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## COVID-19 and Heart Patients - FAQs

**R**enowned Cardiac Surgeon Dr Naresh Trehan - Medanta explains how the virus affects heart patients and answers some of the most frequently asked questions:

**Does Coronavirus affect Heart patients more severely? Are they more vulnerable to catching the Virus?**

Compared with a Healthy Heart people with Heart conditions are at a greater risk of getting very sick (or dying) because of Coronavirus disease. Of these Heart conditions, some are at even higher risk, these include:

- Heart failure
- Heart transplant
- Complex Adult congenital heart disease
- Blockage of arteries and those with Angina
- High pressure in arteries of the Lung (Pulmonary artery Hypertension)
- Heart Rhythm irregularities
- People who have been hospitalized with heart disease in the past 6 months

**What kind of Lifestyle should Heart patients follow? Especially during the pandemic?**

Remain Physically active and avoid sitting for prolonged hours at your desk to prevent heart diseases, take regular breaks and avoid sitting more than 10 hours a day at your desk.

Avoid stress and negative thoughts that have been experienced due to a multitude of problems in the Pandemic period, such as isolation due to Lockdown, work-from-home conditions. It is important to stay calm and be positive. Yoga and relaxation techniques along with deep breathing/pranayama can help maintain balance.

Retain communication with Family and Friends. Maintain stock of all your regular medications and take them on a regular basis as prescribed. Measure your weight daily and remain as close to your ideal body weight (between 18-5-24.9). This helps you to keep your diet in control.

**How can one reduce the risk and prevent heart diseases?**

Follow the Simple 7:

1. Manage Blood pressure
2. Control Cholesterol
3. Reduce Blood sugar
4. Stay Active
5. Eat better
6. Lose Weight
7. Stop Smoking

**With the ongoing Pandemic, what are the guidelines that you wish to give to Heart patients?**

1. Do everything possible to avoid exposure to the coronavirus, and follow expert advice after vaccination. Staying home and away from other people you don't live with is critically important — especially if you are in your 60s or older.
2. Remain focused on the safety basics: wearing a mask when you're out,



**Dr Naresh Trehan**  
*Chairman and Managing Director, Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon*

hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, not touching surfaces and cleaning surfaces diligently.

3. People with heart disease and cardiovascular risk factors to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

4. Stay in contact with your health care team, eat well, be physically active and take all your medications as prescribed, including ACE inhibitors and ARBs. (Make sure you have at least a 30-day supply of each of your medicines for heart disease.) If you aren't already doing so, make note of your symptoms each day so you can better manage your condition

5. Remember to take your medications as prescribed, stay in contact with your health care team, and be sure to eat well and be physically active.

6. Stay well connected with Family and friends through Phone and Video calls and avoid getting socially isolated

7. And be sure to seek emergency help right away if needed.

**What should caregivers keep in mind while taking care of Heart patients during the Ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic?**

Cardiac patients are at higher risk of complications if they get infected with the Coronavirus. This makes the role of caretaker complicated — especially when we are expected to live with coronavirus for some time to come. Helping a loved one is an incredibly rewarding experience but it comes with challenges.

1. About 25% of people who are infected with coronavirus show no symptoms but are still contagious. While as a caregiver you may feel fine, it is still possible to infect the vulnerable cardiac patient.

2. Observe utmost care from exposing

yourself to risk of infection from outside.

3. Taking extra precautions of masking, distancing and hand sanitization while handling a cardiac patient.

4. Keep adequate stock of regular medications, medical supplies and healthy foods.

5. Make sure to understand your patient's cardiac status and associated conditions, medication information and schedule, doctors' phone numbers,

6. If symptoms of COVID-19 appear (e.g., Fever, dry cough and Shortness of breath) seek help from the local doctor for advice

7. Head to your nearest emergency room severe COVID-19 symptoms appear. These include - severe shortness of breath, low blood pressure, increased heart rate (Pulse rate above 100 bpm), dehydration, profound weakness, high fever.

8. Designate a backup caregiver

**What are the challenges in treating COVID-19 patients with heart disease?**

1. There can be a delay in the diagnosis of heart attacks (Acute coronary syndromes) because the symptoms of elevation of blood markers (Troponins) and even ECG may show abnormalities during COVID due to myocarditis.

2. Patients with CAD will be at an increased risk of Plaque rupture because of virally induced systemic inflammation.

3. There are pro-coagulant effects of systemic inflammation that may increase the likelihood of clotting in stents leading to higher chances of repeat attacks.

4. In confirmed Covid 19 patients with low-risk heart attacks, Clot busters should be used and Cardiac Catheterization used only as Rescue PCI.

5. Dedicated Infrastructure and processes are needed for the management of COVID in ACS

6. Need dedicated Cardiac units with more than one Cath Lab. One of them needs to be dedicated to the management of suspected or confirmed COVID 19 cases with acute coronary syndromes.

7. Many drugs used to treat COVID-19 can have adverse cardiovascular effects. Commonly used Azithromycin and HCQS can lead to QT interval prolongation making people vulnerable to sudden cardiac death. Lopinavir-Ritonavir can lead to heart blocks. Tocilizumab can lead to hypertension.

*Issued in Public Interest by*

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M.P. Madhyam 102104/2021

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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 ग्राम-गुडेली कलेक्टर लाहौंग स्टेशन माईन, तहसील-सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) में स्थित कुल 03 चुना पत्थर खदानों (1) मेसर्स जगदम्बा स्याम प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, प्रो.-श्री शिव कुमार अग्रवाल (गुडेली लाहौंग स्टेशन माईनिंग प्रोजेक्ट), खसरा क्रमांक 479, 469/2घ एवं अन्य 19 खसरे, रकबा-2.926 हेक्टेयर, उखनन क्षमता-1,10,829.38 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-गुडेली, तहसील-सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) (2) मेसर्स नितिन सिंघल, (गुडेली लाहौंग स्टेशन माईन), खसरा क्रमांक 481/4, 481/5क एवं अन्य 20 खसरे, रकबा-3.113 हेक्टेयर, उखनन क्षमता- 1,55,061.25 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-गुडेली, तहसील-सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) (3) मेसर्स श्रीमती तुलसी बसंत, (गुडेली लाहौंग स्टेशन माईन), खसरा क्रमांक 463/2, 463/3, 463/5, 463/6, 470/1, 470/2 एवं 470/3, रकबा-2.836 हेक्टेयर, उखनन क्षमता-1,70,038 टन प्रतिवर्ष, ग्राम-गुडेली, तहसील-सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) 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.बी. 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 30.10.2021, दिन-रविवार, समय प्रातः 11:00 बजे, स्थल-सेवा सहकारी समिती का मैदान, गुडेली, ग्राम-गुडेली, तहसील-सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़ (छ.ग.) नियत की गई है। यह भी सूचित हो कि लोक सुनवाई के दौरान भारत सरकार, पर्यावरण वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली के ऑफिस मेमोरेण्डम F.No.22-25/2020-IA.III दिनांक 14.09.2020 तथा कोरोना वायरस के निर्वण एवं रोकथाम हेतु शासन द्वारा जारी सम्मत 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 (रायगढ़), सारंगढ़ जिला-रायगढ़, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, छत्तीसगढ़ पर्यावरण संरक्षण मंडल टी.बी. टॉवर रोड रायगढ़, कार्यालय मुख्य कार्यपालन अधिकारी जनपद पंचायत, सारंगढ़, जिला-रायगढ़, सरपंच/सचिव कार्यालय ग्राम पंचायत-गुडेली, ठाकुरदिया, कपसिया (अ), बंजारी, जेवरा, हिच्छा, अमलीडीगा, घोगावा, टिमरलगा, तहसील-सारंगढ़, 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।

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AEML/DTPS/2021-22/08	Dahanu	HPT refurbishment	210.00	2.10	06.10.2021 14:30 Hrs	12.10.2021 16:00 Hrs	13.10.2021 16:00 Hrs
AEML/DTPS/2021-22/09	Dahanu	IPT inner casing refurbishment work	57.20	0.57	06.10.2021 14:30 Hrs	12.10.2021 16:00 Hrs	13.10.2021 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MTB/2021-22/11	Transmission	Construction of proposed 220/33kV BKC Substation along with Double Circuit 220kV Cable Connectivity between 220kV BKC and existing 220kV Chambur S/S	29686	200.00	11.10.2021 11:30 Hrs	01.11.2021 17:00 Hrs	02.11.2021 17:00 Hrs

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▪ **Sociology**  
by **Rajkumar Rai Sir**  
Commencing from  
**18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021**

▪ **Mathematics**  
by **Maneesh Singh Sir**  
Commencing from  
**18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021**

**LIVE ONLINE & OFFLINE CLASSES**



**CHANNI TO TALK TO SIDHU; AMARINDER SAYS TOLD YOU SO**

## Still sulking, Sidhu quits as PCC chief; Congress cuts a sorry figure in Punjab

**Upset over portfolio allocations; a minister, office-bearers too resign****KANCHAN VASDEV**  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

DAYS AFTER he forced a change of guard in Punjab that saw Captain Amarinder Singh stepping down as Chief Minister, Navjot Singh Sidhu abruptly resigned Tuesday as president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, plunging the party into uncertainty again in the run-up to the Assembly elections early next year.

Appointed PPCC chief on July 19, Sidhu resigned minutes after allocation of portfolios to ministers in the new government headed by Charanjit Singh Channi who succeeded Amarinder Singh as Chief Minister.

Sidhu's resignation was followed by that of minister Razia Sultana who quit "in solidarity" with him. Her husband, former DGP Mohammad Mustafa, is

**EXPLAINED**  
**When state polls are near**

THE PUNJAB Congress is in crisis again, 10 days after the resignation of Amarinder Singh as CM. The pulls and pressures are being keenly watched by SAD and AAP. The uncertainty in the Congress comes at a time when Assembly elections in the state are barely months away.

**MORE REPORTS**  
**PAGE 8**

Sidhu's chief strategic adviser.

Others who resigned were Gulzar Inder Chahal who stepped down as Punjab Congress

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4****Rahul with Hardik Patel, Kanhaiya, Mevani Tuesday. AICC office**

## Behind exit: Capt out, he wanted more say in govt

**LIZ MATHEW**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

CLAIMING THAT it has got a "positive response" from the ground after choosing Charanjit Singh Channi as Chief Minister, the Congress high command was keen not to let Navjot Singh

Sidhu remote-control the government in Punjab. This was cited by sources as one of the reasons behind Sidhu's surprising resignation as state unit chief of the Congress.

The high command is said to have stood by Channi even as Sidhu tried to have his way in

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Meanwhile, Kanhaiya joins Cong, Mevani lends 'full support'

**KRISHNA KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ON A day which saw the sudden resignation of Navjot Singh Sidhu as its Punjab unit chief, the Congress saw an infusion of new blood on Tuesday as former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar joined the party while Independent Gujarat MLA and Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani said he extended "full support" and would contest the 2022 state elections on the Congress symbol.

While Mevani had announced on Saturday that he would join the Congress, he said

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

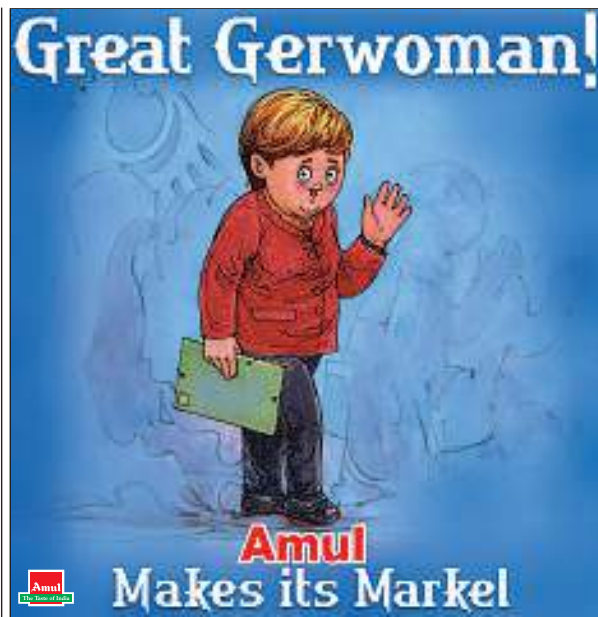
## As rural Net project lags, IT Ministry's CSC seeks to buy out PSU

**AASHISH ARYAN**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

IN AN unusual proposal involving two State-owned entities, the Common Services Centres (CSC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has proposed buying a controlling stake in Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which comes under the Communications Ministry's Department of Telecommunications (DoT), sources in the know of the development said.

CSC is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) of the IT Ministry, as part of which centres in rural areas provide various government services such as the making of PAN and Aadhaar card, registration for passport services, and payment of electricity and other bills. BBNL, on the other hand, is an SPV of the Communications Ministry and was formed for the smooth implementation of BharatNet, the Central government's flagship scheme to provide Internet connectivity to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country.

In the proposal sent directly to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) earlier this year, CSC is learnt to have explicitly cited inefficiencies in the working of BBNL as well as in the implementation of the BharatNet project as the reason behind its proposal. It has also said that for the timely completion of the rural Internet connectivity project, CSC must be "allowed to run BBNL with controlling stake", a source said. *The Indian Express*

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## Uri anti-infiltration op ends after 8 days, Pak militant captured

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28

A 19-YEAR-OLD Pakistani militant was caught while his accomplice was killed in Uri sector on Sunday, eight days after they sneaked in by cutting the fence along the Line of Control (LoC), the Army said on Tuesday.

Major General Varinder Vats, Baramulla-based GOC of the 19th Infantry Division, said there was an infiltration attempt by six militants on the night of September 18.

"After a firefight, four terrorists, who were on Pakistan's side of the fence, took advantage of the darkness and dense foliage and retreated towards Pakistan's side. The remaining two terrorists, who were in the process of crossing the fence, sneaked into the Indian side of the fence," he said.

**Army with seizures from the militants killed in Uri. PTI**

"Once we realised this, additional forces were mobilised to catch the two terrorists... finally, our troops got hold of them on the evening of September 25, when they were holed up in a

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4****A renovated government school in Andhra. Express**

## Andhra cites quality, starts taking over aided schools and colleges

**REENIVAS JANYALA**  
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

IT IS the end of the road for government-aided private educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh. More than 90 per cent of aided degree colleges have been taken over by the state, and will now be run as government institutions.

The process of attaching grant-in-aid institutions and their staff was started on Monday by the Commissioner of Collegiate Education and Director of School Education.

Education Minister Adimulapu Suresh said employees hired on contract by the grant-in-aid institutions would be re-deployed and absorbed in colleges and schools where they were required.

Suresh told *The Indian Express* that the government had given three options to these institutions: voluntarily withdraw from grant-in-aid benefits; hand over their assets to the government; or run the institutions as private bodies.

A good number of institutions have given up their grant-in-aid status and handed over their staff, while a few have agreed to give up their assets as well, the minister said. Institutions that do not accept any of these options will lose their recognition.

"The government's intention is to provide quality education to students without their families being burdened. Although

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

## One dead in late night police raid at Gorakhpur hotel, 6 suspended

**ASAD REHMAN**  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

A 38-YEAR-OLD property dealer from Kanpur died after he was allegedly assaulted by policemen who entered his hotel room in Gorakhpur in the early hours of Tuesday claiming to be looking for criminals.

Six policemen, including the Station House Officer of Ramgarhthal police station, have been suspended though police are yet to lodge a case.

While police claimed that Gupta died after a fall in the hotel room, the victim's wife submitted a complaint to the Gorakhpur Superintendent of Police alleging that policemen

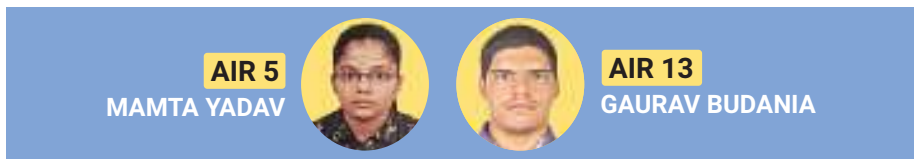
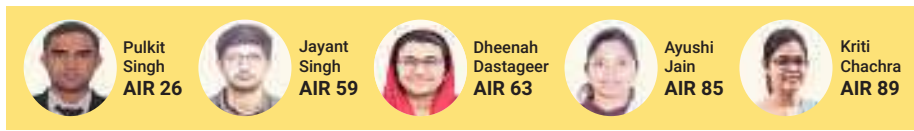
**Property dealer's kin say he was assaulted**

misbehaved with her husband and, when he objected to their behaviour, "he was assaulted, resulting in serious injuries and his death..."

In a statement, Gorakhpur SP Vipin Tada said, "During a check for criminals, police from Ramgarhthal police station went to a hotel. Three suspected youths from different cities were staying in one of the rooms. When the police team went there with the hotel manager, in

panic, one of the men in the room fell and injured himself. After this, our men got him admitted to a hospital, where he was treated. He died during treatment at BRD Hospital. A panel of doctors will do a post-mortem. An investigation will be carried out to find out why the three men were here."

Speaking to *The Indian Express* on Tuesday evening, Gupta's wife Meenakshi said, "My husband had gone to Gorakhpur for some work. He

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4****'CONVERSION VIDEO': UP TO PROBE CHIEF OF TRANSPORT CORP**  
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**AIR 63****Ayushi Jain**  
**AIR 85****Kriti Chachra**  
**AIR 89****Rohit Kumar Rana**  
**AIR 104****Diljit Kumar**  
**AIR 114****Midhans Hassan**  
**AIR 125****Rishi Kulkarni**  
**AIR 134****Vyom Bindal**  
**AIR 141****Rishik Shrivastava**  
**AIR 155****Arjun Vishwakarma**  
**AIR 158****Harshika Singh**  
**AIR 169****Walkhori Nydia Devi**  
**AIR 180****Sakshita Gaurav**  
**AIR 182****Dedika**  
**AIR 208****Prathmesh Raj Shikhi**  
**AIR 236****Anshuman**  
**AIR 242****Aruj Sharma**  
**AIR 264****Aakash Mangal**  
**AIR 265****Priya Yadav**  
**AIR 276****Ahmed Hassanuzzaman**  
**AIR 283****Dhruv Arjun Gunde**  
**AIR 318****Bhavana Kumari**  
**AIR 376****Lena Valsat Topo**  
**AIR 381****Shivam Prasad**  
**AIR 407****Ravi Kumar Meena**  
**AIR 438****Nagesh Shubham**  
**AIR 453****Mohit Rast**  
**AIR 462****Yash Singh Mehta**  
**AIR 513****Pawan Bhanu Babu**  
**AIR 516****Kushal Kishore**  
**AIR 526****Jaya Singh**  
**AIR 527****Hemant Kumar**  
**AIR 531****Urvashi Sengar**  
**AIR 532****Hitesh Patel**  
**AIR 537****Gurdeep Pruthi**  
**AIR 541****Shivani B**  
**AIR 573****Premod Ananya H R**  
**AIR 601****Udit Puri**  
**AIR 674****Sami Kumar**  
**AIR 687****Rajman Meena**  
**AIR 696****Twinkle Singh**  
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# 5 THE CITY

**Riot call from loudspeakers: No progress in probe, court told**

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

TWO MONTHS after a Delhi court ordered an FIR in connection with a mob being mobilised using loudspeakers to target Muslims during the Northeast Delhi riots, police have informed that no progress has been made in the investigation.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav responded that this was a "sorry state of affairs".

The court said that the Delhi Police Commissioner had constituted a special team recently to monitor ongoing investigations in "riots cases".

"It appears that the present case has so far not got the attention of either Worthy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police or the SIC constituted by him," the court said.

"It is being claimed by the police in other cases of riots that the circumstances prevailing during the period of riots and almost four weeks thereafter were really difficult and the police could not investigate the cases properly. Thereafter, Delhi was engulfed in the coronavirus pandemic and, as such, the quality investigation in the matter could not take place. I wonder whether the police can take the same excuse qua the investigation of (present) case FIR. The answer has to be 'clear no,' the order read.

In this hearing, a new special public prosecutor, Sanjeev Sahay, appeared, replacing the previous SPP, D K Bhatia. Sahay "candidly" submitted that "although he has gone through the chargesheet, however, he is required to obtain instructions in the matter to have a feel of this litigation as well as about the riots cases of Northeast Delhi generally". The court granted the SPP time till the next hearing to take instructions and apprise it on the investigation carried out in the case so far.

As per court records, one Nisar Ahmad filed a complaint with SHO Gokulpuri that on 25 February 2020, a mob vandalised and looted his house. Ahmad claimed that the police took down a very short complaint regarding theft.

On March 18, at the Eidgah relief camp in Mustafabad, he gave a detailed complaint stating how a mob of 200-250 people was mobilised with a large public address system, where "a clarion call was being given to the persons of a particular community to go and vandalise and put on fire the houses of persons of other community". Ahmad's complaint was clubbed with another complaint in which no accused was named.

## Bribing judge: Cop among 3 convicted

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A DELHI court has convicted three men, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the Delhi Police, for bribing a judge to help with the recruitment of one of the convicts.

Special Judge Kiran Bansal convicted three men — ASI Tara Dutt, Mukul Kumar, the candidate on whose behalf a bribe was offered, and Ramesh Kumar.

