



## Two dead as Assam eviction turns violent; CM orders probe, police claim self-defence

Photographer hired by dist admn held; 9 policemen injured, one critical, says DGP

**TORA AGARWALA**  
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 23

CLASHES BROKE out in Sipajhar in Assam's Darrang district Thursday as thousands protested against the government's ongoing eviction drive against "illegal encroachers", leaving at least two people dead and several injured on both sides. In one video that surfaced on social media, a protester armed with a lathi was shot at from close quarters, and



A video grab shows the photographer jumping on protester

was later beaten up and jumped upon as he lay motionless on the ground.

Special DGP G P Singh confirmed the civilian deaths, adding that nine policemen were injured. "One policeman is

critical," he said. Darrang Superintendent of Police Susanta Biswa Sarma told *The Indian Express* that police "did what they had to do" in "self-defence".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Protester stomped on as police watch, DGP says will act if any violation

**TORA AGARWALA**  
GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 23

AMAN dressed in a vest runs out towards a police party holding aloft a lathi. The policemen in riot gear almost immediately open fire, and as the protester falls to the ground, keep raining batons on him. As a stain from a wound to his chest appears on his white vest, a man with a camera slung around his neck and a scarf half covering his face approaches him. Later identified



Bijoy Bania, who was arrested on Thursday.  
UNI

as Bijoy Bania, a photographer hired by the district administration to document the government eviction drive, he proceeds to jump on the protester, stomp on him, punch him — and return back to repeat the same — as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Govt to SC: No caste census, conscious policy decision

Not feasible... many operational difficulties: Social Justice Ministry

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

EFFECTIVELY RULING out a caste census in 2021, the Centre has told the Supreme Court that such an exercise "would not be feasible" and that "exclusion of information regarding any other caste", apart from SCs and STs, "from the purview of census is a conscious policy decision".

This was the key submission of the Ministry of Social Justice in an affidavit filed in the top court in response to a plea by the Maharashtra government seeking a direction to the Census Department to collect information on Backward Class of Citizens (BCC) in the 2021 enumeration.

The Centre told the court that "a caste-wise enumeration in the Census has been given up as a matter of policy from 1951 onwards and thus castes other than

SCs and STs have not been enumerated in any of the Census since 1951 till today".

Its affidavit said that "while the preparation for the 1951 Census, the first after independence, was underway, the Government of India had decided on the policy of official discouragement of caste. It was decided that in general, no race/ caste/ tribe enquiries should be made and such enquiries should be restricted to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes notified by the President of India in pursuance of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution".

The Centre's submission in the apex court comes at a time when it is facing demands for a caste census from Opposition parties, and even allies such as JD(U). On July 20, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai had said:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison in Washington DC on Thursday. PTI

## PM meets Morrison ahead of Quad, talks to top CEOs about investments

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A WEEK after Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison rang Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tell him about the Australia-UK-US (AUKUS) pact that was going to be announced, the two leaders met in Washington DC

on Thursday.

The meeting took place a day before the first-in-person Quad leaders' summit, which will be hosted by US President Joe Biden.

The official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi tweeted, "Another chapter in our Comprehensive Strategic

Partnership with Australia!"

He said Modi and Morrison discussed "regional & global developments as well as ongoing bilateral cooperation in areas related to Covid-19, trade, defence, clean energy & more."

The Prime Minister's official handle tweeted, "Advancing friendship with Australia... They

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## ORDER BY NEXT WEEK: COURT

# SC says will set up own expert panel to look into Pegasus charges

Petitioners had objected to Centre offer to form committee

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE SUPREME Court Thursday said it is constituting a committee of technical experts to look into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using the Pegasus software developed by Israeli firm NSO Group, and that an order in this regard might be out by next week.

The observation by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana is significant given that the Centre had earlier submitted that it would set up an expert panel on its own to look into the allegations that phones of several people had been hacked into using the spyware, and had urged the court to allow this.

A three-judge Bench headed by the CJI had on September 13 reserved its order on a batch of petitions seeking a probe in the matter. On Thursday, CJI Ramana said the order was taking time as

## EXPLAINED Panel tussle

THE SUPREME Court order is significant given that the government had urged it to let it form a committee of domain experts and, citing national security, said it would submit an affidavit on the matter to it. Neither has it clarified so far if Pegasus software was bought or used by it.

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

## COURT IS WATCHING

SC move to set up a panel to probe Pegasus is a vital and welcome step. At stake are basic liberties [PAGE 8](#)

some of the experts who the court had in mind to be part of the committee had declined to take the role citing personal difficulties.

"We will be able to finalise the members of the technical expert committee by next week and pronounce orders," the CJI told Senior Advocate C U Singh, one of the lawyers representing the petitioners.

The Centre has "unequivocally" denied all allegations regarding illegal surveillance. In a brief affidavit on August 15, it had told the Supreme Court that, nevertheless, "with a view to dispel any wrong narrative spread by certain vested interests and with an object of examining the issues raised", it would set up "a Committee of Experts in the field which will go into all aspects of the issue".

The petitioners however had pointed out that the Centre's affidavit did not disclose whether

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## BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



## SUICIDE IN 30 DAYS OF INFECTION WILL COUNT AS COVID DEATH: GOVT

[PAGE 6](#)

## 33 people, including two minors, rape 15-year-old in Thane for 8 months

**VALLABH OZARKAR**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 15-YEAR-OLD schoolgirl has complained to police in Thane district that she was raped by 33 people including two minors at different places in Thane over the past eight months.

Police have arrested 24 youths and detained the two minor boys.

"We have arrested a total of 26 people including two minors. Twenty-four of them were pro-

duced in a local court. Twenty-two of them were remanded in police custody until September 29, and the two minors were sent to a juvenile home," Sachin Gunjal, deputy commissioner of police (Zone 3), said.

Police are looking for the rest of the accused, Gunjal said. A special investigation team (SIT) headed by a woman officer of the rank of assistant commissioner of police has been constituted to probe the case.

According to police, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 3

# In Bihar's water scheme, a tale of 2 wards: from dry taps to wide smiles



Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal in Jhakhra, Samastipur; a dry tap in Simri, Madhubani. Santosh Singh



**SANTOSH SINGH**  
SAMASTIPUR, MADHUBANI, SEPTEMBER 23

UNTIL TWO years ago, Kanchan Kumari used to stand in a queue outside her neighbour's borewell every morning, waiting to fill her quota of two buckets. It meant getting late often for college. Today, the Economics student has tap water at home, and is able to spend most of her time on her BA final-year exams.

About 90 km away, Ramesh Mishra and his neighbour Kanhai Chandra Mishra point to the rust-

tinged taps outside their homes and share a dry laugh. Four days after the taps were installed in April, the water supply stopped. And they are still waiting.

On one hand, the Bihar government's Har Ghar Nal Jal scheme to provide drinking water to 1.08 lakh panchayat wards is a success, 95% complete in five years and changing lives for the better.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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# 3 THE CITY

## 5 RO PLANTS TO BE SET UP IN 1ST PHASE

# Govt plans to boost capital's water supply through RO plants

**ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE DELHI government plans on augmenting water supply by setting up Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purification plants in areas where groundwater is not usable, at localities that depend on water tankers, and jhuggis.

In phase I, five RO plants — at Okhla (136 MLD), Dwarka (68 MLD), Nilothi-Nangloi (68 MLD), Chilla (45 MLD) and Najafgarh (45 MLD) — with a total capacity of 363 million litres per day will be set up in a year. These areas have been picked and prioritised as they have high groundwater levels but is unusable due to high salinity or

total dissolved solids. The plants will purify groundwater and supply it to households using the DJB's existing pipelines. DJB teams have been tasked with preparing a list of such localities and unauthorised colonies, while preparing tenders for smaller plants. A senior DJB official said since RO plants can be expensive, private investors will set up plants and DJB will purchase purified water at a fixed monthly rate that will include cost of purified water. "For the consumer, rates will remain the same," the official said.

Maintenance will be done by the private contractor. Tenders will be floated for the larger plants in the first week of October and installation will begin two

months after receiving tenders.

At a meeting with DJB officials Thursday, Water Minister Satyendar Jain instructed officials to shortlist advanced technology that will ensure an 80% recovery rate for water. That would leave the plants with a wastage rate of around 20%. "There are technologies that give higher wastage rates of around 50%. But DJB wants an 80% recovery rate and the contractor is expected to come with the best technology," the official said.

DJB supplies 4,230 MLD of water against a 5,130 MLD demand — a deficit of 900 MLD — as per a government release.

Diwan Singh, environmentalist and expert who has been associated with water conservation

projects, said he was unsure if a highly resource intensive project like RO plants could be feasible considering the substantial population that would need to be covered: "... There are so many treatment plants, but they're unable to supply clean drinking water due to frequent contamination. Now we're trying to purify the same groundwater that we have contaminated."

Manoj Misra, convener of the Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan, said Delhi already has enough fresh water to meet its needs: "... the existing distribution system is so inefficient that a lot of water is lost. They should get this system in order instead of attempting such installations..."

## Stubble burning: Meeting with Delhi, NCR states on prep



The Union Environment Minister said the ministry had issued 8 advisories and over 42 directions for stubble burning so far. *Archive*

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AHEAD OF the stubble burning season, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav Thursday chaired a meeting to assess the preparedness of Delhi-NCR states to manage the practice.

The meeting was attended by Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) chairperson MM Kutty; Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar; environment ministers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan; senior officials from Punjab; and Ministries of Agriculture, Power and Animal Husbandry.

Reacting to the new air quality guidelines released by the WHO on Wednesday, Yadav said the MoEF has already commissioned a study to IIT-Kanpur to look at new standards for the country, which is to be submitted within a year.

Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai appealed to the Centre and neighbouring states to con-

vert public and commercial vehicles to CNG vehicles, implement the use of the Pusa biodecomposer, and adopt an E-Vehicle Policy and Tree Transplantation Policy to reduce pollution.

Yadav, said the ministry had issued eight advisories and over 42 directions for stubble burning so far. "There are measures that are being taken which are at various stages of implementation to reduce stubble burning. These include in-situ management of stubble by bio-decomposition in large scale by UP, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab; mandatory use of biomass with 50% paddy straw as supplement fuel in thermal power plants in NCR; setting up a task force to work out mode and means for utilising non-basmati stubble as fodder in Rajasthan and Gujarat; common manure development facility using rice straw; and private participation to encourage in-situ management of parali (bio-decomposition)."

## Jamia reopens for PhD students who need to submit theses

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

JAMIA MILLIA Islamia said it has reopened for PhD students who have to submit their thesis before the end of the year and that final year/semester students will be allowed on campus for practicals in November. However, teaching and exams will continue online.

All major student groups of Jamia had been pressing for the university to reopen. Jamia officials had earlier said they would wait for UGC guidelines before taking any decision.

According to the office order dated September 22, "the university campus shall be opened for PhD scholars who are due to submit their thesis on or before December 31" and "final year/semester students may attend clinical and practical classes offline from... November in limited number subject to adherence to Covid-19 health & hygiene protocols".

In the order, Registrar Nazim Husain Jafri said, "Jamia Millia Islamia is sensitive to and concerned with the aspirations of its students and at the same time, the university is committed to safety concerns, health and well-being of its students, teachers and other administrative and support staff."

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BRIEFLY

Tihar inmate ‘attacks’ jail warden

New Delhi: A Nigerian national lodged in Tihar Jail allegedly attacked the head warden during a regular inspection Wednesday. Jail officials said the warden, Jyoti, sustained minor injuries. Police said she was checking cells for ropes along with the head matron. DCP (West) Urvija Goel said, “An inmate named Onos Elvelyno Narode resisted the search. The two jail officials were cutting ropes near the cell when Onos allegedly snatched the knife and injured the official.”

Minor boy dies after tree falls on auto

New Delhi: A five-year-old boy died while his mother sustained injuries after a tree fell on an auto-rickshaw they were travelling in, in East Delhi’s IP Extension. Police said the child, Luv, was with his parents and a relative in the auto when the incident took place around 2 pm. He was sitting on his mother’s lap and sustained severe injuries on the head and abdomen.

7 booked for ‘forcing man to convert’

Gurgaon: Faridabad police have booked seven persons for allegedly forcing a man to convert his religion and running a religious conversion racket. Police said an FIR has been registered. Sube Singh, spokesperson, Faridabad police, said, “The matter is under investigation. The accused will be arrested soon.” **ENS**

# Delhi Gymkhana Club to preserve CCTV footage: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE SUPREME Court Thursday asked the central government-appointed administrator of the Delhi Gymkhana Club to preserve CCTV footage of its premises. The direction came from a three-judge bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar while hearing pleas, including those against the February 15, 2021, order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) suspending the Club’s general committee and handing over the administration to a central government nominee. The bench, also comprising Justices Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar, said one of the appellants had raised the apprehension that “someone is trying to destroy or manipulate the record in the office” and added “it is not necessary for us to examine this grievance at present. However, since CCTV camera is

# Saree controversy at South Delhi restaurant: NCW summons staff

DIVYAA A  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE NATIONAL Commission for Women has taken cognizance of an alleged incident wherein a woman was denied entry at a restaurant in South Delhi’s Ansai Plaza as she was in a saree. The NCW Thursday asked the Delhi Police chief to probe the incident, while also writing to Aquila’s director to appear before it on September 28 with supporting documents and explanation. “Reportedly, the restaurant’s dress code policy for guests allows only smart casuals and ac-

ON ASTHANA’S ORDERS

# Delhi riots: After court rap, special police cell set up to monitor probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

DAYS AFTER a court pulled up the Delhi Police for the “lack-adaisial attitude” of its officers supervising the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana set up a Special Investigation Cell (SIC) to monitor the investigation and file pending supplementary chargesheets, officials said on Thursday. In an order released on Sunday (September 19), the police chief asked that an SIC headed by Special Commissioner of Police (Central Zone) Rakesh Khurana review all pending riot cases and “chalk out a time-bound strategy” to expedite investigation and prosecution. Joint Commissioner of Police (East), DCP Northeast, and Additional DCP Northeast will be



The Special Investigation Cell will monitor the investigation in riot cases and file pending supplementary chargesheets, officials said on Thursday. *Archive*

the other members of the SIC. The order adds that 14 police officers, who were posted in the Northeast district during the 2020 riots, should be roped in to assist in the investigation. Retired police officer, ACP K G Tyagi, will be appointed as a consultant to monitor the cases in the court. The SIC has been asked to guide investigating officers to

complete the probe by “adducing all possible evidences on record”, with the emphasis on producing “scientific and technical evidence”. For this, Asthana has asked the SIC to do a follow-up with the Director of the Central Forensic Science Laboratory team and ensure FSL results in all cases are reported. “The officers shall personally liaise with Special Public Prosecutors (PPs) to ensure their presence in court in all matters, to represent the case of prosecution of each date effectively. In case the Spl PP is unable to attend court..., the Ld. Court shall be informed in advance so that no inconvenience is caused...,” reads the order. On September 6, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg had pulled up the Delhi Police for avoiding “taking responsibility” in the riots cases. The court also directed the po-

lice chief to take appropriate measures to expedite the investigation in these cases. “The team shall ensure that all witnesses and IOs are appearing in court in time, properly briefed and well prepared. In case the IO is unable to attend..., the SIC shall direct the Station House Officer to either attend the matter himself or deputee a responsible officer.. In no case, the matter shall be allowed to be left unattended,” reads Asthana’s order. A day after the order was released, DCP Northeast Sanjay Sain issued a notice for setting up 10 teams that will analyse the available scientific and technical evidence and guide IOs to bring more evidence on record. The teams will have to submit their reports at 7 pm every day regarding the cases reviewed by them with “specific comments/observations of the SHO/ACP”. This exercise will be completed by September 24.

# Forest staff attacked by ‘alcohol smugglers’ at Asola sanctuary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

FOUR FOREST officials who were patrolling the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in South Delhi were injured on Thursday after being attacked allegedly by alcohol smugglers. Amit Anand, Deputy Conservator of Forests, South Forest Division, said a patrol team was out to check for trespassers in the sanctuary when they were attacked around 7-7.30 pm: “Around 24-25 people attacked the team with rods. The patrolling vehicle has been damaged and four staff members were injured, two grievously. The patrolling team comprised 7-8 people.” The officials were admitted to Batra Hospital. “The police was called, and we are in the process of filing an FIR,” Anand said. Atul Kumar Thakur (DCP South), said, “Information has been received from Batra Hospital that four forest guards were admitted after they were allegedly beaten up by some unknown persons during patrolling... The injured have been examined and the place of incident is being verified. Further action will be taken as per their statement and MLCs.” Officials said patrolling had been increased in the area over the past few months to curb smuggling of alcohol from Haryana into Delhi. Dirt paths have been set up in the sanctuary over the years to smuggle alcohol into Delhi from Haryana, where the rates are lower.

The *Indian Express* had reported earlier this month that forest officials in the South division have been equipped with anti-riot gear as instances of attacks had increased. There have been several cases of stone pelting and violence against staffers in the South division during attempts to clear encroachments from forest land and patrolling. A senior official of the South MCD said the corporation has given a long rope to commercial vehicles to switch to RFID but will resort to strict measures if they continue to not follow guidelines. Over the past two weeks, the corporation has also been issuing challans of Rs 500 against vehicles that haven’t paid toll tax using RFID tags. The action was taken after the corporation had from August 31, made it mandatory for all commercial vehicles to enter Delhi on payment of toll tax/ECC through RFID system only.

# 5 murders in 20 yrs: Accused held, property was motive

AMIL BHATNAGAR  
GHAZIABAD, SEPTEMBER 23

TO GET his hands on the ancestral property, a Ghaziabad resident allegedly murdered five members of his family — including his elder brother and his children — over a period of 20 years. The accused, Leelu Tyagi from Murad Nagar, was arrested by Ghaziabad Police Wednesday. According to police, the case came to light after a missing persons complaint was filed on August 15 in connection with the disappearance of Tyagi’s relative Reshu at Murad Nagar police station. During investigation, it was found that Leelu had allegedly killed several of his relatives to obtain family property. Sateesh Kumar, SHO Murad Nagar, said: “We began investigating Reshu’s disappearance after a case was filed last month. We carried out surveillance and obtained information. The main accused was identified as Leelu, who, along with other accused, murdered Reshu. It was also found during probe that he had killed four other



The accused, Leelu Tyagi

family members.” Following Leelu’s arrest, the complaint was converted into a murder FIR. According to police, Leelu had his eyes on the family property since the very beginning. He executed his first murder 20 years ago when he allegedly killed his elder brother Sudheer Tyagi in Meerut. He then allegedly poisoned his brother’s eight-year-old daughter, Payal. A few years later, the accused murdered Sudheer’s second daughter, Parul, and dumped her body in a river to ensure it isn’t found. In 2012, Leelu targeted his second brother Brijesh’s son Nishu and disposed off his body in Ghaziabad’s Hindon river in a

similar fashion — which police said was his MO. In August, the accused further planned the murder of Brijesh’s other son, Reshu, along with his associates. On August 8, Leelu called Reshu for food and drinks and allegedly strangled him with a rope. Leelu later dumped his body in a canal in Bulandshahr. For the past few years, Leelu had been living with his elder brother’s widow and was able to square off the deceased’s property in his name. “For all these years, the family did not suspect the accused was planning and executing the murders. He made sure to dump the bodies in a water body so the killings are not revealed. It was due to an intensive investigation that the accused was linked with all five murders,” said SHO Kumar. Police said no cases were filed by the family in connection with the deaths. Police said Leelu’s associates, Surendra Tyagi and Rahul, have been arrested for Reshu’s murder. Two others involved in the killing are currently absconding, police said.

# Commercial vehicles without RFID tags could lose permits

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES entering Delhi without RFID (radio-frequency identification) tags could lose their permits, with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation requesting transport departments of the respective states to take action against violators under the Motor Vehicles Act. SDMC Mayor Mukesh Suryan said notices have been issued to as many as 966 vehicles from several states including Delhi, Haryana, UP,

Uttarakhand, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Madhya Pradesh for not purchasing RFID tags — which is mandatory to enter the city via toll plazas. Transport departments of these states have been requested to cancel permits of such erring vehicles, he said. Implemented at the toll plazas in 2019, the RFID technology allows for automatic toll deduction. Commercial vehicles entering Delhi have to pay a green cess or environment compensation charge (ECC) between Rs 700 and Rs 1,400, and toll between Rs 100 and Rs 2,000, depending on the vehicles’ size

# Rs 2 crore relief to woman who got wrong haircut at hotel salon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE NATIONAL Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has awarded Rs 2 crore compensation to a woman for a wrong haircut and treatment given to her by staff at a salon in Hotel ITC Maurya in 2018, which left her “with little or almost no hair”. The complainant was a model for hair products. The order was passed by Justice RK Agrawal and Dr SM Kantikar, observing that there is “no doubt that women are very cautious and careful with regard to their hair” and that they “spend a handsome amount on keeping their hair in good condition”. “They are also emotionally attached to their hair. The complainant was a model for hair products because of her long hair. She has done modeling for VLCC and Pantene. But due to hair cutting against her instructions by the opposite Party No. 2 (ITC Hotels Ltd), she lost her expected assignments and suffered a huge loss which completely changed her lifestyle and shattered her dream to be a top model,” the order read. The complainant was planning on continuing with her modeling assignments which were mainly related to hair products and was also offered a movie role.

On April 12, 2018, she visited the salon at Hotel ITC Maurya for a haircut as she had an upcoming interview at the time. The woman asked for her regular hairstylist who was not available. She was instead provided another hairstylist on assurance from the staff. The complainant was “shocked and surprised to observe that despite her specific instructions for long flicks/layers covering her face in the front and at back, and 4-inch straight hair trim from the bottom”, the hairstylist had “chopped off her entire hair leaving only 4-inch from the top touching her shoulder”. Salon staff offered her free hair treatment, which the complainant stated was “dubious as it resulted in damage of her hair”.

“Her scalp was burnt with severe burning sensation due to hair treatment and there was itching and flaking of the scalp. The chemical used in hair treatment has caused permanent damage to her scalp,” the commission recorded. The commission also noted that she was also working as a senior management professional and earning a decent income. “She underwent severe mental breakdown and trauma due to negligence of the Opposite Party No. 2 in cutting her hair and could not concentrate on her job and finally lost her job. This apart, the Opposite Party No. 2 is also guilty of medical negligence in hair treatment. Her scalp was burnt and still there is allergy and itching due to fault of the staff of Opposite Party No. 2,” the order read. The woman stated that she had “undergone severe mental breakdown and self-esteem as she always had long hair and because of fault on the part of ITC Hotels Ltd, she has been left with little or almost no hair”. “She stopped seeing herself in the mirror... and her social activities. She is a communication professional and (is) required to be involved in meetings and interactive sessions. But she lost her self-confidence due to little hair. She also suffered loss of income due to mental breakdown after the shoddy haircut and, thereafter, the torturous hair treatment. She left her job also... It is submitted that she has gone through the pain and trauma for the last two years after this incident,” the commission recorded. The respondents in the case had submitted that the “compensation claimed by the complainant is ex-facie exaggerated and without any basis”. “No basis whatsoever has been set out in the complaint on which the claim for compensation has been quantified at Rs 3 crore. The complainant has inflated the alleged claim deliberately in order to invoke the jurisdiction of this Hon’ble Court and the complaint is liable to be dismissed for want of pecuniary jurisdiction,” the lawyer for the respondent argued.

# Ex-Delhi police chief, who handled Batla House case, passes away at 70

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

FORMER DELHI Police commissioner Yudhbir Singh Dadwal (70) died on Wednesday night at his Chattarpur home due to age-related illnesses, said police officials Thursday. A 1974 batch IPS officer, Dadwal had joined the Delhi Police as an additional deputy commissioner. He became the Delhi Police commissioner in 2007 and was transferred to Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as its Director General in 2010. During his tenure with the Delhi Police, he was known for handling cases like the Batla House encounter in 2008 and maintaining high-level security in Delhi during the Commonwealth Games in 2010. He ensured that there was a “heavy decline” in crimes, said an officer. In 2011, he retired from the force. On Thursday, his son Pranayvir Singh Dadwal released a statement: “With profound grief and sorrow, I regret to announce the demise of my revered father. May the Almighty grant him eternal peace...” Delhi Police Spokesperson Chinmoy Biswal said Dadwal died after a prolonged illness. “He served the Delhi Police as the Commissioner from July 2007 to November 2010. Before this, he was also posted as the Joint CP in New Delhi Range,



Yudhbir Singh Dadwal worked the Delhi Police commissioner in 2007

Armed Police and Provisions & Logistics and in Intelligence & Operations and Administration units in the Delhi Police,” said Biswal. “The Delhi Police remembers Dadwal for his exemplary leadership in building the morale of the force and impactful systemic changes in the organisation. Under his leadership, the Delhi Police won accolades for facilitating a flawless and incident-free Delhi Commonwealth Games,” he added. Dadwal worked in several states as the police chief in his long career of 37 years. He served in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Daman and Diu, and Chandigarh. In Arunachal Pradesh, he was appointed as the advisor to the governor. He was also awarded the President’s police medal for distinguished service and a medal for meritorious services.





# Celebrated Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav with Gata Rahe Mera Dil

## PHD Utkrishtata Samman to Bollywood Singers by PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry



PHD CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

I am glad that the PHD Chamber is honouring the best talents from the media and the entertainment industry with Utkrishtata Samman. I congratulate all the artists and journalists who are being honoured today and hope that they'll continue to do such exemplary work in future too.

The Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is our tribute to our freedom fighters and the freedom movement. Role of poets, writers,



Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Government of India

journalists, cultural artists is truly indispensable in making this movement a success.

Media and Entertainment is a sunrise sector for the Economy and is making significant strides and progress. PHD could also stand for Progress, Harmony and Development and that's what resonates with the new India under the able leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi. I am aware of the Chamber's long

history and the accumulated insights you have gathered over the last 116 years working for socio-economic development and capacity building, promotion of industry, trade, entrepreneurship all of these things truly distinguish the PHD Chamber. I am sure your chamber will continue to provide your expertise for the growth and development of businesses in the future.



PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized Gata Rahe Mera Dil - a Musical Evening with the theme 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating the 75th year of India's independence and PHD उत्कृष्टता सम्मान at PHD House, New Delhi.

The event was organized following all the covid protocols and social distancing norms.

Bollywood Singers Sudesh Bhosle, Sunali Rathod, Roop Kumar Rathod, Papon, Shibani Kashyap and Danish Khan were felicitated with PHD उत्कृष्टता सम्मान.

Though all the singers enthralled the audience with their performances yet, Sudesh Bhosle, considered to be the voice of Amitabh Bachchan, started with the patriotic songs 'Kar Chale Hum Fida' and 'Ae Mere Pyare Watan'... 'Meri Makhna'... 'Shawa Shawa'... 'Jumma Chumma De De'.

Roop Kumar Rathod and Sonali Rathod sung in duets, .... 'Tere Liye'... 'Tujh Mein Rab Dikhta Hai'... and 'Sandesh Aate Hain'....

