



Channi as 'aam aadmi': promises people's govt, free power, water for poor, farmers

Vows justice in Bargari sacrilege case, calls Rahul 'revolutionary'; Amarinder absent at swearing-in

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 20

SEEKING TO address issues over which his predecessor, Amarinder Singh, had faced criticism, new Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, in his first remarks after taking oath on Monday, underlined his accessibility as an "aam aadmi", assured support to farmers and the poor, and "justice" in the Bargari sacrilege case.

Ahead of the Assembly elections in the state next year, Channi promised a reduction in power tariff, free power and water supply to farmers and the poor, waiver of their pending power and water bills of the last five years, and a transparent "people's government".

Channi, 58, became the first Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab after he was administered oath of office by Governor Banwarilal Purohit. Deputy Chief Ministers Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa and OP Soni were also sworn in on Monday.

While Amarinder Singh stayed away, senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Harish Rawat, Ajay Maken and PCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu were among those who attended the ceremony.

Speaking to reporters later, Channi said his government would continue free power and

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By UNNNY



GOVT & POLITICS

BOTH DEPUTY CMs FROM MAJHA; OPP PLANS IN DISARRAY
PAGE 6

water supply to the agriculture sector, and extend it to the poor too. "Their pending water and power bills of the last five years will be waived off. I know these bills add up to lakhs. The water/power connections which were cut due to non-payment of bills will also be restored," he said.

"We will make power cheaper so that it does not burn a hole in anybody's pocket. I know how expensive power hurts. My wife gives me a look

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rahul Gandhi with the new CM Channi, as deputy CMs Soni (left), Randhawa look on. PTI

Day after, Rawat says Sidhu will lead in polls, Jakhar flays Sikh talk

MANOJ CG, NAVJEEVAN GOPAL, KANCHAN VASDEV
NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 20

WITH CONGRESS leader Harish Rawat's remarks that the forthcoming Assembly elections in Punjab will be fought under the leadership of Navjot Singh Sidhu triggering a political storm, the

party high command on Monday stepped in to clear the air, arguing that both Sidhu and newly appointed Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi will fight the elections together.

On Sunday, speaking to ANI after Channi was picked for the CM post, Rawat, AICC general secretary in charge of Punjab, had said that while the Congress's face for the coming

Assembly polls in the state will be decided by the Congress president, "given the circumstances, elections will be fought with the Chief Minister's cabinet under the Punjab Congress Committee, whose chief, Navjot Singh Sidhu, is very popular".

On Monday, former Punjab PCC chief Sunil Jakhar, whose name was among the CM

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

No violation, instigation by Pak since ceasefire in Feb: top Army officer

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 20

WITH THE India-Pakistan border truce in its seventh month, the top Army commander in Kashmir said Monday that there has been no ceasefire violation from across the border in the Valley. The General Officer Commanding (GoC) of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



GoC, 15 Corps, Lt Gen Pandey in Srinagar on Monday. PTI

CRPF Chhattisgarh review: Quality of ops down; officers keeping away

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

A CONSIDERABLE decline in the involvement of senior officers has led to a dip in quality of operations, such as not setting up tactical resting sites for troops — this is a key shortcoming listed by the CRPF in a review of the force's Chhattisgarh-based units over the last two years, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

A senior officer told *The Indian Express* that a detailed report based on the review was sent to units based in Sukma, Konta, Bijapur, Dantewada, Jagdalpur, and Raipur on September 17. In Chhattisgarh, the CRPF is mainly involved in anti-Maoist operations, and maintenance of law and order, along with the state police.

A major finding of the review by senior officials at the sector headquarters is that the involvement of senior officers at the

level of commandant and second-in-command has considerably decreased.

"Their involvement is a very important factor to decide the quality and output of any operation. It has been noticed after reviewing all the operations that there has been a continuous

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

HAVE CENTRE OK FOR ULFA TALKS: SARMA
PAGE 5



THE WORLD

SHOOTING AT RUSSIA UNIVERSITY LEAVES 6 DEAD, 28 INJURED
PAGE 12

Akhara Parishad chief found dead in UP, his 'suicide note' blames his disciple

MANISH SAHU & MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 20

MAHANT NARENDRA Giri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), considered the largest grouping of sadhus in the country, was found dead at Baghambari math in Prayagraj on Monday.

Police said they found a seven-page 'suicide note' in which the mahant has held his disciple and yoga guru, Anand Giri, besides two others, responsible for his death. UP DGP Mukul Goel said the note would be sent for forensic examination.

Additional Director General (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said a team of the UP Police has been sent to Haridwar, where Anand Giri has been detained. Kumar said that on Monday, around 5.20 pm, one of Giri's followers called police and informed them that the mahant had hung himself from a fan in his room at Baghambari math, where he stayed. The disciple told police that they cut the rope and brought the body down.

It was in 2016 that Giri first took over as chief of the Akhara Parishad. It was during his



Narendra Giri headed India's largest group of sadhus

tenure that the Parishad released a list of allegedly "fake saints". In 2019, Giri was elected chief of the Parishad for a second time.

In April this year, Giri had tested positive for Covid-19.

For the past few months, the mahant had been involved in a public tussle with Anand Giri, with both sides accusing each other of, among other things, misappropriation of funds.

Giri is said to have got Anand Giri expelled from the Niranjani akhara following allegations that he went against the traditions of the akhara by keeping in touch with his family. While Anand Giri also accused his guru of financial irregularities, he is said to have later apologised.

In a statement to the media, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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RE-STARTING TRAVEL AFTER COVID

India protests new UK jab rules, US to open to fully vaccinated in Nov

India sends memo, threatens 'reciprocity' as UK's Sept 17 order does not count Covishield vaccinated among jabbed

SHUBHAJIT ROY & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

ON A day that India threatened to retaliate against new British travel rules putting those who are vaccinated with Covishield in the category of the "unvaccinated", the US said it would open up to "fully vaccinated" travellers November onward.

The New York Times quoted Jeff Zients, the White House pandemic coordinator, as saying international travel was "critical to connecting families and friends, to fuelling small and large businesses, and to promoting the open exchange of ideas and culture".

Reports in the American media said the rule would apply to most countries including India. The US currently allows only its citizens and members of their immediate families, green card holders, and those with national interest exemptions (NIE), if they have been in India in the previous two weeks.

Zients told PBS that international travellers would require proof of full vaccination and a negative Covid-19 test up to 72 hours prior to departure for the US.

However, it was not immediately clear whether tourists too would be allowed to enter the US.

Also, ABC News quoted Zients as saying that while the 14-day quarantine would go for fully vaccinated international travellers, the specific vaccines that qualify a traveller as "fully vaccinated" would be determined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national public health agency of the US.

This point about which vaccines are acceptable, is at the heart of a diplomatic firestorm that erupted between the UK

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



At the international arrivals area of Terminal 5 in London's Heathrow Airport. Reuters

Covax stalled, India to start vaccine export in Oct, expects surplus

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THREE MONTHS after it put on hold Covid vaccine exports to combat a ferocious second wave, India said Monday that it will resume its flagship Vaccine Maitri initiative in the fourth quarter starting October to reduce supply inequity in poorer nations.

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said India's vaccine manufacturers are expected to produce more than 30 crore doses in October for the domestic drive — and that surplus supply will be used to fulfill the country's commitment towards the global fight against Covid.

Mandaviya said the Government is receiving 26 crore doses from domestic manufacturers this month. "The rate

EXPLAINED
India holds the key

SO FAR, only 20% of the target population in low and lower-middle income countries have received the first Covid vaccine dose compared to 80% in high and upper-middle income nations. As the world's leading manufacturer, resumption of exports by India will help bridge this gap.

of vaccination is also constantly increasing. On four days, we have administered more than one crore doses each. Today also, CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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3 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
21,842



TOTAL CASES		HOSPITAL BEDS		Total	Vacant
14,38,517				16,426	16,152
		ICU BEDS		3,566	3,471
Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests		
Sept 19	28	45	0	63,302	
Sept 20	20	28	0	47,845	
Total	379*	14,13,053	25,085	2,70,01,051	

*Total active cases

DRUGS DEPT HAD FILED COMPLAINT OF UNAUTHORISED DISTRIBUTION

Fabiflu case: Proceedings against Gambhir's foundation stayed by HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE DELHI High Court Monday stayed proceedings in a criminal complaint filed by Delhi's Drugs Control Department against the Gautam Gambhir Foundation (GGF) before a Rohini court. The complaint, filed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, alleged unauthorised stocking and distribution of a Covid drug during a medical camp held by the foundation during the second wave in Delhi.

Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar passed the interim order in a quashing petition filed by the GGF and others. Issuing notice to the Drugs Control Department and seeking a reply, the court listed the case for hearing on

December 8. "Till then, the proceedings are stayed," it said.

The GGF trustees — BJP MP Gautam Gambhir, his wife Natasha Gambhir, his mother Seema Gambhir and CEO Aparajita Singh — are accused in the case. The Drugs Control Department has alleged that GGF did not hold a licence for stocking or distribution of the drugs, including medical oxygen. The accused have contravened the provisions of Section 18 (c) of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules thereunder and therefore have committed an offence which is punishable under Section 27(b)(ii) of the Act, the department said in its complaint before the trial court in July.

Senior advocate Atmaram NS Nadkarni, representing the peti-



GGF trustees — BJP MP Gautam Gambhir, his wife, his mother, and CEO — are accused in the case. *Archive*

tioners, argued before the court that this was not a matter where anyone hoarded medicine for the purpose of making money or enriching himself. "Unless the element of sale is there, the distribution or stocking by itself won't be an offence," he argued, referring

to a Supreme Court judgment.

In the petition filed by GGF and others through advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, it has been argued that the department ought to have considered that Covid has been declared a pandemic and "community support and charity services" provided by them to suffering families ought not to have been penalised. Public health infrastructure had virtually collapsed "on account of the failure of the state government", the petition contends further.

"Initiating criminal proceedings against social workers who, without care for their own safety, went over and above their call of duty to be of service to their fellow citizens would be a gross miscarriage of justice," reads the plea. GGF had organised a free

medical camp at Jagriti Enclave from April 22 to May 7 to provide help to people suffering from Covid, as per a statement given by the BJP MP to police in May.

"A total of 2,628 strips of Fabiflu were purchased from authorised vendors against prescription... Respective invoices were obtained by the foundation from vendors for said purchase," Gambhir had said, adding that 2,343 strips of the drug were distributed free of cost to attendants of Covid patients against the prescription produced by them.

The department had initiated inquiries into the complaints alleging unlawful distribution of Covid drugs and oxygen in pursuance of orders passed by the High Court in June in a petition filed by Dr Deepak Singh.

200+ dengue cases so far, type 2 strain may be doing the rounds

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

DELHI HAS reported 211 cases of dengue between January 1 and September 18, out of which 87 have been reported this month. The weekly report compiled by the South MCD showed that 86 cases of malaria and 44 cases of chikungunya have also been reported in the city during the same period.

No death has been reported from the illnesses so far this year. The highest number of dengue cases recorded during the same period was in 2017 when the city saw 1,465 cases of the vector-borne disease.

In 2020, a total of 172 dengue cases were recorded during the same period.

"The spurt has not exceptionally climbed up, it looks like we are entering a static condition. We are witnessing more liver involvement and bleeding



87 cases have been reported this month. *Archive*

of nose, throat and skin. This was also seen earlier but the proportion of people with these symptoms has increased. This is a different strain, most probably

the type 2 strain that causes these symptoms," said Dr Suranjeet Chatterjee, department of internal medicine, Indraprastha Apollo hospitals.

EXPULSION OF 3 COUNCILLORS FROM PARTY

How history of complaints, looming polls forced BJP hand

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE BJP'S Delhi unit Sunday expelled three sitting councillors for six years over complaints of "excessive financial corruption", releasing a strongly worded letter that read: "This is to inform you that owing to several complaints of excessive financial corruption from the people, you have been suspended from Bharatiya Janata Party's membership for... six years. You have been informed of these complaints many times in the past and asked to correct your corrupt behaviour, but no improvement was seen..."

A look at what transpired behind the scenes in each case:

Rajni Bablu Pandey, councillor from New Ashok Nagar: An audio recording went public last August, purportedly between a builder and Pandey's brother-in-law Nishant, in which the former can be heard saying he has given money to him and a junior engineer but the construction project is stalled. AAP in a press conference alleged that the councillor and her team are infamous in her area because of such activities. The BJP then formed a panel under then EDMC standing committee head Parvesh Sharma.

"There were complaints of money exchanging hands for construction... The committee report suggested there was truth in some of these allegations," said a BJP office bearer.

BJP MP from East Delhi Gautam Gambhir and some office bearers had also complained against the councillor's relatives to Delhi unit chief Adesh Gupta and urged action against her.

On Monday, Gambhir told *The Indian Express*, "This is a good step. I had also complained against her; such a step should have been taken earlier..."

Pandey said, "We will be with the party our entire life. Some people wrongly spread the word that I am joining AAP out of jealousy, so this action was taken... The earlier allegations against me have been cleared by the court."

Sanjay Thakur, councillor from Said-ul-Ajaib: Thakur had faced charges of real estate-related fraud and forgery. A complaint over occupying government land was registered against him, and on June 10 last year, another complaint was filed against him for forcefully gaining control of a person's house in Greater Kailash.

There was also a complaint in January 2020 by a retired professor from Patna against Thakur for allegedly making fake property documents. In April, AAP in a press conference had alleged Thakur was involved in extortion and a nexus with some builders.

Thakur, however, said the BJP didn't give him an opportunity to present his stand: "The building mafia are working against me. There are people in my own party against me, some need tickets, so all kinds of things are at play."

Pooja Madan, councillor from Mukherjee Nagar: In Madan's case, party insiders said, her decision to join the AAP along with her husband Sanjay appears to have played a bigger role than complaints against her. According to sources, Delhi BJP leaders were aware of their plan at least three days earlier, and top leaders tried to stop them on Sunday morning. The two joined AAP hours after the letter was made public.

Sources said Madan and Northeast district head Mohan Goyal were not on good terms over issues related to party activities, which may have prompted her to leave. She said, "If I was corrupt then why was action taken just before my joining?..."

Why was action taken so late?

Complaints against both Pandey and Thakur are over a year old. Party insiders said the Delhi BJP has learnt through surveys that there is resentment against several councillors over perceived corruption, especially to get buildings constructed. With polls nearing and the party facing a three-term anti-incumbency and a buoyant AAP, the BJP wants to be seen as being proactive on the issue, sources in the party said.

Gupta told *The Indian Express*, "It takes time to investigate cases... but we want to make it clear that if anyone is found to be engaged in such activity in future, there will be strict action."

Man held for raping minor girl in Palwal

Gurgaon: Police have arrested a man for allegedly raping a minor girl at gunpoint in Palwal after threatening to share her photos on social media. The accused was produced before a district court and sent to two-day police remand.

Police said the incident took place on July 20, but the girl did not tell anyone initially as the accused had threatened to kill her.

On July 20, the accused blackmailed her into meeting him outside her house at midnight and took her in a car to a godown. An accomplice of the accused was driving the car. The girl alleged he raped her near the godown at gunpoint.

Palwal police spokesperson Sanjay said, "An FIR was registered at the women's police station. The accused was arrested from Gurgaon, Monday." **ENS**

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Sd/- **Administrative Officer**
Karnataka Evaluation Authority

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6.	KFL/17550/05-10	Mrs. SEEMA GUPTA	E2-1101
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15.	KFL/17932/11-12	Miss CHAYAN SUNEJA	H2-0901
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36.	KFL/18041/19-20	Mrs. NEENA ANAND	S2-1202
37.	KFL/17360/06-07	Mrs. BABITA SHARMA	S2-1204
38.	KFL/14743/06-07	Mr. PRATEEK RUSTAGI	S3-0302
39.	KFL/12176/05-06	Mr. LOKESH SHARMA	S3-0402
40.	KFL/16072/06-07	Mr. RAKESH KUMAR JAIN	S3-1002
41.	KFL/10449/05-06	Mr. RAKESH KUMAR JAIN	S4-0203
42.	KFL/15279/05-06	Mr. SUSHIL KUMAR	S4-0401
43.	KFL/13823/06-07	Mrs. MADHU JAIN	S4-1003
44.	KFL/13324/06-07	Mr. ASHU GOEL	S4-1101
45.	KFL/17921/11-12	Mr. YASH PAL GROVER	U1-0202
46.	KFL/14371/05-06	Mrs. SHIKHA GROVER	U1-1002
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48.	KFL/17978/12-13	Mr. PARVESH	U2-1104
49.	KFL/10935/05-06	Mrs. NIRMALA GUPTA	U3-0704
50.	KFL/10937/05-06	Mrs. URMILA RANI JINDAL	U3-0804
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52.	KFL/12924/06-07	Mr. KAMALJIT SINGH MAVI	U5-0903
53.	KFL/16845/06-07	Mr. GURDEEP SINGH	V1-0101
54.	KFL/17810/11-12	Mrs. CHARU OBEROI	V1-0302
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57.	KFL/12251/05-06	Mr. PUNEET KURKHAJA	V1-0603
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89.	KFL/11536/06-07	Mr. VIVEK BHATIA	Z1-0803
90.	KFL/17748/11-12	Mr. HARPREET SINGH	Z2-0702
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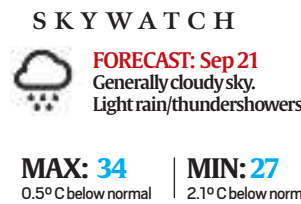
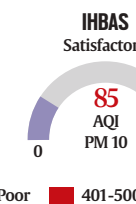
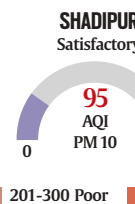
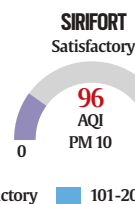
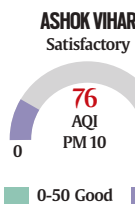
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Two Tihar inmates injured in 'clash', third such case at prison in two weeks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

TWO TIHAR inmates sustained multiple injuries after they allegedly attacked each other with sharp objects. One of them, aged 33, was rushed to a hospital by jail guards after they found the men lying on the ground with stab injuries.

A jail official said the incident took place Saturday evening and the men are stable. An enquiry is being conducted.

This is the third incident in the last two weeks of inmates attacking each other with sharp objects or knives inside the prison.

Sources in the Delhi Police said they are looking into the uptick in such cases.

On September 11, two inmates — Naresh Dutt and Brijesh alias Kalu — were injured after seven to ten men clashed inside jail number 3 in Tihar. The fight started over an old enmity between local gangs.

Dutt and Kalu sustained injuries on their abdomen and chest.

A day later, another fight broke out at jail number 3 and one Vikas Dhull was attacked by inmate Vikas Chopra. Officials said Chopra used a surgical blade to stab Dhull.

Sandeep Goel, Delhi Prisons DG, said inmates injured in all these cases were rushed to DDU hospital in time and discharged later.

Officials acknowledged that security inside jails, especially Tihar, has become a big issue.

A senior police officer from the Western Range confirmed the cases and said they will conduct an investigation against the inmates and jail staffers involved.

"We can only lodge complainants and conduct an enquiry but security of all inmates is not under our jurisdiction. Jail officials must take preventive measures. How can inmates procure such weapons from inside jails?" said the officer.

The officer also pointed to the murder of 28-year-old gangster Ankit Gujar inside Tihar jail in August this year. A preliminary enquiry in the case had revealed negligence of jail staffers and involvement of at least four jail officials.

"Two other inmates were injured. We have found that a few jail staffers help inmates get weapons. We have asked senior jail superintendents to conduct regular checks inside the prisons to avoid such clashes," said the officer.

Responding to the allegations, jail officials said weekly checks are conducted at all three jails — Tihar, Mandoli and Rohini. The population inside the jails is more than 20,000 and inmates often break windows or use kitchen material or furniture as weapons.

"We do take adequate measures to keep such incidents under check," said DG Goel.

PIL against AAP over govt's Ganesh Chaturthi event, HC issues notice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE DELHI High Court Monday asked the Centre, Delhi government and Election Commission of India (ECI) to respond to a petition seeking derecognition of the Aam Aadmi Party. A PIL filed before the court has alleged that the AAP government organised and promoted a Ganesh Chaturthi puja on September 10 in contravention of the Constitution, which declares India a secular country.

The division bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Amit Bansal listed the matter for further hearing on November 8 after the counsel representing the authorities sought time to file their replies. "Keep your answer ready next time that what do you want to say on the issues involved in this writ petition," the court told the counsel representing the Delhi government and Centre.

The petitioner, advocate M L Sharma, argued before the court that AAP and its ministers had taken an oath that they will remain loyal to the Constitution of India.

The State and any person connected to it are not allowed to organise any kind of religious activity, he contended.

Sharma's petition also seeks registration of an FIR in the matter. The petition alleges that the government released a "heavy amount" to various television channels to advertise the puja, which was broadcast live on September 10.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the government, argued that it was a politically motivated petition and asked the court to dismiss it with costs.

Senior advocate Rahul Mehra, representing the government, argued that it was a politically motivated petition and asked the court to dismiss it with costs. He called it "a mischievous petition"

costs. "It is a mischievous petition. An attempt is being made through this petition that somehow some kind of communal disharmony should be instigated," Mehra contended.

Mehra submitted that the government had taken the initiative - the live broadcast of Ganesh Chaturthi puja - on account of the Covid pandemic and there was no violation of any law or the Constitution. Delhi was probably the only state which banned Ganesh Chaturthi celebration on a mass-scale to prevent the third wave, he told the court.

"Various governments across the board... There are Kumbh Mela, Amarnath Yatra, Mansarovar Yatra. It is the solemn duty of the State and the Union that the people who have certain faith, their public health is looked into, they are given good kind of facilities while these yatra are there. It is a laudable objective," Mehra argued.

The counsel representing the ECI submitted that there is no such power vested in the commission for deregistration or derecognition of a political party once it is registered.

There are very limited grounds when it can happen, he added.



A FINE BALANCE

A train heading to Delhi from Noli railway station in Ghaziabad, Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

MOST PRIVATE SCHOOLS YET TO OPEN DOORS

Gurgaon's govt schools reopen for classes I-III, modest turnout on day 1

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 20

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS reopened in Gurgaon for students of classes I to III on Monday — most reported a moderate turnout, with officials saying this is expected to increase in the coming days.

On Friday, state education minister Kanwar Pal had announced that schools will reopen in Haryana for classes I-III from September 20 and that classes would be held strictly adhering to Covid-19 SOPs issued by the ministry. The ministry had stated that it was not mandatory for students to come to school and online classes would continue simultaneously. To attend school, students require written permission from their parents.

Sanklesh Mehra, principal of the government girls' school in Kanhai, said about 45% of students in these three grades came



At a government school in Sector 4. To attend school, students require written permission from their parents.

to school on Monday. "As many as 70 students attended physical classes. Children were sensitised about social distancing norms, cleanliness and washing their hands. We have also reached out to parents of children, some of whom have returned to their villages, and asked them to attend physical classes. For children

studying online, teachers are sharing study material and lessons virtually."

The ministry guidelines state that a gap of six feet must be maintained between two students, masks need to be compulsorily worn, and thermal scanning and hand sanitisation should be conducted at the en-

trance. One student is allowed to sit at each desk and sharing of food is prohibited.

Sattan Pal, principal of a government senior secondary school in Kadipur, said, "Out of 935, a total of 389 students in classes I to III attended school today. Some of the children were excited to be attending classes after over 18 months."

Most private schools in the city are yet to call students of these classes. Several said they had sent consent forms to parents and would start calling students gradually. In the weeks prior, schools have addressed concerns of parents regarding Covid-appropriate protocol at schools.

"We had sent out a circular to parents and received their consent forms. The first class for grades I-III is scheduled for Wednesday. As of now, we are expecting a strength of 18-20% for these classes," said Aditi Misra, principal, Delhi Public School, Sector 45.