A fourth accused, Dayanand Sharma, was a special metropolitan magistrate with the MCD. He died during trial and proceedings against him were abated.

As per the prosecution, the incident took place in 2017, when Dutt turned up at Tis Hazari court with an envelope containing Rs 50,000 and asked the Naib court attached with an Additional Sessions to give it to the judge.

The envelope was to be given to the judge who was a member of the recruitment committee at the time so that he may favour Mukul for the post of a peon at Delhi district courts. Sharma was accused of asking Dutt to bribe the judge.

They were held guilty of being a part of a criminal conspiracy (120-B) in a Prevention of Corruption Act case.

The court said that the prosecution has "succeeded in proving

## Five gangsters might try to escape, Delhi prisons on high alert

**JIGNASA SINHA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A SECURITY alert from agencies this week about five inmates trying to break out of jails has put Delhi Prisons authorities and police on high alert, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

It is suspected that five inmates from Tihar and Mandoli jails might escape in the coming week. Prison authorities received inputs in this regard, which they have shared with the Delhi Armed Police so security arrangements inside jails can be bolstered.

According to jail officials, all five inmates are local gangsters involved in multiple cases of robbery, murder, extortion, etc, and inputs suggest they might try to break out with help from their gang members.

Authorities have increased deployment around the cells and are monitoring the security through CCTVs round the clock. "We have informed Delhi Police and CRPF security personnel to help secure all jails," confirmed a senior jail officer.

Four of the inmates are lodged in Tihar jail, and the fifth is in Mandoli. Movement of other inmates has been restricted around their cells and the jail officials are conducting regular checks to see if inmates aren't using phones or



**Authorities have increased deployment around the cells. Archive**

breaching security norms.

"It is also suspected that these inmates might try to go to the hospital or have a court appearance, where their associates could attack security personnel. We are trying to avoid such an incident. Delhi Armed Police -- Third Battalion officials will help us. The movement of these inmates will be restricted for some time," said the officer.

Sandeep Goel, Director General (Delhi Prisons), refused to comment on the issue, calling it a "security matter". However, a senior officer from the Delhi Armed Police confirmed the alert: "We received the names of five inmates and are doing everything we can. The arrangements inside jails are good and we believe that no such incident will take place."

The inputs came days after gangster Jitender Gogi was shot dead by two armed assailants inside Rohini court, where he was guarded by teams of the Third Battalion and Counter Intelligence. The Special Cell later arrested two men, one of whom works for gangster Tillu Tajpuriya, who is lodged in Mandoli Jail. Interrogation revealed that the murder was planned from inside Mandoli and Tillu was in touch with the accused from his prison cell.

Security inside jails has been a challenge, with gangsters such as Naveen Bali, Tillu Tajpuriya and associates of Gogi allegedly using phones from inside prison to hatch conspiracies and run extortion rackets.

After Gogi's murder, Goel had released an order suggesting that "maximum alert" be maintained inside all jails to prevent any assault between Gogi and Tillu gang members. "Proper security should be kept while carrying inmates of these gangs to court, hospitals or for any other cause outside the prison... any unnecessary movement of such inmates inside or outside jail must be avoided," reads the order.

The DG has also asked superintendents to inspect jails at "odd hours" and to make "discreet efforts" to collect information from other inmates to prevent such fights.

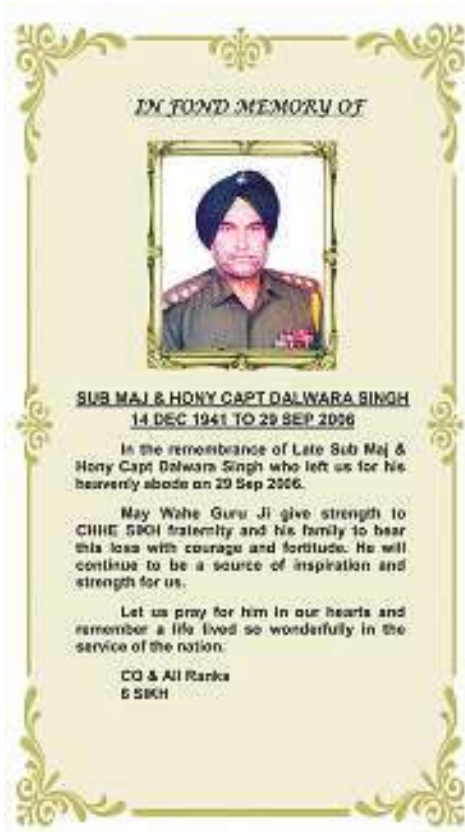
## 150 booked for painting over Yogi name on statue

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AS MANY as 150 people have been booked by Noida Police for allegedly smearing black paint on UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's name on a statue. Police said a group gathered at the Mihir Bhoj statue in Dadri and painted over the name. The statue, unveiled by the CM last week, has been the centre of a controversy, after the Gurjar community objected to the removal of the word 'Gurjar' before Mihir Bhoj's name.

"We received information that some people came and painted over the CM's name. An FIR has been filed under several sections and a probe is underway. Many of the people are being identified," said Pradeep Tripathi, SHO Dadri.

Apart from the CM, names of Dadri MLA Tejpal Nagar, Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Nagar and Minister Ashoka Katariya have also been painted over. The word 'Gurjar' has meanwhile been restored on the plaque. A mahapanchayat was held at a Dadri temple on Sunday against the UP government over the issue.



# 116<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SESSION

Thursday, 30th September 2021

**PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

**Hotel Taj Palace, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi (Hybrid Mode)**

## INAUGURAL SESSION ON RESILIENT INDIA

**Chief Guest**

**Shri Nitin Gadhari**  
Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways

**Guest of Honour**

**General Manoj Mukund Naravane,**  
PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC  
Chief of Army Staff

## CHIEF MINISTERS' ROUNDTABLE WITH CEOs ON "Is India 1 Nation or 30 States in Sustainability, Agriculture, Food Processing, Manufacturing and Exports?"

**Yogi Adityanath\***  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

**Shri Basavaraj Bommai**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka

**Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand

**Shri Jai Ram Thakur**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh

## SESSION ON "International Connectivity as a Force Multiplier for Resilient India"

**Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**  
Union Minister for Civil Aviation

## FIRE SIDE CHAT "Empowering Women in Building Resilient India"

**Smt. Smritilrani**  
Union Minister of Women and Child Development

## VALEDICTORY SESSION ON "Building a Resilient India Edging out the Turbulent Times"

### Corporate CEOs

**Shri Bhupesh Baghel**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh

**Shri Hemant Soren**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand

**Shri Prem Singh Tamang**  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim

**Shri Sanjiv Puri**  
CMD ITC Ltd

**Shri Gautam Ball**  
Managing Director, Vestige Marketing Pvt. Ltd.

**Shri K Chandrashekhhar Rao\***  
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Telangana

**Mr. Peter Rimmele**  
Resident Representative to India  
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)

**Shri Alok Kiroloskar**  
M D, SPP Pumps Ltd, UK & Head - International Business, Kiroloskar Brothers Limited.

**Shri Manish Bhatnagar**  
Managing Director, SKF India Limited

## SESSION ON "India's Resilience: Converting Recession to Rebound"

**Shri Sanjeev Sanyal**  
Principal Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance

**Dr. D. Subbarao**  
Renowned Economist & Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India

**Dr. Ajay Chhibber**  
Renowned Economist & Distinguished Visiting Scholar, The Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, US

**Shri Atantra Das Gupta**  
Director, South West Asia and Head, Samsung HME

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## 6 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN  
LAST 24 HOURS  
**2,05,999**



TOTAL CASES <b>14,38,780</b>		Total		Vacant	
		<b>16,344</b>		<b>16,093</b>	
		HOSPITAL BEDS			
		<b>3,556</b>		<b>3,483</b>	
		ICU BEDS			
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
Sept 27	32	37	00	50,367	
Sept 28	34	25	02	65,101	
Total	373*	14,13,320	25,087	2,75,24,490	

\*Total active cases

## BRIEFLY

## 3 try to cheat SBI of Rs 72 crore, held

**New Delhi:** The Delhi Police has registered a case against three men who allegedly tried to cheat State Bank of India officials of Rs 72 crore at its Parliament Street branch. Police said the men went to SBI with a fake cheque from the New Delhi Municipal Corporation, and asked bank officials to transfer the money into another SBI account. Police said the accused were caught after the bank officials found that the cheque was counterfeit, and informed authorities. "Staff checked the cheque and found it counterfeit. The officer dealing with the NDMC's account contacted NDMC officials and got confirmation that the cheque wasn't issued by them," reads the FIR.

## CM pushes for job for Paralympics bronze winner

**New Delhi:** Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday met para-high-jumper Sharad Kumar, who won a bronze medal in the Tokyo Paralympics. The CM said that he will be given a job as per Delhi government rules, if possible, and directed the Sports Minister to look for opportunities for him.

## Woman run over by bus

**New Delhi:** A 40-year-old, Sundari Kumar, died after she was mowed down by a cluster bus in Baba Haridas Nagar Monday. "She and her son were walking home when the bus hit them. She was trapped under the bus and pulled out by passersby," said an officer.

## Covid deaths: 11,219 apply for ex gratia

**New Delhi:** The Delhi government has received 5,935 applications for monthly financial assistance and 11,219 applications for the Rs 50,000 ex gratia under the Mukhyamantri Covid-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayata Yojana so far.

## Surprise inspection of ration shops

**New Delhi:** Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain conducted a surprise inspection of fair price shops in Kondli to check the distribution of free ration through e-Pos devices under the National Food Security Act 2013 and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana. **ENS**

## SMALL BEGINNING IN DELHI, WILL SPREAD TO WHOLE COUNTRY, SAYS CM

## Kejriwal pitch: Curriculum to instil deshbhakti 24x7

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

CHIEF MINISTER Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday launched the 'Deshbhakti Curriculum' and said there was a need to create an atmosphere where people experience patriotic feelings 24x7, and not just on watching patriotic movies or singing the national anthem. He said the curriculum would work to instil such feelings in students.

"When we see the *tiranga* in all its glory, our hearts get full of joy and pride. Every time we sing the national anthem, talk about our freedom fighters, it feels like time stops. All of this is the feeling of deshbhakti. The problem is that it only props up when we do something of this sort. We need to develop an environment wherein all of us and our children constantly feel patriotic 24x7. We can only imagine what the future would look like if this happens," he said at the launch at Chhatrasal Stadium.

Adding that patriotism was not just about soldiers on the border, he said, "*Deshbhakti* is present within each and every individual of this country. It is something one is born with. But it needs an impetus. There's a Gandhi, a Bose, a Nehru, a Chandrashekhar Azad, a Sardar Patel, an Abul Kalam Azad inside all of us. We just need to wake them up," he said.

Kejriwal drew a distinction between professionals and patriotic professionals.

"For example, a doctor will think of how he can earn more. A deshbhakt doctor will look out to help the maximum number



Kejriwal, Sisodia at Chhatrasal Stadium on Tuesday.

of people. He will think of how he can aid the person at his door, whether or not they can pay the fees," he said.

Kejriwal said Delhi was making a "small beginning" in developing the curriculum, and that it would soon "spread to the whole country".

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said the curriculum would make every student a "*kattar deshbhakt*".

"This curriculum is not going to talk about patriotism, rather it will work to generate the patriotic spirit (*jazbaa*). It will not develop students who grow up and keep talking about patriotism, it will develop students who have the patriotic spirit in their hearts. Secondly, it will not be a curriculum of moral preaching... It will not be a curriculum based on rote learning of historical facts. In this, every student will look

towards their heart and (patriotic) spirit," he said.

Sisodia cited examples of Bhagat Singh, Rani of Jhansi, and Ambedkar, among others. "They (students) will think and talk about this passion (that existed in these patriots), and instil it in their hearts... This curriculum will make them think where on the scales (*tarazu*) of patriotism does my work fall, where do my thoughts fall?"

"Every year we will include 100 stories in the curriculum. Students will go through the stories of their lives and instil the feeling of patriotism... From nursery to Class 120, every child will go through 700-800 stories and 500-600 songs. That's our preparation. Additionally, every class will begin with five minutes of "*deshbhakti dhyana*" or mindful meditation where students will have to think of five

patriots and feel grateful towards them," he said.

Principal Secretary Education H Rajesh Prasad, Director Education Udit Prakash Rai, Principal Advisor to Director Education Shailendra Sharma, and the core team members of the curriculum, among others, were also present at the event.

A short interaction also took place with students and teachers who were part of the pilot project. Almost all of them said they had some apprehensions in the beginning but ended up loving the course and understanding its importance.

It was piloted by about 20 teachers with over 200 students before the content was finalised.

Deshbhakti curriculum will be rolled out from nursery to Class 12, as and when the schools reopen for the respective grades.



## BIRD'S EYE VIEW

As forecast by the weather office, the city was covered with clouds on Tuesday. *Gajendra Yadav*

## Ban on crackers in capital till Jan 1: DPCC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE DELHI Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has imposed a ban on bursting and sale of all types of firecrackers till January 1, 2022 in the capital.

District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of Police have been told to implement the directions, the DPCC order states. "Several experts have indi-

cated a possibility of another surge of Covid and large-scale celebrations by bursting of firecrackers will result not only in agglomeration of people, in violation of social distancing norms, but also would result in high level of air pollution leading to serious health issues in Delhi. Under the prevalent pandemic crisis situation, this is not favourable for the cause of larger community health given the possible high level of exposure

to air pollutants leading to short and long term adverse health effects given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections," the DPCC order, issued by Member Secretary K S Jayachandran, states.

The DPCC also noted that a December 2020 order issued by the National Green Tribunal stated that there would be a ban on sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers during Covid in NCR

and all cities/towns in the country where the ambient air quality falls under the 'poor' and above category.

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government had banned the storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers earlier this month.

"Delhi faces grave air pollution particularly in winter season and level of pollutants like particulate matter concentration goes much beyond the prescribed standards," the DPCC said.

## No money for salaries, civic bodies ask 1,000 contract teachers to go

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SOUTH and North Delhi municipal corporations have not renewed the contract of over 1,000 teachers, leaving many of them, including those who helped in ration distribution during the pandemic, jobless.

The East MCD, however, has not removed any of its contract teachers. The South MCD terminated the contract of 421 teachers while the North MCD removed 667 teachers.

Standing committee member and Congress councillor Suresh Kumar raised the issue in a meeting on Tuesday and said it was inhuman that the civic body had deserted them during a crisis. "They have been working for over ten years, where will they go now? Most can't go and seek fresh jobs because of the age constraint."

Anil Shokeen, a teacher employed in Lajpat Nagar, said: "We even distributed ration during Covid, risking our lives. Our contract used to get renewed in June, but it has not been renewed this year as well as last year."

Standing committee chairperson of the South MCD, B K Oberoi, said that the civic body hired over 150 permanent teachers recently. "The finances of the corporation don't allow it to pay for contract teachers as the Delhi government is not paying MCD

its dues," he said.

The East MCD has retained its teachers and is paying them under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The issue has also led to a political slugfest, with AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj saying it was shocking that on September 7, 2020, North MCD's Education Department Headquarters wrote a letter to the Delhi Government conveying that they were firing their primary school teachers because schools were shut during the pandemic and they are not conducting physical classes. "The teachers are not even able to get ration for themselves because their salaries have not been paid by the MCD," he said.

BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said these were contractual teachers whose salary is Rs 35,420 per month, which is paid under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The annual salary bill of these 667 contractual teachers is Rs 23.62 crore, out of which 25% is paid by the Centre while 75% is to be paid by the Delhi government.

The Delhi government stopped paying the salary of these contractual teachers in May 2020 after which North MCD had no option but to suspend their contracts, he said. Despite suspending them, North MCD has been writing to the Delhi government to pay their salaries so they can be reinstated, but in vain, he said.

## Scanner on pensions being given by civic body

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AFTER REPORTS of a Lokayukta probe being initiated in some cases of pension wrongly being given to people by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, the civic body has stressed that a 'life certificate' would be necessary for any new beneficiaries to be added.

Commissioner of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) informed the standing committee on Thursday that there are cases flagged by the Lokayukta, so it has to be ensured that 'life certificates' are provided in each case before releasing any pension.

A 'life certificate' is meant to guarantee, through government documents, that the person drawing the pension is alive.

Standing committee chairperson of the South MCD, B K Oberoi, said the commissioner was referring to cases where people are not alive but pension was still being handed out.

He said that these cases are more than two years old since, for the past two years, the civic body has not been able to give pensions due to fund a crunch, though the process would be resumed.

Oberoi said that the civic body grants pension of Rs 1,000 per month in five to six cases — for the bedridden, transgenders, divorcees, widows and persons with disabilities.

The beneficiaries are recommended by each ward's councillor. The civic body councillors are entitled to sanction around 400 pensions in their respective wards. There are 104 wards in the South MCD. Sources in the civic body said that most of the deficiencies are in West and Najafgarh zone.

The corporations had, in the 2010-2011 budget, increased the pension amount from Rs 500 to Rs 1,000.

The South MCD, however, did not provide the exact number of cases in which the Lokayukta raised red flags.

A councillor with the South MCD said that the pensions had been stopped for the past two years ever since the outbreak of Covid. With the nearing elections, the civic body has been planning to start the scheme once again.

## 60 species identified in Aravallis in Haryana's first butterfly survey

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA  
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 28

HARYANA STATE Forest and Wildlife Department conducted the state's first butterfly survey in Rewari's Khol block Tuesday. The survey, conducted in a contiguous stretch in ten villages — Palra, Basduda, Khol, Manethi, Bhalki, Majra, Nandha, Balwari, Ahroad and Khaleta — spread over 1,000 hectares, was conducted to chalk out a strategy for conservation of butterflies and moths in Aravallis.

Sixty species of butterfly including small branded swift, Indian skipper, conjoined swift, lesser grass blue, gram blue, tiny



Common albatross, one of the rarely sighted butterflies

grass blue, small cupid, plains cupid oriental grass jewel, pea blue, Indian red flash, African Babul, common pierrot, rounded pier-

rot were identified in the area during the one-day survey. Common albatross, one of the rarely sighted butterflies, was also sighted in the area, said officials. The survey included 60 participants from Haryana Forest and Wildlife Department, Haryana State Biodiversity Board, an NGO, volunteers, butterfly experts and nature lovers from Mumbai, Jaipur, Faridabad, Delhi, Narnaul and Jhajjar.

Sunder Sambharya, divisional forest officer, Rewari, said, "Sixty species were identified in the survey, which is a great development. Butterflies are very important for our ecosystem and their conservation is crucial for suste-

nance of life on earth. Seventy percent of crops are pollinated either by moths, butterflies or honeybees. Through the survey, we wanted to check the floral diversity in the Aravalli region and to record and make inventories of the species. With 60 species being identified between 9 am to 4 pm, the results are heartening. It shows that the region has a diverse flora."

The survey coincides with Butterfly Month, which is observed from September 5 to October 4. Officials said the survey would form the basis for observing impact of habitat disturbance and climate change on the ecology of the region.

EXPRESS NEW SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

OBSERVING THAT a minor can donate organs in exceptional medical circumstances, the Delhi High Court has directed Delhi's health secretary to consider the request of a class 12 student, who will turn 18 on December 9, for donating a part of his liver to his ailing father.

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) had earlier refused to grant permission to the boy who is now 17 years and nine months old.

There is a grave medical emergency in the present case and the petitioner is about to

turn 18 in two months, noted Justice Rekha Palli in the order Monday, while directing the healthy secretary, who is the final authority under the law in such cases, to decide within two days.

The minor's father is suffering from an advanced stage of liver failure and doctors have recommended immediate liver transplantation. However, the doctors have already rejected the offers made by two other members of the minor's family for donation on medical grounds, as per the petition.

Left with no other option, the minor himself had applied for the donation but the authorisation committee denied him the

permission considering his age.

Setting aside the order passed by the hospital, the court said that it was incumbent upon the ILBS to consider whether the minor had made out a case for a grant for approval on exceptional medical grounds.

The court also said that the hospital ought to have also considered the effect of the medical fitness certificate issued in his favour by its doctors in August 2021, that clearly stated that he was in a proper state of health and medically fit for the procedure.

The court also directed the hospital to forward all the medical records of the minor and his father to the government.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL

**DIFFERENT NOTE**

INAN unusual address to representatives of the Christian community in New Delhi on Tuesday, Union Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi stood up for atheists. Speaking in the context of “forced conversions”, he said forced religious conversion cannot be a testament to trust in any religion, especially in a country where both believers and atheists coexist. He said atheists have equal constitutional and social rights under the Constitution. Naqvi also touched on the subjects of “bigotry and intolerance” and said these should not be allowed to weaken the spirit of “unity in diversity” in the country.

**PLAYING SAFE**

KANHAIYA KUMAR made sure the mask was in place during the event organised to mark his induction in the Congress. As senior party leaders felicitated him, Kumar refused to remove his mask. Photojournalists covering the event kept requesting that he remove the mask for the photos, but Kumar did not relent. He said he was just following the pandemic protocol. Later, as he began to speak, he first insisted that the mic be sanitised as it was being shared by all on the podium. He put on the mask again as soon as he concluded his remarks. Kumar and Independent MLA from Gujarat Jignesh Mevani, who announced his alignment with the Congress ideology on Tuesday, came wearing kurtas in colours alluding to their politics. While Kumar wore red, associated with Left politics, Mevani's kurta was blue, symbolic of the Dalit movement.