Papon's 'Moh Moh Ke Dhaage' enthralled the audience. On the other hand Shibani Kashyap's Sajna aa bhi jaa 'Dum Maaro Dum', 'Yeh Mera Dil' , Laila mein Laila, Ye Mera Dil and Danish's 'Jhoom Barabar Jhoom', 'Jeene Ke Hein Chaar Din'., 'Rashke Qamar'..., 'Mera Piya Ghar' and 'Damadum Mast Kalandar'... well appreciated.

The occasion was graced by Mukesh Suryan, Mayor-South Delhi Municipal Corporation; Rakhi Gupta Bhandari (IAS), Resident Commissioner, Punjab; Rahul Bhandari (IAS), Secretary-Water Resources & Mission Director, Water Resources Punjab. Sanjay Aggarwal, President; Pradeep Multani, Senior Vice President; Saket Dalmia, Vice President; Former Presidents - Dr. D. K.

Aggarwal; Gopal Jiwarajka; Sharad Jaipuria and Dr. Mahesh Gupta. Mukesh Gupta, Chairman - Entertainment, Media, Art and Culture Committee; Nandita Jain, Co-Chairperson, Arshad Shawl, Co-Chairman, Rakesh Gupta, Chairman, Parliamentary Forum; Saurabh Sanyal, Secretary General and Dr. Yogesh Srivastav, Assistant Secretary General.



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# 6 GOVT & POLITICS



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### STATE MATTERS

THE JAL Shakti Ministry headed by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has constituted a 34-member Hindi Salahkar Samiti, an advisory panel to promote the use of the language in the ministry's working. The panel, which has a three-year term and is headed by the minister, has four non-official nominated members. Incidentally, all four non-official members nominated by the ministry are from Shekhawat's home state Rajasthan. While two of them are from the minister's hometown Jodhpur, two others are from Jaipur. It is learnt that this is perhaps the first time in recent years that all four non-official members have been nominated from one state. In 2015, the committee constituted under the then Water Resources Minister Uma Bharati had four non-official members from three states — Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

### ONLINE GAINS

AN ONLINE mechanism it set up during the pandemic to be in touch with party leaders and workers appears to be helping the Bihar BJP. With the BJP launching a three-week celebrations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, its Bihar unit leaders have good results to send to the central leadership. State unit president Sanjay Jaiswal, who had set up the online meetings with every district leadership on a daily basis, now gets the daily report on party activities before evening each day. Jaiswal takes at least 45 meetings online every month — apart from the physical meetings he has resumed — with every district team while his general secretaries take at least 100 meetings a month. The pandemic time has made every party worker comfortable with online meetings and now it is being used for the outreach programmes.

### CRACKING THE WHIP

WITH THE National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) gaining popularity, the Education Ministry has a new headache — misleading advertisements by private higher education institutes. It has come to the ministry's notice that certain institutes are trying to lure students by misrepresenting their NIRF rankings. The reported violations include institutions highlighting state-wide and even district-wise ranks, which are not issued in the first place. Some institutions simply highlight their rank without mentioning the year. Institutions indulging in such misleading advertising campaigns will not be included in the annual NIRF exercise in the future, the ministry has now warned in a circular to all institutes.

## UP ex-MLA, Brahmin face in party, Tripathi quits Congress

**MAULSHREE SETH**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 23



**Laliteshpati Tripathi**

ANOTHER BRAHMIN face of the Congress, former MLA Laliteshpati Tripathi, quit the party on Thursday, saying that those who sacrificed for the party from the days of Indira Gandhi were not given due respect and he felt helpless as he was not able to fight for them.

Laliteshpati Tripathi, who held the post of vice-president of UP unit of the Congress, is the great-grandson of former CM Kamalapati Tripathi. Four generations of his family have been associated with the Congress.

"I no longer felt any logic to remain in the Congress... many party workers who have been associated with freedom struggle and stood by the party in

the time of crises, stood with Indira Gandhi. I was not able to fight for them. That is why, I resigned from the party's primary membership," Laliteshpati said at a press conference in Varanasi.

He said he had no bad feelings for the party leadership, including Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi.

Asked if he will join another party, Tripathi said he would first discuss it with his supporters.

Earlier, former Union minister Jitin Prasada had quit the party to join the BJP.

## After change of guard rumours, Gurgaon BJP MP says no plan to retire

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 23

SENDING A clear message to his detractors who, he claimed, were writing obituaries of his political career, BJP MP from Gurgaon, Rao Inderjit Singh, on Thursday said he does not plan to retire soon and will continue to contest elections.

Speaking at a 'Shaheed Diwas Samaroh' in Patauda village at Jhajjar, the 70-year-old said, "Some people have been opining that I should retire. I have given it a thought and decided that I have no plans to retire. Why should I? I am physically fit, mentally alert... I have no blood pressure issues, I don't suffer any seizures. I can run as

fast as a 50-year-old."

The rally was held to mark the "martyrdom" of Ahirwal king Rao Tula Ram and was billed as a show of strength for Singh. It came a month after Union Cabinet Minister Bhupendra Yadav held a 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra' in the Ahirwal region, sparking speculation of a change of guard within the party's state unit in South Haryana.

"If a farmer's son was not standing guard at the border to safeguard our country... if we do not respect their sacrifices, then Pakistan, China and Taliban will defeat us. We will raise voice for a separate Ahir regiment and we will also speak to farmers. There is a need to talk to them," he said.

## Suicide in 30 days of infection will count as Covid death: Govt

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CENTRE on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that it has decided to include death by suicides happening within 30 days of a person testing Covid-19 positive too as Covid-19 death, thereby entitling their next of kin to get Rs 50,000 as ex-gratia.

In guidelines submitted earlier to court on what would constitute a Covid death, the government had said deaths occurring due to poisoning, suicide, homicide, accidents etc will not be treated as Covid-19 deaths, even if the virus infection is an accompanying condition. The court had asked the government to reconsider this condition.

On Thursday, the top court conveyed its happiness to the government for fixing ex-gratia payments to the next of kin of those who succumbed to the pandemic.

"Today we are very happy. There will be some solace to the persons who have suffered. Everything the government is performing... We're happy that something is being done to wipe out the tears of those who suffered... We have to take judicial no-

tice of the fact that what India has done, no other country could do," remarked Justice M R Shah, sharing a bench with Justice A S Bopanna.

The remarks came as Solicitor General Tushar Mehta apprised the court that the NDMA had recommended payment of Rs 50,000 ex-gratia to the next of kin of those who died due to Covid-19. He also took the court through the guidelines brought out by the Authority to enable the payment.

"To ensure uniformity, we have decided that states will give the amount to the kin of the deceased who died due to Covid, from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF)," he submitted.

Hearing petitions by Advocates Gaurav Kumar Bansal and Reepak Kansal, the Supreme Court had on June 30 asked the NDMA to consider fixing ex-gratia for the victims. In response, the NDMA came up with the guidelines on September 11.

The court had also asked the government to frame simplified guidelines for issue of official documents that would help family members of Covid victims to get the ex-gratia and, if needed, pursue correction of papers issued by the municipal or other authorities in connection with the death.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) jointly brought out the guidelines that said cases that are diagnosed through an RT-PCR/ Molecular Test/ Rapid Antigen Test, or those that have been clinically determined in a hospital or an in-patient facility by a physician while one is admitted there, will be recognised as Covid deaths.

It was also decided to treat deaths happening within 30 days from the date of testing or from the date of being clinically determined as a Covid-19 case as death due to Covid-19, even if it takes place outside the hospital/ in-patient facility.

However, the guidelines said, deaths occurring due to poisoning, suicide, homicide, accidents etc will not be treated as Covid-19 deaths even if the virus infection is an accompanying condition.

Considering these guidelines, on September 13, the SC asked the government to reconsider its decision not to treat suicide of a Covid-positive person as a Covid-19 death.

Taking note, the Centre in a 'further additional affidavit' filed on Wednesday urged the court to pass suitable directions "whereby,

the family members of people committing suicide within 30 days from being diagnosed as COVID-19 positive as per MoHFW/ICMR guidelines will also be entitled to avail financial help as granted under SDRF in accordance with the Guidelines dated 11.09.2021 issued by NDMA under Section 12 (iii) of Disaster Management Act, 2005".

On Thursday, the bench also quizzed the SG on the procedure for correction of death certificates.

"Many a times it happens that ultimately the person has died due to heart attack but that is due to Covid. The certificate would say that the cause of death is heart attack. What would happen in that case?," asked Justice Shah.

The SG pointed out that the family members can raise their complaint before a district-level committee, to be set up by the states, which will look into medical records and review, rectify and issue a fresh certificate wherever needed.

The government requested the court that the timeline for setting up of the committee may be prescribed as 30 days, for which suitable instruction can be issued by the MoHFW.

Taking note, the court said it will issue appropriate orders.

### Unlike TMC, Cong failed to defeat BJP in 7 yrs: Abhishek

**Kolkata:** Amid talk of Opposition unity against the BJP before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, TMC Call India general secretary and MP Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday pitched for a central role for his party while hitting out at the Congress for its failure to defeat the saffron party in the last seven years.

He said the Murshidabad Congress and BJP were working together to defeat the TMC in the September 30 Samserganj and Jangipur Assembly polls. "In the last seven years, the Congress could not defeat the BJP. It is the TMC which is only defeating the BJP... Congress is getting defeated by the BJP but we are defeating it," Banerjee said while addressing a rally at Samserganj.

**ENS**



**POWER MOVES:** Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi performs bhangra on stage with students at IK Gujral Punjab Technical University in Kapurthala. A video was also shared by the CM's Office Twitter handle. *Express*

### Congress high command calls Channi to Delhi for 'cabinet list'

**KANCHAN VASDEV**  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CONGRESS high command Thursday called newly appointed Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi to Delhi — amid confusion over the final list of names for his council of ministers.

Channi, who arrived in the national capital in the evening, discussed the list with All India Congress Committee (AICC) general secretary in-charge of Punjab affairs Harish Rawat. Channi also met party leaders KC Venugopal and Harish Chaudhary. He was scheduled to meet Rahul Gandhi but it could not be confirmed if the meeting took place.

State Congress president Navjot Sidhu was not called to Delhi.

Working president of the Punjab Congress, Sangat Singh Gilzian, and party leader Manpreet Singh Badal were also in Delhi, sources said.

Sources privy to the development said that Channi and his team and Sidhu have shortlisted 23 MLAs out of which 15 would be inducted. The list is to be vetted by Rahul Gandhi.

### 'Reciprocal tourism' likely as India set to allow foreign tourists

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

AS INDIA looks to restart tourist visas and allow international tourists after a gap of one-and-a-half years, "reciprocal tourism" may be the way forward, according to sources in the Ministry of Tourism.

On Wednesday, while addressing the Global Covid Summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister

### Cong says no place for anger in politics, Capt hits back: Is there for insult?

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

A DAY after former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh called Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra "inexperienced", questioned the way the party was being "run from Delhi" and vowed to defeat state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu in the Assembly polls scheduled next year, the Congress on Thursday said it was natural for elders to get angry but reminded him that there is no room for anger in politics.

The Congress's suggestion seemed to have irked Singh more, as he hit back, asking whether there is space for humiliation and insult in a "grand old party" such as the Congress.

Singh's remarks came after Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate, while replying to a question on Singh's outburst, told reporters at an AICC briefing that "he is perhaps of my father's age. Elders get angry... they get very angry, and at times say so many things in anger. But we all respect his anger, his age, and his experience. I hope he will reconsider it."



**Amarinder Singh**

But, she added, "there is no place for anger, envy... personal comments... revengeful feelings have no place in politics. We hope he will be sensible and reconsider what he has said because he is a strong warrior of the Congress party... such remarks don't suit his stature..." Replying to another question, Shrinate said people take decisions in politics, some for their own interests and some for the interests of their constituency.

Reacting to Shrinate's comment, the former CM's media adviser, Raveen Thukral, put out a tweet quoting Singh as having said, "Yes, there's no space for anger in politics. But is there space for humiliation & insult in a grand old party like @INCIndia? If a senior party leader like me can be treated like this, I wonder what the workers must go through!"

## Combat boost: Order placed for 118 Arjun Mk-1A tanks

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE GOVERNMENT Thursday placed an order for 118 new Arjun Mk-1A battle tanks, which have superior firepower, multi-terrain mobility and multi-layered protection compared to older models. Arjun has been a mainstay of the Army for the last 15 years.

The new tanks, developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation, will be manufactured at the government's Heavy Vehicles Factory in Chennai. The order is worth Rs 7,523 crore.

The government said in a statement that the new variant of the Main Battle Tank (MBT) has 72 new features and more indigenous features compared to the Mk-1.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had handed over the MBT Arjun Mk-1A to Army Chief General MM Naravane in Chennai on February 14.

"The state-of-the-art MBT Mk-1A is a new variant of Arjun Tank designed to enhance fire power, mobility and survivability. Infused with 72 new features and more indigenous content from the Mk-1 variant, the tank would

## Bihar Deputy CM meets CM, state BJP sends report



**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 23

A DAY after *The Indian Express* reported that contracts worth over Rs 53 crore were awarded under Bihar's Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme to family members and aides of Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad, the BJP leader met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in what, he said, was "a review meeting of the Mines Department". But sources said the Chief Minister also raised the findings of *The Indian Express* investigation and asked Prasad to "explain his side of the story in the public domain".

Prasad also issued a statement targeting the Opposition RJD for "playing up" the issue. "The Opposition should engage in constructive criticism but has been trying to divert attention from serious charges of corruption they have faced... I have been trying to meet the goals and high standards set by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and former Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bihar BJP unit has sent a "report" to the party's central leadership on *The Indian Express* investigation into the award of contracts to family members of Prasad. Sources said the report was sent after an "emergency meeting" on Wednesday evening when BJP state chief Sanjay Jaiswal and general secretary (organisation) Bhikubhai Dalsaniya met Prasad.

BJP sources said the "emergency meeting" was held on the instructions of the central leadership. "We have sent a report and are waiting for further directions," they said. Sources said that while engaging in business activities is

"not bad or wrong" in itself, the report has noted that "it would be better if elected functionaries are more careful since they are public representatives and always under scrutiny".

The ongoing investigation by *The Indian Express* found that in 2019-20, Bihar's PHED allotted 36 projects under the scheme in Katihar, from where Prasad is a four-time MLA, to his daughter-in-law Puja Kumari — and two firms linked to his brother-in-law Pradeep Kumar Bhagat; and aides Prashant Chandra Jaiswal, Lalit Kishore Prasad and Santosh Kumar.

The investigation found that the award of contracts covers a range of beneficiaries: from JD(U) ex-state secretary Anil Singh, whose family got projects worth at least Rs 80 crore, to BJP MLA Vinod Narayan Jha's nephew, who was awarded contracts worth around Rs 3.5 crore in 2019-20 when his uncle was PHED Minister.

On Wednesday, Jaiswal had defended Prasad, saying that his "family and aides had got contracts in 2019-20 when he was an MLA".

On Thursday, JD(U) leader Anil Singh's son Mrityunjay Kumar told *The Indian Express*: "My family has been in the contract business for over 40 years. We have carried out road work, and taken up other contracts inside and outside Bihar. We have been doing our work in a professional manner. The allotment of Nal Jal contracts has nothing to do with the political affiliation of my father. We qualified through the bidding process."

*The Indian Express* found that Kumar and his wife Ankita Singh are directors of Fadle Chem Pvt Ltd, which was allotted Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal contracts in 2019-20.

Another beneficiary, Mohammed Sarfaraz of Sheikhpura whose brother Mohammed Khalid got contracts in Ariari, said: "I engage in politics but I am not associated with any specific party. I am the former mukhiya of Chordagah panchayat." (WITH INPUTS FROM LIZ MATHEW)



**As compared to the Mk-1, the new tank has 72 new features and more indigenous ones, the government said.**

**PB**

ensure effortless mobility in all terrains, besides precise target engagement during day and night," the statement said.

It said the DRDO designed it "by incorporating numerous upgrades on Arjun MBT, the in-service main battle tank with the Indian Army".

"It can take on the enemy during day and night conditions and in both static and dynamic modes. By virtue of these capabilities, this indigenous MBT proves to be at par with any contemporary in its class across the globe. This tank is particularly configured and designed for Indian conditions and hence it is suitable for deployment to protect the frontiers in an effective manner."

The government also said that the production of these tanks will

open up avenues in defence manufacturing for over 200 Indian vendors with employment opportunities to around 8,000 people. This will be a flagship project showcasing the indigenous capabilities in cutting edge defence technologies, the statement said.

The MBT Arjun Mk-1A has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE), along with other laboratories of DRDO within two years (2010-12). Extensive trial evaluation was conducted in various phases covering over 7,000 km (both in DRDO and user trials) of automotive and substantial firing of various ammunitions during 2012-2015, the statement mentioned.

### India set to allow foreign tourists

Officials say the opening up is expected to be phase-wise to gauge the response and implications, if any. "Deliberations are on — when to open, how to open, and for whom. Keeping in view low infection rate in the country and vaccination status, calibrated opening is being contemplated," said a senior official, adding that they were expecting a complete reopening by January 2022.



DIVIDE IN CHHATTISGARH CONGRESS

MLA faces expulsion after he alleges Singh Deo supporters being targeted

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE  
RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 23

INFIGHTING IN the ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh reached another flash-point on Thursday with the party's Bilaspur city unit recommending expulsion of sitting MLA Shailesh Pandey from the party for alleging that supporters of state Health Minister T S Singh Deo were being targeted by the police machinery.

The allegation is being seen as an apparent attack on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who is involved in a power tussle with Singh Deo over the issue of chief ministership.

The recommendation came a day after Pandey and his supporters gheraoed a police station protesting against an FIR filed by the police against Singh Deo's aide Pankaj Singh in an assault case.

State Congress chief Mohan Markam distanced himself from the tussle, saying he had not received any complaint as he was travelling. "I am neither a Baghel supporter nor a Singh Deo supporter; I work for the party and I support the party," he said.

Singh had allegedly assaulted a radio-lab technician of Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Science in Bilaspur on September 18 after relatives of a patient sought his help to get certain tests done. The CCTV footage of Singh assaulting the complainant,



Bilaspur MLA and Congress leader Shailesh Pandey

Tula Tande, was circulated on social media on Wednesday.

"We have booked Singh under Section 186 IPC (obstruction in government work), Section 353 (criminal assault on a govt employee on duty) and Section 3 of Chhattisgarh Medical Service Persons and Medical Service Institutions Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property Act 2010," Bilaspur SP Prashant Agrawal told reporters.

Pandey on Wednesday alleged that the police had not informed Singh about the FIR. "We got to know through media reports.... I asked the police why the FIR was registered against Singh and they said because they had orders from senior officials," he told reporters.

"Have the police being ordered to target people close to TS [Singh Deo]? An FIR was registered against me last year for distributing rice during Covid-19 times. Now this FIR against Singh because he was trying to help a poor patient."

On Thursday, Pandey did not respond to requests for comment on the recommendation to expel him.

Sources close to him told The Indian Express that he would issue a statement on Friday.

The Bilaspur MLA was among those who returned with Singh Deo from a recent trip to Delhi after more than 30 other party leaders reached the national capital in an apparent show of strength by Chief Minister Baghel.

The latest developments have refreshed the tussle between Baghel and Singh Deo over, what supporters of the latter claim, a closed-door understanding after the last elections that both leaders will share the five-year tenure by half as chief minister. The Baghel's camp has denied any such understanding.

While Singh Deo is currently in Delhi on a personal visit, Baghel is planning meet Rahul Gandhi in the first week of October.

The decision of the Bilaspur Congress has highlighted the divide in the party, senior party leaders said. According to a senior leader, who requested anonymity, action against Pandey was "too stern", especially after no action was taken against another MLA, Brihaspat Singh, who had leveled serious allegations against Singh Deo of being a threat to his life.

The recommendation to expel Pandey for six years has been sent to the state Congress discipline team, which will take the final call.

Hostage case: TMC leader in NIA chargesheet

Kolkata: The NIA has named TMC leader and former Maoist Chhatradhar Mahato as the main accused in its chargesheet in the 2009 Rajdhani Express hostage case. The chargesheet was filed before an NIA special court.

Sources said the NIA has named 13 people in the chargesheet, including

Mahato's brother Shashadhar Mahato and former Maoist commander Kisheji.

Sources said to free himself from jail, Chhatradhar planned to take the train passengers hostage. The People's Committee Against Police Atrocities, a Maoist front that he founded, executed the plan with the help of the Leftist ultras and some villagers. ENS

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR  
LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI-110002  
( ESTABLISHMENT-III)  
NOTICE  
Sh. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Nursing Officer, ID No. 118804/82173218, is hereby informed that he has availed Earned Leave from 16.04.2018 and since then he is continuously absenting himself from duty to till date without authentic reason / intimation.  
And whereas correspondence has made by this office vide Memorandum no. 4867-71 dated 09.10.2018 with the direction to report for duty immediately. Further due to continuous absence from duty a final show cause notice was issued vide no. 986-87 dated 25.04.2020 but the official neither reported for duty nor submitted any intimation. Thus, this act of unauthorised absence is unbecoming of govt servant and thus official has violated the provision of CCS (Conduct) Rules and CCS (Leave) Rules and deemed fit for disciplinary action against him.  
Now therefore, Sh. Yogesh Kumar Sharma, Nursing Officer, ID No. 118804/82173218 is hereby accorded last opportunity to join his duties within 15 days from publishing of this notice failing which necessary strict disciplinary action under CCS Rules 1965 shall be initiated against him without any further correspondence.  
Sd/-  
(MEDICAL DIRECTOR)  
LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL  
DIP/SHABDARTH/0314/21-22

उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग  
हरिद्वार  
फ़ोन केंद्र- 246994  
संस्था- 40(3)/11/सामयि/सहायकयि(सेवा) जाड/गोपन-02/2021-22  
दिनांक: 23 सितम्बर, 2021  
विज्ञापित  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि उत्तराखण्ड सचिवालय/उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग, समीक्षा अधिकारी/सहायक समीक्षा अधिकारी (लेखा) परीक्षा-2021 के दिनांक 01 अगस्त 2021 को सम्पूर्ण प्रारंभिक परीक्षा का परिणाम दिनांक: 23 सितम्बर, 2021 को ध्वनित कर दिया गया है। परीक्षा परिणाम, अभ्यर्थियों के ज़रूरत, फाट ऑफ नार्सस तब सहीरित चत्तर कुंजी उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट www.ukpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। (कमैन्द सिंह) सचिव।

छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर (छ.ग.) 492002  
सर्वसंबंधितों को सूचना  
भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली की अधिसूचना दिनांक 14.09.2006 (यथा संशोधित) के तहत सर्व संबंधितों को सूचित किया जाता है कि मेसर्स शांभवी इस्पात, ग्राम-गेरवाही, तहसील-व जिला-रायगढ़ स्थित खसरा क्रमांक 31/1, 31/2, 32/1, 32/2 एवं 32/3, कुल क्षेत्रफल- 8.223 हेक्टेयर में इण्डस्ट्रियल फर्निश क्षमता-3,96,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष एवं गैलियम मिल के क्षमता विस्तार-30,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष से 3,60,000 टन प्रतिवर्ष तथा न्यू कोल मैनीफैक्चर (प्रोद्युस्स गैस) क्षमता-19,800 सामान्य घनमीटर प्रतिवर्ष की स्थापना के लिए पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु लोक सुनवाई बाबत छ.ग. पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल में आवेदन किया गया है। उक्त परियोजना के संबंध में आपत्ति/सुझाव/विचार/टीका-टिप्पणी, इस सूचना के जारी होने के दिनांक से 30 दिवस के अंदर क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल, टी.व्ही. टॉवर रोड, रायगढ़ के कार्यालय में मौखिक अथवा लिखित रूप से कार्यालयीन समय में प्रस्तुत की जा सकती है। इस परियोजना के लिए लोक सुनवाई दिनांक 25.10.2021, दिन-सोमवार, समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थल-बंजारी मंदिर के समीप का स्थल, ग्राम तराईमाल, तहसील-तमनार, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) निमत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेंगोएण्डम F.No.22-25/2020-1A.III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के निर्वण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी समस्त दिशा-निर्देशों का अक्षरशः पालन कराया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।  
ई.आई.ए. अधिसूचना दिनांक 14 सितंबर 2006 (यथा संशोधित) के अनुसार, संबंधित व्यक्तियों के अवलोकन/पटन हेतु ड्राफ्ट ई.आई.ए. रिपोर्ट अंग्रेजी भाषा में एवं इसकी संक्षिप्त सार रिपोर्ट हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी तथा सी.डी. (सॉफ्ट कॉपी) कार्यालय कलेक्टर रायगढ़, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी, जिला पंचायत रायगढ़, कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक, जिला व्यापार एवं उद्योग केन्द्र रायगढ़, कार्यालय अनुविभागीय अधिकारी (राजस्व ), रायगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़/पर्यटन, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल टी.व्ही. टॉवर रोड रायगढ़, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी जनपद पंचायत, रायगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़, सरपंच/सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत-लाखा, देलरी, भैरवानी, परसदा, सरहंवाली, बरौला, तराईमाल, तहसील-रायगढ़/पर्यटन/तमनार, जिला-रायगढ़, डायरेक्टर पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, इंदिरा पर्यावरण भवन, जोर बाग रोड, नई दिल्ली, एकीकृत क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय अरण्य भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर एवं मुख्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मण्डल, पर्यावास भवन, नार्थ ब्लॉक, सेक्टर-19, नवा रायपुर (छ.ग.) में रखी हुई है।  
सदस्य सचिव  
छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल,  
नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला-रायपुर

SC nod for e-transfer of orders to jails for quick prisoner release

EXPRESSNEWSSERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

PRISONERS GRANTED bail will no longer have to wait for physical copy of the order to reach jails for their release. In a major reform, the Supreme Court on Thursday gave the go-ahead to implement a system for electronic transmission of its orders.

"The FASTER (Fast and Secured Transmission of Electronic Records) system proposes transmission of e-authenticated copies of interim orders, stay orders, bail orders and record of proceedings to the duty-holders for compliance and due execution, through a secured electronic communication channel," the court said.

In July, a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana had hit upon the idea after it took suo motu cognizance of a matter regarding delayed release of prisoners even after grant of bail. The court directed the SC secretary-general to submit a proposal suggesting the modalities to implement the FASTER system.

After perusing the proposal submitted by the secretary-general, a bench of the CJ and Justices L Nageswara Rao and Surya Kant said on Thursday, "We are concerned about the

Idea came after court took suo motu cognizance of matter regarding delayed release of prisoners even after bail granted

plight of jail inmates, who are not released despite bail orders passed by this court due to delay in communication of such orders. It is high time to utilise information and communication technology tools for efficient transmission of court's orders."

The bench pointed out that 19 states had filed affidavits stating availability of internet facility in prisons, four had pleaded non-availability/partial availability; the others did not file affidavits.

The court directed chief secretaries of all States and Union Territories to ensure availability of internet facilities with adequate speed in each jail. "Till then, communication shall be made through Nodal Officers of State Governments under FASTER system," the order said. It directed that necessary changes in rules of the SC and high courts "to recognise e-authenticated copy of the order of this Court" be done "forthwith".

