



**Drishti IAS : Karol Bagh**

# General Studies

(Prelims & Mains Foundation)

Batch begins with orientation class by

**Dr. Vikas Divyakirti**

**27<sup>th</sup> September**  
**6:30 PM**

## Key Features of the Course

- Team of best teachers led by Dr. Vikas Divyakirti
- 400+ classes of 1000+ hours
- Coverage of complete syllabus from basic to advanced level
- Proper emphasis on answer writing practice
- Hybrid Format : facility to revise offline classes on Drishti Learning App
- Regular Prelims and Mains class tests
- Complete Study Material (Notes, booklets and Magazines)
- Academic Support Team and a dedicated Batch Coordinator.

21, Pusa Road,  
opposite Metro Pillar Number 98,  
Block 8, WEA, Karol Bagh, Delhi, 110005

8010440440  
01143065089



Classifieds

PERSONAL

**I,Vinod Kumar,S/o Late Sh.** Bishamber Singh,R/o Flat.No.B-10,2,Plot-88,Nayantara-Apartment,Sector-7,Dwarka, New-Delhi-110075,declare that I,have changed the name of my minor daughter, from SHAGUN to SHAGUN KUMAR,for all purposes. 0040584928-3

**I Amit Kumar S/o kaushalendra R/o A3/514, T-11, Purnvanchal silver City-2, Greater Noida** have changed my son's name Krishna jawla to Krishna Chaudhary for all-purpose in Shiv 0070754263-1

**I,Shiv Devi W/o,Lt. Bharpur Singh No.8001029 PNR R/o 122-B,DDA flat, Gazipur, Delhi-96** have changed my name to Shiv Devi Sajwan. 0040584928-4

**I,Sheela Verma wife of Wg.Cdr.Kailash Chandra Verma (Retd.)Residing of C-2/333, Vasant Kunj New Delhi-110070** to Smt. Sheela Verma,wide-affidavit dated-14092021. 0040584923-9

**I,Santosh punia W/o, Sh.satpal Singh R/o-RZH-848, Street.No-14 Rajnagar-II,Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077,Have** changed my name to Santosh kumari, for all purposes. 0040584876-1

**I,REBECA/ REBA, W/O,ANAMUL HAQUE, ADD-B-59A HARSH VIHAR HARI NAGAR PART-3, SOUTH-EAST DELHI-110044,** changed my name to REVA, permanently. 0040584907-5

**I,RAJANDER KUMAR SHARMA, S/O BRIJENDRA NATH SHARMA R/o-23, Pushpdeep-Enclave, Sikandra Bodla Road, Agra,UP,** have changed my name to RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA. 0040584923-6

**I,Pawan Kumar S/o Atma Ram Goel R/o-B-3/14, Second Floor, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063** have changed my name to Pawan Kumar Goel. 0040584919-8

**I,Pandey Seema Shridhar D/o, Shridhar Pandey W/o,Pramod Kumar Tripathi R/o-A-12, GaliNo.4, Shashi Garden,Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi-110091,have** changed my name to Seema Tripathi. 0040584919-5

**I,PRASHANT CHANNA,S/O PARVEEN KUMAR CHANNA, H.NO-45, SILVER PARK, SHIV PURI, KRISHNA-NAGAR, DELHI-110051,have** changed my name to PRASHANT CHANANA. 0040584923-7

**I,Nilima Khandare w/o Sunil Kisan Khandare R/o Tower 9, Flat No.1105 Lotus Boulevard, Sector-100, Noida, UP-201301** have changed my name to Nilima Sunil Khandare for all future purposes. 0040584735-2

**I,Naseem Ahmed,S/o Tasleem Ahmad H.No.C-126, Gali No.04, Shri.Ram Colony, Rajiv-Nagar, Delhi-110094,Have** changed my Name to Naseem Ahmad, Permanently. 0040584923-1

**I,Nareesh Kumar Dodwani,S/o Ram Chand R/o.43-A pocket-I,Dilshad garden,Delhi-95,have** changed my name to Nareesh Kumar,for all future purposes. 0040584907-1

**I,Nagamani** legally wedded spouse of No-14838826 Sep-Mrt-Govinda Raju Pyla, S/O-Guru Naidu, R/o- Saripalli,Tehsil-Nellimarla, District-Vizianagaram(AP)-535218 have changed my name from Nagamani to Nagamain Pyla and (DoB- 13th Oct-1988).I have applying for change of name.Objections be filed to concerned authorities. 0020426980-1

**I,Mona W/o-Damanpreet Singh,R/o VB-95, First-Floor, Street No-3A,Virender Nagar, Janakpuri,Delhi-110058,have** changed my name Dashmeet Kaur. 0040584907-8

**I,Prem Lata W/o Pawan Kumar Goel R/o-B-3/14, Second Floor, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110063** have changed my name to Prem Lata Goel. 0040584919-7

**I,Madhupati Kumari D/o Rajkishore Prasad, W/o Shambhu Prasad Gupta** presently H.No.61, Pocket-D, LIG Flats, G.T.B. Enclave Delhi-110093 have changed my name as Madhu Gupta for all purposes. 0040584907-2

**I,Krishan Kumar,S/o Surat Singh,R/o-B/74 B-Block,Nanda Enclave,Najafgarh,South West Delhi-110043,have** changed my name to Krishan Kumar Saini,for all future purposes. 0040584923-10

**I,Kafeel Ahmad,S/o Abdul Gaffar,H.No-B-267, Gali.No.04, Shri.Ram Colony, Rajiv-Nagar, Delhi-110094,Have** Changed my Name to Kafi Ahmad, Permanently. 0040584923-3

**I,Harish Kumar Verma S/o Shri Gori Shankar R/o WZ-A-1/278, Second Floor (Eastern Side) Hastal Road,Uttam Nagar, New-Delhi-110059** Have Changed my Name to Harish Kumar. 0040584919-9

**I,Gopal Chander S/o Ganga Prasad R/o Shri.Saraswati, Mandir Dharamshala C-Block, Saraswati Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,have** changed my name to Gopal Chandra Raikwar. 0040584919-3

**I,Aalok Hussain,W/o-Tanseer Ahmed Khan,R/o-Flat No.B-26, Pocket-9A,Jasola, ND-25,have** changed my name to Hala Husain,for all purpose. 0040584919-2

**I,Gopal Krishan Vichuja R/O 44-B, AP-Block Pitampura, New Delhi,have** changed my name from Gopal Krishan Vishuja to Gopal Krishan Vichuja for all future purposes 0040584843-1

**I,Dashmeet Kaur W/o-Damanpreet Singh R/o VB-95, First-Floor, Street.No-3A, Virender-Nagar,Janakpuri, Delhi-110058,have** changed my minor son's name,from Jappanjet Singh Lamba to Jappanjet Singh. 0040584907-7

**I,DIVYA DIXIT W/O PRASHANT DIXIT R/o 101, Skytech Magadh, Plot No.GH7, Sector-3,Vaishali, Ghaziabad,have** changed my name to DIVYA GAUR. 0040584923-5

**I,Bhupendra Ghavare S/o M.G. Ghavare R/o-H.No.86-F, Pocket-1 Vihar-Muhyar-1, Delhi-110091,** have changed my minor son's name Bittoo to Prathmesh Ghavare aged-8-years. 0040584919-6

**I,Anita Rani W/o Pawan Kumar Anand R/o-Flat.No.91,Dataram, Cooperative Group, Housing, Society Ltd.Sector-18 Rohini Delhi-110085, changed** my name to Anita Anand. 0040584923-5

**I,Afroz Jahan,w/oAbdul Jabbar, resident of,third-floor,Taj-Enclave,Geeta Colony-110031, inform** that Afroz Jahan and Afroz Jabbar both name are of same person. 0040584907-3

**I,have** changed my name from Debojit Pramanik to Debojit Das S/o Late Sh. Shankar Kumar R/o 2-A, Gali No-2, Old Arjun Nagar, Delhi-110051 for all future purposes. 0040584879-1

**I, Vineet Rohatgi, S/o Rajeshwar Nath Rohatgi, R/o A-351, Sector-46, Noida-201303, have** changed my name to Vineet Kumar Rohatgi. 0070754226-1

**I, VIRENDER KAUR, W/o BALWINDER SINGH, ADD-577/6, GALI.No.06, GOVID PURI, KALKAJI, NEW-DELHI-110019,** Changed my name to VEENA SAHOTA. 0040584919-1

**I, VIJAY SHARMA,S/O,RAM DASS, ADD-B-657.GD COLONY MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-3,EAST DELHI-110096.Changed** my name to VIJAY KUMAR, permanently. 0040584907-4

**I, Nirender Singh S/o Puraan Singh R/O 23, Second Floor, Samrat Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi Changed** Name to Narinder Singh. 0040584923-11

**I, Shaikh Shaidul Hussain S/o Shaikh Abdul Khaliq R/o Flat No. 14-E, Himalya Legend, Nyay Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad-201014** have changed my name to Sheikh Shaidul Hussain for all purposes 0040584878-1

**I, Randhir Singh, S/o Girver Das, R/o Z-403 B, Sector-12, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, have** changed my minor Son's name from Nikhil aged 13 years to Nikhil Saini forever. 0070754258-1

**I, Pramod Kumar Gupta, S/o Pyare Lal, R/o 26/26, Gali No-11, Vishwas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have** changed my name to Pramod Kumar. 0070754237-1

**I, Naveen Bharath Duvvuru S/o Ram Sudhakar Duvvuru R/o 54-I, Lane-C4, Central Avenue, Sainik Farms, ND-80 have** changed my name to Naveen Bharath. 0040584877-1

**I, Lokesh Chander s/o Harish Chander R/o B-3, UGF, New Loyalpur Extension, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have** changed my name to LOKESH MEHRA For all future purposes. 0040584889-1

**I, Kavita Vishnoi W/o Sh. Vijayant Kumar R/o 4077, B-5&6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070** have changed my name to Kavita Sikka. 0040584884-1

**I, JEET MEHRA S/O TEJ RAM KUMAR R/o 206,Pocket-A, Janta-Flat, Sarita Vihar,Delhi** have changed my name to JEET KUMAR. 0040584923-4

**I, Hazi Ikramuddin, S/o Haji Kamaluddin,H.No-F-43, Gali. No.07, Jagat-Puri, Delhi-110051, Have** Changed my Name to Ikramuddin, Permanently. 0040584923-2

**I, Govind Singh S/o Diwan Singh R/o 1401-B/2, Street No-5, Jain Nagar, Karala, North West Delhi-110081, do** hereby solemnly affirm and declare that that my mother name is Bhawana (as per my 10th class certificate). However, as per her documents her name is Bhaguli Devi. Both Bhawana and Bhaguli Devi are one and the same person. 0040584890-1

**I, Amrita Shankar Mahato, W/O of Hari Shankar Mahato, from RZ-439, 12B, UGF, Street no. 13, Palam Village, Kailashpuri, New Delhi-110045** have changed my name to Amrita Shankar Singh for all purposes. 0050184261-1

**I,Harjinder Kaur Khanna, W/o Gurdial Singh Khanna, R/o WZ-406-S, Janak Park, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064** have changed my name to HARJINDER KAUR. 0040584890-1

**I, Govind Singh S/o Diwan Singh R/o 1401-B/2, Street No-5, Jain Nagar, Karala, North West Delhi-110081, do** hereby solemnly affirm and declare that that my mother name is Bhawana (as per my 10th class certificate). However, as per her documents her name is Bhaguli Devi. Both Bhawana and Bhaguli Devi are one and the same person. 0040584890-1

**I, Kafeel Ahmad,S/o Abdul Gaffar,H.No-B-267, Gali.No.04, Shri.Ram Colony, Rajiv-Nagar, Delhi-110094,Have** Changed my Name to Kafi Ahmad, Permanently. 0040584923-3

**I,Harish Kumar Verma S/o Shri Gori Shankar R/o WZ-A-1/278, Second Floor (Eastern Side) Hastal Road,Uttam Nagar, New-Delhi-110059** Have Changed my Name to Harish Kumar. 0040584919-9

**I,Gopal Chander S/o Ganga Prasad R/o Shri.Saraswati, Mandir Dharamshala C-Block, Saraswati Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,have** changed my name to Gopal Chandra Raikwar. 0040584919-3

**I, Aalok Kumar Sangal S/o Ravindra Kumar Sangal R/O-D-169/57, Sector-50, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201301** have changed my name to ALOKK KUMAR SANGAL for all future purposes. 0070754262-1

**I Ramprahal S/o Sh.Sant Ram Anuragi R/o H-2/15, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nngloj,West Delhi, Delhi-110041,have** changed my name to Rudra Anuragi for all purposes. 0040584866-2

**I Ram Prakash Anuragi S/o Late Sh.Bali Ram Anuragi R/O H-2/15, Kunwar Singh Nagar, Nngloj,West Delhi, Delhi-110041,have** changed my name to Mullu for all purposes. 0040584866-3

**I Meena W/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar R/O G-2, H.No.25,Sethi Enclave, Gali No.3,Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar,Delhi-59** declare that my name wrongly written as Mansi in my son (Vishal) school certificate,my actual name is Meena for all purposes. 0040584874-1

**I Kumari Sonali Bhoi D/O, Kishore Chandra Bhoi R/o B-202, Kaveri Apartments, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019** have changed my name to Sonali Bhoi 0040584887-1

**I, Bagirthi Devi W/o,No. 878651Ex SEP, LT.Lakhi Ram R/o,32,Galibpur, Delhi-73** have changed my name to Bhagrathi 0040584928-5

**I Dimple Gupta W/o Sunil Kumar Gupta resident of H.No.-795 Gopal Nagar, Behind Hindu College of Management; Neem Wali Gali, Sonepat-131001, Haryana** have changed my name from Kumari Dimpal Agarwal, Dimpal Agarwal to Dimple Gupta. 0040584911-1

**I,NAMUL HAQUE, S/O, MOHAMMAD YUNUS, ADD-B-59A HARSH VIHAR HARI-NAGAR PART-3,SOUTH EAST DELHI-110044, changed** my name to ANAMUL HAQUE, permanently. 0040584907-6

**I,Dya Kishan S/O Ram Vilas Sharma R/o 89/2, Vrindavan Garden, Sahibabad, Pasonda, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005, have** changed my name to Daya Kishan Sharma for all purposes 0070754256-1

**I Bantu S/o Subhash R/o House No.-105, Near Vikas Kendra, Vill-Panghal, Teh-Barwala, Distt-Hisar, Haryana-125121, have** changed my name to Amit Kumar 0070754254-1

**I,Wg.Cdr.Kallash Chandra Verma (Retd.)Son of late Sri.Sri.Dewan Chand Varma, Residing of C-2/2333,Vasant Kunj,New Delhi-110070 to Kailash Chandra Varma,Vide-** affidavit dated-14092021 from New-Delhi. 0040584923-8

LOST & FOUND

**I,Kanwarjit Singh Makkar,S/o Surjit Singh,have** lost my Original-Lease Deed of Property.No.33/30 Old-Rajinder-Nagar New-Delhi,duly Regd.No.5244, Book No 1. Vol. No.1568 On 10/07/1966,If found Pls.Contact:70171732128. 0040584928-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

**The General Public** is hereby informed that my Clients Sh. Kuldeep Singh Sh. Mohinder Singh and his wife Smt. Santosh and there son, Pankaj Singh R/o House No. 39, Near Sunaro Wall Dharamshala, Fazi Chowk Extension, Tia Nanglo-110041 have discovered debared their own name Kamal Singh and Sheetal, living in a live-in relationship with my client son from all their movable and immovable properties. My clients and their family members have severed their all kinds of relations and their family members shall not be responsible for any act done by them in what so manner in future. Sd/- RAVI SONI (ADVOCATE) Ch.No-70, Lawyers Chamber, Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085 Mob:- 9810290255

**I, Naveen Bharath Duvvuru S/o Ram Sudhakar Duvvuru R/o 54-I, Lane-C4, Central Avenue, Sainik Farms, ND-80 have** changed my name to Naveen Bharath. 0040584877-1

**I, Lokesh Chander s/o Harish Chander R/o B-3, UGF, New Loyalpur Extension, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have** changed my name to LOKESH MEHRA For all future purposes. 0040584889-1

**I, Kavita Vishnoi W/o Sh. Vijayant Kumar R/o 4077, B-5&6, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070** have changed my name to Kavita Sikka. 0040584884-1

**I, JEET MEHRA S/O TEJ RAM KUMAR R/o 206,Pocket-A, Janta-Flat, Sarita Vihar,Delhi** have changed my name to JEET KUMAR. 0040584923-4

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**I,Gopal Chander S/o Ganga Prasad R/o Shri.Saraswati, Mandir Dharamshala C-Block, Saraswati Vihar Pitampura Delhi-110034,have** changed my name to Gopal Chandra Raikwar. 0040584919-3

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client Sh. Sohan Lal & Smt. Sunita both R/o H. No. 4 Gali No. 40, Mahindra Park, Adarsh Nagar Delhi-110033, do hereby disown/debar their son Jatin & his wife Smt. Anuradha & Their Child from all their movable and immovable properties due to being out of control, misbehavior and bad conduct towards my clients and their family members. Anybody deals with them, shall do at their own cost & risk. My Clients and their family members will not be responsible for their any acts/deeds in future in any manner whatsoever. Parninder Singh Dhanjal (Advocate)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client Smt. Geeta Mahotra W/o Late Sh. Phani Pal Mahotra R/o D-35, First Floor, Greater Kailash, Enclave-1, New Delhi-110048, have disowned and debared their son AJAY MAHOTRA (Owner) and his wife VIDHU MAHOTRA Grand Master ARYAN MAHOTRA and daughter JYOTI MAHOTRA (Daughter) from her all movable and immovable properties and severed all relations with immediate effect, due to they are not in control of my client since long times and residing separately since long times. My client and her elder son shall not be responsible and/or liable for any act, deed, dealing, transaction or omission of Ajay Mahotra, his family members and Jyoti Mahotra (Daughter). Sd/- KALLU SINGH (Advocate) Ch. No. 702, Dwarka Court Complex, Sec-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Smt. Shweta WadhwaSaraswati, PURCHASING the residential Flat No-A-803, Sector-VII Valley Apartment Sector-12, Plot No. 27, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075 from S. Virendra Kumar, who is the owner of the aforesaid property inherited through registered Will, which was given in his favour and accepted by all his family members & legal heirs. My client has received No Objection Certificates from all Surviving members and their legal heirs of the aforesaid property. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property please contact us within 15 days from the date of this notice on the number mentioned herein below, failing which my client i.e. Smt. Shweta WadhwaSaraswathshall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Mohd. Khairul Hussain, Advocate Ch. No. 214, 2nd Floor, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110001 Mob.-9810391672

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
I, the undersigned, hereby informed to the public at large that my clients Mr. Rajeev Kumar & Mr. Rajender Kumar both sons of late Sh. Shadi Lal Kumar filed a suit No.416/2021 before Honble Delhi High Court listed as Rajeev Kumar & Anr. Versus Sanjeev Kumar & Ors. thereby challenging the gift deeds dated 26.02.2018 & 06.05.2018 executed by Smt. Sunita Rani in favour of Smt. Geeta Kumar. The Honble Delhi High Court vide its order dated 06.09.2021 directed the parties to maintain status quo with regards to Property No. BF-108, Sector-18, PURI, NEW DELHI-110058 till further orders. Anyone dealing with said property shall be doing so at his own risks, costs and consequences and my client shall not be responsible for any loss or damages sustained by the said person(s). (ANIL PANWAR) ADVOCATE OFFICE B-23, JANGPURI EXTENSION, NEW DELHI- 110014

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is hereby inform to the public at large that My Client Khwaja Syed Mohammad Nazami S/O Late Sh. Khwaja Mehdi Nazami R/O- 133-134, Sector-18, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi-110013, is absolute/ lawful owner and landlord of the property bearing 121(NEW), 51/(OLD), BURJ-E-NIZAM situated at BASTI NIZAMUDDIN, NEW DELHI-110013, the property is let out by his father and uncle. The said property was inherited by my client from his father and uncle. Nobody has any right / title and interest except my aforesaid client if anyone/anybody deals in this regards to aforesaid property including sale/ mortgage/possession or receive earnest money or create any sort of encumbrance including third party interest, the same shall be treated as null and void and will face legal consequences i.e., civil and criminal. A litigation is also pending for the aforesaid property against Smt. Shakuntala Mall in the court of M.S. Chitranshi arora, Lt. Civil Judge, Saket Court, New Delhi. Sd/- Afreen Khan (Advocate) (Enl No. D/3000/2021) H-62, LFG, Lajpat Nagar I New Delhi-110024

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to public at large that the my following clients namely (i) Sh. Uma Dutt and his LRs R/o T-1/1101, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, (ii) Smt. Nirmala Devi and her LRs R/o T-22, 3rd Floor, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, (iii) Sh. Hari Pant S/O Sh. Dinesh Chandra Pant R/o Tower-7, Flat No. 803, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, (iv) Sh. Vishesh Popli S/O Ch. C. P. Popli R/o Tower-02, Flat No. 704, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, (v) Sh. Manjit Singh Rana, S/O Sh. Giani Ram Rana, R/o T-1/10201, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028 and (vi) Sh. Sushil Kumar S/O Sh. S. N. Thakur, R/o T-10/0102, TDI Tuscany City, Kundli Sonipat, Haryana-131028, have severed all relationship including membership from THF RWA Phase 1, Sector-58, Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana vide its Reg. No. HR/00820108/2876 due to collusion of their office-bearers with promoters/ builder. Any act or action will not be binding or applicable upon my aforesaid clients taken by above THF RWA in any manner, whatsoever, in future from today onwards till its revocation. Sd/- SAKET KUMAR (ADVOCATE) Ch. No. 674, First Floor, Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public at large is hereby that my clients (1) Smt. Charu Aggarwal w/o Sh. Anurag Aggarwal, and (2) Smt. Vibha Aggarwal w/o Sh. Amit Aggarwal, residing at H.No-223, Meera Bagh, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, are interested to purchase the DDA Flats H/41 M/G Flat no.1, on Ground Floor, in Block GH-4, Area zone G-17, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, from Sh. Umesh Chawla S/o Late Goverdhan Lal Chawla R/o GH- 9/158, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, if any person, body concern, bank or financial institution having any charge over the said flat can lodge the same to the undersigned within seven days. Failing which it shall be deemed that the said flat is free from all encumbrance, charges, liens etc. Sanjay Jindal (ADVOCATE Ph. No.- 9868495152 Enrl. No. D/479/13)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My Client ANIL KUMAR S/O SH. RANDHIR SINGH R/O HOUSE NO. 88, RITHALA, RAJAPUR KALAN, NORTH WEST, DELHI-110085 and his family have sever all his relations and debar his son NITIN and his wife NISHA from all his movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. Anybody dealing with them will do so at his/ her risk. My client will not be responsible for their acts and deeds. Sd/- R. K. JHA Enrl. No. D/1332/2002 Advocate BAR ROOM NO. 16, DISTRICT COURT, ROHINI, DELHI Ph. No. - 9871364162

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given to the public at large, on behalf of my client, Mr. Aninder Singh Sawhney (Owner) of Plot bearing no. 1189, admeasuring 376.98 Sq. Yards, Block-C, in the said colony known as Essencia, Sector-47, Gurgaon, Haryana, by way of Conveyance Deed dated 20.11.2013 executed by M/s Ansal Townships (Pvt.) Ltd. The said property have been Original Conveyance Deed dated 20.11.2013and F.I.R. has been lodged on 30.06.2015 for the loss of the same. Anyone who find it then please return to the below mentioned address and missing the document shall be personally liable and penal action may be taken against those responsible. Mr. Aninder Singh Sawhney now intends to sell the property built on the said property to the intended buyer and shall be mortgaged with Kotak Mahindra Bank. Anyone who has any objection in respect of the ownership of the property may please inform at below mentioned address with documentary proof within 7 (seven) days of this public notice. Mohd. Khairul Hussain Advocate Ch. No. 214, 2nd Floor, Delhi High Court, New Delhi-110001 Mob.-8810391672

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all concerned that my clients Sh. Kameshwar Singh S/o Lt. Sh. Ramayodhya Singh & Smt. Vimal Devi W/o Shri Kameshwar Singh Both R/o A-20, Raju Extension, Sector 15, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078 are hereby disowning their Daughter Ms. Diksha from all of their movable & immovable properties. My clients are not able to live with their above mentioned daughter because of her rude & adamant behavior & At this stage of life my clients are willing to live peacefully, therefore, my clients are severing all their relationships with their aforesaid daughter. Chandrakant Tiwari (Advocate) Ch. 492-A, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
BE IT KNOWN TO GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE THAT MY CLIENT MOHD. IQBAL ANSARI S/O SHRI MOHD. SIDDO ANSARI AND HIS WIFE SHAKEELA BEGUM BOTH R/O HOUSE NO. 1, DDA Market, SHAHZADA BAGH, INDERLOK, DELHI-110035, HAVE DISOWNED/ DEBARRED THEIR SON SAIF IQBAL ALIAS ZEESHAN R/O HRS Chetna Manchanda and his wife ADIBA BEHMAN FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, AS THEY ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF MY CLIENT, MY CLIENT AND HIS FAMILY MEMBER SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY KIND OF THEIR ACTS. Sd/- HIMAN ADVOCATE Chamber No.- T-16, Tehsil Lane, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

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Be it known to all that my clients, (i) Shri Gulshan Kumar (Ahuja), Son of Late Shri Khem Chand (i) Smt. Santosh Gulshan (Ahuja), wife of Shri Gulshan Kumar (Ahuja), both sons of B-1241, Darawal Nagar, Delhi-110009, have disown/debared and severed all their ties with their son, Shri Deepak Ahuja, wife, Smt. Chetna Naga and his Chetna Manchanda and his son, Master Sheera Ahuja. Henceforth, they shall have no right, title or interest in any of my clients' properties, movable or immovable, whatsoever and whereover. My clients shall have absolutely no liability/ responsibility for any claims or debts due or committed by Shri Deepak Ahuja and/or his wife, on any account whatsoever. Any person dealing with them shall be doing so at his own cost and consequences. Sd/- Madhur Gulshan Sapra (Advocate) Enrl. No. D-762/2003 Chamber No. 68, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-110054.

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**निविदा सूचना**  
केन्द्रीय विद्यालय, सेक्टर-12 द्वारका, दिल्ली, मुद्रण कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक मुद्रकों से निविदा आमंत्रित करते हैं। इच्छुक मुद्रक 14 दिनों के अंतर्गत विद्यालय कार्यालय से प्रातः 10 बजे से 01 बजे तक 500 रुपये का भुगतान करके निविदा





## IN PUSH ON PM'S BIRTHDAY, A VACCINATION RECORD

# 2,50,10,390 jabs in 1 day

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

TWO-AND-A-HALF CRORE Covid-19 vaccine doses were administered across the country Friday, the highest in a day since the drive began in India on January 16, in a push announced to coincide with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday.

A major chunk of the vaccines were administered in large BJP-ruled states, with Karnataka, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat accounting for more than 20 lakh doses each. "Every Indian would be proud of today's record vaccination numbers. I acknowledge our doctors, innovators, administrators, nurses, healthcare, and all front-line workers who have toiled to make the vaccination drive a success," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted.

As per provisional data till midnight, 2,50,10,390 vaccine doses in all were administered Friday — taking the cumulative number to 79.33 crore vaccina-



At a vaccination camp in Chikmagalur, Karnataka, Friday. PTI

tions. With Friday's record vaccinations, 63% of the estimated adult population has received its first dose while 21% are fully vaccinated.

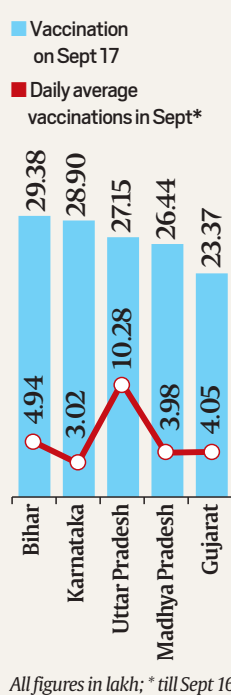
Friday's record was mainly

the result of efforts anchored by government nurses and ASHA workers, deployed at the block level, for the mobilisation and administration of vaccines. In

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**SEROSURVEYS SHOW OVER 80% IN MUMBAI, CHANDIGARH HAVE ANTIBODIES**  
PAGE 11

### SHOT SPURT



## Collegium recommends transfers of High Court CJs Bindal and Kureshi

### Lists new Chief Justices for eight HCs

**APURVA VISHWANATH & ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE SUPREME Court collegium led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana on Friday made recommendations to appoint eight new Chief Justices of High Courts, and to transfer 28 judges of High Courts, including five Chief Justices, *The Indian Express* has learned.

