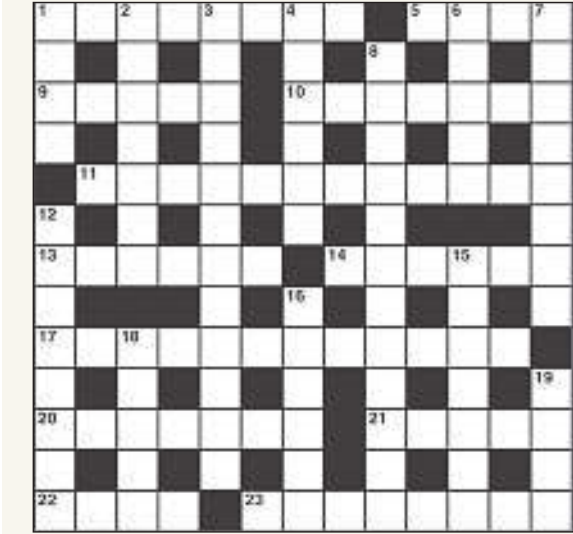
Did athletes get suspended for its use before Richardson's case?

Yes. A couple of decades ago, even before marijuana appeared on WADA's list, the International Olympic Committee tried to strip Canada's Ross Rebagliati off a gold medal he won at the Nagano Winter Olympics after he tested positive for the drug. It was later returned to him but soon after, the drug was banned from Olympic sports. Since then, a lot of athletes - including swimming legend Michael Phelps - have been handed suspensions for smoking weed.

What happens next?

WADA reviews its list of prohibited substances every year. The review will suggest whether a drug should remain on the list after 2022. That means, smoking marijuana could lead to suspension at least until the end of next year. Based on the suggestion made by its review panel, a decision will be taken on whether it should be declassified as a performance-enhancing drug.

CROSSWORD 4536



- ACROSS**

1 How mince is cooked by Chinese? (4,4)

5 Goddess that lives twice? (4)

9 Handle with generosity (5)

10 A dog leaps in wildly (7)

11 Forfeit a dividend perhaps and become bored (4,8)

13 Not so much covered by instruction (6)

14 Scratched yet got some points (6)

17 Pedestrian in control of the factory (3-2-3-4)

20 A cider's mixed in a cocktail (7)

21 A papal order to cause dismay (5)

22 Dressy wear in the window (4)

23 Sewing aids with a point are unnecessary (8)
- DOWN**

1 Turncoat old Roman (4)

2 Having our nose put out of joint is hard to bear (7)

3 It's strictly true but unimaginative (6-2-4)

4 Anne is hopping mad (6)

6 Music rooms? (5)

7 It can't be shared with others (8)

8 Prepares to give an order - or receives one? (5,7)

12 Revised lists for retailers in growing business (8)

15 Go from bad to worse? (7)

16 Expense of electrical supply (6)

18 Artist's models who barely earn a living? (5)

19 A woebegone expression (4)

Solutions Crossword 4535: Across: 1 Shortfall, 8 Adore, 9 Parasol, 10 Troppo, 11 Permit, 12 Isolator, 15 Midnight, 18 Images, 20 Talent, 21 Anagram, 23 Eagle-eyed. Down: 2 Heave, 3 Realms, 4 Floating voter, 5 Laurel, 6 Towpath, 7 Democrats, 11 Primitive, 13 Optional, 14 Adulate, 16 Ignore, 17 Bangle, 19 Erase.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally _____. - Theodore Roosevelt (11)

DOEER

HRIST

ACSCTU

CERUDV

SOLUTION: ERIDE, SHIRT, CACTUS, CURVED
Answer: Order without liberty and liberty without order are equally destructively - Theodore Roosevelt