**REMEMBERING VAJPAYEE**

TUESDAY MARKED the end of the fourth edition of the Indo-US Health Dialogue. In his concluding speech, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya revisited all the important aspects of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US, specifically on vaccine supply chain management. However, he began his speech, remembering BJP stalwart and former Prime Minister Atal Bihar Vajpayee. “For India, we value our engagement with the US on various fronts and, we have traveled a long path in the past continuously nurturing this relationship.... I recall the year 2000, when during his trip to the US, our then Honourable Prime Minister, Late Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee Ji, portrayed India and the US as natural allies,” Mandaviya said.

Sidhu cornered by Amritsar rivals before he quit post

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR  
AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 28

EVEN THOUGH Navjot Singh Sidhu surprised everybody with his sudden resignation from post of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president on Tuesday afternoon, he has been at the receiving end of several surprises since Amarinder Singh's resignation as chief minister. Sidhu had spearheaded the campaign to topple Amarinder Singh. However, he could not gain from this move politically, after formation of the new Congress government with Charanjit Singh Channi as CM. Sidhu had played a key role in convincing the Congress high command to replace Amarinder Singh.

The reality turned out to be completely different as Sidhu found his rivals in Amritsar City more powerful with Channi as CM than they were during Amarinder's government. Sidhu was last seen in public during Channi's first visit to Amritsar as CM on Wednesday. Amritsar Central MLA Om Parkash Soni, who had almost defeated Sidhu in the 2009 parliamentary elections and has been in a legal tussle with him, became the Deputy Chief Minister in the new government. Soni was always seen in Amarinder's camp till the latter's resignation. Amritsar West MLA Raj Kumar Verka, who is also a Amarinder Singh confidant, occupied a cabinet position through Dalit quota in the new government under the Dalit CM. Many within the Congress were surprised at this move, as Verka is known to have publicly opposed Sidhu.

Many Congress MLAs had come to support Sidhu against Amarinder Singh. However, most only stood by him to seek Amarinder's removal. They revised their politics as soon as Amarinder was gone and new equations emerged after the appointment of Channi. There was no obligation to stand by Sidhu on their part, even though his critics had become cabinet ministers.



Punjab Congress Bhawan in Chandigarh Tuesday, after Sidhu's resignation. Kamleshwar Singh

I had been saying all along that this man is unstable: Amarinder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

AMONG THE tranche of political critics that took on Navjot Singh Sidhu after his resignation, the first one from Congress was former CM Amarinder Singh.

Apart from calling Sidhu and “unstable” man, Amarinder, in a statement, further termed the resignation “sheer drama”, adding that it showed that Sidhu was preparing the ground to quit the Congress and join hands with someone other party in the run-up to the state Assembly polls. “I had been saying all along that this man is unstable and dangerous, and cannot be entrusted with the task of running Punjab,” the Singh said, adding that Sidhu had also proved to be absolutely incompetent during his stint as a minister in his government.

Singh was quick to post his first reaction in a tweet after Sidhu stepped down. “I told you so... he is not a stable man and not fit for the border state of Punjab,” the former CM tweeted.

Amarinder, who is in Delhi on a personal visit, said that by resigning within two months of taking over as the PPCC chief, Sidhu



Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh arrives at Delhi airport. Prem Nath Pandey

had once again exhibited his “shifty” character. “I have known this boy since his childhood and he has been a loner and can never be a team player,” said Amarinder. When asked if he would back former PPCC chief, Sunil Jakhar, for the job, Amarinder said, “He (Jakhar) is very competent and had performed exceedingly well as the party chief”.

On Sidhu's resignation, Jakhar tweeted: “It's just not cricket! What stands compromised in this entire 'episode' is the faith reposed in the (outgoing ?) PCC President by the Congress Leadership. No amount of grand standing can justify this breach of trust placing his benefactors in a peculiar predicament.”

Amid census calls, data show nearly half of rural homes OBC

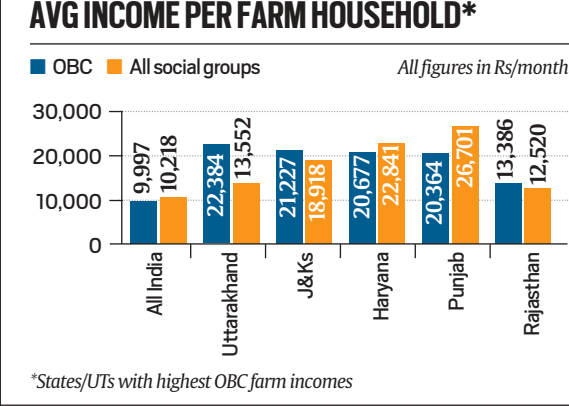
HARIKISHAN SHARMA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AMID CALLS for a caste census come findings that 44.4 percent of 17.24 crore rural households in the country are from Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and that OBC households are in a majority across rural areas of seven states — Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh — which together send 235 Lok Sabha members to Parliament.

The data is part of Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019, a survey conducted by the National Statistical Office of the Ministry of Programme Implementation and Statistics, whose results were released earlier this month. The data is for agricultural year 2018-19 -- the agriculture year in India is from July to June the following year.

The data shows that of an estimated 17.24 crore rural households, 44.4% were OBCs; 21.6% Scheduled Castes (SC); 12.3% Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 21.7% other social groups. Of the total rural households, 9.3 crore or 54% are agricultural households.

The highest proportion of rural OBC households is in Tamil Nadu (67.7%) and the lowest in Nagaland (0.2%). Apart from Tamil Nadu, in six states — Bihar (58.1%), Telangana (57.4%), Uttar Pradesh (56.3%), Kerala (55.2%), Karnataka (51.6%), Chhattisgarh (51.4%) — OBC households ac-



count for more than half of the rural households. These states are politically crucial as they account for 235 members in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Besides, four states -- Rajasthan (46.8%), Andhra Pradesh (45.8%), Gujarat (45.4%) and Sikkim (45%) -- have a higher share of rural OBC households than the all-India figure of 44.4%. In all, 17 states -- Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Haryana, Assam, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Tripura, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland -- have a lower share of rural OBCs households when compared to the national average.

The survey findings show that out of the estimated 9.3 crore agricultural households, 45.8% are OBCs; 15.9% SCs; 14.2% STs and 24.1% from other social groups.

The survey also provides data on average monthly income (based on 'paid out expenses' approach) per agricultural household. While the average monthly income of a farm household at the all-India level stood at Rs 10,218 during agriculture year 2018-19, it was lower for OBC agricultural households (Rs 9,977), SC households (Rs 8,142), ST households (Rs 8,979). Agricultural households of 'Other Social Groups', however, recorded an average monthly income of Rs 12,806.

For states, the average monthly income per agricultural household in the OBC category ranged between Rs 5,009 and Rs 22,384 during agriculture year 2018-19. Of the 23 states, for which the income data is available, Uttarakhand recorded the highest average monthly income per OBC agricultural household, while Odisha (Rs 5,009) was at the bottom.

Faleiro to be inducted in TMC today

MAYURA JANWALKAR  
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 28

A DAY after he resigned from the Congress and from his seat as the MLA of Navelim in South Goa, former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro arrived in Kolkata on Tuesday. Faleiro and about a dozen other leaders from Goa are set to be inducted in the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Wednesday.

Those who are expected to

join the TMC on Wednesday with Faleiro include Konkani writer N Shivdas, a Sahitya Akademy award winner, former Goa Congress General Secretary Yatish Naik, former Goa Congress secretary Mario Pinto, former Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party MLA Lavu Mamedkar. Faleiro, a seven-time MLA and former AICC general secretary, submitted his resignation to the Goa Speaker on Tuesday and also resigned from the primary membership of the Congress.

In his resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Faleiro wrote that the party's Goa unit had become a “cruel parody of what the Congress stands for”.

Meanwhile, Avertano Furtado, who was earlier a minister in a Manohar Parrikar-led government, joined the Congress here on Tuesday, PTI reported. According to party sources, he is likely to contest the coming Assembly elections from Navelim, the constituency from where he had lost to Luizinho Faleiro in 2017.

ADVERTORIAL

# Kalra Hospital: Charting New Paths of Excellence in Heart Care



*A veteran cardiologist with over 4 decades of experience in heart care and surgeries, **Dr R. N. Kalra**, is the Medical Director and CEO R&D of Kalra Hospital. New Delhi. He alongwith his two sons, Dr Ankur Kalra and Dr Ankit Kalra, along with a team of vastly experienced specialists are taking forward the hospital to set new benchmarks clinical excellence. On World Heart Day, the father-sons trio share different aspects of heart care for the benefit of the readers with the Indian Express.*



**WORLD HEART DAY**  
SEPTEMBER 29

**What is the significance of World Heart Day?**  
World Heart Day is celebrated every year to create awareness among the society about the rising heart disease in every country, especially the younger generation in India. It is an indication that the young population should be very careful about their diet, must not lead a sedentary life,

exercise regularly, keep their sugar and cholesterol levels under control and improve their lifestyle, including reducing time spent on mobile and social media. Follow the old saying, “Early to Bed and Early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise” !

**How to ensure heart health and**

**seek aid in an emergency?**  
Once you turn 40 go for annual health check-up including heart functioning and get tested for lipid profile just to check and rule out any chances of being prone to heart disease. Many a times the symptoms of a heart attack re deceptive and surface as a bout of indigestion, pain in the jaw and in the back, suffocation or breathlessness.

Immediately put a sorbitrate under the tongue of the person or give them disprin dissolved in a glass of water to prevent clotting. They should be immediately rushed to the emergency for medical help so that the situation can be averted from worsening. Lives can be saved if people are a little alert and seek aid in the first 3-4 hours, called the Golden hours. High mortal-

ity rate in heart attack or heart failure happens when symptoms are ignored or there is delay in seeking medical attention. Most importantly, say a BIG NO to tobacco in any form, including smoking.

**What is your World Heart Day message to all?**  
Keep your heart healthy by saying good-

bye to cigarette, don't get stressed, follow the right path in whatever profession you chose to be, include a 30 - minute walk in your daily routine, don't over eat, avoid alcohol or take the amount prescribed by the doctor. Be positive and increase the dose of love for everyone. Take care of your heart, be happy, spread happiness and stay healthy.



**ANKUR KALRA**  
MD, FACP, FACC, FSCAI

Dr Ankur Kalra is Associate Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Staff Interventional Cardiologist, Section of Invasive and Interventional Cardiology and Medical Director of Clinical Research, Section of Regional Cardiovascular Medicine Heart, Vascular, and Thoracic Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, US

**Globally, what are the latest advancements in research on heart surgery, treatment and drugs?**  
Transcatheter heart valve therapies for treating heart valve diseases have revolutionized the management of our patients. The procedures are minimally invasive, catheter-based, and obviate the need for open heart surgery.

**How has technology eased diagnosis, treatment and surgery in heart care?**  
Technology with regard to advent of advanced multi-modality imaging has enabled us to better prognosticate patients on their disease condition. It has also allowed for more sensitive screening for heart disease.

**Harnessing the power of digitalization to improve awareness, prevention and management of CVD globally is the goal for World Heart Day 2021. Your message in this context, to the readers?**  
Digitalization has enabled improvement in health literacy and patient education by helping physicians share multifarious health literacy tools with patients to help them educate themselves and their loved ones about their disease condition.

**The threat of the Covid pandemic still looms. How critical is it and according to you how should heart patients carry themselves in the new normal?**  
Yes, the danger from the Covid virus is here to stay for a while. Everyone, especially heart patients, should wear a mask when in a congested place because it provides protection of more than 80 percent. Also, get yourself vaccinated which provide more than 80 percent immunity from the virus. Those who are fully vaccinated need not wear a mask at home if there is enough space for maintaining distance. You can go out if you can maintain social distancing and its advisable to wear a mask to prevent transmission of the virus.

**Why is it that we are not 100 percent safe despite the two doses of vaccinations?**  
Generally, for a mutation it takes around 800 years, but the Covid virus is mutating very fast, and there are atleast 800 different kinds of corona viruses that we have seen during the pandemic. So, the vaccines can provide protection from around to 652-700 types of viruses. So, there is a small window or gap that still remains un-



**DR ANKIT KALRA**  
MD (Medicine), Gold Medalist, DNB (Cardiology)

guarded from where a variant of the Corona virus can infect a person. Vaccination also significantly tones down the severity of the infection.

**How did Covid virus impact heart patients?**  
A lot of problems were seen in patients who already had heart disease or who

were at a risk of developing heart disease, which largely showed tendency of blood clotting. The virus can decrease heart functions known as myocarditis where there is inflammation in all the valves of the heart. Another problem that was observed in was conduction abnormalities impacting the conduction system of the heart. People who were brought to the hospital with heart attacks were treated according to the standard procedure such as administering a blood thinner to prevent clotting in the arteries. Angioplasty was performed on such patients. Patients who came with myocarditis responded to steroids and those having conduction abnormalities, their condition improved as the Covid infection reduced.

**Could you share about Heart care campaigns driven by Kalra Hospital?**  
We regularly conduct preventive check-ups and also organizing camps which helps in screening the community so that people who are at high risk or just developing symptoms of heart disease can be identified and we treat them to avoid further complications. New drugs are proving to be very effective in improving the function of the heart. Regu-

lar blood sugar, cholesterol and health check-ups must be done to pre-empt the onset of heart diseases. Those who have very low heart function must get checked up every three months and those who have already have had a heart attack they should go for a check-up every six months.

**What's your message to the healthcare fraternity and the public?**  
It is the responsibility of the entire community to help each other and prevent another wave of Covid from happening. It's important to keep your immunity levels high through balanced diet and exercise. Strictly follow social distancing and Covid safety protocols to prevent a repeat of the devastating conditions that we have gone through earlier. To the healthcare fraternity, I would advise them to be extra cautious by washing their hands more often and use double mask. After wearing the N95 mask and another one over it can reduce chances of infection to almost 99 percent. In the hospital wear PPE kits along with face shield and gloves as a safeguard against coming in contact with an infected patient and getting affected.



# 8 EXPRESS NETWORK

## BRIEFLY

### MAHARASHTRA

**Astrosat, India's maiden space observatory, turns 6**

*Pune:* Astrosat, India's maiden space-based observatory, has completed six years of successful operations in space. Launched by ISRO on September 28, 2015, Astrosat has not only outperformed expectations of a five-year mission but also continues to remain operational till date. This multi-wavelength observatory, conceived in the 1990s, saw the collaboration of scientists from ISRO, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Raman Research Institute, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Physical Research Laboratory. Following its success, the scientific community is in the process of putting together a successive mission with advanced instruments, works for which are presently underway. **ENS**

### WEST BENGAL

**8 arrested for heckling Dilip Ghosh get bail**

*Kolkata:* The Kolkata Police on Tuesday registered a suo motu case in connection with the heckling of BJP leader Dilip Ghosh in the Jadubabu Bazar area of Bhabanipur Assembly constituency the previous day. They also arrested eight people but all of them received bail, said officials. Suspected TMC workers heckled Ghosh on the last day of campaigning for the September 30 bypoll in which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is up against BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal. Following the melee, Ghosh's security officer was seen whipping out a pistol. However, a local TMC leader alleged that Ghosh had first pushed a TMC worker. **ENS**

### UTTAR PRADESH

**Minor chained: father, madrasa owner arrested**

*Lucknow:* Aligarh police on Monday arrested a madrasa owner and the father of a minor boy who they found chained at the institution. The father was arrested after he confessed that he asked his boy to be kept in chains as he used to run away from the madrasa. Sleuths also invoked multiple sections of the Juvenile Justice Act against the accused. Additional Superintendant of Police, City, Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said the madarsa owner along with the boy's father were produced on Tuesday before a local court which sent them to judicial custody. **ENS**



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari reviews work on the Zojila and ZD Morh tunnels, in Baltal, Jammu and Kashmir, Tuesday. **PTI**

## Expect Zojila tunnel to be ready before 2024 polls, says Gadkari

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
BAL TAL, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT wants its showpiece infrastructure project in Kashmir, the Zojila tunnel, to be inaugurated before 2024 general elections, asking the contractor to speed up work by about three years.

"They are supposed to complete it by September 2026. I have asked them to finish it by December 2023 so that the Prime Minister can inaugurate it before Republic Day of 2024. It's a challenge I know, but I'm confident they can do it on time," Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said during an inspection of the Zojila tunnel's West portal in Baltal in Kashmir Tuesday.

The 14.5 km Zojila tunnel,

which will be Asia's longest bi-direction tunnel at a height of more than 11,500 feet, will provide all-weather, perennial connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. From the strategic point of view, the tunnel, being built at a cost of more than Rs 4,600 crore, is a critical asset for the armed forces.

Gadkari gave the instruction on early completion to Krishna Reddy, managing director of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, who accompanied the minister to the tunnel. "This does not mean that we will compromise with quality. True, building something like this in the Himalayas is not easy. But I'm sure they can do it," Gadkari said.

Connectivity is one of the areas the NDA government has been working on in its efforts to win over the people and overhaul

the socio-economic condition of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the two Union Territories carved out of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. There are plans for 20 tunnels in Jammu and Kashmir and 11 tunnels in Ladakh. Road projects worth around Rs 1 lakh crore are currently in progress in the region.

Gadkari said there are plans to pump in projects worth another Rs 1 lakh crore by 2024.

The Zojila tunnel itself will get an upgrade, as plans are afoot to build an escape tunnel along the main tunnel, which will increase the cost. Currently, it is a single-tube tunnel. Gadkari said the paper-work is in process in his ministry.

Through the tunnel, the travel time will be reduced from the current 3.5 hours through the pass to a 15-min drive, as per official estimates.

## Chhattisgarh govt protecting 2 officers in PDS scam, says BJP

**GARGI VERMA**  
RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 28

FORMER CHHATTISGARH CM and senior BJP leader Raman Singh Tuesday alleged that the Bhupesh Baghel government is trying to protect two senior IAS officers accused of being part of a multi-crore civil supply scam unearthed in 2015.

The state BJP's accusation against the Baghel government comes on the back of the ED's submission before Supreme Court that the state government has weakened the case against the two officers accused in the NAN (Nagrik Apurti Nigam) scam.

Addressing the media, Singh accused the Congress government of hypocrisy, as the party had sought an ED investigation in the case while in Opposition. In 2015, the then BJP government faced allegations that kick-backs were paid by rice millers and agents to allow distribution of substandard rice through PDS. The government had then started a probe by Anti-Corruption Bureau and Economic Offences Wing. The ACB raided NAN offices, recovered cash and documents, and eventually charged several officials, including senior IAS officers Alok Shukla and Anil Tuteja. Both got anticipatory bail from Chhattisgarh HC in August 2020.



**IAS officer Mohammad Iftikharuddin**

In a tweet, the state home department said the government has formed a two-member SIT to look into the matter and submit a report in seven days. CB-CID Director General GL Meena will head the team, which includes ADG (Kanpur) Bhanu Bhaskar. On Monday evening, Kanpur Police Commissioner Asim Kumar Arun had ordered an inquiry after the video clips went viral in the city.

According to a *PTI* report, UP Minister of Law and Justice Brajesh Pathak said the government had taken cognizance of the videos and given instructions for investigation. The place where the IAS officer is sitting seems to be government property, which is not at all appropriate legally or constitutionally, he said.

The state government is particularly strict on the matter of religious conversion, Pathak said. "We have even made a strict law regarding that. We will take strict action against anyone who tries to convert people using force or any kind of lure," he said. **—WITH PTI**

# Take up campaign to impart info on climate change to farmers: PM

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon academicians, agricultural scientists and institutions to start a campaign to impart information to farmers on climate change, which is a huge challenge for agriculture.

Launching 35 crop varieties with special traits to address climate change and malnutrition, the Prime Minister said, "Climate change is a huge challenge not only for agriculture, but for our entire ecosystem. Climate change greatly affects our fish production, animal health and productivity."

Due to climate change, new types of pests, diseases, epidemics are emerging, which not only pose a threat to people, but also affect livestock and crops, he

said. Intensive and continued research on these aspects is necessary, he said, adding that when science, government and society work together, results are better.

"Today I will ask all academicians, agricultural scientists and institutions to set your goals for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Start a 75-day campaign. Take up the campaign for change by adopting 75 villages. Spread awareness in 75 schools and engage each school in some work," the Prime Minister said, addressing a gathering through video conference.

"Our efforts will save the country's agriculture from climate change. It will also ensure prosperity of the farmer and the health security of the country," he said.

The Prime Minister said he made a similar request to Olympic champions to spread awareness on malnutrition. "I urged every athlete to attend at least 75

schools in the coming year or two and talk to students about nutrition, sports and physical exercise."

The crop varieties, which the Prime Minister launched on Tuesday, have been developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to "address the twin challenges of climate change and malnutrition."

The Prime Minister said that 1,300 such seed varieties have been developed in recent years and, in this series, 35 crop varieties were being launched.

These new varieties are not only capable of dealing with many types of weather challenges, they are also more nutritious, Modi said. On the occasion, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed campus of National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur, and distributed the Green Campus Award to four agricultural universities.

## PM Modi chairs meeting of Council of Ministers

*New Delhi:* Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers wherein presentations were made on focussed implementation and monitoring of various projects.