Among the significant transfers recommended by the collegium are those of Calcutta High Court Acting Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal as Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, and of Tripura High Court Chief Justice Akil Kureshi as Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court.

**EXPLAINED** Most significant

ACTING CHIEF Justice of Calcutta HC Justice Rajesh Bindal had found himself in controversy in the political tussle between the BJP and TMC. Justice Akil Kureshi, Chief Justice of Tripura HC, was at the centre of a two-year impasse within the collegium over appointment of judges.

The Supreme Court collegium has not yet formally notified its recommendations. The

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Covid medicines cheaper, food delivery firms liable for paying tax

### GST Council sits for first physical meeting in nearly 2 yrs; no GST on auto fuels now

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE & MAULSHREE SETH**  
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 17

RATE CUTS for a number of cancer and Covid-related medicines and a shift in tax payment liability to restaurant delivery aggregators such as Swiggy, Zomato, and cloud kitchen operators instead of restaurants, were two of the key decisions taken by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in its meeting in Lucknow on Friday.

The Council, which held an



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the GST Council meeting in Lucknow on Friday. Express

in-person meeting after 20 months, also decided to continue compensation cess levy only for repayment of borrowed amounts beyond June 2022.

A proposal to bring petroleum products under the indirect tax regime was discussed, but it was decided to keep the proposal out of its ambit for now.

Going ahead, the Council will look at rate rationalisation under the inverted duty structure, and compliance measures through e-way bill and composition schemes, for which two Groups of Ministers will be constituted.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the rate-cut

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## SCO SUMMIT: INDIA DRAWS RED LINES

# PM on Kabul: Questions on acceptability, think together on recognition

'Increasing radicalisation big threat, instability risk in region'

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

FOR THE first time since the fall of Kabul to the Taliban, Prime Minister Narendra Modi raised questions Friday on the "acceptability" of the new "system" in Afghanistan and flagged concerns that the change of power there took place without negotiations, and was not inclusive.

In his intervention at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, Modi called upon the international community to take a decision on the critical question of "recognition" of the new dispensation in Kabul in a "thoughtful and collective manner".

The Prime Minister, who did not name the Taliban in his speech, said if instability and fundamentalism continue in Afghanistan, it "will lead to terrorist and extremist ideologies all over the world".

And this, he said, will encourage other extremist groups to seek power through violence — a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Dushanbe. PTI

## Jaishankar disagrees with CDS: India doesn't believe in clash of civilisations

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

A DAY after Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat mentioned the "clash of civilisations" theory to describe China's growing ties with the Islamic world vis-a-vis the West, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar sought to distance the government from General Rawat's statement, and told his Chinese counterpart that

"India had never subscribed to any clash of civilisations theory".

In a statement on Jaishankar's meeting Thursday with Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) gathering in Tajikistan's capital Dushanbe, the Ministry of External Affairs said the Minister underlined that Asian solidarity would depend on the example set by India-China relations. The two ministers, the MEA said,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## New Zealand pull out of Pakistan tour: 'security alert, escalation in threat level'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

MINUTES BEFORE their first match in Rawalpindi Friday, New Zealand pulled out of their limited-overs tour of Pakistan because of a "security alert" from their government — a decision that comes as a setback to the

host nation, which has not seen much international cricket since a bus carrying Sri Lankan players was targeted by gunmen in 2009.

Soon after New Zealand's withdrawal, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said they would decide in the next 24-48 hours whether their planned tour should proceed. The England men's and

women's teams are scheduled to visit Pakistan in October.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said in a statement that they "are abandoning their tour of Pakistan following a New Zealand government security alert".

"The side was to play Pakistan this evening in the first of three ODIs in Rawalpindi, before

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### BUSINESS AS USUAL



### EXPRESS NETWORK

**JOURNALIST HELD FOR REPORTING 'WRONG PLACE OF ARREST OF TERROR SUSPECT'** PAGE 11

## Kerala CPM lends weight: Attempt to 'lure' college women to extremism

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 17

IN WHAT will add fire to the raging controversy over claims of "love jihad" and "narcotic jihad" targeting the youth of Kerala, the ruling CPM has now cautioned its cadres about attempts being made on campus of professional colleges to "lure" educated young women to extremism.

The CPM flagged the issue in a pamphlet distributed to speakers at meetings of its branch and local-level committees which began on Thursday, cautioning

against Islam extremist outfits, "support for the Taliban", and the "trend of communal influence" among Christians. The note said: "At professional college campuses, there are deliberate bids to distract educated young women to extremism and fundamentalism. The student fronts and the youth front should pay special attention to this issue."

As the Congress and BJP both seized on the note to attack the CPM, party state secretary A Vijayaraghavan defended it, saying communism could come in many forms. "Communism will operate in many ways. It

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Centre pushes Rlys to reform, merge RVNL & Ircon, Rail Tel & IRCTC

**IRAM SIDDIQUE**  
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 17

THE CABINET Secretariat has asked the Ministry of Railways to act upon a series of recommendations including a merger of Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd into IRCON, of Rail Tel into IRCTC, and a takeover of Braithwaite & Co Ltd by RITES.

These proposals are part of a report on rationalisation of government bodies prepared by Sanjeev Sanyal, Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance, after studying the structure and distribution of Railways

ministry.

The proposals are wide ranging, and not restricted to PSUs: bringing 94 schools run by Railways under the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), upgrading 125 Railway Hospitals — most of them under-invested — through an institutional mechanism and opening these to the public at large. Wherever appropriate, it suggests a PPP (public-private partnership) model for schools and hospitals run by the Railways. This will help the organisation focus on its core competence of running and maintaining the railway service.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Four years after bitter fallout with Kohli, Kumble is back on BCCI radar for job of head coach

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE ODDS are stacking up against Team India captain Virat Kohli.

With the tenures of Ravi Shastri, bowling coach Bharat Arun and fielding coach R Sridhar coming to an end after the World T20 starting next month, the BCCI is set to approach Anil Kumble to take on the role of head coach once again, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Kumble, the former captain

and legendary leg-spinner, was head coach of the team before he decided to step down in 2017 after reports emerged of serious differences with Kohli.

On Thursday, a week after the BCCI named former skipper M S Dhoni as a mentor for the World T20 in UAE, Kohli announced that he would step down as India's T20 captain, paving the way for the captaincy to be split across formats.

Four years ago, soon after Kumble's exit, Kohli had prevailed upon the BCCI, governed then by a committee led by former CAG Vinod Rai, to get Shastri as the replacement. But now, with a new regime at the helm after the implementation of a



Kumble quit in 2017 after reports of differences with Kohli. File

Supreme Court-mandated panel's recommendations, it is learnt that ways to bring Kumble back are being explored.

With Kohli stepping down as T20 captain soon, the BCCI is convinced that the team requires a new coach. In its press release

Thursday after Kohli's decision, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had stated that the board has a clear roadmap for Team India.

It is believed that BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had wanted Kumble to continue in 2017, despite Kohli's reservations, when he was a member of the BCCI's Cricket Improvement Committee (CIC).

With Kumble as coach — he was appointed in June 2016 — India reached the final of the 2017 ICC Champions Trophy, which they lost to Pakistan. He is currently in the UAE as head coach and director of cricket operations for IPL franchise Punjab Kings.

Before deciding to approach

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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A song from Sri Lanka that is viral on Instagram has spawned covers in several regional languages in India. A look at what has made the Sinhala song so popular

## Photographers capture trippy night sky



## Scintillating Netflix show enamours us with empathy

# Jaishankar

## Pakistan tour

“PCB and Govt of Pakistan made foolproof security arrange-

"I understand this will be a blow for the PCB, who have been wonderful hosts, but player safety is paramount and we believe this is the only responsible option," he said in the NZC statement.

# Collegium

Justice Kureshi, whose parent High Court is the Gujarat High Court, did not feature in the list of nine appointments made to the Supreme Court in August despite being No. 2 in the All-India list of seniority for judges of High Courts. The collegium's hesitation in recommending his

large amount of advanced weapons remain in Afghanistan” and, therefore,

“Second, if instability and fundamentalism continue in Afghanistan, it will lead to ter-

"Third, developments in Afghanistan...could lead to an uncontrolled flow of drugs, illegal weapons, and human trafficking. A large amount of advanced weapons remain in Afghanistan. Due to these, there will be a risk of instabil-

"Member States believe that it is critical to have an inclusive Government in Afghanistan, with representatives from all ethnic, religious and political groups of Afghan society," the declaration said.

## GST Council

“Food delivery operators like

FULL REPORTS ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

# Kerala CPM

The Catholic Bishops Conference of India laity council secretary, Advocate V C

2,50,10,390 jabs

These numbers were, incidentally, significantly higher than their daily average for September (till September 16): Bihar (4.94 lakh doses), Karnataka (3.02 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (10.28 lakh), Madhya Pradesh (3.98 lakh), and Gujarat (4.05 lakh).

As on Friday, three of these states had covered 75% of the population with at least a single dose of the vaccine: Gujarat (84%), Madhya Pradesh (80%) and Karnataka (78.5%). Uttar Pradesh (51.24%) and Bihar (55.53%) hovered near the half-way mark.



## 5 THE CITY



**CORONAVIRUS**  
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS  
**1,36,083**



		Total	Vacant
TOTAL CASES		<b>16,347</b>	<b>16,139</b>
HOSPITAL BEDS		<b>3,565</b>	<b>3,479</b>
ICU BEDS			
Sept 16	Cases	28	22
Sept 17	Recoveries	56	01
Deaths		01	72,481
Tests		01	74,099
Total		407*	14,12,936
		25,085	2,68,21,280

\*Total active cases

## Court raps police for 'lackadaisical' approach in riot cases, warns of salary cuts

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

A DELHI court has said the Delhi Police has not taken steps for proper prosecution despite being pulled up for their "lackadaisical approach" in Northeast Delhi riot cases.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Arun Kumar Garg passed the order in a riot case after the investigating officer sought an adjournment, stating that he has not gone through the police file and was unable to answer the queries of the court.

CMM Garg warned the police of passing adverse orders if this continues including the imposition of adjournment costs on the state with a further direction to deduct it from the officers' salary.

The court noted that the Special Public Prosecutor has also not been appearing for many hearings.

It stated that the IO had to attend a hearing before the Delhi High Court and neither did the SHO replace the IO nor did he ensure he went through the case file.

The court said that the "lackadaisical approach on the part of the prosecution as well as the Investigating Agency in riot cases has been repeatedly brought to the notice of not only the DCP (North East) and Joint CP (Eastern Range) but has also been brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi".

"However, no steps for the proper prosecution of the cases seem to have been taken by either of them and if taken, have not yet been brought to the notice of this court. The aforesaid failure on the part of said police officers to take appropriate measures for the prosecution of riot cases is causing an avoidable delay in committal/trial of riot cases," the court said.

The court has directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to personally look into the issues pointed out by this court and to ensure proper prosecution of the riot cases, failing which, it shall pass adverse orders "including but not limited to the imposition of adjournment costs on the state with a further direction to deduct the same from the salary of the officers responsible for the imposition of the said cost".

## SEEK EMERGENCY MEETING

# Syllabus changes: 130 English teachers write to DU dept head

**ARANYA SHANKAR**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

AROUND 130 English teachers from multiple Delhi University colleges have written to the Head of the Department, asking for an emergency General Body Meeting (GBM) on the issue of the "arbitrary modification" of the English syllabus, The Indian Express has learnt.

DU's Oversight Committee (OC) had come under criticism after they removed two women Dalit authors, Bama and Sukhirtharani, as well as renowned author Mahasweta Devi's short story, *Draupadi*, from the fifth semester English syllabus.

"We, the undersigned teachers of English Literature in the University of Delhi, request you to call an emergency General Body Meeting of English teachers (in the department and the constituent colleges of DU) on the following issues: arbitrary modification of English department's 5th semester syllabi by the Oversight Committee without any recommendation from the English Department GBM, the duly constituted GBM-approved syllabus subcommittees, or the duly consulted subject expert/s," the teachers from several prominent colleges, including Miranda House, Lady Shri Ram, Ramjas and Hansraj, wrote to HoD Raj Kumar on September 13.

They also said the GBM should be held over the "inordinate and academically unacceptable delay by the University of

**Two Dalit authors, Sukhirtharani and Bama, as well as renowned author Mahasweta Devi's short story, *Draupadi*, have been removed**

Delhi in approving the 6th semester syllabi of English Department". "As you are aware, these are very important issues having garnered attention in both the media and the public sphere in the past few weeks. The highlighted matters will have a serious impact on pedagogical aspects in the classroom, affecting many thousands of teachers and students involved in the teaching-learning process of literatures in English as a discipline," they wrote.

"Thus it is essential to discuss these issues through the platform of the General Body Meeting and express ourselves collectively to safeguard academic rigour, intellectual honesty and commitment to our students. We, therefore, request you to have an emergency GBM within the minimum time required to call a GBM on these issues," they said.

Kumar told The Indian Express: "I will definitely call the GBM but I need to consult my colleagues in the department first. So, it's not possible to say right now when it will be called."

Sources said the same was communicated by Kumar to the teachers via an email dated September 14.

DU authorities have backed the decision of the OC, with Registrar Vikas Gupta issuing a statement calling the syllabus "inclusive". On why *Draupadi* – the story of Doodhi Mehen, a Santhal woman gang-raped in police custody – was removed, he had said, "Just see the kind of language that is used in it. We have some culture and ethics. (In the story) Indian military is shown in every poor light. Students should not hate them based on such stories."

Earlier, 108 DU teachers had issued a statement criticising the decision, and around 1,100 renowned persons, including authors, actors and academicians, had petitioned the President and the V-C demanding that the axed authors be reinstated.

## South MCD to open park exclusively for pets

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE SOUTH Delhi Municipal Corporation plans to start a park dedicated to pets with amenities such as pet grooming, off-leash area for dogs and cats to stretch, a veterinary clinic with facilities for surgery, a play area, and stalls selling pet food and accessories. It will also have a dog trail, and space for running, swimming, and digging, officials said.

According to Alok Singh, director of the horticulture department of the



The pet park will be the first such facility in Delhi-NCR. *Archive*

SDMC, the civic body often receives complaints from people of pet dogs coming inside colony parks and troubling them: "So, we decided to set up a park exclusively for pets, where owners can come along with their dogs." Singh said there would be specialised people deputed in the park to prevent fights from breaking out between pets.

The civic body has identified parks in Dwarka and Jangpura and a location would be finalised soon.

A senior official said work for the project will be awarded soon as "serious efforts" is being made to give the idea a practical shape by the end of year and launch it by March.

The official said the concept was inspired by dog parks in Bengaluru

and Greater Hyderabad. Once opened, the pet park will be the first such facility in Delhi-NCR, he said.

Visitors will have to pay a fee which is yet to be decided. Said SDMC commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, "People will have a dedicated park for their pets. Many pet-friendly facilities and activities will be developed." The park will also have a dedicated space for defecating. Waste bag dispensers to collect waste and covered dustbins for their disposal will also be installed, an official said. "The park will have provisions for a cafeteria and gazebos for visitors to relax," said the official.

## 9-year-old Dalit girl died due to suffocation during sexual assault: Delhi Police to court

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE DELHI police, in their evidence filed against the accused in the death of a 9-year-old Dalit girl, have stated that she died due to suffocation while being sexually assaulted.

Police say they have relied on disclosure statements of the accused — Radhey Shyam (55), a priest at the cremation ground where the girl went to have water, and three others, Kuldeep Singh (63), Laxmi Narayan (48) and Salim Ahmed (49).

The accused have maintained that the girl died of electrocution while fetching water from a cooler. The girl's family has alleged that the men hurriedly cremated the body after raping her.

The police submitted, "While committing rape, accused Kuldeep held the hands of the deceased and accused Radhey Shyam raped her. Radhey Shyam kept his hand on the mouth of the deceased due to which she could not breathe and died of suffoca-

tion. Thereafter, accused Radhey Shyam and Kuldeep Singh took the body of the deceased (from the) room of Radhey Shyam to the hall with the water cooler and kept her body on the bench."

Police said they were seen by two prosecution witnesses at this stage. "All four accused persons gathered at the crematorium ground (and) with the common intention decided to cremate the body to eliminate the evidence of rape and murder," the police said.

Police submitted that Shyam manipulated evidence by "mentioning the time of death as 5:30 pm while the victim was seen alive in CCTV footage at 5:42 pm".

Police also submitted that Ahmed and Narayan were primarily involved in destruction of evidence and facilitating the cremation. These two have made disclosure statements before the investigators about the role of Shyam and Singh, police said.

Police also told the court that there was no evidence of electrocution since there was "no electric current" in the body of the water cooler.

Police stated that as per the FSL report, "no biological fluid/DNA trace/sample was found on the body of the water cooler which clearly suggests that the deceased was not electrocuted; because, in case of electrocution, DNA trace would be present on the body of the water cooler".

The police also told the court that Shyam's mobile's search history revealed that he was addicted to porn. "He has visited around 1,300 porn websites from June 11 to July 30. He used his smartphone only to browse porn as no call logs were found on it. He kept the phone secret from everyone," police told the court.

The statement was filed by the IO in response to an application by the Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) for interim compensation for the victim's family.

A chargesheet has been filed against the accused under sections of rape, wrongful confinement, murder, destruction of evidence, and under the POCSO Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.



**Uttar Pradesh Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya Evam Go Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura (U.P.) -281001.**

Advertisement No.01/2021

Date: Aug 31, 2021

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For more details and revised qualifications please visit university website [www.upvetuniv.edu.in](http://www.upvetuniv.edu.in). The closing date of submission of application forms is 30-09-2021. For any correspondence please use e-mail i.d. recruitmentduvasu2021@gmail.com

REGISTRAR

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This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of Train No. 02871/02872 Islampur-New Delhi-Islampur Magadh Superfast festival Special Train as under:-

Train No. & Train Name	Days of Run	Extended Up to (JCO)
02871 Islampur - New Delhi Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 01.01.2022
02872 New Delhi - Islampur Magadh Superfast Special	Daily	Upto 02.01.2022

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

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

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davp 19135/11/0001/2122

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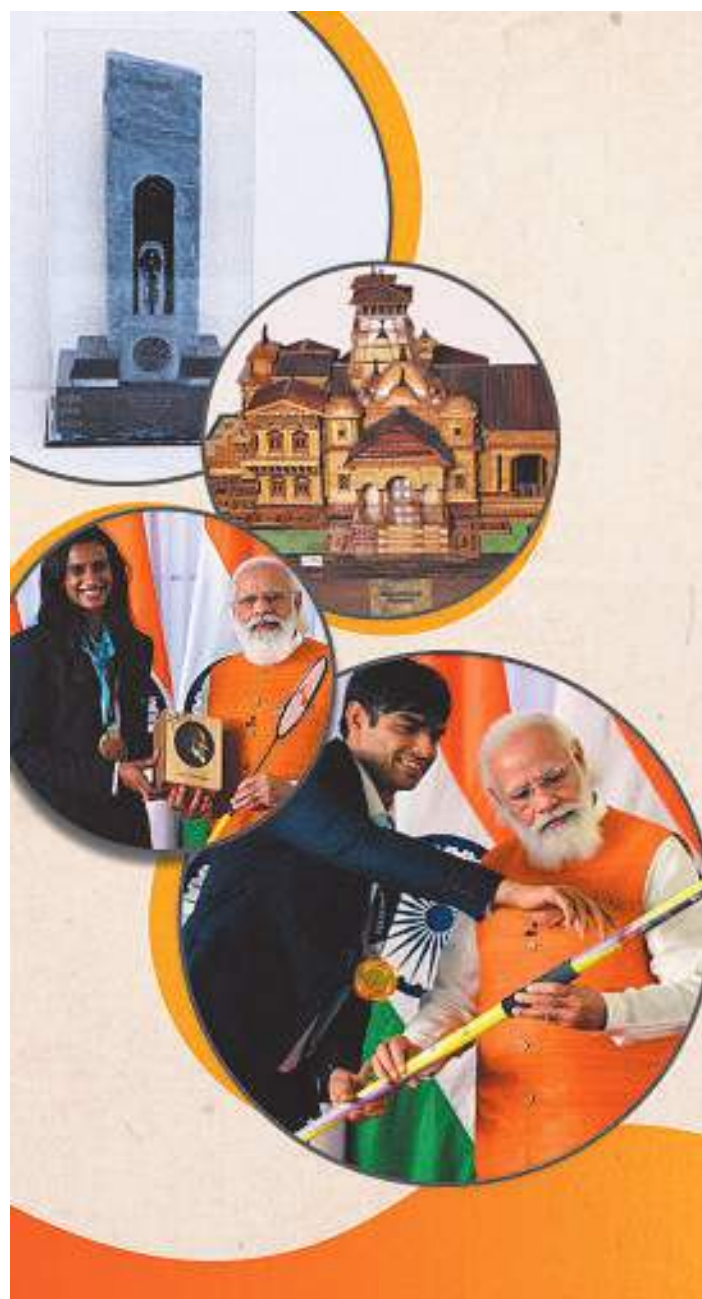
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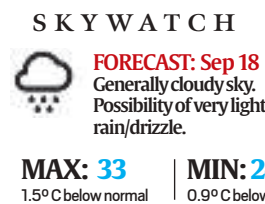
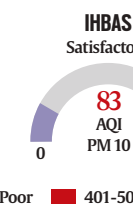
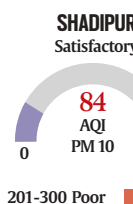
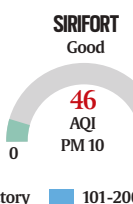
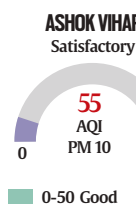


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# SUKHBIR, HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL DETAINED IN DELHI; TRAFFIC HIT AT GURGAON BORDER

## ‘Your decline has begun’: At protest against three farm laws, SAD trains guns at Centre

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, GURGAON,  
SEPTEMBER 15

SHIROMANI AKALI Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal and former Union minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal were detained by the Delhi Police Friday as they led a protest march in the national capital to mark the first anniversary of the passage of three contentious farm laws.

In the morning, hundreds of protesters, including Akali leaders, marched on Rakabganj Road. The march started from Gurudwara Rakab Ganj at 11.30 am with Parliament House as the destination. The leaders were detained at 1.30 pm, before which they addressed party workers and called it a “Black Day”.

Sukhbir said: “I’ve come to know that the Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government released a notification restricting us from entering Delhi’s Gurudwara. They are scared... You know what’s

happening to BJP, ‘their shop is closed’. As the leader of SAD, I can say — whether it is farmers, poor people, traders... Punjab’s prosperity depends on brotherhood, peace. Punjab needs a CM who takes the state forward... SAD has a vision for betterment of people in the state. I request you (protesters) to maintain peace. They (government) have spread propaganda that those from Punjab create ruckus and use violence. Let’s show them we can fight against the system without being violent.”

“We are in thousands... our mission is to show the Centre that we will not stop. The people of Punjab and farmers will continue to raise their voice unless the government removes the three farm laws... the Prime Minister introduced these laws in the country... Elect us... (and) we will make sure these laws are not implemented in Punjab,” he said.

DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav said Sukhbir, Harsimrat and 15 other party leaders were



At the protest in the capital, Friday. *Amit Mehra*

detained at Parliament Street police station and later released.

Police said the leaders were detained for violating Covid guidelines. Over 500 personnel were deployed in New Delhi district, and the DCP on September 15 had written to Badal and SAD spokesperson Daljeet Singh Cheema to avoid the protest.

According to the SAD, a memorandum was submitted to the Prime Minister through the

Executive Magistrate, seeking a repeal of the “black” farm laws and demanding commitment from the Centre that farmers would be consulted before bringing in any legislation affecting their lives.

Harsimrat, who resigned from the government last year over the farm laws, said in a tweet that the participation in the protest march shows public anger. “Farmers have been protesting at the Delhi border for a year, but the Centre is

keen on quashing them. We are proud to have quit the NDA. Akali Dal will continue to resist despotism,” she said.

“This government, which used to say ‘sab ka saath, sab ka vikas, sab ka vishwas’, on September 17, 2020 — it did not think of farmer’s vikas. Not only did they betray their political allies but they have betrayed farmers of the country,” she said. “I want to tell you that 2024 is not far. The countdown to your decline has begun. You won’t be able to set foot in Punjab, you will lose Haryana, and UP too. And you will become a party of two MPs, like in the past, when Akali Dal used to support you when you had two MPs.”

Meanwhile, traffic congestion was reported on the Delhi-Gurgaon border Friday morning as Delhi Police blocked entry of vehicles and barricaded the lanes towards the capital.

Sources said around 12.30 am on Thursday, Gurgaon police received information about a group of farmers and protesters from

several districts of Haryana and Rajasthan reaching Sirhaul and trying to enter Delhi. The information was relayed to the Delhi Police, who put up barricades for inspection and stopped entry of certain vehicles.

A traffic police officer said, “Traffic remained congested from 9.50 am to 11.30 am on account of barricading on the Delhi side, following which it eased.”

DCP (traffic) Ravinder Tomar, said, “... Due to security reasons, Delhi Police barricaded the lanes which caused congestion, first at 12.30 am for about 25 minutes. We diverted traffic towards Kapashera, Basai, KMP and nearby areas. We were in constant touch with Delhi Police and informed them when congestion was reported till Shankar Chowk. After that, barricading was removed for some time and traffic movement was smooth. At 9.30 am today, there was some congestion for half an hour after barricades were put up again before it was cleared.”

## Sidhana gets anticipatory bail in R-Day violence case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

A DELHI court Friday granted anticipatory bail to gangster-turned-activist Lakha Sidhana in the Red Fort violence case.

Additional Sessions Judge Jagdish Kumar observed that the accused has admitted he was part of a mob and has already been granted bail in a connected case.

Sidhana has been ordered to furnish a bail bond of Rs 50,000 with one surety of the like amount and has been directed to join the investigation as and when required by the investigating officer. He has also been ordered not to influence witnesses.

On the contention that the applicant was not providing the password of his mobile phone, the court noted that Sidhana had stated that he forgot the password. The court asked how it can assume if he has forgotten the password or was deliberately not disclosing it.

Senior advocate Ramesh Gupta and advocate Jasdeep Singh Dhillon, who appeared for Sidhana, told the court that there is not an iota of evidence against him. It was also submitted that there was a grave suspicion that police will arrest him as his cousin had been “arrested by Delhi Police and tortured”.

Special Public Prosecutor Madhukar Pandey had opposed the bail, stating that his presence on the spot was corroborated by CCTV footage. He submitted that Sidhana instigated the mob which attacked police officers on January 26.

The prosecutor added that the accused even hugged some people to celebrate after breaking the barricades.

## BRIEFLY

### New Okhla STP can stop 564 MLD of sewage from entering Yamuna: Jain

*New Delhi:* DJB chairperson Satyendar Jain visited the construction site of the sewage treatment plant at Okhla on Friday. Government officials said the plant is the largest in India and will have a capacity to treat 564 million litres of sewage per day and will be spread over an area of 110 acres. Construction will be completed by 2022. “After its construction, this STP will stop 564 MLD of sewage from flowing into the Yamuna by adhering to latest norms... treated water will be fit to be utilised for various non-potable purposes like gardening, lakes rejuvenation, etc,” Jain said.

### Over 10,000 applications under CM Covid relief scheme

*New Delhi:* The Delhi government has received 10,436 applications under the Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Pariwaar Arthik Sahayata Yojana, which provides financial aid to dependents of people who lost their lives due to Covid. So far 2,499 applications have been received under the monthly assistance scheme (Rs 2,500) and 7,937 under the one-time assistance scheme (Rs 50,000). **ENS**



## VACCINE QUEUE

A Covid vaccination camp at Yamuna Pushta. *Praveen Khanna*

# Vendetta against me, Asthana tells HC, attaches Prashant Bhushan tweets

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

DELHI’S COMMISSIONER of Police Rakesh Asthana, in a reply to a PIL challenging his appointment to the post, has alleged that a sustained social media campaign and a “barrage of selective actions” were being undertaken to “derail” his career, while particularly making mention of tweets made by advocate Prashant Bhushan since 2017 with regard to him.

Choosing not to respond to the PIL on merits and stating that the same can only be dealt with by the central government, Asthana told the court he has filed the reply only to bring to its notice that the petitioners against him were entertaining a personal vendetta and the cases have been filed either “for some hidden personal vendetta of either of them or of



Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana

someone on whose behest several attempts are being made against me to derail my career”.

He has named Common Cause and Centre for Public Interest Litigations and said one or two individuals run both the organisations and enjoy deep and pervasive control over them. Bhushan has previously been on the governing body of the two NGOs, and represents CPIL, an

intervenor in the PIL challenging Asthana’s appointment, before the High Court.