‘Will save Goa’: Feni industry hails govt’s policy for heritage drink

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE GOA government's Feni Policy 2021 has paved the way to take the state's 'heritage drink' forward, the Goa Cashew Feni Distillers and Bottlers Association (GCFDBA) said Thursday, noting that it has the potential to "save Goa", but its challenge lies in changing perceptions about the drink classified as country liquor.

GCFDBA president Gurudatta Bhakta said, "Just like Mexico has tequila, Russia has vodka, Japan has sake, we want our feni to be available all over the country and abroad."

Feni distilleries are usually family-run affairs, and the history of the drink goes back to at least 1585. Hansel Vaz, the secretary of the GCFDBA, said Goans and the state government should take pride in feni. "To get more cashews, we need to plant more trees. I always say, by drinking feni you will save Goa. When we plant more cashew trees, we will have more green hills. The beauty of cashew is that you don't need fertile land," he said.

However, Marc Vaz, the founder member of the GCFDBA noted that Indians

tend to look down on country liquor. "We need to believe in our own assets... Tequila is a country liquor and they (Mexico) proudly flaunt it. Only in India we look down upon it...", he said. "Feni is all about swadeshi, it's all about atmanirbhar, it's all about Make in India. When my feni goes to America, it's my way of saying Jai Hind."

Goa's feni policy, notified in the official gazette on August 19, 2019, lays down the standards for the production, techniques, quality and hygiene for making of feni and lists local terminology like Bhaticar (distiller), Pantlo (cane basket to collect cashew fruit) and Pinjrem (a metal cage like unit to extract juices).

The GCFDBA said that while the GI tag for feni requires the use of the cashew apples grown in Goa, in future, an amendment may be considered to allow the use of the fruit from states that have a higher growth in order to augment the supply of cashew for making the spirit.

According to the association, there are 26 types of feni, and though only the cashew feni has been GI-tagged, the feni policy also covers coconut feni.

Delhi  
CELEBRATES  
FREEDOM@75  
दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार  
VARISHTH  
SAMMAN  
Utsav 2021  
Celebrating 75 Years of Independence to honor Senior Citizens of Eminence in Delhi.  
Applications are invited for Awards in the following Categories for Senior Citizens  
CATEGORIES OF AWARD  
1. Iconic Senior Citizen  
Senior Citizens with remarkable contributions in the following fields:  
Poverty Alleviation  
Health and Well-Being  
Social Work  
Environmental Conservation  
Child/Adult Education  
Rights of LGBTQ  
Rights of Transgender Persons  
Rights of Persons with Disabilities  
Women's Rights  
Any other area of exceptional contribution  
2. Freedom Fighters of Delhi  
Senior Citizens who were actively engaged, in the Freedom Movement of India, in their youth.  
3. Elderly in Sports  
Senior Citizens having significant contributions in national and international sports  
4. Elderly in Medicine  
Doctors, Surgeons, Nurses and other Medical and Healthcare Practitioners who are Senior Citizens, having exceptional achievements in the field of medicine and Public Health  
5. Elderly in Art and Culture  
Senior Citizens having exceptional achievements in the visual and performing arts  
Applications are invited directly from the individual senior citizen or by nomination from NGOs for suitable candidate under above mentioned categories. Completed Applications shall be submitted to the Social Security Branch, 7th Floor, MSO Building (Old Delhi Police Headquarters), ITO, Delhi – 110002. Applications may also be submitted online through email to vsu.dsw@gmail.com.  
Last date for receiving applications  
05.10.2021 at 6pm  
Department of Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi  
DIP/shabdarth/D/0080/21-22







WORDLY WISE  
OUR SOCIETY IS NOT ONE OF SPECTACLE  
BUT OF SURVEILLANCE.  
— MICHEL FOUCAULT

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## COURT IS WATCHING

SC move to set up a panel to probe Pegasus is a vital and welcome step. At stake are basic liberties

THE SUPREME COURT said Thursday that it would set up a committee of experts to study the allegations of illegal surveillance using Pegasus spyware and issue orders next week. Expert panels appointed by the court always test the separation of powers but in this case, the move is vital and welcome. When the executive cites national security, a probe under an SC-appointed committee has more credibility than one by a government panel. At stake are vital issues involving civil liberties, including the right to privacy of citizens, the integrity of institutions and due process. The public is entitled to know, as the court said, “whether this spyware has been used by the government by any other method other than permissible under the law”.

Since the Pegasus Project, a collaborative journalism enterprise, reported by *The Wire* in India, revealed that a spyware developed by Israeli firm NSO Group is being surreptitiously used to snoop on politicians, journalists, civil liberties activists — three journalists of *The Indian Express* were on the list, two current, one former — the government has been cagey about clearing the air. Though the Minister of State for Defence told Parliament that his ministry “had not carried out any transaction with NSO Group Technologies” — the NSO has clarified that it trades only with sovereign governments — Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Supreme Court that the government cannot be made to answer whether or not it uses Pegasus spyware. Mehta reasoned that a clarification on this matter by the government would alert terrorists and compromise national security. While the government filed a short affidavit in the Supreme Court, when proceedings began on a clutch of petitions filed by journalists and the Editors Guild of India, it backtracked from filing a detailed affidavit that it had promised the court, earlier this month. However, the government offered to set up a panel of experts to look into the allegations and submit a report to the court. At every step, the government has cited national security to avoid a discussion on Pegasus — its refusal to allow a debate on the matter in Parliament resulted in the Opposition disrupting the Monsoon Session. The government’s defence of its intransigence — that terrorists would be alerted if it speaks — is weak since no one has asked for the names of terrorists under surveillance. What is being asked is whether state agencies used the spyware to snoop on journalists, Opposition politicians, human rights activists, bureaucrats etc., and if so under whose authorisation. If it has not, it is as much a task of the government to probe if any outside agency has used the spyware on Indian citizens since the petitioners have claimed that forensic analysis revealed tampering of their gadgets.

The Supreme Court has been the custodian of personal freedoms and has been an alert watchdog whenever the executive and legislature have transgressed the red lines that separate the state’s authority from the domain of individual rights, including the right to privacy. India’s stance on Pegasus has been in sharp contrast to other governments, which have taken serious note of the revelations and set up probes. The court has rightly recognised that the likes of Pegasus pose a threat to core values of democracy as well as the autonomy and credibility of institutions and processes. Its panel and its work are keenly awaited.

## CLEAN THE AIR

WHO’s new air quality standards underline the health-pollution link. It’s time policies take a holistic approach

THE WHO’S NEW air quality benchmarks should be a wake-up call for policymakers in most parts of the world, including India. The new limits, announced on Wednesday, are not mandatory but policymakers would be well-advised to not ignore the global health body’s advisory that peoples’ health is at risk from much lower levels of pollution than previously thought of. The stringent yardsticks mean that almost all of India is a polluted zone for most of the year.

India’s air quality standards were way short of WHO norms even before. The new thresholds will sharpen these differences. India’s annual average PM 2.5 standard, for instance, is now eight times below the WHO’s benchmark. Much of the gap has to do with geographical and meteorological factors that contribute to a high base pollution load in several parts of the country. Vehicular and industrial emissions compound the problem. But India’s quest for clean air has also suffered because pollution management in the country rarely goes beyond ad-hoc measures such as bans, fines and shutting down of power stations. Despite the well-documented links between pollution and health – reiterated by the WHO on Wednesday — the ministries of environment and health rarely collaborate. Clean-air plans have rarely been products of the combined expertise of environment scientists, public health professionals, urban planners and transport sector specialists. The National Clean Air Programme does talk of inter-sectoral linkages, especially health and environment, and sets time-bound targets — most importantly, a 20-30 per cent reduction in particulate matter concentration in 2024 compared to 2017. But the programme’s litmus test will lie in the manner in which it brings together the inputs of different departments into its final action plan – in the absence of such concerted action, the NCAP could end up becoming another data-gathering exercise.

India’s ambient air quality standards were last updated in 2009. The Central Pollution Control Board is reportedly working on framing revised guidelines. Even though complete compliance with them might be difficult, the PCB cannot afford to ignore the WHO’s new benchmarks. The heightened health risks of pollution, underlined by the new guidelines, should be the key takeaway for India’s premier pollution monitoring agency – and all other agencies responsible for clean air in the country.

## BATTER TAKES GUARD

Replacing batsman with a gender-neutral term is a sign that cricket has changed. That’s good news

IT WAS A long innings. But the “batsman” is finally out, making space for the “batter”. The change in terminology, according to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the authority on the game’s laws, helps “reinforce cricket’s status as an inclusive game for all”. And this is just as it should be. When women’s cricket, once dismissed as the also-ran version of the “real game”, has proved its ability to draw crowds, bust records and produce cricketing heroes, the shift in language is a sign that the sporting establishment is catching up. There are those, like British journalist Piers Morgan, known to see the collapse of civilisation at even the slightest stumble towards change, who have been triggered into outrage. Others find the new word awkward on the tongue, so strong is the hold of habit. Fact: In a playground of “fielders”, “bowlers”, “wicket-keepers” and “umpires”, it was “batsman” that was as odd as a powerplay in Test cricket.

Cricket in the 21st century is nothing like it once was — a “gentleman’s” sport tied up with class and feudal notions of gentility in Britain and with the “civilising” force of the empire in the colonies. Well, the former colonies have gone on to own the game, turning it into a desi spectacle, a money-spinning one, that cannot be played with a stiff upper lip. Even the Aussies blush when they read Virat Kohli’s lips. Women too were not welcome, with the MCC reluctantly opening its doors to female members as late as 1998.

But the future of any sport in 2021 rests on how many doors it can open to a diversity of talent. Cricket must be glad that it has fresh blood, male and female, running through its veins. If that means finding a better word for “third man” and “nightwatchman”, what’s to lose?



SUKANTA CHAUDHURI

THE SUICIDE OF three NEET aspirants in Tamil Nadu has sparked yet another debate on India’s stressful entrance exams. The reaction of the Tamil Nadu government is necessarily administrative and inevitably political. It is unlikely to solve the problem, and might worsen it in unsuspected ways.

The root problem is neither administrative nor educational but social. Our children are conditioned from infancy to think, as Ashis Nandy once put it, that they have three career choices — doctor, engineer or failure. The shine has faded somewhat from engineering courses since the economic downturn. Besides, engineering institutes being less rigorous to set up, their number can match or (as today) even exceed the demand. NEET has thus replaced JEE as the career-driven adolescent’s greatest torment, but both have spawned serious social maladies.

The greatest stress is usually generated by parents and the family, even playing off siblings against one another. Peer pressure comes close as a second factor. Schools are induced to measure their success by the number of students clearing NEET and JEE. Middle-class enclaves snidely compare the respective success of neighbourhood children.

A new addition to this dismal scene should, in itself, be deeply heartening — growing aspiration among children of disadvantaged backgrounds. When such a child beats the odds to excel at school, she might face even more pressure than her privileged peers from family and community. This is aggravated by a sense of inadequate support. These children cannot attend coaching centres or even courses in distance mode, let alone the residential coaching hubs epitomised by Kota. If they do, deficiencies in schooling and background make it hard for them to cope. A family might mortgage home and hearth in the cause, which exacerbates the pressure. This is the group registering most student suicides, not only with NEET and JEE but in higher education generally.

The deficiencies in schooling may not always be absolute, but simply in terms of the peculiar demands of entrance tests. Their structure is often at a strategic remove from

NEET, JEE obsession in students, without means to realise their dreams, can have grave consequences

The present Union policy has brought to crisis point a scenario evolving over the last three decades. Previous to that, tertiary education provided the one arena where young people from all classes and communities could meet on something like equal footing, at least as regards institutional facilities. Many institutions were substandard; others notably productive, as evinced (all else apart) by the success of their alumni among the Indian diaspora. Instead of consolidating that success while addressing the very real deficiencies, the system has been overturned.

the standard STEM curriculum — justifiably so, to test the special aptitude a course may require. This gap is exploited for gain by the coaching industry. A third player has made it big during the pandemic: Online tutorials for the core curriculum. Silently but radically, this combination is changing the pattern of Indian education, cheered on by the government’s fascination with online learning as a pedagogic panacea. This is causing consternation among teachers in India’s humbler schools, but their voice goes unheard.

It seems sadly improbable that the middle class will adopt a broader attitude to their children’s well-being, education and careers, in that order rather than the reverse. That being so, it is both unreal and unfair to expect that the less fortunate will, in this day and age, “know their place” and surrender their own ambitions. This is where the state, if so inclined, can play a constructive role.

One step would be to reverse the growing centralisation of all entrance exams — including, now, for “general” central universities. There is a valid argument for centralisation: It frees the student from the burden of multiple tests. But equally, multiple tests offer multiple chances. And some tests, held at the state level, are geared to the curricula of state boards catering to most underprivileged children. That means one less gap for them to cross — sometimes a huge gap. Most entrants had hitherto sat for state-level tests alone, with a better chance of qualifying for a state government-run institute with affordable fees.

To that extent, the Tamil Nadu proposal to opt out of NEET makes sense, though board results alone might be an unreliable criterion. Many states have productively held their own entrance tests for decades, bringing high-performing students to state-level institutions that ranked among India’s best. (The Centre took some of them over *because* they had excelled under state management. They are now consigned by official fiat to second rank, below the IITs.)

There seems no reason why a centralised entrance system should improve the earlier scenario. It assumes parity without providing a level-playing field. Institutions enjoying

less state patronage are thereby demoralised, and the truly deficient ones left to flounder. This can further dishearten both staff and students — possibly leading, one hates to say, to more suicides.

Here lies the crux of the matter. The present Union policy has brought to crisis point a scenario evolving over the last three decades. Previous to that, tertiary education provided the one arena where young people from all classes and communities could meet on something like equal footing, at least as regards institutional facilities. Many institutions were substandard; others notably productive, as evinced (all else apart) by the success of their alumni among the Indian diaspora. Instead of consolidating that success while addressing the very real deficiencies, the system has been overturned. The entry of private institutions is the single biggest change: They now enrol two out of three students at the tertiary level. More fundamentally, the entire system, even the state sector, is increasingly geared to demands that alienate, where they do not exclude, the underprivileged student.

We are accepting without debate that more and more institutions will operate at a suboptimal level if they cannot meet some pre-set stipulations that are managerial, financial and social rather than academic in nature. Such an agenda emerges clearly between the lines of the New Education Policy and shows glaringly in the annual education budget. More disadvantaged students enrol than before, but are confined by the system to this suboptimal level — the surest recipe for frustration. If they attempt the great leap upward, all too often they fall and get hurt. The more privileged suffer subtler damage, for which their social and economic security may or may not compensate.

We are inducing countless young citizens to dream dreams while denying them the means to realise them. Those means are entirely practicable. Until recently, we had at least tried to implement them, however ineptly. Today we are destroying the very possibility.

*The writer is Professor Emeritus, Department of English, Jadavpur University*



RAJA MENON

THE ANNOUNCEMENT FROM Washington that the US, UK and Australia are to form an alliance against China comes as a resounding slap to the Indian foreign policy establishment trying to ride two horses simultaneously. The information that Australia is to be provided nuclear submarine technology further humiliated the external affairs ministry and rubs salt into the wounds of the Indian Navy. Stunted by the neglect of being allotted just 14 per cent of the defence budget, the Navy has been hit hard by the news that US nuclear submarine technology — the finest in the world — will only be made available to Australia. Canberra has reaped the rewards of steadfast friendship with the US and accepting the punishing tariffs imposed by Beijing on Australian agricultural exports to China. These tariffs were imposed by a vengeful Xi Jinping for Australia’s refusal to abandon its American ally.

Mired in a continental outlook, Delhi has failed to appreciate that the 12,50,000-man Indian army, despite its gallant service, has no offensive capability against the smaller PLA, numbering 9,75,000. Geography is against us in the Himalayas, where China has lateral connectivity of four- to six-lane highways to move acclimatised troops. The Navy remains the only service capable of any punitive action against China. With nuclear submarine technology, Australia has now been catapulted into a frontline state against Chinese aggression, something that India with a population of 1.3 billion and a GDP approaching \$5 trillion can only dream of. Australian nuclear submarines

## THE WAGES OF DITHERING

Delhi’s uncertainty in projecting naval power has pushed it to Indo-Pacific sidelines

can rapidly penetrate the South China Sea through the Indonesian Straits and threaten China at its doorstep.

Despite a lack of support from the PMO and MEA, many naval veterans have, on their visits to Washington, approached key figures in the US establishment about nuclear submarine technology for the Indian Navy. The answer has always been the same — the US Navy is against transferring the technology to a non-aligned state. India’s efforts have been crippled by a lack of funding and the inability to access highly-enriched uranium cores for the propulsion reactor. With the introduction of the Quad, we had an opportunity to operationalise the coalition, and set up a Quad secretariat in India. Suggestions and pleading with the MEA and PMO have fallen on deaf ears, preoccupied as they are with reinforcing failure in the Himalayas and ignoring the Navy. Now a country with 27 million people and a GDP of \$ 1.4 trillion has become a power that can influence the choices being made in Beijing.

Naval strategists and well-wishers have often been mystified trying to answer the questions of who makes foreign policy in Delhi. While the charter exists with the MEA, insiders are adamant that the PMO has the last word. So, the thinking public is unlikely to be enlightened as to why we have to remain non-aligned when our neighbour is competing with the US to be the global hegemon — a rogue hegemon. Beijing has armed the Pakistan Navy and Air Force to the teeth, has bases in Gwadar and Djibouti, supports the

Taliban in Afghanistan, is a strategically of the Myanmar junta — yet, we are reluctant to take the Quad beyond a diplomatic talk shop.

Does this dithering come from timidity or a misplaced sense of Chanakyan cunning to successfully befriend the US without antagonising China? It is time that Delhi realised that regional power will not come from stringing a million men across the Himalayas, but from a navy, supreme in the Indian Ocean and commanding the access choke points to international trade. At the least, an operationalised Quad would have given us info-dominance over critical areas, if the navy’s anxieties are addressed. But by using the Quad for diplomatic and political grandstanding, without naval representation, we have lost the little leverage that we could have had.

The great American thinker Andrew Marshall used to say that strategy should not be written without first defining the scenario to which it applies. Accordingly, the US Office Net Assessment defines the evolving scenario every four years in a docket entitled “Global Futures” as a guide to government. We have no such document, but our scenario is fairly predictable, dominated as it is by the rise of a rogue Chinese hegemon. So, why is our foreign policy still hoping to “appease” Beijing by denying India a blue water navy — the only instrument that gives us punitive capability against Beijing?

*Menon, a former rear admiral, has authored four books on maritime and nuclear strategy*

## SEPTEMBER 24, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

RAHMAN KILLERS

TWELVE BANGLADESHI ARMY officers, including 10 who distinguished themselves in the liberation struggle and had gallantry decorations, were hanged on charges of mutiny and assassination of President Ziaur Rahman. Within hours, violence erupted in the capital with a mob protesting against the hangings setting fire to government buses and cars. Police resorted to lathicharge at least twice and also fired teargas shells to contain the angry crowds. A meeting convened by the freedom fighters’ organisation condemned the execution of the army officers and called upon the people “to resist the de-

signs of anti-freedom forces”.

SEPTEMBER RAINS

INCESSANT RAINS AND landslides claimed 17 lives in Bombay. Many others were injured in the deluge. Transport services were disrupted for most of the day. A family of three was wiped out in Bhandup and a woman and her two sons were injured when a huge boulder landed on the chawl. Three others were killed in a mishap in northwest Bombay. Such intense showers at the tail end of the monsoon season took Bombay by surprise. The Santa Cruz observatory recorded 30.6 cm of rain in 24 hours – a new record for September.

DELHI POWER CRISIS

DELHI CITIZENS WERE subjected to load-shedding for as long as five hours on September 23. Even essential services like airport, water supply and hospitals were affected. In Connaught Place, shopkeepers keep shutters down fearing pilferage.

ARMS RACE

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT GENERAL Zia-ul-Haq said his government would simply ignore the protests of India at the acquisition of arms by Pakistan. He said Pakistan had never raised any issue about India’s piling of arms.



New Delhi





9 THE IDEAS PAGE

The unicorn stampede

India is gaining at China’s expense, but investors need to ask questions about long-term sustainability



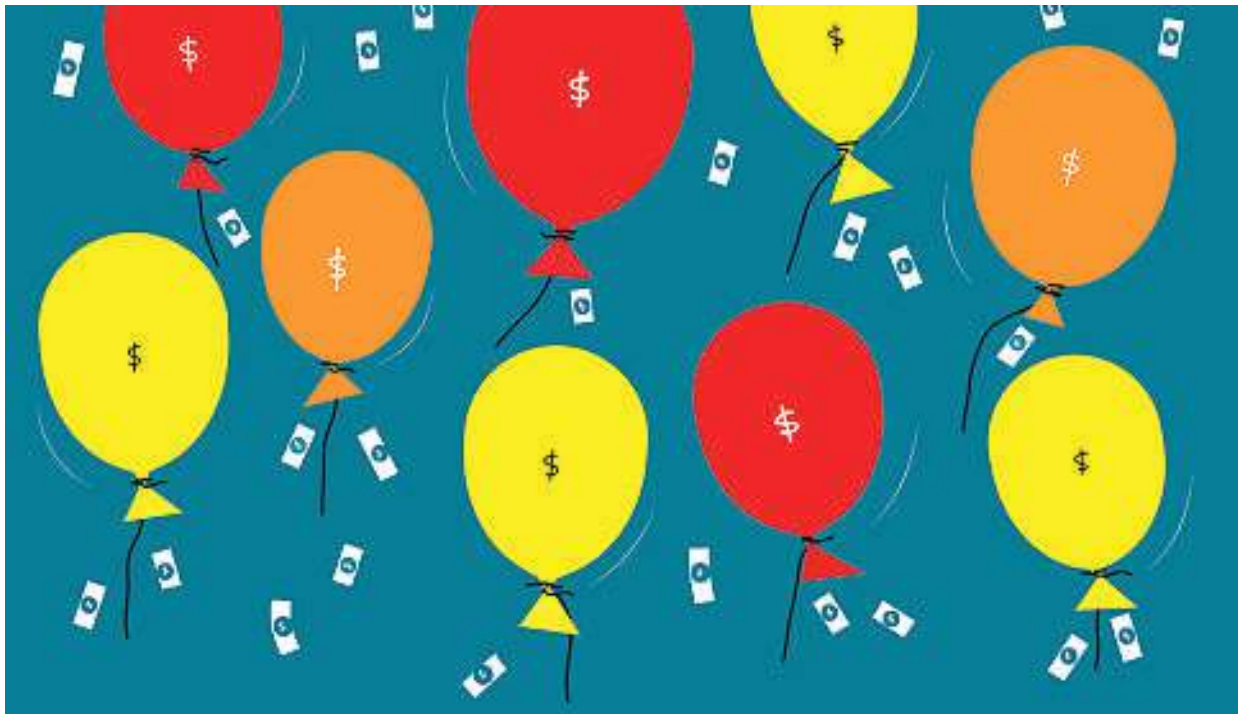
BHASKAR CHAKRAVORTI

TIGER GLOBAL MANAGEMENT, a New York-based investment firm, has a reputation for tracking and hunting unicorns — startups with billion dollar-plus valuations. This year, if we were to track the Tiger’s shifting gaze, we would catch sight of an interesting migratory phenomenon: Fewer unicorn sightings in China — ordinarily the biggest unicorn habitat outside the US — and the beginnings of a unicorn stampede in India. While the shifting of the Tiger’s gaze cannot be good for China, I worry it may not be good for India either.

But, first, let me step back up and fill in the story. For this, we begin in China, where President Xi Jinping seems hellbent on knee-capping its most dynamic sector. I speak of China’s tech industry that contributed over 38 per cent to the country’s GDP last year, and was key to managing both Covid and the economy. Nevertheless, Beijing has decided to crack down on the industry, wiping out \$1.5 trillion in market value. The crackdown began with the abrupt suspension of the much-anticipated initial public offering (IPO) of Ant Group last November, while founder, Jack Ma, the very face of Chinese tech worldwide, mysteriously went underground. To add to the intrigue, pressures on Ant only continued to mount. It wasn’t just the Ant Group in the government’s crosshairs. China’s regulators stopped the ride-hailing company, Didi Chuxing, from accepting new users, as soon as it went public on the New York Stock Exchange. Founders of companies, such as JD.com, TikTok and Pinduoduo seem to have been sufficiently spooked to seek early retirement.

Then there have been sweeping industry-wide changes, from anti-monopoly legislation to new rules governing data collection and use. The state’s shadow extends well beyond restricting capital markets access and tightening regulations. Weekends and holiday tutoring by private tutors are off-limits. Video games, on the other hand, can only be played on Fridays and weekends. Financial bloggers, whose data does not agree with official statistics, are being scrubbed out of existence. Male digital idols considered too effeminate are out of favour, as are certain digital celebrities and influencers.

Needless to say, all of this has investors spooked as well. Of all the major hedge funds, Tiger Global Management topped the list in terms of greatest exposure to the risks created by China’s tech crackdown. As you might expect, Tiger needed to turn elsewhere, which brings us to its gaze turning towards India. While not new to the Indian market, Tiger’s interest in India has spiked, and, of course, this has not escaped the attention of other investors. China may have four times the number of unicorns as India, but this year India has far outstripped China in newly minted unicorns; thanks to Tiger and those following its lead, for the first time since 2013, the value of venture deals in India surpassed that of China. Tiger’s investment in Innovecer, for example, has given India its first health-tech unicorn.



CR Sasikumar

If this keeps up, India will experience a veritable blessing of unicorns — yes, “blessing” is the actual term for a herd of these mythical creatures — thanks not only to the fact that the money fleeing China needs refuge, but to many converging forces within India itself. India is the world’s second largest digital market. The use of the United Payment Interface has made digital payments easier in a society that was — and still is — so tied to cash. The pandemic lockdowns have driven an unusually large proportion of that digital population to spend an unusually large amount of time and spend money online. This means that in a very short time, the need to serve this digital population has exploded. The Chinese crackdown could not have come at a more opportune time. Many startups are in a hurry to capitalise on the boom with many investors looking to capitalise them: Meesho will help you sell stuff on messaging apps; Razorpay can help with online payments; Chargebee can manage online subscriptions; ShareChat can get you into Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities over a vernacular social media platform.

While the emergence of a dynamic digital ecosystem is indeed exciting, there is reason to worry about the speed of this emergence. When investors rush in to seek refuge because they are fleeing risk elsewhere, even if the refuge looks promising, they can contribute to a self-reinforcing cycle that ends up destroying the refuge. The early investors draw in others who fear they are missing out, and more investors rush in, perpetuating the cycle. The cascading tranches of money over-capitalise startups by giving more money than what’s needed to get to necessary milestones. Eager to get a piece of the action, each investor may over-value a company, far exceeding what is justifiable based on market fundamentals. The stampede builds and soon you have the makings of a tech bubble.

Instead of reflexively chasing the next shiny startup in India, investors ought to ask a few questions: Do the startups and the markets they serve have the capacity to scale up and do they justify sticking with them for a long period? Can these startups, eager to win customers with rock-bottom pricing, ever discover a path to profits, especially with Indian

While the emergence of a dynamic digital ecosystem is indeed exciting, there is reason to worry about the speed of this emergence.