Sources aware of the development said the presentation was made by Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Piyush Goyal, followed by a sort of free-wheeling discussion on how the implementation of the projects and the government schemes can be further enhanced and improved. **PTI**

# Firebrands in grand old party

## Mevani gets a party, Cong a face, but will the twain meet?

**LEENA MISRA & VAIBHAV JHA**  
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

FIREBRAND DALIT leader Jignesh Mevani was in the need for a party. And having left AAP in 2016, perhaps there were few options in Gujarat for the Independent MLA backed by the Congress other than the grand old party.

But if the 41-year-old needs the Congress at a time when the BJP seems resurgent in a state that it has ruled for decades, the party needs voices and faces like Mevani if Rahul Gandhi has to carry through his ambitions to "rebuild the Congress".

His entry into the Congress was facilitated by its working president, Hardik Patel. Mevani represents the reserved constituency of Vadgam in Banaskantha, but he belongs to neighbouring Mehsana, the district that is also home to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As a journalist, he worked for *Abhiyaan*, a fortnightly Gujarati magazine, in Mumbai, and was a member of the late lawyer-activist Mukul Sinha's organisation Jan Sangharsh Manch, that fought for victims of the 2002 riots.

As a lawyer his petition seeking allocation of surplus government land to landless Dalits under the Gujarat Agriculture Land Ceiling Act is before the High Court. He was recently seen at a protest by employees of Ford Motors, which is shutting its manufacturing plant in Sanand.



**Jignesh Mevani**

Mevani said while had offered to resign as MLA to formally join the Congress, Rahul had told him not to hurt his voters. "It is just a matter of a few months when I could contest again on a Congress ticket," he told *The Indian Express*.

Apart from bringing some fire into the ranks of the Congress, Mevani's induction is also a factor of caste calculations — both for the coming elections in Uttar Pradesh and later Gujarat.

The Gujarat Congress unit though is watching the entry of Mevani, seen to be a Rahul import, warily. Hardik had earlier told *The Indian Express*, "Kanhaiya Kumar is a popular leader and excellent orator. He will surely instil energy in the party and take it out of inertia. He will prove a star campaigner in a true sense."

Asked if Kanhaiya would face resistance from the party's veteran leaders, Quadri said, "Kanhaiya was brought to the party directly from the Congress high command and hence, no one would resist his growth."

Quadri said the party had given enough time to veteran leaders. "The party is now investing in a young leadership and one should welcome it," he said. Bihar MLC and Congress leader Prem Chandra Mishra echoed Quadri, saying, "We welcome Kanhaiya to the party. The party will make best use of his leadership potential."

Another Congress leader, requesting anonymity, said Kanhaiya can help increase the Congress's bargaining power in the Grand Alliance, especially with RJD. "Though RJD has always been wary of Kanhaiya's popularity, it would have to take note of the value Kanhaiya will

## Bihar Cong says Kanhaiya can take party 'out of inertia'

**SANTOSH SINGH**  
PATNA, SEPTEMBER 28

SEVERAL BIHAR Congress leaders are of the opinion that that Kanhaiya Kumar, who joined the party on Tuesday, can instil "new energy" to the party and "take it out of inertia"

Bihar Congress working president Kaukab Quadri told *The Indian Express*, "Kanhaiya Kumar is a popular leader and excellent orator. He will surely instil energy in the party and take it out of inertia. He will prove a star campaigner in a true sense."

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**Kanhaiya Kumar**

## Kanhaiya expelled himself from CPI, says D Raja

*New Delhi:* Kanhaiya Kumar has expelled himself from the CPI, the Left party's general secretary D Raja said on Tuesday moments after the former JNU leader joined the Congress.

Raja alleged that Kanhaiya was "not truthful" with the CPI leadership. "Kanhaiya expelled himself from the party. He was not truthful to the party. The CPI existed long before Kanhaiya came into the party's fold and will continue to exist after his exit," Raja said, questioning his faith in the Communist ideology. **PTI**

bring to the party."

Bihar Congress sources said Kanhaiya Kumar might not be given any prominent position in the organisation. "Kanhaiya is interested in working on the ground and rejuvenating Congress cadre. Besides catering to upper castes, Kanhaiya has wide appeal among Muslims, Dalits and youth," a source said.

# Row as WII director keeps MSc, PhD courses 'in abeyance'

**SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

FOR THE first time since its recognition by Saurashtra University in 1988, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Uttarakhand — a Centre of Excellence under the Environment Ministry — could not schedule its customary 7-km trek to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve for the new batch of 20 MSc (Wildlife) students as part of its orientation tour.

At the centre of the row is WII director Dhananjai Mohan's "unilateral" decision on September 13 to keep its recognition for MSc and PhD programmes conferred by the university "in abeyance till further clarification was obtained from UGC". WII faculty members said the issue was never dis-

cussed in the last meeting of the governing board — the top-decision making body of the institute — in May 2020.

What triggered the move was an audit by the CAG in February 2019, which objected to the WII's tie-up with a non-Uttarakhand university. On the UGC guidelines for "affiliation", Mohan asserted that he could not risk students' future with multiple interpretations of the law. Mohan has said that as per UGC guidelines, an institute has to be "affiliated" with a university in the same state, but Saurashtra University has argued that WII is exempted because it is a "specialised research institute".

"The university's Act, ratified by the UGC, grants itself power to 'recognise' an institute outside the state in special cases," said Girish Bhimani, dean of Saurashtra University's Science Department.

WII alumni and researchers have sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav to "prevent the imminent closure of WII's publicly-funded MSc and PhD programs, and get these reinstated". A petition signed by the alumni and researchers, alleging a threat to the "conservation agenda of the nation", will soon be submitted to Modi and Yadav.

The petition also takes umbrage to the neglect of the WII's governing board. "As per the best of our knowledge, we would like to bring your attention to the fact that these decisions to suspend the academic programs in association with Saurashtra University have been taken without informing or consulting the governing council at WII," it claims.

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

# A start-up becomes a support system for Jharkhand farmers

**ABHISHEK ANGAD**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AJIT MANJHI, 31, worked for the last 10 years as a migrant labourer. When the pandemic struck, he returned to his home in Jharkhand's Bokaro district in May 2020 and decided to farm on three acres of his land. Around 150 km away, in Khunti district, a group of 10 farmers is expecting its 500 quintals of harvested ginger to fetch at least Rs 7/per kg more than the market price.

Common to both is a Jharkhand-based start-up that has been working over the last four years in the state to build a support system for farmers. Currently operating from 12 districts, KissanPro caters to the needs of more than 10,000 farmers — providing them with assistance in



**A KissanPro team holds a meeting with farmers in Ranchi's Kanke block.**

planning the crop, soil testing, drip irrigation management, immediate tips on WhatsApp, cheaper seeds and fertilizers, and better prices for their produce.

KissanPro co-founder Pankaj Roy makes it clear it is a "for-profit" business, "but not at the cost of exploiting farmers". "We are connected to a few institu-

tional buyers and are helping farmers get a better price. This is where we also earn, as of now," says Roy.

*The Indian Express* spoke to at least ten farmers using KissanPro and none of them is currently trading their produce on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), a pan-India electronic trading portal.

Experts say the sector has huge opportunities for businesses, but needs proper production planning. MS Yadav, Director of the Centre of Agribusiness Management, Birs Agricultural University, says, "Middlemen lure farmers initially and later they don't give them good money. On e-Nam only 25-30 per cent of the farmers are registered and that too they use sparingly."

**FULL REPORT ON**  
**www.indianexpress.com**

## POST-POLL VIOLENCE CASES

# SC notice to Centre on Bengal plea over HC order for CBI probe

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on a plea by the West Bengal government challenging the Calcutta High Court's order directing a CBI probe into post-poll violence in the state following the TMC's victory in the recent Assembly polls.

"On the face of it, we find out that you have made out a case for issuance of notice. Let us see what they have to say. We will hear it in one go when the other side is also there," a bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared

for the West Bengal government.

The court, which fixed the next hearing for October 7, however, declined to pass any interim order.

"CBI is carrying on (an) investigation. Your Lordships should say that it should be subject to the outcome of this court's order," Sibal submitted. The bench replied, "That is always there. We don't need to say." Sibal then said the court should say no fresh cases should be registered. But the bench told him that "in one week nothing will happen".

Seeking some interim relief, Sibal pointed out that the CBI is issuing notices to police officers in the state. But Justice Saran responded that the court will look into the matter on October 7.



# To Keep Heart Safe and Happy, Connect Digitally

SEPTEMBER 29

# WORLD



# HEART DAY

**The theme this year for the World Heart Day is Use Heart to Connect. What is its significance in the new normal?**

For the last 2-3 years the theme has been Use Heart to Connect, but this year the focus is on Connect the Heart Digitally, be it with the doctor, colleague, friends, family and your loved ones because of the pandemic. Every year, globally, around 20 million people die of Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) that makes it notorious as the number one killer of humankind. In the Covid pandemic, people are scared to visit the hospital for appointment with the doctor fearing of getting infected, which has led to many deaths. From our observation and experience, we can definitely say that CVD cases and related deaths have increased considerably because of the pandemic and many have gone unreported, therefore, it is difficult to quote the exact numbers as no data is available. Since social distancing is the new normal making it difficult for heart patients to reach out and keep in touch with others, they have no better way to connect with them other than the technology assisted digital platform, which is best for awareness, treatment and prevention of the heart disease.

**In India, despite so much awareness about CVD, why is heart disease so prevalent?**

In India, the situation is very grave in fact, more so in the present circumstances of the pandemic, which has ag-

ways insist my family, friends and others to go for a heart check once they turn 40. It will not necessarily, that you would be detected with a heart problem, but by doing so you have a basic investigation for early detection of any heart problem that could be averted and rule out chances of your heart getting sick with timely treatment.

Unfortunately, the issue of trust deficit exists between patients and doctors and is a deterrent. It is not that all doctors are out to fleece their patients, except for a few bad apples. It's the duty of the doctor to give you good advice, and it's your duty is to look for a good doctor. If you are diagnosed with anything, you don't have to take an early decision, because you are doing it for preventive sake. If the situation requires that you have to go for a surgery, you don't have to do it until you discuss with your family and friends. That is why it is all the more important to get digitally connected to discuss and share your problems.

**Does genetics and lifestyle or both combined affect the heart?**

It is both combined because studies have shown that Indians as a race are inclined to developing CVD. What I have seen during the past several years in this country is that in people who are less than 40 years, around 80-85 percent of them have a strong family history, where very close blood relations such as mother, father and siblings are patients of CVD from an early age i.e., less than 60, then the offspring has very high chances



**DR. BHABANANDA DAS**  
M.S., M.Ch. (CTVS) Senior Consultant  
Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery

*Dr Bhaba Nanda Das, with over 40 years of experience as a cardio thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon, is amongst the senior most cardiac surgeon of the country. Dr Das, who has extensive experience and expertise has performed the first beating heart CABG, the first adult and paediatric heart implant in India, besides Aortic Aneurysm Surgery, and is treating people with heart disease at Apollo Hospital, New Delhi. On World Heart Day, the doctor with distinguished credentials and recognitions, shares his thoughts, the relevance of staying connected digitally in the new normal.*

gerous, because it is triggered by over ambitious, over competitiveness, envy and jealousies, and greed for more money, comfort and power. There is no end to aspirations and covetousness because of which people have a tendency to hoard and show-off. This kind of mental and emotional abnormalities also leads to misery and impacts the heart.

**Could you share about advancements in cardiac care and interventions?**

Among the advancements in cardiac care and surgeries is TAVI, which has come recently to treatment elderly people having a diseased valve in their heart, which is a condition known as Aortic Stenosis. When Aortic Stenosis occurs at the age of above 70 years, then there will be some comorbidity conditions associated with people of that age. So going for an open-heart surgery can be risky for the much elderly. In such a situation, TAVI is effective as a catheter can be inserted through an artery, and a new valve can be fixed in the heart. The process is now approved, and the medical guidelines says that it is suitable for people above 70-75 years of age. The valve used in TAVI is a biological value and the longevity of that valve presently known is only for 5 years duration approx. which puts a question mark on how long it will ultimately last. It is not recommended for young people, as they have many more years of life ahead of them, and unlike elderly people, they

of CVD is that if they are not getting enough cardiac output, meaning it's not functioning properly, where the heart is not able to pump enough blood for circulation it will lead to oxygen deficiency and one by one all other systems like the kidney, lung, liver will be getting involved, leading to multi-organ failure and ultimately death.

**During Covid many young people died of heart attack. What led to such cases of mortality?**

Covid is the disease of viral infection leading to an inflammable state. Not all Covid cases get pneumonia, and only 10 percent of people will get strong oxygen pneumonia, which is an inflammable state that can affect the small blood vessels in our body. Secondly, the heart and lung are very closely interconnected where if any one of them is affected it will impact the other. If the lung gets affected and is in inflammable condition the heart then has to work harder, to simply maintain the oxygen reserve. If you are a patient of CVD, which aggravated in Covid, it becomes severe because the heart has to work harder to maintain the circulation of blood in our body. Insignificant type of heart diseases, were seen to turn more serious with Covid infection where the heart and lung couldn't cope putting a question mark on survival. In the last two years of the pandemic and resultant lockdown there were lesser admissions in hospitals because of heart attacks, but

**It is worrisome that CVD is now prevalent in young people, which is dangerous, because it is triggered by stress, the root cause of every lifestyle disease.**

gravated heart ailments. A couple of decades ago, older people aged between 60-65 used to develop CVD, and the chances of heart incidents increases as one gets older. But we have observed an alarming phenomenon in our country and globally as well, is that, people are becoming victims of CVD at a very younger age. In western countries, awareness is much more widespread and young people start getting their regular health and heart check-up done when still young which helps in early detection and treatment, as a result their numbers are not as alarming as compared to India. On the contrary, young people in India we find are perhaps indifferent, scared or avoid going for a health check-up to skip treatment and be put on medication, therefore the condition goes undetected and reason for high number of CVD cases. I feel strongly about this indifference towards one's health in our country. My argument has always been that if you can get your vehicle checked and serviced annually, then why this absolute callous disregard for your health?

**When should one start going for a heart check-up?**

Silent and sudden heart attacks are prevalent in the young. The recent death of Siddharth Shukla, TV and film actor came as a huge shock to people, because he looked very well maintained. Therefore, it is all the more necessary to get your heart checked after 40 and I al-

of developing heart problems. Then if you have an equally poor lifestyle than the chances of getting CVD is 100 percent. Young professionals below 40, who come to me are mostly highly stressed because of their demanding jobs which pressurises them to achieve unfairly high targets. I know of people who start working from 8 a.m. in the morning till 8 p.m.-9 p.m. in the night to stay in their jobs. Competition is so high, which builds up stress, hypertension and many of them have CVD at an early age.

**Why is CVD cases less in rural population as compared to the metro and other big cities?**

It is true that rural folks are less prone to heart disease. However, the effects of urbanization are gradually catching up on small town and village communities because of which 50 percent of the population is now affected by CVD in some form or the other. Nevertheless, villagers lead a much better life than their city-bred counterparts. I wish to share that I come from a village in Assam where people live a healthy life upto a ripe old age of 90 years without having any CVD, because there is no pollution in the environment, their diet consists of fresh vegetables and fruits and so their food is nutritious, and there is more social interaction and bonding, which acts as a stress buster. Most importantly they live in sync with nature.

In is worrisome that now CVD is prevalent in young people, which is dan-

**It is necessary to get your heart checked after 40, as by doing so you have a basic investigation for early detection of any heart problem that could be averted with timely treatment, ruling out chances of your heart getting sick in future.**

usually have no co-morbidities. Another drawback is that the cost of TAVI is around \$25,000-30,000 and only 10 percent of the population can afford that kind of a surgery. Besides, you need to be trained especially for that, which is happening, but not in the way that it has to happen. May be in another decade we will have become experts in TAVI and the costs will also come down.

Minimally invasive heart surgery has been there for a long time. But the problem is that people seek the doctors advice when the condition is very advanced. It is not advisable to then do minimal invasive surgery and the patient may need bypass surgery or an open-heart surgery to set it right. Very few centres are doing robotic surgery, which is another option. The costs, however, for hi-tech surgeries are not affordable for the common man.

**What are the co-morbidities that lead to CVD and vice-versa?**

Diabetes is the leading co-morbid condition for the heart. Hypertension, which you cannot exactly call co-morbidity, is another condition that causes CVD. But there are other factors such as smoking, a strong family history, sedentary lifestyle and stressful work which are very high-risk that can develop into serious heart ailments and even needing cardiac surgery. The co-morbid conditions that a person can develop because

that does not mean that there were no heart diseases. Many people living in small towns or villages were unable to come to the city even for critical emergencies needing surgery and therefore died in their home for want of medical attention. I have personally seen 10 cases of diseased heart valve which was blocked because the patient was not taking the medicine. In the pandemic period, a lot of people who had a heart disease and had Covid died. And it was the other way round too where Covid led to pulmonary failure that affected the heart and patients have died. As many people had co-morbidity alongwith CVD, the rate of mortality rose high during that period.

In fact, people were scared to come to the hospital fearing they would get infected and this situation prevailed all across the world. That is why the World Heart Day emphasis on digitally connecting the heart.

**What is your message to people on World Heart Day?**

On World Heart Day, my message to all of you is that stay connected either digitally or physically with your doctor, family, friends and loved ones so that you can discuss your problems, and this is required and necessary because the pandemic is here to stay for a while and we are not going out much until its very necessary.



## Rain, flood havoc in Maharashtra, 8 dead

YOGESH NAIK,  
SHUBHANGI KHAPRE  
& VIVEK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI, NAGPUR, SEPT 28

AT LEAST eight persons died as torrential rain caused flood havoc across the Marathwada region of central Maharashtra and parts of the state's eastern region of Vidarbha.

Homes and fields were submerged, and the administration had to scramble to relocate families and livestock in a total of nine badly affected districts as a depression caused by Cyclone Gulab, which made landfall on the east coast, dumped rain on Maharashtra, especially on the



Rescue operations in Latur.

drought-prone Marathwada region.

The state government had to call in the NDRF for rescue operations. Government agencies rescued more than 300 people.

Some districts of Vidarbha were also affected.

This is the third natural calamity to strike Maharashtra after Cyclone Tauktae in May and the severe rain that caused floods and deadly landslides in Konkan and Western Maharashtra in July this year.

Heavy rain lashed all eight districts of Marathwada over the last two days, filling up several dams in the region, as a result of which water had to be discharged from these catchments, causing flooding downstream.

All 18 gates of Manjara dam and 11 gates of Majalgaon dam, both located in Beed, had to be opened, resulting in water discharge of 78,397 cusecs and 80,534 cusecs, respectively. The water release caused flooding in

Beed and adjoining Latur districts. In neighbouring Nanded, the water discharge from Vishnupuri dam was highest at 1,11,594 cusecs. In a state cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asked all guardian ministers of affected districts to go on inspection tours. He has called another meeting on Wednesday evening.

### Bus swept off; 4 killed

A Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation spokesperson said four people died when a bus bound from Nagpur to Nanded was swept off an inundated culvert at a village in Yavatmal. Two passengers were rescued.

## Rajasthan univ promotes 205 as Prof amid concern

**Jaipur:** Despite more than one letter from the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the state government expressing concern over allegedly "illegal" promotion of teachers at the University of Rajasthan, 205 in-service and retired teachers have been promoted by it as professors.

In an order dated September 25, posted a hurriedly called meeting of its Syndicate which many members kept out of, the university promoted 107 in-service and 98 retired associate professors - part of the 272 it had appointed on an ad hoc basis, without any selection process, to fill vacancies. **ENS**

# Almost 25% of adult population vaccinated

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

MORE THAN eight months after it rolled out the Covid-19 vaccination drive, India on Tuesday completed administering both doses of the vaccine to almost 25% of the estimated adult population.

According to provisional data, more than 53 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Tuesday, taking the cumulative number to 87.59 crore. With Tuesday's vaccinations, 68% of the estimated adult population has received their first dose and 24.61% are fully vaccinated.

Almost a quarter of the adult population being fully vaccinated has significant public health implications. Data shows that vaccine effectiveness in preventing death enhances after the second dose, offering near-total protection (97.5%) against severity and death.

"It is clear that among the tools we are using in our fight against the pandemic, it is the vaccine tool, which is the most significant shield that is protecting us from death. It is also clear that if you give two doses there is near total protection against serious disease and death. This will change the scenario very dramatically," Dr V K Paul, head of India's Covid-19 task force, had earlier said.

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

### TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

576  
DAYS SINCE  
PANDEMIC  
BEGAN

**NEW CASES: 21,345**  
**ACTIVE CASES: 2,84,167**  
**TOTAL VACCINATION: 87,07,08,636**

DAILY DEATHS 379 | TOTAL DEATHS 4,47,752 | WEEKLY CFR 0.90% | OVERALL CFR 1.34%



TESTS TODAY: 15,08,581 | TOTAL TESTS: 56,72,38,612  
WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.79% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.94%

### STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	11,196	1,49,852	15.11%	3,51,74,863
■ Maharashtra	2,844	36,794	1.51%	7,93,78,463
■ Mizoram	1,846	15,254	16.48%	11,13,653
■ Tamil Nadu	1,630	17,231	1.09%	4,64,08,275
■ Andhra Pradesh	771	11,912	2.06%	3,97,36,489

### STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	149	24,889	0.60%	0.56%
■ Haryana	64	9,874	71.74%	1.28%
■ Maharashtra	64	1,42,535	3.46%	2.19%
■ Karnataka	17	37,763	1.92%	1.27%
■ Tamil Nadu	17	35,526	1.31%	1.35%

Note: Data as on Sept 28; vaccination numbers as of Sept 27. Deaths include those caused by comorbidities.