Without naming Bhushan, Asthana has said that “individuals running them in recent past for some oblique and ostensible undisclosed reason have started barrage of selective actions against me either out of some vendetta about which I am not aware or at the behest of some individual/interest”.

Asthana, in a tabulated form, has mentioned four cases, all filed by Common Cause, against his appointment as Special Director CBI in 2017 and seeking SIT probe against the corruption charges against him. “The aforesaid PILs were thereafter followed by a malicious campaign propagated either through tweets or articles or shadow PILs,” he has said.

The sustained social media campaign corroborates and jus-

tifies the apprehension that the challenge to “my appointment is the result of either some vendetta which is unknown to me or is being conducted at the behest of some undisclosed individual/rival/interest,” Asthana has said while attaching tweets made by Bhushan between October 2017 and July 2021 regarding him.

The Centre had Thursday defended Asthana’s appointment, saying that he has been brought in to provide “effective policing” on recent law and order situations in the national capital.

Sadre Alam, a lawyer, has filed a PIL seeking quashing of Asthana’s appointment, inter-cadre deputation, and extension of service. The court had earlier also allowed an intervention application by CPIL in the case. CPIL has accused Alam of copying contents of its petition pending before the apex court against Asthana’s appointment.

# Protect pvt data of Newslandry co-founder, HC tells IT dept

**SOFIAHSAN**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

OBSERVING THAT it was legally and morally wrong to leak private data, the Delhi High Court Friday asked the IT Department to ensure that Newslandry co-founder Abhinandan Sekhri’s personal data is not leaked. The data from Sekhri’s laptop and phone was downloaded by IT officials last week during a ‘survey’ at the news portal’s office.

“We have seen it on channels, people’s data that has been seized is openly being displayed, that should not happen. We don’t know who leaks it. You will have to take precaution that it is not leaked. Given an undertaking that it will not be leaked, Mr (Siddhartha) Dave (Newslandry’s lawyer) will be satisfied,” observed Justice Manmohan and

## Leak of data is totally wrong — ethically, morally, legally: HC

Justice Navin Chawla.

The court made the observations during the hearing of a petition filed by Newslandry Media Private Limited and Sekhri against the survey and for a direction against leaking of any material, including private chats or communication, to any third party including the media. While asking the counsel representing the IT department to come back with instructions, the court listed the matter for hearing on Tuesday.

It also said that agencies should investigate but never leak data as that will give away any leads they have. “This case is only different because the press is on

the other side this time. They are the people who object to such orders being passed. It (leakage of data) is contrary to their (agencies’) interest, the public interest, the person who has been searched. It’s totally wrong — ethically, morally, legally, every way,” said the court.

Advocate Ajit Sharma, representing the department, argued that the IT department is seized of data of not just one assessee but thousands. “We will ensure that it is not leaked and will come back with instructions so that we can make that statement in court,” he added.

“It is just a mere bald apprehension that this data will be leaked by the income tax department because the petitioner happens to be a journalist,” Sharma submitted, adding that the data which the IT department has seized can only be used as per law.

## ‘WILL BE FINISHED IN TWO MONTHS’

# Power cables stalled work on Ashram underpass, says Jain

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

WORK ON the Ashram underpass was delayed due to shifting of power cables and will be completed in two months, said Public Works Department Minister Satyendar Jain Friday. He took cognizance of the difficulties faced in construction work and said it will be completed soon.

“The work on this underpass near Ashram is almost complete. However, construction has faced some hindrances due to shifting of the heavy power cables near the under-construction ramp, which is 16 metres long. These power cables are being shifted, which will take around a month. Thereafter, within one month, work of constructing the ramp



Work on the 750-metre-long underpass started in July 2019

will also be completed. The whole process will be completed in two months. Cognizance of potholes has also been taken; these were repaired the previous day. Within a couple of days, the work of surfacing of roads will be done,” he said.

Work on the 750-metre-long

underpass, approved in 2016, started in July 2019 and is aimed at easing traffic at the Ashram intersection. Meanwhile, work on the Ashram-DND extension is going on and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The project was expected to be completed by August 31.

# Cutting down dust: Onus on pvt firms to stick to 14-point plan

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Gopal Rai has asked private construction agencies in Delhi to adhere to guidelines to prevent dust pollution within 15 days.

All private agencies are required to hold review meetings at their construction sites to ensure whether the guidelines are being followed, besides appointing an employee to ensure that they are followed. The government will take strict action against private agencies not following the guidelines, Rai said.

In a meeting with all private construction agencies in Delhi Friday, Rai said, “We have held a meeting with more than 50 major construction agencies, which includes L&T, GMR Group, Raheja Developers, NDMPL, and NBCC, among others. We have informed them of whatever shortcomings that we observed,” he said.

Dust mitigation measures that construction companies must follow include raising dust breaking walls around the construction site; installation of anti-smog guns (for a built-up area of more than 20,000 sq m); placing tarpaulin or green net on scaffolding around the area under construction; vehicles carrying construction material and debris should be fully covered and protected; unpaved surfaces and areas with loose soil should be adequately sprinkled with water; and construction

## AT CONSTRUCTION SITES

- Walls must be covered
- Anti-smog gun must
- Tarpaulin must
- Vehicles should be covered, cleaned
- No material should fall on road
- Residue to be compiled in marked spots
- Ban on stockpile on roads
- No uncovered sand
- No cutting/grinding in open
- Water spraying must
- Pakki, black-top roads to transport materials
- Record of all generated waste
- Dust mask mandatory for workers
- Medical facility must for workers



and demolition waste should be recycled on-site or transported to authorised recycling facility and due record of the same should be maintained.

Additionally, dust mitigation measures are to be displayed prominently at the construction site for easy public viewing.



Private construction agencies have to adhere to guidelines within 15 days, said environment minister Gopal Rai. *Archive*

# No proposal by govt to cover Board exam fee, parents in a fix

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

WITH TWO weeks for schools to collect CBSE exam fees from their students and no proposal by the Delhi government to intervene, stakeholders expect another tussle this year to get these fees covered.

The CBSE informed schools Thursday evening that they need to submit their list of candidates for the upcoming class X and XII board examinations before September 30. Students have to pay their CBSE examination fees to be included in the list.

In 2019, the board had sharply increased its examination fees, making it Rs 1,200 for SC/ST students and Rs 1,500 for the rest in both classes X and XII. That is the base fee for five subjects. With the additional amount for each subject’s practical and additional or optional subject, the fee goes up to around Rs 2,500 for many class XII students.

In 2019, the Delhi government had announced it would cover the complete examination fee for all Board year students in its schools. It had paid the fees for as many as 3.14 lakh students following a Cabinet meeting decision.

Before that, the fee — Rs 375 for class X and Rs 600 for class XII students for five subjects — was paid by the candidates. In the case of SC/ST students, Rs 50 would be charged, while the remainder, Rs 325 for Class X and Rs 550 for Class XII, used to be reimbursed by the government to the board.

Last year, citing a fund crunch due to the pandemic and estimating that paying the fees for all students would cost Rs 100 crore, the government did not cover the fees. “This year too, the fund situation is not so great. There is no proposal from the government on this so far,” said a senior official

in the education department.

The All India Parents Association, in a letter asking the government to cover the fees given the continuing financial distress, said: “According to the education department, more than 1.5 lakh children have gotten themselves transferred from private to government schools... The education minister had recognised parents’ inability to pay school fees and made a public announcement that students would be admitted to government schools without transfer certificates. A parent who withdrew their child from a private school because they could not pay the fees will also have difficulty in paying the exam fees.”

“For some time, the economic situation of the Delhi government has been improving, which we can see from various schemes being introduced in government schools. For its Entrepreneurship Mindset Curriculum, the government is even going to give Rs 2,000 seed money to all students of senior classes,” the letter, addressed to the Chief Minister’s Office, states.

Collecting the exam fees was a big challenge last year and many schools crowdsourced funds by reaching out to NGOs and business people or had teachers and principals shoulder the cost, while civil society had also stepped in to help children with financial constraints.

This year, schools have only two weeks to complete the collection process. “The government should pay this fee; it is an essential expenditure concerning all students. This is a question of writing board exams and continuing education. Things like annual day, sports day, and production of school magazines have not been happening in schools for the last two years. Those resources can be diverted for this,” said the head of a government school, who did not want to be identified.



# 7 Govt & Politics

## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### REMOVING ROADBLOCK

WHILE PRAISING Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at a function, Union minister Nitin Gadkari said that soon after he got married, it was brought to his notice that a house belonging to his in-laws was coming in the way of construction of a road. He said he had ordered the house to be razed for the road project. Similarly, he said, he has learnt that a house belonging to Khattar's wife's family was also recently coming in the way of a highway project in Haryana, and the CM had ordered the house to be demolished to make way. Gadkari appreciated it and said politicians need to set such examples against encroachment.

### POST CARED

ON PRIME Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, newly appointed IT and Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnav had a challenge to deal with. The postal department, which comes under his ministry, had to ensure availability of 5 crore postcards for the 'Thank You Modi' messages. The department had been asked by the ruling party to ensure that every state unit gets sufficient postcards for the occasion. At a meeting of BJP leaders to finalise the arrangements for the celebrations, some leaders had raised the issue of non-availability of these postcards. Party general secretary Arun Singh then asked every state unit to inform about their requirements, as well as the shortage in respective states. The issue was addressed and the department assured that every state unit will get enough cards.

### FAST OFF THE BLOCKS

IN A departure from its usual style, the Congress has set in motion the process to identify candidates for Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections much in advance. The party has constituted a screening committee to shortlist nominees headed by AICC general secretary Jitendra Singh. The team has young loaders, the other members of the panel being Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda and Maharashtra minister Varsha Gaikwad. While the Samajwadi Party and the BSP have made it clear that they will not have any alliance with the Congress, a section of Congress leaders are still hopeful of a last-minute understanding with the SP.

## Gadkari says he gets Rs 4 lakh per month for YouTube lecture videos

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BHARUCH (GUJARAT),  
SEPTEMBER 17

UNION MINISTER Nitin Gadkari on Friday said he gets Rs 4 lakh every month as royalty from YouTube, as viewership of his lecture videos posted on the platform has increased during the pandemic period.

While reviewing the progress of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway (DME) in Bharuch, Gadkari further said his ministry has started rating road construction contractors and consultants.

During Covid-19 times, the road transport and highways minister said, he did two things.

"I became a chef and started cooking at home and giving lectures through video conference. I delivered more than 950 lectures online, including lectures to foreign universities students, which were uploaded on YouTube.

"Viewership of my YouTube channel increased and YouTube now pays me Rs 4 lakh per month



**Nitin Gadkari**

as royalty," he said.

Gadkari, who is known for his frank views, said that in India, those who do good work, don't get appreciation.

The minister also emphasised on the importance of network of modern- and high-quality roads for economic development and creating employment opportunities. He said that in Gujarat, 423 km of road is being constructed at Rs 35,100 crore. Gadkari added that under this expressway, 60 major bridges, 17 interchanges, 17 flyovers and eight road over bridges (ROBs) will be built in the state.

The minister said 33 wayside amenities are also proposed to be built on this expressway to provide world-class transport facilities as well as create employment opportunities in the state.

## Shah: Modi first CM after Independence to pay attention to climate change

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 18

UNION HOME Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first chief minister since Independence to have paid attention to climate change. He said at that time very few people paid attention to the problem.

Shah was speaking at an event in Nanded, Maharashtra, where he planted a sapling at the CRPF training centre to celebrate the birthday of the Prime Minister.

"Narendra Modi was the first chief minister of the country after Independence who paid attention to climate change because at that time there were



**Amit Shah**

very few people in the world who paid attention to it. People used to build roads, buildings, arrange for drinking water, create structures for education, development took place in all areas. But when Shri Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat, he first created the climate change department in the government," the MHA quoted Shah as saying. "This was the first time in India that the government paid attention to climate change."

## Rahul has failed, Mamata should lead Opp: TMC paper

**ATRI MITRA**

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 17

AT A time the entire Opposition is trying to form an anti-BJP front before 2024 General Election, Trinamool Congress's party mouthpiece in West Bengal, 'Jaago Bangla', has sparked a potential storm by suggesting that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has failed to emerge as an alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee should take that space.

On Friday, the headline in the lead report of the newspaper stated: "Rahul Gandhi paren-ni, Mamata-i bikolpo mukh (Rahul Gandhi could not, Mamata is the alternative face)".

While the report, as well as TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, clarified that the party does not want to discard the Congress and is only saying that the TMC chief could be the possible Opposition



**Rahul Gandhi; Mamata Banerjee**

face to counter Modi, the state Congress hit back and said this will only help BJP and that the party "strongly opposes" this stand.

Calling it an instance of bargaining by TMC, state Congress president and Lok Sabha member Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said: "Mamata Banerjee says all opposition parties should be unified. On the other hand, without consulting any party, she is humiliating other parties. She is asking (TMC) to write in the party mouthpiece that she wants to be the Prime Minister. This is unfortunate.... We are strongly opposing this stand."

## EVMs, DMs used to cheat in Bihar polls, be wary: Akhilesh

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 17

SAMAJWADI PARTY president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday alleged that the Uttar Pradesh government had done "nothing" to save lives in rain-related incidents and asked people to exercise caution against electronic voting machines (EVMs) and district magistrates (DMs) in the Assembly polls next year.

Speaking on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti at the SP office in Lucknow, Akhilesh said, "One can understand how much it rained yesterday (Thursday). Many lost their lives...many houses collapsed. In just one spell of rain, it has become clear that the government, which was supposed to make arrangements for this, has done nothing. Cars were floating on road. When so many people from the Vishwakarma community are here today, I am confident that this government will go."

Persistent and heavy rain, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, has claimed at least 24 lives in Uttar Pradesh.

Akhilesh also said: "We saw the election in Bihar and West Bengal. Did they cheat in Bihar election or not? The cheating in



**Akhilesh Yadav during a Vishwakarma Puja event in Lucknow, Friday. Vishal Srivastava**

Bihar was done by EVMs (electronic voting machines) and DMs (district magistrates). But people of Bengal responded. We must be careful of EVMs and DMs and must make people aware."

Akhilesh alleged that lies and rumours are being spread by BJP to mislead people. "These people (BJP) are those who cheat Dalits and people from backward communities. They want to finish the country's identity of unity in diversity. They are after our culture of coexistence... For their selfish interests and to get power, they will do anything. We have to be very careful of them. Some will be small lies, while some will be bigger lies," he said.



## BIRTHDAY, IN PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar writes Prime Minister Narendra Modi a message for his birthday in Patna on Friday. *PTI*

## E-auction of PM mementos: sports gear of Olympians get highest bids

**DIVYAA**

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

OLYMPIC BRONZE medalist Lovlina Borgohain's boxing gloves and gold medalist Neeraj Chopra's javelin are among the items that have received the highest bids at an e-auction of gifts and mementos received by the Prime Minister.

The gloves, with a base price of Rs 80 lakh, received a bid of Rs 192 crore. Chopra's javelin, which had a base price of Rs 1 crore, received a bid of Rs 1.5 crore.

The bid for Paralympics gold medalist Sumit Antil's javelin, which also started at Rs 1 crore

like Chopra's javelin, has gone up to Rs 1,00,07,000, as per the official auction website.

On the block are as many as 1,300 items. These include the t-shirt worn by paralympic shooter Avani Lakhara (with a base price of Rs 15 lakh), a stole bearing the signatures of Tokyo Olympic players (base price of Rs 90 lakh), the sabre used by fencer Bhavani Devi, the hockey sticks of the women's and men's Olympic teams, and an autographed racket which P.V. Sindhu used to win the bronze medal.

Besides sports gear and equipment Olympians and Paralympians, the memorabilia also include a replica of the

The report in Bangla stated: "Congress-ke baad diye aamra kokhoni BJP-birodhi bikolpo bolchhi na. Kintu Rahul Gandhi ekhono Narendra Modi-r bikolpo mukh hoye uthte parenni. Dasher bikolpo mukh Mamata Bandyopadhyay. Aamra bikolpo hishebe jono-netir mukh shaamne rekhe gota deshe prochar shuru korbo (We are never discussing an anti-BJP front without Congress. But Rahul Gandhi is yet to emerge as an alternative to Modi. Banerjee is the alternative face for the country, and we will start campaigning across the country by keeping the mass leader (Banerjee) as that alternative)".

**TMC appoints Arpita Ghosh state gen secy**

The Trinamool Congress Friday appointed its former Rajya Sabha MP Arpita Ghosh its state general secretary, two days after Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu accepted her resignation from the Upper House.

## Religion should not be used to create politics: UP minister

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
BALLIA, SEPTEMBER 17

UTTAR PRADESH Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya has stressed that religion is a matter of faith and should not be made a matter of politics.

Speaking with the media on the sidelines of BJP's 'Prabudh Varg Sammelan' here on Thursday, Maurya also said BJP has nothing to do with "abba-jaan, chacha-jaan and bhai-jaan".

"No God should be associated with politics. God is a matter of faith. All people have the freedom to believe in God according to their faith. The matter of faith should not be mixed with politics," he said.

Referring to recent statement of Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait terming AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi as "chacha-jaan", he said BJP is going to the people on the basis of its public welfare and development schemes. "Those who do not have anything are taking help of chacha-jaan and abba-jaan. BJP is not concerned with abba-jaan, chacha-jaan and bhai-jaan," he said.

Recently, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, apparently attacking the SP, had said people who say "abba-jaan" used to "digest" all ration items earlier.

## PUNJAB CONGRESS CRISIS

# 'Pressure' from MLAs: urgent CLP meet today

**MANOJ CGG**

**& KANCHAN VASDEV**  
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH,  
SEPTEMBER 17

STEPPING IN decisively in the face of "massive" pressure against Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh from a section of Congress MLAs in the state, the party high command on Friday night convened an urgent meeting of the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) on Saturday.

This comes two days after several MLAs wrote to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, making it clear that the government cannot move ahead in this fashion, a senior All India Congress Committee (AICC) leader told The Indian Express.

The letter, the party leader said, was very "strong in nature". He said, "There was strong pressure. We could not have ignored the letter."

Asked whether a change of guard was possible, the AICC leader did not rule it out and said, "We will have to wait and see what happens in the meeting."

A senior state Congress leader, however, asked, "Why else would such an emergency meeting be convened?"

At 11.39 pm Friday, AICC general secretary in charge of



**Cong Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat**

Punjab, Harish Rawat, tweeted: "The AICC has received a representation from a large number of MLAs...requesting to immediately convene a meeting of the Congress Legislative Party of Punjab. Accordingly, a meeting of CLP has been convened at 5:00 PM on 18th September at Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee office. AICC directs PPCC to facilitate this meeting."

He also posted that all Punjab Congress MLAs are "requested to kindly attend this meeting".

Soon after Rawat's tweet, state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu tweeted that a CLP meeting will be convened at 5 pm Saturday.

Sources said Congress leaders Ajay Maken and Harish Chaudhary would be the central party's observers at the CLP meeting; Rawat, too, would be present, it is learnt.

The Indian Express had on Thursday reported about the fresh rebellion brewing against Amarinder, and that several Congress MLAs have in a letter asked the party high command

to convene a CLP meeting to devise a strategy for the next Vidhan Sabha elections, due in less than six months.

The letter did not mention anything about the Chief Minister but stated that among other issues, the 18-point agenda set for the Amarinder Singh government needs to be discussed.

Sources in the Congress high command said that surveys, both internal and conducted through external agencies, show that Amarinder's popularity is on the wane but the central leadership is said to be in a dilemma over a change of guard.

In Punjab, the Congress camp was awaiting the announcement for the CLP meeting the entire day on Friday. Rawat had met Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Friday evening, and the decision to hold a CLP meet was taken during that meeting.

Four rebel Punjab ministers — Tripat Rajinder Singh Bajwa, Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Charanjeet Channi — are among the 40 MLAs who had signed the letter sent to Sonia on Wednesday. The four were part of the rebellion against Amarinder earlier as well. The fresh signature campaign was led by Bajwa and PPCC general secretary-in-charge Pargat Singh.

## Rajasthan amends marriage registration law, Opp says justifies child weddings

**HAMZAKHAN**  
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 17

AMID OPPOSITION by the BJP, the Rajasthan Assembly on Friday passed a Bill to amend a 2009 Act on mandatory registration of marriages, including child marriages.

The Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages (Amendment) Bill, 2021 amends the Rajasthan Compulsory Registration of Marriages Act, 2009.

Only the District Marriage Registration Officer (DMRO) was authorised to register the marriages, but the Bill passed on Friday now empowers the government to appoint Additional DMRO and Block DMRO to register marriages.

However, the Opposition raised an issue with the amendment of Section 8 of the 2009 Act. The amendment states that the parents or guardians of a bridegroom who is under 21 and a bride who is under 18, "shall be responsible to submit the memorandum, in such manner, as may be prescribed, within a period of 30 days from the date of solemnisation of the marriage to the Registrar."

The 2009 Act had stated the same, with the only difference being that the age mentioned was 21 years for both boys and girls.

The Opposition MLAs objected to the amendment, saying that it should be done away with.

Independent MLA Sanyam Lodha said that the Bill "justifies child marriage". "If you justify child marriages, this will send a wrong message before the nation. The Rajasthan Assembly will be humiliated before the entire nation." Considered close to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Lodha said that through his actions and life, Gehlot has helped form a progressive image of the government, so the Bill should not be passed.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria said that the state is formulating a law which is against the Child Marriage Act. "Back then too, you had used the same words as now...The only restriction is that their kin have to inform within 30 days."

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal said that the Bill "nowhere says that underage marriages will be legal". "Even if a marriage among underage children is held, its registration is mandatory. However, the Bill doesn't make the marriage legal and the District Collector can take action against them," Dhariwal said, adding that the Bill doesn't go against the Central Act either. He also said that in 2006, the Supreme Court had ruled that registering marriage is mandatory.

## Karnataka House passes Bill to form prison development board

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 17

KARNATAKA ASSEMBLY on Friday passed a Bill for creation of a prison development board to improve prisons in the state and introduce correctional programmes, including self-employment measures for prisoners.

The Bill introduced by state Home Minister Araga Jnanendra was passed amid criticism by a few members from opposition Congress and JDS of the proposed law being utopian in nature and removed from the harsh realities of prisons and prisoners in the state.

The legislation is necessary for "the constitution of the Karnataka Prison Development Board for strengthening of prisons and correctional administration, particularly correctional intervention, skill improvement, welfare of prisoners and prison staff and expanding prison in-

dustries", says the Bill.

Jnanendra said the constitution of the external board for the prison would enable the study of the living conditions of prisoners, correctional measures to allow prisoners to integrate into society after their jail terms, and provide job-oriented training in prisons.

Congress's Ramesh Kumar pointed out during discussions on the Bill that prisons were centres of corruption because prison staff tend to be paid poorly and they resort to treating prisoners more as clients who will pay them for providing various services.

Two other Bills introduced by the Home Minister — one to enable audio-video recordings of witnesses in trials in sessions courts and a second to allow usage of blood samples, DNA samples, voice samples and iris scan samples as identifications for prisoners apart from photos, fingerprints and footprints that are collected when a person is sent to prison — were also passed.

## Council passes delimitation Bill

*Bengaluru:* The Karnataka Legislative Council on Friday passed a Bill to create a commission to carry out delimitation and reservation exercises for constituencies in local bodies instead of the State Election Commission.

The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2021, for creating the Karnataka Panchayat Raj Delimitation Commission was passed amid a walkout by the Opposition Congress and JD(S). Both parties accused the BJP of attempting to postpone impending local body polls by passing this Bill.

The Bill says that it is necessary for the delimitation exercise of constituencies to be carried out by experts constituted under a special commission rather than the Karnataka SEC. **ENS**





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## DEBT WEIGHT

Bad bank will help clean up balance sheets, but credit culture must change for healthier financial system

ON THURSDAY, FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that the government had approved extending a guarantee of Rs 30,600 crore to the National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) — colloquially referred to as the bad bank — to help clear stressed loans worth Rs 2 lakh crore from the balance sheets of banks. As the buyer of these bad loans, NARCL, through its operational entity, India Debt Resolution Company, will be tasked with the resolution of these assets. This may perhaps lead to better outcomes as consolidating loans from multiple banks into a single entity may lead to a more effective, and timely resolution process.

Under this framework, Rs 90,000 crore of loans, which banks have fully provided for, will be transferred in the first phase. NARCL will purchase these loans in an 15:85 format — 15 per cent of the value will be paid in cash, while security receipts will be issued for the balance amount. The upfront cash payment will aid cash flows of banks. But the process of price discovery — the price at which NARCL buys these loans from the banks — might prove to be challenging even though the transaction involves the public sector as both buyer and seller. Banks though will have the freedom to sell the security receipts. From the perspective of investors, to the extent that the receipts are guaranteed by the government, their downside is protected. But to what extent a secondary market for such securities evolves is debatable. On its part, the government is pushing for a time-bound resolution of the assets by giving a five-year period for the invocation of the guarantee. But considering that these loans have been written down by banks, it is difficult to gauge what this will yield. The absence of buyers as reflected in the IBC process, the extent to which financial creditors have had to take haircuts on their admitted claims, all raise questions over the market appetite on both sides of the transaction. To be effective, the resolution process will need to be managed in a timely manner by capable personnel as delays will only lead to value destruction. Resolution is after all preferable to liquidation. From the government's perspective, the security receipts guaranteed by it are a contingent liability. If the proceeds from resolution of these bad loans exceed the guaranteed amount, then there will be no outflow from its side.

The creation of a bad bank could help clean up bank balance sheets — though in the absence of a successful resolution it may end up being a repository for bad loans. But it does not in any way address the underlying cause of the bad loan problem in India — the credit culture that exists at public sector banks. Only by reforming the banking system in India, especially the public sector banks, can the financial system be made more efficient.

## NEW HORIZONS

AUKUS sets a new course in Indo-Pacific, rattles China, buys more time for India to enhance maritime security

AUKUS, THE SECURITY partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States announced on September 16, is a landmark coalition for many reasons. For one, in the aftermath of the Afghan rout, it is a powerful signal from the US that it is still in the game as the most important world power, that it is not withdrawing into a domestic shell, and that the traditional Anglo-Saxon alliance that has fought several wars on the same side for over a hundred years, is in robust health. AUKUS joins the ANZUS and Five Eyes, two other security alliances in the Indo-Pacific. Two, with the agreement for the transfer of nuclear-powered submarines (different from nuclear-armed submarines) to Australia, this alliance, quite unlike the Quad, is a clearly stated security/military alliance in the Indo-Pacific. Three, like the Quad, AUKUS is aimed at protecting the partners' strategic interests in a region that spans two oceans and 38 countries, where China's ambitions and assertiveness are challenging the existing status quo. Four, it marks a new low in Australia-China relations, and the ripples of this will be felt across the region. China is Australia's biggest trading partner, with a two-way trade of nearly US \$200 billion, the largest buyer of its iron ore, natural gas and coal. And five, the US decision to transfer closely held military nuclear capability to Australia is not just expanding nuclear co-operation for strategic objectives, it is also a message to China that Washington could one day do the same for other countries in the region. Beijing is more rattled by AUKUS than by Quad.

For India, Australia's willingness to take on the role of the US/West's sword arm in the region — an American military base on Australian soil to maintain and service the submarines is now inevitable — is a welcome development as this is a move to contain China. As the only country in the Quad with a long, and recently turned hot land border with China, India now has a little less to worry about on the maritime front with AUKUS in play. It also buys Delhi more time to beef up the country's own naval capabilities.

France has rightly felt let down by Australia, at the altar, as it were, of signing a submarine deal. The deal was important for France's economy and its own considerable interests in the Indo-Pacific. Its foreign minister has described AUKUS as a stab in the back. But France can take consolation that the objectives of AUKUS are no different from its own. India, which has a supportive friend in France and a partner in Australia, is certain to avoid taking sides in this tiff. That is the best course.

## PERFECT STROKE

An unburdened Virat Kohli, Kohli the batsman at his absolute peak, is crucial to Team India's world conquest

IN HIS QUEST for batting liberation, Virat Kohli has renounced a part of his workload. Post the T20 World Cup in November, he would no longer lead his country in the shortest format. The decision, on the apparent, smacks of his dogged desire to become the batting colossus that he has been for a chunk of his glittering career. In the past couple of century-less years, his longest drought without a century, Kohli's batting prowess had diminished, not immensely but incrementally. Now that he's 33, on the brink of entering the final stretch of his career, he wants to be what he was and what he always wanted to be. The best batsman across formats, and he perhaps sees leadership duties as a hindrance to it.