She added that parents had several concerns before allowing their children to attend school: "Parents have mentioned that since kids are not vaccinated yet, they have apprehensions. Some families have elderly people at home, so they fear that kids could be carriers of infection if they go out. We have ensured that there is ample space for children for social distancing and that all protocols related to masks and sanitisation will be followed. If parents feel comfortable, students are most welcome to attend classes at school. I feel once children talk among themselves about their experience of going to school again, it will have a ripple effect."

Another principal of a private school in the city said, "We have not started calling them [students of classes I to III] yet. The process is yet to start."

In Haryana, schools reopened for classes IV and V from September 1 and for classes VI to XII from July.

Another 'terror plot' arrest: Man who ran coaching institute

SAGAR RAJPUT & SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE MAHARASHTRA anti-terrorism squad (ATS) Sunday arrested another suspect in connection with the Delhi terror module case. The suspect, Rizwan Ibrahim Momin, is a teacher who runs a coaching classes institute with four branches in suburban Mumbai.

Investigators said Rizwan was arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) after he was allegedly mentioned as a contact by Zakir Hussain Shaikh, arrested by the ATS last Saturday. Zakir was arrested for his alleged links with one of the six arrested last week by the Delhi Police Special Cell.

Rizwan and Zakir were produced in a special court Monday and remanded in judicial custody till October 4.

The ATS claims Zakir and Jaan

Mohammed Shaikh, who was arrested by Special Cell on September 14, were in touch with a Pakistani national who used a fictitious name, Anthony, alias Anwar alias Anas.

"Soon after Sheikh was arrested by the Special Cell, Zakir realised that even his house would be raided, due to which he went to Rizwan's Mumbai residence and stayed there for two days," claimed an officer.

The ATS claims Zakir was using Rizwan's phone to make calls to handlers in Pakistan. Following Zakir's arrest, the ATS alleged, Rizwan broke his phone into three pieces and threw it in a nullah near his house.

"Zakir had given him his phone to destroy it, due to which Rizwan has been booked under IPC section 201 (destruction of evidence) along with section 18 (punishment for conspiracy) of the UAPA," said an officer.

Rizwan was picked up on Saturday evening from his resi-

dence and taken to the ATS office for questioning. He was arrested early Sunday. "After interrogating him, all pieces of the phone were recovered from the nullah. We have sent it for forensic examination and are trying to retrieve data," said an officer.

The *Indian Express* has learnt that Rizwan runs a tutorial school with a partner, with branches in Andheri, Kurla, Bandra and, since last year, in Mumbai.

The ATS said he was not directly in touch with anyone from the foreign country, but would allegedly follow instructions he received from Zakir. ATS officials said Rizwan was doing this for money. Asked why the ATS did not seek police custody of the two arrested accused, an officer said, "We may need their custody after we arrest other suspects who may be involved, and also we are yet to get the forensic report of their phone. So we will take their custody then."

FIR against two IB officers for 'cheating' man of Rs 17 lakh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE DELHI Police has registered an FIR against two Intelligence Bureau (IB) officers who allegedly cheated a man on the pretext of providing him a job in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Police said the complainant, Pardeep Kumar, alleged that the officers, Pramod Kumar and Mahinder Gusein, cheated him of Rs 17 lakh. Pardeep lives in UP's Gautam Budh Nagar and works at his father's store. Police said they are investigating the matter.

In the FIR registered on September 14 at North Avenue police station under sections of cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy, Pardeep alleged that Pramod "lured" him with a job in the ministry for which he had to pay the money in 2014.

"He (Pramod) claimed that some vacancies were notified by

The complainant alleged the duo cheated him on the pretext of getting him a job in the MHA

the postal department of the Home Ministry for which I was eligible, being a postgraduate. He told me it would require Rs 17 lakh, partially as a kind of fee towards training and partially to be paid to a senior official in the Home Ministry for processing my application. Thinking there was nothing wrong or suspicious, I went ahead with it," the FIR read.

After he made the payment, the complainant received several appointment letters and other forms from the Home Ministry. However, he later found that the job didn't exist and contacted Pramod to return the money, it is alleged.

MANDAVIYA, NADDA VISIT AIIMS VACCINATION SITE

All 6 AIIMS must work together, says Health Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

UNION HEALTH Minister Mansukh Mandaviya Monday urged all the AIIMS in the country to coordinate with each other so that the best healthcare can be provided to the public. He held a review meeting of the institutes from AIIMS, New Delhi, after visiting the vaccination site along with BJP president JP Nadda.

"Today, a review meeting of six AIIMS of the country was

held from AIIMS, New Delhi. In AIIMS, there was discussion about construction work and research of modern infrastructure and specialist departments of many diseases. I call upon all AIIMS in the country to coordinate with each other so that we can provide the best healthcare to the public," he tweeted.

Both Nadda and Mandaviya also interacted with several beneficiaries at the vaccination site in AIIMS.

The data shared by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday



The leaders interacted with several beneficiaries at the vaccination site in AIIMS. *Abhinav Saha*

showed that over 80 crore people in India have been covered under India's Covid vaccination programme till Sunday evening.

After meeting the beneficiaries, Nadda spoke about the ongoing vaccination drive and said that the opposition parties should introspect over their "irresponsible" statements about the Covid vaccination programme of the Modi government that has proved to be the "biggest and fastest" in the world.

"Over 2.5 crore people were

vaccinated on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 71st birthday on September 17, setting a world record in vaccination. It proves that this campaign is the biggest and fastest in the world. The opposition parties should introspect over their silence on 2.5 crore vaccinations on September 17 and their irresponsible and laughable statements in the past one year on the vaccination drive. They should think about what impression they have left on the society and their role in a democracy," said Nadda.

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5 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



OFF TO THE HILLS

TILL SUNDAY night, Rahul Gandhi had no plan to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Charanjit Singh Channi, the new Punjab Chief Minister. On Monday, however, he decided to attend the oath-taking function of the new government. Rahul landed in Chandigarh, attended the ceremony and then took off to Shimla to join his mother Sonia Gandhi and sister and AICC general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who has a bungalow at Chharabra. Earlier in the day, Sonia landed in Chandigarh and went to Shimla by road. Rahul and Priyanka are expected to be back in a couple of days.

CHANGING COLOURS

AFTER JOINING Trinamool Congress, Babul Supriyo has been quick to accept his new role. Supriyo not only changed his Twitter profile picture to one in which he is being greeted by his new party leader Mamata Banerjee, he also took a dig at his former party colleague Dilip Ghosh, who on Monday was made the BJP national vice-president. Posting a screenshot of purportedly Ghosh's social media profile description, where his new designation is written in Bengali, Supriyo tweeted to say that Ghosh had described his new role in "wrong Bangla". He even said "on a lighter note" that Ghosh would need to borrow from him the Bengali grammar book 'Barnaparichay'.

UPSKILLING PLAN

THE GOVERNMENT wants to upgrade the skills of the civil servants, make them future ready, and for that it is seeking the expertise of the private sector. It has invited bids from consultants to come on board and prepare what is called the Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies for civil servants in India. Each competency will have multiple levels of proficiency, organised in a manner depicting gradual progression from one level to the other. Thus, as civil service officials progress in their career, the government desires that they gain new competencies and evolve. Through the framework, civil servants will have visibility of the roles, activities and competencies required to effectively deliver on the outcomes expected from them currently and in future, the bid document says.

DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST RAHUL GANDHI

HC dismisses plea for admission of 2014 speech transcript as evidence

OMKARGOKHALE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE BOMBAY High Court on Monday dismissed a writ petition by an RSS functionary, seeking that the transcript of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's speech made in 2014, in which he allegedly blamed the RSS for Mahatma Gandhi's assassination, be admitted as evidence in a defamation case against him.

Rajesh Kunte, a functionary of the Bhiwandi unit of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), had challenged the September 2018 order of the magistrate court that rejected his application seeking to admit as evidence a transcript copy of the speech by the senior Congress leader.

A single-judge bench of Justice Revati Mohite-Dere on Monday upheld the trial court order and rejected Kunte's plea. Earlier, on August 11, the HC had reserved the plea for the verdict.

Advocate Niteen Pradhan for the petitioner said that the petition challenged the 2018 order of the magistrate court, which, in June 2018, framed charges against Rahul Gandhi under provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on defamation. But, in September 2018, the court refused to admit the transcript of his speech made at Bhiwandi on March 6, 2014, he added.

On September 10, 2018, the magistrate court had refused to allow Kunte's application seeking to



Rahul Gandhi

substantiate the transcript of the speech "as evidence".

Kunte said that the magistrate made an error while passing an order and sought from HC to quash and set aside the same.

However, Gandhi, through advocates Sudeep Pasbala and Kushal Mor, justified the magistrate's decision and opposed the plea. Gandhi submitted that Kunte's plea was "unmeritorious and untenable" and filed with "sole intention to scuttle the trial" and deserves to be dismissed, as the petitioner was seeking the court to do something "expressly prohibited in law".

While addressing an election rally on March 6, 2014, in Maharashtra's Thane district, the then Congress vice-president had alleged that the RSS was behind the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi.

Following the incident, a defamation suit was filed by Kunte against Rahul Gandhi in a Bhiwandi court, accusing the Congress leader of tarnishing the reputation of the Sangh through his speech.

China conducting night drills in high-altitude areas near Ladakh: report

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE PEOPLE'S Liberation Army (PLA) of China has been ramping up military exercises including night drills in the high-altitude areas in the Xinjiang Military District, which faces India, according to a report.

The South China Morning Post newspaper reported on

Sunday that PLA's Western Theatre Command, which is responsible for the entire border with India, has "introduced more night drills for units stationed near the Himalayan border as it seeks to familiarise its troops with new-generation weapons and equipment".

The report noted that several forces in the region "have been carrying out night battle drills at altitudes of around

SUKANTA MAJUMDAR SEEN AS CLOSE TO RSS IN STATE

Ghosh out, Bengal BJP gets new chief in fellow Lok Sabha MP

LIZ MATHEW & SANTANU CHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 20



Sukanta Majumdar

THE FACTION-RIDDEN West Bengal BJP unit, hit by exodus of a series of leaders who had switched allegiance from TMC before the Assembly polls this summer, got a new president on Monday, with party's national president J P Nadda appointing Sukanta Majumdar, MP from Balurghat Lok Sabha constituency, in the post.

Outgoing state chief Dilip Ghosh, also a Lok Sabha MP, who led the party in the state elections, will now be a national vice-president, a post earlier held by Mukul Roy.

Roy had returned to the Trinamool after the elections.

The national leadership also appointed Baby Rani Maurya, recently removed as Uttarakhand Governor, as a party national vice-

president.

According to sources in BJP, Ghosh's removal as state unit chief was imminent since the party's defeat in high-stakes state elections. Mamata Banerjee returned to power for the third time with an overwhelming majority in an election that saw an aggressive campaign led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

In the 294-member Assembly, BJP won 77 seats — its highest ever in the state — but that number is already down to 71 due to exodus of legislators to Trinamool Congress.

Sources said the BJP central leadership has not been happy with the way Ghosh has handled the party since the polls. But a sen-

BABUL SUPRIYO MEETS MAMATA

Kolkata: Former Union minister Babul Supriyo who joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) last week met party chief and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the state secretariat on Monday, and said his role in the party was the "prerogative of the chief minister". He also reiterated he would resign from the Lok Sabha as soon as possible. **ENS**

ior party leader said Ghosh, appointed Bengal BJP president in November 2015, was removed since he will complete two terms in that post in November. "The delay was because the party leadership took time to finalise his successor," a BJP leader said.

Majumdar on Monday told the media, "I want to strengthen

the party and its organisation. I want to take it forward from where Dilip Ghosh left it. He is one of the most successful state presidents of BJP."

Agreeing that he is taking charge at a "challenging time", Majumdar said, "I feel that our booth-level workers and supporters are crucial. MLAs are important, too, but none of our workers and supporters have left us."

According to sources, the party is focusing on north Bengal after it fared better in the region in the polls compared to south Bengal. "While Leader of Opposition in Assembly Suwendu Adhikari is from south Bengal, the new state president is from north Bengal. The party is maintaining a balance," a senior leader said.

Besides, Majumdar is from RSS and has a good working relationship with everyone," the party leader said. "The party is also going back to the basics with this appointment and sending a message of puritanism."

Rajnath, US defense secretary discuss Afghanistan situation

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh spoke to his US counterpart, Lloyd Austin, on Monday over the phone on the situation in Afghanistan — continuing a series of talks that New Delhi has held with several nations since Kabul fell to the Taliban on August 15.

Soon after the conversation, Singh tweeted that he had a "warm telephone conversation" with US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin.

"We discussed issues pertaining to bilateral defence co-operation & regional matters, including situation in Afghanistan. We agreed to continue the useful dialogue & look forward to strengthening the partnership further." The Defence Ministry said in a statement that Austin had made the call to Singh on Monday evening.

"Both the leaders discussed bilateral and regional matters, including developments in Afghanistan. They discussed defence cooperation and looked forward to working closely."

The two leaders also spoke about the evacuation of people from Kabul. In the immediate



Rajnath Singh

days after the Taliban took control of Kabul, India had struggled to bring its embassy staff and other citizens home. It was after speaking to officials in the US, which had taken over the control of the airport in Kabul, that India was able to run its special evacuation flights.

The ministry said on Monday that Singh and Austin "exchanged views about combating terrorism in the region" and both sides "appreciated the mutual cooperation in the recent evacuation operations in Afghanistan and agreed to remain in regular contact in view of the evolving situation".

Earlier this month, CIA chief William Burns and Russian Secretary of the Security Council General Nikolay Patrushev were in Delhi to discuss the Afghanistan situation.

SET FOR UPPER HOUSE

Trinamool Congress leader Sushmita Dev arrives at the state Assembly to file her nomination for the Rajya Sabha bypoll scheduled for October 4. The BJP has announced that they would not field a candidate for the bypoll, meaning that Dev is now set to get elected unopposed. Dev, who was one of the national spokespersons for the Congress and its women's wing chief, switched over to the TMC last month. *Partha Paul*

MADHYA PRADESH BY-ELECTIONS

Chouhan tests waters with image makeover

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 20

SHORTLY AFTER suspending a tehsildar on corruption charges at a public gathering in Madhya Pradesh's Tikamgarh district last week, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said, "Ab mein danda lekar nikla hoon, gadbad karne walo ko chhodunga nahi kisi bhi keemat par (I won't spare anyone who indulges in wrongdoings)."

Anil Taiyala was the third officer to be suspended on September 14. Just hours ago, two municipal officers in adjoining Niwari district were suspended by Chouhan after he came across corruption complaints against them during his visit to bypoll-bound Prithvipur Assembly constituency as part of his 'Jan Darshan Yatra', a public outreach programme.

Similarly, during his visit to Singhpur in Raigaon, another



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Assembly constituency where bypoll is due, Chouhan pulled up officers for failing to provide tap water connection to the villagers under the state's Nal Jal Yojna.

Bypolls are due in Raigaon, Prithvipur and Jobat assembly seats and Khandwa Lok Sabha seat. Of the Assembly seats, while the BJP held Raigaon, Congress held Prithvipur and Jobat. Khandwa Lok Sabha seat was also with the BJP. Death of sitting legislators has necessitated the bypolls.

These bypolls, dates for which are yet to be announced, are being considered a "litmus test" for Chouhan's popularity, especially after the BJP returned to power in the state in 2019 with the help of

Chouhan tests waters with image makeover

Jyotiraditya Scindia and his defeated MLAs from Congress.

Apart from being a popularity test, the bypolls will also give Chouhan a peek into the degree of public acceptance of his efforts to rework his image, often portraying himself as a stem leader who is quick in taking decisions, going into the 2023 general elections.

The Jan Darshan Yatra, which got underway on September 12, was meant to enable the Chief Minister to directly interact with the people and get first-hand knowledge on the implementation of welfare schemes in the districts, including the poll-bound areas. It also gave enough glimpses of his new avatar.

"People never lie and this janta darshan is being held so that I can ask the people directly," Chouhan said at one of his public gatherings in Niwari. A day later, on his visit to Jobat in tribal-dominated Alirajpur district, he gave a lift to

four tribal leaders to an adjoining block in his state helicopter.

For many, the four-time Chief Minister is known for such steps to strike a chord with the masses ahead of polls. "However, his new avatar appears to have been triggered by recent political developments in some BJP-ruled states where Chief Ministers have been changed," said a political observer, referring to Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttarakhand.

According to some party leaders, Chouhan's actions at the public rallies is his way to distance himself from the lower bureaucracy and give out a message to the public that he was not a part of their "corrupt governance". "One might call it a poll gimmick after he failed to reign them in. It was this ineffective lower bureaucracy that cost Chouhan his government in 2018," said a leader.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Christians at forefront of conversions, love jihad: NDA ally leader

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 20



Vellappally Natesan

PROMINENT HINDU Ezhava leader and Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan on Monday said that it was not the Muslim community but Christians who are at the "forefront" of conversions and "love jihad" in the country.

Natesan, who is the patron of NDA ally Bharat Dharma Jana Sena, was reacting to allegations raised by a Catholic priest that Christian women are being lured by Hindu Ezhava men. He also flayed the controversial "love jihad" and "narcotic jihad" remarks of Pala Bishop Joseph Kallarangatt, saying it was "not right to target Muslim community" on the issue.

"When a Christian woman goes to Muslim side, there are a hundred women from other communities getting married to Christians. Why is nobody speaking about that? Christians are marrying Ezhava women. Christians are the largest group in the country engaged in conversion. Muslims do not convert on that scale. In love jihad, only a Christian woman is taken to Muslim community. Whereas in conversion, an entire family is go-

ing to Christianity. When speaking about conversion and love jihad, no doubt Christians are at the forefront," he said.

Senior Catholic priest Roy Kannanchira, who is associated with Catholic daily Deepika, in a video message to catechism teachers of Changanassery archdiocese, had on Saturday alleged that Hindu Ezhava youths are strategically trained to trap Catholic women in love marriage. Kannanchira later tendered an apology, claiming that he did not intend to hurt any community.

Last week, Catholic bishop Joseph Kallarangatt had alleged that there is "love jihad" as well as "narcotic jihad" to target non-Muslims. The claims had triggered a major debate in Kerala.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader VD Satheesan has written to cultural leaders and artists seeking their intervention to ensure that communal harmony is maintained in Kerala.

Home Minister authorised me to hold preliminary talks with ULFA: Himanta

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

ASSAM CHIEF Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday that Union Home Minister Amit Shah has authorised him to hold preliminary talks with the insurgent group ULFA.

After meeting Shah here, Sarma also said that he is partly involved in the ongoing peace process with the NSCN-IM but was not officially holding any negotiation with Naga rebel group.

"I have discussed with the home minister on the issue of holding peace talks with the ULFA. He has authorised me to initiate the preliminary talks with the ULFA," he told reporters.

He also said that if things move in a proper direction, the

Central government may get involved in the peace parleys with the ULFA at a later stage.

Asked about his role in the dialogue with the NSCN-IM, Sarma said he was partly involved in it but never officially engaged in the peace talks with the Naga group.

Sarma is the convenor of the North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA), the Northeast version of the NDA where major parties of the region are constituents.

"As convenor of the NEDA, I have sometimes talked to some political parties (in Nagaland) in the past," he said.

The CM said he would travel to Nagaland on Tuesday as convenor of the NEDA to assess the political situation of the state after opposition parties too became part of the government.

August 2019 NRC is final: Assam Foreigners' Tribunal

TORA AGARWALA
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 20

A FOREIGNERS' Tribunal (FT) in Assam recently declared a man Indian, while observing that his family members were part of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31, 2019, which it referred to as the "Final NRC".

While hearing a Doubtful Voter case against Bikram Singha in Karimganj district on September 10, FT member Sishir Dey said, "...there is no doubt that this NRC Assam published in 2019 is nothing but Final NRC."

The opinion holds significance since the NRC has not yet been notified by Registrar General of India.

In the order-cum-opinion, Dey said Singha's name appeared in Final NRC, published on August 31, 2019, which establishes his relationship with his grandmother, parents and younger brother, whose names also appear on the list. While it maintained that it does "not necessarily and lawfully establish his citizenship due to pendency of his case", the names of others in his family in NRC "may be conclusive proof of their Indian citizenship".

Last year, NRC state coordinator HD Sarma submitted an affidavit in Gauhati High Court, referring to the 2019 list as 'supplementary' and not 'final NRC' and sought re-verification. The Assam government, too, is pushing for a "corrected" NRC.



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MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS PACKAGE FOR KHURJA SUPER THERMAL POWER PROJECT (2x660 MW) LOCATED AT VILLAGE DUSHAHARA, TEHSIL KHURJA, DISTT. BULANDSHEHAR, STATE OF UTTAR PRADESH INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)/NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (NIT) (Domestic Competitive Bidding)

IFB Number: 2021_THDC_647496 Date: 10/09/2021 Bidding Document No.: THDC/RKSH/CC-9915-376R, Name of Package/Work: MISCELLANEOUS BUILDINGS PACKAGE, Type of Bidding: E-tendering/ Single Stage Two Envelope, Bidding document Download: From 10/09/2021 to 26/10/2021 upto 15:00 hrs (IST), Receipt of Techno-Commercial and Price Bids: 26/10/2021 upto 15:00 hrs (IST), Date and Time of opening of Techno-Commercial Bids: 27/10/2021 at 15:00 hrs (IST), Date and Time of opening of Price Bids: Shall be intimated separately.

Contact Details: GM (Corporate Contracts), THDC India Ltd., Pragati Bhawan, By-Pass Road, Pragatipuram, Rishikesh - 249 201 Tel: 0135-2431461 /2473229/ 2473469 Email: corppcontract@thdc.co.in Website: <https://www.eprocure.gov.in> or www.thdc.co.in

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5 challenges before new Punjab CM

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 20

CHARANJIT SINGH Channi, the man who has grown through ranks, becomes the Punjab chief minister at a time when the ruling Congress is ridden with factionalism, faces anger on the street, and has barely four months to get its act together before the state goes to polls. His work is cut out. Here are the five big challenges that stare at the new CM.

The Congress today is a house divided. Many see Channi as a stopgap or a consensus candidate at best. Channi's Deputy CMs - OP Soni and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa - are senior to him in age and experience. Legislators are anxious about their ticket and the party's prospects. How Channi makes them believe in his leadership and navigates these power centres will decide his future as well as of his government.

It is no secret that the political party, which gets farmers in its corner in Punjab, will sweep the coming elections. How Channi can woo them into voting for the party remains to be seen.

There are also the twin issues of the drug menace and justice in sacrilege cases - repeatedly flagged by dissidents.

The Congress high command has given an 18-point agenda that needs the cooperation of both the ministers and the bureaucrats. Channi needs the smarts of a management whiz if he wants to implement this agenda.

Then there is the issue of optics - publicising the government's achievements. Capt Amarinder lost the battle of public perception despite his larger-than-life image. Channi will have to win it.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Rejig on cards, state may get new DGP, chief secy

Chandigarh: With the change in guard, Punjab is likely to get a new Chief Secretary and DGP.

There is no consensus on names of officers who would succeed Vini Mahajan and Dinkar Gupta as Chief Secretary and DGP, respectively. A meeting to finalise the names is likely to take place later on Monday.

Meanwhile, senior IAS officer Hussan Lal has been appointed as principal secretary to Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, official sources said on Monday.

Lal, a 1995-batch IAS officer, was holding the post of principal secretary of Investment Promotion, Industries and Commerce and Information Technology departments. He replaced IAS officer Tejveer Singh who was the principal secretary to former CM Amarinder Singh.

Another IAS officer Rahul Tiwari has been given the charge of special principal secretary to the CM.

BJP terms Dalit teen's death as 'mob lynching', cops say no proof so far

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 20

THE OPPOSITION BJP has slammed the Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government in Rajasthan over the death of a 19-year-old Dalit teenager, who died after being allegedly attacked by a group of people following an accident in Alwar.