When investors rush in to seek refuge because they are fleeing risk elsewhere, even if the refuge looks promising, they can contribute to a self-reinforcing cycle that ends up destroying the refuge.

consumers used to bargains? What are the most plausible exit pathways for investors? Has the Indian initial public offerings market really proven itself? Does the experience of just one Zomato post-IPO tell us enough about the future of India’s IPO potential? Are there enough large corporations that might buy these startups? Could the high initial valuations deter follow-up funding by future investors and acquirers? Have the risks of numerous regulatory uncertainties of India been adequately addressed? Will the still-rickety infrastructure, the poor track record of managing either Covid or the economy become obstacles for the startups, no matter how essential their services seem today? Can the under-investment in essentials, such as education, health and job market readiness, clog the talent pipeline? What happens to Indian digital habits in a post-Covid world, whenever that comes about? In a country that thrives on human contact, would people eventually take their eyes away from their screens and go back to the crowded shops, streets and buildings that are the very essence of India? Can the Indian government be trusted not to borrow a page from the government it would like to emulate — the Chinese state — and attempt a crackdown of its own?

Don’t get me wrong: It is exciting to see this huge interest in India’s tech startups — even if it is at the expense of another country. But it would be wise for investors to take a deep breath and ask a few questions. India desperately needs patient capital, skilled talent and appropriate technology to solve the country’s numerous fundamental problems laid bare by the pandemic. The last thing India can afford is a bubble that bursts and for all three to take flight and seek refuge in yet another country because no one — not even Tiger — wants to pick up the pieces of a popped bubble. Let’s make sure that the blessing of unicorns does not end up saddling India with a curse.

The writer is dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, the founding executive director of Fletcher’s Institute for Business in the Global Context and a non-resident senior fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

“After unsuccessful military adventures in the Middle East and Central Asia, the Western bloc is looking to test the waters in East Asia and the Pacific Rim. Instead of flexing its military muscle, it needs to engage China — for once sparked, an arms race will be difficult to contain.” —DAWN

In Punjab, high command returns

Captain Amarinder Singh’s gamble on a weak central leadership did not pay off. But the crisis within the party still simmers



ASHUTOSH KUMAR

THE RECENT EVENTS in the Punjab unit of the Congress recall the party high command’s tradition of handling internal wrangling. As a dominant party in the “Nehruvian era”, the Congress, as Rajni Kothari argued, played the dual role of the “ruling party” as well as the “party of opposition”. The party then had powerful regional satraps from dominant land-holding communities, who enjoyed significant autonomy. The central leadership confined itself to a mediating role when a tussle among factional leaders would get out of control. This would change under Indira Gandhi, whose leadership style and norms were in stark contrast to Nehru. Her ascendance resulted in the Congress transitioning into a “centralist” party with the pre-eminence of “high command politics”, the latter becoming a euphemism first for the leader and then the family.

The party chief ministers, nominated more on the basis of their loyalty than leadership skill or support base, would often have to go to Delhi to seek approval for even trivial issues related to the party or the government. The high command would tolerate or openly encourage factional leaders in the state units.

Captain Amarinder Singh is closer to a quintessential regional satrap of the Nehruvian era even though his political career commenced in the Indira-Rajiv era. Old ties with the family brought him to the party in 1980 and also allowed him to return in 1997. However, unlike other loyalists, Singh, a dominant Jat Sikh and a Patiala royal, succeeded in projecting himself as a leader who supported the cause of Sikhs and Punjabi Suba. His resignations first as a Congress MP in 1984 and then as an Akali Dal minister in 1986 over Operation Blue Star and Operation Black Thunder respectively strengthened this image. It was reinforced when he became the chief minister who helped pass the Punjab Termination of Agreements Bill in 2004, resulting in the annulment of the state’s 1981 pact on the sharing of the Ravi and Beas river waters with Haryana and Rajasthan.

The Congress’s wins against the Akali Dal-BJP combine in the 2002, 2017 and 2019 elections came under his leadership. Singh also showed considerable political skill to checkmate rival faction leaders, including former state presidents like Partap Singh Bajwa. Most importantly, in a state where religion, region, caste, kinship, language all play a role in influencing electoral choices, Singh, with his moderate secular nationalist image, was able to gain a state-wide support base, unlike his rivals.

It was this seemingly invincible leadership position that brought in him a fatal sense of complacency, especially after the win over Arun Jaitley in the 2014 elections in Amritsar. Defying the established rules of game, Singh threatened to break the party if not made the chief ministerial candidate in the 2017 elections. He was replaced by Bajwa as the state unit president after the 2012 electoral debacle, and had questioned the leadership ability of Rahul Gandhi.

In the last two years, he hardly visited Delhi, and defied the high command directive to bring back Navjot Sidhu, a protégé of the Gandhi siblings. Despite being called twice to Delhi and made to defend his poor record before the high command-appointed committee, which also passed on instructions to listen to dissident legislators’ grievances, Singh failed to take visible corrective measures.

He also failed to fulfil the party’s tall promises like generating employment, waiving farmers’ debts, carrying out reforms in the power sector, bringing back industries, and ending the transport, sand, mining and land mafia raj. The refusal to change his laid-back leadership style, depending heavily only on a few trusted bureaucrats and trusted courtiers finally proved to be his undoing. His inexplicable reluctance to catch and punish the bigwigs responsible for the drug menace, the failure to take swift action against those responsible for sacrilege and the subsequent firing over protesting Sikhs gave rise to the popular perception that he had a tacit understanding with the tainted Akali leadership. The predicament of the rival Akali Dal and the BJP over the three contentious farm laws, which have become the rallying point for the landholding Jat Sikh farmers, hardly assured the legislators facing anti-incumbency.

Amid all this turmoil, Singh apparently stuck to his belief that a much-weakened high command would not dare take punitive action against him, given that it had not acted when faced with dissidence in the state party units like in Rajasthan. His long-term loyalty to the family was another factor. It was evident in the high command’s attempt to foist a reluctant Ambika Soni as a stop-gap chief minister. That quarrelling faction leaders accepted the high command’s decision uncritically reminded one of the Indira-Rajiv era.

With the appointment of Charanjit Singh Channi as the first Dalit chief minister, the party high command has tried to keep the factional fighting under check and also reap an electoral dividend, given the state’s demography. It is, however, obvious that the leadership crisis is far from over, given the rebellious stance of the slighted Singh and leaders waiting in the wings to fight another day. The visible hand of the “high command” in the whole saga, reminiscent of the Indira era, places greater electoral responsibility on it in the forthcoming elections, a tall order by all means.

The writer is professor, department of political science, Panjab University



ANANYA AWASTHI

Gardens of plenty

Poshan Vatikas could bridge nutrition gap, help in livelihood generation

IN THE BACKDROP of the month-long celebrations for Poshan Maah in September 2021, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been promoting the establishment of “Poshan Vatikas” across the country. Literally translating to nutri-gardens, the ministry plans to set up Poshan Vatikas across all anganwadi centres with the aim to provide a fresh supply of fruits, vegetables and even medicinal plants, especially in aspirational districts. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s clarion call for “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, the conceptual foundation of this programme builds on self-reliance and the adoption of sustainable food systems to address nutrition security amongst women and children. Nutri-gardens by themselves represent an exemplary global best practice which has the potential to address the multiple goals of diet diversity, nutrition security, agri-food cultivation, local livelihood generation and environmental sustainability.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) final guidelines, released in January 2021, give a sneak peek into the government’s thinking behind the setting up of the Poshan Vatikas, with the launch of the Poshan 2.0 strategy shortly awaited. The guidelines state that the main objective of introducing Poshan Vatikas is to encourage community members to grow local food crops in their backyards and secure them with an inexpensive, regular and handy supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. This is directed towards addressing the micro-nutrient deficiencies through access to diverse and nutritious diets, coupled with the generation of economic activity for local cultivators

and village industries. The guidelines identify potential land spaces that can be utilised to set up the Vatikas, including anganwadi centres, panchayat areas, government schools, vacant lands or any other patch of community/government land available in the locality. Additionally, the guidelines also mandate retrofitting these gardens with backyard poultry and fishing as per the prevalent food culture, which can be particularly useful in addressing the protein requirements.

It is also hoped that the nutri-gardens may act as a demonstration site to educate children about the need for the consumption of fresh food produce and promote messaging for healthy dietary behaviours amongst women. Pointing towards the importance of multi-ministerial convergence, the guidelines emphasise the need for collective action by the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Environmental Affairs, the MGNREGA scheme, Poshan Panchayats and mother groups. As an example, the government has been incentivising a drive for the plantation of moringa at all anganwadi centres. Moringa, also known as sehjan or drumstick, is a native Indian plant, rich in beta carotene, iron, vitamins A, B2, B6 and C5 and exhibits multiple health benefits, including antioxidant, antibacterial, anti-inflammatory, anti-cholesterol, anti-diabetic and even anti-cancer properties.

Turning to scientific research, a review of global evidence demonstrates that setting up of nutri-gardens can significantly improve awareness about dietary diversity and a preference for the consumption of fresh food pro-

duce, especially in children. Experiences with school-yard gardens in the US have demonstrated an increased dietary intake of vegetables and fruits amongst children. Similarly, research from South Africa shows that the setting up of nutri-gardens can increase the likelihood of fresh food consumption. In Nepal, some trials were complemented with sensitisation modules on nutrition education and sustainable agriculture, though lack of parent involvement and access to fresh food produce were cited as key gaps that prevented the uptake of fresh food produce in children’s diets.

In India, the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation has been at the forefront of demonstrating the impact of nutri-gardens on increased consumption of fruits and vegetables. Interventions included distribution of seed kits for growing green leafy vegetables, roots and saplings of fruit trees (for example lemon, papaya, guava and mango) and moringa. This was supplemented with awareness generation workshops and cooking demonstrations.

Interestingly, a systematic review of evidence from India and other South Asian countries highlights that while nutri-gardens have been able to scientifically demonstrate an increase in intermediate outcomes like dietary diversity which is critical for nutritional outcomes, evidence is lacking or inconclusive around the impact of nutri-gardens on the long-term nutritional parameters of women and children. In this context, a nation-wide launch of Poshan Vatikas presents the government and academia with an excellent oppor-

tunity to generate local evidence around the efficacy of nutri-gardens on the health and nutrition outcomes of women and children. Moreover, results from such implementation research can be extremely useful in informing the operational guidelines for setting up of Poshan Vatikas by anganwadi workers, especially given the unique context of India’s food diversity, geography and culture.

Finally, the proof is in the pudding. Success of the national strategy depends on how the Poshan Vatika programme is implemented. Expected barriers for implementation may include access to cultivable land, availability of a water source, protection against grazing, bandwidth and skill sets of anganwadi workers, supply of seeds and inputs, and coordination between diverse stakeholders for the translation of technical know-how on setting up of nutri-gardens. At the same time, the ministry also has an opportunity to promote Poshan Vatikas as a platform to increase convergence between its agriculture and nutrition policy, build capacity of anganwadi workers, including raising compensation for their expected labour, bridge the gap between production and consumption of fresh fruits, vegetables and animal produce, disseminate messages on the importance of diet diversity and, ultimately, scale up a best practice that can contribute towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The writer is assistant director, Harvard School of Public Health — India Research Center. Views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WELL EXPRESSED

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Not too hot’ (IE, September 23). The theme — “too much comfort reduces the drive to survive” is beautifully expressed. This is one of the reasons why the paper remains “top of the pops”.

Fali S Nariman, Delhi

DISTURBING ATTACK

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘Draw the line’ (IE, September 23). It’s shameful to see a few goons aligned with a particular religious organisation attacking the house of Muslim MP from Hyderabad and AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi in Lutyen’s Delhi, which is otherwise supposed to be a highly secured area where most VIPs reside. The Delhi Police, which reports directly to the Union Home Ministry, must act efficiently and quickly in nabbing the culprits. Otherwise, this incident will also be tagged as being sponsored by the central government or BJP. No individual or a group should dare to attack someone’s house in broad daylight without fear of lawful agencies. The incident is certainly a matter of worry for the general public. If an MP is not safe in the most secure area of the national capital, then how can a common citizen expect to have safe and secure surroundings? To ensure the safety of its citizens, the concerned state police is entirely responsible and so, by bringing such anti-social elements to justice, the police can gain the confidence of the public. This will also prove that the police force can never afford to be biased against any religion or a political party.

Vandana, Chandigarh

BEYOND NEET

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘The case against NEET’ (IE, September 22). There are a plethora of students sitting for the NEET and the number of seats is limited. The demand for doctors is evermore, especially in rural India. The reluctance of doctors from urban metropolises to work in rural areas makes the situation a perfect storm. Therefore, the government must set up more medical colleges catering to the demand for doctors in poverty-stricken areas. Also, an exam other than NEET must be conducted (just as there are multiple entrance exams to enter management institutes) so that the future of an individual does not hang on the performance of a single day.

Melvin Thomas, Bhopal

INDEPENDENT POLICY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, ‘AF-Pak ambush’ (IE, September 23). Pakistan’s insistence to include the Taliban in the SAARC summit and India unequivocally turning this down is a reality check for Pakistan and its new protégé. Western countries may dither over granting legitimacy to the Taliban but India ought take an independent view, especially in terms of the US. The way things are unfolding, be it the UK’s vaccine controversy or the non-inclusion of India in the newly-formed alliance AUKUS, thus making the QUAD feckless for all practical purposes, is a signal that the China-fear syndrome has clouded their thinking.


Deepak Singhla, Noida



## REET EXAMINATION SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of candidates appearing in REET Examination, Northern Railway will run two (02) 'UNRESERVED' special trains as mail/ express services as per the details given below:-

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07:15	--		Delhi Jn.		--	20:30
			Bhilwara			
Days of Run : 01640 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 25.09.2021 (Saturday) & 01639 Ex. Bhilwara on 26.09.2021 (Sunday)						
Accommodation : General						
Stoppages : Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Pataudi Road, Rewari, Narnaul, Nim Ka Thana, Shri Madhopur, Ringas Jn., Renwal, Phulera Jn., Kishangarh, Madar, Ajmer, Nasirabad & Bijainagar Stations.						

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**Date: September 24, 2021**

**Place: Mumbai**

# DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI 5TH FLOOR, ISBT BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, NEW DELHI, DELHI 110006

## MISSING CHILDREN

SL No	Description	Photograph
1	Name: <b>MUSKAN</b> (Name given by agency) complexion: Whitish. Child Muskan (8 months old) and her mother Mrs. Momina were the residents of footpath near Old Delhi Railway Station. On 21/10/2020, the child was produced before Child Welfare Committee-III, Kingsway Camp, Delhi. With the orders of the Child Welfare Committee-III the child is admitted in Holy Cross Social Service Center for care and protection on 21/10/2020. According to the statement of Investigation Officer, Police Station Kotwali, Delhi Mrs. Momina is untraceable now and Holy Cross Social Service Centre doesn't have any information regarding her biological father and other relatives. At the time of admission the child was wearing white color baby frock.	
2	Name: <b>PURNIMA</b> . Complexion: Fair. On 27/07/2020, about 2 years old female child named Purnima was produced before CWC-III by Delhi Police from Kotwali Police Station. With the orders of Child Welfare Committee-III child is admitted in Holy Cross Social Service Center, for care and protection on 27/7/2020. According to the given report the child's mother Ms. Pinky is homeless and she is separated from her husband and she lives on alms. Now she is untraceable. At the time of admission the child was wearing white color frock with pink frills	
3	Name: <b>KAMINI</b> (Name given by agency) complexion: Whitish. On 25th March 2021, Kamini about 1 year and 2 months old female child was found abandoned near Azadpur bus terminal by Delhi police from Police Station Adarsh Nagar and brought to Holy Cross Social Service Center for temporary shelter. On 26/03/2021 she was produced before Child Welfare Committee-III, Sewa Kutir Complex Kingsway camp, Delhi and with their orders the child was admitted in Holy Cross Social Service Center for care and protection. At the time of admission she was wearing pink color frock. DD No. 0130 A, Dated 25/03/2021, Police Station. Adarsh Nagar, Delhi	
4	Name: <b>Anusha@ Anushka</b> : Complexion: Dark On 10th July 2021, Anusha @ Anushka, about 5 years old female child was found abandoned at SS Office, Old Delhi Railway Station by Childline Team, Salaam Balak Trust, ODRS, Delhi. When she was found she was wearing yellow color T- Shirt and sky blue color pyjama. On 10m July 2021 at 9.45 PM (Saturday) she was brought to Holy Cross Social Service Center for care and protection for short stay and on 12/07/2021 she was produced before Child Welfare Committee-III, Sewa Kutir Complex Kingsway camp, Delhi. According to the child Mr. Janu and Mrs. Amrita are her parents. DD No. 0030 A, Dated 10/07/2021 Police Station. Old Delhi, (Delhi Main) Railway.	

**Note:** for more information the Parents/Guardians/Relatives of above mentioned children may contact at address/ phone numbers given below:-

1. Org. Secretary, Holy Cross Social Service Center, Dheerpur, Burari Road, Near Nirankari Complex, Tara Cowk, Delhi 110009. Contact.No. 9560143727, 8130915367
2. DCPU, District Child Protection Unit-I, Central, Sewa Kutir Complex, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009, Ph:-27655034. email id [dcpucentraldelhi@gmail.com](mailto:dcpucentraldelhi@gmail.com)

Sd/-  
Director  
Women and Child Development  
Govt. Of NCT of Delhi.

**Please give information on 1098 child line about the children who needs care and protection**

DIP/Shabdarth/0322/21-22

# Math to name Mahant Giri's successor if 'suicide note' is fake: Niranjani Akhara

**AVANEESH MISHRA**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 23

SUSPECTING A conspiracy in the death of Mahant Narendra Giri, the head of the Niranjani Akhara and other saints on Thursday said the appointment of his successor was the mahant of Baghambari Gaddi Math and Bade Hanuman Mandir in Prayagraj will depend on the findings of the ongoing investigation. They said if the purported suicide note is deemed fake, the Math members will collectively name his successor.

Baghambari Gaddi Mahant was a very personal one and Narendra Giri mentioned Balbeer Giri as his successor in the purported suicide note. He also mentioned that there is also a registered will than he made, but we have not seen it yet. If the letter is found to be genuine then, it is all well and good. If it isn't, we all will sit together and appoint an able successor," Acharya Kailashanand Giri said.

"It will all depend on the find-

Mahant Narendra Giri, who was also the secretary of Niranjan Akhara, was found hanging at Baghambari Math on Monday. Police said they found a seven-page 'suicide note' in which the president of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP) held his disciple and yoga guru Anand Giri, along with two others, responsible for his death. The note also mentioned that his disciple

Balbeer Giri will be his successor. Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Thursday, Niranjani Peethadheeshwar Acharya, Mahamandleshwar, He added that there will be no issues around the appointment of Balbeer Giri as the successor if the 'suicide note' is determined to be genuine.

Kailashanand Giri said the state government has already recommended a CBI probe and they hope the Centre will agree to the same. He, however, termed the suicide note as a 'conspiracy'.

## Judge was intentionally hit by auto, CBI tells Jharkhand HC

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE CBI, which is probing the death of Dhanbad judge Uttam Anand, told the Jharkhand High Court on Thursday that the autorickshaw driver, who has been apprehended in this connection, intentionally hit him with his three-wheeler.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during the hearing of the case on a virtual platform, said a probe is underway to find out who all are involved in the conspiracy.

The 49-year-old district judge was allegedly mowed down by a

heavy autorickshaw while he was out jogging near Randhir Verma Chowk in Dhanbad on the morning of July 28.

Agarwal submitted before the court that his death was not a case of accident. Agarwal appeared before the division bench of Chief Justice Ravi Ranjan and Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and said that officers of the agency are working round the clock to uncover the truth behind the incident.

The bench observed that the case has shaken the morale of the judiciary. Time is the essence of this investigation, it said. The more time is spent, harder it will be to ascertain the truth, it stated.

# Man stabs college student to death in TN, tries to kill self

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 23

A 19-YEAR-OLD college student was stabbed to death near the Tambaram railway station here on Thursday by a youth, who later attempted to kill himself, said police.

Passers by informed the police about the incident which rushed to the spot to find the college student in a pool of blood. Her assailant was found unconscious.

The police team immediately arranged for an ambulance and rushed the couple to the Government hospital at Chromepet, where the doctors declared the girl as 'brought dead', police said.

The attacker, who was later identified as Ramachandran, was hospitalised, a senior police official said and added that the motive is yet to be established.

"It appears that the man knew her. There was a conversation between the two and all of a sudden he whipped up a knife and stabbed her. Then, he tried to commit suicide by sitting his throat," the official said.

AIADMK coordinator C Panneerselvam condemned the murder of the girl and said incidents like these are "very distressing".

"Hearing the news of the student's murder in broad daylight has caused great anguish. It is distressing that rise in the incidents of murders has caused insecurity and apprehension among women," he said in a statement here.

Thursday's incident came as a reminder to local residents of the murder of a 24-year-old techie Swathi on the morning of June 24, 2016, at the Nungambakkam railway station here by Ramkumar from Tirunelveli. Days after he was arrested Ramkumar allegedly killed himself in prison.



BRIEFLY



Retired professor Yogendra Vyas and wife Anjana Vyas.

GUJARAT  
Ex-professor, his wife ‘die by suicide’

**Ahmedabad:** A former professor of Gujarat University and his wife allegedly died by suicide in Ahmedabad Thursday. Police said the couple had been suffering from life-threatening ailments, as per a note. Professor Yogendra Vyas (80), who retired as head of linguistic department of GU in Ahmedabad, and his wife Anjana (74), a homemaker, were found dead at their residence in Saraswatinagar area behind Azad Society in Ambawadi. A one-page note was recovered that said the “police should not harass their son and that they were ending their life wilfully”

ENS

MANIPUR  
Abducted by militants, tribal leader dead

**Imphal:** Tension gripped Tamenglong district of Manipur after a tribe leader was found dead. He was allegedly abducted in broad daylight from the district headquarter on Wednesday. The incident comes in the wake of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh’s visit to the district to inaugurate several projects as part of the ‘Go to Hills’ campaign. The victim, Athuan Abonmai, was the former president of Zeliangrong Baudi, a tribe council. He was kidnapped while on his way to attend the programme. Reports in the local newspapers stated that the kidnappers were cadres of a hill-based militant outfit. No militant groups has claimed responsibility for the killing.

ENS

PUNJAB  
Anirudh Tewari appointed new chief secretary

**Chandigarh:** The Charanjit Singh Channi-led government in Punjab Thursday appointed Anirudh Tewari as Chief Secretary, replacing Vini Mahajan — the first woman to hold the post in state. Mahajan has now been posted as Special Chief Secretary. A 1990-batch IAS officer, Tewari was the Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture and Development. By appointing Tewari, who will retire in 2027, on the top bureaucratic post, the government has overlooked five IAS officers senior than him. They include Ravneet Kaur, Sanjay Kumar, Anjali Bhawra (on central deputation), Vijay Kumar Janjua, and Kripa Shankar Saroj.

ENS

Chhattisgarh teen attacked by leopard, dies

**Raipur:** A teenager was mauled to death by a leopard in Chhattisgarh’s Dhamtari district on Thursday. The girl had gone to a reserved part of the forest near her village along with her parents to collect firewood, officials said. According to forest officials, the incident occurred at Mukundpur range of forests in Nagri block of Dhamtari, 70 km from the district headquarters and 140 km from the state capital. According to Satovisha Samajder, DFO Dhamtari, a leopard mauled Geetanjali Markam (13). “We have conducted the postmortem and it is an attack by a leopard. Presently our priority is to reduce the possibility of such incidents repeating.”

ENS

JHARKHAND SCHOLARSHIP FOR TRIBAL STUDENTS TO STUDY IN UK

‘I worked as a labourer to study... never dreamt my daughter would go abroad’

ABHISHEK ANGAD  
RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 23

■ Dinesh Bhagat, 31, worked for seven years at his father’s stationery shop in Ranchi, using his spare time to apply for scholarships in universities abroad. ■ Hercules Singh Munda, son of an Assistant Conservator of Forest, grew up listening to stories of how his father sold goats to be able to get an education. Inspired by his father, after his BTech, he worked as a researcher at IIT Hyderabad. ■ Anjana Pratima Dungdung, 21, a political science graduate, counts her father, a Block Welfare Officer who worked as a construction labourer in his early years, as her inspiration. WHAT BINDS them — together with Ajitesh Murmu, Akansha Mery and Priya Murmu — are their stories of struggle, along with a fierce determination to make the most of an opportunity that has opened up for them in the form of a Jharkhand government scholarship scheme. All six, aged between 21 and 31, have been selected as the first



The six students will head to universities in England and Ireland for their higher studies. Abhishek Angad

batch of Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda Scholars, a government initiative for tribal students to pursue higher studies in universities in England and Ireland. Launched on December 29 last year, the scheme provides full financial support to 10 tribal students from Jharkhand to do a two-year Master’s or a one-year MPhil course in 15 select universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The scholarship is named after Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda, one of Jharkhand’s most famous names — a tribal boy who tended to cattle, but went on to

become an Imperial Civil Service officer and later, captain of the Indian hockey team that won gold in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games. “On an average, Rs 30 lakh tuition fees will be incurred per student per year, along with around Rs 10 lakh in living expenses. We have a budget of Rs 10 crore for 10 students, but both the budget and the number of students are flexible,” said Tribal Welfare Commissioner Naman Priyesh Lakra. On the selection process, he said, those who have scored 55%

Temple entry fine: Manjhi attacks ‘guardians of faith’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 23

FORMER BIHAR Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi on Thursday lashed out at ‘dharm ke thekedar’ (self-appointed guardians of faith) whom he squarely blamed for Dalits being deprived of a life of dignity.

Manjhi, whose Hindustani Awam Morcha is a part of the ruling alliance in the state, expressed his anguish on his Twitter handle, sharing the news



Former Bihar CM Jitan Ram Manjhi

report of a Dalit couple in Karnataka being penalised after their two-year-old child inadvertently stepped into a temple. Incidentally, Karnataka is ruled by the BJP, which is also the largest partner in the ruling coalition in Bihar. “I am giving voice to the pain

Karnataka Covid panel tells govt: Push for shorter Covishield gap

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 23

THE TECHNICAL advisory committee advising the Karnataka government on the Covid-19 pandemic has asked the state to ask the Centre to reduce the gap between the two doses of the Covishield vaccine.

The committee has sought the shortening of the span of dosages from the current 84 days to around one month to broaden the spread of vaccination as preparation for a possible third wave of the virus.

“We told the government to write to the Centre to reduce the gap between the first and second dose of Covishield. It is primarily because the vaccine supplies are good now and we have to keep in mind a possible third wave if a new variant emerges. It is safer to have good vaccine coverage in preparation for such a situation,” committee chairman Dr M K Sudarshan said.

“Earlier the gap between doses was only one month and some groups of people like students who had to travel abroad were also vaccinated with

Covishield with an interval of one month,” he said.

Fellow committee member and nephrologist Dr Sudarshan Ballal said the expert panel has noted that an interval of four weeks was “good enough for immunity to develop” among Covishield beneficiaries. “With the government aiming to vaccinate the maximum population with both doses, it seems imperative to accelerate the pace of vaccination. Vaccination is the key to keep the spread of Covid-19 in check as well,” he said.