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4596

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

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4595



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
Today's intense planetary alignment could find you moving towards increased social status and satisfaction. Other people will begin to look to you as the person who can express their hopes and implement their goals. Whether that's a role that you're comfortable with is another matter.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You could not ask for more support from your planets, and this is precisely why you can be confident that home and family matters will work out in your favour in the end. A romantic surprise will lift your morale some time over the next few days hopefully.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
One of the most important features in your life, aside from moral and legal questions, could be a connection with a foreign country, perhaps a spiritual one. It seems likely that you could be travelling for business, or that some other serious matter will have to be settled.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Money is still an extremely important consideration, if not the most important factor. As from today, you may be able to move forward and start planning for the future, rather than being held back by the past. And, from tomorrow, you may begin to see the results of your labours.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
Today's marvellous Moon is at once extremely helpful and very difficult, which means that this is a time of contradictions and paradoxes. Success may bring burdensome responsibilities while failure may release you from unwelcome commitments. Nothing is as it seems.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)
Listen to your imagination. You may be under a great deal of pressure, but it's from within, from your intuitions, that you will understand both the true nature of your personal commitments and find a way forward. A little quiet contemplation will help.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)
It looks very much as if children should be taking first place at home. Practical help is required, and self-discipline is vital if you are to maintain peace and harmony. It's necessary that younger relations should be allowed to find their own way forward. That's the bottom line.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)
One family member is in trouble, another has never done better. You must be able to distinguish between those who need praise and those who require sympathy and support. Be sensitive and compassionate, and in return you'll receive the help that you need.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)
You must take decisions only in terms of long-term interests and security. This is no time to risk everything on some rash impulse or other and, if you are tempted to stage a walk-out, you should think very carefully indeed. It's not just your actions which matter, but their consequences.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
This is undoubtedly the right moment to determine your next cash initiative, but an emotional relationship could stand in the way. You should hold back unless you know you've got it exactly right. Partners must learn to respect your cautious approach, if they don't already, that is!

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
The Moon is forming a pleasing alignment with your sign today, which means that you're at a turning point. Take it one step at a time and make self-discipline, consistency and integrity your major qualities. If all goes well, sincerity and hard work will be rewarded.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Both emotional and financial matters are now bubbling away. But what is truly important is your deep and profound imagination. This is the source of your current hopes, which need to be encouraged, and fears, which need to be reassured. If you're not certain what to do next, look at what more experienced people are up to and learn from their example.

Limited spectators will be allowed into the stadiums when the much-awaited Indian Premier League resumes in the UAE this weekend, the event's organisers announced on Wednesday. The IPL will resume from Sunday with defending champions Mumbai Indians taking on Chennai Super Kings at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. **PTI**

BRIEFLY

Manika left out of India squad

New Delhi: Star paddler Manika Batra was on Wednesday left out of the India squad for the Asian Championships beginning September 28 in Doha after she did not attend the mandatory national camp in Sonapat. In the absence of the world number 56th player, 97th-ranked Sutirtha Mukherjee will lead the women's team. The other members are Ayhika Mukherjee (ranked 131) and Archana Kamath (132). Veteran Sharath Kamal (ranked 33) will spearhead the men's challenge in the company of G Sathiyan (38), Harmeet Desai (72), Manav Thakkar (134) and Sanil Shetty (247). Powerhouse China is not taking part in the event, raising medal hopes in the men's team event. Singles and doubles competitions will also be conducted.

Bengaluru FC beat Kerala Blasters 2-0

Kolkata: Former ISL champions Bengaluru FC (BFC) on Wednesday registered a 2-0 win over Kerala Blasters to make a brilliant start to their campaign at the Durand Cup football tournament here. Namgyal Bhutia (45th) and Leon Augustine (71st) turned out to be the heroes for the Naushad Moosa-coached side even as Kerala Blasters were eight men down by the end of the dramatic clash at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK). Kerala Blasters started the game well and dominated the initial part of the first half. They created quite a few opportunities but failed to convert. In the 45th minute, the deadlock was broken as BFC's Namgyal Bhutia took a brilliant free kick which hit the back of the net as the Blasters' keeper Albino Gomes had no chance. In the 71st minute, Leon Augustine scored BFC's second goal.