But the puzzle, since he mentioned workload as the main contributor to his decision, remains whether quitting T20I captaincy would indeed reduce his burden. Had he quit the format altogether, shed white-ball captaincy, stepped down as captain of his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore, it would have strengthened the argument that he wants to give all he has to Test cricket in the coming years. As it is now, it's unlikely that his workload could be reduced considerably. For, after the World Cup, international T20 games would fizzle out of relevance, continue to be as inconsequential as it had been before, fixtures that are forgotten as soon as the match is over, until the next World Cup. Besides, it's the least frequently played format in a tour.

Be that as it may, if the decision would help him retrace the steps to his batting pinnacle, it could turn out to be a masterstroke. For, there could be as good leaders as Kohli, like Sharma, or K L Rahul in this format, or new leaders could be groomed, but there are few better batsmen than Kohli not just in his country but in the world. To launch the world conquest, India needed a liberated, unburdened Kohli, Kohli the batsman at his absolute peak.



MAHESH VYAS

INDIA'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE in August was 8.3 per cent. This was higher than the 7 per cent recorded in July. But it was better than the 9.2 per cent of June and 11.8 per cent of May 2021. The month-to-month variations notwithstanding, these are all very high unemployment rates.

In May 2019, when after much resistance, the government finally released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) results, most of the fracas pertained to the historically high unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent in 2017-18 (July to June). It was at a 45-year high. Till then, India was used to recording an unemployment rate of around 3 per cent. Today, an unemployment rate of 7-8 per cent seems to be the norm and such levels do not seem to matter. The unemployment rate is not an input into policymaking.

A high and rising unemployment rate is evidently not a potent political tool in India. Between inflation and unemployment, the two economic indicators conjoined theoretically by the Phillips curve, it is inflation that wields political power. Inflation hurts almost the entire population. Equally importantly, high inflation rates can upset financial markets that in turn exert pressure on regulators to keep inflation in control. The unemployment rate does not have such a constituency.

Unemployment directly impacts only the unemployed, who don't count much. A 7 per cent unemployment rate impacts less than 3 per cent of the population. Worse still, society perceives being unemployed as an individual shortcoming, and not an outcome of a macroeconomic malaise. The victim suffers the ignominy, not the system. The unemployed are seen as inadequately educated, awkward or not smart. Implicit in this thinking is the fallacious belief that if these people were to work harder and be sharper, they could all find jobs.

While unemployment cannot be a political tool, employment can be one, and this potential manifests in the form of demands for jobs reservations. The dearth of employment opportunities, of course, lends potency

# A job to do

Rising unemployment is yet to receive the attention it deserves from government

to reservations as a political tool. Lack of adequate jobs is an economic problem that merits more analytical and policy attention than the political attention it gets in India.

The unemployment rate is not the most important labour market indicator for a country like India. The unemployment rate is a measure of the economy's inability to provide jobs only for those who seek work. But, in India, very often people do not look for jobs in the belief that none are available. Technically, this shows up as a low labour force participation rate (LFPR). India's LFPR is at around 40 per cent when the global rate is close to 60 per cent. It is important that this belief in the futility of a job hunt is overcome by an explosive creation of new good quality formal jobs. Good quality formal jobs are so few that nothing short of explosive growth in their numbers will help overcome the current otiosity.

In a country of over a billion adults, there are less than 80 million salaried jobs. Where would the remaining 920 million go to find employment? More than half opt to not seek any work. The remaining are self-employed as farmers, daily-wage labourers and entrepreneurs of all kinds. For the farmer or the daily-wage labourer or the small entrepreneur, the status of being unemployed or opting not to seek work is dynamic and even fuzzy. When jobs start to become scarce, does the daily-wage labourer become unemployed or does she drop out of the labour force? This is a state of the mind that is a jumble of hope, effort and ennui. Seen from the lens of this often-blurred status, interpreting the unemployment rate is challenging. Employment can be real if we don't reduce its meaning into a laughably relaxed definition as the official system does. You are declared employed if you are engaged in some economic activity for just one hour in any of the past seven days.

A useful labour market metric for a country like India is the employment rate. This measures the proportion of the population over 14 years of age that is employed. We use

CMIE's definition of employment that requires a person to be employed for a better part of a day to qualify.

India's record in providing employment to its people has been abysmally poor. In 2016-17, only 42.8 per cent of the working age population was employed. This fell to 41.7 per cent in 2017-18 and further to 40.2 per cent in 2018-19, and then to 39.5 per cent in 2019-20. In the year of the pandemic, it fell to 36.5 per cent. It did not recover from this low level in the first five months of 2021-22.

The count of the employed was 408.9 million in 2019-20. In August 2021, employment was much lower at 397.8 million. India still provides 9.2 million jobs less than it provided before the pandemic. And, employment continues to fall. It fell by nearly 2 million from 399.7 million in July 2021. A reverse migration is underway. People are moving away from factories as manufacturing jobs shrink, to farms that provide shelter largely in the form of disguised unemployment. In August, even the farms could not absorb the excess labour spilling out from factories and offices. Labour moved to providing odd services to the household sector and into retail trade presumably as delivery boys.

With due respect to all forms of labour, it cannot be the desire of a nation to move people away from high productivity, better quality jobs in manufacturing to low productivity employment in agriculture or as gardeners or security guards in the household sector. Employment opportunities need to expand in areas where labour is deployed to deliver higher productivity for enterprise and higher returns to labour. This is not the direction we see.

A large part of the solution to this lack of adequate jobs is in increasing investments. For this, the investment climate needs to be business-friendly and government interventions must shift away from supply-side support to spurring demand.

The writer is Managing Director & CEO, Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

# BREAKING THE GLASS WALLS

Implicit biases keep women in STEM from fulfilling their potential



ANU RAGHUNATHAN

PICTURE A SCIENTIST, a documentary depicting the groundswell of women scientists working to further gender equity in STEM, is going viral. Its goal is to potentially act as a catalyst for reflection and discussion and foster diversity, equity, and inclusion in science. If there is inequity in science, a field that precludes bias and discrimination by design, we can only imagine the state of inequality in spaces where gender matters.

Gender equality is a moral, business and an intellectual imperative. It is undebatable and independent of profession or affiliation or gender. Gender equality benefits both men and women. Barriers for women must be knocked down at every level.

Feminism is the notion that each individual should be free to develop their own talents and not be held back by man-made barriers. Amongst the other hurdles in the way of women's empowerment are implicit bias and gender stereotypes. Stereotypes related to gender brilliance or gender-based intrinsic aptitude or domestic responsibilities are instances of implicit bias, revealing automatic associations that people cannot or, at least, do not report holding when asked directly. Implicit biases generate inequity which remains unnoticed.

Due to deep-rooted biases, it is difficult for women to access many experiences and networks that are easily accessible to men. Personal barriers include notions of compromise and sacrifice that are ingrained in women — another reflection of culture and society. This feeds into how women pres-

ent themselves and the opportunities they take advantage of and also shape the responsibilities they are entrusted with. External barriers relate to the subtle, and often unspoken, societal and cultural cues which reinforce how men and women "ought" to behave. Our socio-cultural constructs reflect absolute patriarchal entrenchment, causing even women to be sceptical about their abilities, to accept the roles set for them in the household and to trade empowerment for male protection.

There is gender segregation in high-level jobs with more men in strategic functions and women in support functions. These "glass walls" occur through a combination of unconscious biases in career and recruitment processes, benevolent sexism where well-intended men can inadvertently "kill careers with kindness", and socialised masculine behaviours which dissuade women from certain occupational choices. It is essential to create awareness of inherent injustice and biases. There has been a very gradual change in the representation and the status of women globally. Incremental changes, although realistic and necessary, are intangible and go partially unnoticed. The rate of change definitely needs to increase by several orders of magnitude.

The problem in India in STEM is quite different from the problem in the West in that many girls in India study STEM subjects but the number of women who stay on and pursue higher degrees and then go on to higher positions are fewer. In such

cases of gender disparity, what matter are the decisions of marriage and childbearing, and the fact that a woman's well-being and dignity are not necessarily in her hands. Gender sensitisation involves being cognisant of biological differences, recognising the needs of either sex and creating safe spaces without gender bias.

The issue of women's empowerment in India contains a strange paradox. There are women in powerful positions in many fields but, at the same time, several women have minimal rights. In the capital, New Delhi, and in the political realm, there have been many powerful women. However, the high rate of crimes against women, including murder, rape, and female infanticide, in the nation's capital shows that political power and intellectual presence are not transferred. Untangling this paradox and fostering equality requires overcoming social, economic and cultural barriers, and implicit biases at the grassroots.

There is thus a need for a major upheaval in mindsets about gender in India, a social and cultural change in what is perceived as right and wrong for women. Policies that help women advance in science and society globally are needed. The world cannot afford to miss out on what women have to offer.

The writer is senior principal scientist in the biological engineering unit of the chemical engineering and process development division, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune

## SEPTEMBER 18, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

### PM HITS BACK

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has said that while she agrees with the objectives of the trust floated by A R Antulay, she had told him to not use her name with it. She said that her government stood for the highest standards in public life. Replying to a 10-hour debate on the no-trust motion by the Opposition against her government, the Prime Minister who was in a aggressive mood, said that the frustrated leaders of the Opposition were trying to create despair amongst people. The House rejected the motion by 194 to 83 votes after a stormy and, at times, tumultuous discussion.

### RAO'S ASSURANCE

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER P V Narasimha Rao assured the MP's consultative committee for his ministry that the government was fully aware of the developments in India's neighbourhood. Several MPs had expressed concerns after Pakistan had reportedly expressed its willingness to provide military bases to the US. Rao said India's foreign policy was geared to meet the developments in the neighbourhood.

### SOS FROM FARMERS

THE ENERGY MINISTER has asked states

where the monsoon has been below normal to increase power availability to the farm sector so that the standing crop could be saved. Ghani Khan Chowdhury said he had received SOS from farmers in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Western UP.

### BLASTS IN LEBANON

A POWERFUL BOMB blast at the Palestine Liberation Organisation's headquarters in Sidon in Lebanon killed at least 20 people and left another 75 injured. Another blast wrecked a cement factory in the Lebanese port city of Chekka at almost the same time killing 10 employees and wounding 10.





# 9 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Assets and liabilities

GOI's asset monetisation plan might trip on low revenue potential and efficiency hurdles. It must address these issues



AMARTYA LAHIRI

THE GOVERNMENT OF India recently announced an asset monetisation plan, wherein existing public assets worth Rs 6 trillion would be monetised by leasing them out to private operators for fixed terms. The identified assets are primarily concentrated in roads, railways, power, oil and gas, and telecoms. The lease proceeds are expected to be used for new infrastructure investment which, in turn, will contribute to the government's ambitious Rs 111 trillion infrastructure investment plan.

The plan has generated a lot of print, so it is worth discussing its pros and cons. Though there are many important issues raised by the plan, due to space constraints, I will confine the discussion to two issues: (a) How much should the government expect to raise from the plan? (b) Is the plan likely to increase the efficiency of the economy?

In deciding the amount to bid for leasing rights, bidders compute the present discounted value of the annual cash flow from the asset for the duration of the lease. The biggest uncertainty in this calculation surrounds the cash flow on these public assets. Rates of return estimates on public capital in the US have been estimated to be upwards of 15 per cent. However, this is India with its myriad uncertainties regarding pricing, bill collection, asset quality, regulatory framework as well as policy reversals. Consequently, the risk-adjusted returns on public assets in India are likely to be lower than the US estimates.

To get a sense of the potential revenues at stake, note that with a 10 per cent annual real return for 30 years and a 5 per cent real discount rate, the discounted cash flow on Rs 6 trillion public assets is Rs 9.6 trillion. A desired cumulated 100 per cent profit over the 30 years would imply that investors would bid around Rs 4.8 trillion for the leasing rights. Small variations in the assumptions underlying the calculation can push the estimated revenue down to Rs 1.5 trillion or up to Rs 7 trillion.

This range of revenue estimates suggests that there is significant uncertainty regarding the revenue potential of the plan. But, crucially, even in the most optimistic scenario, revenue generated by the plan is unlikely to exceed 5 per cent of the government's overall infrastructure investment target of Rs 111 trillion. Hence, its revenue potential is limited.

The second question is whether the plan will enhance the efficiency of the economy. The NITI Aayog believes that the private sector is better at managing and operating the identified public assets than the public sector. There is certainly scope for efficiency gains. However, there are significant efficiency impediments too.

One set of efficiency issues surrounds usage fees. Can the lessee freely choose the price of the services from the asset? If so, could we end up seeing significant increases in prices?

A second factor related to efficiency is the

effect of the plan on competition. Could the plan induce the cartelisation of key segments of the infrastructure landscape? The identified assets belong to core sectors of the economy spanning transport, energy and communication. Sectors like telecoms and ports have already seen rising concentration of ownership in recent years. An acceleration and extension of this trend to other segments of the infrastructure landscape would be seriously worrying. While some of this could well be rationalised through the stipulation of rules for the allocation of leasing rights, the plan is silent on this.

A third set of efficiency-related issues surrounds the financing of the lease bids. If bidders finance their bids using domestic savings, there is a clear opportunity cost of the plan since these savings would otherwise have been invested in alternative projects. Moreover, the bidding for scarce domestic savings by prospective investors will also raise domestic interest rates which will put downward pressure on domestic private investment. It would also be worth reminding ourselves that the last round of PPP-based infrastructure funding routed through banks ended up with a heap of NPAs in public sector bank balance sheets.

The way around this is to welcome foreign investors to bid for the assets. But this will require serious political will since entrenching foreign influence on Indian public assets will generate controversy. On this aspect too, the announced plan is low on details.

More generally, the monetisation plan envisages the private sector paying an upfront fee to the government which the gov-

Perhaps the biggest drawback of the plan is that it fails to articulate the reasons for public sector inefficiency in asset management. If it is personnel-related, then privatising management may be the right answer. If the inefficiency is related to constraints on pricing and bill collection, then the roots of the problem are unlikely to be addressed by leasing out their management to private operators. The NITI Aayog would do the policy landscape a big service by following up the proposal with a white paper that addresses some of these efficiency-related issues. Without that, the monetisation plan, while intriguing, is incomplete.

ernment uses for new infrastructure investment. Inasmuch as private bidders finance themselves by borrowing, this amounts to the private sector borrowing and handing over the funds to the government to invest in infrastructure. This could enhance efficiency in infrastructure investment only if the government faces higher interest rates in capital markets than the private sector. But this is not true.

Perhaps the biggest drawback of the plan is that it fails to articulate the reasons for public sector inefficiency in asset management. If it is personnel-related, then privatising management may be the right answer. If the inefficiency is related to constraints on pricing and bill collection, then the roots of the problem are unlikely to be addressed by leasing out their management to private operators.

The plan document also fails to outline whether the identified brownfield assets are the public sector's highest cash flow assets or the relatively under-performing ones. If the private sector is indeed more efficient in running infrastructure assets, the most efficient strategy would be to lease out the worst-performing assets rather than the best performing ones.

The NITI Aayog would do the policy landscape a big service by following up the proposal with a white paper that addresses some of these efficiency-related issues. Without that, the monetisation plan, while intriguing, is incomplete.

The writer is Royal Bank research professor of economics, University of British Columbia

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“While many herald AUKUS as a momentous step, this is not a treaty but a statement of intent, with even the details of the submarine agreement 18 months away.”

—THE GUARDIAN

## The partisan state

A pattern of the government using law to target critics and minorities grows clearer by the day. Judiciary must intervene



DUSHYANT DAVE

THE SEARCHES conducted by income tax authorities on the premises linked to actor Sonu Sood and by the Enforcement Directorate on the premises linked to Harsh Mander compel me to write this piece.

I am clearly of the view that law must be enforced, but it must be enforced uniformly. I do not support violations of law by any citizen, whatever his social status. Citizens must obey the laws and when they breach them, the state has the right to initiate action against them. So far so good. But a pattern emerging over the last seven years shows that only a section of citizens is being acted against by the state. They belong to the Opposition and the minority community, or are activists, dissenters and the likes. It is not being suggested that they should be spared if they have violated the laws.

But the pattern reveals that the state is merely interested in targeting them without credible evidence and giving wide publicity to its actions, unconcerned with ultimate results. Over the years, a large number of such persons have been found to be innocent by the competent courts. But at what cost? These innocent citizens have spent long periods in prison, have suffered mentally, socially, economically and their dignities have been taken away. The sole purpose in targeting a select group of citizens appears to be to name and shame them.

A section of the media which is eager to damn these citizens as anti-national, corrupt and terrorists rarely covers the eventual honourable discharge of these citizens. The state ends up achieving its objective of creating fear and punishing innocents to prevent them from challenging the state.

The media coverage of the Nizamuddin Markaz events is a classic example of the entire minority community being vilified by a section of the media. Thousands of innocent citizens ended up spending months in jails and the cases against them drag on, while thousands responsible for spreading Covid during elections, or the Kumbh Mela and other events have not even been proceeded against. Thousands of innocents have been arrested in connection with the anti-CAA-NRC protests, while those who openly encouraged violence, resulting in the deaths of innocents, have not been acted against.

The recent decisions by courageous judges of subordinate courts and the high courts have exposed these illegalities in state actions. This does not augur well for a democracy like India.

“Rule of law” is the basic rule of governance of any civilised state. The Constitution of India is founded on the rule of law. “Be you may howsoever high, the law is always above you” is a principle that the Supreme Court has affirmatively laid down.

Every state has a constitutional obligation to protect the life and liberty of its citizens. There cannot be any deviation from this because of extraneous factors like caste, creed, religion, political belief and ideology. The constitutional principle of equality is concerned not merely with the law but its enforcement and application. A rule of law can only be said to have been achieved when laws are applied equally, free of any bias and without irrational considerations.

When “a section of the society” is being acted against by the state in this manner, it leaves the citizens completely vulnerable. Justice eludes them. Even a day's wrongful confinement or even an embarrassing search or raid against them violates constitutional guarantees and takes away their life and liberty in one manner or the other.

For ensuring supremacy of the rule of law, the Constitution has assigned a special task to the judiciary. It is only through courts that rule of law unfolds its content and establishes its concept.

Yet, the state is unstoppable. Because the courts, which are enjoined by the Constitution to ensure compliance of the rule of law, are not acting as authoritatively as the Constitution mandates. Or are acting too slow or too late. As a result, a “fear psychosis” is allowed to prevail in the country to prevent citizens from raising their voices and standing up against illegal, arbitrary and unjust laws or actions or inactions by the government. The few who do muster courage to stand up and speak, the state preys on them. The judiciary must intervene with strong and far-reaching judgments to stop this trend.

To fight terrorism which has no religion, it is not necessary to malign a community. The investigating agencies and the police are quick to identify the religion of the persons acted against and routinely leak information to select media to enable them to amplify the same. Resultantly, an impression is being created that the law-breakers in this country belong only to a certain section of the society.

Ambedkar had warned, “To diehards who have developed a kind of fanaticism against minority protection I would like to say two things. One is that minorities are an explosive force which, if it erupts, can blow up the whole fabric of the State... The other is that the minorities in India have agreed to place their existence in the hands of the majority... They have loyally accepted the rule of the majority, which is basically a communal majority and not a political majority.”

Equally, Sardar Patel had noted: “It is for us who happen to be in a majority to think about what the minorities feel, and how we in their position would feel if we are treated in the manner they are treated.”

The Supreme Court must remind the state to act constitutionally, lawfully and justly in every case across the country, especially in sensitive matters involving those who oppose the party in office with peaceful means.

Let us hope that the state realises its duties and obligations to the Constitution and let us hope and pray that the Supreme Court reminds them sternly in times to come.

The author is a senior advocate at Supreme Court

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### EASE OF BUSINESS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, “Taking the call” (IE, September 17). The government's belated endeavour to bring the troubled telecom sector out of the ICU is a welcome step. The question is: Can it indeed be a magic wand? Vodafone-Idea and Airtel have almost reached a point of no return. In the majority of sectors, small players are being gobbled up, resulting in a monopoly/duopoly. The government ought to introspect why it is not able to inspire confidence amongst extant and potential players. Business friendly measures ought to go hand in hand with being even-handed. This shall beget the creativity and novelty needed for enterprise.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

### No to NEET

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, “The wrong answer” (IE, September 17). The Bill introduced by Tamil Nadu opposing NEET is in conformity with the democratic principles of the legislature fulfilling the people's mandate. The determination of standards in the institutions of higher education is one thing, but blocking the entry of poor people by prescribing an exam which has not been hitherto held is another. Through the NEET exam, the state governments have been denuded of their power.

SS Paul, Nadia

### CASTE AND RAPE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial “Hathras, a year on” (IE, September 16). The gang-rapes perpetrated in Bhagana (Haryana), Badaun and Hathras (Uttar Pradesh), Khairlanji (Maharashtra) and many more, are a testimony to how caste adds to persecution of women. At least 10 Dalit

women are raped every day, and their vulnerability to rape has increased by 44 per cent in the last 10 years (NCRB 2020 data). Rape is used as an instrument to “discipline” communities who dare transgress the socially-ordained caste stipulations. The situation is exacerbated by a prejudiced criminal justice machinery. The government has made the punishment for rape more stringent, however it is not the severity, but the certainty with which it is executed, which determines the efficacy of any law.

Vinay Saroha, Delhi

### RURAL DISTRESS

THIS REFERS TO the article, “Democracy of producers” (IE, September 16). As per the World Bank's data, India's Gini Index was 35.7 in 2011. There isn't much change even now. This indicates that income inequality in India is an issue to be addressed forthwith. The index can be improved only by alleviating the income distress of the rural population. Economic packages won't do much here. Skill-based training programmes, entrepreneurship development, building incubation centres should be undertaken by the government to uplift the poor.

Melvin Thomas, Bhopal

### SEXIST ATTITUDE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial “League of men” (IE, September 16). The IUML leaders' recent response to the harassment complaint made by the leaders of the women's wing of its student outfit is highly deplorable. This kind of discriminatory approach is responsible for the women's reservation Bill remaining stuck despite best efforts.

Ravi Mathur, Noida



G KISHAN REDDY

LAST MONTH, a day before India celebrated its 75th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that August 14 would henceforth be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. While making the announcement, the Prime Minister stated that the pains of Partition could never be forgotten and the day should remind us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions and disharmony and strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment.

The Prime Minister's decision to commemorate the horrors of Partition has a larger message — that the inconvenient truths of history cannot be brushed under the carpet because of the perceived discomfort of a particular community. In fact, if the wounds of the past need to heal, one needs to engage in an open and honest conversation. In such cases, sunlight is the best disinfectant for complete reconciliation.

Given this background, one needs to look again at an event of history that occurred on September 17, 1948, but which hardly finds mention in our books. While India got her independence from British rule on August 15, 1947, and large swathes of the country joyously celebrated as the national flag was unfurled, not everyone was so fortunate. The erstwhile state of Hyderabad, which was under the autocratic rule of Nizam Mir Osman Ali Khan, had to wait an additional 13 months

## An inconvenient truth

Telangana must acknowledge sacrifices made during Hyderabad's liberation

before it could achieve freedom. The liberation of Hyderabad required the political nous of India's first home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and the tactical brilliance of J N Chaudhuri. It was the resultant “police action” through Operation Polo that secured the liberation of Hyderabad state.

Why is it, then, that when parts of Maharashtra and Karnataka celebrate this day as Marathwada Mukti Sangram Diwas and Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day, respectively, all we get is an eerie silence from the Telangana government? In the case of Maharashtra, only the Marathwada region was under the Nizam and in Karnataka the north-eastern districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi and Raichur were part of the erstwhile Hyderabad state. On the other hand, all of present-day Telangana came under the Nizam. While leaders such as Swami Ramanand Tirtha, P H Patwardhan, Govindbhai Shroff, and Vijayendra Kabra are celebrated by other states, Telangana refuses to acknowledge the heroics and sacrifices of leaders such as Komaram Bheem, Shobullah Khan, “Vande Mataram” Ramachandra Rao, Narayan Rao Pawar and Chakali Iamma.

This downright refusal to acknowledge the past is steeped in the inexplicable logic of communal appeasement. The state government is protecting its ally, the Majlis-e-Itehadul Muslimin (MIM), and its inglorious past. The MIM's leader at the time of

India's independence, Qasim Rizvi, believed in establishing Hyderabad Deccan as an independent nation and supported the Nizam by providing about 1,50,000 MIM volunteers to augment the Nizam's regular army of 24,000. These became the Razakars who would later unleash carnage in the princely state. The Razakars were instrumental in executing the Nizam's orders to establish an exploitative regime and to suppress the people of Telangana. They plundered and raided villages and killed those who protested against the tyrannical rule of the Nizam.

The MIM fears that the commemoration of Telangana Liberation Day would bring to everybody's notice their ideological roots and their ghastly actions. In an attempt to hide this treacherous past, the MIM is equating the September 17 celebrations with insulting the Nizam and, by extension, angering the Muslim community. This appeasement streak is so strong that the state government forgets the contributions of journalists, such as Shobullah Khan. After working in an editorial capacity at the Urdu weekly *Taj* and the daily *Rayyat*, Khan founded a daily, *Imroze*, that wholeheartedly supported the merger of Hyderabad with the Indian Union. On August 22, 1948, he was killed by Razakars on his way home from Chappal Bazaar. Ordinary Indians were at the forefront of the agitation and were killed for advocating a merger with India. By

not celebrating this historic day, we would be turning a blind eye to the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who fought so that they could see their land be integrated with the Indian Union.

Burying our history, especially inconvenient truths such as the struggle for the liberation of Hyderabad, is nothing but a perverted form of appeasement that will neither serve a purpose nor benefit anyone. In the 75th year of India's independence, a large number of ordinary citizens are participating in various programmes being organised under the 75-week long Azadi Ka Amrit Mahostav. The Mahotsav is also identifying unsung heroes of movements such as the liberation of Hyderabad to give them the recognition they truly deserve. Like the governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra, the Telangana government must also acknowledge the sacrifices made and observe September 17 as Telangana Liberation Day by setting up a memorial honouring the brave who fought for the region's liberation. This will ensure that the present and future generations know the contributions and sacrifices that our forefathers made for our today.