In Karnataka, 3.8 crore people have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccine out of a total population of over 6 crore, while 1.54 crore people have received both doses of the vaccine. The state government wants to complete vaccinating the entire eligible population in about 100 days’ time.

The chief health officer of the BBMP Dr B K Vijendra said the spike in deaths was on account of the addition of a backlog of Covid deaths to the fatality list in the last week. A total of 389 cases and eight deaths were reported in the BBMP report issued for September 21.

in their under-graduation and with family income below Rs 12 lakh were encouraged to apply. The applications were vetted by a panel of professors chosen by the government from universities across the state, after which the selected candidates were called for an interview. The six scholars were chosen from among 22 candidates, Lakra said. “I struggled for my education, worked as a daily-wage labourer... Hum sapne mein bhi nahi soche the ki wo videsh mein padhegi (Not even in my dreams did I think that my daughter would study in a foreign country),” says Surendra Bhagat, who works as a Block Welfare Officer. His daughter Anjana Pratima Dungdung, who belongs to the Kharia tribe, will pursue a Master’s in International Relations from the University of Warwick. She says she aims to give a “voice to the voiceless” and plans to “definitely return to Jharkhand to give back to society”.

Dinesh Bhagat, who is set to do a Master’s in Climate Change from the University of Sussex, England, wants to “improve the lives of people living in mining areas” and find ways to reduce

the harmful effects of mining in Jharkhand after he return home. “In the past, I applied for the Commonwealth and Central government scholarships, but never got through. I got to know about this initiative and applied,” he says.

Hercules Singh Munda will pursue a Master’s in Linguistics from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies; Ajitesh Murmu will study architecture at the University College of London; Akanksha Mery has been selected for an MSc in Climate Change Science and Management at Loughborough University; and Priya Murmu will study Creative Writing and the Writing Industries at Loughborough University.

On Thursday, speaking in Ranchi at the felicitation function for the six scholars, Chief Minister Hemant Soren said, “Tribals are considered weaker sections, but the time has come for us to stand on our feet...and dedicate ourselves to the state and society... Our scheme will help more and more tribal people in the days to come.”

that has been experienced for centuries. So far, I have been shy of expressing the anguish. Now nobody will say a word. The dharm ke thekedar go silent on such matters..... they cannot brook Dalits entering the temples or offering their views on religious works (dharmik kavya),” Manjhi tweeted.

His outcry came close on the heels of a barrage of insults from the BJP after he made a statement suggesting that he believed Lord Ram was a fictional and not historical figure.

The controversy had erupted a couple of days ago when his views were sought about denials by BJP leaders here that Ramayana be included in school syllabus, following a similar move by the saffron party’s government in Madhya Pradesh.

Manjhi had said he was very much in favour of the epic being taught in schools though he was of the view that “Lord Ram was not a man who lived on this earth at any point of time”.

This evoked predictable outrage from the BJP.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

571  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 30,797

ACTIVE CASES: 3,01,242

VACCINATIONS: 83,39,90,049

DAILY DEATHS  
320

TOTAL DEATHS  
4,46,370

WEEKLY CFR  
0.78%

OVERALL CFR  
1.35%



TESTS TODAY: 17,89,837 | TOTAL TESTS: 56,01,56,850

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.94% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.00%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	19,682	1,60,537	16.63%	3,44,33,220
■ Maharashtra	3,320	39,191	2.06%	7,61,64,927
■ Tamil Nadu	1,745	17,121	1.08%	4,35,08,265
■ Mizoram	1,294	14,954	16.96%	10,82,941
■ Andhra Pradesh	1,171	13,749	2.18%	3,85,34,639

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	152	24,270	0.55%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	63	1,42,287	3.10%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	27	35,427	1.42%	1.35%
■ Andhra Pradesh	15	37,683	1.75%	1.27%
■ Odisha	12	18,703	1.78%	1.20%

Note: Data as on Sept 23; vaccination numbers as of Sept 22. Deaths include those from previous days.

Covid jabs at home for the disabled: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

ALMOST EIGHT months after it rolled out the Covid-19 vaccination drive across the country, the Centre on Thursday announced the introduction of home vaccination for the those with restricted mobility, disability and special needs.

Also, in its first official statement over the UK’s new travel guidance not recognising Covid-19 vaccination certificates issued by India, the Union Health Ministry said that “both sides are in dialogue” and a “quick resolution” to the issue will be found.

Announcing the home vaccination provision, head of India’s Covid-19 task force Dr V K Paul said, “I am pleased to inform you that we have made new provisions. For those persons, whose mobility is such that they cannot be moved out of the house for vaccination, or those who have a disability, or if someone has special needs that they cannot go to a vaccination centre, we have made new provisions.”

“For them, under supervision at home and by following SoPs, we will make provisions for vaccination at home. The orders and advisory have been issued,” Dr Paul said.

He said district-level immunisation officers will continue to follow the same SoPs for vaccination at home, including the critical aspect of monitoring adverse events following immunisation.

“We have confidence that our vaccines are safe. The arrangements we will make for home vaccination would be effective, safe, supportive, and nurturing. And it will follow all the SoPs. It is an important development. We will encourage teams at local level to participate and connect with this new system,” Dr Paul said.

The decision to roll out vaccination at home in special cases comes at a time when India has completed administering first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine to 66 per cent of the estimated adult

population and both doses to 23 per cent of the eligible population.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan emphasised that there has been “equitable access” to Covid-19 vaccination.

“A substantial proportion of vaccines has been administered at rural vaccination centres. In rural centres, 45.75 crore doses have been administered, while 25.42 crore doses have been administered in the urban centres,” he said, adding that between May 1 and September 22, only 6 per cent of the total doses have been administered in private hospitals concentrated in urban centres.

On the issue of the UK travel guidance qualifying Covishield as an approved vaccine but not the Covid-19 vaccination certificates issued in India, Bhushan said, “On United Kingdom, let me reiterate what Ministry of External Affairs has already underlined.”

“First, we believe that the dispensation that is proposed to be implemented from October is a discriminatory practice. Two, both the sides are in dialogue. We believe that a quick resolution will be found. Third, we do reserve the right to reciprocate in a similar manner.”

On Thursday, after meeting National Health Authority CEO Dr R S Sharma, British High Commissioner to India Alex Ellis posted on Twitter that neither India nor UK raised technical concerns with the vaccination certification process.

“Excellent technical discussions with @rssharma3 @AyushmanNHA. Neither side raised technical concerns with each other’s certification process. An important step forward in our joint aim to facilitate travel and fully protect public health of UK and India,” Ellis tweeted.

“Echoing his excellency @AlexWellis’s views, this will be instrumental in resuming socio-economic activities between India and UK. We also look forward to deepening ties between @AyushmanNHA and @NHSX as we collaborate to build a digital continuum of healthcare services,” Sharma posted in reply.

Google moves Delhi HC against CCI report leak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

IN A petition before the Delhi High Court, Google on Thursday alleged that a confidential interim fact-finding report prepared by Competition Commission of India’s Director General — in relation to an ongoing probe into the company’s Android smartphone agreements — has been leaked to the media.

Senior Advocate Abishek Manu Singhvi, representing Google, mentioned the case before Chief Justice D N Patel and requested an urgent hearing. The petition, otherwise listed by the court Registry for hearing on September 27, was then ordered to be listed for hearing on Friday.

Google has said that leakage of the report is a breach of confidentiality which impairs its ability to defend itself and harms it and its partners. A Google spokesperson said that the company was deeply concerned that the report was leaked to the media “while in the CCI’s custody”.

“Protecting confidential information is fundamental to any governmental investigation, and we are pursuing our legal right to seek redress and prevent any further unlawful disclosures. We cooperated fully and maintained confidentiality throughout the investigative process, and we hope and expect the same level of confidentiality from the institutions we engage with,” said the spokesperson.

Google said the DG’s findings do not reflect the final decision of the CCI and the submission of the investigation report is an interim procedural step.

Sold into marriage, Assam minor, now a mother, returns home from Rajasthan

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 23

IN JANUARY last year, the family of a minor girl, then 14, got an FIR filed in Assam’s Dhubri district after she went missing.

More than a year later, in September, the girl was rescued from Rajasthan’s Barmer district, near the westernmost tip of the country. Sold into an abusive marriage, she began the 2,500-km journey home Wednesday along with her father and Assam Police officers — and her one-year-old child.

A phone call to her brother, whose number she had memorised, helped her family discover her location, reveals her statement to the Barmer Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

The girl’s case is one of the thousands of instances of trafficking of women and children from North Eastern states such as Assam and Tripura to Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi and Haryana, where they are also often used as bonded

labourers, said Nirmal Gorana, convener of the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour.

It was Gorana who sent an email on September 13 to the Barmer SP, the Assam police, and authorities in the two states about the whereabouts of the girl and her pleas to return home. He had been alerted by Assam-based advocate Anwar Ahmed Hussain, who was in touch with the girl’s family.

The local police rescued the girl on the same night after the email from Gorana. She was presented before the Barmer CWC on September 14.

“When we were informed about the case on the night of September 13, we went to the house of the man in search of the girl. While the man was not found, after the girl came to know the police had arrived, she came running to us and told us about her ordeal, pleading with us to take her away,” said Lalit Kishor, SHO of the police station in Barmer which mounted the rescue.

According to the girl’s statement

before the CWC in Barmer, she was sold and forcibly married off to the Barmer man. He allegedly didn’t let her return to her parents, saying he had spent money to buy her. The girl said she was physically abused and tortured.

“When I speak on phone, he starts beating me, keeps me locked and would insert sticks between my fingers to hurt me and would say that if I went or spoke with someone, he would kill me,” the girl said in her statement to the CWC.

The statement says that the man didn’t let her speak with anyone for several months. It was only after the child was born that he let her use the phone.

“The girl, who is a Muslim, told us that despite her refusal, she was threatened and forced to marry the man from Barmer as per Hindu rituals. Thereafter, a son was born to her. She managed to contact her brother whose number she had memorised,” said advocate Chetanram Saran, chairperson of the Barmer CWC.


The girl told the CWC that she had

left her home with a friend but was drugged and brought to Delhi. There, she was left with strangers who threatened to kill her parents and forced her to marry the Barmer man.

“On Wednesday, she was handed over to her father and the Assam police who came to Barmer. She told us that she wants to take the child along with her,” Saran said.

In an order passed on Wednesday, the Barmer CWC said that after taking into consideration that an FIR has been registered in Assam (under Section 366A, which deals with the procurement of a minor girl) and the fact that the girl is a victim of sexual violence, she is being transferred to the jurisdiction of the Dhubri CWC.

SHO Kishor said the Barmer man has not been arrested yet because action will be taken by the Assam police. “We will proceed as per the instructions of the Assam police because the FIR has been registered there. Since the girl is a minor, more sections related to offences under the POCSO Act and charges of rape can be added,” said the SHO.

<div>  <div> <div>Office of the Superintending Engineer, Construction Circle,</div> <div><b>Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Kathgodam, Haldwani</b></div> <div>(E-mail : sepeyjal_ntl@yahoo.co.in, Phone :- 05946-298296)</div> </div> </div>			
<b>E-Tendering/Tender Notice</b>			
Letter No. 4025 / 613 / 337		Date 22-09-2021	
<b>Name of Work :-</b> Pipe Line, FHCT & Appurtenant works in following Water Supply Schemes			
	<b>Name of Scheme</b>	<b>Estimated cost</b>	<b>Period of completion of work</b>
1	Nausar - Mohammadpur Bhudiya MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 212.85 Lakh	06 months
2	Bhudiya Tharu MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 301.93 Lakh	06 months
3	Chanda MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 161.07 Lakh	06 months
4	Bhagchuri MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 163.54 Lakh	06 months
5	Mundeli MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 209.35 Lakh	06 months
6	Tukari MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 206.09 Lakh	06 months
7	Salmata MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 224.98 Lakh	06 months
8	Pipaliya Pistaar MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 213.81 Lakh	06 months
9	Saraunja MVS W/S Scheme	Rs. 163.42 Lakh	06 months
<b>Key Dates :-</b>			
1	Date of Online Publication		23.09.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
2	Document download : Start Date		24.09.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
3	Document download : End Date		07.10.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
4	Pre Bid Meeting		29.09.2021 at 14:00 hrs.
5	Bid Submission : Start Date		24.09.2021 at 10:00 hrs.
6	Bid Submission : End Date		07.10.2021 at 17:00 hrs.
7	Offline submission of documents (Cost of bidding document, Bid Security, Original Affidavits & all the Supporting Documents in support of qualification)		08.10.2021 upto 17:00 hrs.
8	Date of Technical Bid Opening		09.10.2021 at 11:00 hrs
9	Date of Financial Bid Opening		To be announced Later
10	Details of tender, corrigendum or cancellation etc may be obtained at web site <a href="http://www.uktenders.gov.in">www.uktenders.gov.in</a>		
<b>Superintending Engineer</b>			



## Classifieds

## PERSONAL

**I, Anu Bala Agarwal W/o** Sumit Agarwal, R/o Lt-11/401, Paras Tierra, Sec 137, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201304, have changed my name Anu Agarwal to Anu Bala Agarwal for all future purpose.

0040585551-1

**I Vipin Kumar Malik S/O,** Mahender Singh Malik R/o 215/18, Gali No. 7, Model Town, Santosh Path Lal, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, 124507 have changed my name to Vipin Malik

0040585583-1

**I Pooja Verma Alias** Shabnam W/o Late Suresh Chander Verma R/o B-10/9, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Shabnam

0070754910-1

**I Nazia Tanweer W/o** Ather Hussain R/o 3095 Kucha Tara Chand, SSA Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 herby declare that my name Nazia Tanweer to be considered for all purposes.

0040585656-1

**I Narinder W/o** Paramjit Singh R/o-G-1/53, Second Floor, Pocket-1, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089 have changed my name to Narinder Kaur for all purposes.

0040585578-1

**I Monalisa D/o** Ramesh Kumar Keshav R/o H. No G-1244 Second Floor, Indra Enclave Sev.21DFaridabad, Haryana-121012 have changed my name to MAULI for all future purposes.

0040585585-1

**I Meena Nanda W/o** Yogesh Chadha R/o 76-C, AD-Block, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Sakshi Chadha for all purposes.

0040585577-1

**I Manju Bansal W/o** Sh. Manohar Lal Bansal R/o 53, Pocket-r, Sector-24, Rohini, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name to Manju Rani for all purposes.

0040585586-9

**I Maanoj Naarang S/o** Sh. Om Parkash R/o WZ-1477, Second Floor, Left Side, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034 have changed the name of my minor son from Divyam Naarang to Dym Naarang for all purposes.

0040585586-8

**I Kiran Jyoti Kaur W/o** Harpreet Singh Bhatti, R/o RZ-140, G/F, Sayed Nangloi, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 have changed my name to Kiranjo Kaur.

0040585676-2

**I Kanchan D/o** Late Sh. Chunni Lal W/o Sh. Maanoj Naarang R/o WZ-1477, Second Floor, Left Side, Rani Bagh, Shakur Basti, Delhi-110034 have changed my name to Anjali Naarang for all purposes.

0040585586-7

**I Indu Mani W/o** Nitin Joshi R/O House No. 287, S/F, Front Left Side, T-Block Extn., Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Indu Joshi

0050184521-1

**I Gudiya Devi W/O,** Bikash Kumar Prasad R/o 17/8 Shrir Para Dakshin Pally, Modal Para, Jagatdal, North 24 Pargans 743127 have changed my name to Gudiya Kumari Prasad for all purposes

0040585584-1

**I Dikshil kemwal S/O** Praveen Kumar R/O WZ-416B, GALI NO-4A, SADH NAGAR-1, PALAM COLONY, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI 110045 have changed my name to DIKSHIL DHARA for all purposes.

0050184497-1

**I Bulbul Haque F/o** SANIA PARVIN ADD. NOIDA Sec-80 PHASE-2 KAKRALA KHAWASPUR GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. Inform that mine and my wife name have been wrongly written in my daughter's documents as MD. SALAUDDIN KHAN and SAVINA PARVIN instead of BULBUL HAQUE and MEERA KUMARI respectively.

0040585605-2

**I Rajeev Khatri S/O,** Inder Sain R/o H.No.414, Ward No. 01, Jatwara, Sonipat- 131001 have changed my name to Rajiv Khatri for all purposes.

0040585582-1

**I Aman Khan S/O** Bulbul Haque, ADD. NOIDA Sec-80, PHASE-2 KAKRALA KHAWASPUR GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201301. Inform that my father and Mother name have been wrongly written in my documents as MD. SALAUDDIN KHAN and SAVINA PARVIN instead of BULBUL HAQUE and MEERA KUMARI respectively.

0040585605-1

**I Ajay Rai S/o** Indrasan Rai, R/O E-153 Gamma-1, Greater Noida, change my name to Ajay Kumar Rai for all future purposes.

0040585630-3

**KAMLA DEVI W/O** Ram Murat R/O W 121 A 383 Y Block Ioha Mandi Naraina N.D. 110028 declare that i am also known as JYOTI. Both JYOTI and KAMLA DEVI are the same person.

0070754899-1

**I Vinod Kumar Chauhan, S/O** Lachhiram Chauhan, R/o E-300, AASTHA KUNJ, SFS FLATS, SECTOR-18, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Vinod Chauhan in my minor daughter Gauri aged-17-year in her 10th-class CBSE-Documents.The actual-name of mine is Vinod Kumar Chauhan. Which may be amended accordingly.

0040585669-11

**I,Urmilla Paswan,W/O**-O-Shri Ranjeet Paswan,R/O-C-33, Nahar Pur, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sharmila Devi.

0040585664-4

**I,Sunila,W/O** Late Sh.Pal Singh Rana,R/O A-231,Pandav Nagar, Patel-Nagar, New Delhi-110008, Have Changed my Minor son Name Deepak to Deepak Singh Rana,for all purposes.

0040585658-4

**I,Sonu Kohli S/o** Rajender Kumar Kohli R/o C-572,Saraswati-Vihar, Delhi-110034,Have Changed My Minor Daughter's Name,From Aadhya Kohli to Aadhya Kohli,For all,future Purposes.

0040585671-10

**I,Shama D/o** Nazir Khan R/o Z-123 Gali No.1 Welcome Seelampur Delhi-110053,have changed my name to Shama Khan,for all purposes.

0040585669-8

**I, Sanjay Kumar, S/o** Sh.Naryan Dass Pahuja R/o H-1002, JMD Gardens, Near-Subhash Chowk,Sohna-Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Sanjay Pahuja, for all, future purposes.

0040585658-11

**I, Sanjay Kumar, S/o** Sh.Naryan Dass Pahuja, R/o H-1002, JMD-Gardens, Near-Subhash Chowk,Sohna-Road, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to Sanjay Pahuja, for all, future purposes.

0040585676-1

**I, Sakshi D/O** Bhagwan Dass, R/O 2499/191, Onkar Nagar-A, Tri-Nagar Delhi-110035, have changed my name to Sakshi Manchanda.

0040585658-6

**I, SANDHYA W/O** AJAY VAID R/O G-18/4, SECOND-FLOOR, SECTOR-15, ROHINI, DELHI-110089, CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDHYA VAID, FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040585671-9

**I, Ram S/o** Late Bharsi Lal R/o-8/288 Block-8, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091, have changed my name, from Ram to Ram Charan, for all purposes. Ram & Ram Charan is one and the same person

0040585669-7

**I, Rakesh Chand Sharma S/o-** Ramesh Chand Sharma, R/o-C-148, Sector-72, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., have changed my name to Rakesh Sharma for all, future purpose.

0040585664-2

**I, Rajinder Kaur W/o** Guljinder Singh Kalsi R/O WZ-151, Plot. No.381 Chand-Nagar Tilak-Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Rajinder Kaur Kalsi.

0040585669-4

**I, Amjinder Jaswal W/O** Jaswinder Singh R/O WZ-396D, Sri Nagar, Shakur Basti, Delhi Changed Name to Amandeep.

0040585658-7

**I, RAMESH SHOKEEN/RAMESH KUMAR SHOKEEN/ R/ATASH SINGH, R/O A-121, POCKET-00, MIG, SECTOR-2, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH KUMAR.**

0040585671-1

**I, Pratima Tiwary, W/o**-Shri Upendra Kumar Tiwary, R/O-Flat-no-307, Super Tech Avante Garde, Sector-5, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, have changed name of my daughter, Samya Tiwary to Maanvi Tiwary, for all future purposes.

0040585664-5

**I, Pooja Soni W/O** Ranjit Singh R/O, H.No-50-B, Bharat Vihar, Chander Vihar Nilothi Extension Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Simran Kaur.

0040585658-5

**I, Parveen Kumar S/o** Sh. Manohar Lal Chhabra, R/o-103A/3A, First-Floor, HIG DDA-Flats, Motia Khan, Paharganj, Swami Ram Tirth-Nagar, New Delhi-110055, have changed my name Parveen Kumar Chhabra, for all purposes. Parveen Kumar Chhabra & Parveen Kumar is one and the same person.

0040585669-9

**I, PURAN MAL, F/o** Depanesh Meena, R/o/ brahmabad, Tehsil-sikrai, Dist-dausa, Rajasthan, Have changed my minor son's name, from Depanesh meena Ankit to Deepansh meena, for all, future purposes.

0040585669-6

**I, POONAM SHOKEEN/ POONAM RANI W/O** RAMESH KUMAR R/O A-121, POCKET-00, MIG, SECTOR-2, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM.

0040585671-5

**I, Navjeet Singh, S/o** Guljinder Singh Kalsi R/O WZ-151, Plot.No.381, Chand-Nagar Tilak-Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Navjeet Singh Kalsi.

0040585669-2

**I, NEHA SOMAN/ NEHA GARG, W/O**-NITESH GARG, R/O-D 1003, THIRD-FLOOR PRASHANT-VIHAR, NORTH-WEST DELHI-110085, Changed my name to NEHA SOMAN GARG.

0040585671-3

**I, NARESH KUMAR BANSAL, S/o** Late. Ram Prasad Bansal, R/O-BC-28 Mianwali-Nagar Paschim-Vihar, Delhi-110087 I say Naresh Bansal written in pasport No. N7222679 both name are same and one person.

0040585664-8

**I, MANOJ KUMAR MISHRA, S/O** JAGADISH MISHRA ADD- G-215, M.B.ROAD LAL KUAN, SOUTH EAST/DELHI-110044, Changed my name to MANOJ MISHRA, permanently.

0040585658-9

**I, Manjubala Mali, W/o** Kishor Ranjeet Paswan, R/O-C-33, Nahar Pur, Sector-7, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Sanju Mali.

0040585658-10

**I, Mamta Rani W/o** Suresh Rana, R/O-B-281, First-Floor Lok-Vihar Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Kanchan Rana.

0040585671-2

**I, Madiya Parveen D/o**-Mohd Zahid R/o-A-79, Basti-64, Khamba Mir Dard Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002, have changed my name to MADIHA.

0040585671-7

**I, Lavjita Mehta W/o** Vipin Mehta R/o-B-238, Sarita Vihar New Delhi-110076, have changed my name to Lavjit Mehta

0040585610-2

**I, Kaushalya, Mother of**-Sohana Raj, W/o-Raj Kumar, R/o-D-303, 1st-Floor, Krishna Park, Devli Road, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Koshla, for all purposes.

0040585658-3

**I, Harshit S/O** Kuldeep Ralli R/O C-126, Millennium Apartment Sector-18, Rohini Delhi-110089, have changed my name to Harshit Ralli.

0040585664-1

**I, Indu Sharma W/o** Shri Ram Kumar Sharma R/o B-206, 2nd-floor, Back-Side DDU-Hospital, Hari Nagar, Delhi-110064, have changed my name to Indra Devi

0040585610-3

**I, Guljinder Singh, S/o** Darshan Singh Kalsi R/O WZ-151 Plot. No.381, Chand-Nagar Tilak-Nagar Delhi, have changed my name to Guljinder Singh Kalsi.

0040585669-3

**I, Gaurav Sharma S/o**-Rakesh Sharma R/O-C-148, Sector-72, Noida Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. have changed my name to Gaurav Raj Sharma for all, future purpose.

0040585664-3

**I, GUN GUN D/O**-SUSHIL KUMAR CHAURASIYA, my WRONG-D.O.B IS-17-12-2006, ACTUAL-D.O.B IS-27-09-2004, R/O-1576, E-BLOCK, JAHANGIRPURI, DELHI-3, have changed my name to JYOTI CHAURASIYA.

0040585658-2

**I, GULSHAN KUMAR, S/O** HEM RAJ, R/O, FLAT, NO-132, PLOT, NO-13A, DIAMOND-SQUARE CGHS-12D, SECTOR-6, DWARKA, DELHI-110075, have changed my name to GULSHAN KUMAR MIGLANI, for all, future purpose.

0040585671-4

**I, Furkan Khan, S/o**-Margub Alam, R/o-C-80/64 Khamba Basti Mir Dard Road, DaryaGanj Delhi-110002, have changed my name to Furqan Khan.

0040585671-8

**I, BRIJESH KUMAR, S/O** SHRI BIRBAL KUMAR, R/O-B-607, GALI, NO.34, MAHAVIR ENCLAVE PART-2, D.K. MOHAN GARDEN, WEST-DELHI, DELHI-110059, DECLARE THAT BIRBAL KUMAR CHUNNIAL AND BIRBAL KUMAR BOTH NAMES ARE THE SAME PERSON.

0040585664-9

**I, Asma Nazir, W/o** Shahid Faridi, D/o Nazirul Haque Khan, R/o-Shaukat Villa, Mahfoz Manzil-Compound, Laxmi-Bai Marg, Marris-Road, Koil, Aligarh-202001, Uttar-Pradesh, have changed my name from Asma Nazir to ASMA SHAHID, for all purposes.

0040585669-5

**I, Ashwani Kumar Sharma, S/O** Chander Bhan, R/O-A-37, DDA-Colony Khyala Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Ashwani.

0040585669-1

**I, Arvind Preet Singh** Makhija, S/O Gurcharan Singh R/O House No-7, First Floor, Kalyan Vihar, Model Town-11, Delhi-110009, Have Changed my Name to Arvind Preet Singh.

0040585658-8

**I, ASHU S/O** RAVINDRA SHARMA R/O K-1110, MANGOLPURI, DELHI-110083. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASHU SHARMA FOR ALL PURPOSES.

0040585671-6

**I, hitherto known as** SUBRAT GUPTA S/o Shri Ajeet Kumar Gupta, R/o 3/1, Firoj Gandhi Nagar, B.S.N.L. Campus, Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-229001, presently residing at A4-502, Panchsheel Greens-2, Sector-16, Near Ek Murti Chowk, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh-201308 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANKUSH GUPTA

0040585602-1

**I, Urmila W/o** Jai Kishan Tokas R/O-D-211/3, Munirka Village, New Delhi-110067 have changed my name to Urmila Tokas.

0040585593-1

**I, Sumit Aggarwal S/o** late Govindram Agarwal, R/o Lt-11/401, Paras Tierra, Sec 137, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201304, have changed my name Sumit Aggarwal to Sumit Aggarwal for all future purpose.