The BJP termed the incident as "mob lynching" and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. State BJP president Satish Poonia targeted Gehlot, asking why he is silent over the issue. He said that while Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra often visit families of victims of similar incidents, they are "hibernating" at present.

However, Alwar SP Gautam said that till now the police have not found any evidence which suggested that the incident was mob lynching.

According to the police, the incident took place on September 15 and the man, identified as Yogesh Jatav, died at a Jaipur hospital three days later on September 18.

"Preliminary investigation suggests that on September 15 Jatav was riding a motorcycle, which hit a woman (Mubina),

CONGRESS APPOINTS DALIT CM IN PUNJAB

Caught off guard, back to drawing board for Opp for polls next year

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 20

THE CONGRESS move to appoint a Dalit as chief minister in Punjab has sent the Opposition parties in the state back to the drawing boards to re-calibrate their strategy ahead of the Assembly polls in 2022. None of the parties had factored in a Dalit CM in their calculations for now or for the next year's polls.

Political observers feel that the Congress stands to gain a lot by appointing Charanjit Singh Channi as the Chief Minister and that it will offset, to a great degree, the potential advantage that the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) had sought by entering into a pre-poll alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and announcing a Dalit deputy CM.

Even though Channi emerged as a compromise candidate for the post of CM after an impasse over other names in the Congress, there is an opinion among a section of political watchers that the benefits which accrue from appointing a Dalit to lead the state will be considerable.

Also, the appointment of a Jat Sikh and a Hindu as two deputy CMs is expected to offset any backlash from these two communities



Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi offers sweets to state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu after taking charge of office, in Chandigarh on Monday. PTI

over the appointment of a Dalit as the CM. It is, however, not known yet how the Jat Sikh belt of Punjab and the Hindu voters in the urban areas, both critical components of any party's electoral success, will re-

spond to the recent developments. Professor Ronki Ram, an expert on Dalit politics in Punjab said that Channi's appointment as CM will definitely help Congress increase its electoral reach among

the Dalit communities. "It is often said that the Dalits themselves are divided among various sects like Ravidasia, and Adi-Dharmi. This move by Congress will consolidate the sub-identities of all these various sects and will lead to a creation of social capital for the Dalits in Punjab," he said.

Prof Ram added that till now political parties had only been making promises of appointing a Dalit as a deputy CM. But the Congress went a step ahead and the benefits of such a move cannot be denied to the party.

The BJP leadership had made a comment in April this year that it would appoint a Dalit CM if they came to power next year. That comment had come in response to the Akalis announcing deputy CM's post for a Dalit.

BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh and the state party president Ashwani Sharma have already reacted to Channi's appointment by dubbing him as the 'nightwatchman' who would be expected to keep the CM's chair warm for state Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu. "This is an insult to the Dalits that even before the CM was sworn in, the Congress leadership was portraying Sidhu as the CM face of the 2022 Assembly polls," both Chugh and Sharma said.

Channi's deputies: Hindu face, MLA who helped oust Capt

AMONG CHARANJIT Singh Channi's new deputy CMs is Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, a dyed-in-the-wool Congressman who stood behind then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during Operation Blue Star in 1984. Besides Randhawa, there is Om Parkash Soni, a loyalist of former CM Captain Amarinder Singh and is the Congress's Hindu face in Punjab. *The Indian Express* takes a brief look at the new appointments.

O P SAINI: Among the senior-most leaders in Congress, he has not lost any Assembly election since his maiden win from Amritsar West in 1997.

Throughout the internal tussle in Congress between Amarinder and Sidhu, Soni was seen standing with the former. He had even refused to come to Amritsar when Sidhu was visiting the Golden Temple before taking charge as the Punjab Congress chief.

In 2016, Soni was one of the 42 Congress MLAs who had submitted their resignation in protest against a Supreme Court judgment ruling Punjab's termination of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) water canal as unconstitutional. Amarinder, who was then

However, with BJP's marginalised role in the 2022 polls, largely due to the backlash over the new farm laws, the other major parties in the fray - the AAP, the SAD, and the BSP - will now have to figure out a way to deal with the fallout of a Dalit Congress CM.

The AAP has already announced that a Sikh will be its chief ministerial candidate. While the party had announced a Dalit deputy CM in the run-up to the 2017 polls, it has not made any such statements this time around. The party also has never once so far hesitated in pointing out that the Leader of Opposition, Harpal Singh Cheema, and deputy Leader of Opposition, Sarvjit Kaur Manu, are both from the Dalit community.

Harpal Cheema said his party's chances for the 2022 polls would not be affected by the Congress move.

The bravado showed by the AAP leadership notwithstanding, the appointment of Channi along with that of OP Soni and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa as deputy CMs have already become a cause of concern to their strategists. Both Soni and Randhawa are from the Majha belt of Punjab where AAP has been focussing a lot this time around and was expecting a good response.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Amid Cong Punjab drama, Pilot meets Rahul, discusses 'Rajasthan reshuffle'

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

ON FRIDAY, as the Congress leadership was preparing to make a leadership change in Punjab, senior Rajasthan Congress leader Sachin Pilot had a quiet meeting with former party chief Rahul Gandhi. The much-discussed reshuffle in the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan has been hanging fire for some time, and the two leaders are learnt to have discussed that, as also the political situation in the state.

AICC general secretary in charge of Rajasthan, Ajay Maken, has made multiple visits to the state and has taken views of all MLAs. A Cabinet reshuffle and inclusion of some MLAs loyal to him, besides political appointments to various boards and corporations in the state, had been a demand repeatedly placed before the party high command by Pilot.

But despite Maken making multiple visits, the reshuffle has not taken place. Sources said Pilot has been given an assurance again that the reshuffle would take place soon. With the party leadership asserting itself and easing out Amarinder Singh in Punjab, Congress leaders in Rajasthan are expecting a decisive intervention by the central leadership.

Senior AICC leaders, however, pointed out that the situation in



Pilot had a quiet meeting with Rahul Gandhi. File

Rajasthan, or for that matter in Chhattisgarh, is different from that of Punjab. Both Rajasthan CM Gehlot and his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel command the support of a majority of party MLAs. But their rival factions in both states hope the central leadership will now mount pressure on them to fall in line.

Gehlot has so far refused to be pressured by the Cabinet reshuffle issue.

Chhattisgarh Health Minister TS Singh Deo, meanwhile, arrived in Delhi on what he said is a personal visit. Singh Deo is seen as hoping for a change of guard in Chhattisgarh and wants the high command to prod Baghel to honour an unwritten agreement - of rotating charge - that Baghel and he had agreed upon in 2018 when the party won the elections with a huge mandate.

Sources in Congress signaled that the issue of rotational CM is not a closed chapter.

Pray to Ganga for chance to see Dalit CM in Uttarakhand too, says Rawat

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 20

FORMER UTTARAKHAND chief minister and AICC general secretary in-charge of Punjab, Harish Rawat, on Monday said that he prays to the Ganga for a chance to see a Dalit Chief Minister in Uttarakhand after "history" was created in Punjab with the appointment of a Dalit (Charanjit Singh Channi) to the top position.



Harish Rawat

Addressing a public meeting in Laksar area in Haridwar during the Uttarakhand Congress parivartan yatra, Rawat, without naming Channi, said everyone was

crying when the latter spoke about his family background at a press conference.

Rawat, from the Thakur community and a frontrunner for the CM post in Uttarakhand, said that Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and the Punjab legislature party unanimously elected a person from a poor family as the chief minister.

"I pray to God and Ganga to bless me with a moment in life when I see the son of a Dalit, poor and artisan as the chief minister in Uttarakhand. We will work for that," he said. He said that it is not important how many from the Dalit community were with the Congress but for how many years they supported the Congress in getting power in the Centre and states. "We will repay (pridaan) if we get an opportunity," Rawat said, adding that the Congress will fulfill the expectations of Dalits.

Dalits should be wary of Cong double standards, says Mayawati

MAULSHREESETH
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 20

SOON AFTER Congress MLA Charanjeet Singh Channi was sworn in as the first Dalit CM of Punjab, BSP chief Mayawati on Monday called it as an "election stunt" and asked Dalits to "be wary of the double standards of the Congress".

Recently, BSP entered into an electoral alliance with Shiromani



Mayawati

Alkali Dal (SAD) in Punjab for next year's Assembly elections. SAD chief Sukhbir Singh Badal had announced that if their alliance

wins, the Deputy CM would be from the Dalit community.

Claiming that the Congress is rattled by the BSP-SAD alliance, Mayawati said: "I congratulate and give him (Channi) good wishes. But it would have been better if the Congress had earlier made him the chief minister to serve for a full five years. Making a person belonging to Dalit caste as the chief minister of Punjab when just months are left for elections, shows that it is nothing but a hollow election stunt."

She also drew a parallel with Uttar Pradesh, which also goes to polls early next year, and targeted the BJP, alleging that its "drama" for the OBCs is just for their votes.

"The BJP has acquired a newfound love for the OBCs but it is just an eyewash. Had there been any truth and honesty in their concern for the OBCs, the central and BJP-led state governments filled their backlog in government jobs along with SC/STs."

Owaisi denied nod to meet Atiq Ahmad in prison

Ahmedabad: AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi was on Monday denied permission by authorities to meet former Uttar Pradesh MP Atiq Ahmad, who is lodged in the Ahmedabad-based Sabarmati Central Jail, in the wake of Covid-19 guidelines and other reasons, a party leader said.

Owaisi was on a day-long visit to Ahmedabad to meet party workers, office bearers and supporters. He had also planned to meet Ahmad, the jailed gangster who recently joined the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

PTI

Why 2 Dy CMs from Majha: Panthic belt plays kingmaker

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 20



Channi with Dy CMs Soni and Randhawa in Chandigarh. PTI

politics. It is credited with helping the SAD form the government in 2007, wresting power from Congress led by Capt Amarinder Singh who then enjoyed huge popularity in Malwa and also had the support of the Dera Sacha Sauda. Malwa then had 65 seats and Congress won 37. The party, however, suffered a rout in Majha where it could win only three of then 27 seats region, while Akali Dal won 17 and its ally BJP seven. SAD had won over the Sikh voters in the Panthic belt while BJP had secured Hindu votes in urban areas.

The trend reversed in 2017 when Congress swept Majha, winning 22 of the 25 seats. Capt Amarinder Singh formed the government despite the fact that the core Malwa went with AAP.

In this Panthic belt, Sikh voters often tilt towards one party. The re-

gion also rules the narrative for the Hindu voters in the state. Contrary to popular perception, Hindu and Sikh voters in Majha have often voted en masse for a party or an alliance for their own reasons.

In 2017, Amarinder pitched topics such as nationalism and national security. Hindus and Sikhs both ended up voting for Congress as they did for SAD-BJP in 2007.

Hindu voters of Majha also have great influence on how the community behaves in other parts of Punjab.

As state heads for polls, the Akali Dal is betting on anti-incumbency against Congress in Majha. It has often been alleged that despite winning 22 out of 25 seats in region, the Congress MLAs couldn't get much for Majha.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Govt lists uniform norms for fortified rice

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

DAYS AFTER the Prime Minister's announcement of a rice fortification plan, the Centre Monday issued "uniform" parameters for fortified rice kernels (FRK) for grade 'A' and common rice.

According to PM Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, rice available through every scheme, including the public distribution system (PDS) and midday meals in schools, will be fortified by 2024.



The rice is to be distributed through schemes, including midday meals

The specifications for such rice have been issued by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs,

Food and Public Distribution.

"Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD)...for the first time issued uniform specifications for Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK)...which 1% of FRK (w/w) should be blended with normal rice stock," said an official statement. It said, "The department issued the uniform specifications of food grains for Central Pool procurement for the ensuing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2020-21."

"These specifications as per standard practice have been issued in respect of Paddy, Rice

30 premises linked to Deshmukh searched; I-T points to 'Rs 17 cr'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE INCOME Tax (I-T) Department has alleged that former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh concealed income of about Rs 17 crore to evade taxes.

Without naming Deshmukh, the I-T department in a statement said it has searched 30 premises linked to Deshmukh across Nagpur, Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata.

The tax authority has alleged that three educational institutions of a trust linked to



Anil Deshmukh

Deshmukh have "indulged in inflation of expenses in which salaries paid to the employees were partly collected back in cash". The total amount of inflation by the institutes is pegged at Rs 12 crore.

"During the search, it was also detected that the Trust, apart from suppression of receipts, has paid substantial amounts to brokers for arrang-

India at SCO exercise in Russia with China, Pak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

SOON AFTER the Army's participation in the Zapad Exercise in Russia, a contingent of the Army and the Air Force is now participating in the SCO Exercise Peaceful Mission 2021 at Russia's Orenburg.

While China and Pakistan were present as observers in the Zapad exercise, in which a dozen countries participated, the two nations are participating in the SCO exercise along with all member states of the organisation.

The Defence Ministry said on Monday that the sixth edition

BRIEFLY



Bid to give enhanced market access to weavers, artisans

DELHI

1.5 lakh weavers, 28,300 artisans on GeM portal

New Delhi: In a move to provide enhanced market access to weavers and artisans, a drive has been initiated to bring weavers and artisans on to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal in order to enable them to sell their products directly to government departments. Officials from the Ministry of Textiles said this would increase participation from under-served seller groups such as artisans, weavers, microentrepreneurs, women, tribal entrepreneurs and self-help groups working in Handloom and Handicrafts, who face challenges in accessing government markets. Till August 30, as many as 28,374 artisans and 1,49,422 weavers were registered on the portal. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA

Mumbai to raise Covid testing after festivities

Mumbai: With the 10-day Ganpati festival wrapping up on Sunday, Mumbai's civic body has decided to intensify testing for Covid-19 to ensure the spread of a possible infection is contained at the earliest. In a review meeting, senior officials at the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday instructed 24 ward officers to intensify Covid-19 testing in their respective areas. The civic body said it would target areas from where a large number of people had travelled outside Mumbai and were now coming back to the city after the Ganesh festival. The BMC fears that the number of infections will increase with the inflow of people. **ENS**

UTTARAKHAND

BJP leader seeks probe into death of Narendra Giri

Dehradun: Uttarakhand BJP state president Madan Kaushik has demanded an inquiry into the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, the head of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad, who was found dead in Prayagraj on Monday. In a press release, Kaushik said the purported circumstances of Giri's death triggered doubts. Yoga guru Ramdev, in a tweet, demanded a fair probe into the matter, and referred to Giri as a warrior sansyasi who never gave up. **ENS**

142 mm in 24 hrs, Kolkata lashed by heaviest Sept rain since 2007

ENS AND PTI

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 20

KOLKATA RECORDED the highest September rainfall in 14 years as incessant rains in the city and its neighbouring districts since the early hours of Monday left several areas submerged and transport services crippled. The Met department forecast more downpours for at least one more day. The weather office said Kolkata received 142 mm of rain in 24 hours till 8.30 am, with over 100 mm between 1 am and 7 am. The city had recorded 174.4 mm of rainfall on September 25, 2007. At least 11 places in the metropolis received more than 100 mm rainfall. The Met forecast more rains till Tuesday morning in most districts of south Bengal, including Kolkata.



At least 11 areas of Kolkata received more than 100 mm rain over last 24 hours. Partha Paul

Barring a few neighbourhoods, almost all low-lying areas in Kolkata were inundated by the evening.

Flight operations in Kolkata were affected. Sources said at least three flights were diverted and several were delayed.

The downpour hit health services at medical facilities. Many of these were struggling with waterlogging.

At Attari border ceremony, a familiar fervour returns, with fewer viewers

DIVYAA

ATTARI BORDER (AMRITSAR), SEPTEMBER 20

APPROACHING THE Attari-Wagah Joint Check Post, a rush of familiar sights and sounds, missing over the last 18 months, greets a visitor. "Only 20 rupees," says a young boy painting the tricolour on visitors' hands and cheeks. "We are back after a long time, we have waited for this day." The only difference: Not everyone who has lined up outside can get in now. While the BSF has resumed public viewing of its daily Beating the Retreat parade this weekend (after it shut in March 2020), only 300 people are allowed each day. Which leaves thousands assembled outside disappointed. The 25-minute coordinated parade on both sides used to at-



Beating the Retreat ceremony takes place Monday before a curtailed audience. Rana Simranjit Singh

tract 25,000 spectators every evening on the Indian side at Attari. A BSF official says: "Till there are curbs, we are allowing a limited number of people on first-come-first-serve basis." Visitors have to procure passes from the BSF HQ at Khasa, near Attari.

On the stands, most people wear masks — and their deshbhakti on their sleeves. A mask-wearing BSF jawan, who emcees the exercise, shouts: "Bharat Mata Ki...", and an enthusiastic crowd responds, "Jai". Each time he twists his moustache and ges-

tures towards the other side, someone in the crowd says, "Hindustan Zindabad". People pull their masks down every now and then to take selfies. The "Hindustan Zindabad" is met with a "Pakistan Zindabad" from the other side. Pakistan never closed its side to visitors. On the Indian side, four BSF jawans would undertake the flag-down parade every sunset. From Saturday onwards, BSF restarted the full parade — with loud gestures, mics, orchestra and the works, led by members of its women contingent. As the parade progresses, visitors keep trickling in. Says a BSF official: "Many tourists request us to let them watch it. We feel bad for them, but we can't relent." He adds, however, that they are expecting "housefull crowds and normal protocol to resume within the next week".

SC leaves school opening call to govt, won't step in

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE SUPREME Court Monday declined to entertain a petition seeking its intervention for reopening of schools, shut down across the country in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, and said it is a complex issue and better left to the government to handle. "These issues are fraught with grave complexity. We don't think we should enter here by judicial mandates," a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said. The court allowed the petitioner, a Class XII student from Delhi, to withdraw the plea. Justice Chandrachud said the petition is "misplaced" and told advocate R P Mehrotra, who appeared for the petitioner, "I am not saying this is a publicity gimmick but that is why children should not be involved in this." The bench asked Mehrotra to advise his client to rather focus on studies. Governments are answerable and conscious of the need for the children to go back to school, Justice Chandrachud said. "We cannot say by judicial diktat to send them to school, disregarding the possibility of a third wave. Vaccination is going on," the bench said. The court also said, "Complexity of governance is an issue in which courts cannot issue directions." It said, "Let us leave it to the government to take a call, and the local authority to check where there is spike and where there are rising figures." Pointing out that malls and restaurants have reopened, Mehrotra said there is a mental and psychological fallout to schools remaining closed.



TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Statutory Body of Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India)
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Last date for receipt of application: 29th October, 2021, 5:00 PM DoPT, DST and TDB websites (<http://persmin.gov.in/DOPT.asp>, www.dst.gov.in and www.tdb.gov.in) may be referred for detailed vacancy Notice along with essential qualification and desirable qualification, eligibility criteria, application format and other terms and conditions etc.

Under Secretary, TDB
davp 36106/11/0002/2122

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Last date of receiving application 12 October 2021. Date of interview will be 21 October 2021. For further details contact Station Headquarters Hempur. Mob. No. 9456321262. Please bring Original degree and experience certificate alongwith Xerox copies and 02 x photographs on the day of interview. Applicants having knowledge of computer will be given preference. Application form to be downloaded from website eecs.gov.in and preferably submitted online on email esmcclhempur@gmail.com or hard copy to be dispatched by post to Stn HQ Hempur, PO:RTC Hempur, Teh:Kashipur, Dist. USNagar (UK)244716.

Vaccine for pregnant women, disabled: SC issues notice to govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE SUPREME Court on Monday issued notice to the Centre for its response on a plea seeking door-to-door Covid-19 vaccination for the disabled and another petition on vaccination for pregnant women and lactating mothers. Seeking the Centre's response on the first plea, filed by NGO Evara Foundation, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said it "raises substantial questions dealing with the rights of the disabled". It also asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist the court regarding steps to assuage concerns of petitioners. The second petition was filed by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR). Appearing for the commission, advocate Vrinda Grover said the plea was filed in May this year and that the Centre had subsequently brought out operational guidelines for vaccination of pregnant and lactating women. She added that certain concerns were however yet to be addressed.

90% who cleared NEET took coaching: TN study

Repeat applicants up from 8% to 71%; 9.74% fall in 1st-gen grads

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE JUSTICE A K Rajan Committee appointed by the M K Stalin government on the 'Impact of NEET on Medical Admissions in Tamil Nadu' found that 90% of those who cleared NEET in 2020 in the state had taken coaching, while nearly three-fourths (71%) were repeat applicants. The study commissioned by the state government, which introduced a Bill in the Assembly last week seeking exemption for Tamil Nadu students from the centralised medical entrance exam, said NEET was successful "mainly and predominantly" for the above category of applicants, including those who had gone through a "long-term coaching curve". With NEET appearing to favour urban, richer applicants, the committee said it has "created a generation of doctors and teaching faculties from mainly the privileged communities — the affluent, the creamy, the urban genre — who are well away from the grass root realities of the diverse social structure". It recommended

an immediate return to the practice of medical admissions through higher secondary scores. Noting that this had "aggravated the divide and worsened the medical and healthcare sector", the report compared admissions from High Human Development Index (HDI) and Low HDI districts. The HDI criteria include life expectancy at birth, educational standards and per capita income. The committee found that between 2013 and 2021 (NEET was implemented in 2017), the share of high HDI districts (mostly urbanised with access to coaching centres) among successful applicants surged. Ariyalur, one of the most backward districts, for example had a 1.71% share in medical seats in the state pre-NEET, falling to 0.73% post-NEET. On the other hand, high HDI district Chennai's seat share increased from 3.54% to 10.76%. Following the implementation of NEET, the committee found, there had been a 9.74% fall in admissions among first-generation graduates, 12.1% among rural candidates and 10.45% among candidates with parent incomes

less than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum. The study also found a drop in the percentage of science stream students in the post-NEET period, from 43.03% to 35.94%. While Tamil Nadu has 31 surgical and medical super speciality courses with a total of 413 seats, which is well ahead of most states, the report said the share of state residents in these had been falling as admissions were opened to all-India candidates. "As a result, almost two-thirds of the seats were lost to others," the study said. Expressing alarm in the share of those taking repeat NEET entrance, from 8.12% in the pre-NEET period to 71.42% in 2020-21, the study said, "Since learning is lost and test-taking training is focused (upon), the future doctors cannot think but apply their intellectual and reasoning disposition in their profession, and eventually they become an extended machine in the healthcare system." The committee said the result was the burgeoning, multi-billion coaching industry, offering "5-year packages, 2-year packages... 2-month crash courses" etc, gaining enough financial muscle to "even interfere in policy matters".

Goa govt opposes in-camera hearing of Tejpal case in HC

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE GOA government on Monday opposed an application filed by Tarun Tejpal, the former editor of *Tehelka* magazine who was acquitted in a 2013 rape and sexual assault case, seeking an in-camera hearing in the appeal filed by the state government against his acquittal. The government said the application was filed by Tejpal "with the intent to thwart administration of justice". Tejpal was accused of sexually assaulting a then colleague in an elevator of a Goa hotel on November 7 and 8, 2013. On May 21 this year, Additional Sessions Judge Kshama Joshi acquitted him of all charges. The Goa government has challenged the judgment before the High Court of Bombay at Goa. On Monday, a division bench of Justices M S Sonak and M S Jawalkar listed the case to be heard in virtual mode on October 27. An affidavit filed in High Court by Deputy Superintendent of Police Sunita Sawant, who was the investigation officer in the case, stated, "...the Applicant [Tejpal] in guise of protecting the interest and reputation of the Prosecutrix [woman], is trying to satiate his own interest and conceal his transgressions which are otherwise oriented to besmirch the name and reputation of the Prosecutrix."