Winning start for Sumit in nat'l boxing

Bellary: Former Asian medallist Sumit Sangwan (86kg) was among the victors on the opening day of the men's National Boxing Championships at the Inspire Institute of Sports here on Wednesday. Haryana pugilist Sumit, who had participated in the 2012 London Olympics, notched up a comfortable win over Andhra Pradesh's Harish Prasadula by unanimous margin in the 86kg opening round match. The 2019 President's Cup gold medalist Neeraj Swami (48kg) also put up an impressive show and made a winning start with a dominating 5-0 victory against Haryana's Sagar.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lord of tall-talking things

Stubbornness, street smarts and bravado have been integral to Shardul Thakur's success in the longest form of the game

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

SHARDUL THAKUR resides in the world of happy memes and hashtags these days. It's a place where marketing heads desperately wish their stars would be and often try to contrive a persona to enable it. With Thakur, the fans have organically hooked on to that intangible part of his personality. In #LordThakur's fandom universe, his confidence with the bat and the ability to conjure a wicket early in his spells seems to be the most attractive traits. The reality not only matches up to the perception, but amplifies it further.

On the fourth evening of the Oval Test, Thakur remembers a light-hearted chat with his IPL teammate Sam Curran. "He said the wicket is flat and we will score 100 runs without losing any wicket," Thakur recalls to *The Indian Express*. "I said don't worry, I will get the breakthrough and you will lose five quick wickets and we will win the game! All this somehow came true," he laughs before adding, "Achha time chal raha hai mera, so le lo jitna mil raha hai (Good times are on, take as much as one can!)"

Some might not know how to embrace the attention but Shardul does. With dollops of common sense. "Somewhere, I feel I haven't achieved anything yet, I don't want to be satisfied. I have seen days where the same social media has cursed my presence in the team. Now I am enjoying these memes. It shows how much love I am getting from all quarters."

The moniker Lord Thakur amuses him but he hasn't forgotten the bigger picture. "I don't mind such names. But I want people to remember me as the guy who created an impact in the game and won the game. That's what matters to me down the line."

Stories have been told about how he didn't pass on the message from team management to R Ashwin and Hanuma Vihari when the pair was fighting to save the Sydney Test. He thought it would confuse them. Stories have also been told about how he walks up to Dhoni (in IPL) or Kohli and speaks his mind on the field and in meetings.

He claims his straightforwardness comes from his upbringing in Palghar, in the outskirts of Mumbai. "I have come across various people till date, so I don't think I need to change myself and talk diplomatically. I just talk straight and I don't find any offence in it. There is no point talking behind your back. Whatever is in my heart I tell it straight to the captain or team management, because only then I will find a solution."

He (Sam Curran) said the wicket is flat and we will score 100 runs without losing any wicket. I said don't worry, I will get the breakthrough and you will lose five quick wickets and we will win the game! All this somehow came true. Achha time chal raha hai mera, so le lo jitna mil raha hai (good times are on, take as much as one can!)."

twice before taking any action. Shardul was like, aane de, dekhta hoon types. (Bring it on, I shall face it) He always wanted to be one step ahead of situations, there was almost a madness in him. Look at the way he faced Anderson, it was because of his confidence," Attarwala says.

Conscious effort

Thakur knows how he got to this stage, and now, seems to know how to stay here. Nothing has happened by chance, he says, and details the conscious effort behind the seemingly instinctive batting.

"When I injured my ankle two years ago, I decided that I need to take my batting seriously. I had the ability in me and wanted to contribute. I told myself, kuch bhi ho jaye,

batting mein acha karna hi padega. (Whatever happens, I have to bat well). In the past, there were opportunities but somehow I couldn't leave any impact. I told myself this can't continue."

So he called up Indian team's throw-down specialists Raghu and Nuwan, the Sri Lankan, who can hurl the ball down at insane speeds. "Sometimes it could go over 150 kmph plus". Initially, Thakur couldn't handle it. "Initially, I wasn't able to play them. I told myself that lets try to have good footwork and as I kept facing them, my batting improved slowly. I got used to the pace."