## Interrupted by cancer 4 yrs ago, doctor goes on to win gold medal

**Chennai:** A 28-year-old who got a lease of life after undergoing a robotic colorectal surgery for low rectal cancer four years ago has finished post-graduation in medicine - and won a gold medal.

"She was diagnosed with very low rectal cancer in 2017 when she was 24, just as she was about to join her medical post-graduation," said Dr Venkatesh Munikrishnan, consultant colorectal and robotic surgeon, The Apollo Institute of Colorectal Surgery, Chennai. "This is because conventional surgery for colorectal cancer leaves patients with a

colostomy - that is, a surgically created opening in the body that routes bowel waste away into an external colostomy bag."

The youth's achievement incidentally comes at a time when the institute marks completion of five years since it began offering minimally invasive robotic surgical techniques and technology to patients with colorectal diseases, particularly colorectal cancer.

Dr Prathap C Reddy, chairman of the Apollo Hospitals Group, said they plan to extend the robotic colorectal surgery program to other hospitals in the group. **ENS**

## Made challenges new opportunities to revive tourism, says Gujarat CM

**Vadodara:** Emphasising on making Gujarat an "all-round" tourism hub, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said the state converted challenges during the pandemic into opportunities to revive the tourism industry.

Speaking at the Gujarat Travel and Tourism Excellence Award in Gandhinagar on September 25, Patel said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concept of integrating festivals with tourism has helped Gujarat in becoming a tourism hotspot.

Patel, along with state Tourism Minister Purnesh Modi, Minister of State for Tourism Arvind Raiyani, Tourism Secretary Harit Shukla and

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited MD Jenu Devan, gave away awards in 26 categories.

Patel said, "The global pandemic has hit the travel and tourism sector but Gujarat has converted the challenges into opportunities to revive this sector. Gujarat (has) maximum variety of tourist spots...ranging from desert and beach tourism to religious and spiritual tourism, adventure and border tourism to heritage tourism... It also has the world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity," He said, "The state government has undertaken a novel concept of border tourism...(and was) the first state to announce Heritage Tourism Policy in 2020." **ENS**

## HC to Speaker: Decide on plea for Mukul Roy disqualification

**Kolkata:** The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee to inform it by October 7 his decision on a petition seeking the disqualification of Mukul Roy as MLA since he joined TMC after being elected on a BJP ticket.

On July 17, Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari had petitioned the Speaker to disqualify Roy from the Assembly, claiming he had defected to the TMC. The following month, BJP MLA Ambika Roy moved the HC challenging Roy's election as the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and prayed for nomination of an Opposition member. **ENS**

## Three LS, 30 Assembly seats to go for bypolls on Oct 30: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

BYPOLLS TO three Lok Sabha seats and 30 Assembly constituencies spread across 14 states will be held on October 30, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday. The counting of votes will take place on November 2.

The seats where Lok Sabha by-elections will be held are Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh and Khandwa in MP. In all three constituencies, the sitting members had died.

Assembly bypolls will be held in 30 seats spread across 14 states.

Five of these seats are in Assam, four are in West Bengal, three each are in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and

Meghalaya, two each are in Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan and one each is in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland and Telangana.

"The Commission has reviewed the situation related to pandemic, flood, festivals, cold conditions in certain regions, feedback from concerned States/UT and taken into consideration all facts and circumstances," the EC said in a statement.

Prohibition of pre and post nomination processions, 50 per cent capacity at outdoor venues for campaigning, a maximum of 20 star campaigners for national and state recognised parties and a silence period of 72 hours before the end of polling are some of the COVID-19 related restrictions imposed by the EC.

### UTTARAKHAND: 'FORCED MIGRATION', POPULATION CONTROL MOVES

## Cong MLA accuses govt of communal polarisation moves for polls, BJP denies

LALMANI VERMA  
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 28

WITH THE BJP government in Uttarakhand considering a population control law and issuing a note to top officials to take precautionary measures to check instances of "forced migration" due to a "demographic imbalance" in some areas that could lead to communal disturbance, Opposition Congress on Tuesday

said these moves were aimed at communal polarisation ahead of the Assembly elections.

A day after *The Indian Express* reported that the state government was examining Uttar Pradesh's draft population control to prepare one the state, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, when asked about the move, told reporters: "The government is doing its home work... will tell you once it completes."

Congress MLA from Mangalore

in Haridwar district, Qazi Mohd Nizamuddin, termed the government moves an attempt to cover up failures on basic public issues.

"The BJP government failed to deliver in five years and to hide its failures, it is making an attempts of communal polarisation in elections by raising such issues," he said. "Instead of speaking about migration of people from villages in hills, they are talking about another migration [of Hindus]." He said he never saw any communal

violence in his constituency, which has 38 per cent Muslim population.

When asked about forced land deals and migration due to fear, DGP Ashok Kumar said he has not received any such complaint yet. "SPs in the districts have been directed to follow the orders of the Home Department," the DGP said, referring to last week's order for constitution of district-level committees to check such instances. Denying the allegations, BJP

spokesperson Shadab Shams said: "BJP is not trying any polarisation." On the "forced migration" issue, he said, "The Congress itself started this debate by demanding a strict land law and alleging that people from other states were buying properties in Uttarakhand and disturbing it local culture. When another person too wrote to the government about it, the state government decided to check... This move is not against any particular community... The

BJP will contest elections by highlighting its development works."

He was referring to BJP leader Ajendra Ajay's letter to the CM demanding to notify hill areas as special zone, and bring in special provisions for sale, purchase of land.

Ajay told *The Indian Express*, "In border areas where Hindus become minority population - from North-East to J&K - separatism, terrorism and anti-national activities increase. That is one of the concerns."

# ‘Nobody is against English; we want to ensure language does not become a barrier to talent’

A year after the government announced a new National Education Policy, Education Secretary Amit Khare discusses what is changing, the focus on learning rather than teaching, and the road to holistic implementation of the policy



### On ensuring holistic implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)

Many state governments have already begun implementing various provisions of the NEP in their universities and schools, and in skill development centres. It is a continuum and focuses on a life of learning; it is not focused so much on teaching, rather it is focused on learning.

One important aspect that has been in the pipeline is the National Education Technology Forum. A task force has already been constituted. The future is going to be technology. Of course, technology is not going to replace the teachers. The importance of teachers in teaching and learning, the personal interactions that we have in the classrooms or in the playgrounds - that will continue to have its importance, but given the large population, the size of the cohort, the age group in which we have to impart education, and given the fact that many new learnings have to come even while we are working... Earlier concepts that we earn a degree and then go out for work are also changing. New skills or new knowledge have to be learnt over the years, and all that will come through technology. The Technology Forum will try to bring that synergy among various platforms of school, higher education, skill development, and ministries, and also the state governments. So state government teachers, central government, we have to look at education as one holistic trend rather than looking at it in terms of the regulatory structures. There are forms of governance; education as such will remain the same.

The second important work in progress is the Education Commission of India, which will bring in a new regulatory structure. Instead of multiple regulators, there will be a single regulator and the focus will be more on self-regulation rather than inspection and enforcement from the central or the state government. Of course, this will require parliamentary approval, and will take a little time.

### On Tamil Nadu's announcement that it will not implement the NEP

In the last meeting we had, held immediately after the policy was announced, which was before



### AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

#### On Acts that will have to be amended to fully implement the NEP

These amendments should have come this year, but for the difficult (pandemic) situation. Hopefully by next year, some of these amendments will be part of the Higher Education Commission. We have a draft, but instead of going before the Cabinet or to Parliament, we have decided that we would prefer a wider consultation with state governments and stakeholders. This will be not only for central and state government institutions, but also for private institutions. It is only after the consultation that we would like to go to Parliament.

the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, all the state governments had given their consent to the policy, with some local requirements. So overall, no state has as yet gone for a new policy of its own. By and large it is the same policy - some tweaking at the local level, they can have. The policy is one which empowers students, and I don't think any state, any institution, will say don't empower students. All states, all universities, all IITs, cannot do it immediately. They will have to do it in phases. That phasing has to be done by the states or institutions.

#### On undoing the damage caused by the pandemic to school education

Sometimes when we think of digital education, we start thinking about the Internet. Internet is one of the mediums, but there is another, which we consider our strength - 34 educational channels - and there is a third one, which is radio. One will have to devise an optimum mix of these me-

#### On underprivileged students who are returning to school

As schools reopen, those who are outside the system have to be brought back into the system through a bridge course. And that bridging is possible today by various courses of NIUS, by having the bridging system at different levels. Even earlier, this system of bridge courses was there, but it will be required on a much larger scale to bridge this gap, not only for those who were in school and could not attend because of the pandemic, but also for those who have dropped out altogether.

dia. There are areas in this country where the Internet is not available continuously, but they are served by satellite TV. In fact, last year, 12 channels were allotted specifically to schools, and one channel per class was introduced. All India Radio is also giving time to the states to have their educational programmes on radio, because some places may not have even television, but have access to radio. In fact, FM radio can be heard even on Android mobiles. So we should not focus only on one, the Internet. If we have a mix of all three, depending on the geographical location and the income group we are catering to, that would be the ideal thing.

#### On the gap in education created on account of many students being left behind

The NIPUN Bharat programme focuses on literacy and numeracy. Even before the pandemic, there was a concern that learning levels in our schools were low. So this foundation for literacy



Education Secretary Amit Khare in conversation on Zoom with National Education Editor Ritika Chopra.

and numeracy will really help in improving those skills, not only among those who are already in school in some class, but also those who are out of school; they can take the help of those programmes and, through the NIUS or some bridging method, they can come back to school. The system we have devised for higher education in the form of an academic bank of credit, the architecture for the digital learning system - even children out of the education system can be brought back through this academic bank of credit. Their prior learning can be recognised, and then they can proceed further either for skilling or for their higher secondary, or even higher education.

#### On implementing the NEP when the education budget has taken a cut

There are two parts to this: one is the budget, and the other is the resources. With my experience of the last three decades, I can say the two are not the same. Many a time we allocate money, and the actual work or the actual output is much less, because the synergy is not there. To give a small example, we spend about Rs 1,500 crore a year on technology. The same TV channel can be used even for higher education or for engineering or for school, or even for a cultural programme. If you bring synergy among them, the same resources can be utilised better. Take higher educational institutions. The same infrastructure may not be for the purpose of higher education or school education, but a school can be utilised in the evening for skilling. This type of resource pooling will actually have more value for money. For higher education, the budget was reduced primarily because some of the capital work which was going on for various IITs is in the completion phase, so when we talk of a cut, it is actually with reference to the pre-

vious year. I am not saying more funds are not required, but more than funds, what is required is the approach in utilising those resources.

#### On funds for implementing NEP in future

In school education, yes, we would definitely require funds. In higher education, there is a provision for the National Research Foundation, which is a work in progress. Various approvals have been taken by the Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, and major funding for research will now be through the NRE. So, while you may not see that amount in the budget of higher education, those funds will flow to the universities, and it will be a dedicated fund for research. And research does not mean only scientific research; it will also include the social sciences. This is a work in progress; it has been announced by the Finance Minister in this year's Budget, and it is now in the final stages.

#### On introducing multi-lingual higher education

One thing we should be very clear about - what the Prime Minister has also mentioned in his address earlier - is that nobody is against English. It is not that English has to be replaced with some other language; what we want is to ensure that language should not become a barrier to talent. What we should be looking at in this system is the talent. Knowledge of a subject is more important than the knowledge of a language. Who knows, another 20-30 years down the line, the entire medium of communication may be through some computer programme, or could be a mind reader from your side to mine - the concept of different languages may not even be there.

Many people who leave courses in the first year are finding it difficult to understand the courses in English, so that is where we wish to have this intervention. One of the IITs has informed me that after JEE Advanced, they will be bringing the online course in the regional language. What happens is that in the classroom the discussion could be in English, but the same thing could be understood a little later by the student in a regional language.

The important thing is there is no language-specific seat allocation. There is no such provision in the Constitution, and that is not the purpose. The purpose is to ensure that the students who are otherwise talented should not get deprived because they are not proficient in English, especially students who come from the rural background.

TRANSCRIBED BY MEHRGILL

(Edited excerpts)

VIDEO: [youtu.be/hDMh8K09PV4](https://youtu.be/hDMh8K09PV4)



# THE WORLD

## TOP OF THE WORLD



Alexei Navalny

### RUSSIA

#### New case against jailed Kremlin critic Navalny

RUSSIA'S INVESTIGATIVE Committee has launched a new criminal case against jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny and his allies, the committee said in a statement on Tuesday. The committee said it was investigating Navalny on suspicion of setting up an "extremist group" together with his associates. A Russian court has already outlawed Navalny's anti-corruption foundation as extremist and he himself is in prison for parole violations. Navalny, 45, is widely regarded as Russian President Vladimir Putin's most popular opponent in Russia. Navalny was flown to Germany for medical treatment after being poisoned in Siberia in August 2020 with what Western experts concluded was the military nerve agent Novichok. **REUTERS**

### JAPAN

#### Govt to lift all Covid emergency steps nationwide

JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT announced Tuesday that the coronavirus state of emergency will end this week to help rejuvenate the economy as infections slow. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said the emergency will end Thursday and virus restrictions will be eased gradually "in order to resume daily lives despite the presence of the virus." He said the government will create more temporary Covid-19 treatment facilities and continue vaccinations to prepare for any future resurgence. "Our fight against the coronavirus is now entering a new phase," Suga said. "Finally, we can see social and economic activities starting to normalise." **AP**

### NORTH KOREA

#### Short-range missile fired into sea in latest test

NORTH KOREA fired a short-range missile into the sea early Tuesday, its neighboring countries said, in the latest weapon tests by North Korea that has raised questions about the sincerity of its recent offer for talks with South Korea. In an emergency National Security Council meeting, the South Korean government expressed regret over what it called "a short-range missile launch" by the North. **AP**

## TOP PENTAGON OFFICIALS ADMIT TO MISJUDGING AFGHAN ARMY'S FRAGILITY

# US military leaders testify in Congress, say favoured keeping troops in Afghanistan

Top general says al-Qaeda, IS affiliate could mount threat to US from Afghanistan in 12-36 months

**ROBERT BURNS & LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

IN THEIR first congressional testimony on the tumultuous final months of America's longest war, top US military officers on Tuesday acknowledged misjudging the fragility of Afghanistan's army and said they believed the US should have kept at least several thousand troops in the country to prevent a rapid takeover by the Taliban.

Without saying what advice he had given President Joe Biden last spring when Biden was considering whether to keep any troops in Afghanistan, Gen. Mark Milley told the Senate Armed Services Committee it was his personal opinion that at least 2,500 were needed to guard against a collapse of the Kabul government.

Gen. Frank McKenzie, who as head of Central Command had overseen the final months of the US war, said he agreed with Milley's assessment. He also declined to say what he had recommended to Biden.

Republican Senator Tom Cotton asked Milley why he did not choose to resign after his advice was rejected.

Milley, who was appointed to his position as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Donald Trump and retained by Biden, said it was his responsibility to provide the commander in chief with his best advice.



(From left) Commander of the US Central Command General Kenneth McKenzie, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrive to testify at the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. **AP**

**We must remember that the Taliban was and remains a terrorist organization and they still have not broken ties with al-Qaeda. I have no illusions who we are dealing with."**

**— GENERAL MARK MILLEY**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE U.S.

"The President doesn't have to agree with that advice," Milley said. "He doesn't have to make those decisions just because we

are generals. And it would be an incredible act of political defiance for a commissioned officer to resign just because my advice was not taken."

Testifying alongside Milley and McKenzie, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin defended the military's execution of a frantic airlift from Kabul and asserted it will be "difficult but absolutely possible" to contain future threats from Afghanistan without troops on the ground. Under questioning, he, too, declined to say what advice he had given Biden about whether to make a full troop withdrawal.

Milley cited "a very real possibility" that al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group's

### MILLEY DEFENDS CALLS TO CHINA UNDER TRUMP

Washington: The top US military officer told Congress on Tuesday that he knew former President Donald Trump wasn't planning to attack China and that it was his job to reassure the Chinese of that fact in the phone calls that have triggered outrage from some lawmakers. Gen Mark Milley defended two calls he made to his Chinese counterpart, saying he was responding to "concerning intelligence" that China was worried about a US attack. **AP**

Afghanistan affiliate could reconstitute in Afghanistan under Taliban rule and present a terrorist threat to the United States in the next 12 to 36 months.

It was al-Qaeda's use of Afghanistan as a base from which to plan and execute its attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, that triggered the US invasion of Afghanistan a month later.

"And we must remember that the Taliban was and remains a terrorist organisation and they still have not broken ties with al-Qaeda," Milley said. "I have no illusions who we are dealing with. It remains to be seen whether or not the Taliban can consolidate power or if the country will further fracture into civil war." **AP**

## Taliban chancellor bars women from Kabul University

**CORA ENGELBRECHT & SHARIF HASSAN**  
SEPTEMBER 28

TIGHTENING THE Taliban's restrictions on women, the group's new chancellor for Kabul University announced Monday that women would be indefinitely barred from the institution either as instructors or students.

"I give you my words as chancellor of Kabul University," Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat said on Twitter on Monday. "As long as a real Islamic environment is

not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first."

The new university policy echoes the Taliban's first time in power, in the 1990s, when women were only allowed in public if accompanied by a male relative and would be beaten for disobeying, and were kept from school entirely.

Some female staff members, who have worked in relative freedom over the past two decades, pushed back against the new decree, questioning the idea that the Taliban had a monopoly on defin-



Women at Kabul University's education centre earlier this month. **AP**

ing the Islamic faith.

"In this holy place, there was nothing un-Islamic," one female lecturer said, speaking on condi-

tion of anonymity out of fear of reprisal, as did several others interviewed by *The New York Times*. "Presidents, teachers, engineers and even mullahs are trained here and given to society," she said. "Kabul University is the home to the nation of Afghanistan."

In the days after the Taliban seized power in August, officials went to pains to insist that this time would be better for women, who would be allowed to study, work and even participate in government.

But none of that has happened. Taliban leaders recently

named an all-male Cabinet. The new government has also prohibited women from returning to the workplace, citing security concerns, though officials have described that as temporary. (The original Taliban movement did that as well in its early days in 1990s, but never followed up.)

Two weeks ago, the Taliban replaced the president of Kabul University, the country's premier college, with Ghairat, a 34-year-old devotee of the movement who has referred to the country's schools as "centres for prostitution." **NYT**

## Panel finds 80 alleged abuse cases tied to WHO's Congo work

**MARIA CHENG & AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO**  
BENI, SEPTEMBER 28

TWENTY-ONE WORKERS for the World Health Organisation in Congo have been accused of sexually abusing people during a Ebola outbreak, a WHO-commissioned panel said Tuesday in a report that identified 83 alleged perpetrators connected to the 2018-2020 mission.

The panel released its findings months after an Associated Press investigation found senior WHO management was informed of multiple abuse claims in 2019 but failed to stop the harassment and even promoted one of the managers involved.

"This is the biggest finding of

sexual abuse perpetrated during a single UN initiative in one area or one country during the time-bound period of a UN response effort," said Paula Donovan, co-director of the Code Blue Campaign, which is campaigning to end sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers.

Panel member Malick Coulibaly said investigators uncovered a total of nine rape allegations. The women interviewed said their attackers used no birth control, resulting in some pregnancies. Some women said their rapists had forced them to have abortions, Coulibaly said.

The youngest of the alleged victims, identified in the report only as "Jolianne" is believed to be 13. **AP**

## Swedish police suspect foul play in apartment building blast

**JARI TANNER**  
HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 28

A POWERFUL explosion rocked a Swedish apartment building early Tuesday in Gothenburg, injuring up to 20 people, setting off multiple fires and forcing the evacuation of hundreds. Police said they suspect the blast may have been caused by an explosive device.

The explosion took place just before 5 am in the Annedal district in Gothenburg, Sweden's second-largest city. Fires spread to several apartments, and fire department crews were still working to extinguish the flames mid-morning.

Jon Pile, operations manager at the greater Gothenburg rescue service, said the blast prompted some people to jump out of their windows to escape. Police spokesman Thomas



After an explosion hit an apartment building in Annedal, Gothenburg, Sweden, on Tuesday. **Reuters**

Fuxborg said the cause of the explosion was not yet known, but he told Swedish broadcaster TV4 that investigators think foul play might have been involved. They are looking into whether any tenants might have been targeted, he said. "We suspect that someone

might have placed something that has exploded," Fuxborg said. Sahlgrenska University Hospital spokeswoman Ingrid Frederiksson said 16 people were taken to Goteborg's main hospital. Four people had serious injuries, she said. **AP**

### SPAIN

## DROWNING GIRL STATUE CAUSES A STIR

Staring impassively out from the murky waters of Bilbao's River Nervion, the eerily lifelike face of a young girl drowning in the tide has been unsettling people in the Spanish city since she appeared unannounced last week. Mexican hyperrealist artist Ruben Orozco created the enigmatic figure, entitled 'Bihar' ("Tomorrow" in Basque) for a campaign to encourage debate around sustainability.