The affidavit, filed through additional public prosecutor Pravin Faldeesai, stated, "...if the present proceedings are to be conducted in an open court, the same would have an effect of inhering faith in victims of sexual offences across, who have been victim of social ostracism due to the actions of the accused, by putting the accused on the same social pedestal as the victim." In the affidavit, Sawant stated that references to the victim's identity in the May 21 judgment of the trial court were redacted only after an order passed by the High Court on May 27. The state government contended that the purpose of protecting the woman from social stigmatisation or ostracism was defeated as Tejpal, "...on having received an unredacted copy of the judgment of acquittal, revealing personal information of the Prosecutrix, circulated the same in public domain, with the ill intent to besmirch the name of the Prosecutrix..." **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Express Trains at given stations will be revised as under:-

Revised Timings of Train No. 09028 Jammu Tawi - Bandra Terminus Festival Special at Vapi and Borivali Railway Stations					
STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 09028		Revised Time		With Effect From
	Existing Time	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	
Vapi	12:26	12:28	12:32	12:34	With immediate effect.
Borivali	14:00	14:03	14:05	14:08	

Revised Timings of Train No. 02950 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Bandra Terminus Special at Vapi Railway Station					
STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 02950		Revised Time		With Effect From
	Existing Time	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	
Vapi	12:37	12:39	12:40	12:42	23.09.2021 (Thursday)

Revised Timings of Train No. 09010 New Delhi - Mumbai Central Special at Mumbai Central Railway Station					
STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 09010		Revised Time		With Effect From
	Existing Time	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	
Mumbai Central	15:35	---	15:50	---	21.09.2021 (Tuesday)

Revised Timings of Train No. 04672 Sri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - Bandra Terminus Swaraj Express Special at Bandra Terminus Railway Station					
STATIONS	TRAIN NO. 04672		Revised Time		With Effect From
	Existing Time	ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	
Bandra Terminus	16:00	---	16:10	---	21.09.2021 (Tuesday)

Note :- The timings of above trains at other stations will remain same.


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

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The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

STATE OF SUSPICION

J&K order on government employees will lead to governance paralysis, further alienation from state

NEW ORDER by the Jammu and Kashmir administration on the conduct of government employees is telling evidence that more than two years after the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir’s special status, the much hailed “integration” is nowhere in sight. Indeed, if the contents of the order are anything to go by, its long term consequences are likely to be the very opposite. Effectively, the order places on record every doubt, suspicion and all other elements of profiling that the Indian state harbours against the Kashmiri people. The guidelines for “periodic verification of character and antecedents” of government employees, in the order’s own words, cover a “wide range of activities governing conduct... in public and private life”. Such verification is not just to take into account direct involvement of a person in violence, terrorism, sabotage and others act violating the Constitution such as secession and espionage on behalf of a foreign power. Now every government employee is also liable for the secessionist, treasonous, or violent actions, thoughts, and feelings (including sympathy) of his family members, and even more insidiously, of “persons sharing residential space with the employee to whom he or she may be bound by affection, influence, or obligation,” and for “failure to report such persons”.

It is hard to fathom the reasoning behind this egregious order, which comes on the heels of others indicating a toughening stance against Kashmiris in government employment. The alienation in the Valley is no secret. That is why young boys are still running away from home to join militant groups. The order is a tacit acknowledgement of this widespread disaffection. But if the administration believes the way to confront the problem is to crackdown on government employees, it is poorly advised. The order arms senior civil servants with vast and arbitrary powers to hold back promotions on the basis of suspicion and doubt, and shifts the burden of proving innocence on the accused. In the security saturated Valley, an order such as this goes against even the minimal definition of good governance, let alone serve grandiose titles such as “naya Kashmir”.

What it will likely produce is more governance paralysis — from the cubicles in the Srinagar secretariat to the government offices in every block, tehsil and village — in a climate of general suspicion and vigilantism. Unaccountable bureaucrats brought in by the administration are blamed for the drift now; the inevitable consequences of this order might make it easier, perhaps, to lay the blame at the door of local government employees. Only the naive, tone deaf or the uncaring would mistake the outward absence of anger and resentment as a sign of normalcy.

FARMER’S FUTURE

India must shed obsession with ‘marginal farmers’. Their future lies outside farms — in dairy, poultry, food retail

AN AVERAGE SO-CALLED agricultural household earned a total monthly income of Rs 10,218 during 2018-19 (July-June), of which net receipts from crop production (Rs 3,798) and farming of animals (Rs 1,582) together contributed hardly 53 per cent. The single-largest income source was actually wages/salary, at Rs 4,063. The average farmer, in other words, was more a wage labourer than a seller of produce from his/her land. Out of the country’s estimated 93.09 million agricultural households, over 70 per cent possessed less than one hectare land. It shouldn’t surprise, then, that wages generate up to 60 per cent of their incomes. But the share of agriculture — crop production plus animal husbandry — to total income was higher (about 62 per cent) for households with 1-2 hectares land, rising further to 73, 82 and 91 per cent for those having 2-4, 4-10 and above 10 hectares, respectively.

Simply put, if one considers as farmers only those deriving at least 60 per cent of their overall income from cultivation and rearing of animals, India wouldn’t have even 30 million such homes, going by the National Statistical Office’s Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households report. The 30 million are the ones also possessing one hectare or more land, which is clearly the minimum holding required for agriculture per se to generate a major share of any family’s income. It also means that “agriculture policy” should primarily target these 30 million households. Farm incomes can, realistically speaking, be doubled or tripled only for those truly dependent on agriculture and having enough land to productively deploy labour and capital resources. They must be enabled to do so, through improved access to markets, water, electricity, credit and other productivity-enhancing inputs. The whole focus should be to lower their production costs by raising yields, while simultaneously ensuring higher input use efficiency and minimal environmental footprint.

The question that naturally arises is where does this leave the remaining 60-65 million households — those having less than one-hectare land and “agricultural” only in name? The answer is simple: Their future lies outside the farms. Outside doesn’t necessarily have to be in large industrial centres or cities. It can even be in aggregation, grading, packaging, transport, processing, warehousing and retailing of produce. These activities — plus supply of inputs and services to farms — can generate far many more jobs than in the fields themselves. The government should stop obsessing over “marginal farmers”. The limited land with them can, if at all, be put to better use for dairy, poultry, piggyery etc. rather than in regular crop agriculture. Farming is best left to those who can do it well. Better fewer, but better.

LEFT TURN

All five Scandinavian countries now have centre-left governments. But the right has not been reduced to irrelevance

SINCE AT LEAST 2016 — a year which saw the unexpected election of Donald Trump as US president and Britain voting to exit the European Union in a referendum — there have been ominous signs of a far-right, often xenophobic political wave across Europe and the West. Even in Scandinavian countries, questions around immigration and the transition to a climate-friendly economy led, at least in part, to the resurgence of relatively nativist and insular political forces. With the election of a centre-left coalition in Norway, it is clear that the forebodings of a far-right cloud over Europe were exaggerated — all five Scandinavian countries now have left-of-centre governments. However, it would be equally premature to imagine that a left-liberal order is now deeply entrenched in Europe.

Norway’s Labour Party leader, Jonas Gahr Støre, is set to lead a coalition government. The questions in the election echoed some of the issues that Northern Europe — in fact, the global North as a whole — has been grappling with. How is the transition away from fossil fuels, and the jobs and wealth it creates, going to be managed? What should be the balance between fair taxation and rising inequality? In countries with ageing, declining populations, how should the political and social fallout of immigration be addressed? In this election, as others preceding it in the region, the mandate has been for welfarists and reasonable pro-environment Green parties to attempt to guide the country through these transitions.

Yet, it’s important to remember that an election leads to a change in government; it does not eviscerate the social strands that form the background of politics. In France, for example, there have been political obituaries as well as over-estimations of the far-right’s influence — both have been wrong. Marine Le Pen continues to be politically significant without being dominant. In Nordic countries, a similar process is likely underway. For the world, there will be lessons on how these developed states deal with the challenges of the 21st century.



ARUN PRAKASH

IN A SURPRISE, virtual statement on September 15, the heads of government of Australia, the UK and US announced the formation of a trilateral security pact, to be known by the acronym, AUKUS. Without naming China, US President Joe Biden announced, in a press conference, that “in order to deal with rapidly evolving threats,” the US and Britain would share, with Australia, intelligence and advanced technologies in areas like artificial intelligence, cyber-warfare, quantum computing and nuclear submarine construction.

The surprise at the formation of AUKUS is for a number of reasons. Firstly, the three nations are already allied to each other, in more ways than one — the US and UK are NATO allies, and Australia, New Zealand and the US are linked by the ANZUS pact. All three are also members of the “Five Eyes” intelligence alliance. Secondly, this announcement, coming just days before the first in-person summit meeting of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), places a question mark over the continuing relevance of this forum and its long-overdue actualisation. Finally, the inclusion of a much-diminished, post-Brexit UK in such a long-range alliance is bound to raise a few eyebrows.

China has made no secret of its neurosis about the Quad as well as the naval exercise, “Malabar,” both of which, now, have a common membership, comprising the US, India, Australia and Japan. Beijing’s apprehensions arise from the suspicion that this concatenation could be a precursor to “containment” — the Cold War strategy which eventually brought the USSR to its knees.

While frequently heaping scorn on their attempts at synergy and coordination, China loses no opportunity to send intimidatory messages to the Quad nations. This has led to palpable trepidation amongst members of this grouping, who have remained over-cautious in their utterances and tended to “tip-toe” around the “dragon” in their midst. The Quad has neither created a charter nor invested itself with any substance; fearing that it would be dubbed an “Asian NATO.” China, on its part, has dismissed the Quad as a “headline-grabbing idea which will dissipate like sea-foam”.



BHUPENDER YADAV

ELECTIONS ARE important in the Indian political system to test the policies of parties that have won public mandates. The mandate allows opportunities for new possibilities and newer people. Change within governments is also affected by this electoral process. This is important so that public representatives maintain communication and contact with the public.

The important question that arises is: How to find newer people and new opportunities in a party that is chosen by the public over and over again? Can parties that win elections repeatedly find a way to give opportunities to new faces? The second important question is: Can political parties based on an idea draw a line that makes politics all-inclusive, fully participative and an ideological mission?

In this context, the Bharatiya Janata Party, since its inception, has been an organisation that has tried to test new possibilities in politics. The BJP, which started with the mission to ensure the welfare of the last man in the social hierarchy, has shown ideological commitment not just in words but also in its actions.

While party representatives exhibited unprecedented steadfastness in fighting the Emergency, they also participated in the struggle for greater transparency. The BJP, which was part of a great many movements, is today in power and working relentlessly for good governance.

The BJP has proven itself as being a “party with a difference” — distinct from other parties. Its fight against family-based politics is reflected in its party structure. At a time when

India should look at AUKUS alliance with caution, assess strategic gains from Quad, attempt new partnerships

All that India has to show for its ‘strategic partnership’, is approximately \$22 billion worth of military hardware purchased from US companies — a distinctly retrograde step when we seek atmanirbharta and freedom from external reliance. We need all the technologies being offered to Australia, in addition to ‘know-how’ and ‘know-why’ of much else, including stealth fighters, jet engines, advanced radars and, of course, nuclear propulsion for submarines as well as aircraft carriers.

So far, China has had its way in the geopolitical arena without hindrance from any quarter. In the South China Sea, having staked outrageous territorial claims, and contemptuously dismissed the adverse verdict of the UN Court of Arbitration, China has proceeded to create artificial islands, and to convert them into fortified air bases. Regular “freedom of navigation operations” by the US and allied navies have neither deterred, nor daunted China.

Even more belligerent has been China’s conduct along the Sino-Indian border, where it has used massive military deployments to stake claims to large tracts of Indian territory, leading to a sanguinary conflict in mid-June 2020. India, having counter-mobilised, at considerable economic cost, has stood its ground. Given our limited options, this dangerous confrontation is likely to continue.

Against this backdrop, it is possible that creation of the AUKUS could well be an attempt to send a stronger message to China. However, China’s description of this alliance as an “exclusionary bloc,” should be food for thought for two members of the Quad/Malabar forums — India and Japan — who have been excluded from the new grouping.

While uncharitable comments about “Anglo-Saxon solidarity” must be ignored, there may be substance in the belief that the “Anglosphere nations” — which share common cultural and historical ties to the UK — do inspire more confidence in each other. Whether the Quad and AUKUS will reinforce each other, or remain mutually exclusive, will, no doubt, become clear in the forthcoming Quad summit.

An issue that should give cause for reflection in New Delhi, arises from Biden’s promise to transfer advanced technology, including submarine nuclear-propulsion to Australia. It brings into stark relief India’s failure to acquire any significant high technology from the US, in spite of bilateral ties, which have steadily grown in warmth and closeness over the past decade and a half.

Some major milestones in the Indo-US security relationship have been: Signing of the pathbreaking Indo-US Civil Nuclear Agreement, in 2008; launching of the Defence

Technology and Trade Initiative in 2012; accord of the status of “Major Defence Partner” by the US Congress in 2016; grant of Tier 1 status to India, enabling export of high-technology items; and institution of “2+2 talks” in 2018. Signing of the fourth and last of the key “foundational agreements” in 2020, was supposed to have eliminated the final impediment to closer defence cooperation.

“Our strategic partnership with India, a fellow democracy... is reaching new heights,” says a 2019 US State Department document. While the warming of the Indo-US relationship brings comfort to Indians, we must beware of hyperbole, obscuring reality, in the bilateral discourse. American offers of help “to make India a great power” and overzealous declarations (at the apex level in November 2017) that that “two of the world’s great democracies should also have the world’s two greatest militaries,” must be taken with a generous pinch of salt.

China, it is said, owes its pole position to the advanced technology it was given, or it purloined from the US over a 30-year period. All that India has to show for its “strategic partnership,” is approximately \$22 billion worth of military hardware purchased from US companies — a distinctly retrograde step when we seek atmanirbharta and freedom from external reliance. We need all the technologies being offered to Australia, in addition to “know-how” and “know-why” of much else, including stealth fighters, jet engines, advanced radars and, of course, nuclear propulsion for submarines as well as aircraft-carriers.

For India to attain its full potential, it will need insurance against hegemony, and a breathing space to restore its economy to its earlier buoyant trajectory. This respite will enable it to catch up with technology and boost its military muscle. While preparing to fight its own battles, India will need to seek external balancing. If realpolitik so demands, it must break old shibboleths and strike new partnerships — wherever there is convergence of interests

The writer is a retired chief of naval staff

A PARTY OF CHANGE

BJP has learnt to adapt to the times because of its ideological anchor

other parties are faced with the challenge of maintaining inner-party democracy, the BJP has succeeded in making its organisation worker-oriented and based on ideology. The BJP has kept itself free of the dynastic politics that is the hallmark of all other parties.

When we assess the functioning of other parties, the question before the BJP is how should the party move ahead as a political entity. What is the way ahead for the BJP as an organisation working in coordination with the government? How do we build capabilities among workers? Umpteen questions like these are a part of our politics today. The answers to all these questions can be found in the BJP working under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The political leadership needs to have public communication, sensitivity, understanding of the ground situation in framing and executing policies and respecting the public mandate. New and practical policies can help establish coordination between the executive and bureaucracy. To bridge the gap between the two, it is important to have a clear policy and strong leadership. The BJP has worked towards these objectives to bring positive changes. It is natural for a party that has been earning the people’s trust for a long time to go for internal changes.

Similarly, if a party wants to build capacities among its workers it needs to build upon its leadership. This is because when a new person gets a responsibility, they tend to fulfil it with greater dedication and renewed energy. At the same time, when a person returns to power after staying out of it for a long time,

he tends to bring fresh energy to his tasks. This is an experiment that needs to be accepted within politics on a wider scale. Since political parties are not the property of any individual or family, this is a people-friendly experiment. To ensure new ideas find acceptance in the times to come, we must welcome such experiments.

Another question that arises from this is about the difficulties that accompany change. These difficulties arise when the foundation of the organisation is not a commitment to an ideology but to a dynasty. Workers who are dedicated to an ideology easily adjust to changes and continue fulfilling their duties. In dynastic parties, organisational changes are accompanied by internal power struggles. This is a foundational difference that needs to be understood when it comes to change.

In the BJP, change is a natural process, while in other parties it leads to instances of confrontation. It is for this reason that analysts make mistakes while understanding changes within the BJP.

The BJP accepts changes based on new needs, new ideas, the requirement to give new people opportunities and to move ahead with greater energy while discharging duties both at the organisational and at the governmental levels. This is part of BJP’s positive work agenda, which is accepted by all party workers wholeheartedly.

The writer is Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Labour and Employment



SEPTEMBER 21, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

PUNJAB VIOLENCE

TWELVE PERSONS WERE killed, and a number of others injured when police opened fire to disperse a sword-wielding crowd of Nihangs, which attacked security forces after Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale surrendered to the police and was taken to Ludhiana. The mob burnt a police jeep, a truck, three makeshift police offices, an improvised canteen and an unspecified number of beds and belongings of policemen. A jawan of the Punjab Armed Police was reportedly killed when a Nihang attacked him with a sword. The Bhindranwale had specifically asked his followers to remain peaceful after his arrest.

CONGRESS (I) PROBLEMS

THE CONGRESS (I) High Command is intrigued over the reluctance of many Karnataka leaders, including the Chief Minister R Gundu Rao, to comply with its directive and quit party posts. Though the AICC (I) formulated the ‘One Man, One Policy’, some months ago and directed all ministers to relinquish their positions in the party, many have refused to do so. Amongst the defaulters are the CM who continues to head the Coorg District Congress Committee (I).

SIVAKASI BLAST

THE DEATH TOLL in the blast in Sivakasi in

Tamil Nadu on September 19 rose to 31 with the death of one of the two seriously injured admitted to hospital. R B Thaba, chief executive controller of explosives, will be in Sivakasi to inquire into the incident. Arunachalam, owner of the unit manufacturing firecrackers in which the explosion took place, has been taken into custody.

MANSAROVAR PILGRIMS

THE GROUP OF Indian pilgrims to Mansarovar and Kailash were given a warm reception by Chinese authorities when they crossed into China. They were met by Chinese authorities at Lipulekh pass at a height of 17,800 feet.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

Feud among friends

Delhi's interests lie in deeper strategic cooperation with France and Europe as well as the Quad. Its diverse relationships in the West must be deployed in full measure to prevent a split in the Indo-Pacific coalition



RAJA MANDALA

By C RAJA MOHAN

MORE THAN FOUR decades ago, Washington decided to end its commitment to supply nuclear fuel for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station that it helped build. That decision was triggered by the sharp reaction in the US Congress against India's 1974 nuclear test. India was furious with American unilateralism.

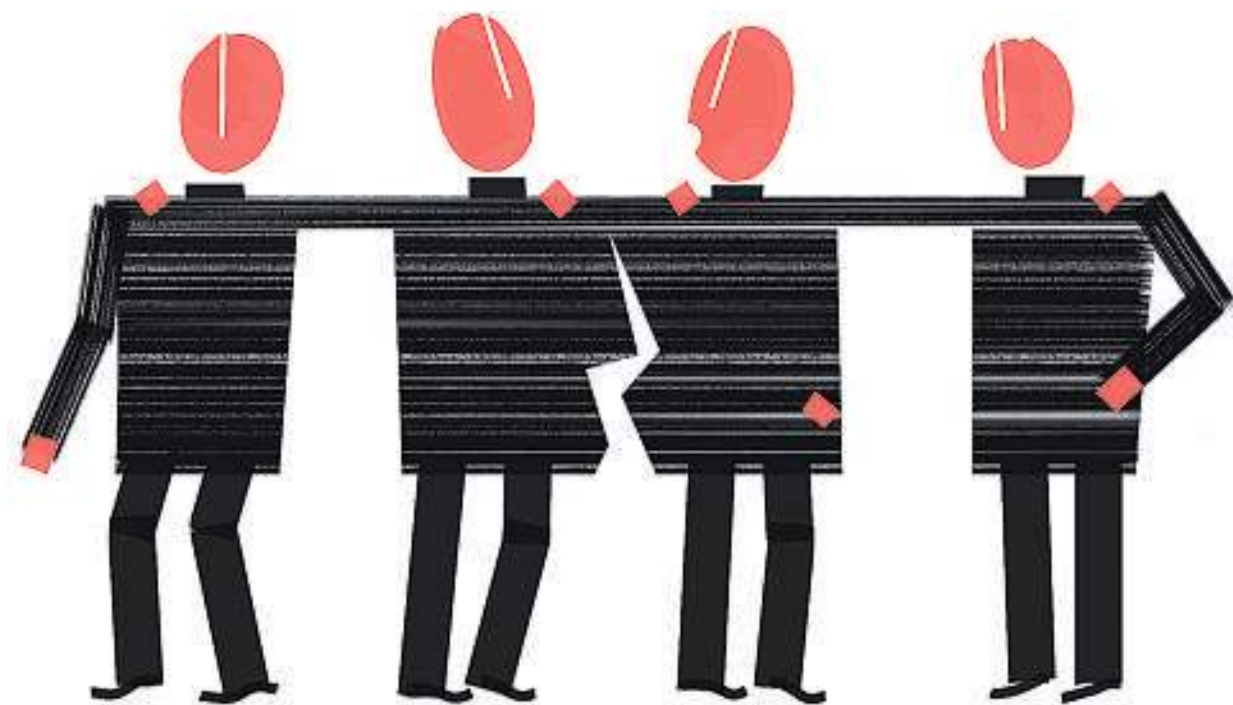
After Ronald Reagan took charge of the White House in 1981, his advisers were eager to improve ties with India and fix the Tarapur problem that appeared so intractable. The new US domestic non-proliferation law barred nuclear fuel supply to India. But the international nuclear rules did not. Washington turned to Paris to step in to replace the US as the supplier of fuel to Tarapur. The Tarapur diplomacy was a win-win for all. India got to run Tarapur; the US stayed within the confines of its domestic law; and France got the contract.

Where there is will, the Tarapur diplomacy reminds us, there is a way. That brings us to AUKUS — the nuclear coalition, which has ignited unprecedented French fury. Could not Australia, United Kingdom and the United States devise a sensible way for Canberra to get out of the conventional submarine contract with Paris and turn to London and Washington for a new agreement on the supply of nuclear-powered submarines? That the issue was handled poorly is not in doubt. All that, however, is water under the bridge. The angry French reaction — marked by a rare recall of envoys from Washington and Canberra — suggests it will be a while before the crisis can be overcome. There is concern that AUKUS could leave a deep scar on US-EU relations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and weaken the international coalition in the Indo-Pacific. Is there something that Delhi could do to heal the rift among its valued friend? An intense round of Indian diplomacy in New York and Washington this week should answer that question.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is heading to Washington for the first in-person bilateral summit with US President Joe Biden on Thursday. The PM is also expected to have bilateral conversations with the Prime Ministers of Australia (Scott Morrison) and the Japanese premier (Yoshihide Suga). On Friday, the four leaders will sit down at the White House for the first summit of the Quadrilateral Forum, or the Quad. The four leaders had met digitally in March this year. The PM will then head to the United Nations, where he will address the annual session of the General Assembly. External Affairs Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar will also be in New York, meeting a large number of other world leaders.

Paris had cancelled a scheduled meeting of the foreign ministers of Australia, France, and India at the UN. In the last couple of years, the trilateral has become an important element in the emerging Indo-Pacific architecture. Jaishankar, however, will have a bilateral meeting with the French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. The two leaders spoke to each other after the announcement of AUKUS and agreed to consult closely.

That Delhi today is a part of a difficult con-



C R Sasikumar

versation between the US, UK, France, Europe, and Australia points to the growing depth and diversity of India's relations with different parts of the West.

Popular and academic discourse on India's foreign policy has been obsessed with the concept of "non-alignment" — that shorn of all mystification, was about keeping distance from the West as a whole. India's contemporary diplomacy, in contrast, takes a nuanced view of internal dynamics in the West, and recognises the political agency of individual states, and develops wide-ranging relationships with the Western nations.