The writer is the Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and Development of Northeastern Region and represents the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency



New Delhi





**TELANGANA FOODS**  
IDA, NACHARAM - HYDERABAD-500076. Ph: 27152207, 08 & 09  
Tender Notification No. TF/GG/Tender/365/Raw Materials/ 2021-22, Dt. 17-09-2021  
Telangana Foods invites Tenders for procurement of S-30 Grade Sugar, Bengal gram Dali and Skimmed milk Powder. For details please visit website: <https://tender.eprocurement.gov.in> and website: <https://foods.telangana.gov.in> from 18-09-2021 at 11.00AM onwards. Bids submission closing date is 01-10-2021 at 12.00 PM.  
R.O. No.: 2156-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22  
Sd/- Managing Director

**PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033814  
CE/P&M, PSTCL, Ludhiana. Tel. No. 0161-2457704,  
E-mail: ce-pm@pstcl.org  
**NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER**  
Tender Enquiry No. 131/2021-22  
For Procurement of 5400 KG Silica Gel blue for Oil Conservator Tank of Power Transformers 1. Last date & time for downloading of tender-14/10/2021 upto 03.00 PM. 2. Last date & time for submission of tender- 14/10/2021 at 03.00 PM. 3. Date & Time for opening of tender 19.10.2021 at 03.00 PM.  
Detailed NIT/specification may be downloaded from Punjab Govt. e-tendering website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app>. Corrigendum, if any will not be published in newspaper. As such the website may be visited regularly for updates.  
8007/Pb  
Sr. Xen/Procurement Ludhiana

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office.: PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala  
CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
(Contact Number. 96461-47777)  
SHORT TERM OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY No TSQ-1123/TD-III Dated, 16.09.2021  
SE/TL (Design) B-1 Shakti Vihar Patiala invites E-tenders for Design, manufacturing Supply, Testing, Laying & Commissioning of 66 KV single core XLPE (Copper)U/G Cable along with accessories on Turnkey Basis for the works of packages A as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1123/TD-III/2021-22.  
For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications, please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 17.09.2021 from 02.00 hrs onwards.  
Note:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
C-337/21 7971/Pb

**UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY**  
General Public is hereby informed that one person **Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown** was found dead at Footpath of MCD Office, Katra Neel, Chandni Chowk, Delhi on **08.09.2021** in the area of P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The body has been preserved in Sabzi Mandi Hospital's Mortuary, Delhi for 72 hours. In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 62A, dated 08.09.2021** at P.S. Kotwali, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:**35 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Sky blue colour shirt and grey colour jeans. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.  
SHO  
PS. Kotwali, Delhi  
DP/1511/N/2021 Ph.: 011-23977100, 8750870121

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**E TENDER NOTICE CORRIGENDUM NOTICE-1**  
No. BPL/NC/Tender/21-22/ Infringement Removal/  
MAKR-Golapatty/04 Date: 14/09/2021  
Due to administrative reason, following amendments are made in e-Tender Notice No BPL/NC/Tender/21-22/ Infringement Removal/MAKR-Golapatty/04 Date: 31/08/2021 to be opened on 23-09-2021. **Particulars** - Description of Schedule item No.55, **Existing description of item unloaded in the schedule** - Excavation of trench as per cable route plan. 1 mtr deep. 300 mm wide at the bottom along main line in hard soil/murum. This work includes covering of cable/duct laid in trenches by loose soil for a layer of 50 mm thickness approximately before covering by Shahabad stone/bricks, clearing of route, bushes etc and refilling of the trench by excavated soil and ramming after laying of the required quantity of cables/duct as per instructions of Engineer at site. If it is not possible to reach the required depth at any location, then the contractor shall obtain prior approval of Engineer-in-charge before commencement of cable laying process and only then shall the proportionate payment be made to the contractor. **Revised description of item shall he read as** - Excavation of trench as per cable route plan. 1.2 mtr deep. 300 mm wide at the bottom along main line in normal soil. This work includes covering of cable/duct laid in trenches by loose soil for a layer of 50 mm thickness approximately before covering by shahabad stone/bricks in station limits, clearing of route, bushes etc and refilling of the trench by excavated soil and ramming after laying of the required quantity of cables/duct as per instructions of Engineer at site. If it is not possible to reach the required depth at any location, then the contractor shall obtain prior approval of Engineer-in-charge before commencement of cable laying process and only then shall the proportionate payment be made to the contractor. **All other terms & Conditions remain unchanged**. - The corrigendum-1 to E- Tender notice can be viewed at Railway web site <https://www.ireps.gov.in>.  
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer(Construction)WCR, BHOPAL  
वैक्कीन लामवार, जीवन के सफर को सुखित बनायें।

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN**  
**NOTICE INVITING BID FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES**  
Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) DIVISION RAMBAN invites on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of J&K (UT) online offers in Two bid system (i.e. Technical bid & Financial bid) from the eligible and reputed Architectural/EngineeringConsultancyfirmsforthe followingwork:-  
NIT/RFP No. Fresh E-NIT No.38 of 2021-22 dated 14-09-2021  
Name of work Providing Comprehensive Consultancy Services for Establishment of 50 bedded Trauma Center level-I at Batote (Ramban) -J&K  
Total Cost for Comprehensive consultancy services Rs 1.00 Crores approx.  
Bid Documents Bid documents can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
Cost of Tender Document Rs. 5000.00  
EMD Bid Security Declaration to be made by the bidder in the shape of notarized sworn statement on the prescribed format.  
Total Estimated Cost of the Project Rs. 50.00 Crores approx.  
Time allowed for completion of consultancy work (4 Months for planning, preparation of architectural & structure drawings, bid process, management including invitation of bids and finalization of contract; 30 months for construction and 12 Months for defect liability period)  
Date of publishing of Tender Notice 14-09-2021  
Period of downloading of bid documents From 15-09-2021 10.00 A.M to 27-09-2021 4.00 P.M  
Bid submission Start Date/Time From 15-09-2021 10.00 A.M to 27-09-2021 4.00 P.M  
Bid Submission End Date/Time 27-09-2021 4.00 P.M  
Date/Time/Venue of pre Bid Conference 20-09-2021 11.00 A.M  
Date of opening of Technical Bid 28-09-2021 12.00 Noon in the office of the Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Dept. Jammu  
Validity of Bid 120  
Date and time of opening of financial Bids of technically qualified bidders To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed  
Bidders may obtain further information in respect of this RFP document from the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division RAMBAN and during the pre bid conference to be held as mentioned above.  
All Bidders are hereby cautioned that Bids containing any material deviation or reservation as described in "Instructions to Bidders" shall be considered as non-responsive and shall be summarily rejected. Department reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without assigning any reasons. No Bidder shall have any cause of action or claim against Department for rejection of their Bid.  
Sd/-  
Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Ramban.  
No.: 10556-78  
Dated:-14-09-2021  
DIPJ-6705

## 2 killed in Jharkhand lightning strike

Medinagar: Two farmers were killed and seven others injured in lightning strike in Jharkhand's Palamu district on Friday, police said. Those injured are receiving treatment, they said. PTI

**HARYANA SHEHRI VIKAS PRADHIKARAN**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
The E-Auction of Commercial properties of Sector-21 (Kathmandi). Rohtak which was earlier scheduled to be held on 17.09.2021 has been postponed to 25.09.2021.  
The last date of submission of EMD will be 23.09.2021 upto 23:59.  
Chief Administrator,  
HSVP, Panchkula  
4784/HRY

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)**  
NIT No. 221-SI/42/AMC/HRD-Holmatro/SPARMV/DL(2021)/ML-IV  
Name of work and its location "Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hydraulic Rescue Devices one Set (as per scope of work) (HRD : Make : Holmatro : Netherlands) of Accident Relief Train at Delhi for the period of Five years from the date of execution of work"  
Approx Cost of work Rs. 22,40,000/- (Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Six Hundred only) plus GST as applicable  
Eligibility Criteria OEM or authorized dealer / agent of M/s. Holmatro/Netherlands  
Completion period of work Five year i.e. 60 months from the date of execution of work  
Cost of tender document on cash/ly post Nil--  
Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 11:00 hrs on 11.10.2021 Opening of Tender at 11:00hrs  
Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)  
No. 221-SI/42/AMC/HRD-Holmatro/SPARMV/DL(2021)/ML-IV Dated : 16.09.2021 2086/2021  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**UJVNL Limited**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephone: 0135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508  
CIN No.U40101UR2001SC025866  
Website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
पत्रांक: 681 रिकान: 16.09.2021  
**Tender Notice**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, (M&G) Pathri Power House, Bahadradab, Hardwar invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:-  
Tender No.: 15/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Repairing of Rail Track Line of Trash Rack Cleaning Machine & Debris Trolley Line.  
Tender No.: 16/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Repairing & Painting of Draft Tube Gantry Crane, Cooling Water Overhead Tank & water pipelines of Pump House.  
Tender No.: 17/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Safety Audit of various equipment & T&P.  
Tender No.: 18/EE(Pathri)/2021-22 - Cleaning of cable trenches & electrical panels and other miscellaneous works.  
Estimated Cost: Rs. 774,302/- (GST extra), Rs. 1,17,710/- (GST extra), Rs. 1,04,000/- (GST extra) & Rs. 1,90,000/- (GST extra) respectively.  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 17.09.2021  
Last date for submission of tender: 08.10.2021, up to 16:00 Hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvnl.com"  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (M&G)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**HSI IDC**  
**Extension Notice**  
**e-Auction of Truck & Car Parking Sites in Sector-3, IMT Manesar**  
Reference captioned advertisement & extension notice published in this newspaper inviting applications for bidding through e-Auction. It is hereby informed that the Corporation has decided to extend the last date of registration/deposit of EMD and e-Auction.  
Tentative schedule is as under:  
Last Date of Registration & Deposit of EMD 12.10.2021 (upto 23:59 hrs.)  
Date of e-Auction 21.10.2021 (7:00 am to 11:00 am)  
All other terms and conditions of the earlier advertised scheme shall remain unchanged.  
**Haryana State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.**  
Regd. Office: C-13 & 14, Sector-6, Panchkula, Ph. 0172-2590481-83; Fax: 2590474, E-mail: [contactus@hsidc.org.in](mailto:contactus@hsidc.org.in), Website: [hsidc.org.in](http://hsidc.org.in)  
Delhi Office: C-8, Babu Khara Singh Marg, Ph. 011-23347680-82  
Manesar Office: HSI IDC, IMT, Ph. 0124-2291351  
CIN: U29199HR19675G034545 | /mdhsidc

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Land measuring 5809.77 Sq.ft, situated on SLR Sy. No.11/1/2, known as Plot No:2, Chanan Singh Park, Delhi Cantt is held on lease in Schedule VIII of CLA Rules, 1937 by Sh. Sh.C.R Chaudhary, Raman Chaudhary, S.R Chaudhary and Smt. Vimla Chaudhary. The third and last term of the lese is subsisting till 31.01.2037.  
Recorded lessee Sh. S.R Chaudhary vide his letter dated 15.07.2019, informed this office that recorded lessee, Sh. C.R Chaudhary had sold his share of Property to his daughter Ms. Roopal Chaudhary vide Sale deed dated 30.07.2004. He also informed that his daughter Ms. Roopal Chaudhary had died unmarried on 10.09.2005 accordingly, her share devolves to her mother Smt. Vimla Chaudhary and requested for mutation in favour of Smt. Vimla Chaudhary in place of C.R Chaudhary.  
Therefore, on the basis requisite documents submitted by the applicant viz. Sale deed dated 30.07.2004, executed between Sh. C.R Chaudhary and Ms. Roopal Chaudhary, Death Certificate of Ms. Roopal Chaudhary and the legal opinion rendered by Sh. Subhash Bansal, Govt. Counsel, Delhi High Court, the name of Smt. Vimla Chaudhary W/o Sh. Sonu Ram Chaudhary has been entered in the G.L.R in place of Late Sh. C.R Chaudhary.  
Any person claiming to have any right or interest in the above property, having any objections to the above mutation may file his written objections to the undersigned along with documents within 15 days from publication of this notice. The objections received after the expiry of 15 days from the publication of this notice, will not be entertained.  
(Vinil B. Lote)  
No.03/306/Plot No. 2A &2B/ Defence Estates Officer  
Dated 15 Sep, 2021 Delhi Circle, Delhi Cant

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, Bashyam Park, South Central Street, Bengaluru-560020  
No.: EE(GNR)/E-Proc/004/2021-22 Date: 17.09.2021  
**INVITATION FOR TENDER**  
**Two Cover System (KW-4) (Shot Term Tender Notification) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)**  
The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BBMP invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.  
Sl. No. Name of the Work EMD (Rs. in Lakh)  
1 Comprehensive development of Roads, Drains, Pedestrian path, culverts and other developmental works in Ward - 94, 95 and 120. 15.71  
**Calendar of Events:** (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka from **30.09.2021** (2) Prebid meeting will be held on **04.10.2021 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Office of the Chief Engineer (West). (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m. on 07.10.2021** and the opening of the tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. (4) Technical bids will be opened on the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> in the Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division on **11.10.2021 at 12:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>  
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Gandhinagar) Division, BBMP  
**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**  
 Wear Mask 5 Feet Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

### PLEA AGAINST DECISION TO CLOSE DAIRY FARMS, DROP MEAT FROM MIDDAY MEAL

# In boost to Lakshadweep admin, HC rejects PIL against reforms

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 17

A DIVISION bench of Kerala High Court on Friday rejected a PIL challenging the decision of the Lakshadweep administration to close down dairy farms and drop meat from the menu of mid-day meals for school students, giving a boost to reforms being pushed by the Administrator of the Union Territory, Praful K Patel.  
A slew of reforms that have been proposed and, in some cases introduced, in Lakshadweep since January this year, had created a furore in the islands as well as in mainland Kerala.  
In June this year, acting on the PIL moved by a resident of the islands, Ajmal Ahamed, the High Court had temporarily stayed two orders of the administration: one pertaining to the closure of dairy farms; the other on the change in the menu of mid-day meals in schools. The court lifted the interim stay after the administration filed a counter-affidavit, asking that the PIL be rejected.  
Senior standing counsel for

the Lakshadweep administration, S Manu, said in the counter-affidavit that the administration had been incurring a loss of Rs 1 crore annually on account of running the dairy farms. The daily production of milk is only 170 litres on the Kavaratti and Minicoy islands, and caters to only 300-odd customers among the around 20,000 population of the two islands, he said.  
Regarding the menu of the mid-day meal, the administration said instead of meat, other nutritious items, including fruits, have been added to the menu. The government has every right to make the menu vegetarian, if required, as long as it met the stipulated nutritional requirements, he said.  
Counsel for the administration produced the vegetarian menu of West Bengal, Goa, Puducherry, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.  
The petition had wanted that the Administrator should desist from implementing any reforms "infringing the ethnic culture, heritage, food habit and affecting the serene and calm atmosphere in the Lakshadweep Islands and also infringing the constitutional right guaranteed under Article 19 and 300A of the Constitution of India".

## 14 injured in Mumbai flyover accident

Mumbai: Fourteen workers were injured after a girder span – weighing over 250 metric tonne – of an under-construction flyover tilted and collapsed while work was on at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) early Friday. The flyover is part of the Santacruz Chembur Link Road (SCLR) extension project. ENS

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कार्पोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना अनुभवी फर्मों/ ठेकेदार/ कार्यदायी संस्थाओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल मेरठ के अंतर्गत निम्न कार्यों/ आपूर्ति हेतु मोहर बन्द ई-निविदाये ई-पोर्टल (www.etender.up.nic.in) पर दो भागों में आमंत्रित की जाती है। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क जमा करने तथा अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के संबंध में [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर लॉग आन करें। निविदा का विवरण निम्न प्रकार है:- ई-निविदा संख्या, कार्य का विवरण, निविदा के प्रथम भाग खुलने की दिनांक, धरोहर राशि एवं निविदा का मूल्य (कर सहित) को क्रम में पढ़ा जाये। 1. टी-44/21-22 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र खेकड़ा (बागपत) के वार्षिक आधार पर परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 30.09.2021, रु. 15,500.00/- रु. 1770.00/-, 2. टी-45/21-22 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र निरगुडा के वार्षिक आधार पर परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 30.09.2021, रु. 21,500.00/- रु. 1770.00/-, 3. टी-46/21-22 (अल्पकालिक):- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र परतापुर के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 30.09.2021, रु. 8,000.00/- रु. 1180.00/-, 4. टी-47/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड द्वितीय मेरठ के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र रामराज के वार्षिक आधार पर परिचालन एवं अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 18,000.00/- रु. 1770.00/-, 5. टी-48/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड बड़ौत के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बागपत के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 9,000.00/- रु. 1180.00/-, 6. टी-49/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र मोदीपुरम के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 17,500.00/- रु. 1770.00/-, 7. टी-50/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कंकरखेड़ा के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 7,500.00/- रु. 1180.00/-, 8. टी-51/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र लोहियानगर (हापुड़ रोड) के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण से संबंधित कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 7,500.00/- रु. 1180.00/-, 9. टी-52/21-22 :- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड मेरठ के अंतर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र नंगली-किठौर के वार्षिक आधार पर अनुरक्षण का कार्य। दिनांक 20.10.2021, रु. 7,500.00/- रु. 1180.00/-, अधीक्षण अभियंता, विद्युत पारेषण मण्डल, 130-डी, "पारेषण भवन" विकटोरीया पार्क, मेरठ। "राष्ट्र हित में ऊर्जा बचाये"। पत्रांक 2536/वि.पा.मं./मेरठ/ दिनांक 17.09.21

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) SPL. SUB-DIVISION GANDOH**  
**SHORT-NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
**e-NIT No. 20 of 2021-22 Dated 15.09.2021**  
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders are invited on item rates basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Union Territory, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work.  
S. No. Name of the work Est. Cost (Rs in lacs) Cost of documents in shape of Try receipt EMD / Bid Security Time of completion Time & date of opening of tender (Tech. Bid) Class of contractor  
1 Construction of road from chabutra Bridge to Sports Stadium Khajie via Madrassa Fizan-e-Bilalaya Thiloran Km 1st RD(0-250) by way of Earth work, cutting, and, construction of 15mtr Span Motorable Bridge 89.98 1000 Bid Security Declaration to be made by the bidder in the shape of notarized sworn statement on the prescribed format 02 months 28.09.2021 "A"  
Position of Funds :- Available  
M.H.-: Accorded  
State Sector Projectionization  
1. The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) as per below schedule:  
1. Date of publishing of Tender Notice 15.09.2021  
2. Period of downloading of bidding documents From 16.09.2021 0900 Hrs to 27.09.2021, 1800 Hrs  
4. Bid submission Start Date 16.09.2021 0900 Hrs  
5. Bid Submission End Date 27.09.2021, 1800 Hrs  
7. Date & time of opening of Technical Bids 28.09.2021 at 1100 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Spl. Sub- Division Gandoh  
8. Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online) To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed  
No:- 224-28  
Dated:- 15.07.2021 DIPJ-6811  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Spl. Sub-Division, Gandoh

# Uddhav’s ‘future colleague’ remark for Union minister triggers buzz

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray on Friday sparked a fresh round of speculation about a Shiv Sena-BJP reunion after he referred to Union minister of state Raosaheb Danve of the BJP as a potential "future colleague" during an event in Aurangabad.

Speaking at a function, Thackeray referred to dignitaries seated on the dais, including MoS (Railways) Danve as "my former, current, and if we come together, my future colleague". He then looked back to where Danve and another Union minister of state, Bhagawat Karad, were seated. Maharashtra minister and Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat and Shiv Sena minister Subhash Desai, along with other ministers and MVA leaders, were also present.

Thackeray later told the media that "time



Uddhav Thackeray, Raosaheb Danve

will tell" what he meant by "future colleagues". "BJP's Chandrakant Patil and Raosaheb Danve may join the Sena. So, CM's indicative statement is important," said Jayant Patil, irrigation minister and NCP state president.

Opposition leader Devendra Fadnavis said that anything is possible in politics but there is no possibility of a Sena-BJP alliance at this juncture. He described Thackeray's statement as an indication of his "disillusionment" with the MVA alliance.

## Bommaï govt rolls back hoardings move made on last day of BSY tenure

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 17

AMID OPPOSITION from civic groups and within the BJP, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has rolled back the decision to allow advertisement hoardings in Bengaluru -- a notification to permit the same was reportedly issued on July 26 when his predecessor B S Yediyurappa resigned as the CM.

The notification titled Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Advertisement Rules, 2021, essentially allowed the return of advertisement hoardings in the city despite the city council deciding on imposing a moratorium on hoardings in 2018. The rules for hoardings had been framed in 2019 by the BBMP but were put in cold storage by the state due to opposition from citizens who had approached the Karnataka High Court against the move.

The move by the administration under Basavaraj Bommai to overturn a decision taken barely 45 days earlier by his predecessor has reportedly come after BJP leaders raised concerns that the rules had been notified at the instance of the city hoardings lobby and favored the lobby.

"The notification issued on the last day of the tenure of the former CM has raised a lot of suspicion with regard to its intent since there has been a curb on hoardings," sources in the BJP said.

Citizen activist Sai Datta, who has been campaigning against hoardings in Bengaluru, had approached the high court, which then issued notices to the BBMP and the state government on September 1.

The petitioner questioned the notification when rules governing outdoor advertising and signages were already issued in September 2019 under the Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Outdoor Signage and Public Messaging Bylaws, 2018. The petitioner pointed out that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Advertisement Rules, 2019 drafted in July 2019, were formally notified on July 26 when Yediyurappa resigned as CM.

The July 26 decision, in the absence of an elected city council, has also been criticised by civic groups and BJP leaders.

## Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in financial stress, admin panel tells SC

New Delhi: Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala is in great financial stress and the offerings are not sufficient to meet the expenses, its Administrative Committee told the Supreme Court on Friday while seeking an audit of the temple-related trust run by the Travancore royal family.

All temples in Kerala are closed and while this temple's monthly expenses are Rs 1.25 crore, "we are able to hardly get Rs 60-70 lakh. Therefore, we have sought certain directions", senior advocate R Basant, appearing for the committee, told a bench headed by Justice U U Lalit.

The temple is in great financial stress and "we are not able to function", Basant said, alleging that the trust is trying to avoid its obligation by not making their record available for audit. The trust has 2.87 crore in cash and 1.95 crore in assets as per the 2013 auditors' report, he said.  
The trust is constituted as per court's order and it must contribute to the temple, Basant told the bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi.  
Senior advocate Arvind Datar, appearing for the trust, argued that it is a public trust made by the royal family and has no role in administration. The trust was just mentioned by the amicus curiae in the case, not as part of the petition, he said.

The top court reserved its order on the trust's application to exclude it from the audit of 25 years ordered by the court last year.



## BRIEFLY

## PUNJAB

## Attari-Wagah flag ceremony opened to public

**Amritsar:** The BSF has resumed the public viewing of the daily flag lowering retreat ceremony at Attari-Wagah border in Punjab with limited restrictions, over a year and half after it was suspended due to the Covid outbreak, the force on Friday said. BSF will allow 300 visitors in the spectators gallery for the over an hour-long daily event against its capacity to accommodate more than 25,000. The public viewing was suspended by India on March 7 to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Sources in administration, however, fear that it will not be possible to restrict the tourist gathering to 300. **ENS**

## UTTAR PRADESH

## 4 journalists, 3 cops held for extortion

**Lucknow:** The Mathura police have arrested four journalists and three police officials on the charge of extorting money from a businessman by threatening to implicate him in a false case. The accused were arrested on Thursday, and produced in a court that sent them to judicial custody. The police are looking for two more local journalists, and collecting the background information of the four arrested. Superintendent of Police (SP) Dr Gaurav Grover suspended the policemen from Farah station who were arrested. One of them is a Sub Inspector and the other two are constables. **ENS**

## MAHARASHTRA

## Artist gets bail after six years in jail for 'murder'

**Mumbai:** Nearly six years after artist Chintan Upadhyay was arrested for allegedly murdering his estranged wife and artist Hema Upadhyay and her lawyer Haresh Bhambhani, the Supreme Court Friday granted him bail. "The petitioner has been in custody for nearly six years. The trial is in progress and 28 witnesses have been examined and 12 witnesses are yet to be examined. Having scrutinised the record and after hearing the learned counsel for the parties, we are of the opinion that the petitioner is entitled for bail...", the bench comprising Justice L Nageswara Rao and Justice BR Gavai said. **ENS**

## Serosurveys show more than 80% in Mumbai, Chandigarh have antibodies

Survey held from August 12 to September 8 in Mumbai; gap between slum, non slum areas narrows

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MUMBAI, CHANDIGARH, SEPT 17

THE LATEST SEROSURVEYS in Mumbai and Chandigarh indicate that more than 80 percent of the population of the two cities now has antibodies against the coronavirus.

While the BMC survey, between August 12 and September 8 this year, found antibodies in 86.64 percent of Mumbai's adult population, in the Chandigarh survey, held in July, the figure stood at 80.2 percent.

In the last serosurvey in Mumbai, conducted in March – before the second wave – only 36.3 percent of population had been found to have antibodies.

The BMC this time covered the vaccinated population as well in the serosurvey. Antibodies were found among 90.26 percent of

those partially or fully vaccinated, and 79.86 percent of the rest.

There was only a marginal difference among the slum and non-slum population as per the survey, that covered over 8,674 people in the metropolis. While sero positivity was 87.02 percent among slum-dwellers, it was 86.22 percent in non-slum areas. The sero prevalence among women was higher (88.29 percent) compared to men (85.07 percent).

It was the first serosurvey that showed the gap among slum and non-slum areas to be bridged. In the March survey, while the slums had sero positivity of 41.6 percent, it was only 28.5 percent in non-slum areas. The new figures are in line with the infection trends. In the first wave, slums had been affected more than non-slum areas. However, during the second wave, BMC data for April showed 90 percent of the 87,000 active cases

at the time concentrated in high-rise buildings.

"Overall, the sero prevalence in slum and non-slum areas in the city of Greater Mumbai is much higher as compared to the last serosurvey," the civic body said in a statement.

This is the fourth serosurvey in all by the BMC, apart from one conducted among those below the age of 18. "The results are in line with what we had expected," Deputy Executive Health Officer, BMC, Dr Daksha Shah said, noting that the higher rate of antibodies among those vaccinated showed the need to boost the immunisation drive. Dr Shah also stressed the need to follow Covid-appropriate behaviour as antibodies were known to "start declining after a month of the infection."

The BMC said the sample size included participants above the age of 18 across all 24 wards of the

city. Of the total participants, 20 percent were healthcare workers. Sero prevalence among them was found to be only slightly higher than the general population, at 87.14 percent.

The BMC had released results of its first serosurvey in July 2020, in which 16 percent of the population in non-slum areas and 57 percent in slums was found to have antibodies. The results of the second survey, in August that year, showed sero prevalence to be 18 percent for non-slums and 45 percent for slums. By March this year, the figures stood at 28.5 percent and 41.6 percent respectively.

The paediatric serosurvey held in Mumbai, of a sample size of 2,176 between the ages of 1 and 18 years in June this year, had found antibodies in 51.18 percent of them, with most of them remaining asymptomatic. The number of those infected in

the different age groups didn't vary much, ranging between 47.33 percent (5-9) and 53.43 percent (10-14).

The Chandigarh serosurvey collected 1,200 samples from urban, rural and rehabilitation colonies, including those vaccinated. Sero positivity was found in 84.1 percent of the urban, 69 percent of the rural, and 77.8 percent of the slum rehabilitation colonies.

Chandigarh incidentally is among the UTs or states to have delivered at least one dose of Covid vaccine to 100 percent of the eligible population.

"The outcome is encouraging but should not lead to complacency," Dr Jasbinder Kaur, Director Principal, GMCH-32, that conducted the survey, said. "The possibility of new outbreaks cannot be ruled out and one must follow Covid protocols stringently."

## TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

565 DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN

NEW CASES: 34,615

ACTIVE CASES: 3,40,573

TOTAL VACCINATION: 77,24,25,744

DAILY DEATHS 285

TOTAL DEATHS 4,44,533

WEEKLY CFR 0.75%

OVERALL CFR 1.35%



TESTS TODAY: 16,62,696 | TOTAL TESTS: 55,08,91,845

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.94% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.07%

## STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	23,260	1,89,416	16.96%	3,29,03,543
■ Maharashtra	3,586	48,451	2.38%	7,06,52,757
■ Tamil Nadu	1,669	16,843	1.06%	4,08,98,263
■ Andhra Pradesh	1,393	14,797	2.32%	3,57,11,603
■ Mizoram	1,121	13,344	13.95%	10,29,245

## STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	131	23,375	0.48%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	67	1,41,940	1.09%	2.19%
■ Karnataka	18	37,573	1.22%	1.27%
■ Tamil Nadu	17	35,288	1.57%	1.35%
■ Assam	9	5,788	1.52%	0.98%

Note: Data as on Sept 17; vaccination numbers as of Sept 16. Deaths include those from previous days.

## Satisfied with protocols, SC allows offline Class II in Kerala

## EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

SUPREME COURT on Friday allowed Kerala to hold the Class II exams in the offline mode, expressing satisfaction over the arrangements put in place by the state government for the conduct of the exam amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

A two-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar dismissed an appeal filed by advocate Rasoolshan A against a Kerala High Court order refusing to interfere with the state government's decision to hold exams in offline mode.

The bench also comprising Justice C T Aravi Kumar said: "We trust authorities will take all precautions and necessary steps so that no untoward situation is faced by students who are of tender age and appearing for the proposed examination."

On September 3, the top court had stayed the decision to hold the offline exams, saying the Covid-19 situation in the state is "alarming" and that "children of tender age cannot be exposed to risk".

## SII to ramp up Covishield production to 200 mn doses monthly from Oct

## ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 17

SERUM INSTITUTE of India (SII) CEO Adar Poonawalla on Friday said they were building a facility to make mRNA vaccines, even as SII was scaling up its production of Covishield vaccines from the present 160 million doses monthly to 200 million doses from October.

While the facility for mRNA vaccines will take two years to be completed, this infrastructure will be available for two compa-

nies — Serum Institute Life Sciences Limited (SILS) and Biocon Biologics Limited — which have recently entered into a long-term partnership.

Poonawalla and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, executive chairperson, Biocon and Biocon Biologics (BBL) addressed a virtual media conference on Friday to announce their strategic alliance.

As part of this alliance, BBL will have access to 100 million doses of vaccines annually for 15 years and commercialisation rights of the SILS vaccine portfolio for global markets. SILS will receive approximately a 15 per

cent stake in BBL, based on a valuation of about \$4.9 billion.

"This alliance will allow us to combine our strengths in biologics and vaccines for making a meaningful impact in fighting infectious diseases. In addition to vaccines, the alliance will also develop antibodies targeting several infectious diseases like dengue and HIV," Shaw said.

On their paediatric Covid vaccine, Covovax, Poonawalla said that trials are underway. "Several volunteers have been injected and the trial is going on smoothly. A review will be done by the end of the year," he said.

## Journalist held, another booked in Ambala over error in report

## SUKHBIR SIWACH

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 17

A JOURNALIST of 'Dainik Bhaskar' was arrested by the Ambala police on Friday and an FIR lodged against another on the charge of "mentioning (the) wrong place of arrest of a suspected terrorist".