0040585551-2

**I, Sumit Aggarwal S/o** late Govindram Agarwal, R/o Lt-11/401, Paras Tierra, Sec 137, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201304, have changed my minor daughter name Gauri to Gauri Aggarwal for all future purpose.

0040585551-4

**I, Shashi, W/o** Rambir, R/o-1 Link-Road Bhati Chhapar Sector-36, Narsinghpur Gurgaon Haryana, have been changed my name to Shashi Bala.

0040585658-1

**I, Sumit Aggarwal S/o** late Govindram Agarwal, R/o Lt-11/401, Paras Tierra, Sec 137, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) 201304, have changed my minor daughter name Chhavi to Chhavi Aggarwal for all future purpose.

0040585551-3

**I, Sweta Sharma D/o** Late Bal Krishan Sharma R/o-C-3, Plot. No.306, Sector-4, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, UP-201010, have changed my name to SHWETA SHARMA for all future purposes.

0040585630-2

**I, Shyam Kishor Singh S/o** Ram Lakan Singh R/o-Kusdih Tendu, Halka, Palamu, Jharkhand-822131, presently at H.No.998, R.K.Puram, Sector-8 New Delhi-110022, have changed my daughter's name from Suwarna Singh

0040585630-2

**I, Shilpi Gupta, D/o** Shri D.K. Gupta, R/o 2611 D2 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070, have changed my name to Shilpi Narang

0070754909-1

**I, Shabeen kausar W/o** mohammad Raza R/o-5-K/60-B 3rd floor, NIT Faridabad, have changed my name to Shabeena Kausar

0040585610-1

**I, Ram Lagan Father of** Vikash Chaurasia, R/O-B-21 Panchsheel Vihar, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017 has changed my name to Ram Lagan Chaurasia

0040585598-1

**I, Rachna Kumari Parashar, D/o** Raghubir Sharma, R/O A-2906, First-Floor, Front-Side, Greenfield Colony, Faridabad (Haryana)-121010, have changed my name to Rachna Parashar.

0040585669-10

**I, RAJIBIR SON OF** MANOHAR SINGH R/O 8907, GALI NO 14/B, RAJA GALI, SHIDI PURA, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005 declare I sworn an Affidavit before The Learned NOTARY ATTESTED on date 09.09.2021 for change my Previous Name SURESH to my Present NAME RAJIBIR. Henceforth, I recognized and known as RAJIBIR instead of SURESH. That SURESH and RAJIBIR is same and one identical

0040585633-1

**I, Pramod Kumar S/o** Ram Chander Sharma R/o Qtr.692, Type3, New Tihar Complex, Janak Puri, Delhi-58. I declare that my name is wrongly mentioned as Pramod Mudgal instead of Pramod kumar and has been written in school records of my son Pratham Mudgal and Mayank Mudgal. My actual name in passport and Pan card is Pramod Kumar.

0070754900-1

**I, Neeraj Kumar S/o** Shispal Singh R/O-122, Khwajpur, Jewar, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. declare that in my son's (Shikhar Chaudhary) education documents my name is wrongly mentioned-as Neeraj Chaudhary instead of Neeraj Kumar. My correct name is Neeraj Kumar.

0040585630-5

**I, NUZHAT YASMEEN D/O** MOHD Irfan R/O, 1028 RAJAN STREET FARASH KHANA DELHI -110006, have changed my name to NUZHAT YASMIN

0070754907-1

**I, Jai Kishan S/o** Rati Ram Tokas R/O-D-211/3, Munirka Village, New Delhi-110067 have changed my name to Jai Kishan Tokas.

0040585593-2

**I, Ishan Yashraj Rege** @ Ishan Rege, R/o 712A, Mahagun Manor, F-30, Sec-50, Noida-201301, U.P. have changed my name to Ishan Rege for all future purposes.

0040585627-1

**I, Harshita Negi W/o** Shri Harish Singh Negi R/o H.No. C-118/1, Street No.8, West Vind Nagar, Delhi-110092, have changed my name to Hema Negi for all future purposes.

0040585597-1

**I, Bal Krishan Singh S/o** Shri Chhotay Singh R/o SMQ-59, Air force Station Hindan, Ghaziabad U.P. 201004 & Permanent resident of 59, Vill Sihawal, Po Jigna, Distt Mirzapur, U.P. 231313 wish to inform that the name of my father has been wrongly mentioned as CHHOTAY SINGH in my passport, however the correct name is CHHOTAY SINGH.

0070754897-1

**I, Rahim Uddin R/o** 3203, 2nd Floor, Kucha Tara Chand, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 have changed minor son's name from Noor E Mohammed Raahim to Raahim Noor

0040585656-2

**I, Avadhesh Kumar S/o** Sh. Sher Singh R/o Flat No. JAC-8/12, Jacaranda Road, Shipra Sun City, Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014 have changed the name of my minor son Aryan Kumar aged 14 Years and he shall hereafter be known as Aryan Kumar Arora.

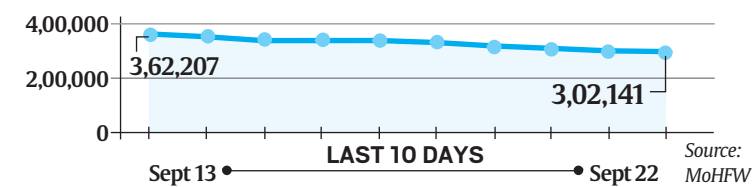
0040585588-1

**I, Asma W/o** Farhan Ahmed, R/O 5770/73, Basti Harphool Singh, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006, have changed my name from Asma to ASHMA for all purposes

0040585602-2

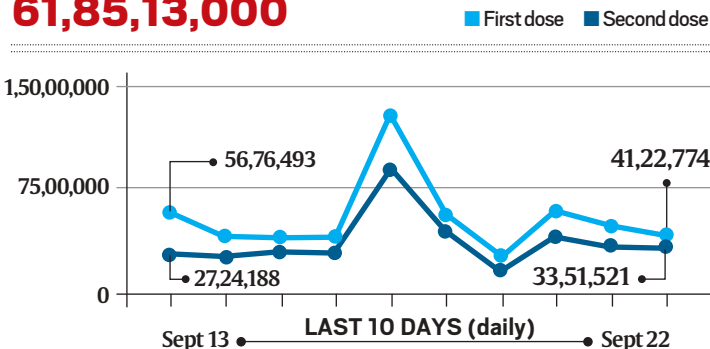
**I, Arti Gupta D/o** Suresh Prasad Gupta spouse of Pramod Kumar R/o SMQ 502/4, Air Force Station Naliya, Ta Abdasa, Dist- Kutch(Gujarat), Pin-37





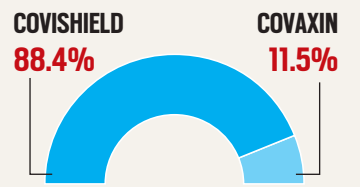
## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

**TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA** (at least one dose)  
**61,85,13,000**



**TOTAL DOSES**  
**83,39,90,049**

(Sputnik V's 9,04,319 doses not represented in pie)



**DOSES ON SEPT 22 74,74,295**  
**SEPT 21: 80,01,927** (48,22,066 1st doses; 31,79,861 2nd)

*Note: The Sept 22 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 23  
Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on September 23*

## Winged microchip is 'smallest human-made flying structure'



The microflier does not have a motor on engine, but catches flight on the wind.

Northwestern University

NORTHWESTERN University engineers have created an electronic microchip with the capability of flight. About the size of a grain of sand, the new flying microchip (or "microflier") does not have a motor or engine. Instead, it catches flight on the wind — much like a maple tree's propeller seed — and spins like a helicopter through the air toward the ground.

A release by Northwestern University described these microfliers as the "smallest-ever human-made flying structures". The research has been published in Nature and is featured on the cover of the journal.

By studying maple trees and other types of wind-dispersed seeds, the engineers optimised the microflier's aerodynamics to ensure that it — when dropped at a high elevation — falls at a slow velocity in a controlled manner. This behaviour stabilizes its flight, ensures dispersal over a broad area and increases the amount of time it interacts with the air, making it ideal for monitoring air pollution and airborne disease. These microfliers also

can be packed with ultra-miniaturised technology, including sensors, power sources, antennas for wireless communication and embedded memory to store data, the release said.

"Our goal was to add winged flight to small-scale electronic systems, with the idea that these capabilities would allow us to distribute highly functional, miniaturised electronic devices to sense the environment for contamination monitoring, population surveillance or disease tracking," the release quoted John A Rogers, who led the device's development, as saying.

The team designed and built many different types of microfliers, including one with three wings, optimised to similar shapes and angles as the wings on a tristellateia seed. To pinpoint the most ideal structure, they led full-scale computational modeling of how the air flows around the device to mimic the tristellateia seed's slow, controlled rotation. Based on this modelling, the team then built and tested structures in the lab.

Source: Northwestern University



NEW RESEARCH



SANDEEP SINGH & GEORGE MATHEW

STOCK EXCHANGES that were nervous ahead of the Federal Reserve's meeting on Wednesday cheered the US central bank's statement reiterating that it would maintain an 'accommodative stance' until inflation and employment targets had been met.

Indications that rates may be raised towards the end of 2022, and that the tapering of the Fed's bond purchase programme would be gradual and spread into the middle of next year, have brought comfort to market participants.

The Sensex at the Bombay Stock Exchange on Thursday jumped 958 points (1.6 per cent), closing at a new high of 59,885. The broader Nifty at the National Stock Exchange rose by 1.57 per cent, to close at 17,882. The markets have also reflected the waning of concerns over possible default on debt repayment by the Chinese real estate giant Evergrande.

### What did the Federal Reserve say?

Even as it outlined the risks to economic outlook in line with the course of the coronavirus, the Federal Reserve, in its statement issued on Wednesday, said it would continue to "maintain an accommodative stance of monetary policy" until it achieves an inflation moderately above 2 per cent.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which sets US monetary policy, has decided to keep the target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 per cent. It "expects it will be appropriate to maintain this target range until labour market conditions have reached levels consistent with the Committee's assessments of maximum employment and inflation has risen to 2 per cent, and is on track to moderately exceed 2 per cent for some time".

### What did the Fed say on the infusion of liquidity?

The Fed had said earlier that it would moderate the pace of asset purchases; it said on Wednesday that if progress in the economy continues, moderation in the pace of asset purchase "may soon be warranted".

Markets expect the Fed to start the tapering process from November, which may lead to a slowing of the flow of liquidity. Markets

## What new WHO pollution norms mean for India

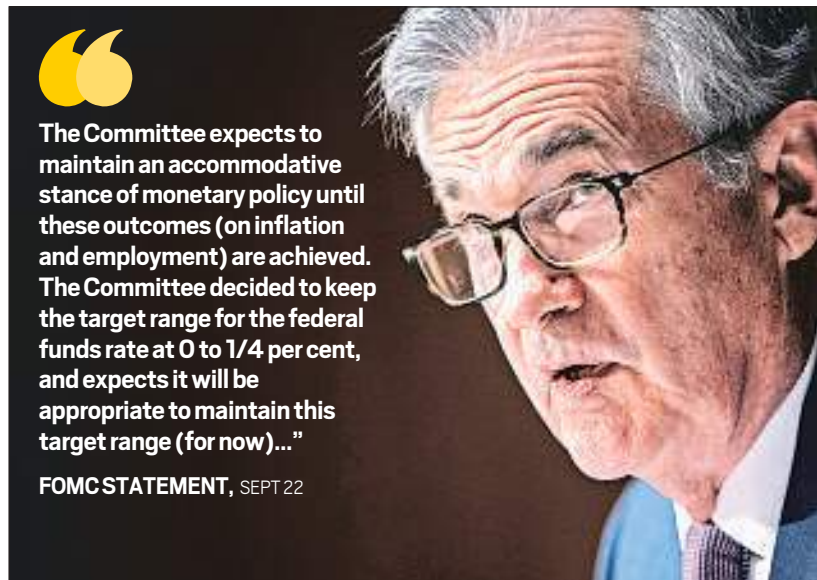
AMITABH SINHA  
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 23

NEW AIR quality norms released by the World Health Organization on Wednesday are likely to ignite a fresh round of discussion on air pollution in India. These norms would make India appear worse than it already looked under the existing norms. Considering the current situation, even the older WHO norms were beyond India's reach in the foreseeable future. The new standards are unlikely to be achieved for several years.

Beyond that, the revised standards are an acknowledgment of the mounting scientific evidence that points to a much higher risk to human health from air pollution than was earlier known. The appropriate response, therefore, would be a more focused effort to mitigate these risks and prevent the loss of lives.

### No quick fixes

There is unlikely to be any dramatic im-



Jerome Powell, Chair of the US Federal Reserve. NYT Archive

have risen significantly on account of excess liquidity worldwide, which has been channelled into equity markets; a slowing of the bond-buying programme will reduce its availability, and diversion into the markets.

The Fed currently purchases treasury securities of at least \$80 billion, and mortgage-backed securities of at least \$40 billion per month.

### What does the Fed's decision mean?

Asset purchases could decline by \$15 billion per month, and an end to asset purchases by mid-2022 will strengthen the case for raising rates in 2023. The updated Summary of Economic Projections now implies three rate hikes by 25 basis points in 2023, and the Fed is split over delivering the first increase in 2022.

Inflation of over 2% is firmly signalled for the entire forecast horizon that had been extended until 2024. "We expect the Federal Reserve to act on the dovish side of the median of the new projection, as Chairman Powell most likely favours hiking rates in 2023. The more hawkish outcome of the FOMC meeting is seen as a sign of strength

that the US economic recovery and reflation of the economy is on the right path. The indicated more aggressive interest-rate path is supportive for the US dollar in the short term," David Kohl, chief economist at Julius Baer, said.

Analysts say the tapering is likely to be calibrated, and non-disruptive for financial markets — which means foreign investors are unlikely to suddenly exit India. The RBI's monetary policy and unwinding measures will likely be in line with the US tapering decision.

### FPI NET INVESTMENT INTO INDIAN EQUITIES IN 2021

January	19,473
February	25,787
March	10,482
April	-9,659
May	-2,954
June	17,215
July	-11,308
August	2,083
September	12,921
<b>Total</b>	<b>64,040</b>

All figures in ₹ crore

### Why did the markets rise on Thursday?

That had more to do with the Fed's statement on raising interest rates — the markets derived comfort from the continuation of the accommodative monetary policy stance for now.

Market participants believe that interest rate hikes are still some time away — which is good for Indian equities. Low interest rates in the US will ensure continued fund flows from foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) into Indian equities, while existing investments will likely stay put for now. FPI flows into Indian equities amounted to Rs 2,083 crore in August; it has risen sharply in September,

across the country.

The Ujjwala scheme would probably have already started making a difference in the households where traditional cooking fuel has been permanently replaced by LPG in the last few years. The health impacts of indoor air pollution are not very well appreciated even now, but study after study has shown that it is as big a killer as outdoor air pollution.

The faster India moves ahead on these projects, the quicker it is likely to see improvements in air quality. The fallout of these projects on air quality is expected to be far greater than any fancy ideas like artificial rain or an odd-even scheme for private transport.

### Low hanging fruit

The improvement is likely to be slow even if sustained push is maintained on all these projects. This realisation is reflected in India's National Clean Air Programme as well. The targets set for the selected cities are quite modest and would take several years to be

and stood at a net of Rs 12,921 crore on Thursday.

In its last policy statement, the Fed delinked tapering and rate hikes; on Wednesday, it put stringent conditions with respect to inflation and employment for a rate increase. Many feel it may be some time before employment targets are achieved — there is, thus, hope that a rate hike could be 12-15 months away.

"The comfort came from Fed's indication that tapering will not be sudden when it starts in November and will continue till June 2022, and also from the fact that the committee has laid down stringent conditions for a rate hike. I think that the rate hike will only start towards the end of calendar 2022," Pankaj Pandey, head of research at ICICIdirect.com, said.

Improving domestic economic conditions, the rising pace of vaccination, and the reduction of concern around Evergrande, also boosted the markets.

### Where are markets headed now?

There is a consensus among participants that domestic markets will ride more on local factors going forward. There is hope that faster vaccination will result in a milder third wave of Covid if it strikes, and that the economy will witness further reopening and faster consumption-driven growth.

The head of a leading global financial services firm said consumption is expected to increase closer to Diwali, and credit growth will see a pick-up over the next two months. Over the last couple of weeks, banks and housing finance companies have announced cuts in home loan rates in anticipation of increased demand in the housing sector. If the RBI's liquidity unwinding comes in 2022-23, fund flow into markets is will also likely come down.

While markets are expected to remain strong, it is important to note that high valuations will keep participants on the edge, and any adverse news may lead to sharp reactions.

"This bull market has been an almost one-way street for almost 18 months now. More importantly, this is almost a global phenomenon with China, Hong Kong, and a few other countries being the only exceptions," V KVijayakumar, chief investment strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said.

Earlier this week, fears of Evergrande defaulting spooked markets worldwide. While the markets recovered over the next couple of sessions, retail investors should either invest through mutual funds, or go with fundamentally strong, big companies. They should also not get carried away by daily news flows; long-term investors need not lose sleep over intra-day or weekly market movements.

achieved.

But there are a number of rather low-hanging fruits that can deliver appreciable benefits within a short span of time. Unfortunately, not enough attention is paid to these, even though these are easy and cost-effective to implement. Plenty of construction is happening all across the country — houses, roads, commercial centres, airports — and this is likely to continue for a couple of decades.

India still does this construction in a very unclear manner. The construction site is not covered or segregated, construction material or debris are kept in the open, and transported in open trucks. Almost all construction sites are dust bowls.

India's roads don't conform to basic construction sites. The corners of the roads are not properly paved, leading to the release of lots of very harmful particles. The sidewalks and road dividers are major sources of dust.

It is easy to fix these if the local municipal bodies want to. And there are significant gains to be achieved in terms of air quality.

## Maharashtra civic polls: how multi-member ward system works

VISHWAS WAGHMODE  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

THE MAHA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra on Wednesday took a decision to reintroduce the multi-member ward system for all municipal councils and corporations barring the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), instead of the existing single-member ward system. The decision comes ahead of municipal council and corporation elections to be held later this year and early next year.

### What is the multi-member ward system?

There will be a three-member ward system in municipal corporations and a two-member ward system in municipal councils.

In other words, municipal seats will be demarcated together to create a three- and two-member ward system in corporations and councils respectively. There will be no change in the number of wards or corporations; the wards will be bunched together only for the purpose of the election.

Those contesting from the same party or alliance across the designated multi-member ward will campaign across the two or three wards, although they will file their nomination from individual wards. If elected, each will represent the individual ward only. Voters, however, will be able to select candidates in their own ward as well as in the other wards clubbed together in the multi-member ward.

Although candidates from the same party/alliance in a multi-member ward will be called a "panel", a voter does not really se-

lect a panel, but individual candidates, who can be from the same party or from different parties. A voter is also entitled to select just one candidate. But for this, the voter has to make a written submission to the presiding officer of the booth. This is to ensure documentary proof in case a party or candidate goes to court questioning how a candidate got fewer votes than others.

### When has the system been tried before?

A three-member ward system in municipal corporations was introduced in 2001 by then Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh. It was scrapped in 2006. In 2011, Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan introduced a two-member ward system for municipal corporations and a four-member system for councils. In 2016, Chief Minister M Devendra Fadnavis changed it to a four-

member system for corporations and a three-member system for councils.

In December 2019, the MVA government decided to scrap it and revert to the single-member ward system. But with several upcoming municipal corporation and council polls, the NCP and Congress preference for the multi-member ward system has prevailed.

### What is the rationale?

The reason for the non-partisan support to this scheme is that it appears to help a party or alliance maximise its seats. A party can offset weak candidates with strong ones in a multi-member ward. The hope is that the strongest of the candidates will carry the day for the others in the "panel", even though this is not guaranteed.

The state Urban Development

Department notifies rules for the manner of allotment and rotation of reservation of seats of corporators in wards. Subsequently, the State Election Commission undertakes an exercise for the allotment for seats for the reserved category and rotating them, said sources.

This decision will help field one woman as well as OBC and open category candidates in the panel and there would be no injustice to anybody. Nobody will be impacted due to reservation in any particular ward. All sections will get justice in forming a three-member panel," said Nawab Malik, NCP minister, adding that it would also help the three allies to jointly field candidates wherever possible.

### Will it cause a delay in holding the polls?

There was speculation that the MVA has

done this to delay polls in order to win time to bring back the OBC quota, scrapped by the Supreme Court in March, in local bodies. But State Election Commission sources said the multi-member ward system will come into effect the day the government amends the law either through an ordinance or a Bill but it will not lead to deferring the polls.

"We have already started the process of drafting ward boundaries of municipal corporations. We can make changes, as it is not a huge exercise. So, it will not lead to deferring of local bodies polls," said a senior SEC official.

An ordinance has to be promulgated, and sent to the Governor for approval.

### Why has the BMC been left out?

Sources said the single-member ward system is maintained in BMC due to the population and huge size of wards in BMC.



TOPOF THE  
WORLD

Heidi Crowter arrives at the High Court in London, Thursday. AP

## BRITAIN

## Woman with Down syndrome loses abortion law challenge

A WOMAN with Down syndrome lost a court challenge against the British government Thursday over a law allowing the abortion up until birth of a fetus with the condition. Heidi Crowter, 26, and two others took the Department of Health and Social Care to court, arguing that part of the Abortion Act is discriminatory. Abortions in Britain are allowed up till 24 weeks of pregnancy. But the law states that terminations can be allowed up until birth if there's "a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped," which includes Down syndrome. Crowter has said that she found the legislation "offensive" and disrespectful. AP

## USA

## Carmakers, Intel, Apple to attend White House meet on chip shortage

INTEL CHIEF Executive Pat Gelsinger plans to attend a virtual White House meeting on the global chip shortage on Thursday, along with representatives from companies including Apple, Microsoft, Samsung Electronics, GM and Ford, sources said. The meeting will be hosted by US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese. Topics will include the impact of the coronavirus Delta variant on chip supplies and how to better coordinate between chip producers and consumers. REUTERS

## ISRAEL

## Custody case opens over boy, 6, sole survivor of cable car disaster

A TEL AVIV family court held its first hearing on Thursday in a custody battle over a six-year-old boy, the sole survivor of an Italian cable car disaster, who was taken to Israel by his grandfather without permission of family in Italy. Family members based in the two countries dispute who should look after Eitan Biran, whose parents, younger brother and 11 other people all died when a gondola plunged to the ground in northern Italy in May. REUTERS

## 'WHAT WOULD IT BECOME? JAIKUS? JAIAUKUS?': WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECY

# US rules out adding India or Japan to security alliance with Australia, UK

LALIT K JHA

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

THE US has ruled out adding India or Japan to the new Indo-Pacific trilateral security partnership with Australia and Britain.

On September 15, US President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson jointly announced the formation of the trilateral security alliance AUKUS, under which Australia would get a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

"The announcement of AUKUS last week was not meant to be an indication, and I think this is the message the President also sent to (French President Emmanuel) Macron, that there is no one else who will be involved in security in the Indo-Pacific," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters at her daily news conference on Wednesday.

Psaki was responding to a question if countries like India and Japan whose leaders would be in Washington this week for the first in-person Quad Summit



US President Joe Biden with UK Minister Boris Johnson in the Oval Office of the White House on Tuesday. AP

would be made part of the new security alliance.

The Quad comprises India, the US, Japan and Australia. US President Joe Biden is hosting the first in-person Quad summit at the White House on September 24.

"On Friday you'll have the Australians there (for the Quad summit). But then you also have India and Japan. Would you envision for them a similar kind of military role that you've now defined for with the Australians?" a journalist asked.

"AUKUS? What would it be-

come? JAIKUS? JAIAUKUS?" Psaki said in lighter moments before giving answer to the question.

The trilateral security alliance AUKUS, seen as an effort to counter China in the Indo-Pacific, will allow the US and the UK to provide Australia with the technology to develop nuclear-powered submarines for the first time.

China has sharply criticised the trilateral alliance, saying such exclusive grouping has no future and will gravely undermine regional stability and aggravate the arms race and hurt international non-proliferation efforts. PTI



Haitian deportees arriving to the airport in Port-au-Prince earlier this week. NYT

## US special envoy to Haiti quits over 'inhumane' migrant deportations

DAINA BETH SOLOMON &amp; HUMEYRA PAMUK

CIUDAD ACUNA, WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

THE US special envoy to Haiti resigned in protest in a letter that blasted the Biden administration for deporting hundreds of migrants back to the crisis-engulfed Caribbean nation from a camp on the US-Mexican border in recent days.

Daniel Foote, a career diplomat named to his post in July, said conditions in Haiti were so bad that US officials were confined to secure compounds. He said the "collapsed state" was unable to support the infusion of returning migrants.

"I will not be associated with the United States' inhumane, counterproductive decision to deport thousands of Haitian refugees and illegal immigrants," Foote said in a letter addressed to Secretary of State Antony Blinken that circulated publicly on Thursday.

Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, has gone through profound instability in recent weeks, including a presidential assassination, gang violence and a major earthquake.

The US has returned more than 1,400 migrants from the camp in Del Rio, Texas to Haiti — including families — and moved over 3,200 people for processing away from the encampment. Department of Homeland Security officials said on Thursday. At its peak on Sept. 18 there were some 15,000 people there.

The population has been reduced to around 4,000 by expulsion flights, detentions and releases. Others have left the dusty riverbank for Mexico to avoid being sent home.

Filippo Grandi, the head of the UN refugee agency, warned that this week the US expulsions to Haiti might violate international law.

Foote submitted his resignation to Blinken Wednesday, a State Department spokesperson said, adding that Washington was committed to the long-term well-being of Haiti, as well as offering help to returning migrants.

The resignation follows growing pressure on the administration of US President Joe Biden from the United Nations and his fellow Democrats over the treatment of Haitians in the sprawling impromptu migrant camp. REUTERS

## New US EPA rule sharply limits HFCs, gases used as refrigerants

MATTHEW DALY

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 23

IN WHAT officials call a key step to combat climate change, the US Environmental Protection Agency is sharply limiting domestic production and use of hydrofluorocarbons, highly potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators and air conditioners.

The new rule announced Thursday follows through on a law Congress passed last year and is intended to decrease US production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years, part of a global phaseout designed to slow global warming.

The administration also is taking steps to crack down on imports of HFCs, greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide. President Joe Biden has pledged to embrace a 2016



Hydrofluorocarbons are commonly used in refrigerators and A/Cs. AP

global agreement to greatly reduce HFCs by 2036.

White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy, a former EPA administrator, said the new rule was "a win on climate and a win on jobs and American competitiveness." The rule is set to take effect in late October.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the phasedown is backed by a coalition of industry

## EXPLAINED Significant move

HYDROFLUOROCARBONS (HFCs) are considered a major driver of global warming, and are much more powerful greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. The new rule to restrict their use is expected to reduce harmful emissions by the equivalent of 4.5 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2050, according to officials. This is reportedly similar to three years of emissions from the US power sector.

groups that see it as an opportunity to "supercharge" American leadership on domestic manufacturing and production of alternative refrigerants. AP

## One to charge them all: EU demands single plug for phones

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 23

THE EUROPEAN Union unveiled plans Thursday that would require smartphone makers to adopt a single charging method for mobile devices.