He took onboard inputs from other quarters. Like MS Dhoni, at the IPL. "Once Mahi bhai [Dhoni] told me in his room when I was holding his bat, that my batting grip was too high, that I need to hold it a bit below so that I can get better control over my shots. Now I hold my bat, bit lower, it helps me in playing my shots. They (Kohli and Rohit) have kept on motivating me..."

The way he talks about his breakout knock in Brisbane where he knocked the living daylights out of a top-quality Australian attack to swing the game India's way reveals his character.

"If anyone had felt my Brisbane innings was a mere fluke, then best wishes to them! I know I can bat. It was just a matter of application." Was there any pressure to perform post Brisbane? He says it didn't change him but changed others.

"Now there is more confidence in me. I get batting regularly in the nets; the team management has trust in me that I will contribute with the bat. Whatever runs I have scored so far, there has been a process which I have followed; it's not because of coincidence or any luck."

No superstitions, either. "I'm not that kind of person, who will wear pads on the left leg first and will sit in a specific place in the bus or dressing room. I have more trust in my game than all these superstitious activities!"

He has grabbed the chances that came his way not just now but even in his formative years. It's how he became a fast bowler

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‘Sreeshankar and I are being singled out for criticism ... but ready to collaborate with experienced coach’

NIHAL KOSHIE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 15

ONE OF the country's young track and field stars, long jumper M Sreeshankar's failure to cross 8 metres at the Tokyo Olympics has cost his coach his job. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has said they had 'changed' his coach S Murali, who is also the 22-year-old's father.

With the AFI scouting for foreign coaches for the next Olympic cycle in events with Indian medal prospects, including the long jump, the father-son association is set to be disbanded. The federation has labelled Murali's coaching methods as 'not professional' and 'not scientific', making clear the personal coach will be replaced by a national coach for jumps. Murali believes he and his son, the national record holder, are being singled out for criticism despite the latter not being the only Indian athlete missing the final at the Tokyo Olympics.

"The AFI's criticism of Sreeshankar's training programme not being professional is unjustified and it hurts to hear such things. He jumped 8.26 metres and set a new national record this year. He is the country's best prospect for a medal (in long jump) at a major competition. I agree he could not perform up to expectations at the Olympics but there are other reasons for that," Murali told *The Indian Express*. "To perform with deteriorating health was a tough challenge for him. When an athlete does not do well, the athlete does not suddenly become a bad athlete from a national record holder. In such times, the least we can expect is support from the federation."

In black and white

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said on Monday that coach Murali had given it in writing that he would stop coaching Sreeshankar if he did not cross 8 metres at the Tokyo Games. The written undertaking was given after Sreeshankar appeared for trials in the third



Sreeshankar fell short of his PB in Tokyo.

week of July just before travelling to the Japanese capital.

Sreeshankar jumped 7.48 metres at the trials, which was below his personal best and national record of 8.26 metres set at the Federation Cup in March. At the Olympics, he finished 24th overall with 7.69 metres and did not progress to the final. Sreeshankar training with his father, a former triple jumper, has been a longstanding issue for the AFI, which wants him to move out of his training base in Palghat, Kerala. Sumariwalla, when asked about Sreeshankar, said the federation had decided to step in.

"The federation's stand was very clear even before he went. As far as we were concerned, we were not happy with his training programme and coach... it is not professional, it is not scientific. His coach, that is his father, has given in writing that if he does not perform, he will stop coaching him. If he does not jump over eight metres, he will stop coaching him, and he will listen to us and we will get him another coach, a foreign coach or whatever. So, the first action has already been taken, we have changed his coach," Sumariwalla said.