Police have lodged an FIR against Sunil Brar and News Editor Sandeep Sharma at the Ambala Cantt Police Station under Sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 177 (furnishing false information), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace) and 505 (2) (statements creating or promoting enmity, hatred or ill-will between classes).

Confirming Brar's arrest on a complaint by a sub-inspector, the SHO of the police station, Inspector Vijay Kumar, told *The Indian Express*: "He will be produced before a court on Saturday. The matter is under investigation."

Opposition leaders attacked the BJP-led Haryana government over the arrests, saying police had even brought Sharma's 70-year-old father to the police station on not finding the journalist at his office.

"Sharma's father was released only when journalists objected to his detention," Haryana Congress leader Rohit Jain, who joined journalists at the police station in

protest against the arrest, said. INLD leaders led by Prakash Bharti also held a protest.

Police, however, denied any information regarding Sharma's father's detention.

The case against the journalists relates to a report carried by 'Dainik Bhaskar' on Thursday, on a man arrested by the Punjab Police the previous day from Ambala, over an alleged tiffin bomb plot. While the suspected terrorist, part of an alleged gang of four, was arrested from village Mardon Sahib village of Ambala, the newspaper headline said, 'Punjab Police ka dava - Cantt mein IOC depot ke nazdeek se pakda gaya aatanki' (Punjab Police claims arrest of terrorist at Cantt from near IOC depot).

The report also said the Ambala Police had denied any information on the matter, saying "nobody sought any assistance from us".

On Friday, the newspaper published a correction regarding the location from where the suspected terrorist was arrested.

However, Sub-Inspector Radhey Shyam filed a complaint saying: "... Sunil journalist published the news without any authentication. Journalist Sunil and in-charge Sandeep Sharma have created fear in the masses by publishing false news. Because of it, there is an atmosphere of panic and terror in society, which may lead to caste riots."

## Char Dham Yatra SOPs issued

**Dehradun:** A day after Uttarakhand HC lifted its stay on Char Dham Yatra, the government on Friday issued the standard operating procedure (SOP) for the yatra, making it mandatory for pilgrims to either have certificate of both doses of the Covid vaccine or a negative Covid test report to obtain the e-pass for the yatra. The yatra will start from Saturday.

Pilgrims from Kerala, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh will have to produce both — the vaccination certificate of two doses as well as negative Covid test report — to obtain permission for the yatra.

On a daily basis, 1000 pilgrims will be allowed to visit Badrinath, 800 in Kedarnath, 600 in Gangotri and 400 in Yamunotri. **ENS**

## TELANGANA

## HC orders probe in rape-murder suspect's death

**Hyderabad:** The Telangana High Court on Friday ordered a judicial inquiry into the death of Palakonda Raju, 30, the suspect in last week's rape-and-murder of a minor girl in Hyderabad, a day after his body was found dead on the railway tracks at Ghanpur station in Warangal.

The High Court directed the 3rd Metropolitan Magistrate of Warangal to conduct the inquiry and present the report within four weeks. A bench of Acting Chief Justice M S Ramachandra Rao and Justice T Amarnath Goud passed these orders after hearing a PIL.

The PIL was filed by Civil Liberties Committee-Telangana state president Gaddam Laxman, who sought a judicial inquiry into Raju's death, describing it as a "meticulously planned and calculated murder by the police". **ENS**

## Goa govt appeal

## against Tejpal acquittal to be heard virtually

**Panaji:** The Chief Justice of Bombay High Court has allowed the Goa government's appeal against the acquittal of former editor-in-chief of 'Tehelka', Tarun Tejpal, in a 2013 case of rape and sexual assault, to be heard in the virtual mode. The appeal is expected to be heard by the High Court of Bombay at Goa on September 20.

This will also mean that Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the Goa government in the appeal proceedings, can continue to argue the matter before the High Court. He had earlier expressed difficulty in physically appearing before the HC in Goa after the court resumed physical hearings.

Tejpal was accused of sexually assaulting a then colleague in an elevator of a hotel in Goa on November 7, 2013 and November 8, 2013. **ENS**

## Top artists at NGMA to discuss role of art in nation-building

## VANDANA KALRA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE NATIONAL Gallery of Modern Art Friday hosted artists of various styles and eras as it marked the 75th year of independence with an event to establish a "cohesive creative vision" on the role that visual arts can play in the development of the nation.

Director General Adwaita Gadanayak said "Anantam" was a gathering where people could "participate in a creative dialogue on the role of art in nation-building and sustainable development".

"The idea is to link up as many artists as possible across the country and talk about relevant issues," added Gadanayak, as he welcomed modernists and contemporaries, artists exploring varied mediums and experimenting with different genres. It included recognised names such as Jatin Das, Raghu Rai, Samit Das and Kanchan Chander as well as emerging artists and art students. Several of them were in the



Artists at the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration held in the National Gallery of Modern Art on Friday. *Praveen Khanna*

lawns, painting live and discussing their art with curious viewers. "We are trying our best for the NGMA to open up again, with Covid protocols, and more people to come in. We want groups of young students to come here. We are organising curated walks for those interested in learning about art... Events such as this give a boost, especially during the current times to artists impacted by Covid," said Chander, a member of NGMA Advisory Committee.

More than 1,000 artists and faculty members of art institutions also joined the event during a day-long virtual interaction.

The institution has planned year-long events celebrating India's 75 years of independence. Several cultural programmes were also held in recent months as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', including performances by santoor player Divyansh Shrivastava and Chhau dance by artists from Purulia.

## 'A LOSS BEYOND REPAIR'

## Theoretical physicist Thanu Padmanabhan dies at 64

## ANURADHA MASCARENHAS

PUNE, SEPTEMBER 17

THANU PADMANABHAN, one of India's best-known theoretical physicists who made important contributions in the fields of gravity, quantum theory and in understanding the structure of the universe, passed away Friday morning after a massive heart attack. He was 64.

Padmanabhan, who did his initial work at Mumbai's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, was based at Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics in Pune since 1992.

"I expected him to be an active worker for at least 10 more years. It pains me as a teacher to

see one of his finest students pass away," said Professor Jayant Narlikar who was Padmanabhan's PhD guide at TIFR. "I still remember him as a student in the early 1980s. He had appeared for an interview at the TIFR. I was not present during the interview but later I was told that on being asked about his expectations from the institute, Padmanabhan had said he would only join TIFR if he was allowed to work with Narlikar," the 83-year-old celebrated astrophysicist, who too is based at IUCAA, told *The Indian Express*.

"He was a very good teacher and he wrote excellent books which were of pedagogical nature published by Cambridge university press and have been very useful," Narlikar said, recalling that Padmanabhan had not required



THANU PADMANABHAN 1957-2021

much guidance from him during his PhD days.

"He had a lot of ideas himself and was very popular with the students. Apart from that he himself was a perfectionist," Narlikar said.

Prof Rohini Godbole, noted physicist from the Centre for High Energy Physics, Indian Institute of

Science, Bengaluru told *The Indian Express* that she still remembered "Paddy" as the bubbly, young and very sharp person who had joined TIFR as a student.

"That was the same year I had joined as a visiting fellow. We were both 'new boys' together as it were. His extraordinary abilities were quite apparent to all and no one was surprised at the quick strides he made in the world of gravity and cosmology," Godbole said.

Among Padmanabhan's most striking contributions have been discovering new connections between thermodynamics and general theory of relativity. "He still had so much more to do and offer. This is a great loss," Godbole said.

Besides numerous other awards, Padmanabhan was also honoured with the Padma Shri

and the inaugural Infosys Prize for physical sciences.

"This loss is beyond repair," IUCAA director Somak Raychaudhury said.

"I had known Paddy for over 35 years and he had been my mentor and friend. He was deeply engaged in all levels of academic progress. Not only did he carry out pathbreaking research in many branches of science, he had a deep interest in and understanding of the scientific thought process," he said.

The IUCAA director also recalled that he had uncompromising standards in scientific engagement and innovation. "He was deeply committed to training young people. He was also deeply interested in the long tradition of Indian science and wrote a book on the subject".



# 12 THE WORLD

## TOPOF THE WORLD



Jacob Zuma

### SOUTH AFRICA

## Top court upholds Zuma's jail sentence

SOUTH AFRICA'S highest court on Friday denied an application by former president Jacob Zuma to rescind his sentence of 15 months in jail for contempt of court in a ruling viewed as a stern test of the country's resolve to hold powerful figures to account. The Constitutional Court judgment upheld its own ruling that Zuma should go to prison for refusing to testify at a commission of inquiry into widespread corruption in government and at state-owned companies while he was president of South Africa from 2009-2018. Zuma, who was forced to resign as president in 2018 amid corruption allegations, still has significant support in parts of South Africa and within the ruling African National Congress party. **AP**

### NEW ZEALAND

## Woman charged with killing 3 young girls

A 40-YEAR-OLD woman was charged Friday with killing three young girls in a crime that has shocked New Zealand. Police did not immediately identify the woman but the Stuff news agency said she was the girls' mother, Lauren Dickason, a doctor who had just moved to New Zealand from South Africa along with her daughters and husband Graham Dickason, an orthopedic surgeon. Emergency services said when they responded to an incident at the home they found a woman, who was hospitalised in stable condition. Police said the woman killed twin 2-year-old girls Maya and Karla and their 6-year-old sister Liane. **AP**

### USA

## Pelosi cautions UK over N Irish peace deal

US HOUSE Speaker Nancy Pelosi cautioned Britain on Friday that there could be no post-Brexit trade deal with the US if the Northern Ireland peace agreement was destroyed. The US has expressed grave concern that a row between London and Brussels over the implementation of the 2020 Brexit treaty could undermine the Good Friday accord. "If there is destruction of the Good Friday accords, they [are] very unlikely to have a UK-US bilateral," she told a Chatham House event. **REUTERS**

## Australian PM rejects criticism of nuclear submarine agreement

ROD MCGUIRK

CANBERRA, SEPTEMBER 17

PRIME MINISTER Scott Morrison on Friday rejected Chinese criticism of Australia's new nuclear submarine alliance with the United States and said he doesn't mind that President Joe Biden might have forgotten his name.

China reacted angrily when Biden, Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson used a virtual news conference this week to announce a trilateral defense alliance that will provide Australia with a fleet of at least eight nuclear-powered submarines.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Zhao Lijian said it was "highly irresponsible" for the US and Britain to export the nuclear technology.

Morrison said Australia wanted to boost peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.

"Everything we've done with the United States is consistent with the partnerships and relationships and alliances we've already had with the United States," Morrison said.

Australia's nearest neighbour after Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, was "deeply concerned over the continuing arms race and power projection in the region," the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.



Australia Prime Minister Scott Morrison

News of the alliance received a positive response in Singapore. The city state's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong told Morrison in a phone call he hoped the nuclear deal would "contribute constructively to the peace and stability of the region and complement the regional architecture," Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

French leaders and the European Union are angered at being excluded from the alliance that scuppers a contract with France to build 12 conventional diesel-electric submarines for Australia.

Observers say Biden appeared to have forgotten Morrison's name during Thursday's news conference, which was televised from three countries. The president referred to the Australian as "pal" and "that fella Down Under."

Morrison laughed off questions regarding this, saying, "Usually when we speak privately, he refers to me as 'pal'." **AP**

## Australia agrees to increased US air deployments after sub deal

Washington: Australia and the United States announced expanded military cooperation on Thursday, including rotational deployments of all types of US military aircraft to Australia, a day after announcing a submarine deal denounced by China as intensifying a regional arms race.

Speaking after meetings between the US and Australian foreign and defence ministers, Australian Defence Minister Peter Dutton said they would be "significantly enhancing our force posture cooperation, increasing interoperability and deepening alliance activities in the Indo-Pacific."

"This will include greater air cooperation through rotational deployments of all types of US military aircraft to Australia," Dutton told a joint news conference in Washington. "We've also established combined logistics sustainment and capability for maintenance to support our enhanced activities, including logistics and sustainment capability for our submarines and surface combatants in Australia." **REUTERS**



## CHINA ASTRONAUTS RETURN FROM SPACE STATION

A trio of Chinese astronauts returned to Earth on Friday after a 90-day stay aboard their nation's first space station in China's longest mission yet. Nie Haisheng, Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo landed in the Shenzhou-12 spaceship just after 1.30 pm after having undocked from the space station Thursday morning. The China Manned Space Agency said the mission, which was to finish constructing the country's first space station, was a success. **AP**

## Google, Apple remove Navalny app from stores as Russian polls begin

ALEXANDER MARROW

& TOM BALMFORTH

MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 17

OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS in Russia accused Alphabet's Google and Apple of caving in to Kremlin pressure on Friday after they removed an anti-government tactical voting app from their stores on the first day of a parliamentary election.

The app, devised by allies of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, gives people detailed recommendations on who to vote for in an effort to thwart the electoral chances of the ruling United Russia party which supports President Vladimir Putin.

Members of the upper house of parliament met Google and Apple representatives in the run-up to the election to tell them to

## EXPLAINED

### Raising more questions for tech firms

THE REMOVAL of the app developed by opponents of Putin raises further questions about Silicon Valley leaders' approach to free speech and open internet, and about whether they will be able to balance these ideals with their pursuit of profit as well as their commitment to the safety of their employees in countries that threaten to take action if they do not implement censorship.

remove the app or face serious consequences including fines and criminal prosecution.

John Sullivan, the US ambassador to Russia, was also called into the foreign ministry before the vote to hear complaints that the companies' behaviour amounted to US meddling in Russia's internal affairs.

A court outlawed Navalny's political movement as extremist in June, backing complaints from Moscow's prosecutor that its activists were trying to destabilise Russia, a ruling condemned by the West at the time as a blow against freedom.

Leonid Volkov, an ally of Navalny, accused Google and Apple of buckling under what he described as Kremlin campaign of blackmail. "This shameful day will live long in the memory," Volkov said on the Telegram service.

Apple and Google did not immediately respond to requests for comment. **REUTERS**

## Pentagon admits Kabul drone strike was mistake that killed 10 civilians

ERIC SCHMITT

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 17

THE PENTAGON acknowledged on Friday that a US drone strike in Afghanistan on August 29 that officials said was necessary to prevent an attack on American troops was a tragic mistake that killed 10 civilians, including seven children, an American military official familiar with the investigation said.

The explosives in the military claimed were loaded in the trunk of a white Toyota sedan struck by the drone's Hellfire missile were most likely water bottles, and a secondary explosion in the courtyard in a densely populated Kabul neighborhood where that attack took place was probably a propane or gas tank, the official said. In short, the car posed no threat at all, investigators concluded.



A house destroyed by a drone strike in Kabul on Aug 29. Reuters

The official also acknowledged that the driver of the car, Zemari Ahmadi, a longtime worker for a US aid group, had nothing to do with ISIS, as military officials had previously asserted. Ahmadi's only connection to the terrorist group appeared to be a fleeting and innocuous interaction with people

in what the military believed was an ISIS safehouse in Kabul, an initial link that led military analysts to make one mistaken judgment after another while tracking Ahmadi's movements in a sedan for the next eight hours.

"It was a mistake," the official said in a briefing with three re-

porters before the Pentagon made the results of a military investigation public.

The findings of the inquiry by the military's Central Command mirrored a *New York Times* investigation of video evidence, along with interviews with more than a dozen of the driver's co-workers and family members in Kabul. *The Times* inquiry raised doubts about the US version of events, including whether explosives were present in the vehicle, whether the driver had a connection to ISIS, and whether there was a second explosion after the missile struck the car.

Military officials cited the investigation by *The Times* and others as providing valuable visual and other evidence that forced the military to reassess the judgments that led it to believe, falsely, that the sedan posed a threat. **NYT**

## China's Xi urges Afghanistan to stamp out terror, vows more aid

REUTERS

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 17

CHINA'S PRESIDENT Xi Jinping urged "relevant parties" in Afghanistan to eradicate terrorism and promised to provide more help to the war-torn nation, state news agency Xinhua said on Friday.

China shares a land border with Afghanistan, where the Taliban named a new government this month. The Islamist militant group retook control in August as US-led foreign forces ended their 20-year presence there.

Afghanistan should be guided to be more open and inclusive, and pursue moderate domestic and foreign policies. Xi told a meeting of leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and another regional grouping, the agency said in a report.

"Certain countries" should assume their due responsibilities for Afghanistan's future development as "instigators" of the situation, Xi added, in an apparent reference to the US and its allies.

Experts say Afghanistan's economy is in crisis and a humanitarian disaster looms. Western nations have been reluctant to provide funds to the

## IMF suspends Afghan engagement

Washington: The International Monetary Fund has said its engagement with Afghanistan will remain suspended until there is clarity within the international community on the recognition of the government led by the Taliban. The IMF said it was deeply concerned with economic conditions in Afghanistan, urging the international community to take urgent steps to stall a "looming humanitarian crisis" in the country. "Our engagement with Afghanistan has been sus-

pended until there is clarity within the international community on the recognition of the government," IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice told reporters at a news conference here on Thursday. "We're guided by the international community in terms of the recognition of the government in Afghanistan and we don't have that. So, the IMF programme there has been put on hold; and... the country cannot access IMF resources, SDRs, and so on, at this point," he said. **PTI**



China's President Xi Jinping

Taliban without assurances that it will uphold human rights, especially those of women.

China, which has pledged aid and Covid vaccine doses to

Afghanistan, has said the United States and its allies have a duty to supply the war-torn nation with economic and humanitarian aid.

China is also known to be worried about militants from its far western region of Xinjiang, some of whom are based in Afghanistan, where they have long been allies of the Taliban.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization groups China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan is an observer state.

## Taliban order male students to school

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISTANBUL, SEPTEMBER 17

THE TALIBAN'S education ministry says all male students grades six to 12 and male teachers should resume classes starting Saturday.

The statement Friday pub-

lished on Facebook did not include girls of that age, and the lack of guidance highlighted ongoing concerns that the Taliban might impose restrictions on girls and women. The Taliban previously allowed girls in grades one to six to resume their classes.

In the past, the hardliner

group that took over Afghanistan last month had forbidden girls and women from attending school and work.

In some of the provinces, women still are not allowed to continue their work, with exceptions for women who have worked in health departments, hospitals and education.

## UK eases rules for vaccinated travellers, India to benefit

ADITI KHANNA

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 17

THE UK government on Friday announced a relaxation of international travel rules for vaccinated people coming in and out of England, with long-haul routes between India and the UK to benefit.

From October 4, the current traffic light system of red, amber and green countries based on levels of Covid risk will be scrapped

and replaced with one red list only.

The scrapping of an amber list, which is what India is currently on, means reduced cost burden for travellers related to compulsory quarantines and PCR tests. From October 4, travellers will also no longer need to take pre-departure PCR tests for travelling into England from abroad.

"Today's changes mean a simpler, more straightforward system. One with less testing and lower costs, allowing more people to

travel, see loved ones or conduct business around the world while providing a boost for the travel industry," said UK Transport Secretary Grant Shapps. "Public health has always been at the heart of our international travel policy and with over 44 million people fully vaccinated in the UK, we are now able to introduce a proportionate updated structure that reflects the new landscape."

In the latest update, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are

among eight red list destinations moved off the travel ban list from next Wednesday.

From the end of October, fully vaccinated passengers from non-red list countries will be able to replace the current compulsory day-two PCR test requirement with cheaper lateral flow tests. Anyone testing positive will need to isolate and take a free confirmatory PCR test, which would be economically sequenced to help identify new variants. **PTI**

## TEMPORARY CAMP IN DEL RIO HAS GROWN WITH STAGGERING SPEED IN RECENT DAYS

# Thousands of migrants huddle under Texas bridge

JAMES DOBBINS,

EILEEN SULLIVAN &

EDGAR SANDOVAL

DEL RIO, SEPTEMBER 17

THOUSANDS OF migrants were crowded under a bridge outside the border community of Del Rio on Thursday, part of a massive surge in migration across the Rio Grande this week that has overwhelmed the authorities and caused significant delays in processing the arrivals.

The US Border Patrol said that more than 9,000 migrants, mostly from Haiti, were being held in a temporary staging area under the Del Rio International Bridge as

agents worked as quickly as they could to process them.

The temporary camp has grown with staggering speed in recent days, from just a few hundred people earlier in the week. The authorities and city officials said they expected thousands more to cross the ankle-deep river between Mexico and Del Rio in coming days.

The Border Patrol said it would send more agents to the region, "to immediately address the current level of migrant encounters and to facilitate a safe, humane and orderly process." The shaded area under the bridge, the Border Patrol said, was to "prevent injuries from



Migrants gathered under the Del Rio International Bridge as they waited to turn themselves in to the US Border Patrol and seek asylum. NYT

heat-related illness" while migrants were waiting to be taken into custody.

The scene — of dense crowds sleeping on dirt or milling about in triple-digit heat amid conditions

## Woman sues for right to freeze her eggs in Beijing

HUIZHONG WU & EMILY

WANG FUJIYAMA

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 17

AFTER ALMOST two years, an unmarried woman suing for the right to freeze her eggs in Beijing is getting her case heard in court Friday in a rare legal challenge against the country's restrictions on unmarried women in reproductive health.

Teresa Xu has been waiting since December 2019 for her second hearing at the Chaoyang People's Court in Beijing. She is suing Beijing Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital at Capital Medical University, a public hospital that forbid her from freezing her eggs, citing national law. Xu's victory could mark an

important step for unmarried women in China who want to access public benefits. Unlike in the US, though, court judgements in China do not rely on precedence.

"From 2018 until now, it's been three years, and my eggs are getting older with me, and the deadline is more and more pressing," Xu, 33, said.

Her case is getting heard after the latest census data showed that population growth was slowing, while the proportion of elderly people was growing. The number of newborns had fallen every year since 2016. National level statistics showed that 12 million babies were born in 2020, down 18% from 14.6 million in 2019.

Beijing has responded by allowing families to have a third child. **AP**



## PROJECTS ALREADY IN PIPELINE SLOWING DOWN: REPORT

## India Inc's dwindling investment plans: RBI flags near-term risks

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

INDIA INC'S investment plans took a severe beating when the Covid pandemic raged across the country in 2020-21 with the number of new projects sanctioned dwindling and projects already in the pipeline also slowing down.

Data on phasing plans for 2021-22 relating to projects in the pipeline point to persisting near-term risks to the investment outlook, the Reserve Bank of India said in a report. In all, banks and financial institutions sanctioned only 220 project proposals of the private companies during 2020-21, a record low in the recent years. The total cost of projects sanctioned

**EXPLAINED** Covid hit to investments

MAJORITY OF banks and FIs reported 'Nil' projects during first half of 2020-21, which points to very subdued investment climate of private corporate sector owing to pandemic induced uncertainties.

too declined sharply to Rs 75,558 crore in 2020-21 from Rs 1,75,830 crore in 2019-20, the RBI said. Altogether, investment plans of 576 projects were made during 2020-21 aggregating to Rs 116,603

crore as against 827 projects with investment intentions totalling Rs 271,374 crore in 2019-20. As many as 344 companies raised an amount of Rs 40,382 crore through ECBs and FCCBs and did not avail of any financing from the banks and FIs. Further, 12 companies did not avail of any bank finance or ECBs and FCCBs but raised Rs 663 crore for their capex needs through domestic equity issues.

The fresh sanction of projects in the first half of 2020-21 dwindled to 68 projects, a record low compared to 137 projects sanctioned during the first half of 2019-20, clearly indicating the role of Covid, the RBI said. The majority of banks and FIs reported 'Nil' projects during the first half of 2020-21, which points to very subdued

investment climate of private corporate sector owing to pandemic induced uncertainties.

"The second half of 2020-21 showed some signs of recovery in terms of number of projects, which got financial assistance from the banks and FIs, though the investment climate remained subdued in terms of total cost of projects sanctioned by these entities," it said. According to the RBI report, the size-wise distribution of projects showed a noticeable decrease in the number of mega projects (Rs 5,000 crore & above) from five in 2019-20 to one in 2020-21 along with a decrease in its combined share in the total project cost. Similarly, the number of large projects of size Rs 1000 crore-5000 crore declined from 36 (in 2019-

20) to 24 in 2020-21.

The relative share of such projects although increased to 53.5 per cent in 2020-21 from 37.4 per cent in 2019-20, which indicates higher relative presence in the small cohort of projects sanctioned in 2020-21, it said.

Data for the last five years (2016-17 to 2020-21) revealed that more than half (52.3 per cent) of the projects were taken up in five states — Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. In 2020-21, Rajasthan and Gujarat each accounted for the highest share (17.1 per cent) in the total cost of projects sanctioned by banks/FIs followed by Andhra Pradesh (15 per cent), Uttar Pradesh (13.7 per cent) and Maharashtra (8.5 per cent), it said.

## Investments via P-notes stand at ₹97,744 crore till August

Investments in domestic capital markets through participatory notes (P-notes) was at Rs 97,744 crore till August-end, as per Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) data

**Value of P-note** investments in Indian markets — equity, debt and hybrid securities — was at Rs 97,744 crore in August-end compared to Rs 85,799 crore in July-end

**Equity inflows** remained robust in August and September is also looking positive

**Inflows** should remain robust for the rest of the calendar year



**Of the total Rs 97,744 crore** invested through the route till August, Rs 89,844 crore was invested in equities, Rs 7,586 crore in debt and Rs 315 crore in hybrid securities

## What are P-notes?

P-notes are issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly

**While concerns over global growth due to recent rise in Covid cases in the world continue to persist, underlying strength of domestic market remains intact**

Source: Sebi/PTI

## IDFC to sell mutual fund business

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

IDFC group has decided to divest its mutual fund business — IDFC Asset Management Company (IDFC AMC) Ltd.

IDFC AMC's assets under management were Rs 1,26,070 crore as of June 2021.

"The board of directors of IDFC Ltd and IDFC Financial Holding Company Ltd (IDFC FHCL) considered and approved to initiate steps to divest its mu-

**As of June 2021, IDFC AMC's AUM were Rs 1,26,070 crore**

tual fund business subject to requisite regulatory approvals,

## Goyal: WTO agri agreement tilted against developing nations

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE AGREEMENT on Agriculture at the WTO was riddled with deep imbalances, which favour the developed countries, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said.

He said that historical asymmetries and imbalances must be corrected to ensure a rule-based, fair and equitable order. Goyal said this while addressing the G-33 Virtual Informal Ministerial Meeting. It was organised by Indonesia on Thursday to discuss the agricultural priority issues of G-33 and the way forward for the 12th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), scheduled to be held from

## Sherpas' meet



Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. File

**New Delhi:** A two-day virtual meeting of G-20 Sherpas, attended by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, deliberated on the draft 'Rome Declaration' ahead of the annual summit of the grouping next month. **ENS**

November 30 to December 3, an official statement said on Friday. Of a total of 47 G-33 members, representatives from 21 countries, including India, took the floor to make the brief intervention. Goyal said G-33 must strive for positive outcomes on a permanent solution to public stockholding for food security purposes, which is of utmost importance, finalisation of a special safeguard mechanism quickly and a balanced outcome on domestic support.

The Minister "highlighted that Agreement on Agriculture at the WTO was riddled with deep imbalances, which favour the developed countries and have tilted the rules against many developing countries", the statement said.

## PAN, Aadhaar linking deadline extended

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE GOVERNMENT on Friday extended by six months till March 2022 the deadline to link PAN with biometric ID Aadhaar.

In a statement, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said to address the hardship being faced by various stakeholders on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, the timeline has been extended which will ease compliance.

"Time limit for intimation of Aadhaar number to the Income tax Department for linking of PAN with Aadhaar has been extended from 30th September,

**Linking timeline has been extended from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022**

2021 to 31st March, 2022," it said. Also, the due date for completion of penalty proceedings under the I-T Act has been extended from September 30, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

Further, the time limit for issuance of notice and passing of order by the Adjudicating Authority under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 has been extended to March 2022.



GOLD

₹45,207



RUPEE

₹73.48



OIL

\$73.36



SILVER

₹60,183

Crude oil (Indian basket) as of September 16

## World Bank to stop 'ease of doing business' report as probe finds 'data juggling'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE & PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

THE WORLD Bank Thursday said it would discontinue the practice of issuing Doing Business report following an investigation prompted by internal reports of "data irregularities" in its 2018 and 2020 editions (released in 2017 and 2019, respectively) and possible "ethical matters" involving bank staff.

According to an investigation conducted by Washington-based law firm WilmerHale, World Bank staff members changed data on China to improve its ranking on the ease of doing business, under pressure from the office of the then-World Bank president Jim Yong Kim and the then-chief executive Kristalina Georgieva and one of her advisers.

Georgieva is the current MD of the International Monetary Fund.

The reports were flagged by the World Bank for certain "improper data changes" made in case of four countries — China, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — at the behest of senior executives at the bank.