Let us start with France: Paris has always taken an independent view of the world, while remaining within the broad framework of the American alliance. In the 1990s, Paris championed the construction of a multipolar world to constrain American "hyperpower". Delhi did not seize the opportunity as it embraced the Russian-Chinese version of multipolarity. The last few years, however, have seen an intensification of India's strategic engagement with France. For example, the NDA government has overcome the earlier reluctance in Delhi to work with Paris on Indian Ocean security.

The NDA government has also stepped up on the political engagement with Europe as a collective as well as its sub-regions — from Baltics to the Balkans and from Iberia to Mitteleuropa. For long, Europe was largely a diplomatic backwater for India. As Delhi discovers that every European nation, from tiny Luxembourg to a rising Poland, has something to offer, Europe has become a thriving hub of India's international relations.

Thanks to the bitter colonial legacy, relations between Delhi and London have always been prickly and underdeveloped. In the last couple of years, India has made a determined effort to build a new partnership with Britain, which is the fifth-largest economy in the world, a leading financial hub, a technological powerhouse, and punches well above its weight in global affairs.

India's neglect of London also meant Delhi had no time for the "Anglosphere" that binds the UK to Australia, Canada, and New Zealand. Many had presumed that the Anglosphere was about dead white English-speaking men — AUKUS, however, is a reminder that Anglo-

Could not Australia, United Kingdom and the United States devise a sensible way for Canberra to get out of the conventional submarine contract with Paris and turn to London and Washington for a new agreement on the supply of nuclear-powered submarines? That the issue was handled poorly is not in doubt. All that, however, is water under the bridge. The angry French reaction — marked by a rare recall of envoys from Washington and Canberra — suggests it will be a while before the crisis can be overcome. There is concern that AUKUS could leave a deep scar on US-EU relations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and weaken the international coalition in the Indo-Pacific.

Saxon political bonds endure. Instead of treating the Anglosphere with disdain, Delhi has begun to vigorously engage with the "settler colonies" that have so much to offer India — from natural resources to higher education and critical technologies. The UK and its settler colonies have long been the preferred destination for the Indian diaspora (besides the US). While the diaspora tends to connect the domestic politics of the Anglosphere with that of India, Delhi is figuring out that the diaspora politics can be played both ways. The transformation of India's relations with Australia has occurred despite entrenched scepticism in the foreign policy bureaucracy. Finally, Japan has been a part of the West in the post-War era and Delhi's relations with Tokyo have never been as rounded as they are today. They are also fellow members of the Quad.

This wide-ranging engagement with the West should help Delhi convey two important messages to its partners this week. One is to remind France, Australia, the UK and US of the shared interests in securing the Indo-Pacific and the dangers of letting the current quarrel undermine that larger goal. The other is to highlight the region's vast requirements for effective deterrence in the Indo-Pacific; and that there is enough room for the US, UK, France, and Europe to collaborate with Indo-Pacific partners in overlapping coalitions to develop high technology and defence-industrial cooperation in all the areas highlighted by AUKUS — effective underwater capabilities to AI, quantum computing and cyber warfare.

Finally, India's interests lie in deeper strategic cooperation with France and Europe as well as the Quad and the Anglosphere. It was French President Jacques Chirac who first, during a visit to Delhi in January 1998, called for ending India's nuclear isolation. But it required the full might of the US presidency under George W Bush to overcome the Western nonproliferation theology and Chinese political resistance. India's diverse relationships in the West must be deployed in full measure to prevent a split in the Indo-Pacific coalition.

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"There are aspects of coronavirus management, especially by developed nations towards those less so, that smack of discrimination."

—DAWN, PAKISTAN

Extend the coalition

Farmers' movement should take note of amendments to Haryana's land acquisition laws. To mount an effective challenge, it has to forge broader solidarities



JANAKI SRINIVASAN

A NUMBER of developments in the past few weeks signal that state governments in the region at the epicentre of the ongoing farmers' agitation have decided to shift the political conversation from the agitation. While former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's demand that the agitation be carried out only in Delhi and Haryana is admittedly the mildest move, the Uttar Pradesh government, despite being poll-bound, is banking on both the limited regional locus and caste dynamics of the agitation in addition to communal polarisation to blunt the electoral challenge posed by the farmers — despite the numbers of the Muzaffarnagar mahapanchayat. It is the Haryana government, however, where the ruling coalition's MLAs and ministers have been unable to hold public functions or even enter their constituencies, that has determinedly moved away from its earlier characterisation of farmers as "misled" and adopted an aggressive approach.

Despite the flare-up in Karnal and its capitulation to the agitating farmers' demands, the government has made fresh moves to clear the Delhi border and blamed the protests on Punjab and the Opposition parties. The points to a determined design to undermine the farmer-and-agriculture-infused political vocabulary that has been the mainstay of the state's politics and requires us to enquire into the calculations that underpin it.

A number of policies adopted by the Haryana government in recent months offer vital clues. The most important of these, which has surprisingly found limited space in the farmers' agitation, are the amendments the Haryana assembly brought in to the law governing land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement in the last week of August. It will come into force after obtaining the President's Assent. While other states have brought in similar pieces of legislation, since 2016, to reverse critical provisions of the Central Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act (LARR), 2013, the Haryana had desisted till now. The state's farmers were at the forefront of the protests to oppose the bid to amend LARR then. The INLD, BJP's parent party, had opposed these amendments in Parliament: Then INLD MP and current deputy CM Dushyant Chautala's impassioned speech in Parliament against the amendments he is now stoutly defending continues to be featured on BJP's YouTube channel.

The amendments do away with the requirement of consent from 70 per cent of affected landowners in case of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project and of Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for a range of public sector and PPP projects, including the malleable category of "infrastructure", which defeats the limitation placed on the definition of "public purpose" permitting acquisition. It empow-

ers the collector to unilaterally determine compensation without calling for objections or conducting an inquiry, thereby narrowing the category of "project affected" which the LARR had widened to include all those dependent on the land for their livelihood and residence.

Social science scholarship on middle-caste peasantry in India, including of this Green Revolution belt, has pointed to the dis-juncture between identity and aspiration that has come to characterise the landholding farming community since the turn of the century. While land remains a marker of identity, status and pride, aspirations of and for the youth (by the older generation) exhibit a disenchantment with farming and the desire for a salaried, preferably government, job or a desire to migrate abroad. As rising educational levels fail to translate into employment, both due to quality of education and shrinking employment opportunities, these communities have mounted agitations for inclusion in the OBC list, thereby qualifying for reservations in employment and education. Haryana was rocked by the Jat reservation agitation in 2016 by the very sections leading the current protests. In March, Haryana passed a law reserving 75 per cent of private sector jobs below the salary bracket of Rs 50,000 per month for domiciles.

At one level, the recent amendments to LARR constitute a sop to an industry critical of this requirement. That Chautala spear-headed this law while facing intense pressure from his own party rank and file vis-à-vis the farm laws, however, signals that the plan is to go deeper and break the tenuous link between land and identity by casting the dice in favour of aspiration by broadening access to the urban industrial and services sector. This is part of a broader churning to undercut the evocative hold of the figure of the "farmer" in the political, especially electoral, discourse and centre politics around a post-agrarian economy.

The farmers' agitation has garnered unprecedented solidarity from other social movements, mass organisations and trade unions including cautious support from those sections whose interests and caste experience lie in tension with landholding farmers. But to mount an effective challenge, this solidarity needs to translate into a coalition for which it needs to widen the agenda from return to status quo to the transformations required in agriculture as part of a development model which can ensure livelihood, dignity and ecological restoration. While the movement has taken an anti-corporate, anti-privatisation stand and some steps towards restoring broken communal harmony, it needs to have difficult conversations about caste and gender hierarchies in the agrarian social structure, and the prevailing ecologically unsound land-use patterns. It can take direction from the movement that led to LARR — anti-displacement movements had built alliances with other social movements, including that of farmers. The post-Green Revolution farmers' movement in India has hitherto worked with a limited agenda but retaining its political salience necessitates such a dialogue.

The writer teaches political science at Panjab University, Chandigarh



SAUD BIN MOHAMMED AL-SATI

FIVE YEARS ago, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched its Vision 2030, aiming to diversify its economy, modernise its administration and introduce bold reforms in many sectors. A lot has happened since then in terms of etching milestones on the path of the implementation while responding to the unpredicted Covid-19 pandemic.

The ongoing transformation of the Kingdom's economy and society revolves around Vision 2030 and its multiple goals, including diversification of the economy, enhancing government efficiency, increasing non-oil government revenues, reducing unemployment, and increasing women's participation in the workforce, etc.

Diverse reforms have been introduced in laws, regulations, and procedures. In the sphere of law, the Kingdom has implemented impactful reforms in the area of contract enforcement. Over 197 legislations have been introduced to improve the regulatory environment.

The Kingdom's e-government initiative is building capacities among government institutions to become more efficient, transparent, and accountable. The Kingdom is supporting a digitally-enabled industrial revolution for projects in mining, manufacturing, logistics, and energy through a \$453 billion fund. The Line project and the Neom, Red Sea, and Qiddiya projects are expanding the innovation portfolio.

A sound digital infrastructure has been

Growing together

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 creates opportunities for its partners, including India

development to support Vision 2030's ambitions. Saudi Arabia's robust digital infrastructure today ranks 7th globally in terms of internet speed and the quality of 5G. With the recently launched National Strategy for Data and AI, Saudi Arabia will soon be among the top 15 countries in artificial intelligence capability, attracting a total of SR 75 billion in investment.

From 2016 onwards, the government has delivered on more than 45 per cent of the 500 planned reforms. Through the National Licensing Reform Program (NLRP), more than 60 percent of over 5,500 licenses selected for reform have already been eliminated or modified. Commercial licenses are being issued within 24 hours.

As stated by HRH Crown Prince in a recent interview, in the fourth quarter of 2019, the non-oil economy grew by about 4.5 percent. The momentum gained since then has helped the Kingdom in dealing effectively with the economic repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic. FDI inflows have increased 331 per cent to reach SR17.625 billion, with a total of 1,278 new foreign companies obtaining licenses in 2020. Saudi Arabia's investment environment is returning to pre-Covid-19 levels and is on track to increase the private sector's contribution to 65 per cent of the GDP by 2030.

The IMF's projections paint a positive picture, estimating Saudi Arabia's real GDP growth at 4.8 per cent, the real non-oil GDP growth at 3.6 per cent, and the real oil GDP

growth to reach 6.8 per cent in 2022.

The Public Investments Fund assets were projected to be SR 7 trillion by 2030. As they are likely to touch SR 4 trillion in 2025, the target has already been re-adjusted to SR 10 trillion by 2030. PIF has already launched over 30 new companies and created 3,31,000 jobs in Saudi Arabia over the past four years and will further invest \$40 billion annually over the coming five years to support new sectors such as tourism, sports, industry, agriculture, transportation, space, etc.

The Kingdom is prepared to become a global hub for renewable energy (RE) and RE technologies over the next 10 years. The recent inauguration of the Sakaka solar PV and Sudair plant are in line with the recently launched "Saudi Green" and the "Middle East Green" initiatives. Both initiatives aim to collectively plant 50 billion trees, generate 50 per cent of power via renewables by 2030 and propel the region towards achieving more than 10 per cent of the global carbon emissions reduction targets. In its motivation to preserve the planet, Saudi Arabia plans to host the very first Green Saudi Initiative Forum and the Green Middle East Initiative Summit in Riyadh on October 23, 2021. Recently, Saudi Arabia has started producing renewable energy from its first wind farm at Dumat Al Jandal. The wind farm is estimated to generate green energy for about 70,000 Saudi households and eliminate 9,88,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year. Under the green ini-

tiatives, the Kingdom is expected to also eliminate more than 130 million tons of carbon emissions by using clean hydrocarbon technologies.

In our endeavour to achieve the Vision 2030 strategic goals, we have created immense opportunities and an attractive business environment for our strategic partners. Indian companies in Saudi Arabia operate in diverse sectors such as management, consultancy services, construction projects, telecommunications, information technology, software development, pharmaceuticals, and more. The number of Indian companies investing and operating in the Kingdom has continued to grow. In 2020, 44 new licenses were issued for Indian investments. Saudi Arabia also had the highest FDI increase to India in 2020 with investments worth \$2.81 billion in areas of renewable energy, petrochemicals, agriculture, health, and technology.

As we celebrate Saudi Arabia's 91st National Day on September 23, we look forward to our continued partnership with India. Saudi Arabia has valued India as a close friend and strategic partner. Our dynamic cultural, socio-economic, and political partnership is based on mutual respect and shared values and interests and shall continue to thrive for the interests of our two friendly people and the people of the region.

The writer is Saudi Arabia's ambassador to India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

STRATEGIC CHOICE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Channi's challenge' (IE, September 20). Charanjit Singh Channi's success in wearing the interim Chief Minister's mantle is not a fluke. Like others in the race, he has the required qualities and credentials, which have won him this prestigious post. The Scheduled Caste tag alone is not sufficient. But it is also now very clear that Channi has to hit the ground running to win the assembly elections with flying colours to claim this full-time post again. There are many dark horses waiting in the wings.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Channi's challenge' (IE, September 20). After realising the shortcomings in Captain Amarinder Singh's four-and-a-half-year tenure, the Congress has played its cards strategically. Appointing a Dalit leader as CM meets the expectations of more than 30 per cent of the state's population. The party has played its trump card by selecting Channi as its next CM, keeping in mind SAD's collaboration with the BSP, and AAP's announcement of a Dalit leader as a CM. Channi has four months to prove himself.

Apoorv Raj, Noida

CASTE HEGEMONY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The Mandal-Mandir equation' (IE, September 20). The "Savarna" oligarchy sanctioned by scriptures like

Manusmirti is not merely socio-cultural. This has also promoted their hegemony over the nation's resources, including the burgeoning private sector, where quotas are not yet applicable. The unrelenting demand for a caste census is a reflection of Bahujan resentment aimed to expose the ugly truth of their socio-economic and political marginalisation. The Modi government's rejig of cabinet berths for members from OBCs is a rehash of the window dressing adopted by the Congress for SCs and STs after Independence. It has a limited political shelf-life and carries the danger of a potential Savarna backlash.

I R Murmu, Delhi

SQUALID CITIES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'City to recover' (IE, September 20). While there can be no question about the need to improve our towns and cities to attract and retain migrants, the sheer enormity of the task makes it an unrealistic goal. Urban India has the abysmal infrastructure and messy politics. It would be much better to improve rural areas so that people have a better quality of life there, and not do anything that ruins rural livelihoods, such as demonetisation. So long as people in the countryside have some land to fall back on, and support from family and relatives, they would hesitate to move in large numbers to cities. Migration is linked to the quality of life as much as it is to income.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

**Announcement of
Visual Creatives**

is Expression of Interest from
houses for empanelment under
radio-visual creatives and allied
etc.

categories may submit their
through speed post/registered
20-10-2021 addressed to the
Suchna Bhawan, Meer's Road,
ONE CATEGORY WHICH

id financial bid in other sealed
ailed envelope super-scribing
agencies under category A or B

ected.

00 pm and will be shortlisted
further called for presentation
the Director, Directorate of
ght to alter the date of opening
n of Interest without assigning

ve mentioned address.

are available on departmental

**Sd/-
Director**

**Delhi e-Governance Society
Government of NCT of Delhi**
8th Level, B-Wing, Delhi
Secretariat, IP Estate,
New Delhi-110002
Corrigendum

Delhi e-Governance Society is inviting
tender to Select the Vendor "to conduct
the Security Audit of the websites/Web
Applications including Mobile Apps
developed by DeGS as well as various
departments" from prospective bidders
through e-Procurement platform of Delhi
Government ([https://govtprocurement.
delhi.gov.in](https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)). The details of the tender
are as under:-

S. No. 1 Particular: Tender ID **Details:**
2021_DIT_260894_1. **S. No. 4**
Particular: Last date of bid submission
Details: 30.09.2021 at 3:00 PM **S. No. 5**
Particular: Bid opening date **Details:**
30.09.2021 at 4:00 PM

The above tender is available/
downloadable at Delhi Government's e-
Procurement portal [https://govtprocure
ment.delhi.gov.in](https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in)

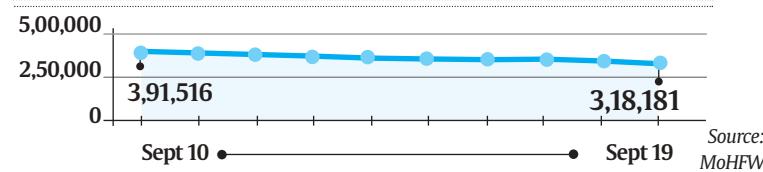
**Sd/-
Director (DeGS)**

DIP/Sabdarth/0311/21-22

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

E. EXPLAINED

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

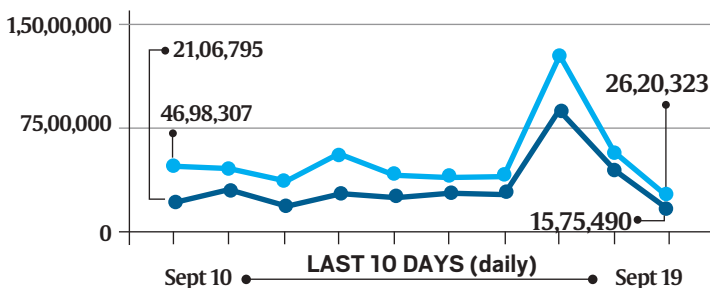
3,18,181


Source: MoHFW

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

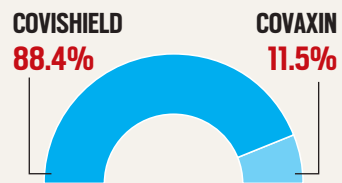
TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
60,36,66,773

First dose Second dose



TOTAL DOSES
80,85,68,144

(Sputnik V's 8,88,037 doses not represented in pie)



DOSES ON SEPT 19 41,95,813

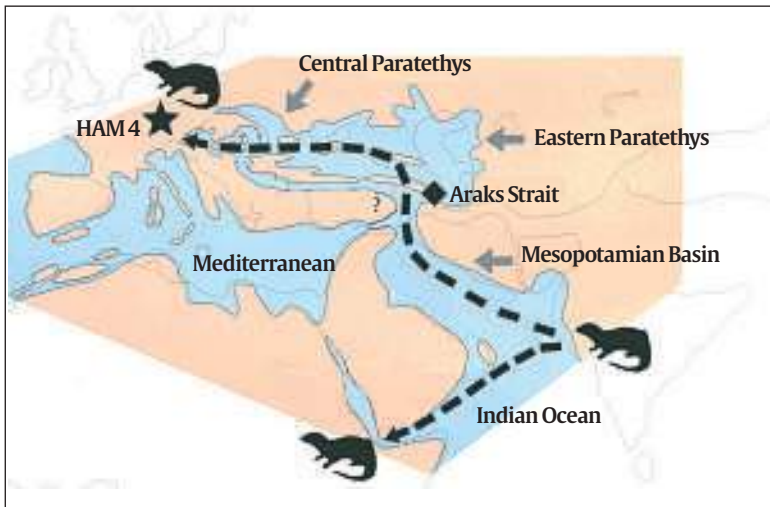
SEPT 18: 1,00,84,632 (1st doses: 56,05,576; 2nd: 44,79,056)

Note: The Sept 19 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 20
 Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on September 20

THIS WORD MEANS

VISHNUONYX

A genus of otters that lived in southern Asia, millions of years ago. How did one species travel to Germany?



The dispersal of Vishnuonyx otters from the Indian subcontinent to Africa and Europe about 13 million years ago. The star (HAM 4) shows the position of the fossil site in Hammerschmiede. Nikos Kargopoulos via University of Tübingen

BETWEEN 12.5 million and 14 million years ago, members of a genus of otters called *Vishnuonyx* lived in the major rivers of southern Asia. Fossils of these now extinct otters were first discovered in sediments found in the foothills of the Himalayas. Now, a newly found fossil indicates it had travelled as far as Germany. The discovery has been described in the *Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology*.

Researchers from the Universities of Tübingen and Zaragoza have discovered the fossil of a previously unknown species, which they have named *Vishnuonyx nep-tuni*, meaning 'Neptune's Vishnu'. The species was discovered from a 11.4-million-year-old strata in the area of Hammerschmiede, which is a fossil site in Bavaria, Germany that has been studied for about 50 years, the University of Tübingen said in a press release.

This is the first discovery of any member of the *Vishnuonyx* genus in Europe; it

is also its most northern and western record till date.

Vishnuonyx were mid-sized predators that weighed, on average, 10-15 kg. Before this, the genus was known only in Asia and Africa (recent findings show that *Vishnuonyx* reached East Africa about 12 million years ago, according to the release).

Vishnuonyx depended on water and could not travel long distances over land. How did it travel as far as Europe? According to the researchers, its travels over 6,000 km were probably made possible by the geography of 12 million years ago, when the Alps were recently formed. These Alps and the Iranian Elbrus Mountains were separated by a large ocean basin, which would have made it easier for the otters to cross it.

Researchers believe 'Neptune's Vishnu' first reached southern Germany, followed by Ancient Guenz and eventually, the Hammerschmiede.

EXPERT EXPLAINS

SANJAY KUMAR

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight



AFTER THE resignation of Amarinder Singh as the Chief Minister of Punjab, the Congress chose Charanjit Singh Channi over various other leaders as the first Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab. It has been claimed that Channi was the party's unanimous choice, which may be true, but it cannot be denied that his selection as Punjab's first Dalit Chief Minister was made with an eye on the sizeable Dalit vote in the state. As per Census 2011 estimates, Scheduled Castes constitute 32% of the total population of Punjab; among them, one-third are Dalit Sikhs.

Assembly elections in Punjab are due next year.

The Dalit numbers

The importance of the Dalit vote can be assessed from the fact that there are 54 Assembly constituencies where Dalits constitute more than 30% of the total voters. In another 45 Assembly constituencies, Dalits constitute between 20% and 30% of the voters (*Table 1*).

In the contest that the state is set to witness among the Congress, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD)-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) alliance and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), one-third of the vote — from any one community — are going to play a significant role in the victory or defeat of any political party.

The significant number of Dalits is the reason why, over the last few months, all political parties have made attempts to mobilise them on their side. One way or the other, each party had indicated that it would give a decent share in power to the Dalits if it is voted to power. While the AAP promised to appoint a Dalit as Deputy Chief Minister if voted to power, the SAD formed an alliance with the BSP in an effort to woo Dalits.

The resignation of Amarinder Singh provided an opportunity to the Congress to appoint a new Chief Minister, and the party has trumped its rivals by appointing Channi as the first Dalit Chief Minister of Punjab. At the moment, it is difficult to say which party will be able to swing the Dalit vote in its favour, but many see this as a masterstroke by the Congress party.

Dalit vote in previous polls

The results of the last few elections suggest that no particular party has done significantly better in SC-reserved constituencies compared

EXPLAINED ELECTION ARITHMETIC

Punjab's Dalits & voting trends

How far can Congress gain from its selection of Charanjit Singh Channi as Punjab's first Dalit CM? Survey data show it was already the popular choice among both Sikh and Hindu Dalits, but it needs to hold on.