Abhishek, Parul win 5,000m titles

Warangal: Railways' runners Abhishek Paul and Parul Chaudhary won the men and women's 5000m titles respectively on the opening day of the 60th National Open Athletics Championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Wednesday. With the Federation Cup 5000m winner Amit Jangir not starting on Wednesday, the race was always going to be a contest between Railways' 24-year-old Abhishek and Services' runners. But Abhishek used smart tactic to win his maiden 5000m title in a national competition with aa timing of 14:16.35 seconds. **PTI**

It is learnt that in the undertaking, Murali didn't write that he would stop coaching Sreeshankar but assured the AFI that the long jumper would touch 8 metres. Despite the setback at the Olympics, Murali believes the athlete can fulfil his potential if the AFI works in tandem with the father-son team. Murali is not averse to an experienced coach joining Sreeshankar's team, but only if there is value addition.

"I feel Sreeshankar and I are being singled out for criticism. We are ready to work with the federation, but the AFI must also understand that appointing a foreign coach for the sake of it may not be in the best interest of the athlete. Collaboration, rather than criticism, is the need of the hour. I have never forced him to work under me since he broke the national record for the first time. He is an intelligent kid and understands a lot about the training principles, techniques and knows his body well. He is not just into long jump but does a good deal of learning about it too. He still has faith in my training programme and we are always open

to new ideas and ready to collaborate with experienced coaches," Murali added.

Undergoing rehab

Sreeshankar is at the Inspire Institute of Sport, Vijayanagar, where he is undergoing a four-week rehabilitation programme. He blames the side-effects of the Covid-19 vaccine for not crossing 8 metres at the Olympics.

"I had some health issues after vaccination. Due to bad health and weakness, I developed some muscle imbalance. We were running short of time to correct it also. I will get back to training by the first or second week of October," Sreeshankar says. He took the first dose in the first week of May and the second a month later. After getting fully vaccinated, he participated in the Indian GP, where he jumped 7.74m.

Sreeshankar is undergoing three sessions as part of his rehabilitation. The first session, aimed at conditioning, begins at 8:30 am and continues till 11 am. This is followed by two sessions with the physio, the first from 11:30 am and the second beginning at 4:30 pm.

"After vaccination my body was very weak, so when I tried to push myself harder in the training sessions, it didn't work. I also missed a lot of training sessions because of my health. I was getting tired very fast after taking the first dose of the vaccine. We did blood tests and based on the advice of a doctor, I had regulated my diet and was getting better," the long jumper says.

However, Sreeshankar suffered 'gastro issues' when he was at the camp in Patiala and Bengaluru. "I have sorted out the issues with my stomach now with probiotic treatment. Frequency of the issue is now comparatively very low. My gut health is better now."

Sreeshankar is now focusing on passing two different kinds of tests. One is fitness-related, the other B.Sc. Mathematics. He has to study two semesters worth of syllabus and appear for an exam in 10 days. "It is about crossing these small hurdles and coming back stronger. I will bounce back soon."

Davis Cup: Ruusuvuori biggest threat for India

SHAHID JUDGE

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 15

AUSTRIA LED Finland 2-1 in a Davis Cup World Group Playoff tie in 2019 when



named Emil Ruusuvuori. This was the first time the youngster was up against a top 10 player. But that made little difference to him as he pulled off a 6-3, 6-2 upset.

On paper, Austria was expected to run away with the tie. They eventually won 3-2, but only after a deciding set tie-breaker in the fifth match. And it reached that far only because of Ruusuvuori's heroics. "That was a long day, and I didn't expect it," Austrian captain Stefan Koubek was quoted as saying.

Ruusuvuori had already been turning heads through his progress up the charts. He started 2019 ranked 402 and finished it at 121. But it was at the Espoo Metro Arena – a facility used mainly for ice hockey – where he picked up his career's biggest win. On Friday, now ranked 74, he will take to the same court when he leads the Finnish charge against the travelling Indians for a Davis Cup playoff spot. The 22-year-old was just five when he started playing tennis. He was introduced to the sport when a local coach spotted him playing badminton with his mother near their home in Helsinki. Now he is the highest-ranked singles player that will feature in the tie this weekend.