## US Congressional report: Pakistan home to 12 foreign terrorist groups

5 of them focus on India, says report

**LALIT K JHA**  
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

PAKISTAN IS home to at least 12 groups designated as "foreign terrorist organisations" by the US, including five of them being India-centric like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), according to the latest Congressional report on terrorism.

US officials have identified Pakistan as a base of operations or target for numerous armed and non-state militant groups, some of which have existed since the 1980s, the independent Congressional Research Service (CRS) said in the report.

The report, "Terrorist and Other Militant Groups in Pakistan", released by the bipartisan research wing of US Congress on the eve of the historic Quad summit hosted by US President Joe Biden at the White House last week, said that these groups operating in Pakistan can be broadly categorised into five types — globally-oriented, Afghanistan oriented, India- and Kashmir-oriented, domestically oriented, and Sectarian (anti-Shia).

The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was formed in the late 1980s in Pakistan and designated as a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) in 2001. "LeT was responsible for major 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India, as well as numerous other high-profile attacks," the CRS said.

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) was founded in 2000 by Kashmiri militant leader Masood Azhar and was designated as an FTO in 2001. Along with LeT, it was responsible for the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, among other attacks, it said.

JEM also has openly declared war on the United States, it noted.

Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI) was formed in 1980 in Afghanistan to fight the Soviet



The report was released on the eve of last week's Quad summit hosted by Joe Biden

army and was designated as an FTO in 2010. After 1989, it redirected its efforts toward India, although it did supply fighters to the Afghan Taliban. "With an unknown strength, HUJI today operates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, and seeks annexation of Kashmir into Pakistan," the report said.

Finally, Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM) was formed in 1989 and designated as an FTO in 2017. It is one of the largest and oldest militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among other terrorist groups operating from Pakistan are Al Qaeda, CRS said, adding that it has operated primarily from the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas and in the megacity of Karachi, as well as in Afghanistan. It has since 2011 been led by Ayman al-Zawahiri and reportedly maintains supportive ties with many of the groups inside the country.

CRS said according to the US State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism 2019, Pakistan has "continued to serve as a safe haven for certain regionally-focused terrorist groups", and has "allowed groups targeting Afghanistan ... as well as groups targeting India ... to operate from its territory".

Pakistan has been long accused of providing safe haven and support to militants. **PTI**

## Pak court sentences school principal to death for blasphemy

**M ZULQERNAIN**  
LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 28

A PAKISTANI court here has sentenced to death a school principal for committing blasphemy.

The district and sessions court on Monday handed down the death sentence to Salma Tanvir, principal of a private school in Nishtar Colony, and imposed a fine of PKR 5,000 (\$29) on her.

Additional district and sessions Judge Mansoor Ahmad observed in the verdict that Tanvir committed blasphemy by denying that Prophet Muhammad was not the last prophet of Islam.

Lahore police in 2013 had registered a blasphemy case against Tanvir on the complaint of a local cleric. She was accused of denying the finality of Prophet Muhammad and claimed herself to be the Prophet of Islam.

Tanvir's counsel Muhammad

Ramzan argued that her client was "unsound minded person" and the court should have taken the fact into account.

However, a report by a medical board of the Punjab Institute of Mental Health submitted to court by the prosecution said "the suspect was fit to stand trial as she was not mentally deranged".

Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws and their prescribed punishments are considered extremely severe. At least 1,472 people were charged under the blasphemy law in Pakistan since 1987.

People accused of blasphemy are usually deprived of the right to a counsel of their choice as most lawyers refuse to take up such sensitive cases.

The blasphemy laws are colonial-era legislation but they were amended by former dictator General Ziaul Haq which increased the severity of prescribed punishments. **PTI**

## R Kelly convicted on all counts after yrs of accusations

**TROY CLOSSON**  
SEPTEMBER 28

R KELLY, the multiplatinum R&B artist whose musical legacy became intertwined with dozens of accusations of sexual abuse, was found guilty Monday of serving as the ringleader of a decadeslong scheme to recruit women and underage girls for sex.

The jury in New York deliberated for about nine hours before convicting the singer of all nine counts against him, including racketeering and eight violations of an anti-sex-trafficking law known as the Mann Act.

The decision represents the first criminal punishment against Kelly despite a trail of allegations of misconduct that extends for



A protest outside R. Kelly's studio in 2019. **AP**

more than a quarter-century. Kelly, 54, once one of the biggest names in popular music, now faces the possibility of life in prison.

Jacquelyn M. Kasulis, the acting US attorney in Brooklyn, New

York, told reporters that the verdict sent a powerful message to men like Kelly.

She thanked the 11 men and women who accused him of misconduct at the trial.

"No one deserves what they

experienced at his hands or the threats and harassment they faced in telling the truth about what happened to them. We hope that today's verdict brings some measure of comfort and closure," Kasulis said.

As he left the courtroom Monday, one of Kelly's lawyers said his defence team would consider an appeal.

"Of course we are disappointed in the verdict," the lawyer, Deveraux L. Cannick, said. "I am even more disappointed in the prosecution for bringing this case," he said, adding that it was "replete with inconsistencies."

The trial marked a significant milestone, as women and men took the stand against the singer to accuse Kelly of sexual abuse for the first time, including sev-

eral who had never shared their accounts publicly.

On Monday, several women who said Kelly had abused them praised his conviction as a decades-in-the-making rebuke of the singer and a meaningful validation of the stories of his victims.

"Today, my voice was heard," Jerhonda Pace wrote on Instagram. Pace became the first accuser to ever testify against Kelly at a criminal trial when she took the stand last month.

The prosecution called 45 witnesses during the trial, but the criminal charges against the singer hinged on accusations related to six women, five of whom testified (the sixth, singer Aaliyah, died in a plane crash in 2001). Four other women and two men also took the stand as accusers. **NYT**

## China faces public backlash over govt's move to restrict abortions

**KJM VARMA**  
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 28

THE CHINESE government's move to reduce the rate of abortions needed for "non-medical reasons" has resulted in public backlash, with many seeing this as an intrusive measure meant to raise the country's sagging birthrate as part of its three-child policy, according to a media report.

China's central Cabinet, called the State Council, on Monday said it will "reduce the rate of abortions needed for non-medical reasons", as part of its efforts to improve women's health, according to a series of new guidelines addressing issues related to women and children in the



The move has been seen as an intrusive measure meant to raise the country's sagging birthrate. **Reuters file**

world's most populous nation.

Though lowering the high abortion rate, — largely driven by a preference for boys over girls — has been the government policy for decades, the Council's statement drew public attention im-

mediately and was seen by many as restricting women's rights amid an official drive to boost population growth to address the country's ageing population.

The policy was criticised by the public as a new form of government interference in people's private family life, after the notorious forced abortions during the implementation of the decades-old one-child policy, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported on Tuesday.

Last month, China's national legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) formally endorsed the three-child policy mooted by the ruling Communist Party, in a major policy shift to prevent a steep decline in birth rates in the country. **PTI**





## A CLICK AWAY

Digital health mission is much-needed. Challenges of language of communication, privacy, doctor shortage must be addressed

INSTEAD OF CARRYING their medical records in polythene bags, Indians will be able to use IT-enabled tools to share prescriptions, blood test reports and X-ray diagnostics with doctors, irrespective of where they were generated. That's the thinking behind the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. It involves the creation of a unique health ID for every citizen and a digital registry that aims to facilitate seamless interactions between healthcare experts. This is a much-needed intervention given that management of chronic diseases has become a critical public health challenge in the past 15 years. Data portability could expedite the treatment of the critically ill, especially those who suffer from more than one ailment. The severity of Covid-19 effects amongst those with comorbidities has highlighted the need for a repository that alerts a doctor to a patient's medical history at the click of a computer mouse. In the long run, the creation of a health record system could improve public health monitoring and advance evidence-based policymaking. The attainment of these objectives will, however, depend on the manner in which policymakers navigate challenges that stem from the long-standing failings of the Indian healthcare sector. It will also require them to be mindful of the ethical issues germane to the use of digital data.

Globally, the tryst with e-health innovations has been a mixed one. The UK's National Health Service was one of the first to deploy a digital system to make patients' records accessible to doctors across the country. The programme did not earn the trust of doctors and failed to adequately address issues related to data confidentiality. Aborted in 2011, the project is regarded as amongst the most expensive failures in IT history. In the US and Australia, where digital healthcare has enjoyed a relatively better outing, the creation of a patient and physician-centric e-healthcare ecosystem remains a work in progress. The US medical system has witnessed regular debates on what must be jotted down in hospital records and prescriptions. The task of data entry — a lot of which might not always be relevant to clinical care — has added to the American doctor's burden and is seen by experts as one of the major reasons for the high rate of physician burnout in the country. Evolving a language of communication in the digital health ecosphere could pose unforeseen problems in India given the country's diversity and its chronic shortage of doctors, especially in public health centres — the main source of medical care for a vast number of people in the country. Poor internet speeds could make data entry an onerous proposition for the rural healthcare provider.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission gives patients the option to choose the records they want to share. However, given the asymmetrical relations between health service providers — doctors, hospitals, pharma and insurance companies — and the absence of a data protection law, breaching of patient confidentiality cannot be ruled out. In the coming months and years, policymakers will be watched for how they address these challenges.

## PICTURING LABOUR

Regularly available, credible data on formal and informal work force is needed to inform policy, plug the gaps

ON MONDAY, THE Ministry of Labour and Employment released the findings of the new Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the first quarter of the ongoing financial year. As most labour market data in India comes with a considerable lag, making it too late for any meaningful input in policymaking, the new survey is a welcome step towards filling the information void that surrounds the labour market. Regularly available, high quality, credible labour market data forms a valuable input. It provides policymakers not only a sense of the extent of labour market distress during periods of economic upheaval, but also an understanding of the effectiveness of government policies.

The quarterly survey provides data on employment in nine non-farm sectors of the economy — namely manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurants, information technology/business process outsourcing and financial services. These nine sectors account for roughly 85 per cent of total employment in units employing 10 or more workers. According to this survey, organised sector employment stood at 3.08 crore during April-June 2021, up from 2.37 crore in 2013-14. This translates to an annual growth rate of just 3.3 per cent. While most sectors saw a rise in employment during this period, employment in trade, and accommodation and restaurants — sectors that are more likely to have been hit by the pandemic — was down by 25 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. In fact, as per the survey, employment actually fell in 27 per cent of the establishments due to the pandemic. However, the survey also says, during the period of the national lockdown last year (March 25-June 30, 2020), 81 per cent of workers received full wages, 16 per cent received reduced wages, while 3 per cent were denied wages. How this demand-side snapshot provided by an establishment-based survey reconciles with supply-side data from household surveys remains to be seen.

As the QES covers only establishments with at least 10 workers, it provides data essentially on the formal economy. Considering that informal workers (with no written contracts, and benefits) account for roughly 90 per cent of the labour force in India, the QES thus provides only a partial glimpse of the labour market. Only when data on the unorganised sector (establishments employing nine or less workers) is captured — this forms the second part of the framework of the labour bureau's establishment-based surveys — will a more comprehensive picture of the labour market emerge.

## UP IN SMOKE

New research contradicts earlier findings on smoking and Covid-19. Smokers, everywhere, lose a silver lining

S PARE A THOUGHT for the smokers. Last year, at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, researchers — first in France, later in China and India — published studies that seemed to indicate smokers were at less risk of contracting Covid, and when they did, experienced less severe symptoms. In France, there was reportedly a rush on tobaccoists by non-smokers hoping to get a little extra protection. For smokers everywhere, here, at last, was a justification — as much for themselves as for those they have been shunned by for the smell and cloud of carcinogens they spread — to take another drag. Now, unfortunately, they have been robbed of the only silver lining that pierced the haze and the tar all too briefly.

A recent study in England has collated observational and genetic data on Covid-19 and tobacco use and found that compared to those who had never smoked, smokers were about 80 per cent more likely to be hospitalised after contracting the virus. A section of scientists has questioned the earlier studies, claiming that some of the researchers had ties to the tobacco industry.

Not surprisingly, the disappointment among tobacco addicts is palpable. Unlike other substances — alcohol, marijuana and more notorious narcotics — smoking doesn't really get you high. The social cost for the addiction is hardly commensurate to the pleasure — train and plane journeys have you jonesing, you're shunned to dark corners outside bars and sometimes, even from your own homes to service the need without bothering others. All this, while it burns a huge hole in your pocket and you slowly but surely watch your health deteriorate. From France, the birthplace of existentialism, there was hope that smoking had a purpose. From England, the birthplace of utilitarianism, that hope has been taken away.



SHYAM SARAN

A NUMBER OF important developments has taken place over the past several weeks. They may appear disconnected but in fact add up to a significant shift in regional and global geopolitics.

One, the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan and the complete takeover of the country by the Taliban; two, significant domestic political changes in China, including the ideological and regulatory assault against its dynamic private high-tech companies and now its real estate companies. This has heightened risk perception among international business and industry who have hitherto seen China as a huge commercial opportunity.

Three, the announcement of the Australia-UK and US (AUKUS) alliance which represents a major departure in US strategy by its commitment to enable Australia to join a handful of countries with nuclear submarines. The alliance reflects a clear strategic choice by Australia that it will be firmly on the US side of the fence despite its considerable economic and commercial equities in China; and four, the convening of the foundation (India, Australia, Japan and the US) Quad physical summit in Washington, reflecting a major step towards its formalisation as an influential grouping in the Indo-Pacific going beyond security.

These four developments, taken together, present India with both risks but also with opportunities. It is my sense that the opportunities outweigh the risks.

The Afghan situation is a setback for India in the short run. The political capital and economic presence it had built up in the country over the past two decades has been substantially eroded. The Taliban government is dominated by more headline and pro-Pakistani elements. They will help deliver on the Pakistani agenda of preventing a revival of Indian diplomatic presence and developmental activity in Afghanistan.

In the longer run, it seems unlikely that the Taliban will give up its obscurantist and extremist agenda. This may lead to domestic inter-ethnic and sectarian conflict. The unwillingness of the Taliban to cut its links with various jihadi groups, including those targeting Afghanistan's neighbours, may re-

Four geopolitical developments present India with opportunities that outweigh risks

Domestic political change in China is taking an ideological and populist direction. The country's vibrant private sector is being reined in while the State Owned Enterprises are back in a central role. After the tech sector, it is the large real estate sector which is facing regulatory assault. This is leading to deepening concern among foreign investors, including those who have long been champions of long-term engagement with China. It is not coincidental that while in Washington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had meetings with the CEOs of Blackstone and Qualcomm, both of which are heavily invested in China but are reconsidering their exposure there.

## THE ATLANTIC NIÑO EFFECT

Monsoon forecasters need to factor in its role in rainfall deficits



RAGHU MURTUGUDDE

LAST MONTH, farmers from Madhya Pradesh threatened to take IMD to court for the inaccurate monsoon forecast this year. A question was also raised in Parliament about whether the Arctic warming had led to an erratic monsoon this year.

The onset of monsoon 2021 began on June 3, almost on time but subsequently, rainfall deficit of up to 30 per cent were seen in Kerala, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and Odisha. The rest of the country is barely normal with deficit being less than 20 per cent.

There is no El Niño brewing in the Pacific. Instead, a return of the La Niña is forecasted by most models for later this year. Considering that 2020 was also a La Niña year, one would expect monsoon 2021 to be above normal. The Arctic can affect late-season rainfall and September has seen slightly above normal rain across India. But what can explain the deficits thus far this season?

It is El Niño's little cousin in the Atlantic, known as the Atlantic Niño, or the Atlantic Zonal Mode. Every few years, from June to August, there is a warming in the eastern equatorial Atlantic, which does not get as much attention as its big brother El Niño. In 2021, Atlantic Niño has made an appearance. Sea surface temperatures in the eastern Atlantic have remained more than a degree higher than normal this summer.

Its impact on the monsoon has been

known since 2014 when a study led by INCOIS showed that the number of low-pressure systems is greatly reduced by the Atlantic Niño, leading to deficit monsoons. IITM Pune researchers have shown that the IMD prediction system is deficient in predicting the Atlantic Niño and, therefore, its effect on the Indian monsoon. Monsoon 2021 is a clear example of this missed link.

This year has seen a sharply lower number of low-pressure systems, which contribute up to 60 per cent of the seasonal total rainfall over the core monsoon zone.

Monsoon predictions are a monumental challenge, especially when it comes to the spatial distribution and the northward migration of the monsoon trough.

Forecast models tend to rely heavily on El Niño for monsoon predictions. But only about 50 per cent of the dry years are explained by El Niño. How can monsoons be predicted during non-El Niño years? Clearly, Atlantic Niño is a significant player in monsoon evolution and models and forecasters must pay attention to this Atlantic teleconnection.

Low-pressure systems or LPs originate in the northern Bay of Bengal and are three-10 times more in number during the active period of the monsoon.

The Atlantic and Indian Oceans are not directly connected in the tropics via the ocean. The Atlantic Niño affects the mon-

soon by producing atmospheric waves, which propagate into the Indian Ocean. These waves affect air temperatures over the Indian Ocean and influence the land-ocean thermal contrast as well as LPs. The biggest rainfall deficits from the Atlantic Niño tend to occur over the Western Ghats and the core monsoon zone. The deficit patterns are a tell-tale sign of the Atlantic Niño influence.

Overall, monsoon prediction skill has gone up in the IMD but even a 70 per cent accuracy means the forecasts will be wrong 30 per cent of the time. Many of the Atlantic Niños occur during non-El Niño years and this offers a window of opportunity to increase forecast skills based on the accurate prediction of the Atlantic Niño. Indian scientists from INCOIS have argued that the Atlantic Niño is in fact predictable up to three months in advance. The next version of the forecast system will hopefully be able to capture this predictability.

No forecasts will ever be 100 per cent accurate. Farmers are well aware of that and will continue to brave the risks every single cropping season. Climate scientists are also aware of the monsoon prediction challenge and they will continue to try to improve monsoon forecasts.

The writer is former foreign secretary and senior fellow, CPR



## SEPTEMBER 29, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

### IMF LOAN

INDIA'S APPLICATION FOR \$ 5 billion in SDRs will be considered by the executive body of the International Monetary Fund on November 9, the fund's managing director Jacques de Larosiere told Finance Minister R Venkataraman. The staff has more or less agreed on the terms. It is rarely that the terms agreed on by the country and managing director are altered by the board. It is assumed that whatever be the public stance of the USA and whatever the US treasury officials might be leaking to the press, in actual practice there will be no problems. Venkataraman told officials that he cannot disclose the conditions to the

press before they are placed before Parliament.

### ILLEGAL ARREST

TWO BIHAR YOUTHS arrested nine days ago for an alleged conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were ordered released on bail by metropolitan magistrate Jaswant Singh who observed that their very arrest "appears to be illegal". The magistrate, however, directed that the two suspects be produced before a Bihar court on September 30 in connection with a dacoity case. Delhi police brought Kameshwar Prasad Singh and Ganesh Dutt from Hajipur to the capital on September 16.

### PM TALKS PEACE

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has warned of the dangers posed by the revival of Cold War postures in India's immediate neighbourhood. She was referring to the massive acquisition of arms by Pakistan. She regretted that in a world rich with natural resources and with significant scientific discoveries, the vast knowledge was put to destructive purposes.

### PILOT ENGINES

A PILOT ENGINE will precede all express and mail trains half-an-hour before their departure during the night in Punjab.



# Learning from the farmers

Ten months of a tenacious movement has stalled erosion of democracy, enabled a new coalition. Going beyond ideas of productivity and subsidies, it must plant a new idea of Indian agriculture



A R VASAVI

MARKING 10 MONTHS since the start of the farmers' movement against the three draconian Farm Acts, demonstrations were held all over India, including the heart of the farmers' movement outside Delhi. In their tenacity, outreach and representation, the agitating farmers and the movement signal not only a historic moment for agrarian India but have also laid out several lessons for us.

Far from the Marxian maxim that dismisses their mobilising capacities and considers them to be a "sack of potatoes", the farmers have combined forces to challenge the state and its depredations against them and the nation. The movement now seeks to address not only issues of agricultural policy but also that of the decline of democratic structures and processes. The conduct of the Kisan Sansad (farmers' parliament) will long be recognised for the content, process and decorum with which farmers and others made arguments and presentations. It may not be out of place to record that the farmers' movement has stalled the erosion of democracy in India.

In ignoring their demands and then deploying punitive, violent and anti-democratic strategies against the farmers, the state has highlighted its devaluation of agriculture and agriculturists. That the current body of elected representatives does not represent the interests of the majority, that is the farmers, is explicit in the blatant disregard and violation of farmers' interests and demands. In sum, the failure to address farmers' grievances will be the hallmark of the failure of the NDA government.

Barring a few newspapers and television channels, the mainstream media has not only blocked out news and updates of the movement but has resorted to spreading disinformation and calumny against the movement. The media has largely succumbed to the dictates of the state and corporate interests and has failed in its democratic responsibilities. In deploying their own media to disseminate information and to represent themselves, the farmers have not only become media-savvy but have indicated that sharing information and open communication are key to democratic movements.