"After data irregularities on Doing Business 2018 and 2020 were reported internally in June 2020, World Bank management paused the next Doing Business report and initiated a series of reviews and audits of the report and its methodology. In addition, because the internal reports raised ethical matters, including the conduct of former Board officials as well as current and/or former Bank staff, management reported the allegations to the Bank's appropriate internal accountability mechanisms," the World Bank said in a statement.

Notably, in three reports, released in 2017, 2018 and 2019, India ranked among the top 10 economies showing "the most notable improvement". The latest re-

## IMF REVIEWS REPORT ON GEORGIEVA ROLE



AP file

**Washington:** The executive board of the International Monetary Fund is reviewing an independent report prepared for the World Bank about the actions of IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva in her previous senior role at the World Bank, IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said on Friday. **REUTERS**

port, published in October 2019, placed India at 63rd in Doing Business, compared with 77th in 2018 and 100 in 2017.

Of the 79 positions in the Bank's Doing Business rankings that India gained between 2014 and 2019, 67 rank improvements happened 2017 onwards, with the biggest 30-rank jump happening in the Doing Business 2018 report, released in October 2017.

The report published in 2019, which mentioned India and China being among the top 10 improvers, stated that the leaders of these countries adopted the Doing Business indicators as a core component of their reform strategies. The scores for India used to be based on coverage of just two cities, with Mumbai carrying a weight of 47 per cent and Delhi a weight of 53 per cent.

An e-mail query sent to the World Bank on the specifics on the data irregularities did not elicit a response at the time of

going to press.

According to the report released in October 2019, India, along with other top improvers, had implemented 59 regulatory reforms in 2018-19, accounting for a fifth of all reforms recorded worldwide. During 2018-19, India had implemented reforms across parameters such as 'starting a business', 'dealing with construction permits', 'trading across borders', and 'resolving insolvency'. The government's goal was to be among the top 50 economies by 2020. In a statement, the World Bank had said at the time of release that "special focus given by the top leadership of the country, and the persistent efforts made to drive the business reforms agenda, not only at the central level but also at the state level, helped India make significant improvements".


China, for which irregularities were noted for the report released on October 31, 2017, held the 78th rank despite a member of the Doing Business leadership approving and authorising submission of the final report on October 16 that year in which China ranked 85th. The change in China's ranking happened after intervention from the bank's top executives and their staffers, as per the investigation report.

In the case of Saudi Arabia, in the report released in October 2019, initially the country was placed second in the list of top improvers for that year, followed by Jordan. However, the Doing Business team was instructed "to find a way to alter the data such that Jordan fell from its first-place position in the top improvers list", the investigation said. The parameter that was altered to push Saudi Arabia's score also impacted the UAE's score because they followed a similar system.

For Azerbaijan, involvement from World Bank staffers is believed to have resulted in the country's score falling compared to previous years.

 <b>RAJASTHAN STATE MINES &amp; MINERALS LIMITED</b> (A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)		
4, Meera Marg, Udaipur - 313001 Phone: (0294)2428768/2428763-67, Fax (0294)2428770,2428739 Email:- contractscso.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in		
<b>Corrigendum</b>		Date-16.09.2021
<b>NIT No. &amp; Date</b>	<b>Description of Work</b>	
EOI no. R5MM/CO/GGM/Cont./EOI	Due date of submission of EOI for Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance of Industrial Beneficiation Plant on as is where is basis for net minimum guaranteed production of normative quantity and grade of dated 01.09.2021 Beneficiated Rock Phosphate on "Per Ton LGO Processing" at UBN no. MML2122 Jhamarkotra Mines, Udaipur hereby extended up to 30.09.2021. RFP0004	
Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website <a href="http://www.rsmml.com">www.rsmml.com</a> or <a href="http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in">www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in</a> or <a href="http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in">eproc.rajasthan.gov.in</a> (Contract no. MML2122) on above address. Raj.Samwadi/C21/0224		
		DGM (Admin.)

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EX. ENGINEER (SOUTH) III A BLOCK GREATER KAILASH I NEW DELHI-48 "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" N.I.T. No. 18/S-III/(2021-2022)				
S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	P/L of 100/150 mm dia D.I. water line from A-block C.R. Park UGR to M-block market Greater Kailash-II for taking the T/well water into UGR	4752161/-	2021_DUB_208460_1 16.09.2021	04.10.2021 upto 3:00 PM
2.	Replacement of old/rusted water lines by 100 mm dia D.I. water lines in Shivalk Apartments under South-III (AC-50) (Re-invited).	2681023/-	2021_DUB_208460_2 16.09.2021	04.10.2021 upto 3:00 PM
3.	Replacement of defective sewer line of block No. 20 Dakshinpur Extn. under EE(South)-III (AC-47).	3486782/-	2021_DUB_208460_3 16.09.2021	04.10.2021 upto 3:00 PM
Further details in this regard can be seen at <a href="https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in">https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in</a>				
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 402(2021-22)			Sd/- (L. L. MEENA) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)III	




# MORADABAD SMART CITY LIMITED

Address : Peeli Kothi, Water Works Compound, Civil Lines Moradabad-244001, (U.P.)

Email : [moradabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com](mailto:moradabadsmartcitylimited@gmail.com), Phone No. 0591-2971001

CIN No. U74999UP2018SGC105390



## DETAILED NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL), invites responses ("Proposals") from Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs) and Line Departments, U.P. to this Expression of Interest ("EOI") from eligible Bidders for Smart City Project as detailed in Attachment 1.

Interested Bidders are advised to study this EOI document carefully before submitting their proposals in response to the EOI document in respect to Projects as detailed in Attachment 1. Submission of a proposal in response to this EOI shall be deemed to have been done after careful study and examination of this document with full understanding of its terms, conditions and implications.

Interested Bidders are requested to download the EOI document from our website <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Any subsequent clarifications, which will be issued by the authority will be made available on the above website only.

The details are as under.

Sl.No.	Event's Name	Information
1.	Organization	Moradabad Smart City Limited (MSCL)
2.	Project	Detailed in Attachment 1
3.	NIT No.	1008/MSCL/2021 Dated 17.09.2021
4.	Name of Work	EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKING (PSUs) AND LINE DEPARTMENTS, U.P. ON COMPETITION BASIS FOR THE PROJECT "Supply Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Smart Water Meters and Operation & Maintenance for a Period of 05 Years in ABD Area of Moradabad City" UNDER THE SMART CITY MISSION
5.	EOI Document Publish Date	18.09.2021 from 05:00 PM
6.	EOI Document Downloading Date	18.09.2021 from 05:00 PM
7.	Time and date for Online Submission of Proposals	27.09.2021 till 03:00 PM
8.	Time and Date for Opening of Proposals	27.09.2021 till 05:00 PM

**C.E.O./ Municipal Commissioner**  
**Moradabad Smart City Limited**

BRIEFLY  
PFRDA base

**New Delhi:** The PFRDA said subscriber base under its flagship pension schemes rose by 24 per cent in August. **PTI**

## LIC PRAGATI

**Mumbai:** LIC has unveiled a new mobile app 'PRAGATI' for exclusive use of its development officers. **ENS**

## China trade pact

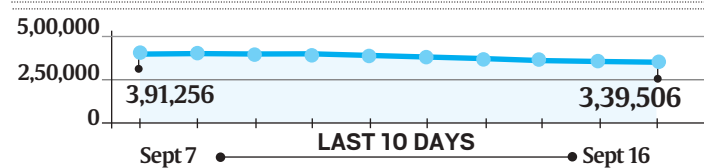
**Beijing:** Japan said it would have to determine if China meets "high standards" of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership after the latter applied. **REUTERS**

## Apple CEO talks immigration, India retail plan with employees

**San Francisco:** Apple Inc chief executive Tim Cook told an all-hands meeting of employees on Friday he planned to discuss US immigration policy with US Department of Homeland Security, according to a source familiar with the meeting.

During the meeting, Cook also told employees that Apple plans to have a physical retail presence in India. He also told employees that a recent US court decision in an antitrust case brought by "Fortnite" creator Epic Games hand resulted in a victory for Apple in nine out of 10 counts. **REUTERS**



SIMPLY PUT **QUESTION & ANSWER**

# Unpacking the telecom reforms package

The Cabinet has approved a set of nine measures to address the issues faced by the telecom sector. A look at the reforms, and the challenges still ahead.

AASHISH ARYAN

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

ON SEPTEMBER 15, the Union Cabinet approved a set of nine structural and procedural reforms to address the short-term liquidity needs as well as long-term issues of telecom companies. While the companies have welcomed the move, analysts are sceptical about the survival of a three-player telecom market unless there is a substantive rise in tariffs.

## How will the reforms impact telcos?

Among all the measures, one of the most crucial and timely, which analysts say will provide short-term relief to debt-laden Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel, is a four-year moratorium on payment of dues arising due to the Supreme Court's September 1, 2020 judgment on adjusted gross revenue (AGR). Another four-year moratorium on payment of spectrum purchased in past auctions, barring the 2021 auction, is also likely to provide relief.

Although the government will charge interest if the companies opt for the moratorium, analysts feel it could provide the telecom sector a breather of roughly Rs 45,000 crore per

year for the next four years.

Measures such as streamlining of the auction calendar and removal of the spectrum usage charges (SUC) from auctions, too, are likely to bring down the dues outgo, while helping telcos plan their auction purchase. For the telcos to benefit from the reduced SUC, however, they will have to buy more spectrum in upcoming auctions, analysts said.

## How far can the measures be expected to help save Vodafone Idea's market?

Although the government insists these measures would be for everyone, it is Vodafone Idea, with a net debt of close to Rs 1.9 lakh crore, that will benefit the most in the near future, experts said. The company, however, will need to raise adequate capital urgently, and go for a sizeable hike in 4G tariff for prepaid customers.

"The onus now shifts to the company to successfully complete its long-delayed capital raise, accelerate network investments, stem its subscriber losses, and (eventually) raise ARPU (average revenue per user), all of which come with their fair share of challenges and uncertainties," Citi Research said in a note.

Vodafone Idea will also have to fend off increased competition from Reliance Jio

Infocomm and Bharti Airtel, which have more breathing space and manageable debt situation. "The option of moratorium is open for all. While Vodafone Idea focuses on revival, which is a possibility now, Reliance Jio and Bharti Airtel can go back to being more aggressive whether it is in terms of offering better network and services or extremely competitive tariffs and add-ons," an industry veteran said.

## How do the reforms impact the government's finances?

The government has insisted that since all the moratorium offerings are done with net present value protected, it will face some revenue loss in the next four financial years even if two of the three private players opt for it.

For the current financial year, the government had estimated receipts of Rs 53,987 crore from spectrum usage charges, licence fee levies and other levies. The bulk of this, however, will have to be forgone for four financial years once the telcos opt for the moratorium.

At the end of the moratorium period, the government will have to provide an option to the telecom player to pay the interest arising out of the deferment of payment by way of equity, and at the option of the government, to convert

## KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Moratorium on payments:** On AGR and deferred spectrum payment. Both payments, if telcos opt for it, will have to be done four years later.

**Rationalisation of AGR:** The legacy pain point of telcos, which was the inclusion of non-telecom revenues for calculation of adjusted gross revenue, has been done away with.

**100% FDI through automatic route:** This liberalisation makes it easier for telcos to find global investors.

**Rationalisation of spectrum ecosystem:** A fixed calendar for auctions, doing away with the need for bank guarantees.

**Charges on spectrum removed:** Government does away with additional 0.5% SUC that was charged on spectrum sharing, while also allowing telcos to hold the spectrum for 30 years, instead of 20.

the due into equity. This, experts said, will be a challenge for the government to offload the stake later if market conditions do not improve.

## But how did the financial condition of the telcos deteriorate?

It started by and large with the differing legal interpretation of AGR. To understand this, one must go back to 1999, when the government decided to shift from a fixed to a revenue-sharing model for the telecom sector. Telecom players would pay a certain percentage of their AGR, earned from telecom and non-telecom revenues, as licence and spectrum fee.

The easing of this regulatory environment led to a number of players entering the fray. At its highest, India had more than 14 national and regional telecom service providers.

In 2003, the Department of Telecom (DoT) raised the demand for AGR payments. It said all revenue earned by telcos as dividend from subsidiaries, interest on short-term investments, money deducted as trader discounts, discount for calls and others, which was over and above the revenue from telecom services, would be included for calculation of AGR.

The telcos approached the Telecom Disputes Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TD-

SAT), which in July 2006 ruled the matter must be sent back to the regulator TRAI for fresh consultation. TDSAT rejected the government's contention, and the Centre moved the Supreme Court. While the case was still ongoing, in 2012, the Supreme Court cancelled 122 telecom licences in the 2G scam case. This prompted a revamp, with spectrum now allocated through auctions.

## What was the Supreme Court verdict?

In 2019, the Supreme Court gave the first verdict in the case, holding that DoT's definition of AGR was the correct one, and that the telcos must pay the AGR, interest and penalty on non-payment.

The judgment came when the telecom sector was reeling under stress due to intense competition from Reliance Jio Infocomm, which made its entry in 2016. Jio Infocomm was left with dues of more than Rs 58,000 crore, which has now ballooned to Rs 62,000 crore, while Airtel had to pay more than Rs 43,000 crore as AGR dues when the judgment was pronounced in 2019. Though both players have paid some of this to the DoT, they still need to raise funds to pay the rest either now, or four years later if they opt for the moratorium.

# Why 'black tigers' sound a warning

They are found only in Simlipal. A study finds out what gives them their darker stripe pattern — how this is the result of inbreeding within Simlipal's small and isolated tiger population.

JAY MAZOOMDAAR

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

A TEAM of scientists has resolved the genetic mystery of Simlipal's so-called black tigers. Led by Uma Ramakrishnan and her student Vinay Sagar from the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore, the study found that a single genetic mutation in these tigers caused black stripes to broaden or spread into the tawny background.

Tigers have a distinctive dark stripe pattern on a light background of white or golden. A rare pattern variant, distinguished by stripes that are broadened and fused together, is also observed in both wild and captive populations. This is known as pseudo-melanism, which is different from true melanism, a condition characterised by unusually high deposition of melanin, a dark pigment.

While truly melanistic tigers are yet to be recorded, pseudo-melanistic ones have been camera-trapped repeatedly, and only, in Simlipal, a 2,750-km tiger reserve in Odisha, since 2007. Launched in 2017, the study was the first attempt to investigate the genetic basis for this unusual phenotype (appearance). Through whole-genome data and pedigree-based association analyses from zoo tigers, the study found that pseudo-melanism is linked to a single mutation in Transmembrane Aminopeptidase Q (Taqppe), a gene responsible for similar traits in other cat species.

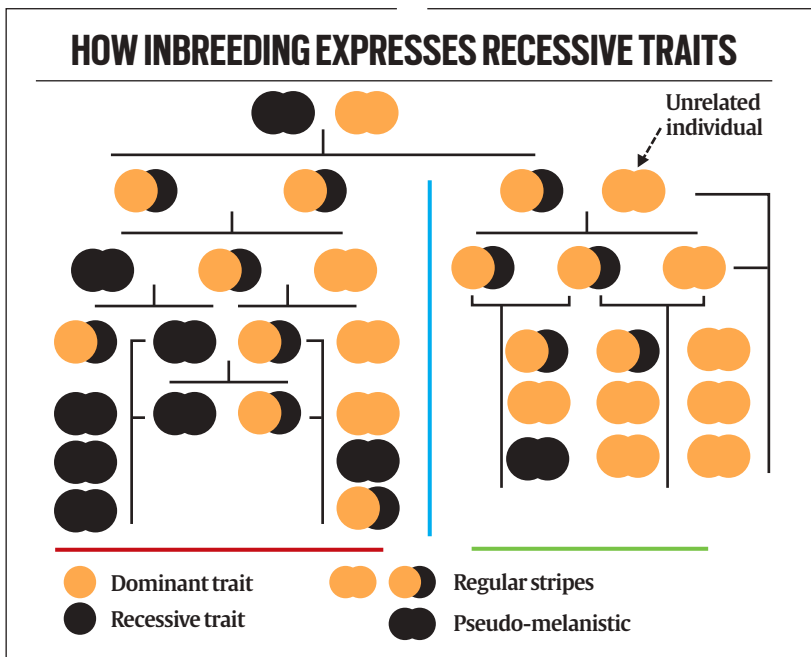
## Why black tigers are rare

Mutants are genetic variations which may occur spontaneously, but not frequently, in nature. Black tiger sightings have been claimed sporadically at least since 1773 when artist James Forbes painted a watercolour of one shot in Kerala. Similar claims were made from Myanmar (1913) and China (1950s). In 1993, a confiscated black tiger skin of unknown origin was displayed at Delhi's National Museum of Natural History.

Unfortunately, individuals of unusual appearance were sought out as a novelty by trophy hunters until recently, and probably few survived long enough to establish bloodlines.

Besides, pseudo-melanism is caused by a recessive (hidden) gene. A cub gets two copies of each gene from both parents, and a recessive gene can show up only in the absence of the dominant one. So, two normal-pattern tigers carrying the recessive pseudo-melanism gene will have to breed together for a one-in-four probability of giving birth to a black cub.

But recessive genes are rare and it is unlikely that two unrelated tigers will carry the same one and pass it on together to a cub. In an ideal tiger world, where far-ranging individuals are never short of choices for partners, that makes succession of black tigers a rarity. Under exceptional circumstances, a black



(Top) A captive pseudo-melanistic tiger and its regular sibling at Nandankanan Biological Park; (above) a representation showing how inbreeding (left in graphic) expresses recessive traits, unlike breeding with an unrelated individual (right).

Photo: Rajesh Kumar Mohapatra/NBP; illustration: Express

tiger may succeed as part of a very small (say, up to five individuals) founding population that is forced to inbreed in isolation for generations, offering the recessive gene frequent chances to show up. As it turned out, that is what happened at Simlipal.

## The Simlipal mutants

Long before three black tigers were camera-trapped in 2007, Simlipal furnished the first confirmed record of the mutant in 1993 when a tribal youth killed a pseudo-melanistic tigress in self-defence. In 2018, three of Simlipal's eight tigers turned out black.

Pseudo-melanistic tigers are also present in three zoos in India — Nandankanan (Bhubaneswar), Arignar Anna Zoological Park (Chennai) and Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park (Ranchi) — where they were born in captivity.

All of them have ancestral links to one individual from Simlipal.

The closest breeding tiger population to Simlipal is around 800 km away, a distance much longer than the average home range of Bengal tigers (20-110 km) and their average dispersal distance (78-124 km). Dispersals longer than 500 km have been documented, the study noted, but they are very rare.

While previous studies detected three major genetic clusters within Indian tigers — Central India, South India, and Northwest India — the present one found that Simlipal tigers are genetically distinct from other central Indian populations and disconnected at a dispersal threshold of 200 km.

The conclusion: Simlipal's small and isolated tiger population led to inbreeding and the anomalous phenotype characterised by

wide, merged stripes. The loss of genetic diversity is evident from the low heterozygosity — chances of inheriting different forms of a particular gene from each parent — in Simlipal (28%) compared to Central India (36%). Consequently, mean relatedness between Simlipal individuals (38%) is higher than those in Central (9%) or South India (13%).

## What about natural selection

Natural selection eliminates the weakest from a gene pool, and the traits of the more successful get passed on. Niche modelling, the study said, shows higher frequency of melanistic leopards in darker tropical and subtropical forests than in drier open habitats. Likewise, darker coats may confer a selective advantage in both hunting and avoiding hunters in Simlipal's tropical moist deciduous and semi-evergreen closed-canopy forest, with a relatively darker understory.

While the present study did not have enough data to test the hypothesis, it observed that the disappearance of black tigers from across India, where populations may be larger and hence selection more effective, backed the possible deleterious effects of the mutation.

## The takeaway

Simlipal is not the only example of "intense founding bottlenecks" in endangered tiger populations due to human-induced habitat fragmentation. While the dangers of this isolated, depleting population manifest dramatically in phenotypic evolution, invisible time bombs may be ticking in other island reserves.

"While tigers have recovered in some parts of India, several populations remain small and isolated. We predict that such populations will be subject to genetic drift (chance events), inbreeding and inbreeding depression (decreased survival). Overall, such populations have a high chance of extinction. It has been a fascinating journey to understand pseudo-melanism in Simlipal. Hopefully, such studies and the insights they provide will help safeguard the futures of endangered species," said Ramakrishnan of NCBS.

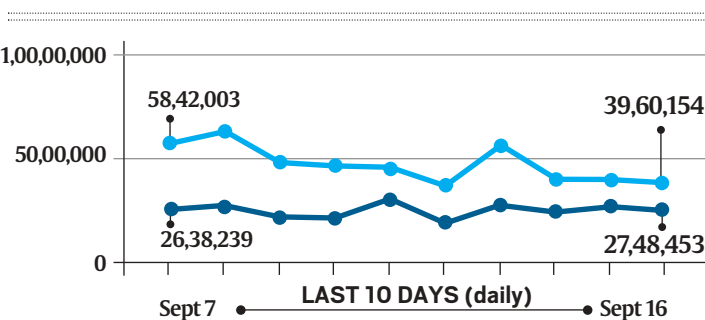
Fortunately, introduction of fresh genes in an isolated pool, depending on the number of migrants, frequency of influx and population size, can reverse the damage over time. While airlifting tigers appears to be the solution of convenience these days, there is no alternative to restoring or maintaining natural connectivity between tiger forests in the long term.

Meanwhile, India's northwestern tiger population shows higher mean relatedness between individuals (46%) and lower heterozygosity (22%) than even Simlipal (38% and 28%). While Ranthambhore has been a genetic island for decades, tiger siblings were handpicked from this inbred population for repopulating Sariska. That is another study in the offing.

## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

### TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)

# 58,26,06,905



### TOTAL DOSES

# 77,24,25,744

(Sputnik V's 8,67,700 doses not represented in pie)

### COVISHIELD

# 88.3%

### COVAXIN

# 11.6%

### DOSES ON SEPT 16

# 67,08,607

SEPT 15: 68,04,860 (1st doses: 39,89,496; 2nd: 28,15,364)

Note: The Sept 16 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 17

### INDIA TOTAL CASES

# 3,38,81,728

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 17

## TELLING NUMBERS

### New Gujarat Cabinet: 11 of 25 are graduates, 2 women, 19 crorepatis

Two of the 25 ministers in Gujarat's newly constituted Cabinet are women, seven have declared criminal cases against themselves in their election affidavits, and over 3 in every 4 are crorepatis. A little under half of the ministers are graduates, and 13 are below the age of 50, according to an analysis of their affidavits by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the New Election Watch.

Total ministers	25
Facing criminal cases	7
Women ministers	2
Crorepatis	19
Average assets	Rs 3.95 cr

### EDUCATION

11 Graduate & above	13 VIII-XII	1 Literate
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Source: ADR

# In poet Cathy Park Hong's work, an influential statement for people of colour in US

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

"POETS, especially Asian American female poets, don't dream about being on the *Time* 100 List. But it happened and I'm on the cover," tweeted Cathy Park Hong on Thursday, about her inclusion in the global celebrities in *Time* magazine's annual list of 100 most influential people of the year, published this week.

The 45-year-old Korean American poet's searing exploration of race and minority identity in a collection of essays published last year

evoked a conversation on the experiences of people of colour in the US.

## Hong's poetry

A faculty member in the department of English at Rutgers University, Hong first burst onto the literary scene in 2002 with her poetry collection, *Translating Mo'um*, that won her a Pushcart Prize, an annual literary prize awarded to the best in indie publishing. Since then, Hong has published *Dance Dance Revolution* (2007), which won the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and *Engine Empire* (2013). A sense of alienation is pervasive in her



Cathy Park Young on the *Time* cover. Reuters

poetry, in which Hong explores the duality of her identity. In the poem 'A Wreath of Hummingbirds' from *Engine Empire*, Hong writes, "I suffer a different kind of loneliness./ In the trilling ringtones of singing/wrens, cries of babies and ballad medleys,/ my ears, already injured by buds./ turn to brass." In *Dance Dance Revolution*, Hong's poems assume the form of transcriptions of imaginary interviews conducted by the narrator in a fictional way station called Desert, where the flux of visitors births a language that draws from over 300 dialects and other language sources.

In 2018, Hong won the Windham-Campbell Prize. She is the recipient of several other awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship (2015).

## Minor Feelings

"It is a unique condition that is distinctly Asian in that some of us are economically doing better than any other minority group but we barely exist anywhere in the public eye," writes Hong in an essay in *Minor Feelings: A Reckoning on Race and the Asian Condition*. Published last year, the book is a collection of seven essays that were sparked off after

watching the standup comedian and actor Richard Pryor speak about race on stage. Part memoir, part interrogation, *Minor Feelings* is Hong's first attempt at non-fiction that examines racial trauma and living on the margins. As a member of a community often held up as an immigrant success story, she writes of having to contend with perceptions about Asian people in America and struggling to find herself mirrored in them.

The book, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in the autobiography category, was also a finalist at this year's Pulitzer Prize in the general non-fiction category.



# Paralympics medal that wasn't still torments Vinod's family

ANDREW AMSAN  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 17

IT'S BEEN over a week since Vinod Kumar lost his Paralympic discus throw (F52) bronze but his daughter still believes her father is a Paralympic medallist. Sakshi, 7, watched her father finish third on the live stream but isn't aware yet of the fiasco that followed.

"She still thinks her father got home a medal from Tokyo," says Anita, Vinod's wife. There's no mistaking the air of grief and anguish at the rented accommodation in Rohtak the Kumars call home. They've gone through an emotional roller-coaster these past few weeks. First there was the joy of the 41-year-old setting a career best attempt of 19.91m to earn him bronze in the F52 classification of the men's discus event in Tokyo. But the result was put on hold for a classification review. And after the assessment the following morning, the panel found him ineligible for the F52 category.

"We had already distributed sweets to our neighbours and were celebrating his win," Anita recalls. "We thought our life would change after the medal but later that night my husband called me to and said the results were put on hold."

Vinod's call came as their home was swarming with celebrating friends and relatives. They muted the festivities, but still remained hopeful. But the next day, Vinod, in tears, called Anita to inform her that he would not return with a medal.

"No matter how tough you are at the end of the day, you are human. I am still shattered," says Vinod.

The moment the initial results came out, Vinod thought his life would take a turn for good. "I thought I would finally be able to buy a house for my children. I thought my loan installments would be sorted and I could also return the money I have borrowed from my sister," he adds.

## 'No source of income'

He claims the loans, including interest, amount to around Rs 10 lakh. The small grocery store they ran near the Rohtak stadium too has been vacated and the family currently has no source of income.

"I don't want to sit and think all day about the medal that slipped from my hands, but I want to train for Paris. I desperately need some support or else I would be forced to quit sports. Right now, it's a struggle to even take care of my family's expenses. How will I be able to compete when I have no source of income?" says Vinod.

In 2002, while training with the Border Security Force (BSF) in Leh, he fell off a cliff. He required major surgery to both legs and remained bedridden for almost a decade.



Discus thrower Vinod Kumar with wife Anita and daughters at their rented accommodation in Rohtak, Haryana.

Andrew Amsan

## Why para sports classification is a complex process

For participating in international para sports events, classification by the International Paralympics Committee (IPC) is mandatory. It is done by a panel comprising medical doctors, analysts, physiotherapists and other experts. For domestic meets, classification is conducted by the Paralympics Committee of India panel, says chairperson Satyanarayana. Classification in certain categories, especially for those with visual impairment, may change. "Sometimes, vision improves or deteriorates. There have been cases where an athlete's classification changed as their condition improved after an accident. Classification is a very complex process. Even a seasoned coach cannot tell by looking at an athlete. In fact, even athletes can't say for sure which class they belong to."

"After my father's demise, the family's responsibilities grew on me. I knew I had to do something. I pushed myself during my physiotherapy sessions and slowly developed some strength in my upper body," he says.

## Partner and cornerstone

In 2010 he got married to Anita who is been his cornerstone ever since. "Without her, I wouldn't have been able to become a professional athlete," says Vinod.

The Rohtak resident's foray into athletics though was quite recent. It was only after he came across a newspaper article about Rio Paralympic silver medallist Deepa Malik in 2016 that the family was introduced to the world of para-sports.

"We had no clue that differently-abled people could take part in sports," says Vinod.

He wanted to know more about para-sports and running a small store near Rohtak's Rajiv Gandhi Stadium helped his case.

Archery coach Sanjay Suhag, who used to frequent his store guided him through the process initially. Vinod started training for discus at the stadium and would later rush to the store so his wife Anita could get a little break. The regimen continued until last year when travelled to Bangalore for treatment.