Charanjit Singh Channi is Punjab's first Dalit CM. Express

TABLE 1

CONSTITUENCY-WISE CONCENTRATION OF DALIT VOTE

SC concentration	Seats
10.1-20%	18
20.1-30%	45
30.1-40%	43
40%+	11

TABLE 4

DALIT VOTES, PARTY-WISE

Election	Congress		SAD+BJP		AAP	
	Dalit Sikh	Hindu Dalit	Dalit Sikh	Hindu Dalit	Dalit Sikh	Hindu Dalit
2002	33	47	26	11	-	-
2007	49	56	32	25	-	-
2012	51	37	34	33	-	-
2017	41	43	34	26	19	21

(Vote shares in all tables are in %; Source: Punjab Assembly Election Studies 2002, 2007, 2012 & 2017; CSDS Data Unit)

TABLE 2

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2012, CATEGORY-WISE

Category	Total seats	Congress Won	Congress Vote (%)	BJP Won	BJP Vote (%)	Akali Dal Won	Akali Dal Vote (%)	BSP Won	BSP Vote (%)
SC	34	10	40.13	3	5.74	21	36.55	0	6.11
Gen	83	36	40.07	9	7.77	35	33.99	0	3.55
Total	117	46	40.09	12	7.18	56	34.73	0	4.29

TABLE 3

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2017, CATEGORY-WISE

Category	Congress Won	Congress Vote (%)	BJP Won	BJP Vote (%)	Akali Dal Won	Akali Dal Vote (%)	AAP Won	AAP Vote (%)	BSP Won	BSP Vote (%)
SC	21	36.63	1	4.16	3	24.57	9	28.53	0	2.27
Gen	56	39.28	2	5.91	12	25.52	11	21.72	0	1.21
Total	77	38.50	3	5.39	15	25.24	20	23.72	0	1.52

TABLE 5

NON-DALIT HINDU VOTE

Election	Congress	SAD+BJP	AAP
2002	52	26	-
2007	49	38	-
2012	46	36	-
2017	48	22	23

THE EXPERT

SANJAY KUMAR is Professor and Co-Director of Lokniti, a Research Programme at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS). While his core area of research is electoral politics, he has been engaged in survey-based research on a very wide range of themes — Indian youth, state of democracy in South Asia, state of Indian farmers, slums of Delhi and electoral violence.

ferent proportions (*Table 4*). Having formed an alliance with the BSP, the SAD is eyeing the Dalit vote. But now, having appointed a Dalit Sikh as the Chief Minister, the Congress would be hoping to make a significant dent in the SAD's Sikh Dalit vote bank. It is important to note that only recently, the Congress had also appointed Sukhwinder Singh 'Danny' Bandala, a Dalit leader, as one of its four working presidents in Punjab. Having a Dalit Sikh as the Chief Minister and another Dalit leader in another important position is likely have an impact on how Dalits vote in next year's elections.

It is also important to note the evidence that suggests that among Hindu Dalits, the Congress is more popular than the SAD. The Dalit Hindus of Punjab have voted for the Congress in larger numbers than they have for the Akalis during the last few elections. The entry of the AAP, and the fact that the BJP is contesting on its own, may potentially impact the Congress Hindu votebank to an extent, but having a Dalit Chief Minister might help the party mitigate this impact and keep its Hindu Dalit vote intact.

Your smartphone and its 'adaptive refresh rate'

ANUJ BHATIA
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE RECENT iPhone 13 Pro range offers a 120Hz refresh rate display, which Apple is calling ProMotion. Top-end Android phones from Samsung and others have had this feature for a couple of years, but Apple is making it easier for developers to benefit from it. A look at what 'adaptive refresh rate' means for your display:

What is refresh rate?

Whether it is a TV, a PC monitor or a smartphone, all devices constantly change the pixels they display to project the appearance of motion. Refresh rate means how many times the image on a screen can be updated every second, and is measured in Hertz (Hz). For example, your HDTV at home has a 60Hz refresh rate (like the iPhone 12 series), which means it can refresh the screen

60 times per second, while a 120Hz refresh rate means the iPhone 13 Pro can refresh the screen 120 times per second.

While refresh rate is the number of times per second an image is flashed on the screen, frame rate is the rate at which frames appear. Experts believe the human eye can see between 30 and 60 frames per second. Movies are shot at 24 fps.

If you are shooting a video using a smartphone camera, 60 fps is almost the standard now, while games are created with up to 120 fps. For the best visual experience, refresh rates and frame rates have to work together. For example, a mobile game running at 120 frames per second should look smooth on a 120Hz display when compared to the same game running at 60 fps on a 60Hz display.

So, what is adaptive refresh rate?

When a display has an adaptive refresh rate, like with the ProMotion display on the new iPhone 13 Pro series, the refresh rate

changes from 10Hz to 120Hz depending on the content being played. Some Samsung phones offer between 48Hz and 120Hz. So a static website will be played at 10Hz and a game at 120Hz. This means there is little chance of under-delivering or over-delivering refresh rate. Apple is not giving users the option to set a default refresh rate, like some Android phones do. But developers will have the ability to code in such a way that they can set specific refresh rates for different aspects of their app.

When does the refresh rate matter?

Faster refresh rates are usually better at handling motion, especially when watching action movies, playing video games or scrolling through your Twitter timeline.

You will not see a drastic change in the way you use your smartphone — 60Hz displays are good enough for average consumers. Companies such as Apple, Samsung and OnePlus, however, believe a 120Hz dis-

play is a "pro" feature, aimed at a specific audience.

If you play a casual game like Super Mario Run or Subway Surfers on the iPhone 13 Pro Max, it does not really take advantage of a 120Hz "ProMotion" display. But if you play Alto's Odyssey or Dad Trigger 2 on the iPhone 13 Pro Max, those games will benefit from using the 120Hz display. You will actually notice that this results in improved motion resolution, reduced ghosting and better responsiveness.

Does a high refresh rate impact the battery?

Indeed, one reason for adding an adaptive display in phones that can offer 120Hz display is the impact higher refresh rates have on battery life. The adaptive refresh rate in the new iPhones and phones like the Samsung galaxy S21 Ultra are designed to save the phone's battery life by boosting refresh rates only when they are really needed.

What UK's new Covid-19 travel rules mean for a flyer from India

KAUNAIN SHERIFFM
 NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE UK has changed its Covid-19 travel rules, placing Indians who are vaccinated with Covishield in the category of 'unvaccinated'. While it has relaxed the rules for those vaccinated with two doses Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, the same version of the vaccine being manufactured in India by Pune based Serum Institute of India has been kept out of the list.

What are the UK's current travel rules?

The UK currently has a system that designates countries in 'red', 'amber' and 'green' list. If a person has been in a 'red list' country in the 10 days before arrival in the UK, she has to quarantine for 10 days in a quarantine ho-

tel; and take a Covid-19 test on or before day 2 or after day 8 of quarantining. Even fully vaccinated people have to follow these rules: The penalty is up to £10,000 for violation of quarantine rules, and £5,000 for arriving without a prior negative test.

India features in the 'amber list'. If a person has been in an 'amber list' country in the 10 days before arrival in England, she has to take a Covid-19 test in the three days before travelling to England. If a traveller arrives without proof of a negative Covid-19 test before departure, the fine is £500. After arrival, the traveller has to take a Covid-19 test on day 2.

The prior test is necessary for fully vaccinated travellers, too — but they are exempt from quarantine if they have taken the full course of an 'authorised' vaccine. 'Authorised' includes two doses of the Pfizer, Moderna, or

AstraZeneca vaccine (traveller must have the final dose at least 14 days before arrival in England), or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

If the traveller from the amber list is not fully vaccinated with the authorised vaccine, she has to quarantine on arrival at home or in the place where she is staying; take a test on or before day 2 of arrival; and take another test on or after day 8. If the traveller tests positive for Covid-19, she and the household must quarantine for 10 days from the day of the test. If tests on the traveller's samples detect a 'variant of concern', all her contacts too will be asked to take a test.

Travellers from 'green list' countries too need to take a test Covid-19 test three days before the trip to England; and book a day-2 test after arrival in England. There is blanket

exemption from quarantine for the green list, unless the test result is positive on day 2.

What has changed in the rules?

From October 4, there will only be a single red list of countries. For travel from countries not on the red list, the rules will depend only the traveller's vaccination status.

What about travellers from India?

The list of authorised vaccines recognises the full course of the Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna or Janssen vaccines from a relevant public health body in Australia, Antigua, and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, Brunei, Canada, Dominica, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea or Taiwan — and even mixing of two-dose vac-

cines (Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna).

Although, India's vaccination drive predominantly uses Covishield, a version of the AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, India has been kept out of the list.

What does excluding Covishield mean?

This effectively means that Indians administered with Covishield, the same vaccine as the UK's AstraZeneca, have to take a pre-departure Covid-19 test in the 3 days before travelling to England; book and pay for day-2 and day-8 tests to be taken in England; and quarantine at home for 10 days.

The traveller can end the quarantine early, if she can pay for a private Covid-19 test through a 'test to release' scheme. For in-

stance, if she arrives in England on a Monday, Tuesday will be her first full day of quarantine, and she can opt for a second test not earlier than the fifth day, which will be Saturday. If the result for the day-5 test is negative, she can stop quarantine, but she will still need to take the compulsory day-8 test.

What happens hereafter, then?

Government sources said they are invoking the reciprocity principle. They said a 'note verbale' has been sent to the UK Embassy, where they have said UK citizens will also be subject to 10 days' quarantine. Government sources also told *The Indian Express* that the UK decision is not related to the addition of Serum Institute of India as an alternative manufacturing site on the 'Vaxzevria' licence granted to the AstraZeneca vaccine.

12 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Gabby Petito

USA

Remains believed to be missing woman in van mystery found

POLICE AND FBI agents searching a national park in Wyoming have found a body "consistent" with missing Gabby Petito, a 22-year-old woman whose disappearance has captivated the US. The body was discovered on Sunday in a remote area of the Bridger-Teton National Forest, near the Spread Creek Dispersed Campground where law enforcement officials had directed their search, FBI spokesman Charles Jones said. Members of Petito's family reported Petito missing on September 11, 10 days after her 23-year-old boyfriend, Brian Laundrie, returned home from a months-long cross-country trip in a van without her. **REUTERS**

NEW ZEALAND

Govt eases Covid curbs slightly in biggest city

NEW ZEALAND eased coronavirus curbs slightly on Monday in its largest city of Auckland, as the government expressed confidence that there was no widespread regional transmission of the Delta variant. But tough restrictions will continue even after midnight on Tuesday, when the alert level drops to 3 from 4 in the city of about 1.7 million at the centre of the Delta outbreak. Schools and offices must still keep closed, with businesses limited to offering only contactless services. **REUTERS**

LEBANON

House session on Cabinet begins late after power cut

LEBANON'S PARLIAMENT began a session on Monday that is scheduled to discuss the new cabinet's policy programme and hold a vote of confidence, after a nearly one-hour delay caused by a power cut. Lebanon is battling a deep depression, with worsening fuel shortages translating into few or any hours of state-backed power a day and most Lebanese relying on private generators for electricity. The session had been scheduled to start at 11 am local time but the lights went out in the building now housing the parliament. When it began, Prime Minister Najib Mikati read out the cabinet's draft policy programme. **REUTERS**



LAVA DESTROYS HOMES, THOUSANDS FLEE

A house burns due to lava from the eruption of a volcano in the Cumbre Vieja national park at Los Llanos de Aridane, on the Canary Island of La Palma, on Monday. The Canary Islands' first volcanic eruption in 50 years has forced the evacuation of about 5,000 people, including around 500 tourists, and destroyed about 100 houses, officials said. **Reuters**

Pfizer says Covid-19 vaccine works in children ages 5 to 11

LAURAN NEERGAARD
SEPTEMBER 20

Pfizer said Monday its Covid-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek US authorisation for this age group soon — a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters. The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

For elementary school-aged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower dose — a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects — such as sore arms, fever or achiness — that teens experience, he said.

"I think we really hit the



A teenager gets the Pfizer vaccine in San Francisco. The company says the jab protects younger children, as well. **NYT**

sweet spot," said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age group, followed shortly afterward with applications to European and British regulators.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

Many Western countries so far have vaccinated no younger than age 12, awaiting evidence of what's the right dose and that it works safely in smaller tots. **AP**

Canadians vote in pandemic polls that could cost Trudeau

ROB GILLIES
TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 20

CANADIANS BEGAN voting Monday in an election that threatens to knock Justin Trudeau from power.

Trudeau gambled on an early election in a bid to win a majority of seats in Parliament.

Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party is in a tight race with the rival Conservatives: It will likely win the most seats in Parliament, but still fail to get a majority, forcing it to rely on an opposition party to pass legislation.

"Trudeau made an incredibly stupid error in judgement," said Robert Bothwell, a professor of Canadian history at the University of Toronto. Trudeau entered the election leading a stable minority government that wasn't under threat of being toppled.

The opposition has been relentless in accusing Trudeau of calling the early vote for his own personal ambition. Trudeau channelled the star power of his father, the Liberal icon and late Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, when he won in 2015, but a combination of expectations, scandal and calling the election last month during the pandemic have hurt his brand. **AP**

Russian university shooting leaves 6 dead, 28 wounded

Gunman, who is a student, was shot at and arrested by police

JIM HEINTZ
MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 20

A STUDENT opened fire Monday at a university in Russia, leaving six people dead and 28 hurt, before being shot by police and detained, officials said.

Beyond saying that he was a student, authorities offered no further information on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barrelled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's top body for criminal probes, said the gunman fired a smoothbore hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

The university, which has 12,000 students, said about 3,000 people were on campus at the time of the shooting. The school is in Perm, a city 1,100

Pro-Putin party wins big majority in Russia after crackdown; foes cry foul

REUTERS
MOSCOW, SEPTEMBER 20

RUSSIA'S RULING United Russia party, which supports President Vladimir Putin, won an emphatic parliamentary majority after its most vociferous critics were prevented from contesting an election that opponents said was marred by large-scale fraud.

With 98% of ballots counted on Monday, the Central Election Commission said United Russia had won nearly 50% of the vote, with its nearest rival, the Communist Party, at just under 20%. United Russia won 54% in 2016, the last time a vote was held.

The scale of the victory means United Russia will have more than two-thirds of deputies in the 450-seat State Duma lower house of parliament. This will enable it to continue to push through laws without having to rely on other parties.

EXPLAINED
Fuelled by worsening crisis in Haiti

HAITIANS HAVE been trying to migrate to the US in large numbers for many years, as the impoverished Caribbean country struggles with natural disasters and political instability following decades of colonial exploitation and foreign interference. A devastating earthquake in 2010 exacerbated Haitians' struggles, forcing them to leave in even larger numbers. The current spurt in attempts to reach the US follows another deadly earthquake earlier this year, and a worsening security situation in Haiti following the murder of the country's president.



Migrants wade across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, Texas. **AP**

Luis Angel Urraza, president of the local chamber of commerce.

The US plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a US official who was not authorised to discuss the matter publicly. Flights will continue to depart

from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for such an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael Schacher, senior US advocate at Refugees International. **AP**



Josh O'Connor (left) won an Emmy for his turn as Prince Charles in *The Crown*. Kate Winslet won the award for lead actress in a limited or anthology series or movie for *Mare of Easttown*. **AP**



Emmys for their performances on the period drama.

"I'm very proud, I'm very

grateful, we're going to party," said Peter Morgan, creator of *The Crown*, offering his remarks from

a viewing party attended by the show's cast in London, after winning for best writing.

The Queen's Gambit, Netflix's seven-episode show about a chess prodigy, won best limited series, another first for the platform. For Netflix, the wins in best drama and best limited series were a long time coming. From 2013 to 2020, the streaming service earned a whopping 30 nominations in best drama, comedy and limited series, but had never pulled off a win in those categories, often losing out to HBO, the perennial Emmys heavyweight.

By the end of the ceremony, Netflix had received more awards than HBO for the first

MEANWHILE

R KELLY TRIAL MOVES ON TO NEXT STAGE

Prosecutors at the R. Kelly sex trafficking trial ended their case Monday after calling dozens of witnesses over the past month who detailed the government's sweeping allegations against the singer in lurid detail. The defence will now begin calling former Kelly employees in an effort to cast doubt on some of the accusers' accounts.



Students at the Perm State University, around 1,100 km east of Moscow, on Monday after the shooting. **AP**

kilometres east of Moscow with a population of about 1 million.

The Investigative Committee said six people were killed, revising down its earlier figure of eight dead. No explanation was given for the change. It said 28 people were injured and some of them were hospitalised. The Health Ministry said 19 of them were shot.

In a video released by the Interior Ministry, a witness whose name was not given said he saw the man outside after shooting two people and that he appeared to be wearing a bulletproof vest.

A traffic police unit was the first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when police returned fire and then was disarmed. The gunman also was armed with a knife, the ministry said.

"I entered the building and saw an armed young man walking down the stairs. I shouted at him 'Drop it!' That's when he pointed the gun at me and fired. At that point I used my gun," police officer Konstantin Kalinin said in the ministry video. **AP**



Ballots being prepared at a polling station in Bakhchysarai, Crimea, on Sunday. **AP**

The Kremlin hailed the result, saying United Russia, which Putin helped found, had confirmed its role as the leading party. It said the election had been competitive, open and honest.

"The Communists have improved their results and there are new parties that have done well," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, who praised the way the election had been conducted.

Kremlin critics alleged large-scale vote rigging. They said the election was a sham and that a newly-introduced electronic voting system had been used to

deprive opponents of United Russia of victory in Moscow.

Some Moscow-based Communists who felt cheated called for a protest in the Russian capital on Monday evening. The central square they named as the venue was sealed off by police on Monday afternoon.

"With such a colossal number of violations, the results of the State Duma elections cannot be recognised as clean, honest or legitimate," said Lyubov Sobol, an ally of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny whose movement was declared extremist by a court.

Islamic State militants claim attacks on Taliban

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAIRO, SEPTEMBER 20

THE EXTREMIST Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a series of deadly bombings targeting Taliban vehicles in eastern Afghanistan.

The claim, published late Sunday on the militants' media arm, the Amaq news agency, signals a growing threat to the Taliban by their long-time rivals.

At least eight people, including several Taliban fighters, were killed in the attacks on Sunday and Saturday in the provincial city of Jalalabad, an IS stronghold.

The Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in a blitz campaign last month, overrunning the capital of Kabul while US and NATO were in the final

At least eight people, including Taliban fighters, were killed in the attacks on Sunday and Saturday

phase of withdrawing their troops. The last foreign soldiers left August 30.

The Taliban now face major economic and security challenges in trying to govern Afghanistan, and an accelerated campaign of IS attacks will further complicate those efforts.

Both groups subscribe to a harsh interpretation of Islam, but the Taliban have focused on taking control of Afghanistan, while IS affiliates in Afghanistan and elsewhere call for global jihad.



Paul Rusesabagina at a court hearing in February. **AP**

'Hotel Rwanda' hero sentenced to 25 years on terror charges

IGNATIUS SSUUNA
KIGALI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE MAN who inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda* for saving hundreds of his countrymen from genocide was convicted of terrorism offenses Monday and sentenced to 25 years at a trial that human rights watchdogs and other critics of Rwanda's repressive government have described as an act of retaliation.

Paul Rusesabagina, credited with sheltering ethnic Tutsis during Rwanda's 1994 genocide and a recipient of the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, boycotted the announcement of the verdict after calling the trial a "sham."

The US resident and Belgian citizen was convicted on eight charges including membership in a terrorist group, murder and abduction. He was charged along with 20 other people.

The circumstances surrounding Rusesabagina's arrest last year, his limited access to an independent legal team and his reported worsening health have drawn international concern for the 67-year-old who left Rwanda in 1996.

Rusesabagina, who remains in custody, has asserted that his arrest was in response to his criticism of longtime Rwandan President Paul Kagame over alleged human rights abuses. Kagame's government has repeatedly denied targeting dissenting voices with arrests and extrajudicial killings.

Monday's ruling comes more than a year after Rusesabagina disappeared during a visit to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and appeared days later in Rwanda in handcuffs, accused of supporting the armed wing of his opposition political platform, Rwandan Movement for Democratic Change. **AP**



Emmanuel Macron

France says sorry to Algerians who fought for colonisers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS, SEPTEMBER 20

FRENCH PRESIDENT Emmanuel Macron apologised Monday to Algerians who fought alongside French colonial forces in Algeria's war for independence, and were then massacred and ostracised as traitors.

In a solemn ceremony interrupted by the cries of one fighter's daughter, Macron also promised a law guaranteeing reparations for the contingent known as the harkis. The distraught woman, who said she grew up in a camp where France sequestered harkis after the war, argued that the law wouldn't go far enough to fix the damage.

Harkis and their descendants feel France abandoned and mistreated them after the war, one of the darkest chapters in France's modern history. Around 200,000 fought against fellow Algerians in the 1954-1962 war, and tens of thousands of harkis were killed after the French withdrawal.

Those who made it to France were placed in camps, and many were denied access to school and other rights. A few thousand harkis are believed to still be alive today.

"I ask your forgiveness," Macron told harkis and their descendants gathered in the French presidential palace. "We will continue to bandage the wounds as long as they haven't healed through words of truth."

'TED LASSO' ON APPLE TV+ AND 'MARE OF EASTTOWN' ON HBO ALSO SCORED NUMEROUS WINS

With 'The Crown', Netflix finally takes the Emmys throne

JOHN KOBLIN
SEPTEMBER 20

AT LONG last, the streaming platforms were triumphant at the Emmys, with Netflix and Apple TV+ taking major awards in drama, comedy and limited series as Television Academy voters acknowledged a profound shift in entertainment, from the channel-flipping days of traditional TV to the 21st-century mode of click-and-watch binge viewing.

The Crown, the Netflix chronicle of the ups and downs of the British royal family, won the prize for best drama at the 73rd Emmy Awards on Sunday, propelling the

tech giant to its first win in one of TV's biggest prizes.

The drama won on the strength of its fourth season, which took viewers into the 1980s as it portrayed the relationship of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. *The Crown* also dominated the acting categories. Olivia Colman, in the role of Queen Elizabeth II, took the award for best actress in a drama. She was the second actress to win for a portrayal of Queen Elizabeth on *The Crown*, with Claire Foy having taken the honour in 2018.

On Sunday, Josh O'Connor (Prince Charles), Gillian Anderson (Margaret Thatcher) and Tobias Menzies (Prince Philip) also won



New Delhi



13 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹45,080



RUPEE

₹73.74



OIL

\$73.49



SILVER

₹58,890

Crude oil (Indian basket) as of September 17

SENSEX: 58,490.93 ▼ 524.96 (0.89%) NIFTY: 17,396.90 ▼ 188.25 (1.07%) NIKKEI: 30,500.05 ▲ 176.71 HANG SENG: 24,099.14 ▼ 821.62 FTSE: 6,830.02 ▼ 133.62 DAX: 15,032.55 ▼ 457.62

International market data till 1900 IST

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT

‘Bribes’ to govt officials: Amazon probes law firms, in-house counsel

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

IN WHAT could potentially set off a probe under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), online retailer Amazon is conducting an internal investigation into a whistleblower complaint that has alleged bribing of government officials in India by some of its legal representatives. An Amazon India executive told *The Indian Express* that the investigation pertained to “certain accounting irregularities in payments” made to the company’s legal consultants, for which a Delhi-based in-house counsel has been sent on leave and a junior staffer at one of the law firms hired by Amazon India has been laid off.

Responding to set of e-mail queries sent by this newspaper, asking the status of the probe, whether the company also planned to have an external agency look into the matter or Indian authorities were notified about the issue, an Amazon spokesperson wrote: “We have zero tolerance for corruption. We take allegations of improper actions seriously, investigate them fully, and take appropriate action. We are not commenting on specific allegations or the status of any investigation at this time”.

In a report on Monday, *The Morning Context* said a part of the legal fees by Amazon to one or more of its legal representatives have been “funnelled” into bribing government officials. The report said that while the internal investigation being carried out by Amazon was focussed on the role played by the company’s senior legal counsel, who has been sent on a leave, and a Delhi-based independent lawyer, it was also conducting a broader investigation into the issue and was questioning its other legal representatives for the same. This includes law firm AZB & Partners.

“The matter being investigated is very old and relates to mismatch in the utilisation of funds given to the company’s in-house counsel as well as the law firms retained by Amazon India,” the executive cited above, said. Mails sent to AZB & Partners did not elicit any re-

An Amazon India executive told *The Indian Express* that the investigation pertained to “certain accounting irregularities in payments” made to the company’s legal consultants

sponse. Any implication of Amazon’s employees in India towards bribing government officials could expose the e-commerce firm to the FCPA in the US, which is enforced by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the US Department of Justice. The FCPA law prohibits US firms and individuals from paying bribes to foreign officials to further business deals. In the past several firms have been investigated by the US SEC for FCPA violations. In 2019, IT services firm Cognizant agreed to pay \$25 million to settle violations of the anti-bribery, internal accounting controls, and record-keeping provisions. Two of Cognizant’s former officials were also charged with authorising a \$2.5 million bribe payments to a government official in India.