The strategies that the farmers' movement has evolved are based on principles of non-violence and non-cooperation. It has shown the capacity to be well-organised and collaborate across several domains and actors. The movement has engaged in humanitarian acts that highlight and celebrate not only the Sikh practice of *seva* or service but also bring to the fore the leaders' abilities to uphold the principles of peace and tolerance even during times of distress and violence.

Either ignored or invisibilised until now, women who are the backbone of India's agriculture have been given voice, agency and visibility through the movement. This gain will go a long way in addressing the gender bias that has been built into rural culture and the agrarian economy. The nation may now see the emergence of some young women



CR Sasikumar

farm leaders on both the regional and national political stages.

The farmers' movement has articulated and strengthened a new coalition that now consists of farmers, workers, students, Dalits, and civil society members. Years of fragmenting political-economic agendas have not seen the emergence of broad-based interest groups forming coalitions. The farmers' movement has broken this insulation, and future collaborations and sharing of concerns are possibilities.

Urban middle-class and elite indifference to farmers' issues continues. The silos that the urban middle and upper classes live in, the biased mainstream media, and the assured supply of food and other resources have ensured this. Only further exposure of these classes to the overall iniquitous and anti-rural and anti-agricultural political economies of the nation may help overcome their biases. It is this class of citizens that needs to be better engaged with so that they also become supporters of the farmers' movement.

The farmers' movement has received global media attention and also interest from the marginalised small farmers of the US, the green farming community of Europe and other countries. Its ability to challenge the hegemony of corporate agriculture or agribusiness and to find a way forward on its own terms will be closely watched and studied. The possibility of the farmers' movement to evolve and institute an alternative to corporatised agriculture or agri-business, both

The current impasse between the farmers' movement and the central government of India indicates the need to re-assign agricultural issues to state level and to return agriculture to its constitutional status as a state subject in the federal system. Building on this, it is time for all policymakers and farmers to recognise that neither populist policies nor submission to corporate interests, such as the three Farm Acts, will resolve the extant and deep problems that beset rural and agrarian India.

national and global, will be key.

The current impasse between the farmers' movement and the central government indicates the need to re-assign agricultural issues to state level and to return agriculture to its constitutional status as a state subject in the federal system. Building on this, it is time for all policymakers and farmers to recognise that neither populist policies nor submission to corporate interests, such as the three Farm Acts, will resolve the deep problems that beset rural and agrarian India. The first step towards doing this is for Parliament to declare all three Farm Acts as null and void.

Finally, in extending the strength, tenacity, and vision that the farm leaders have developed in engaging with and sustaining this long and important movement, they must also articulate and promote detailed alternative visions and ideas for agriculture. No longer can the existing system of state-based subsidies or corporate and purely market-oriented approaches do. Going beyond the norms of productivity and subsidies, new imaginaries that focus on seeing the rural and the agricultural as sites to realise social justice, ecological sustainability, economic stability and political representation will be required. In all of these, farmers and farm leaders must commit to new possibilities in which the rights of farmers as citizens — and not as supplicants or subjects — are recognised.

The writer is a social anthropologist working with the Punarchith Collective in Karnataka

## BJP's Patel conundrum

Revamped Gujarat ministry neither takes care of electoral arithmetic nor addresses socio-economic problems. It provides opportunity for Opposition



SHARIK LALIWALA AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

THE SUDDEN CHANGE in Gujarat's politics, brought about by the appointment of Bhupendra Patel as the state's CM, is reminiscent of the political scientist Rob Jenkins's term for India's economic liberalisation process — "reform by stealth". This ministerial formation indicates the centralisation of power in the BJP that has left senior leaders furious and upset. However, this "governance by stealth" approach, with a largely inexperienced ministry, does little to control the damage done to BJP's image due to the mismanagement of the state's public health system during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. More importantly, with the state election scheduled in late 2022, it neither takes care of electoral arithmetic nor addresses the socio-economic problems in the region.

To begin with, the party has reinforced the status quo in terms of caste. From the mid-1990s, when the BJP came to power in Gujarat, the dominant castes — Patels, Brahmins, Banias, and Rajputs — with less than 30 per cent share in the state's population have held at least two-thirds of the cabinet portfolios. According to the Ashoka University-Sciences Po SPINPER dataset, in the minister of state positions, their share has remained between 43 and 67 per cent. In the 1990s, most CMs were Patels, and despite the removal of one of their own, Keshubhai Patel, from the post of CM, the Patels continued to occupy at least 30 per cent of the cabinet portfolios in the 2000s and 2010s. This time, too, 60 per cent of the cabinet ministers are from the dominant castes. The powerful ministries are with the dominant castes. For example, two Brahmin ministers are in charge of finance, revenue, energy and petrochemical departments, whereas a Bania-Jain and Patels (including the CM) control the influential security portfolios (like home), agriculture, industries, mines and minerals, ports, Namada, and education, to name a few. Barring one OBC minister, all OBC-SC-ST ministers have been allotted departments with low budgets such as social justice and rights, welfare of SC/ST and women.

The status quo may not revive the BJP's waning appeal amongst Patels, a committed core group of BJP voters that has begun to shift to the Congress in rural areas and, of late, to the Aam Aadmi Party in the urban, lower-middle-class peripheries. Their approach to viewing the Patel problem purely from the lens of representation is faulty. This group has always had more MLAs and ministers than their population share. Even at their lowest in 1985, they contributed 17 per cent of Gujarat's legislators, a few percentage points higher than their population estimated at 12 per cent in the last caste census of 1931. Patels have contributed at least one-quarter of the party's MLAs, sometimes reaching as high as one-third, since the 1990s. Just before the

Patel movement for their inclusion in the OBC quota found articulation, the community's representation peaked with 51 MLAs in the state after the 2012 election.

The Patel conundrum — a problem that afflicts the larger rural side of Gujarat and other states — is symptomatic of dwindling incomes and youth unemployment. In their paper on peasant society in Gujarat, anthropologists Alice Tilche and Edward Simpson argue that "the hierarchy [in rural Gujarat's marriage market] once ordered by land and agricultural adroitness has been replaced by a league of nations [through migration to places like US, UK, Canada] and graded shades of white collars." On this crucial socio-economic front, not only does the BJP fail to enact concrete policies but its representation argument too is flawed: The party has come to like a certain kind of Patel, the one who is urban and industrialist. The appointment of Bhupendra Patel, a real estate businessperson who headed the two most influential urban bodies of Gujarat (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the city's urban development authority), as CM merely confirms the capture of the Gujarati state by urban elites.

Indeed, this "governance by stealth" approach instead of weakening the Opposition might provide them with an opportunity to organise the deprived castes and classes in rural areas through a narrative on Gujarat's faltering socio-economic record. This strategy proved beneficial to the Congress and its allies in the 2017 assembly election: They won 59 of the state's rural constituencies that have less than 25 per cent urban areas — a strike rate of over 65 per cent. But, in semi-urban and urban seats, this strike rate was under 25 per cent where the opposition alliance won just 22 of the 91 seats. However, a division of labour on rural-urban lines between the Congress and AAP might remedy these dramatically contrasting electoral prospects, as AAP has gained some appeal amongst qualified but underpaid youths in Gujarati cities, especially Surat.

But to go by the signals from the outgoing senior ministers, the BJP will concentrate on the agenda of Hindu supremacy for the 2022 election, without addressing the state's poor socio-economic track record. In the last few years, the party has strengthened laws that make interfaith marriages and property sale between Hindus and Muslims in urban Gujarat nearly impossible (although the new amendments to these laws have been stayed by the High Court). For example, the outgoing deputy CM, Nitin Patel, remarked that "this country's laws, Constitution are secure only until Hindus are in a majority." Just a day before his resignation, former CM Vijay Rupani listed "the law to save cows from slaughter" and "stop love jihad" as his government's achievements, after earlier having promised to contest the HC stay on the anti-conversion law in the Supreme Court. Can the BJP rely on identity politics and ignore socio-economic issues again in 2022?

Laliwala is an independent scholar on politics and history of Gujarat; Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, and professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London

## Make hydrogen in India

R&D investments can help tap potential of this 'green' energy alternative



SOMIT DASGUPTA

HYDROGEN IS THE latest buzzword when it comes to dealing with energy issues, especially climate change. There is now increasing realisation that in order to meet the Paris target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, one will have to shift the focus to more difficult options like hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), and direct carbon capture. Unless we adopt these new technologies, we will not be able to take care of "hard-to-abate" sectors like the industrial sector, buildings, aviation, and shipping. When we say hydrogen, we mean "green" hydrogen which is derived through electrolysis of water using renewable sources like solar, wind and biomass for generating electricity. Hydrogen from fossil fuels (called "brown" or "grey" hydrogen depending upon whether it is coal or gas, respectively) is anyway being produced all over the world. India produces hydrogen using natural gas. The third form is "blue" hydrogen, produced from fossil fuels, but a part of the carbon is absorbed using CCUS technology. Today, less than 1 per cent of the world's hydrogen is "green".

Hydrogen from fossil fuels costs between \$1 to \$2 per kg whereas "green" hydrogen today costs between \$4 to \$6 per kg. It is expected that green hydrogen will become competitive to fossil fuel-based hydrogen by about 2030. This will happen because the cost of electrolyzers is expected to go down over time and also it is hoped that their efficiency will improve.

Demand for "green" hydrogen is going to multiply and in the case of India alone, TERI has estimated that demand for "green" hydrogen will go up from 6 million tonnes today to about 50 mt by 2050. The current world demand, incidentally, is about 70 mt.

While our need for "green" hydrogen is imperative if we want to meet our Paris targets, the path for production and utilisation of this form of hydrogen is arduous. First, after converting electricity to hydrogen, shipping it, storing it, and then converting back to electricity, the delivered energy can be below 30 per cent of what was the initial electricity input. One would, therefore, need huge amounts of electricity from renewable sources which is going to put pressure on land.

The second issue is regarding the transportation of hydrogen. While hydrogen has a very high energy content per unit of mass compared to natural gas, its energy density is low per unit of volume. This means that one would need huge containers to transport hydrogen (as compared to, let's say, ammonia) having equivalent energy content. It's possible to convert hydrogen to liquid form to facilitate transportation, but then it has to be cooled to minus 253 degrees Celsius and then reconverted which would require a lot of energy. Alternatively, it can be converted to hydrogen-based fuels before transportation, but this will again require additional energy.

If we use electricity from the grid, which

at least in the case of India is fossil fuel-based, then the entire purpose of producing green hydrogen, which is to lower carbon emissions, is lost. One can, of course, use pipelines for transportation, even existing pipelines where we can blend it with natural gas. There are, however, limits as to the distance hydrogen can be transported through pipelines. Today, about 85 per cent of the "green" hydrogen that is produced is done so "on-site" so that transportation problems are taken care of.

Third, hydrogen can be used in various sectors but there are limitations in certain sectors. While the best suited is the industrial sector (mainly steel, ammonia and refineries), its use in transport and power is somewhat restricted since it has to compete with batteries. Hydrogen, however, can be used in heavy duty, long-distance transportation because batteries have low energy-to-weight ratios and they take a long time to charge compared to fuel cells. For smaller distances, battery-charged vehicles are the most viable option economically. The best use of hydrogen in the power sector is for storage. Hydrogen-based storage is ideal for inter-seasonal storage, that is, storage over several weeks/months to take care of the lean months of renewable generation.

Finally, not all countries will find it economically viable to produce "green" hydrogen at home. The International Energy Agency has in its 2021 report cited the example of Japan which would be better off importing "green"

hydrogen from Australia. Production is most suited for those countries which have high gas prices and low cost of renewable generation. Going by this, India is ideally placed for making "green" hydrogen domestically. For the Persian Gulf countries, which have low gas prices, it would be prudent to go in for gas-based "green" hydrogen and then apply CCUS to reduce the carbon footprints. So each country will have to chart out its own course depending on its ground realities.

India has the advantage of producing cheap electricity from renewable sources and thus, we have the potential of becoming hydrogen exporters and should not lose this opportunity as we have lost in the case of solar cells and batteries. We need to draw up a road map for "green" hydrogen and also bear in mind that we have to make huge investments in research and development to lower the cost of electrolyzers and make India a manufacturing hub. Additionally, we need to incentivise the private sector to move towards "green" hydrogen. A lot of work will also be required to lay down standards for large-scale use of hydrogen besides framing safety regulations. Hopefully, the recently announced Hydrogen Mission will swing into action immediately and finalise the next course of action after consulting all stakeholders.

The writer is senior visiting fellow, ICRIER and former member (economic & commercial) CEA

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ALIENATING CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the article 'The doctrine of hate' (IE, September 28). The condemnable incidents in Darrang district are to be viewed as part of the long list of state-sponsored alienation of certain sections of the society. Instead of providing employment opportunities to its citizens, the Assam government, under the garb of eviction, has made homeless and jobless an entire village. No democratic regime can afford to treat its citizens in this manner.

Pritam Singh, Jaipur

### STRONGER TOGETHER

THIS REFERS TO the article 'The Cs of the Quad' (IE, September 28). The strengths and weaknesses of the Quad grouping lies in the complementarities of its members. American research prowess, Australia's supply chain resilience, Japan's funding and India's cheap labour and market can be a great combination for the new world order post the pandemic. But parochial views of nationalism, manifesting as the hesitation to transfer technology etc., can diminish cooperation. Building enough trust for implementation of the Quad's goals is the key to leveraging the strengths of the grouping to their fullest.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

### UNSEEMLY REMARKS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'A hollow

roar' (IE, September 28). When a DM in Haryana can order the police to break the heads of the farmers to prevent them from crossing barricades, Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb's exhortation to the bureaucracy to not be afraid of contempt of court charges cannot be far behind. Of late, the executive's attempts to belittle, bypass and even cultivate the judiciary are grabbing the headlines.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'A hollow roar' (IE, September 28). The shocking statement of the Tripura CM is but another instance of the testing of democracy in the country. His disdain for the judiciary has brought to the surface the underlying tensions between the executive and the judiciary. His words also reflect a feeling that having a majority makes them accountable to no one. Such incidents are regrettable and the party leadership must act immediately.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

### FEEDING INDIANS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Grain diplomacy' (IE, September 27). Only efficient logistics can reveal the true measure of foodgrain available for grain diplomacy, helping to avoid another vaccine diplomacy-like gaffe. We must help neighbouring nations in distress but must we do so at the cost of hungry Indians? One must remember that charity begins at home.

Raja Bandopadhyay, Vadodara



**TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED**  
TIRUPATI (AP)  
CHAF:ncitvpt@tirupatigovt.com

**e-TENDER NOTICE**  
Ref.No. TS0CL/NIT/53,  
Dated: 28.09.2021

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites online bids from interested and eligible bidders to participate for procurement vide ITB No.09/21. Call & 21 to 27/21-22/Smart City No. 3027 Call/TS0CL/Projects/20-21 & 03/TS0CL/Projects/21-22 of 10 works. Bidders are advised to visit e-procurement market place at <https://tenders.approcurement.gov.in> from **08.10.2021** to download the tender document and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the e-tender contact: Superintending Engineer, TS0CL. **email: ts0cltupat@gmail.com**. The duly completed documents have to submit tender on online and not only be considered.

All other details including any extension, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum etc., will be updated on the above mentioned website and shall be published in any other sources. The TS0CL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tender Offers in part or full without assigning any reasons thereof.

56/- Sd/ GIRISHA P.S., U.S., Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati

**CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION**  
**HOME DEPARTEMENT**  
**(FOOD & SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS & LEGAL METROLOGY)**  
**NOTICE**

Applications are invited for the following posts in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and District Consumer Redressal Commissions I & II, U.T. Chandigarh, in terms of sections 29 and 43 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 read with Consumer Protection [Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of the President and members of the State Commission and District Commission] Rules, 2020:-

- State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
  - Member - 02 posts vacant
- District Commissions I & II
  - President District Commission-I -----01 post vacant
  - President District Commission-II -----01 post (vacancy to be occurred from 18.02.2022)

The detailed NOTICE in regard to appointment of the Members of State Dispute Redressal Commission and President, District Consumer Redressal Commissions, U.T. Chandigarh, and the "Application Form" is available on the website [www.chdhood.gov.in](http://www.chdhood.gov.in). Interested eligible candidates may download the detailed notice including the eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions regarding vacancies and also the Application Form from the link [www.chdhood.gov.in](http://www.chdhood.gov.in) and submit the Application with the requisite documents in the office of the Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Chandigarh Administration, U.T. Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh, latest by 13th October, 2021 by 5.00 p.m.

**Joint Secretary (FS & CA),  
For Secretary Food & Supplies & Consumer  
Affairs & Legal Metrology, Chandigarh  
Administration.**

**Ground Floor (Room No. 23), U.T. Secretariat Building,  
Sector 9, Chandigarh.**

**New Okhla Industrial Development Authority**  
Administrative Building, Sector-8, Noida-201301 (U.P.)  
Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

**Tender for Sale of Vehicle**

Sealed tender are invited on behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Noida for sale of following Vehicle "as where is basis" on date 13.10.2021 between 11:00 am to 3:00 pm & same will be opened on 3:30 pm in the office of the Sr. Manager (EM)-I. The vehicle may be inspected during the office hours.

S.No.	Registration No.	Type of vehicle	Model	Earnest Money
1.	UP-16Q-9904	Tipper	2005	10000.00
2.	UP-16Q-9905	Tipper	2005	10000.00
3.	UP-16Q-9908	Tipper	2005	10000.00
4.	UP-16Q-9909	Tipper	2005	10000.00
5.	UP-16T-0367	Cattel Catcher	2008	10000.00
6.	UP-16V-4902	Ambassodor	2008	10000.00
7.	UP-16W-9850	Ambassodor	2009	10000.00
8.	UP-16Z-2401	Ambassodor	2009	10000.00
9.	UP-16AL-0745	Ambassodor	2013	10000.00
10.	UP-16AN-9990	Ambassodor	2013	10000.00
11.	UP16AK-9116	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
12.	UP16AK-9124	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
13.	UP16AK-9359	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
14.	UP16AK-9404	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
15.	UP16AK-9417	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
16.	UP16AK-9418	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
17.	UP16AK-9419	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
18.	UP16AK-9420	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
19.	UP16AK-9421	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
20.	UP16AK-9422	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
21.	UP16AK-9423	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
22.	UP16AK-9424	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
23.	UP16AK-9425	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
24.	UP16AK-9426	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
25.	UP16AK-9427	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
26.	UP16AK-9428	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
27.	UP16AK-9429	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
28.	UP16AK-9430	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
29.	UP16AK-9488	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
30.	UP16AK-9489	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
31.	UP16AK-9490	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
32.	UP16AK-9491	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
33.	UP16AK-9492	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
34.	UP16AK-9493	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
35.	UP16AK-9496	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
36.	UP16AK-9502	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
37.	UP16AK-9504	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
38.	UP16AK-9505	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
39.	UP16AK-9512	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
40.	UP16AK-9513	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
41.	UP16AK-9515	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
42.	UP16AK-9519	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
43.	UP16AK-9521	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
44.	UP16AK-9522	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
45.	UP16AK-9525	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
46.	UP16AK-9527	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
47.	UP16AK-9528	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
48.	UP16AK-9529	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
49.	UP16AK-9530	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
50.	UP16AK-9567	Pulsar 220 CC	2012	10000.00
51.	UP-16AV-9793	Innova	2014	10000.00
52.	UP-16AV-9810	Innova	2014	10000.00

**Term & Conditions :**

- Enclosed the D.D./FDR of valve as shown against the vehicle of any scheduled bank in favour of NOIDA.
- The earnest money will be forfeited in favour of NOIDA if tenderer makes any changes or refuses after receiving of tender. The earnest money will be also forfeited in favour of NOIDA if success for tenderer fails to take over the vehicle within 10 days after acceptance letter.
- Conditional tenders will not be entertained.
- The right for acceptance/rejection of any tender is reserved to accepting authority without assigning any reason.
- The GST / other taxes which are applicable has to be paid extra.
- The responsibility will be of the tenderer for transfer of Vehicle in his name.
- The Tenders are valid for three months.
- According to the order date 20.07.2016 of ther Honorable National Green Tribunal, the running of diesel powered 10 years old Machines/Vehicles is prohibited in the districts of NCR region.