He was twice infected with Covid-19 and briefly lost his voice after his first bout with the virus. "It was not easy to come back and resume training after Covid. I have worked really hard in the run-up to Tokyo but unfortunately, this issue happened. But I don't live in the past. I never have," Vinod concludes. Now he looks towards Paris 2024.

# Young Finn Virtanen stings Prajnesh in Davis Cup opener

SHAHID JUDGE  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 17

THERE WAS no urgency in his walk to the baseline. No sign of worry either, when he was facing a set point – instead there was a wry smile on Otto Virtanen's face. His movement, even during long rallies, was languid. He wore a baseball cap backwards to add to the nonchalant demeanour. He was the underdog, with nothing to lose.

Ranked 419 in the world, up against Prajnesh Gunneswaran, ranked 165, Virtanen was playing the opening match for Finland in the World Group 1 Davis Cup tie against the Indians. Serving at 5-6, 30-40 – set point for Prajnesh – in the second set, Virtanen, with the same air of nonchalance, walked to the baseline and hammered down his ninth ace of the match. A few minutes later, he closed out the match for a shock 6-3, 7-6(1) win.

In their first-ever tie against the Finns, India was handed a tough challenge at the Espoo Metro Areena, around 30 km from Helsinki. The hosts have World No. 74 Emil Ruusuvuori, the highest-ranked singles player in the tie. So the visitors were targeting 20-year-old Virtanen, playing in only his second Davis Cup tie, for two out of the three points they need to advance.

It also helped the Indian cause that their No. 1 would play Virtanen first in the hope that a win could put scoreboard pressure on Ruusuvuori in the second match.

But the aggressive youngster, the son of former Finnish Davis Cup player Pasi Virtanen, came up with an early surprise. He broke Prajnesh's serve in the sixth game of the match and never let go of the lead thereon. It was the only break of the match, but Virtanen did have another seven opportunities to break serve again. Five of those were saved when Prajnesh was serving at 4-4 in the second set.

## Rising to the occasion

On his own serve, Virtanen faced just two break points – saving both, including the big flat ace wide when facing set point.

"It was a combination of him coming up with the goods in the big moments, and me not doing enough," says Prajnesh after the match.

"It was a pretty good match from Otto. He served pretty well today, didn't give away any free points. Played pretty well when he had the lead."

India did have a slight advantage from the draw with Prajnesh playing first. But they were always running the risk of the left-hander not being at his best. The 31-year-old from Chennai has struggled with wrist injuries throughout this season, and it has affected his form as well.

"I'm not playing my sharpest, considering the fact that I've had injuries and not



Otto Virtanen beat Prajnesh Gunneswaran (in pic) 6-3, 7-6(1) in the World Group 1 Davis Cup tie.

PTI

## In their first-ever tie against the Finns, India was handed a tough challenge at the Espoo Metro Areena, around 30 km from Helsinki. The hosts have World No. 74 Emil Ruusuvuori, the highest-ranked singles player in the tie.

played too much. But every player goes through that at some point. That's not an excuse for not being able to find a way today," he says.

## Failing to capitalise

"I didn't do what I needed to today. Few loose games here and there. I feel like I didn't convert on some of the close situations."

Virtanen though, held his own rather well. He had a 73 per cent first serve percentage (55/75) – including 10 aces – compared to Prajnesh's 58 per cent (40/69). His service remained unbroken throughout the match, including the tie-breaker he went on to win 7-1 – where Prajnesh committed four unforced errors. In only his third Davis Cup match, the youngster from Hyvinkaa has picked up the biggest win in his career over a player once ranked as high as 75 in the world.

The Indians had hoped to get the opening point of the tie, which the Finns have claimed. World No. 187 Raman Kumar Ramanathan was up against Ruusuvuori in an attempt to even things up before the sole doubles rubber and reverse singles matches on Saturday.

# A red carpet welcome as Raducanu back in Britain

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 17

SHE'S BEEN on American talk shows, attended the Met Gala, ticked off a "bucket list" item by visiting the New York Stock Exchange, and chatted to Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton – a major deal for a big motorsports fan.

As for top soccer coach Jurgen Klopp, who manages Premier League team Liverpool, he has described her as the "talent of the century."

Emma Raducanu's life has been turned upside down since winning the U.S. Open title as an 18-year-old qualifier and, nearly a week later, she's still struggling to get to grips with what has happened.

"Sometimes," she said Friday, "I just have random bursts where I think, 'Oh my God, I just won the U.S. Open,' and then I go about as normal as if nothing has happened."

Watching the final for the first time on Thursday – the day she returned to Britain after a whirlwind few days in New York, and trying to relive a few of the moments from her 6-4 6-3 win over Canadian opponent Leylah Fernandez made it all sink in a bit more. Almost.

## Victory yet to sink in

"When I was watching it, it almost feels like that that's not me who is playing, who is pulling off some of those shots," she told the BBC. Her win on Saturday turned her into a superstar overnight, putting her in demand in the United States.

Everyone wanted a piece of her, with Chanel inviting her to the Met Gala, where she joined a throbbing crowd of celebrities and fashion designers in New York. That was her highlight of the past few days, especially since she met Hamilton there.

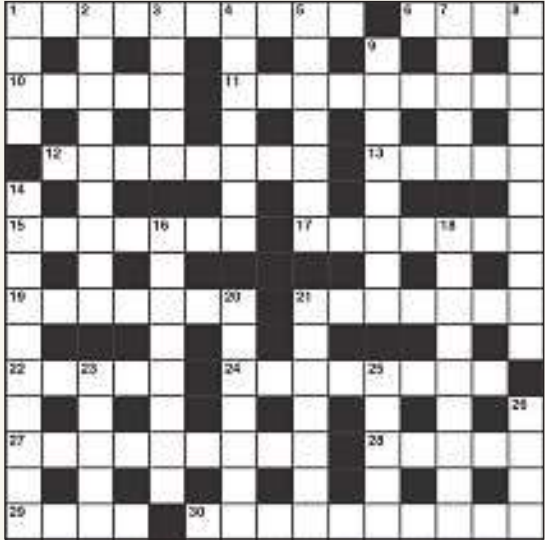
"He is such a great inspiration," she said. The same can now be said of the down-to-earth Raducanu, who had taken 18 months off from tennis to finish her high school education because her parents wanted her to have something to fall back on.

One of the subjects she studied was economics and her parents work in finance, explaining why the trip to the NYSE meant so much.

The message she wants to get across is: Dream big and work hard, no matter what your background is.

"Even if it's not tennis, even if it's other dreams like in school and being a doctor or anything like that? Dream big and anything can happen," she told Sky Sports. "And for tennis, I just want to get across you can be a normal kid, go to school, have all the normal things and still achieve results."

## CROSSWORD 4538



### ACROSS

- 1 Amazed by a dishonest arrangement (10)
- 6 Polishes grates (4)
- 10 Right – or in the French wrong (5)
- 11 Out to make one uneasy? (3,4)
- 12 City that could become an US icon (8)
- 13 Nominally involved in a court case (5)
- 15 I call round on pressing business (7)
- 17 The head cleaner (7)
- 19 No gentleman loses his life on the golf course (7)
- 21 I will be bound to feature a lot in his conversations (7)
- 22 Record score (5)
- 24 Insect that is dissected gives precise details (8)
- 27 Not impressed (9)
- 28 Fish around in wet conditions (5)
- 29 A great sea power (4)
- 30 The hour is near at hand for its owner (10)

### DOWN

- 2 Bill joins me at the summit (4)
- 3 Customarily it's no walkover for the bride (9)
- 4 Only order northern fabric (5)
- 5 Evil ruler foundering (7)
- 7 Nurse in bizarre sex case holds out (7)
- 8 Vessel designed to sink itself and others (1-4)
- 9 They go on fast; just on water (10)
- 10 Cat's coat in far from smooth condition (8)
- 14 Give the players the wrong time? (10)
- 16 Hibernian leads a machine operator a lively dance (5,3)
- 18 Bill is brought to heel by what things cost (5,4)
- 20 The Spanish man at the centre is a politician (7)
- 21 Doesn't make a message plain (7)
- 23 Largely drank up a store of supplies (5)
- 25 Make pottery of potential worth (5)
- 26 Legend ever in my thoughts (4)

Solutions Crossword 4537: Across: Let drop, 5 Incur, 8 Transport, 9 Neb, 10 Pack, 12 Round off, 14 Daniel, 15 Medals, 17 Skipping, 18 Stun, 21 Apt, 22 Radbreast, 24 Ruddy, 25 Secrete. Down: 1 Lit up, 2 Tea, 3 Rash, 4 Proton, 5 Intended, 6 Consonant, 7 Refuels, 11 Convicted, 13 Hen party, 14 Despair, 16 Anodes, 19 Nitre, 20 Eric, 23 Awe.

## 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.

Wish not so much to live \_\_\_\_ as to live \_\_\_\_ - Benjamin Franklin (4,.,4)

CPUEO

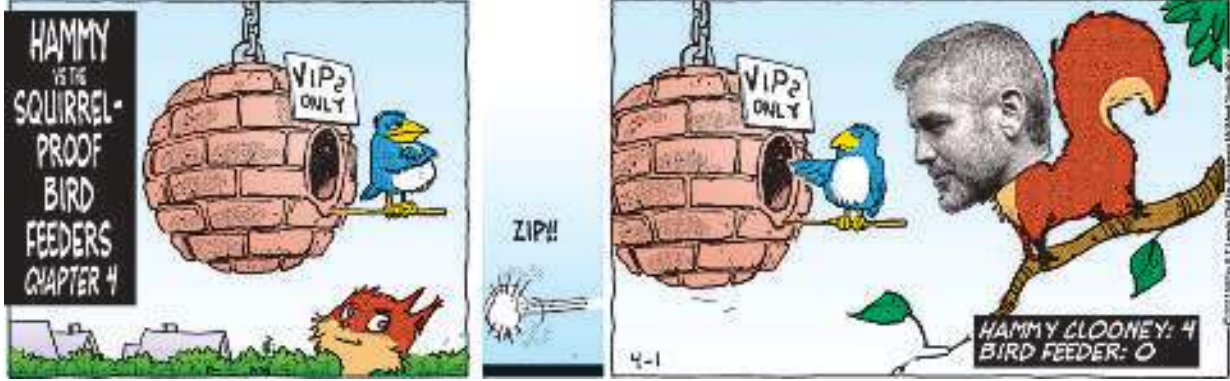
EMOSLN

HOYLL

AIJSGW

ANSWER: WISH NOT SO MUCH TO LIVE WELL - BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## SUDOKU 4598

### Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

### Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4597



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You can follow your dreams and take one further step into enabling a special fantasy to become a reality. You may also be tempted to cancel a social engagement, perhaps because a quiet life suddenly begins to look more attractive. Think twice, though, because you might regret it.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There's still a lot of pressure around, more than you're ready for. But what seems to be increasingly important is that you devote more time to social gatherings. A new acquaintance could soon become one of those special friends with whom you share a deep emotional bond.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Professional Geminians will be preoccupied with career ambitions, but those of you taking time off should involve yourselves in leisure pursuits which are competitive and could lead to status and prestige. You want to be recognised for your real skills, that's no less than you deserve.

### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Long-distance contacts are important so, if you are travelling today you should be well in touch with your stars and, if you're not, go ahead and make plans for the future. Keep an eye on legal questions, by the way, for you don't want to overlook vital details while you have the chance.

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

About of extravagance and self-indulgence should be well-deserved, so don't hold yourself back. You know better than anyone that you deserve a reward after all your recent struggles. Perhaps, in time, other people will realise it as well.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

You are bound to be pulled in two directions emotionally, but if you realise exactly why your desires are so contradictory, you'll be well-prepared for the personal changes that are on the way. Oh, and don't blame other people for problems of your own making.

### LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Stay busy and make sure that other people are quite happy with your every move. There seem to be one or two chores which have unfortunately been left undone, and which are now a matter of urgency. Romantically, it will do you good to be closeted alone with a loved one.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Never imagine that private and personal changes are over, just because the situation has calmed down. Everything that happens contributes to a fund of experience that will stand you in very good stead in the future. Besides, a critical financial point is now in the past.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Family affairs require your attention, and the discussions you had earlier in the week should help you to deal with relations' little complaints, as well as their hopes. In love, your expectations will be high and getting higher. But will they be too high for any mere mortal to meet? Perhaps.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You really have a very remarkable mind, even though it often goes unnoticed by your less sensitive friends and family members. One of your major qualities is an ability to persuade other people that you are in the right. This is a gift you should now cultivate.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You have every right to feel proud of the way you have handled recent emotional upsets, but only if you have held back from accusing other people. There is no point in attributing blame in these situations, and it would be better to focus on finding reasonable solutions.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Now that the Moon is constructively aligned with your sign you can afford to be complacent at least for a while. It's not just a matter of putting your feet up, though. Much to your credit, you may also take control of situations which other people just seem unwilling, or unable, to handle.



# 16 SPORT

## Trouble brewing in La Liga over investment deal

REUTERS  
SEPTEMBER 17

BARCELONA, Real Madrid and Athletic Bilbao all announced on Friday that they were challenging LaLiga's private equity investment deal with CVC.

'Boost LaLiga', which was ratified last month by 38 of 42 clubs across Spain's top two divisions and is worth a reported 2.2 billion euros (\$2.58 billion), means CVC would receive 11% of revenue from television rights over the next 50 years in exchange for pouring money into LaLiga.

The fourth club to reject the measure was second division side Oviedo, however they have since changed their stance and come on board with the project. The vast majority of the cash is to be given to clubs to spend on new infrastructure and modernisation projects as well as increasing how much they can spend on players. "Athletic Club, F.C. Barcelona and Real Madrid C.F. wish to announce that they have contested the resolution adopted by the LaLiga Assembly on 12 August 2021, in relation to the deal between LaLiga and CVC," a joint statement read.

"The agreement violates the provisions of the applicable regulations (and in particular, the Royal Decree-Law 5/2015) and it was adopted within the framework of a procedure that is grossly irregular and disrespectful to the minimum guarantees required for these purposes, especially in a deal of such importance and scope."

Real last month announced they would launch civil and criminal lawsuits against the president of La Liga, Javier Tebas, and the chief of CVC Capital Partners, Javier de Jaime Guijarro over the proposed deal. Barca offered a further explanation of their stance: "The Club's Economic Committee presented a study that concluded the agreement made no sense for Barcelona, not for its cost, nor the remuneration it would receive, the duration or the kind of obligations that it entails," a separate statement read.

"It's surprising they're challenging something that doesn't actually affect them. They would only benefit from the growth of LaLiga in the coming years," a LaLiga spokesman told Reuters.

"LaLiga has the support for the agreement from 39 of the 42 clubs that make up the league. We will continue working with CVC on this project, which we are confident is good for LaLiga and the clubs." The challenge demonstrates that these three clubs are attempting to prevent growth for the other clubs in the league."

### Juve's \$247mn loss

Net loss at Juventus more than doubled in its 2020-21 financial year to 209.9 million euros (\$247 million), its highest on record, as revenue plummeted due to closed-door matches amid the coronavirus crisis, the soccer club said. In a statement on Friday, Italy's Juventus added it would finish the 2021-22 financial year, which will still be heavily affected by the pandemic, with a "significant loss".

"The group's economic performance is expected to improve significantly starting from the 2022-23 financial year," the club said. Controlled by Exor, the holding company of the Agnelli family, Juventus reported a 16% revenue fall to 480.7 million euros in the twelve months ending June 30. Operating costs at the Turin-based club rose to 449.3 million euros compared with 414.1 million, while financial debt stood rose marginally to 389.2 million euros from 385.2 million euros the previous year.

Last month Juventus agreed to sell 36-year old soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo to European rivals Manchester United, as part of an effort to curb costs and rejuvenate its squad. Ronaldo's departure capped a tumultuous year for Juventus, which promoted a failed attempt to set a breakaway Super league with other top European clubs.

## FALSIFYING FACTS

# A chess pioneer sues, saying she was slighted in The Queen's Gambit

MATT STEVENS  
SEPTEMBER 17

IN THE final episode of "The Queen's Gambit," the wildly popular Netflix series, an announcer delivers chess play-by-play and commentary while the show's fictional heroine, portrayed by Anya Taylor-Joy, competes in a climactic tournament in Moscow.

"The only unusual thing about her, really, is her sex, and even that's not unique in Russia," the announcer intones, as a woman watching the match comes into focus. "There's Nona Gaprindashvili, but she's the female world champion and has never faced men."

The series is fiction, but there is a real pioneering chess champion named Nona Gaprindashvili, the first woman to be named a grandmaster. Now 80 years old and living in Tbilisi, Georgia, she was pained to learn that the television show had erased her many successes against male opponents. (A

1968 headline in The New York Times, for instance, reads, "Chess: Miss Gaprindashvili Beats 7 Men in a Strong Tourney.")

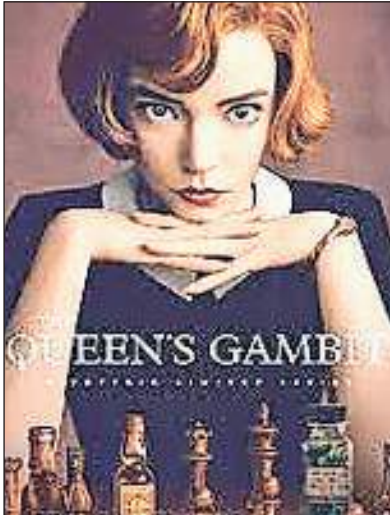
So on Thursday, Ms. Gaprindashvili filed a lawsuit against Netflix in Federal District Court in Los Angeles, seeking millions of dollars in damages for what the suit claims is a "devastating falsehood, undermining and degrading her accomplishments before an audience of many millions" and calling for the line about her not facing men to be removed.

"They were trying to do this fictional character who was blazing the trail for other women, when in reality I had already blazed the trail and inspired generations," Ms. Gaprindashvili said in a recent video interview arranged by her lawyers, speaking in Georgian, which was translated to English by her grandson. "That's the irony."

Netflix said that it greatly respected Ms. Gaprindashvili but that it believed her claim was without merit. "Netflix has only the utmost respect for Ms. Gaprindashvili and her



In the popular fictional series, an announcer says the then world champion Nona Gaprindashvili never faced men, which the player says is false.



illustrous career, but we believe this claim has no merit and will vigorously defend the case," the company said in a statement.

As the 25-page complaint details, Ms. Gaprindashvili did, in fact, play against many highly skilled male champions over the course of her career, including before the episode in question takes place. The suit claims that the line that she had "never faced men" caused professional harm to Ms. Gaprindashvili, who continues to compete in senior chess tournaments, and notes that "The Queen's Gambit" was viewed in more than 62 million households in the first month after its release.

"This was an insulting experience," Ms. Gaprindashvili said during the hourlong interview, when she could not resist at times enthusiastically recounting some of her most memorable chess matches and victories. "This is my entire life that has been crossed out, as though it is not important," she said.

The lawsuit alleges that Netflix "brazenly and deliberately lied about Gaprindashvili's

achievements for the cheap and cynical purpose of 'heightening the drama' by making it appear that its fictional hero had managed to do what no other woman, including Gaprindashvili, had done."

The complaint added that "in a story that was supposed to inspire women by showing a young woman competing with men at the highest levels of world chess, Netflix humiliated the one real woman trail blazer who had actually faced and defeated men on the world stage in the same era."

"The Queen's Gambit," based on the 1983 novel by Walter Tevis, became what Netflix described as its biggest limited scripted series ever. The series won two Golden Globes earlier this year and has garnered 18 Emmy Awards and nominations; there are plans for it to be adapted into a stage musical. And, just as Ms. Gaprindashvili has been doing for years through her game play and example, the series has inspired more women to take up chess while also renewing concerns about sexism in the game. **NYT**



■ New Zealand pulled out of their limited overs tour of Pakistan, just minutes before the first ODI in Rawalpindi, after a security alert.

■ The series comprised three ODIs and five T20 Internationals. The England and Wales Cricket Board is reconsidering sending teams next month to Pakistan.

■ PCB's newly-appointed chairman Rameez Raja, the former batsman, hit out at New Zealand Cricket for not giving out more details about the security threat.

# Hidden gems

Some have raw talent, others hail from cricketing outposts; a look at some newcomers who can sparkle in IPL-13

SANDIP G  
SEPTEMBER 17

### AUSSIE STARRING FOR SINGAPORE

Tim David, 25

COUNTRY: SINGAPORE

Allrounder (RCB)



Repeatedly snubbed by his home state, Western Australia, David chose to play for the country of his birth, Singapore. He became a spontaneous superstar with his big-hitting prowess, which didn't escape the eyes of the Big Bash League scouts. So before playing a single first-class or List A game, David fetched a Perth Scorchers contract. More lucrative deals followed; Lahore Qalandars, St. Lucia Kings, Hobart Hurricanes, Southern Brave (the Hundred champions), and now Royal Challengers Bangalore. In between, he bargained a limited-overs cricket deal with Surrey. He embodies all the virtues the shortest format requires: The knack to tee off from the get-go, the ability to sustain momentum and a strong and accurate throwing arm. He boasts a T20 strike rate of 154 in 61 games and an average of 36, which means he hits well and scores consistently.

### 90MPH, SHORT RUN-UP

George Garton, 24

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

Bowling allrounder (RCB)



Aside-on freeze-frame of his follow-through resembles that of South Africa's left-arm wrist-spinner Paul Adams. But Garton's anything but a spinner, someone who consistently clocks above 90mph from an explosive leap from a relatively short run-up. He was earmarked for Test cricket, and picked as a standby for the Ashes 2017-18, but for a side strain, he picked when lifting his cricket kit from the airport carousel. He lost two years of progression but returned revitalised and with an eye on fran-

chise cricket.

Garton joined the T10 league, where he emerged as the highest wicket-taker. He threw his hat in the Hundred ring, where too he was in irrepressible form, propelling Southern Brave to the title with his 10 wickets. While he has not lost any of his speed and the rare gift to seam the ball back into the right-hander, the Sussex man has added more strings to his bow, the veritable T20 staple like slow bouncers and cutters. But it's pace that thrills him, and it's the pace that could be his USP on the dead tracks of the UAE.

### TEACHER'S HELP, YORKER EXPERT

Nathan Ellis, 26

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA

Pace bowler (Punjab Kings)



He produced a six-for on his Sheffield Shield debut, a five-for on Marsh Cup debut, before plucking a hat-trick in his first game for Australia in a T20 International against Bangladesh.

Before the big break, he persisted with cricket by doing part-time jobs as a labourer in Hobart, as a furniture removalist, and then as a teacher's help in a school for boys with learning difficulties. It was then that Tasmania coach Adam Griffith spotted him during a club game and invited him for trials. He was impressed by Ellis' supple wrists and the ability to swing the Kookaburra ball on hard, dead tracks of Australia. He added a pinpoint yorker and a cleverly-disguised back-of-the-hand slower ball, shed his pace-height inferiority complex and began his real cricketing journey.

### JACK OF ALL TRADES

Glenn Phillips, 24

COUNTRY: NEW ZEALAND

Wicketkeeper-batsman (RR)



Daniel Vettori calls him a total cricketer. A post-modern stroke-maker, a polished gloveman, an acrobatic slip-fielder and an efficient off-

### 'HARDEST HITTER'

Liam Livingstone, 28

COUNTRY: ENGLAND

Batting allrounder (RR)



He could bowl both leg-breaks and off-breaks, depending on whether the batsman is left or right-handed, but it's his destructive batting that has made Livingstone a coveted franchise-cricket entity. He first hit the headlines — at 21, days after dropping out of university, saying he cannot focus on academics because of cricket — when he pillaged 350 off 138 balls (34 fours and 27 sixes) in a club game. Thereon, he climbed the rungs of the game swiftly, eventually making his England debut last year, despite their riches of all-round quality in the shorter formats.

Andy Flower is convinced that he's the hardest hitter of the cricket ball he had ever seen.

spinner who could bowl flat and skid the ball off the surface, a skill both his franchise and country would look to harness over the coming months in the UAE. But it's Phillips' batsmanship that is expected to make headlines. He has arrived in the desert with a spring of runs. In a Caribbean Premier League match, he cuffed nine sixes (and two fours) on his way to an unbeaten 80 from just 39 balls. His boundary-hitting instinct is immense — every fifth ball he faces is struck for a six or four in T20 cricket, in which he brandishes a strike rate of 144.

### LANKA'S RASHID

Wanindu Hasaranga, 24

COUNTRY: SRI LANKA

Spin bowling-allrounder (RCB)

When Hasaranga was growing up, he



wanted to turn the ball as precociously as his idol Muttiah Muralitharan. But he chose leg-spin and evolved into a modern-day, shorter-format exponent. A leg-spinner in the Rashid Khan mould, swapping flight and turn for flatness, control, skid and variations, confounding and frustrating batsmen with change of angles, pace and release points.

The methods are working, as he is second to Tabraiz Shamsi in the ICC T20 bowlers' rankings. Like Rashid, Hasaranga can open the bowling, apply the squeeze in the middle overs and stifle batsmen at the death. With a T20 economy rate of 6.39 and an average of 15, it's a mystery why he had gone unsold in the auction.

It took his three-wicket burst against India in July to catch the eyes of the franchise — there apparently was a four-way tussle to avail his services.

### MASTER AT SECOND GUESSING

Ben Dwarshuis, 27

COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA

Seamer (DC)



Earlier, it was his surname that caught the attention, then his moustache, and now it's his bowling that's garnering admiration.

Not an express bowler, he is most reputed for his accuracy and cleverness, his yorker and cutters, the innate ability to second-guess a batsman's mind, serenity under duress, and wicket-taking knack.

Only Daniel Sams has taken more wickets than Dwarshuis over the past three BBL seasons, only Sams has taken more wickets at the death, and his economy rate of 6.62 in the Powerplays is the best during that period. And all of these, he does with a couple of screws and wires wrapped around his back after a succession of stress injuries. Like the other Dutch-Australian cricketer, Dirk Nannes, he is deliberating to turn up for the country of his origin, if the wait gets longer for an Australia cap.

## BRIEFLY

### Bidhuri beaten by Sachin in first round

*Bellary:* Former world championships bronze-winner Gaurav Bidhuri (57kg) bowed out after a first-round loss in the men's National Boxing Championships here on Friday, upstaged by Haryana's Sachin. Sachin was up against one of the strongest contenders for the title in Gaurav (Railways Sports Promotion Board) and came out triumphant by a 4-1 margin. Another Haryana pugilist and South Asian Games champion Ankith Khatana made his way into the 75kg quarter-finals after he out-punched Himachal Pradesh's Dharm Pal in unanimous victory. Telangana's Savio Dominic Michael (54kg) and Goa's Ashok Patil (67kg) too progressed to the last-eight stage with identical 4-1 victories. While Savio defeated Jharkhand's Krishna Jora, Ashok Patil got the better of Himachal Pradesh's Mohan Chander. Chandigarh's Kuldeep Kumar (48kg) and Sachin were among the other boxers to make progress on the third day of the Championships. **PTI**

### Parul wins second gold at Open Ntls

*Warangal:* Parul Chaudhary of Railways won her second gold medal beating Maharashtra's Komal Chandrakant Jagdale in the women's 3000m steeple-chase final in the 60th National Open Athletics Championships at the Jawaharlal Nerhu Stadium in Hanamkonda here on Friday. Though Ram Baboo (Uttar Pradesh) was credited with the only national record-breaking performance when he won the men's 35km race walk in 2 hours 46 minutes and 31 seconds, it was the women's 3000m steeplechase that made for great viewing for the goodly crowd that turned up. Railways' B Aishwarya claimed the women's long jump crown with an opening leap of 6.52m that propelled her among the top jumpers in the country. For someone whose previous best effort was over 6.25m on January 3, 2020 and the best this season was 6.16m in the Railways trials, the 24-year old will have pleasantly surprised fans of athletics. **PTI**

### Relief for Australian swimmer Shayna

*New Delhi:* Australian swimmer Shayna Jack was cleared Thursday to resume her competitive career after a doping case that forced her to miss the Tokyo Olympics. The Court of Arbitration for Sport said it rejected appeals by the World Anti-Doping Agency and Sport Integrity Australia, who called for a four-year ban instead of the two years she finished serving in July. Jack had "on the balance of probabilities, established that she did not intentionally or recklessly consume the prohibited substance," the court said in a statement. Jack tested positive for the anabolic agent ligandrol ahead of the 2019 world championships. The 22-year-old swimmer, a four-time medalist in relays at the 2017 worlds, denied doping and blamed a contaminated supplement. An Australian sports tribunal had recommended a four-year ban before she took the case to a previous CAS process to resolve. That eventual two-year ban was challenged by the two anti-doping bodies. "After a 2 year and 3 month battle, I have finally received my final decision that my appeal case has been dismissed by the Court of Arbitration," Jack said. **AP**