Similarly, in 2017, snack-maker Mondelez International, which owns chocolate brand Cadbury, agreed to pay a \$13-million-penalty for FCPA violations arising out of one of its subsidiaries making illicit payments to obtain government licenses and approvals for a chocolate factory in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.

Meanwhile, in India, following the reports of alleged bribery by Amazon officials, traders’ body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has demanded a CBI inquiry saying the matter relates to the credibility of the government and is counter to the vision of removing corruption at all levels within the government. CAIT, which has sent a communication to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, said it is also moving a representation to the US SEC Chairman Gary Gensler to demand a “fair and independent probe” into the issue.

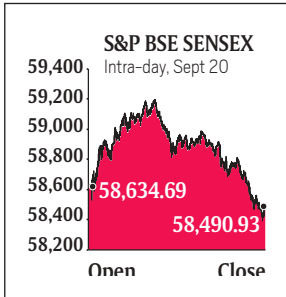
INDEX JOINS GLOBAL SELL-OFF, DOWN 0.89%

Realty, metals hit on China property woes, Sensex drops

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 20

DOMESTIC STOCK markets on Monday joined a global sell-off amid concerns that troubles at property giant Evergrande of China are likely to impact the global risk appetite and uncertainty over the forthcoming US Federal Reserve meeting. With metals, realty and banking leading the rout, the benchmark Sensex plunged 525 points, or 0.89 per cent, to 58,490.93 and the Nifty 50 lost 188 points, or 1.07 per cent, to 17,396.90 on heavy selling. Markets started the week on a feeble note and lost nearly a percent as weak global cues hit sentiment.

The rupee fell by 26 paise to close at 73.74 against the US dol-



lar, tracking a strong dollar in the overseas market and the sell-off in domestic equities.

Metals have been under pressure today on buzz over Chinese firm Evergrande facing financial trouble and speculation over default on debt payment, which led to a selloff. Tata Steel was the biggest loser on the Sensex chart

‘High frequency indicators turn uneven in August’

With benefits of unlocking steps tapering out, high-frequency indicators have become uneven since August, Icrs said

Upcoming festive season will see a rise in confidence-boosting demand, Icrs Ratings said, adding it is “cautiously optimistic” about it



Indicators showing an improvement include the output of Coal India Limited (CIL), electricity, ports cargo traffic, GST e-way bills and non-oil merchandise exports

Source: Icrs Ratings/PTI

Videocon insolvency: Lenders make U-turn

Seek fresh bids

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

LENDERS TO Videocon Industries on Monday approached the insolvency appellate tribunal NCLAT seeking fresh bids for the debt-laden consumer durable firm.

Anil Agarwal’s Twin Star Technologies had offered Rs 2,962 crore to takeover Videocon Industries, which was 4.15 per cent of the admitted claims of Rs

64,838.63 crore of lenders.

SBI, the leading lender of Videocon Industries, has approached the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) requesting for a rebidding of the 13 companies of the debt-ridden group, on account of strong observations against Rs 2,962 crore takeover bid by Anil Agarwal’s Twin Star Technologies.

SBI, on behalf of assenting creditors of Videocon, which represents 94.98 per cent voting had filed an application before the NCLAT requesting to remand back the matter to the CoC.

ADANI ON COVID HANDLING
‘Criticism should not be at cost of national dignity’

New Delhi: Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani on Monday defended handling of the pandemic in the country, saying criticism should not be at the cost of national dignity.

The fact that India fought back the pandemic should in itself be a lesson for all, that there can be no better defence than aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) ..., he said at Priyadarshini Academy’s global awards event. “... criticism cannot be at the cost of national dignity. It cannot be at the cost of degrading or destroying the confidence of a nation,” he said. PTI

Exporter issues: 24x7 helpline on the anvil

New Delhi: The government is going to launch a 24x7 helpline number to help exporters deal with any issues, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

The Minister also said that multiple Ministries were working in tandem to help exporters deal with the international issue of high freight rates and the low availability of empty containers.

“The government has decided to start a 24x7 helpline to address any problem that exporters face. “The issues that are raised on

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal. PTI file

this helpline will be taken up at the highest levels so that they are resolved quickly,” said Goyal. ENS

and crashed 9.53 per cent. Shares of Jindal Steel & Power Limited tumbled 9.13 per cent, National Aluminium Company Limited plunged 8.92 per cent, Steel Authority of India Limited (8.20 per cent), NMDC (7.70 per cent), JSW Steel (6.99 per cent), Hindalco Industries Limited (6.07 per cent), and Vedanta (4.99 per cent).

Sectorally, BSE metal, basic materials, realty, power and utilities indices tanked up to 6.80 per cent, while FMCG closed higher. In the broader market, the BSE midcap and smallcap indices declined up to 1.84 per cent.

“The decline shows nervousness ahead of the US Fed meet and we may further slide in the Nifty towards the major support around the 17,150-17,250 zone. We recommend keeping a cautious ap-

EXPLAINED
Eye on US Fed

GLOBAL MARKETS traded negatively as investors were cautious ahead of multiple central bank policy meetings scheduled this week. However, due to weak US job data and inflation increasing at a slower pace, the US Fed is not expected to hint on taper plans in the upcoming meeting.

proach and limiting naked leveraged positions...,” said Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking.

JUSTICE M VENUGOPAL TO TAKE OVER

17 judgments in last 10 days, Justice Cheema retires as acting Chairperson of NCLAT

KARUNJIT SINGH
& AASHISH ARYAN

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

FOR JUSTICE Ashok Iqbal Singh Cheema, the last 10 days of his tenure as the acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) have been busier than he would have imagined.

Apart from approaching the Supreme Court with a plea challenging the Central government’s move to cut short his tenure by 10 days, Justice Cheema has also delivered as many as 17 judgments between September 10 and September 20, when he retired.

Justice Cheema had, in his plea, said that he should be allowed to complete his term as he had a lot of judgments to deliver.

The issues decided in these judgments, most of them delivered on Monday, his last day in office, range from protecting the assets of the corporate debtor by asking a former chief executive

Justice Ashok Iqbal Singh Cheema. Credit: NCLAT website

officer to return the funds to the resolution professional, to holding that if a financial creditor is a related party to the corporate debtor, it cannot be made a part of the committee of creditors.

In one of his final judgments, Justice Cheema has also held that the debt of a financial creditor would not be barred by limitation, and that the corporate debtor who fails to pay such debts can be taken to the National Company Law Tribunal.

Evergrande default risks spark fears of contagion globally

REUTERS

HONG KONG, SEPTEMBER 20

CHINA EVERGRANDE Group shares plunged on Monday to over 11-year lows, extending losses as executives try to salvage its business prospects and as default fears grow over a looming deadline for payment obligations this week.

Evergrande has been scrambling to raise funds to pay its many lenders, suppliers and investors, with regulators warning that its \$305 billion of liabilities could spark broader risks to the country’s financial system if not stabilised. The stock closed down 10.2 per cent at HK\$2.28, after earlier plummeting 19 per cent to its weakest level since May 2010.

The developer said Sunday it has begun repaying investors in its wealth management products

Unfinished projects of Evergrande in China. Reuters

with real estate. Hang Seng ended Monday trading with a 3.3 per cent loss. European shares also traded weakly.

At 13:30 pm ET, the Dow Jones was down 772.43 points, or 2.23 per cent, at 33,812.45 and the S&P 500 was down 99.47 points, or 2.24 per cent, at 4,333.52.

challenging the Central government’s move to end his term as the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)’s acting chairperson only 10 days before it was to officially end of September 20.

The Central government, after a few stern words and a nudge from the Supreme Court, relented, and said that Justice Cheema would complete his tenure as scheduled, while Justice M Venugopal, the newly appointed acting Chairperson of the appellate tribunal, would be asked to go on leave till September 20.

As he retires, Justice Venugopal, the third acting Chairperson of NCLAT, will take over on September 21 and is most likely to function out of the Chennai Bench of the appellate tribunal.

BRIEFLY

Budget exercise

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry will kick-start the exercise to prepare the annual Budget for 2022-23 from October 12 amidst signs of revival of the economy hit hard by Covid.

Innovation Index

New Delhi: India has climbed two spots and has been ranked 46th by the World Intellectual Property Organization in Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings.

EPFO payroll

New Delhi: EPFO recorded net new enrolments of 14.65 lakh in July, 31.28 per cent higher than 11.16 lakh in June.

FB India official

New Delhi: Facebook India said it has appointed ex-IAS officer Rajiv Aggarwal as director of public policy. PTI

Twitter lawsuit

San Francisco: Twitter said it will pay \$809.5 million to settle a consolidated class action lawsuit alleging that the company misled investors about how much its user base was growing and how much users interacted with its platform. AP

CCI clears Adani stake buy in Gangavaram Port

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

THE COMPETITION Commission of India on Monday approved the proposed acquisition of Andhra Pradesh government’s 10.4 per cent stake in Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL) by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zones Limited (APSEZ), thus, clearing the way for GPL to become a wholly owned subsidiary of APSEZ.

The competition regulator has previously approved APSEZ’s acquisition of 89.6 per cent stake in Gangavaram Port from the DVR family and Windy Lakeside

Jr AMC staff to make minimum investments in MFs: Sebi

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday said junior staff of asset management companies will have to invest at least 20 per cent of their gross salaries in a phased manner, starting from October 2023.

Designated employees will be mandatorily required to invest 20 per cent from October 1, 2023, Sebi said in a circular. It added units allotted will be subject to clawback in the event of gross violation of code of conduct or fraud. ENS

RAJAHMUNDY ASSET, RAJAHMUNDY (A.P.)

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

For qualification of vendors to set up “Group Gathering Station on HIRE BASIS along with Operation and Maintenance”

The Joint Venture (JV) comprising Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), and Vedanta Ltd. (Cairn Oil & Gas) is developing the Nagaylanka oilfield located about 80Kms. from Vijayawada. The Joint Venture has proposed to set up **Group Gathering Station on HIRE BASIS along with Operation and Maintenance for Three Years** to produce oil and gas from the existing and upcoming wells. The JV is looking for interested vendors having previous experience in **Setting up of Production System on Hire Basis along with Operation and Maintenance.** (1) Vendors having the required capability and possessing relevant statutory approvals may respond to this EOI and shall attend Video Conference along with supporting documents in respect of Eligibility Criteria stipulated at Clause No.2.1(a) on 01-10-2021 and 02-10-2021.(2)Bidders to give presentation on the following deliverables:(a) Tentative PFD & PID of the GGS going to be offered.(b) Execution Methodology etc.(c) Time schedule for complete supply & commissioning (1month, 2months etc.).(3) Submit the documents latest by **15:00 hrs on 12-10-2021.** **CGM (P)- I/C Specialist Pool Group, Room No.- G-C-1, Godavari Bhavan, ONGC Base Complex, Lala Cheruvu, Rajahmundry-533103. Contact No: 0883-2494259. NOTE:** Interested bidders to note that, there will be no further extensions under any circumstances, since the project has to be rolled out on fast track basis. For details of the vendor qualification criteria, please visit <https://tenders.ongc.co.in>

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Senior Assistant Director (Horticulture West) Division
8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560 003.

No: SAD(H-W)/PR/01/2021-22 Date: 18.09.2021

CORRIGENDUM

The Short Term Tender was invited by the Senior Assistant Director, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Horticulture -West) under Office Notification No: SADH(WEST)/TENDER /PR/01/2021-22, Dated: 30.08.2021 for the year 2021-22 to Maintain 39 parks in various wards i.e., Parks Security Works, Water Supply Works, Maintenance and Repairs of Borewells, Maintenance and Housekeeping of Toilet consisting 6 Assembly Constituencies. The same tender notification was published in The Indian Express, English Daily & Prajavani, Kannada Daily on 31.08.2021. Due to Technical and Administrative reasons the dates for submission of tenders for the work of Maintenance of Parks Total 39 works from Item No. 1 to 39 is as under.

Technical Bid Opening Date	05.10.2021 (4:00 pm onwards)
Financial Bid Opening Date	13.10.2021 (if possible)

And due to Administrative and Technical reasons Item No. 40 to 65 i.e., Parks Security Works, Water Supply Works, Maintenance and Repairs of Borewells, Maintenance and Housekeeping of Toilet, total 26 works, for the same the submission of tender dates are postponed. Further, the tender submission dates will be informed in later days for the same. Rest, no changes in the Tender Notification.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director (Horticulture-WEST)

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

New Delhi

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Priya Ranjan S/o Mr. Ravindra Singh R/o Flat No. E- 804, Rajhans Apartment, Opp. Aditya Mall, Ahinsa Khand - I, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar pradesh - 201 014 have changed my daughter name from

Manshi to Mansi Sharma for all purposes in future as per the Affidavit sworn in before the Notary Public on 18.09.2021.

0040585139-1

I, Manjit Singh Sarna, s/o- Harmander Singh Sarna, resident of FLAT.No.C-35, DG(S) CGHS,PLOT.No.6,SECTOR 22, DWARKA,NEW DELHI-110077,hereby solemnly affirm and inform that my,name in some documents is written as M.S.SARNA S/O -H.S.SARNA and in some documents as Manjit Singh Sarna S/o -Harmander Singh Sarna.I inform vide affidavit Notary Entry.No. 06/20/2021, dated 27th-Aug-2021,that both the names pertain to one and same person.

0040585212-2

I, Prince Kumar S/O Sanjay Kumar Chaudhary, R/o Plot No-4A, Shyam Vihar Phase- 1, Block D, Najafgarh, South West, Delhi- 110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Prince Choudhary.

0070754470-1

I, Pratibha W/o Rajinder Kumar, R/o-WZ-143A/4C, IInd-Floor, Gali.No.7, New-Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi-110018,have changed my name to Pratibha Sharma,after marriage for all future purposes.

0040585137-2

I, Pankaj Kumar Singh son of Sh. Deo Prakash Singh, residing at 90-B,Regent, Shipra Suncity, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh have changed the nameof my minor son Arush Singh aged 14 Years and he shall hereafter be known as HarshitSingh.

0040585143-1

I, Pagadala Ashok Kumar S/O Arunachalam, R/O 23-65/1 1st Floor 4th Street, Rk Nagar, Malkaigiri, Opp Spencers Lane, K.G. Rangareddy, Telangana-500047. I have changed the name of my minor daughter Pagadala Vaishnavi alias Vaishnavi P aged about 17 Years and She shall hereafter be known as Pagadala Krithika.

0070754511-1

I, Nuhi Rizvi W/o Afsar Husain Rizvi R/o 851, Sector-M, Ashiyana, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226012, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Sayed Mohd Hasan in my 10th Class Certificate and as S M Yusuf in my BA Marksheet of Lucknow University. The actual name of my father is Syed Mohd Yusuf

0070754505-1

I, Mohinder Yadav S/o Shrichand Yadav R/o House No. C-18, Pandav Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Mohinder Singh Yadav for all purpose.

0040585152-1

I, Kamaljit Pal , W/O Rajendra Pal R/o 108 A Pocket 4, Mayur Vihar, Mayur Vihar Ph-1, Delhi-110091 . have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Kamal Sharma .

0070754523-1

I, KULDEEP JAIN, S/O. RAMESH CHAND JAIN, ADD-107/16, STREET.NO-3 EAST AZAD NAGAR SHAHDARA-110051, Changed my name to KULDEEP KUMAR JAIN, permanently.

0040585187-3

I, Inderjeet Singh S/o Raj Singh R/o-109, Mangolpur Khurd, Delhi-110083 have changed my name to Inder Jeet

0040585199-3

I, Gulfam Kajla S/O Sarwan Singh, R/o Batta, Sanaur, Patiala, Punjab- 147103, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Gulfam Khan.

0070754469-1

I, Lichhma Kanwar D/o Mahender Singh R/o Duleri, Nethwa, Churu, Rajasthan-331304, have changed my name to Laxmi Rathore

0070754503-1

I, Gopal Krushna Patro S/O Rama Nath Patro, R/o 122, Purusottampur, Ganjam, Odisha- 761018. Declare that Name of Mine has been wrongly written as Gopal Krushna Patra in my University Documents . The actual name of Mine is Gopal Krushna Patro, which may be amended accordingly .

0070754463-1

I, Deeksha Jain D/o Sanjay Kumar Jain, R/o 776-D, Second Floor, RR-Block, Naveen Shahdara, Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Diksha Jain for all future purposes

0040585140-1

I, Arshiya Ismail D/o Late Praduman Lal Kapoor R/o 40-802, AWHO Gurjinder Vihar, Chi-II, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P. have changed my name to Ritu Kapoor for all future purposes

0070754528-1

I, Aafreen Ismail D/o Arshiya Ismail R/o 40-802, AWHO Gurjinder Vihar, Chi-II, Greater Noida, G.B.Nagar, U.P. have changed my name to Aafreen Verma Kapoor for all future purposes.

0070754527-1

I, Birendranath Marndi S/O Kalyan Marndi, R/o 6/4, Railway Colony, VTC- Veppur, P.O- Gudiyattam Rs, Sub District- Katpadi, District-Vellore, Tamil Nadu- 635803. Declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as Bharati Lata Marndi in my 10th Class Certificate No-TS 40000250. The actual name of My Mother is Bharti Lata Tudu, which may be amended accordingly.

0070754468-1

I, Afsar Husain Rizvi S/o Akhtar Husain Rizvi R/o 851, Sector-M, Ashiyana, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226012, that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Afsar Husain and Akhtar Husain respectively in my 10th Class Certificate. The actual name of mine and my father is Afsar Husain Rizvi and Akhtar Husain Rizvi respectively

0070754510-1

I, AMITAB BACHCHAN S/O RAMBIR SINGH Address P-1/1047, Gali No.- 8, Sultan Puri, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to AMIT SINGH.

0040585144-1

I, Saleem S/O Aliha Rajeev, R/o 700/17, Gali No- 23, Vijay Park Garhi Mendu, Bhajan Pura, North East, Delhi- 110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Mohammad Salim.

0070754465-1

I, Vipin Gupta S/o Late Sh. Purushottam Das Gupta R/o C-2-279, 2nd Floor, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058 have changed my name to Vipin P Gupta for all purposes.

0040585122-1

I, Suresh Bhairavi Pandey, s/o Late Shri Bhairavi Prasad, R/o H.No.A/485, Durga Gali Marg, Mandawali, Delhi-110096, have change my name SURESH B. PANDAY for, all purpose.

0040585195-4

I, Sapna Chaudhary alias Kashish Bajaj D/o Sh. Baldev Raj Chaudhary W/o Sh. Sandeep Bajaj R/o A-111, Kamla Nagar, North Delhi, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to Kashish Bajaj for all purposes.

0040585122-2

I, Sanjay Kumar R/o Qt. No-866 R.K.Puram Sector-9, New Delhi-110022 have changed my minor son's name from Om to Om Kumar for all purposes.

0040585177-1

I, Rashmi D/o Late Sh. Tejveer Singh W/o Sh. Shamsher Jamadagni R/o H.No.C-170, Prem Nagar, Najafgarh, District South West Delhi, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Rashmika Jamadagni for all purposes.

0040585122-3

I, Radhey Shyam S/o-Rupa Mal R/o-C-1/2, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Radhey Shyam Gehlot for all purposes.

0040585136-1

I, Puja Kumari W/o Shri Akhilesh Kumar R/o H-41/3, Shankar Vihar, Delhi Cantt, New Delhi-110010 have changed my name from KUMARI PUJA to PUJA KUMARI for all future purposes.

0040585211-1

I, Dharmendra Kumar S/o,Late G.P. Sharma R/o B-211, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad, UP.-201011 have changed my name to Dharmendra Kumar Sharma.

0040585199-8

I, Noor Bano W/o Gulam Sabir R/o H.No.E-3/559, Street No.13, E-Block, 4th Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Saba Pur, Delhi have changed the name of my minor son from Maham Seikh Mansoori to Maham for all purposes.

0040585122-4

I, Munesh Yadav S/o Rakesh Singh R/o G Gram Belahar, Post Hajipur Nera, Baranahar, Mainpuri, Uttar Pradesh-202061, have changed my name to Ravi Kant

0070754508-1

I, Meenakshi Gehlot W/o-Radhey Shyam Gehlot R/o C-1/2, Prashant Vihar, Sector-14, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Minakshi Gehlot for all purposes.

0040585135-1

I, Lal Bahadur S/o Late Shri Ram Das R/o H.No.F-3/349,Sultan Puri,Delhi-110086,have change my name LAL BAHADUR BHARDWAL for all purpose.

0040585195-3

I,Brinder Kaur Sethi Alias Barinder Kaur Sethi D/o Jaspal Singh Sethi and W/o Jatinder Singh Narula R/o B-127, First Floor, Gujranwala Town Part-1, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Barinder Kaur Narula

0070754509-1

I, sualiha s/o mohammad zakir R/o plot no-15 kh.no.135, 4th-floor Street.no.9-block-f, near-Amina-masjid Wazirabad north-delhi-110084,name changed AALIYA s/o-Mohd zakir, for all purposes.

0040585146-8

I,hitherto known as Teesha chugh Dhawan, W/o Vardaan Dhawan, R/o,B-4/66, Ashok Vihar,Phase-II,Delhi-110052, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vanya Chugh Dhawan.

0040585180-2

It is for general information that I, SWOPNA W/O PURUSHOTAM KUMAR R/O FLAT No.-25,3RD FLOOR, BLOCK-A, ID HOSPITAL, KINGSWAY CAMP, DR. MUKHERJEE NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110009 declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as SAPNA DEVI/SOWPNA/SAPNA and PURUSHOTAM KUMAR RAJAK/PURSHOTAM in my minor son's AYUSH KUMAR aged 13 years and my minor daughter's AANYA RAJ aged 7 years school records and birth certificates. The actual name of mine and my husband are SWOPNA and PURUSHOTAM KUMAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

0070754512-1

I, Vikramaditya S/o Mahender Singh R/o 118, First-Floor, Pkt.2, Ph-2, Sector-14, Dwarka, Delhi-110078 have changed my name to Vikramaditya Singh.

0040585180-3

I, Tisha, D/o-Dhir Singh, R/o-Flat No.C-202,F/F,Palam Apartments,Bijwasan,New Delhi-110061, have changed my name to Tisha Dahiya, D/o- Dhir Singh Dahiya, for all future purposes.

0040585207-2

I, Sunita Saini W/o Hari Kishan, R/o-152, Gaon, Shahbad,Daulatpur Delhi-110042,inform that parents name wrongly, written Sunita and Hari Krishan in ,my minor son Jatin Rajpur School, records but parents, actual name is Sunita Saini and Hari Kishan.

0040585195-8

I, Shakuntla Devi, W/o Late Sh.Rameshwar Prasad, R/o Flat.No.203-B,Pocket-1,Mayur-Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110091, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Shakuntla in my Husband's P.P.O. No.10874809320.The actual-name of mine is Shakuntla Devi, which may be amended accordingly.

0040585180-4

I, Sanjay Tanwar S/o-Asha Ram Tanwar R/o 89-C,Pocket-K Sheikh Sarai Phase-2 Delhi-17, have changed my name to Sanjay Kumar Tanwar.

0040585146-5

I, Divya Sanatra D/o Vijay Kumar R/o-H.No.114, Shiv Puri,Krishna Nagar Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Divya Sanotra.

0040585180-7

I, SHASHI GUPTA W/O RAJ KUMAR R/O A-83, BLOCK-A, BHAGWATI GARDEN EXTN.UTTAM-NAGAR, DELHI-110059,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHASHI SONI.