The match-up was originally scheduled for September last year but was delayed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In the interim, Finland's spearhead managed to break into the top 100 for the first time in his ca-

too. On a whim. In a U-13 tournament, there was a paucity of fast bowlers in his team. "We were studying in a Marathi-medium school and our Diwali vacation hadn't started yet. And all our fast bowlers couldn't make it to the game. There was no second fast bowler. I said, 'chalo, I will bowl fast. Since then, I became a fast bowler. Until then, I just used to bat and bowl some spin.'"

Nervous, at times

Even Lord Thakur gets nervous, at times, though. Like when bumping into Sunil Gavaskar at airports. "I do get nervous when I meet senior players while travelling. Like when I see Sunil Gavaskar sir at the airport, I will get nervous to greet and talk to him."

The feeling is momentary, though, for it fades out in a couple of minutes. Just as it did in Australia during batting. "My heart was pumping when I walked out in Brisbane. I have never played such a kind of speed bowling in my life. Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc were bowling at a great speed, my heart was pumping. But as I spent more time at the crease, the feeling went away, just like it does when speaking to senior players like Gavaskar sir" he recalls.

The matter-of-fact logic pops up even when he talks about moments in the middle when things get heated up. Like it did with James Anderson, who snapped after being subjected to a bumper barrage from Jasprit Bumrah in the Lord's Test.

"Why shouldn't we bowl body lines to them? We are not playing to please anyone, we are playing to win. Our tailenders also face bouncers. In Australia, Natarajan was bowled by Mitchell Stars and Pat Cummins despite knowing that this guy hasn't batted much even in first-class cricket. So now when our opponents' tailenders come to bat, why shouldn't we bowl bouncers to them?"

As for Anderson's reactions, Thakur has this to say. "I was later told that Anderson told something to Bumrah which he shouldn't have, I was told they (England team) abused Bumrah. Those words cannot be said in public, so everyone got charged up after this."

Thakur then sums up his and the Indian team's philosophy. "We respect everyone but we are not scared of any opponent in the world. We are not shy of expressing ourselves. The name of the team doesn't matter to us anymore. We might be playing Australia, England, New Zealand, South Africa and we will express ourselves. Win and loss are part of the game but how we can take our winning percentage ahead, that is important. Everyone in the team is determined to win the game. Everyone is ready to put their bodies on the line." His body, the world now knows, will be one of the first in the way.

FULL INTERVIEW:
www.indianexpress.com

reer and has never fallen back into three digits for over a week. And there's no surprise in his upward trajectory.

Big scalps

Ruusuvuori reached the semi-finals of the Nur Sultan ATP event last year, and also made the last-four stage of ATP events in Winston-Salem and Atlanta in the past few months. And Xie has not been his only top-10 scalp.

In March, competing in his first-ever ATP 1000 Masters, he came from behind to upset then World No. 7 Alexander Zverev in Miami. It was a match that saw the Finn's ability to seamlessly change strategy. In the first set, he tried to redirect Zverev's firepower. When that didn't work, he started to vary his game. His made liberal use of topspin, slice and drop shots. He started to strike the ball early as well, giving Zverev less time to react, and came to the net often to finish off points.

Pulling off a comeback win – after losing the first set – is something he's done against both the Indian players he is likely to face this weekend. He beat World No. 187 and India No. 3 Ramkumar Ramanathan 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 when they met at a Challenger event in Canberra last year. Earlier this year, Ruusuvuori beat India No. 1 Prajnesh Gunneswaran (ranked 165) 2-6, 6-1, 6-1 at the Washington DC ATP event.

In between the two matches, he was even invited to train with Rafael Nadal during the 2020 off-season. A change in Davis Cup rules last season ended the zonal segregation in Group 1, which is how India, a team that would play in the erstwhile Asia/Oceania group, could draw Europe's Finland. India had generally been strong in the zonal Group 1 stages – they've reached the World Group Playoffs for the past seven years. The Finns, however, will be the strongest team they've come up against in the group stage in that time.

And Ruusuvuori is the biggest player they would have faced at this stage of the competition.