The EU Commission proposed legislation Thursday that would mandate USB-C cables for charging, technology that many device makers have already adopted. The main hold-out is Apple, which has resisted the bloc's efforts for a unified standard. iPhones come with the company's own Lightning charging port, though the newest models come with ca-



EU proposed legislation that would mandate USB-C cables for charging

bles that can be plugged into a USB-C socket.

The push by the EU will certainly be cheered by the millions of people who have searched through a drawer full of cables for the right charger. But the EU also wants to cut down on the 11,000

metric tons of electronic waste thrown out every year by Europeans.

The commission said the typical person living in the EU owns at least three chargers, and use two regularly, but 38% of people report not being able to charge their phones at least once because they couldn't find a compatible charger. Some 420 million mobile phones or portable electronic devices were sold in the EU last year. "Chargers power all our most essential electronic devices. With more and more devices, more and more chargers are sold that are not interchangeable or not necessary. We are putting an end to that," Thierry Breton, the EU's internal market commissioner, said.

## MEANWHILE

## NOBEL CEREMONIES TO BE CURTAILED AGAIN

The Nobel Prize ceremonies will be reined in and scaled-down for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic, the foundation behind the coveted prizes said. The winners of this year's prizes in chemistry, literature, physics, medicine and economics, as well as the Nobel Peace Prize, are set to be announced between Oct 4 and Oct 11.



## Taliban official says strict punishment, executions will return

KATHY GANNON

KABUL, SEPTEMBER 23

ONE OF the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers.

"Everyone criticised us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi said, speaking in Kabul. "No one will tell us what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will recreate their harsh rule of the late 1990s. Turabi's comments pointed to how the group's leaders remain entrenched in a deeply conservative, hard-line worldview, even if they are embracing technological changes, like video and cellphones.

Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — effectively, the religious police — during the Taliban's previous rule.

At the time, executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head. For con-



Mullah Nooruddin Turabi

## TALIBAN UNLIKELY TO PARTICIPATE IN UNGA; DIPLOMATS OF OLD GOVT STILL IN OFFICE

*United Nations:* The Taliban, who rule Afghanistan after overthrowing the government of President Ashraf Ghani, are unlikely to represent their country at the high-level United Nations General Assembly session as representatives of the ousted dispensation still occupy the office at the UN, a Pakistan's Dawn newspaper said on Thursday. Afghanistan is scheduled to address the on-going UN General Assembly session on Sept 27. On Sept 20, the Taliban-controlled government had sent a letter to UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, saying it wanted to participate in the 76th UNGA session in New York. PTI

victed thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand.

Turabi said the same punishments would be revived.

"Cutting off of hands is very necessary for security," he said, saying it had a deterrent effect. He said the Cabinet was studying whether to do punishments in public and will "develop a policy". AP

## Be patient, engage, don't isolate: Pak's Qureshi details Taliban plan

EDITH M LEDERER

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT 23

BE REALISTIC. Show patience. Engage. And above all, don't isolate. Those are the pillars of an approach emerging in Pakistan to deal with the fledgling government that is suddenly running the country next door once again — Afghanistan's resurgent, often-volatile Taliban.

Pakistan's government is proposing that the international community develop a road map that leads to diplomatic recognition of the Taliban — with incentives if they fulfill its requirements — and then sit down face to face and talk it out with the militia's leaders.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi outlined the idea Wednesday in an interview with The Associated Press on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's meeting of world leaders. "If they live up to those expectations, they would make it easier for themselves, they will get acceptability, which is required for recognition," Qureshi told the AP. "At the same time, the international community has to realize: What's the alternative? What are the options? This is the reality, and can they turn away from this reality?"



Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi

He said Pakistan "is in sync with the international community" in wanting to see a peaceful, stable Afghanistan with no space for terrorist elements to increase their foothold, and for the Taliban to ensure "that Afghan soil is never used again against any country."

"But we are saying, be more realistic in your approach," Qureshi said. "Try an innovative way of engaging with them. The way that they were being dealt with has not worked."

He urged the US, the IMF and other countries that have frozen Afghan government funds to immediately release the money so it can be used "for promoting normalcy in Afghanistan." And he pledged that Pakistan is ready to play a "constructive, positive" role in opening communications channels with the Taliban because it, too, benefits from peace and stability. AP

## FRANCE'S QUANDARY: HOW TO ACT AS AN INDEPENDENT POWER WHILE DEPENDING ON ALLIES

# France, which is striving for global power, is still struggling to get it

MAX FISHER

SEPTEMBER 23

FOR FRANCE, the recent geopolitical drama — its nixed submarine sale to Australia, and its furious response to the United States' jumping the deal — encapsulates a problem the once-mighty nation has struggled with for decades: how to assert itself as an independent power, which French leaders see as essential, while maintaining the alliances on which they know France relies.

Reconciling that dilemma between independence and reliance has animated and bedeviled French strategy ever since World

War II left most of Europe subjugated to foreign superpowers.

Although Americans sometimes see French willfulness as animated by vanity or a desire to reclaim long-lost imperial pride, French leaders are keenly aware that they lead a medium-sized power in a world dominated by larger ones.

The planned submarine sale follows a long line of moves calibrated to project French power, maintaining the country's ability to steer its own fate, while aligning with the allies whose help Paris knows it needs, paradoxically, to stand on its own.

But losing the contract highlighted the difficulty of achiev-

ing both. So did France's response. Recalling its ambassador to Washington was meant to show that it was not afraid to stand up even to allies. At the same time, in seeking European support against the perceived US betrayal, Paris demonstrated that it feels compelled to seek outside support even in this.

"For the French, independence has always meant autonomy," said Bruno Tertrais, deputy director of the Foundation for Strategic Research in Paris.

"But that has never been 100% independent. What matters is that it's 99% independent," he said, but he added that this brings "fundamental tensions" that cannot



French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of an official event. NYT

be resolved so much as managed.

The history behind why French leaders feel they must try anyway, and the challenges they have faced ever since, both underscore why the recent events so infuriated Paris.

The war and its aftermath, which left Europe divided between US and Soviet forces and

saw Washington exerting new pressure on its now-junior allies, many of which it also militarily occupied, convinced the French that accepting a future as one of many in a US-led alliance, as the British and West Germans had, would mean subjugation.

The arrival of the nuclear era, with its threat of total annihilation,

convinced the French that they would have to secure their own way in the world, even if it would sometimes upset the allies whose help they would need to do it.

Charles de Gaulle, president from 1959 to 1969, sought Washington's help in unifying Western Europe against the Soviets. But he also undermined US influence at every turn, the better to assert French leadership instead.

He oversaw France's emergence as a nuclear power, ejected US troops from France, withdrew from NATO and tried to persuade West Germany to loosen its ties to that same alliance.

"The fact that he did this

while expecting continued protection of the NATO alliance only added to the Americans' exasperation," historian John Lewis Gaddis wrote.

As the era of nuclear stand-offs has faded, France has shifted to more contemporary tools. It leverages its UN Security Council seat to act as diplomatic peer to the major powers. It sends peacekeepers to global hot spots. And it sells sophisticated weapons abroad.

President Emmanuel Macron of France has sought a more supportive approach than de Gaulle. Although he signed on to an EU trade deal with China, he has otherwise aligned with

the U.S.-led push to contain it, exerting pressure within Europe and supply arms to like-minded countries abroad.

But Macron has maintained that independent streak, pushing for the European Union, for example, to take over regional military duties from Washington-led NATO.

It highlights the challenge in his 21st-century update on Gaullism: cultivating a unified Europe that can stand as peer to the United States or China. This was supposed to bring France, as informal leader, a vehicle for its ambitions and, for all Europe, escape from American dominance. NYT







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CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: [www.pspcl.in](http://www.pspcl.in)  
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**Tender Enquiry No. 274/HPS/ED-/IS-413 Dated: 21.09.2021**

SE/Hydel Projects, PSPCL, Shed A-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 4 sets of Microprocessor based Static Excitation Equipment along with accessories (including dismantling of existing Panels, Equipment, Cables etc.) for 4x15 MW Machine of Shanan Power House, PSPCL, Joginder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP).

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24.09.2021 onward.

**NOTE:** Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

C-346-21 8166/Pb

**यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**

(अनुसंधान और विकास) (अनुसंधान और विकास) (अनुसंधान और विकास)  
CIN: U15209UP1910SGC034233  
अनुसंधान और विकास, पंजाब, भारत-12, K-362A, 8 & 9, अनामिका, पंजाब-150005  
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पत्रांक: 10/22/गोपनीयता/परिचालन/निर्माण/ 22.09.2021

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

जनपद झारखी के मण्डलीय होमगार्ड प्रशिक्षण संस्थान झारखी में अवरोध कार्य एवं महत्वपूर्ण लक्ष्यवादी सैनिकता कालेज, झारखी में ग्राइडेट बार्ड के जीर्णोद्धार कार्य में अवरोध कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा सूचना सं 06/PM-12/UPPCL/2021-22 दिनांक 22.09.2021 द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इस निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 24.09.2021 से दिनांक 29.09.2021 के अग्रान्त 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड (अपलोड की जा सकती है) ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, निचम एवं शर्त कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट [www.upprojects.org](http://www.upprojects.org) पर दिनांक 24.09.2021 से देखी जा सकती है।

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**CORRIGENDUM TO E-TENDER NOTICE**

This office e-tender specification No. CCP-10/24/2021-2022 invited previously for supply of Three Phase, Four Wire (10-60A) Electronic KWH energy meters with box is hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The e-tender can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 05.10.2021. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 05.10.2021 at 15:30 hrs. Other terms and conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website [www.uktpco.org](http://www.uktpco.org).

No. 377/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Superintending Engineer  
Dated: 22/09/2021 Corporate (Contract & Procurement-II)

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION Use W.E.D. bid save Electricity (Toll Free No. 1812) "Pay Electricity bill online 24/7 from [www.escl.org](http://www.escl.org)" (For information of Electricity theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 18001384195/ Fax No.: 0135-2768111)

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (POWER WING)**

**Corrigendum-II Notice Inviting E-tender** NIT No. BP-2639  
Name of office: Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, 99MB (PW), Nangal.  
Name of Work: Replacement of 220 KV Single bus conductor bus bar with twin 0.5 Sq. inch ACSR Monocable conductor bus bar & 2 No. Isolators at 220 KV Switchyard & supply of Hardware for Bhakra Right Bank Power House of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).

Last date for download tender documents 12.10.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.  
Last date for submission of online bid 12.10.2021 up to 17:00 Hrs.  
Due date for opening bid (part-I) 13.10.2021 at 11:00 Hrs.

For detailed NIT & Earnest money to be deposited please visit BBMB website [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in) and [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in) or [bbmb@bbmb.gov.in](mailto:bbmb@bbmb.gov.in)  
Dy. Chief Engineer, Bhakra Power Houses Circle, BBMB (PW), Nangal  
823-PR-Generation-6 For your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**SEARCH FOR MISSING MALE**

General Public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo) namely Raghunath Malik S/o Ranojeet R/o H.No.7/12, Gall No.8/9, I-Block, Batta Road, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi Aged-27 Years has been reported missing since 04.08.2021 at around 9 AM from his residence vide DD No.95A Dated 06.08.2021 registered at Police Station Swaroop Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 5'3", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Clothing:** Green coloured shirt, Blue coloured pant and white coloured shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
FAX No. : 011-24368639 Tel. : 011-27811415  
DP/1262/ON/2021 Mob.: 7065036327

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A-4, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-63 Tel: 25275055 / 25278443  
Websites: [www.bvicam.ac.in](http://www.bvicam.ac.in) / [www.bvcoend.ac.in](http://www.bvcoend.ac.in)

All candidates seeking admission under 10% reserved Management Category seats for 2021-2022 at Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Applications and Management (BVICAM) and College of Engineering (BVCOE), New Delhi, shall apply in the form available in the office latest by Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2021 up to 04:30 p.m. Admission will be done on merit as per the guidelines of GGSIP University and Govt. of NCT Delhi. Further instructions for counseling and admissions will be available on the College Notice Boards and Websites.

**BSES BSes Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi**

**TENDER NOTICE** Date: 24.09.2021

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Cost of EMD (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/21-22/RB/MKD/955	SUPPLY OF NUMERICAL RELAYS & ACCESSORIES FOR RENOVATION OF EXISTING CONTROL AND RELAY PANELS IN BRPL, NEW DELHI, INDIA.	5.1 Crores	5.10 Lacs	15.10.2021 15:30 HRS	15.10.2021 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/RB/AR/956	SCHEME No. MN21EL2045 - E/O 821 HOUSES AT BAKKARWALA	1.06 Crores	2.13 Lacs	14.10.2021 15:30 HRS	14.10.2021 15:45 HRS
CMC/BR/21-22/RB/MKD/957	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF CONDUCTOR REQUIRED FOR IN-HOUSE REPAIRING OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS IN BRPL (FOR TWO YEARS)	7.0 Crores	7.0 Lacs	15.10.2021 15:30 HRS	15.10.2021 15:45 HRS

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1180/- (Including GST)

For any query call on 011-49207235 or e-mail on [BPFL.Eaution@relanceada.com](mailto:BPFL.Eaution@relanceada.com)

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc, please visit our website [www.bssesdelhi.com](http://www.bssesdelhi.com)

Head (Contracts & Materials)  
Regd. Off.: BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527  
Telephone No. : +91 11 4920 7235 | E-mail : [bpfl.eaution@relanceada.com](mailto:bpfl.eaution@relanceada.com) | Website : [www.bssesdelhi.com](http://www.bssesdelhi.com)

**PUNJAB STATE SPORTS COUNCIL**  
(Punjab Govt. Undertaking)  
SCO. No. 116-117, SECTOR 34-A CHANDIGARH, TELEPHONE NO -0172-2606400, 2668794.  
E-mail ID: [directorsportspunjab2018@gmail.com](mailto:directorsportspunjab2018@gmail.com) & [sportsrxen@gmail.com](mailto:sportsrxen@gmail.com)

No.- 3202  
Dated:- 23.09.2021

**Secure Online Submission of Tenders**

Online tenders on item rate basis as per the DNIT are invited on two bid system (Technical Bid & Financial Bid) for the following works:

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Last Date of online submission of Bidding Documents	Opening of Bidding Documents
1.	Providing & Installation of 500 Nos. Open Air Gyms complete in all respect in the State of Punjab.	14.10.2021 11:00 AM	14.10.2021 03:00 PM To be intimated later on.
2.	Purchase of 13500 Sports Kits (Cricket Kit, Football, Volleyball and Volleyball Net) in the State of Punjab.	14.10.2021 11:00 AM	14.10.2021 03:00 PM To be intimated later on.

For detail of works, other terms & conditions & tender documents, the bidders can log in to- <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

For participating in the above e-tendering process, the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> and get user ID, Password. Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. Detailed Notice Inviting Tender and other terms & conditions are available on website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> in all payments regarding purchase of bid document i.e., Tender form fee, processing fee & earnest money shall be strictly through Online mode (e-payment only). bidders are advised to open Bank Account with core Banking Solution Branches (with NEFT/RTGS facility)

Note:- Any corrigendum/addendum to the DNIT shall be uploaded by website only.

Sd/- Secretary  
Punjab State Sports Council,  
Chandigarh

8189/Pb

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one male Namely Chater Singh S/o Late. Sh. Mam Chand R/o H.No.187, Amra Mohalla, Dera Village, New Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS Fatehpur Beri, New Delhi since 12.09.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 22-A dated 13.09.2021 has been registered at P.S. Fatehpur Beri, Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under.

Age: 46 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'10", Face: Round, Built: Strong, Wearing: T-Shirt and Half Pant. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the kidnapper/missing male then please inform P.S. Fatehpur Beri Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639

Sd/- SHO  
Fatehpur Beri, Delhi  
PH. 011-26659511

DP/710/SD/2021

**GHAZIABAD NAGAR NIGAM**  
Opposite Old Bus Stand, Navvay Market, Naya Ganj, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201001 | Email: [gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com](mailto:gzb.nagar.nigam@gmail.com)

Notice Inviting Tender for  
Tender Notice No. (Notice): 04/GNN/TP/2021-22 Dt. 21-09-2021

Tenders are invited for the works online on <http://etender.up.nic.in> from Government approved contractors with following schedule.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Total Estimated cost of Tender(Rs.)
1	Tender for Public Private Partnership (PPP)-Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) to set up 40 MLD net output Tertiary Treatment plant to treat secondary treated water from 56 MLD Indrapuram Sewage Treatment Plant to supply Industrial Grade Water to Sahibabad Industrial Estate, Ghaziabad for Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam.	Rs. 239,93,47,848.09/-

The tender shall be made available on website <http://etender.up.nic.in> from 28/09/2021.

General Manager (JAL), Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam, Ghaziabad

**NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE**

No.: MC-9-ST-CAMC-HRE-HW-21 Date: 15.09.2021

Sr. DME acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. MC-9-ST-CAMC-HRE-HW-21 Closing Date/Time 08.10.2021, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Information regarding this tender is available on website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Department	C&W	Tender No.	MC-9-ST-CAMC-HRE-HW-21
Name of Work	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of Hydraulic Re-railing Equipment of C&W depot Hardwar for three years on single Tender bases through OEM.		
Tender type	Single	Bidding system	Single Packet System
Tender closing Date & Time	08.10.2021, 15:00 Hrs.		
Advertised Value (Rs.)	Rs. 37,12,339/-	Validity of Offer (Days)	45 Days

2071/2021

Serving Customers with a Smile

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - I, DELHI**  
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Case No.: DA No. 530/2020  
**CANARA BANK (Syndicate Bank)** Applicant  
Vs  
**M/s. Him Cylinders Limited & Ors.** Defendants

To 1. M/s. Him Cylinders Limited  
Plot No. 1-4, Industrial Area, Amb Distt., Una, Himachal Pradesh-177203.  
E-mail: [himcylinders@gmail.com](mailto:himcylinders@gmail.com)  
Also At:  
2. Sh. Ashok Raja  
S/o. Late Sh. Raja Tahat Mal R/o. 42/72, Punjabi Bagh, West, New Delhi-110026.  
3. Sh. Shanti Swaroop Raja  
S/o. Late Sh. Raja Tahat Mal R/o. 42/72, Punjabi Bagh, West, New Delhi-110026.  
4. Smt. Meena Raja  
W/o. Sh. Ashok Raja R/o. 42/72, Punjabi Bagh, West, New Delhi-110026.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs.23,24,79,989.57/- (Rupees Twenty Three Crores Twenty Four Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Nine and Sixty Seven Paise Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before I.D. Registrar on 09.11.2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website [www.drtbunl.gov.in](http://www.drtbunl.gov.in) Phone Number: 011-23748473).

Taken notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned date before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Case Web" application/Software;  
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/Recovery Officer-I" and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drtbunl.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.  
(iii) In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this date: 18th September of 2021

By Order of the Tribunal Sd/-  
Assistant Registrar DRT-I, New Delhi

Date: 18.09.2021

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

**E-TENDER No. 2021RSI8741TC**

Director, Railways Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 1,45,532 Nos. Low Torque Grease Seal to RDSO Specification No. WD-63-Misc-2020 of Oct 2020 or latest amendments, if any for AAR Standard Upgraded Class 'E' (6" x 11") Cartridge Tapered Roller bearings used in freight stock.

2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.

3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.

4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 28.10.2021.

Director, Railways Stores (W)  
Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi.  
for and on behalf of the President of India.

2143/2021

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Irrigation Division, Deoghar

**e-Procurement Tender Notice**

Tender Reference No. :- WRD/Irr. Div., Deoghar/F2-01/2021-22 Dt.: 15.09.2021

1.	Name of the work	Construction of S.L.R. Bridge at ch. 678.00/677.50 & D.L.R. Bridge at ch. 630.00 of P.M.C. under Punasi Reservoir Scheme.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs.1,42,14,029.91 (Rupees One Crore forty two lakhs fourteen thousand twenty nine and paise Ninety one only)
3.	Time of Completion	270 days
4.	Last date & Time for receipt of bids	16.10.2021 Up to 5:00 P.M.
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	27.09.2021 11:00 A.M.
6.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer Irrigation Division, Deoghar
7.	Contact No. of Procurement officer	09472709310
8.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	06432-232477

**Note: - Only E-Tender will be accepted**  
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer  
Irrigation Division, Deoghar

PR 253738 (Irrigation) 21-22 (D)

**Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency**  
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No. 1650 / 11-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated: 23-09-2021

**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice (First Call)**

The General Manager (Project), BRIDCUL on behalf of URRDA Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system (First Call) for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Barkot (District-Uttarkashi) for 14 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs 4023.16 Lakh including their maintenance for 5 year from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 27-09-2021.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in). The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the Projects related to Garhwal Mandal at Office of BRIDCUL HQ Opp. Govt. ITI Majra, Niranjanpur, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun-248001 "on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive. No Physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 18-10-2021 01:00 PM.

For further details please log on to [www.pmgstenders.gov.in](http://www.pmgstenders.gov.in).

Chief Engineer, URRDA, Dehradun

\* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

**Note :** For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2522941 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM in any office days.

**G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE)**  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand

**TENDER NOTICE No. - GBPNIHE/2021-22/06**

Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora Uttarakhand invites sealed Tenders for auction of Institute vehicle UK-01-7669. The date of receipt of the sealed tenders is 18.10.2021 by only Registered / Speed Post / Courier and the tender will be opened on 20.10.2021 at 3.00 P.M. The vehicle may be seen in any working day from 10.00A.M. to 1.00 P.M. up to 13.10.2021 at Institute premises.

The full details of tender are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpihed.gov.in>.

Office Superintendent (Store)  
Email: [Store@gbpihed.nic.in](mailto:Store@gbpihed.nic.in)

**OSBI**  
Digital & Transaction Banking- Products & Operations Department  
Corporate Centre, 1st floor, "C" Wing, Mittal Tower, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400021. E-mail: [dgmprojects.dtb@sbci.co.in](mailto:dgmprojects.dtb@sbci.co.in)  
Website: <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>

**CORRIGENDUM-I**

RFP No.: D&TB/PS/RFP/METRO/2021-22/001 Dated: 04.09.2021  
Please refer the Corrigendum available for RFP No.: D&TB/PS/RFP/METRO/2021-22/001 Dated: 04.09.2021 available under "Procurement News" at Banks website: <https://bank.sbi/>, <https://www.sbi.co.in>, <https://etender.sbi/>

Sd/-  
Date: 24.09.2021 Digital & Transaction Banking- P&O Department

**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LTD.**  
e-Procurement TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for the works with Spec No. APT-e-64/21-22 for "Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220 KV Parawada GC line (1.5RM) by making LEO of 220 KV Kaknada-VSS along with 2 No 220 KV Bays at 220/132/33 KV Parawada SS in Visakhapatnam district" on turnkey basis. Available on e-procurement site from 24.09.2021 at 5:00PM. Note: office inviting bids CE/Zone/Visakhapatnam. Further details can be seen at <http://apaprocmnt.gov.in>.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, APTRANSCO, Visakhapatnam Zone  
DIPR No.388P/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt:23/09/2021

**INVITATION FOR BID**

The Nodal Officer, NHP-Assam, Guwahati invites Bids from eligible bidders for "Setting up of Silt Laboratory in Cachar Investigation W.R. Division, Badarpur Under NHP-Assam (2lots) at AWRMI, Basistha, Guwahati-29 under NHP-Assam".

RFQ No. NHP-2021-2022-As-824462

See details online on <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Janasanyog No. 5837/21

**The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking**  
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

**TENDER NOTICE**

E-tender are re-invited for the supply of following items.  
(1) 71584, (2) 71614, (3) 71657, (4) 71664

**Note:** For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

PRO/AAM(M)/65/2021 GENERAL MANAGER

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**

**NOTICE**

Tender Notice No. Com/Lease/VP/Proposal/DNR/2018  
Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of The President of India invites quotation, for temporary leasing space of 24 tonnes of LVPH on resident trip basis on payment of lumpsum freight for loading of parcels in train no. 02393/02394 for a period of 30 days. It can be also seen on the website [www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.ecr.indianrailways.gov.in).

Sr. No.	Train No.	From-To-From	Reserve Price per round trip (in ₹)
1	02393/02394	RJPB-NDLS-RJPB	2,16,499/-

Date, time and place for dropping of quotation documents in quotation box: 01.10.2021, 11:00-12:00 hrs., Date and time of opening of quotation: 01.10.2021, 12.15 hrs. Dropping and Open at the office of Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager's office, Danapur.

PR/0866/DNR/Comml/N/21-22/40 DRM (Commercial)/ECR/Danapur

Government of Maharashtra  
**PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NANDED**

**e-Tender Notice No. 50 for 2021-2022**

e-Tenders for 02 works in B-1 form are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Nanded (Phone No. 02462-253711) from the Registered Contractors in Appropriate Class of Public Works Department of Government of Maharashtra for the Improvement in Dist. Nanded.

1. The Tender costs of the above works are more than Rs. 1.00 Crores.

2. All information related to this tender is made available on the following website also. All changes will be made available on this website.

[www.mahapwd.com](http://www.mahapwd.com)  
<https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
Public Works Division, Nanded

(dgjpr/2021-2022/2054)

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, Bashyam Park, South Central Street, Bengaluru- 560 020

No.EE(GNR)/E-Proc/005/2020-21 Date: 22.09.2021

**INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (KW-4)**  
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction works detailed in the table below:

Sr. No.	Name of Work	EMD (Rs. in lakh)
1	Providing CC Road and Footpath Culverts Drains works at Old Tharagupet Main Road, and cross roads in Ward No. 109	3.50

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal from : 18.10.2021 onwards.

2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 13.10.2021 at 06.00 Hrs. 3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before 16:00 Hrs. on: 18.10.2021. 4) Technical bids will be opened on 21.10.2021 at 12:30 Hrs. Further details can be accessed from GOK e-procurement website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> or contact e-procurement helpdesk at: 080-22441076.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division.

**PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU**

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

Wear Mask 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

उपरो पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि  
ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना अत्यकालिक  
ई-निविदा सूचना सं 0 ETC/MU/T-76/2021-22 जिसको दिनांक 01.10.2021 को खोला जाना प्रस्तावित है, के निविदा प्रपत्र निर्माण न होने पर ई-पोर्टल पर अपलोड नहीं हो पाया है जिसके कारण उक्त अत्यकालिक ई-निविदा की देय तिथि 08.10.2021 की जाती है। कृपया [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) पर विस्तार से सभी सूचना, विवरण/डाउनलोड तथा अन्य किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन/विस्तार हेतु निविदा खुलने की तिथि तक लॉग ऑन करें। शेष अन्य नियम व शर्त यथावत रहेंगी।  
"राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचाव" पत्रांक/ No. 2396 / निष्पादन(ETC)  
/ युगनयन(MZN)/ दिनांक/ DATED 23.09.2021

**PARADIP PORT TRUST**  
Corrigendum-IV

To e-Tender Call Notice No. EM/WS-29/2021 for the work: "Grant of license for installation, Operation & Maintenance of 04 nos. of 1000 Ton capacity HMC for a period of 05 years extendable to another 01 year".