0040585187-1

I, SARANJIT KAUR/ SARNJEEET KAUR W/O JAGJIT SINGH, R/O JG-3/49A, VIKAS PURI, Delhi have changed my name to SARANJEEET KAUR, permanently.

0040585195-9

I, Ritu Koshija, D/o-Mr. Chhattar Lal, R/o H-M-60, upper ground floor, Malviya Nagar, ND-17, inform that my father's name is wrongly written in my documents I.e Ghanshyam Dass which is to be Chhattar Lal.

0040585207-7

I, Ravinder Singh Saini, S/o Swaran Singh, R/o A-1, DOABA, Gali-Moujpur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Ravinder Singh, for all future purposes.

0040585146-6

I, Rakesh Jain, S/o-Shekhar Chand Jain, R/o-WZ-40, Shastri-Nagar, AshokVihar, Delhi-110052, declare that Rakesh Jain, and Rakesh Kumar, both names, are one and same, person, shall, hereafter be known, as Rakesh Jain.

0040585199-1

I, Rajesh Kumar, S/o Shyam Lal, R/o RC-543, Gali.No.-1, kala Enclave, Khora- Colony, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201001, have changed my name, from Rajesh Kumar to Rajesh Kanojia, for all future purposes.

0040585187-8

I, Rajender Singh S/o Mahender Singh R/o F-1/298, Madangir, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Rajinder Singh, for all purposes.

0040585180-6

I, Puran Singh S/O Dalip Chand R/O A-7/57, Upper Ground Floor Sector-16, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Puran Chand.

0040585146-1

I, Parmod Arora S/o Ramesh Chand R/O D-22 Ajay Enclave New Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Parmod Kumar.

0040585195-1

I, Pankaj Mehra, S/o-Harish Chandra Singh Mehra, R/o-UG-1, Plot.no.273, Sector-1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201010, declare that my father's name has been wrongly written as Harish Mehra in my class-10th and 12th- certificate, whereas his correct name is Harish Chandra Singh Mehra.

0040585207-6

I, PAVITRA YADAV, S/O-SHRI RAKESH YADAV, R/O-C-36, PRASHANT VIHAR, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PAVITR YADAV.

0040585207-5

I, Mohammed zhakir, s/o mohammed yasin, R/o.plot.no-15, kh.no.135, 4th floor Street.no.9,-block-f near-Amina-masjid Wazirabad, north delhi-110084, name changed Mohd zakir, s/o Mohd yasin, for all purposes.

0040585146-9

I, Meenakshi Verma W/o Monoj Kumar R/o H.N 2421, 3rd-Floor, Chhippiwara, Jama Masjid, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Meenakshi.

0040585212-1

I, Mayank Bakshi S/o,Rajeev Bakshi R/o-237, Pocket-1, DDA-SFS-Flats, Dwarka, Sector-22, N.Delhi-110077, have changed my minor daughter's name Nitya Saraswat to Nitya Agnihotri. Aged-14-years.

0040585199-10

I, Mayank Bakshi S/o,Rajeev Bakshi R/o-237, Pocket-1, DDA-SFS-Flats, Dwarka, Sector-22, N.Delhi-110077, have changed my minor son's name Shambhavi Saraswat to Shambhavi Agnihotri. Aged-11-years.

0040585199-9

I, KREETIKA SHARMA W/O JAY CHAWLA R/O C-149, FIRST-FLOOR, VIKAS PURI, DELHI-110018. CHANGED MY NAME TO KRETIKA CHAWLA.FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040585187-2

I, Mansi Bansal, D/o Virender Singh, R/O RZ-25, A-7, S/F Gali No.7, Indra-Park Palam-Colony Palam-Colony, Delhi-110045, changed my name to Sanjita.

0040585187-7

I, Manoj Kumar Singh S/O- Upendra deo Narayan Singh1727, Sharon.Gaur Saundaryam.Tech Zone-4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201306, state that i, had changed my, Name from Manoj Kumar Sinha to Manoj Kumar Singh and presently known as Manoj Kumar Singh for all, future purpose.

0040585187-6

I, Kuljeet Singh Nagi, S/O Jaswant Singh Nagi, Resident House.No.1, Kingsway Road, Radio-Colony, Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Kuljit Singh Nagi.

0040585146-7

I, Kishan Lal R/o-E-207, Kusumpur Pahari, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, have changed my, son's name from Avinash to Avinash Chandel DOB-23th-Oct 2007, for all, future purpose.

0040585195-5

I, KUNAL NARESH, R/O G-8, CAMERO COMPLEX SUBROTO-PARK NEW DELHI-110010, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME ARNAV TO ARNAV NARESH VIDE- AFFIDAVIT DATED- 20/09/2021 BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040585180-11

I, KUNAL NARESH, R/O G-8, CAMERO COMPLEX SUBROTO-PARK NEW DELHI-110010, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER'S NAME ANANYA TO ANANYA NARESH VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED- 20/09/2021, BEFORE NCT-DELHI.

0040585180-10

I, Jasmine Kaur Sabharwal W/o Jayinder Singh R/o F-12, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Jasmine Kaur.

0040585199-6

I, HEMLATA, D/O.KAPOOR GARG, H.No-277, WARD NO.23, PUNJABI MOHALLA BALLABGARH FARIDABAD HARYANA-121004, Changed my name to HEMLATA GARG, permanently.

0040585146-10

I, Gaganeet W/o-Bharat Dhingra, R/o D-111, Surajmal Vihar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Gagneet Dhingra for all purposes.

0040585207-4

I, Ezaz Ahmad R/o-F-104, J.J.Colony, Wazirpur, Delhi-110052, inform that in my 10th & 12th Marksheet and passing certificate, my father, name Indadul and mother, name Josna Begum wrongly-written instead of my, father correct name Indadul Haque and mother, name Joshana Begum.

0040585187-5

I, Dhir Singh, S/o-Ram Chander, R/o-Flat No.C-202, F/F, Palam Apartments, Bijwasan, New Delhi-110061, have changed my name to Dhir Singh Dahiya, S/o-Ram Chander Dahiya for all future purposes.

0040585207-1

I, Dhir Singh Dahiya, R/o-Flat.No.C-202,F/F,Palam Apartments,Bijwasan New Delhi-110061, have changed my daughter's name from Tina to Tina Dahiya, D/o-Dhir Singh Dahiya for all future purposes.

0040585207-3

I, Deepika w/o Shyam sunder R/o-3493A/1 Narang-Colony Tri-Nagar North West delhi. Delhi-110035, have change my name Deepali to Deepika, for all future purpose

0040585180-5

I, Ayadev, S/O Umesh Kumar R/o, SMQ 67/04 passed Sagar Air-Force Station, Sohna-road Gurugram-122001, have changed my name, from Ayadev to Ayadev Pratap, vide- affidavit dated-20.Sep.21.

0040585180-9

I, Ashok Verma S/O Om Prakash Verma R/o-220, Shiv Shankarpuri Meerut, U.P., Have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Verma.

0040585180-1

I, Anju Sehrawat D/o Daya Nand Sehrawat W/o Jaipal Singh Lakra R/o-Flat.No.6, Vindhyachal Apartments Inder-Enclave Paschim, Vihar Delhi-110087, changed my name to Anju Lakra.

0040585195-7

I, Krishan Lal Lamba S/O Sita Ram Lamba R/O 95, Chander Nagar Janakpuri Delhi-110058, changed my name to Kishan Lal Lamba.

0040585146-3

I, Akanksha Khanna, W/o Sh. Sharad Bajjal R/O H-45 Second-Floor, M2K White House, Sector-57, Gurgaon-122001, have changed my name to Akanksha Khanna Bajjal, for all, future references and purposes.

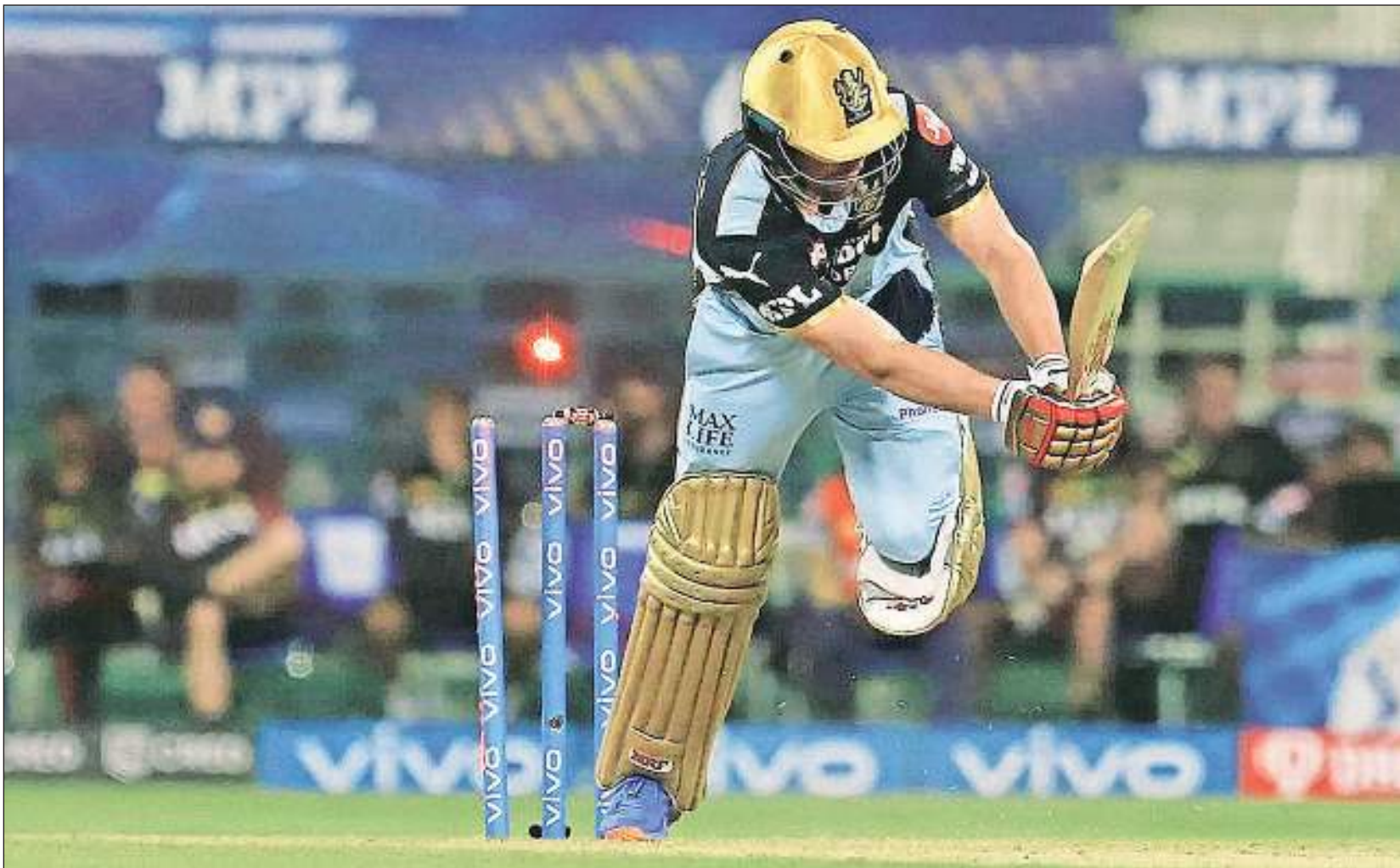
0040585195-6

I, Ajit Singh.No.31863501 HAV,R/O,D-94, Shyam Vihar phase-1, Road-6, Gali-2, Dindarpur, New Delhi-43 have changed my minor daughter's name from Chanchal Poonia to Chanchal.

0040585195-2

Knight takes King

Kohli's men face a humiliating 9-wicket loss against KKR after collapsing for 92



RCB's AB de Villiers gets knocked over by a Andre Russell delivery. The South African hasn't played any competitive cricket since the IPL was suspended in May. [iplt20.com](#)

SYNOPSIS: Aggression with ball and taking no prisoners with bat lead KKR to much-needed win as RCB implode.

TUSHAR BHADURI
SEPTEMBER 20

PACE BOWLERS operating with intensity and aggression, spinners bamboozling batsmen with their variations. When a team looking to turn its fortunes around faces a destructive opposition, it pays to always think of taking wickets.

The approach reaped rich dividends as Royal Challengers Bangalore were bundled out for a mere 92 and Kolkata Knight Riders cantered to a nine-wicket win with as many as 10 overs still left to play. In addition to the two points, the effect it had on net run rate can't be ignored.

Aggression with ball

Kolkata Knight Riders, in seventh place at the restart, came out all guns blazing with the ball against Royal Challengers Bangalore. Fast men Lockie Ferguson and Andre Russell targeted the rib cage, and when AB de Villiers came to the crease expecting another short one, the West Indian surprised him with a pinpoint yorker first ball which went via the boot to the stumps.

Even when Devdutt Padikkal and KS Bharat threatened to be laying a platform for a charge by de Villiers and Glenn Maxwell, KKR didn't take a backward step. Eoin Morgan's side needs to win six out of the seven games to get into the reckoning after an underwhelming first phase in the summer. Both batsmen succumbed to balls dug in, and when the spinners came on, RCB's agony was only compounded.

Varun Chakravarthy and Sunil Narine, while keeping batsmen guessing which way the ball will deviate, never gave the stumps

POINTS TABLE

	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
CSK	8	6	2	+1.223	12
DC	8	6	2	+0.547	12
RCB	8	5	3	-0.706	10
MI	8	4	4	-0.071	8
KKR	8	3	5	+0.110	6
RR	7	3	4	-0.190	6
PBKS	8	3	5	-0.368	6
SRH	7	1	6	-0.623	2

TV: Punjab vs Rajasthan, 7:30 pm

away. That's why they were always in the game with bowled and LBW options.

Chakravarthy almost bagged a hat-trick – denied by an inside edge – and RCB players had very little idea about the former architect's designs.

It didn't help RCB's cause that de Villiers and Maxwell hadn't played any competitive cricket since the IPL was suspended in May. Padikkal and Bharat showed glimpses of what they are capable of, but with the big guns faltering it was always an uphill battle against a rejuvenated team for whom the enforced break may have been a blessing in disguise.

KKR came into the game with only five specialist bowlers, relying on Russell to get through his full quota, and the play worked.

Head falls, body follows

Prasidh Krishna would have bowled a lot to Virat Kohli in the nets during the tour of England as part of India's jumbo squad with stand-bys. Seeing one's heroes from close quarters can get rid of some of the aura and nerves. But Kohli had also seen enough of Krishna to know what he has to offer – hitting the pitch at pace, good seam position, targeting the stumps, and movement in either direction. So when the two came face to face



KKR spinner Varun Chakravarthy finished with figures of 3/13. [iplt20.com](#)

in the second over of the match, there was something to look forward to.

The narrative had been set – it was Kohli's 200th game for RCB, the first player to reach that milestone for a single franchise, and Monday was his first outing after announcing that he was stepping down from T20 captaincy for both club and country.

But the next ball rendered such speculation grossly premature. It was fuller than the previous delivery, and seamed in after pitching towards middle-and-leg stump. It has been a frequent mode to dismiss Kohli in the past. In Abu Dhabi too, his front leg went too far across and the head fell over as the ball evaded the inside edge and crashed into the pad.

The umpire's finger went up and though there was a dramatic delay in the ball-tracking images, when they did arrive, they showed a delivery destined for the top of middle-and-leg stump.

Though he spoiled some of his work by overstepping and high full tosses in his next

The narrative had been set – it was Kohli's 200th game for RCB, the first player to reach that milestone for a single franchise, and Monday was his first outing after announcing that he was stepping down from T20 captaincy for both club and country.

over, Krishna had well and truly put the struggling Knights on their way.

For RCB, meanwhile, with all the attention on Kohli in the lead-up to the game, it seemed a case of the head falling and the rest of the body following it.

Taking no prisoners

More than half the job done and a paltry total to chase, Shubman Gill and newcomer Venkatesh Iyer went about their business in a manner that would have pleased head coach Brendon McCullum, who had said that his team seemed paralysed by fear during the first half of the tournament.

The KKR openers never took their foot off the demoralised RCB outfit's throat, intent on getting the job done as soon as possible. Gill displayed his elegant strokes allied to some more belligerent ones, while Iyer was a breath of fresh air with a left-hander's characteristic elegance on the drive with his proficiency in the reverse-sweep.

It was a game where everything fell in place for KKR. They needed such a boost at the restart of the tournament. They still have it all to do to get anything out of this season, but may have found a template for the way forward.

BRIEF SCORES: Kolkata Knight Riders 94 for 1 (Gill 48, Iyer 41*) beat Royal Challengers Bangalore 92 (Padikkal 22, Russell 3-9, Varun 3-13) by nine wickets

TEST FOR INDIA'S MIDDLE ORDER

Mackay: The under-fire middle-order will be expected to deliver when India take on the mighty Australia in the ODI series beginning here on Tuesday, aiming to finalise their combination ahead of the Women's World Cup next year. India have lost back-to-back series against South Africa and England primarily due to poor batting and even poorer strike-rate save for openers. The next challenge could not be tougher with Australia on a record 22-match winning streak. **PTI**

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Sinking feeling & a shake of head



Virat Kohli could score only five runs on Monday. [iplt20.com](#)

Much has been discussed on the recent tour of England about Virat Kohli's propensity to edge behind but lbw is one dismissal that has hovered over his career. It wasn't a surprise then that Prasidh Krishna, who possesses a good nip-backer, tested him early in the piece in his 200th IPL game. As soon as it began its inward movement, Kohli looked in trouble, with his head tip-

ping outside the line and forcing him to play across the line. Unsurprisingly, the ball missed the wood and rammed into the pad, triggering a pump of fist and a roar from Krishna. He had to wait a touch to legally claim the wicket as Kohli pressed for DRS. No luck though, and as he began to walk away from his partner, Kohli shook his head and trudged off.

KKR opener Padikkal winces in pain

How not to play an upper cut?

Devdutt Padikkal can tell us. Everything was wrong about his attempted upper cut off Lockie Ferguson. The ball wasn't short enough. The ball wasn't fast enough. The ball didn't bounce enough. And poor Padikkal must have realised he was in a soup as soon as he started to bend his knees and lowered himself. Down plunged the tall man but so did the ball. But he was so committed to the shot by then that he couldn't pull out of it. And so he tried an upper cut to a ball barely above the bails and self-destructed by edging it to the wicketkeeper Dinesh Karthik. Padikkal does love playing that shot but that's how it rolls sometimes.



Russell yorks AB to team delight

Until that ball, Andre Russell hadn't bowled anything really full, forget a yorker.

In the lingo of the IPL comms, he was bowling 'hard lengths', hitting the deck short of length. Sometimes, Russell can give an impression as if he is just going through the motions with the ball. Not today. And when AB de Villiers came on to bat, Russell decided to test him with a pretty decent yorker. It was on the leg stumpish line and perhaps de Villiers was surprised at the choice of weapon, he almost stumbled and lost balance trying to flick the ball. It was too quick and ricocheted off his left leg and fell on the stumps. Off Russell ran to nowhere in particular and leaped in joy. One by one his team-mates came over to envelop him with a celebratory hug.



Chakravarthy's big-eyes appeal

Excitement makes Varun Chakravarthy wide-eyed. That's probably the only piece of discernible emotion in a calm exterior, sometimes veering towards unassuming even. The mystery spinner had a valid reason to be excited. First he took the mickey out of Glenn Maxwell by flicking his fingers over the ball, and then made short work of debutant Wanindu Hasaranga. On a hat-trick, Varun thought he had Kyle Jamieson out leg-before; convinced enough to readily ask for a review. He proposed, his captain disposed. Eoin Morgan was rather convinced about an inside edge and the pleading fell on deaf ears. Varun's emotional overload needed Morgan's indifference to neuter and the skipper was right. In the grand scheme of things, the



30-year-old could well be India's trump card in the T20 World Cup next month. That's though with a rider; he needs to stay fit.

‘Neeraj opposite of Dravid, would break down laughing during ad shoot’



The Cred ad starring Tokyo Olympics javelin champion Neeraj Chopra has raked in millions of views across social media.

GAURAV BHATT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

"WE WERE very worried because Neeraj Chopra seemed to be a little shy. But we met him and he was game about it," says Ayappa KM, director of the commercial for credit card aggregator Cred, which puts viewers in the shoes of the Olympic gold medallist as he faces off with a menagerie of characters – all played by himself. The worries were misplaced.

Earlier this year, Ayappa had been behind the camera for former India captain Rahul Dravid's 'Indiranagar ka Gunda' turn. Then, he had told this newspaper how Dravid would bury his face in his hands after playing a maniac on the road.

"Neeraj was the opposite of Dravid," he laughs. "Sometimes he would just break down in the middle of a line laughing. He just wanted to have fun, he was chilling and having a great time." The commercial delves into India's hysteria and excitement buzzing around Indian sport's newly minted Olympic champion. What follows is the POV of Chopra, with the javelin thrower playing several char-

acters. He is a brand manager in a boardroom meeting discussing SEO-friendly taglines. A reporter with a goatee asking personal questions. A moustachioed cashier appraising him of the day's gold rate. A filmmaker planning biopics. And a wannabe javelin thrower.

"Honestly, we were all worried because it's a very acting heavy script," says Ayappa. "Neeraj has suddenly been thrust into the spotlight at such a young age. Overnight, it's very hard for most people to know how to react to media. If you see his interviews, his current media presence... But he was very receptive and low maintenance. There was no ego and he immersed himself into the characters."

Ayappa, who says his personal favourite character was the brand manager – "I've suffered managers and conference rooms for many years. I like the office setting, of very serious people in suits talking crap" – shares that the commercial was executed in seven days with elaborate sets built in a Mumbai studio. Comedian Tanmay Bhat and his colleagues at the AIB group wrote the script. On the day of the shooting, the crew had Chopra for eight hours, with the hair and makeup for each avatar taking the majority of the time.

But an enthusiastic Chopra made life easier.

"In 20 minutes, we used to bang out a scene. Neeraj said, 'you act it out and I'll just imitate you if I get stuck'," recalls Ayappa. "Tanmay and I acted out the stuff and he got it instantly. By the end of it, he was enjoying himself a lot."

In less than 24 hours, the video has raked in millions of views across social media, with major props being given to Chopra's acting skills and the self-referential writing. As the reporter, a jostling Chopra thrusts the microphone forward and asks: "Aapki girlfriend hai? Aapki biwi hai? (Do you have a girlfriend? Do you have a wife?) in a nod to the cacophony surrounding him since his gold-winning exploits in Tokyo in August. Ayappa believes that through satire, Chopra is "restoring the balance".

"I personally cringe at such questions," says Ayappa. "You come back with a gold medal, and these are the things you have to ask him. So good satire is a way to restore that balance. The commercial is not just coming from a place of wanting to make fun of people. You need to have a big laugh at yourself. Otherwise, you're screwed up taking everything personally and being an unhappy man."

Ayappa's catalogue is filled with commercials that subvert the public image of prominent names. Previously, he directed the 72 wrestler Dalip Singh Rana, better known as The Great Khali, as a sensitive soul for a cement advertisement. Recently, he helmed a Shah Rukh Khan commercial, where the megastar is worried about his absence from OTT projects. Then there was the Dravid as 'Indiranagar ka Gunda'. The acting skills of Chopra, however, came as a surprise.

"I was quite impressed with the way Neeraj picked up on facial expressions. If you act a certain line and show it to him, he would xerox it. He would replicate perfectly, which is a great thing because he's not an actor. Only actors do that." But Ayappa has a theory on how Chopra acted so well.

"In addition to being young and all that, I think somewhere Neeraj likes cinema and that made him loosen up much more. In that brand manager scene, he suddenly recognised one of the extras and started telling him, 'Oh, you were in that film'," Ayappa laughs. "I could see in that second that he was not being a celebrity. He was just being a regular guy who's suddenly aware that 'okay, man, I'm in this industry now.'"