The last date of Bid Submission and opening of the bid for the above e-Tender Call Notice are hereby extended as follows: 1. Last date and time of Bid Submission: 11.10.2021 up to 18:00 Hrs. 2. Opening of Technical Bid: 12.10.2021 at 11:00 Hrs. All other terms and conditions of the original tender, Addendum-I and Addendum-II will remain unchanged. Executive Engineer(M), Workshop Division-1  
Dated: 23.09.2021  
PPT/PR/113/21-22

**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR**

No.8311-16/F/MC/Store/2021-22 Dated:- 18.09.2021

Notice Inviting Bid

Bid for Supply & installation below mentioned items are invited from interested bidder's upto 11-10-2021 at 04.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raaj.nic.in>) of the state and SMS Medical College, Jaipur. Department website.

UBN- SMS2122GL0B00275 To SMS2122GLR00283

Sd/-  
DIPRC/9647/2021 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

**"IMPORTANT"</**



## Bhubaneswar to host 2021 Junior Hockey World Cup



India beat Belgium 2-1 to win the Junior Hockey World Cup in 2016, the country's first title since the 2001 edition. *File*

Odisha was on Thursday named the host of this year's FIH men's hockey Junior World Cup in November-December.

The event will be staged at Bhubaneswar's Kalinga Stadium from November 24 to December 5.

Odisha and Uttar Pradesh had both expressed interest in hosting the marquee event but the former was picked for being the national team's title sponsor as well. Lucknow had hosted the tournament's last edition in which India claimed the top honours in 2016.

Odisha has earlier hosted the senior World Cup in 2018, the FIH World League in 2017 and the Champions Trophy in 2014.

The 16 teams competing are hosts India, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, South

### Man Utd lose 1-0 at home to West Ham in League Cup third round

Manchester United were knocked out in the third round of the League Cup by West Ham United on Wednesday.

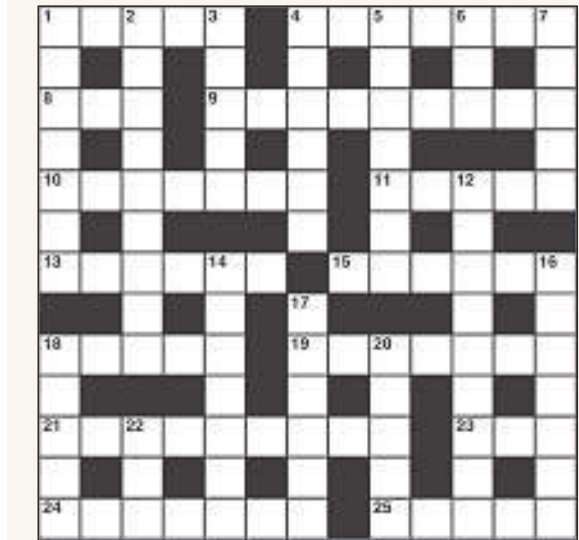
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team came up with a 1-0 defeat after Argentine midfielder Manuel Lanzini scored the only goal in the match from a Ryan Fredericks cutback.

This was West Ham manager David Moyes' first victory in management at Old Trafford in seven years after he was sacked as United coach. The Hammers will next play Manchester City, the reigning four-time champions of the competition, as they chase their first domestic title since winning the 1980 FA Cup.

The United lineup had a completely different look to the one that beat West Ham 2-1 in their Premier League meeting earlier this week. Cristiano Ronaldo was among the players that had been given a rest for this clash.

This was United's second loss this month after they came up short in a Champions League 2-1 away loss to Swiss team Young Boys. They next play Aston Villa on Saturday.

### CROSSWORD 4543



- ACROSS**  
1 Awkward situations golfers try to get into (5)  
4 How happy cowboys might be? (7)  
8 Put on some salad dressing (3)  
9 Powered flight? (9)  
10 Only a fraction may be claimed (7)  
11 Badly cared for timber (5)  
13 Raw recruit that is found at the castle (6)  
15 Capital form of punishment (6)  
18 Poses for money (5)  
19 Troops didn't finish course (7)  
21 Better value for money? How absurd! (9)  
23 Not a smart-looking boat but the reverse (3)  
24 A quick reply by one who is foiled (7)  
25 It collapses when there's anarchy or Red revolution (5)
- DOWN**  
1 He keeps a lot to himself (7)  
2 I leave ridiculous organisation; it's farcical (9)  
3 The south side is hot and humid (5)  
4 It's used to lift - or bring down (6)  
5 It's forbidden and badly one hundred take it (7)  
6 Haul up the fishing line (3)  
7 Two kings embracing are not seen so often (5)  
12 Medicated preparation reduced by 10% (9)  
14 How one may make progress on one's feet (7)  
16 Seaside bank that may appear in the current recession (4,3)  
17 Regret sounding like an angry dog to one lady (6)  
18 Father gets through one daily (5)  
20 Enjoyment got us excited (5)  
22 I'm quiet. He probably won't be (3)

**Solutions Crossword 4542:** Across: 1 Memory lane, 8 Light, 9 Ingrate, 10 Fetlock, 11 Ridge, 12 Bsect, 14 Saw fit, 17 Habit, 19 Houdini, 21 Neutron, 22 Union, 23 First flush. Down: 2 Eighths, 3 Outdo, 4 Yoicks, 5 Algeria, 6 Eland, 7 Pedestrian, 8 Left behind, 13 Caterer, 15 Fairies, 16 Why not, 18 Bluff, 20 Usual.

### JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

What is pride? A\_\_ that emulates the \_\_ - William Wordsworth (6...5)

FMAER  
KWORS

EEXSTT  
EHTVCK

Answer: PRIDE, FRAME, WORKS, SPECTRE, KVEITCH

# How World Rugby plans to tackle concussions and dementia

The world body plans to limit full-body contact training time per week

SHIVANI NAIK  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 23

GNARLED, CRACKED and poetically scarred they might have been in the past, Rugby Union is now dealing with the pile-up of concussions and early-onset dementia. World Rugby was compelled to reckon with this reality of the bleeding obvious and the non-bleeding unseen trauma last December, when former England hooker Steve Thompson led a group of retired players in a landmark legal case against WR, the Rugby Football Union and the Welsh Rugby Union after being diagnosed. On Thursday, WR unveiled new guidelines that limit full-blooded contact training to 15 minutes a week to help reduce impact injuries in training.

**What do the fresh guidelines mandate?**  
The game's governing body, along with International Rugby Players (IRP), announced a six-point checklist. It recommended restricting midweek contact training to two days, broken down into three categories: 15 minutes per week of full-contact training during which players may go full throttle and operate at high speed in body-to-body collisions, 40 minutes of controlled contact utilising tackle shields and pads, running at reduced speeds, and 30 minutes of live set-piece training with lineouts, scrums and mauls at a high intensity.

The 600 players surveyed had said elite pros averaged 19 minutes of full contact training per week, which WR are looking to reduce.

**Will it be implemented?**  
While not mandatory, the guidelines are expected to be adopted at all levels by WR. "It would certainly be our intention to write it into the terms of participation for future Rugby World Cups," Mark Harrington, World Rugby director of technical services was quoted by Sport 24, hinting at the rules being enforced in the leadup to the 2023 World Cup qualifiers. "It is a soft guideline for the minute, but I think over time it will gain some teeth."

**How was the study conducted?**  
World Rugby combined with top tier clubs Leinster, Clermont Auvergne and Benetton Treviso to assess the mechanism, incidence and intensity of head impact events using mouth-guard technology and video analysis according to The42. The Prevent



England's 2003 World Cup winner Steve Thompson led a group of players to file a lawsuit against World Rugby last year for negligence in promoting safety. *Reuters*

Biometrics technology recorded the largest ever comparable head impact database in the sport. Four contact elements were studied: volume of full-contact in minutes, intensity of collisions, density of the impacts within the timeframe, and the unpredictability of the hits.

### Are there similar trends in other sports?

There are parallels with the NFL which limited full-contact training back in 2011. The Guardian quoted Eanna Falvey, WR's chief medical officer, as saying "this is not a neat comparison as the NFL is contested by 32 teams that are more easily regulated. Furthermore, 70 to 80% of NFL player injuries occur during training compared to 30 to 40% in rugby." Independent studies conducted at the University of South Wales found rugby players were harmed by repetitive blows. Reduction in blood flow to the brain and cognitive function could result from cumulative effects and not one-off incidents of concussion, all pointing to the necessity of reduction in full-contact training where possible. Headers in football and bouncers in cricket have blipped on the scanner, but talk of policing both faces scorn and resistance.

**Is everyone welcoming it in Rugby Union?**  
Somewhat. Australia coach Dave Rennie, while stating that these measures were nec-

essary, aired some concerns, telling Sydney Morning Herald: "35 to 40 percent of injuries happen at training, that means 60-65 percent happen in games. "We're making sure we're getting conditioning load and contact load into them so that they can deal with it on game day, and they've got the technique required."

He sought clarity on 'full contact' including when players donned full body padded suits, a staple in modern rugby training.

"We suit our boys up a bit. I guess they would still have that full contact, bone on bone. But they're often in three or four-minute hits. I understand the importance of looking after the athlete, but we also need to understand that they need to be trained, appropriately, to deal with the physical nature of our game."

### What about the 15-minute claim?

All Blacks coach Ian Foster asked for expanding the 15-minute rule, though by 'his 'gut feel,' 15 minutes felt about right. The Otago University in New Zealand is undertaking parallel research on understanding the "nature and frequency of head impacts" in the game.

Rennie though had a bemused bite at the 15 minutes dictat. "Who's timing it? I'm sure there has been a lot of work that has gone on to come up with these numbers. They're talking at every level. Are they going to have 1st XV coaches with a stopwatch? I'm not certain how that will pan out."

## HC asks Centre to start inquiry into Batra allegations

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

**STAYING THE** Table Tennis Federation of India's (TTFI) Rules and Regulations for a National Camp, the Delhi High Court on Thursday said that it was appalled with the conduct of TTFI and asked the Centre to conduct an inquiry into the complaint filed by Manika Batra, who is a top-ranked player in the country.

The court at the outset of the proceedings took exception to TTFI's decision to re-constitute the committee, which was looking into Batra's complaint, soon after the first hearing of her petition on September 20 and said it was anguished with the conduct of TTFI in the matter.

"If this is the way the national sports federations are going to function, then the government might as well takeover all these federations," said Justice Rekha Palli while hearing the petition filed by Batra against the TTFI's decision to not include her in the contingent being sent for the upcoming Asian Table Tennis Championship in Doha.

Batra, in the petition has also sought quashing of the Rules and Regulations for National Camp dated August 4 which make it mandatory for the players to join a national coaching camp and an enquiry into the management of TTFI, particularly the conduct of national coach Soumyadeep Roy - whom she accused of asking her to lose an Olympic qualifier match in March in favor of one of his trainees at his private academy. During the hearing on Thursday, Batra gave up the prayer for including her name in the contingent.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma on Thursday told the court that there was nothing in the sports code that permitted the TTFI to bar a candidate for not attending a camp and that they will be conducting an independent inquiry in the matter. Batra's counsel told the court that she decided to take private coaching as she had an apprehension that she will not be fairly treated by the national coach due to the past events.

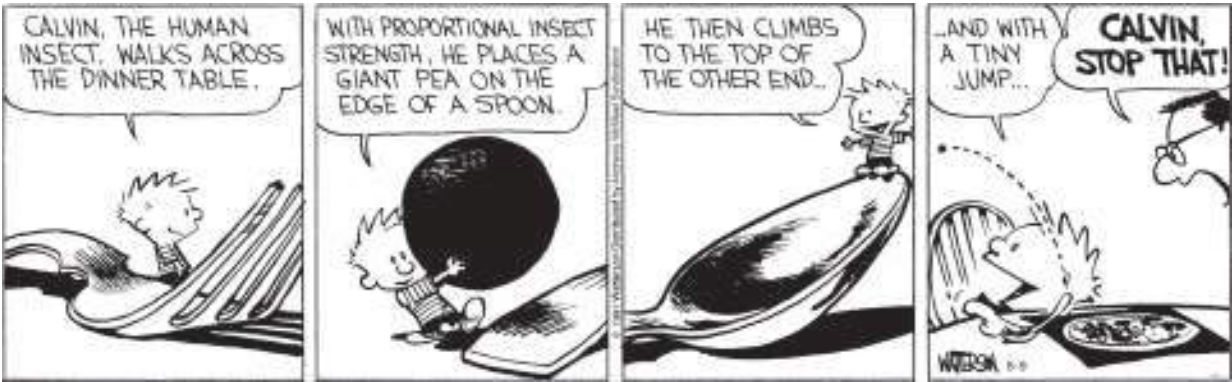
The court said that the rule mandating compulsory attendance at the national camp has been enforced at a point when there was a complaint pending against the national coach and the argument that the rules were already in contemplation "does not inspire confidence". "I am of the view that the operation of the rules is required to be stayed till the next date," Justice Palli said.

Regarding the enquiry, the court said the Centre will proceed to hold the enquiry at the earliest in which the Roy may also place his stand. Granting four weeks for completion of the enquiry, the court listed it for hearing on October 28.

### OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



### CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



### MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



**Difficulty Level 2s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

**Difficulty Level**  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SUDOKU 4604**

		3	4		9			
2	4			1				
8	1	6		7	5			
	3						2	
	7			6				
9				8				
		5	9		8	3		7
		4			1	2		
4	7	2						

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4603**

5	6	9	1	2	7	3	8	4
2	4	1	5	8	3	9	7	6
3	7	8	4	6	9	5	2	1
6	2	5	7	1	8	4	3	9
9	3	4	6	5	2	8	1	7
1	8	7	3	9	4	6	5	2
7	5	2	9	3	6	1	4	8
8	9	3	2	4	1	7	6	5
4	1	6	8	7	5	2	9	3

### DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

#### ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

If you're a perfectionist, like so many members of your sign, you may be finding current pressures rather hard-going. However, if you are ready to take life as it comes, there'll be much to stimulate and entertain you, perhaps opening a window on a completely new world.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

It may seem that you have now had your last chance to take an important decision on money, perhaps involving partners and close friends. However, the present lull is but a temporary phase. While you're in it, it could feel as if it's lasting forever.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Delays are inevitable, but there's nothing to worry about. At such times, when life slows down, you must take the opportunity to reflect on the state of your life so far, and consider just where your current activities are taking you. Do you really want to be the centre of attention? If not, alter your course now.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Discreet discussions are likely quite soon and if these involve your work, the outcome will include welcome long-term benefits. An increasingly lively social life will provide the absolutely perfect counter-balance to your steadily accumulating responsibilities.

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

The general impact of current planetary influences is to deepen your mental processes. The result will be a mood of increasing seriousness combined with delays and, quite possibly, broken arrangements in your social life. But, then, you're getting used to that.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Significant discussions are becoming more intense and serious, now there's a hint that there is more to be settled before agreement is reached. Concentrate on getting your home affairs straight and establishing order in family arrangements, and if you have any doubts, let partners set the pace.

#### LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

This could be a critical time for all money matters. You'd be well advised to get hold of more information, although you must wait a little longer before deals are finalised to everyone's satisfaction. Romantic partners continue to make extra demands and I suspect you're ready to deliver whatever they ask.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You should know by now that it's much better to let other people understand what you're really feeling, otherwise you can't complain if you are misunderstood. Partners genuinely want to help, so put your suspicions to one side and welcome whatever assistance is offered.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Certain proposals must be left on ice for a little while, at least until you have had time to digest what partners have said and done. You must continue to discuss your plans and proposals in as much detail as is required. Never feel you have to make a final decision until you are ready.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Although you are often in an outgoing and sociable mood, you have a tendency to go behind people's backs, even if well-intentioned. Don't be surprised if friends are bemused by your behaviour. After all, you have been putting out confusing signals.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

It's an excellent time to broaden your horizons and diversify your affairs. Not only is your career involved in this reassessment, but so is a whole range of leisure and social activities. But, first, you must finalise financial plans as soon as you can.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Why not live up to your reputation and be more tolerant in your dealings with loved ones? The demands you make on them have more to do with your own high expectations than the reality of the current situation. In other words, you'll do yourself a power of good by being more realistic.



# KKR move into Iyer gear

Kolkata's impact opener smashes 53 off 30, Tripathi hits unbeaten 74 off 42 to make light work of chase



Venkatesh Iyer's knock at the top of the order contained four fours and three sixes. [iplt20.com](#)

**SYNOPSIS:** Iyer rocks, Tripathi dazzles after MI lose way

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY**  
SEPTEMBER 23

THROUGH THE unearthing of Venkatesh Iyer and the pyrotechnics of Rahul Tripathi, Kolkata Knight Riders' upsurge continued. They came to the second phase of the IPL on just four points and playing serious catch-up. Back-to-back hammering of Royal Challengers Bangalore and Mumbai Indians have now parachuted them to the top four.

MI's total, 155, was below par. But on a slow Zayed Cricket Stadium pitch in Abu Dhabi, they had a star-studded bowling line-up to defend it. Iyer and Tripathi, however, made the chase a walk in the park for KKR, breaking the MI hoodoo in the process. This was their first win against their bogey team in two years. More importantly, after a seven-wicket victory with 29 balls to spare, they command one of the healthiest net run-rates among all teams.

### Iyer rocks

The beauty of the IPL is that it gives young players an outlet to get out of relative obscurity and come into prominence. Iyer is the latest on the list. Even four months ago, the 26-year-old was a bench-warmer. As the left-hander revealed after the last game, it was KKR head coach Brendon McCullum's decision to include him in the playing eleven. Caught in the opening quagmire during the first phase, the team management acted in desperation. It is turning out to be a masterstroke.

His unbeaten 41 off 27 balls against RCB was impressive but without scoreboard pressure. Against MI, he faced a tougher chal-

POINTS TABLE					
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
DC	9	7	2	+0.613	14
CSK	8	6	2	+1.223	12
RCB	8	5	3	-0.706	10
KKR	9	4	5	+0.363	8
RR	8	4	4	-0.154	8
MI	9	4	5	-0.310	8
PK	9	3	6	-0.345	6
SRH	8	1	7	-0.689	2

lenge—they were chasing and he was up against arguably the most well-rounded attack in the league. He didn't flinch. He attacked Trent Boult and Adam Milne, two seasoned international bowlers, with disdain and wasn't afraid to use his feet against the spinners. He swung with gaiety, a six and four off Milne. He stood and walloped when Jasprit Bumrah missed his length by a few inches. He swept Rahul Chahar from outside the off-stump to deep midwicket-boundary. He shimmied down the track and hit a six off Krunal Pandya. Iyer reached his maiden IPL half-century off 25 balls and when eventually Bumrah castled him on 53, KKR were just 28 runs away from victory.

His backstory makes his rise even sweeter. Iyer traded a career in chartered accountancy and management to play cricket on his mother's insistence. He made his IPL debut six years after playing his first domestic T20 fixture for Madhya Pradesh. At this rate, he could be a millionaire in the open auction next year.

### Tripathi dazzles

He is an IPL thoroughbred, but Tripathi didn't mind being overshadowed by his jun-



Rahul Tripathi hit eight fours and three sixes in a whirlwind of a knock. [iplt20.com](#)

ior partner despite outscoring him. In not-so-easy conditions, his 74 not out off 42 balls was superb. The pace of MI's fast bowlers worked to Tripathi's advantage. A case in point – when he tried to flick Bumrah and got a leading edge, the ball sailed over the third man boundary. Also, the radar didn't work for Boult and Milne, worsening matters for their team. When playing the spinners, Tripathi was proficient at picking them off the hand. Aided by greasy surface, thanks to evening dew, their match-winning 88-run partnership off 52 balls was the game's joie de vivre.

### MI lose way

The pitches at this venue usually wear a

greenish look with a decent covering of grass, but historically spinners have taken 40 per cent of wickets at this ground in limited-overs cricket. The reason is the slowness of the surface. Even for the fast bowlers, bounce is somewhat parabolic.

So KKR captain Eoin Morgan had no hesitation to insert MI and even less reluctance to start off with spin. He read the pitch perfectly, but his counterpart, Rohit Sharma, countered that with sheer class. Rohit's out-smarting of Varun Chakravarthy was the best piece of cricket in the second leg IPL yet.

Against the mystery spinner, the MI skipper stayed beside the line of the ball, gave the bowler a good look at the stumps, and induced him to bowl straight. Varun took the bait and was lofted-driven over mid-off for a four.

The spinner failed to preempt Rohit's next move. The latter decided to stay behind the line this time, outwitting the bowler. Varun yet again bowled straight, a tad leg-stumpish, ball. Rohit swept him in the cow corner for another four.

Quinton de Kock was taking on the seamers at the other end and after nine overs the defending champions were 77 for no loss. Then KKR rallied, first through a vicious Sunil Narine leg-cutter that bounced a little more to have Rohit caught at long-on. A choke followed that saw MI lose two wickets for 16 runs in four overs.

Another phase towards the back-end had MI 28/2 in four overs. The game turned on its head, in favour of KKR.

**BRIEF SCORES:** Mumbai Indians: 155 for 6 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 55, Rohit Sharma 33; Lockie Ferguson 2/27, Prasidh Krishna 2/43) lost to **Kolkata Knight Riders:** 159 for three in 15.1 overs (Rahul Tripathi 74 not out, Venkatesh Iyer 53; Jasprit Bumrah 3/43).



David Warner's quick feet, which usually bail him out of trouble, have let him down so far.

**The trouble is exaggerated when is facing really quick bowlers, like Nortje, Kagiso Rabada (who has nailed him four times in T20s alone) and Jasprit Bumrah, a telltale sign that his reactions are slowing down, bit by bit.**

giant strides, backwards, sideways or forwards, but his feet movement are swift, precise and decisive from the first ball he faces. But in all the three balls he faced against Delhi Capitals, his feet move sluggishly, a touch too late in responding to the synapses of his mind. A side-on frame of his dismissal captures the travails of his feet.

As he makes contact with the ball, a touch early than he had anticipated, he is hopping, balancing just on his back-toe, front-leg in the air, and the bat-face pointed upwards rather than facing the ground.

The front-on view shows that he is on the

## EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



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

### Bizarre Pollard



21 off 15 was pedestrian going by Pollard's reputation. [iplt20.com](#)

Fourth ball of the 19th over, Kieron Pollard uncharacteristically hunkered down for what looked like a ramp shot (or was it a scoop?!), but had conveyed his design a tad too early for Andre Russell to slither in a leg-side yorker.

A surprised Pollard froze for a moment, before letting the ball through his legs, like a fancy little dummy in football, or as if he had suddenly spotted a snake beside his feet. Everyone around, including Pollard, could not resist laughing. It was not the first time in his bizarre knock that he left the ball.

He did it more conventionally—shouldering the arms—in Prasidh Krishna's last ball of the 18th over. He shaped to dab it fine through third man, but the ball ducked sharply into his body, strangling him for room. So, at the last moment, he pulled out of the stroke. Not often do you see Pollard leave the ball once, to see him do twice in the space of two balls was bizarre. And the blow hot, blow cold knock ended bizarrely too—in a run out, of entirely his own fault, responding lazily to the striker's call.

### Rohit's bat doesn't have nine lives

**Sunil Narine** has the wood on Rohit Sharma in IPL, and it wasn't surprising that he got his man for the ninth time. There was a rasping cutter that



seamed away like a leg cutter that comprehensively beat Sharma who was playing the line. With Quinton de Kock, who couldn't get going against spinners with a strike rate of 70+ against the tweekers at that point, it was left to Sharma to try up the ante. He went for the slog sweep but was unable to get under the ball or swing with the turn, it wasn't a surprise that he air-lifted it straight to long-on. Narine's celebration was also muted. He turned around, waited for Shubman Gill to pouch it, clenched his right fist and slowly raised it up and down. There was no expression on the face; just that slow-mo pumping of the fist at getting his man again.

### Prasidh finds his chirpy click

Prasidh Krishna wasn't himself in his opener when he came on to bowl the last over of the power play. Instead of his seam-up, back-spun deliveries, especially as Quinton de Kock wasn't yet as fluent, he went for slower ones to start off with. One disappeared over long-off and he lost his line and tailed a couple on the pads which were smacked to the boundaries. He bled 16 runs that over and was out of action until the 13th over. Luckily, he started with his stock weapons this time and took out Suryakumar Yadav with a seaming delivery around the off stump that induced an edge. Needless to say, he was joyous and found his tongue too, saying something to Ishan Kishan who shouldered arms. Krishna is one of those young Indian bowlers who is never shy of having a word and he was back in his elements.



### Mooku-mela raja and other Cheeka-isms!

To hear Krishnamachari Srikanth on commentary for T20 games is almost like watching him bat. A non-stop stream-of-consciousness jabber, utter delight in seeing big hits, a constant stream of advise to the batsmen or the bowler, and an unbridled use of colloquial Tamil. "Udaathara, Pottu Saathu machan!" (Don't let it go, slam 'em mate!) was his advice to Ishan Kishan. He has a host of typical Cheeka-isms: *Mooku mela raja* (On top of the nose, Raja!) Is a miscue that sends the ball straight up for a dolly of a catch to the fielder. *Dil-ku-Duddu!* (Cash for guts!) is his desperate plea to batsmen to not to muck around but to blast that white ball. *Dil-ku-duddu machi . . . adura-adura* (hit hit). He takes the mickey off other commentators and also is sporting enough to



take some back as well. Let's end with a story from when he was a selector of Tamil Nadu Ranji team. He asks a debutant his batting strategy and the nervous batter told him that he will defend compactly and respect the attack. Srikanth, so goes the story, wore an incredulous look and snorted "Defend aa? Dei! Poi adira! (Just go and whack!)".

# How Warner's sluggish feet are impacting his form this season?

**SANDIP G**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 23

DAVID WARNER resumed the IPL from where he had left off before the break—his form shattered, his morale tattered. Agonisingly for Sunrisers Hyderabad and Australia, Warner has not been himself for a while. After the slump in Ashes 2019, he bounced back with a triple century against Pakistan and enjoyed a profitable 2020, but this year, he seems to have reacquainted with the ghosts of two years back.

In seven IPL games, either side of the five-month break, he laboured for 193 runs at a strike rate of 108, his worst in any season, lost captaincy and was benched for a match. Even more worryingly, he has looked genuinely out of touch and found multiple ways to get out.

### What was Warner's undoing against Delhi Capitals?

South Africa tearaway Andre Nortje opened him up like a professional would an

amateur, or like a can of cola.

The Australian opener shaped up for a predetermined get-away-from strike leg-side tap-in, only that he misjudged Nortje's lightning pace, steep bounce and the hint of away movement the Dubai surface offers for pacers in the first few overs. The short-of-length ball took the splice of his blade and bobbed towards the point fielder. Swing and seam movement have been his familiar nemesis, but pace and bounce rarely so. In his best of times, he relishes both pace and

bounce, the ball coming on nicely onto his bat.

But he looks far from his best. The two previous balls illustrated the depth of his woes. He missed a fast but full ball, which a peak Warner would have thundered through covers, before nervously defending a good-length ball just outside the off-stump.

### What is the trouble eating him?

One of his trusted allies seems to have deserted him. His quick feet, which usually bails him out of trouble, often compensating for his hard (but fast) hands. He doesn't make