**C.G.M., Noida**

**CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA**

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

"मैं प्रमोटर U.P. Awas Evam Vikas Parishad व्यक्तिगत कारणों से 30प्र0 रेरा में पंजीकृत परियोजना (Construction of 48 Houses Under P.M.A.Y. at Vill.- Ramanpur, Tehsil-Hathras, Hathras (संख्या UPRERAPRJ504901) को सरेन्डर/ कॅन्सिलेशन/निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति/ संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग करायी गई हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम/दावा प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त क्लेम/दावा को विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अन्दर यूपी रेरा की ईमेल आईडी [contactuprera@up-rera.in](mailto:contactuprera@up-rera.in) पर भी भेजा जाए तथा क्लेम/दावा विवरण को सचिव, 30प्र0 रेरा मुख्यालय, नवीन भवन, राज्य नियोजन संस्थान, कालाकांकर हाउस, पुराना हैदराबाद, लखनऊ-226007 को प्रेषित किया जाए।"

**U.P. Awas Evam Vikas Parishad**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender No. 558-Sig/16/Telc/AMC/573/2021-22 Dated : 28.09.2021

S. N.	Name of work with its location	App. Cost of the work (In Rs.)	Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased	Tender Document Fee (in Rs.)	Earnest Money to be deposited (in Rs.)	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.
1	AMC of BYTE Intercom system working at Rail Bhawan, Baroda house and DRM office New Delhi for three years	3914089.56 only.	Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055	Nil only	Nil only	Tender Uploading/ Closing date & time 20.10.2021 15:00 hrs.	See the N.Rly. website <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> & Notice Board at S&T Branch, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM office, State entry road, New Delhi-110055

**2201/21**

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM**  
**OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR:: AMRUT ASSAM**  
**DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6**

**NO. TP/AMRUT/3/2021/22**  
**SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/ INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No. 2 of 2021**

The undersigned re-invites bid online (2nd call) through e-Procurement system i.e. through website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) from Govt. registered class I A Contractor of APWD/APHD or similar equivalent class of Govt. registered contractor in 2 (two) bid system for the following work under AMRUT.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of Works	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee	Period of completion
1	Construction, testing, commissioning of Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of Capacity 2700 Cum of Staging Height 16M with Boundary Wall and Road including all allied works, Distribution Pipeline and House Service Connections & Water Meter Installations for Phase-2 Part of Silchar Town (24X7) Water supply Project, all complete, including Two (2) months Trial run after commissioning.	Rs. 18,76,22,919/-	@ 2% of value of work	Rs. 20,000.00	15 months

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents shall be available in website [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and can be viewed from 01.10.2021 up to 15.00 hr. of 19.10.2021. Bid is to be submitted through online and in no case manual bid shall be entertained.

Sd/-  
**Mission Director**  
**AMRUT, Assam**

Janasanyog No. 1523/21

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2, Dumka.**

**e-Procurement Notice**  
**E-Tender reference no. - DWSD/ DUMKA-2/15/2021-22 Date- 28.09.2021**

1	<b>Name of the Work</b>	Detailed survey, designing and drawing, Construction of R.C.C. Intake Well cum Pump House, R.C.C. Gangway 50 M long and 3.00 M wide, 1.5 MLD capacity Unconventional Water Treatment Plant, RCC Elevated Service Reservoir - 400 KiloLiter capacity Staging height- 9 m, Staff Quarter, Compound wall, Supplying and laying Raw and Clear Water rising main and Distribution Network, House Connection, Construction of Weir, Supplying and Installation of VT and Centrifugal pump motor and Five years operation & maintenance with allied works etc. all complete job for Belyajor & adjoining village Rural pipe Water Supply Scheme under D.W. & S. Division Dumka-02 on turnkey basis.
2	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	1902.69 Lakh
3	<b>Earnest Money</b>	19.03 Lakh
4	<b>Cost of BOQ</b>	10,000.00
5	<b>Time of Completion</b>	24 Months + 3 months (trial and run)
6	<b>Date of publication of Tender on Web site</b>	01.10.2021 / 02:00PM
7	<b>Date &amp; Place of pre bid meeting</b>	08.10.2021 / 11:30 AM held on Office of the EIC, Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
8	<b>Last date/Time for receipt of Bid</b>	25.10.2021 / 5:00 PM
9	<b>Last date of submission of Earnest Money (Bank Guarantee/T.D. Pass Book/N.S.C) and cost of B.O.Q.</b>	26.10.2021 / 02:00 PM
10	<b>Date of opening of Tender</b>	26.10.2021 / 05:00 PM
11	<b>Name &amp; address of office inviting tender</b>	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka, Jharkhand
12	<b>Name &amp; address of Opening office</b>	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division No-2 Dumka, Jharkhand
13	<b>Contact no of Procurement office</b>	7739802331
14	<b>Helpline no of e-procurement cell</b>	7739802331

Note :- As per BOQ Estimated Cost may be decrease or increase Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> (Anuj Kumar Mishra) Executive Engineer PR 254023 (Drinking Water and Sanitation) 21-22 (D) D.W. & S. Division No. 02, Dumka

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**National Highways Division, Dhanbad**  
**e-Procurement (Tender Notice)**  
**(LOI) No.-10/2021-22**  
**e-Tender Ref No:- NH/Dhanbad/10/2021-22 (3<sup>rd</sup> Call) Date:-25.09.2021**

1	Name Of Work	Consultancy Services f or DPR Preparation on EPC mode for Construction of High Level Bridge over Damodar River beside existing Birs Bridge at Km -39.700 of NH -218 in the State of Jharkhand including Land Acquisition and Utility Shifting.
2	Tentative Length	0.50 Km (Approx)
3	Period of Completion of Work	300 Days
4	Cost of Tender documents	Demand Draft of any Scheduled B bank (non-refundable fee) of Rs 5,000/- (Five Thousand) only. EMD as detailed in NIT in the form of current issue of NSC, Fixed Deposits of a Scheduled B bank (all the above mentioned form of Security deposits money issued within the State of Jharkhand), Bank Guarantee issued by any Scheduled bank anywhere in India Payable at Dhanbad in favour of Executive Engineer, National Highways Division , Dhanbad for a period of 120 days beyond the validity of bid e-tendering( <a href="http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in">http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in</a> )
5	Mode of Bid Submission	
6	Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website	01/10/2021, 10:30 AM
7	Last Date/Time of Bid Submission	20/10/2021, 15:00PM
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Tender Fee & EMD	21/10/2021, 15:00PM
9	Date and Time of Bid opening	22/10/2021, 15:30 PM
10	Bid validity	120 days
11	Date/Time of Pre Bid meeting & Place	08/10/2021, 11:00 AM Place:- Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highways Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi
12	Date/Time of PPT presentation on work Methodology & Place	08/10/2021, 14:00 AM Place:- Office of the Chief Engineer, National Highways Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi
13	Cost of bidding document and Bid Security (Tender Fee & EMD) Submission Address	Executive Engineer, National Highways Division, Dhanbad, Mob-7667250916
14	Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer	Executive Engineer, National Highways Division, Dhanbad, Mob-7667250916

Note:-Only e-Tender shall be accepted.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**National Highways Division,**  
**Dhanbad-826001.**

PR 254003 Rural Development(21-22)D

**EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**OPEN TENDER**

Batch No: 91/21 dated : 27.09.2021

E-Tender Notice for supply of materials- "participation in through" web portal of IREPS - [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) offers are invited for supply of the following materials. The closing time for all tenders is at 14.00 hr.

Sl.No. 01. Tender No. 14205023B, Brief Description : Un-insulated cadmium copper catenary wire, Quantity: 742.433 MT, Published on time : 26.09.2021/09:27:54, Closing on : 01.11.2021.

Participants are required to submit their offer only on-line through the web portal of IREPS- [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) before the closing date and time. Other details regarding Consignee and detailed description of stores are available in tender document in tender notice on the above portal.

**SMM-cum Secy. To PCMM**  
**PR/0887/HQ/Store/T/21-22/28**

## Moral policing: 5 Bajrang Dal men arrested for harassing medical students in Karnataka

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 28

FIVE MEMBERS of the Bajrang Dal were arrested for allegedly harassing and man-handling a group of medical students in another incident of moral policing reported from coastal Karnataka.

A senior police officer identified the accused as Preetham Shetty, Arshith, Srinivas, Rakesh and Abhishek. A case was registered under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional insult).

According to police sources, the incident took place Sunday evening where six second-year MBBS students were driving back from Malpe beach. The accused stopped their car at Surathkal checkpoint, asked their names and questioned the women for "being in the company of Muslims". The activists then proceeded to manhandle the students, when traffic inspector Sharif - who happened to be at the spot - defused the situation and sent them away.

A case was registered and the accused were arrested later. Mangaluru Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said the complainants stated they were returning from a picnic and did not know who the attackers were. They asked the students' names and attacked them. While the accused claimed that some of the youths were harassing women in the vehicle, a probe revealed that the complainants' claims represented the true version of events, he said.

This is the fifth incident of moral policing reported recently in the state.

## Issue instructions on promotion quota for disabled: SC to govt

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre to issue instructions within four months to provide reservation in promotions to persons with disabilities. A bench headed by Justice L. Nageswara Rao asked the government to issue instructions "at the earliest and not later than four months", in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The direction came on an application filed by the Centre seeking clarification in the court's January 14, 2020 judgment in which it said persons with disabilities have a right to reservation in promotions. The government had sought clarification regarding computation of vacancies. The SC bench said there was no ambiguity in its judgment and asked the government to issue the instructions. **ENS**

### आवश्यक सूचना

**No. CH-PWL-2021/2589** **DATE: 28.09.2021**

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि दिनांक 04.10.2021 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे जिला नागरिक अस्पताल, पलवल के साईकिल स्टैंड का खुला टेंडर किया जाएगा। टेंडर की शर्तें मौके पर सुना दी जाएगी। वरिष्ठ चिकित्सा अधिकारी, नागरिक अस्पताल पलवल के कार्यालय में टेंडर लेने के संबंध में कोई भी बोलीदाता बोली लगाकर टेंडर ले सकता है।

हस्ता. /-  
**वरिष्ठ चिकित्सा अधिकारी,**  
**नागरिक अस्पताल, पलवल।**

4984/HRY

**DIRECTORATE GAS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION**  
**01, SHIVAJI NAGAR BHOPAL**  
**TENDER NOTICE**

The Tender is invited from interested contractors (eligibility of contractors as per RFP Document) having eligibility mentioned in the column of category of contractors for the following works. The details of the work will be available at the website <http://www.mptenders.gov.in>

S. No.	SYSTEM TENDER NO.	NIT NO.	NAME OF WORK	PROBABLE AMOUNT OF CONTRACT (Rs.)	EARNEST MONEY (Rs.)	COST OF TENDER FORM (Rs.)	TIME PERIOD OF WORK	CATEGORY OF CONTRACTORS
1	02/DIR/ GASRAHAT /2021	2021- BGTRR -16109 7.1	DISPOSAL OF CHEMICAL WASTE LYING IN THE CAMPUS OF UNION CARBIDE BHOPAL	3716.00 Lakh (Rs. Thirty-seven Crore sixteen Lakh)	40.00 Lakh (Rs. Forty Lakh)	20000.00 (Rs. Twenty Thousand)	06 Months	AS per RFP

(1) The Tender Form & other details can be purchased from the website through online payment (2) The purchase date of Tender Form will be from 24.09.2021 from 9.00 AM to 14.10.2021 upto 5.30 PM (3) The details of N.I.T. and other information may be available at the above website (4) The envelope related to the tender containing mandatory documents may be physically received in this office on dated 21.10.2021 upto to 5.30 PM.

Sd/- (BASANT KURRE)  
DIRECTOR  
G-17453/21 GAS RELIEF AND REHABILITATION, BHOPAL

कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगवाना, मास्क पहनना और अपना ना दो गज दूरी।

**Govt. of Bihar**

**Building Construction Department**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
**CONSTRUCTION DIVISION-1**  
**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, PATNA**

National Competitive bidding by  
e-tendering on website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

**RE-tendering Invitation Notice**  
**CORRIGENDUM- 3**

This is to inform to all that in E-tender notice No.- 01/2021-22 whose PR No. is 002126(BCD)/2021-22 published in daily news paper and issued from this office by letter No-574 dated 08.06.2021 following modifications are being made.

Name of Work :- Construction of Proposed National Dolphin Research Center (NDRC), Patna

Sl. No.	Particulars	Last Estimated cost, Earnest money, Date & Time	New Modified Estimated cost, Earnest money, Date & Time
1	Estimated cost	29,95,33,300.00	24,96,76,859.00
2	Earnest money	39,95,333.00	34,97,000.00
3	Last date and time of sale (download) of BOQ	From Date 31.08.2021 to 25.09.2021 up to 15.00 hrs	From Date 01.10.2021 to 25.10.2021 up to 15.00 hrs
4	Last date and time of submission (upload) of tender	27.09.2021 up to 15.00 hrs	25.10.2021 up to 15.00 hrs
5	Date and time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Date 29.09.2021 15.30 hrs	Date 27.10.2021 15.30 hrs
6	Date, time and Place of Pre-Bid meeting	Date 06.07.2021 at 16:00 hrs[At office of C.E. (Patna), BCD, Patna]	Date 06.10.2021 at 16:00 hrs [At office of E.E., Const. Div. No.1, BCD, Patna] Date 07.10.2021 at 16:00 hrs[At office of C.E. (Patna), BCD, Patna]
7	Date and time of opening of tender (Financial Bid)	After disposal of Technical bid from Departmental Tender Committee	After disposal of Technical bid from Departmental Tender Committee

All other conditions will remain unchanged.

**(Pawan Kumar)**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Construction Division-1,**  
**Building Construction Department, Patna**

**PR- 006790 (BCD) 2021-22**

नोबल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सख्योग हेतु Toll Free No. **104** पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

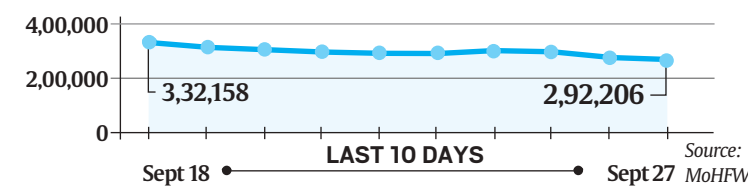
### PRATHAM CEO GETS YIDAN PRIZE FOR EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

New Delhi: Pratham CEO Dr Rukmini Banerji is this year's recipient of the prestigious Yidan Prize for Education Development for her work on improving children's learning levels.

The Yidan Prize is awarded by the Yidan Prize Foundation — a global philanthropic education foundation working on progress and change in education — and nine people have received it since its inception in 2016. The other prize it awards is the Yidan Prize for Education Research which has been given this year to Professor Eric A. Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow and Professor, Hoover Institution of Stanford University. Each laureate is awarded HK\$ 30 million—approximately US\$3.9 million—half of which is a project fund to help them scale up their work.

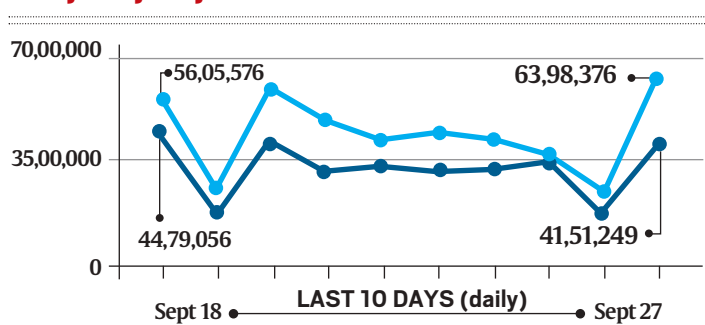
Dr Banerji said the prize would allow Pratham to work towards the future by expanding their work with younger children. She has done crucial work through the ASER assessment approach and the 'Teaching at the Right Level' programme. "The Yidan Prize gives us the opportunity to work on the future and I'm very excited about that...," **ENS**





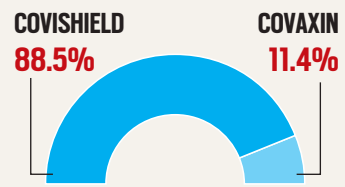
## CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

**TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA** (at least one dose)  
**63,96,14,662**



**TOTAL DOSES**  
**87,07,08,636**

(Sputnik V's 9,35,184 doses not represented in pie)



**DOSES ON SEPT 27 1,05,49,625**

**SEPT 26: 40,77,484** (1ST DOSE: 23,85,201; 2ND: 16,92,283)

Note: The Sept 27 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 28  
Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 28

## The burden of climate change on children born today

IN A STUDY published in the journal *Science*, researchers have found that children born today will be hit much harder by extreme climate events than today's adults. During his or her lifetime, a child born in 2021 is likely to experience on average twice as many wildfires, two to three times more droughts, almost three times more river floods and crop failures and about seven times more heat waves compared to a person who is, say, 60 years old today, the researchers have found.

The study is based on data from the Intersectoral Impact Model Intercomparison Project (ISIMIP). This is a community-driven climate-impacts modelling initiative that assesses the differential impacts of climate change. The ISIMIP data were used alongside country-scale, life-expectancy data, population data and temperature trajectories from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

A press release issued by the Postdam Institute for Climate Impact Research said that under a scenario of current "insufficient" climate policies, dangerous extreme heatwave events, which affect about 15% of the global land area today, could treble to 46% by the end of this century. However, if countries are able to follow through with their climate policies as decided

under the Paris Climate Agreement, this effect could be limited to 22%, which is just seven percentage points more than the global land area that is affected today.

The release quoted lead author of the study, Wim Thiery from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, as saying: "We even have strong reasons to think that our calculations underestimate the actual increases that young people will face."

In terms of experiencing droughts, heatwaves, river floods and crop failures, people under the age of 40 today will live what the researchers call "an unprecedented life".

The release quoted Postdam Institute for Climate Impact Research scientist Katja Frieler, who is coordinating ISIMIP and is a co-author of the study, as saying: "The good news: we can indeed take much of the climate burden from our children's shoulders if we limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by phasing out fossil fuel use. If we increase climate protection from current emission reduction pledges and get in line with a 1.5-degree target, we will reduce young people's potential exposure to extreme events on average by 24% globally. For North America it's minus 26%, for Europe and Central Asia minus 28%, and in the Middle East and North Africa even minus 39%. This is a huge opportunity."



**PAPER CLIP**

NEW RESEARCH

**KAUNAIN SHERIFF M**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ON MONDAY, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), saying it has the "potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's healthcare facilities". The flagship digital initiative involves the creation of not just a unique health ID for every citizen, but also a digital healthcare professionals and facilities registry.

**What is the unique health ID, and how does one get it?**

If a person wants to be part of the ABDM, she must create a health ID, which is a randomly generated 14-digit number. The ID will be broadly used for three purposes: unique identification, authentication, and threading of the beneficiary's health records, only with their informed consent, across multiple systems and stakeholders.

One can get a health ID by self-registration on the portal or by downloading the ABDM Health Records app on one's mobile. Additionally, one can also request the creation of a health ID at a participating health facility, which may include government or private hospitals, community health centres, and wellness centres of the government across India.

The beneficiary will also have to set up a Personal Health Records (PHR) address for consent management, and for future sharing of health records.

**What is a PHR address?**

It is a simple self-declared username, which the beneficiary is required to sign into a Health Information Exchange and Consent Manager (HIE-CM). Each health ID will require linkage to a consent manager to enable sharing of health records data.

An HIE-CM is an application that enables sharing and linking of personal health records for a user. At present, one can use the health ID to sign up on the HIE-CM; the National Health Authority (NHA), however, says multiple consent managers are likely to be available for patients to choose from in the near future.

**What does one need to register for a health ID?**

Currently, ABDM supports health ID creation via mobile or Aadhaar. The official web-



The unique health ID will be a randomly generated 14-digit number. An applicant can register with her Aadhaar number or mobile number. National Digital Health Mission

**Can I delete my health ID and exit the platform?**

Yes, the NHA says ABDM, supports such a feature. Two options are available: a user can permanently delete or temporarily deactivate her health ID.

On deletion, the unique health ID will be permanently deleted, along with all demographic details. The beneficiary will not be able to retrieve any information tagged to that health ID in the future, and will never be able to access ABDM applications or any health records over the ABDM network with the deleted ID.

On deactivation, the beneficiary will lose access to all ABDM applications only for the period of deactivation. Until she reactivates her health ID, she will not be able to share the ID at any health facility or share health records over the ABDM network.

**What facilities are available to beneficiaries?**

You can access your digital health records right from admission through treatment and discharge. Second, you can access and link your personal health records with your health ID to create a longitudinal health history.

**What other features will be rolled out?**

Upcoming new features will enable access to verified doctors across the country. The ben-

In both these instances, the legislator loses the seat in the legislature on changing (or joining) a party.

The third scenario relates to nominated MPs. In their case, the law gives them six months to join a political party, after being nominated. If they join a party after such time, they stand to lose their seat in the House.

**Covering independents**

In 1969, a committee chaired by Home Minister Y B Chavan examined the issue of defection. It observed that after the 1967 general elections, defections changed the political scene in India: 176 of 376 independent legislators later joined a political party. However, the committee did not recommend any action against independent legislators. A member disagreed with the committee on the issue of independents and wanted them disqualified if they joined a political party.

In the absence of a recommendation on this issue by the Chavan committee, the initial attempts at creating the anti-defection law (1969, 1973) did not cover independent legislators joining political parties. The next legisla-



Jignesh Mevani with Rahul Gandhi at AICC HQ in New Delhi. AICC

tive attempt, in 1978, allowed independent and nominated legislators to join a political party once. But when the Constitution was amended in 1985, independent legislators were prevented from joining a political party and nom-

inated legislators were given six months' time.

**Disqualification**

Under the anti-defection law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature. The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made.

As a result, Speakers of legislatures have sometimes acted very quickly or have delayed the decision for years—and have been accused of political bias in both situations. Last year, the Supreme Court observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in three months' time.

In West Bengal, a disqualification petition against Mukul Roy, BJP MLA now back in the Trinamool Congress, has been pending with the Assembly Speaker since June 17. On Tuesday, the Calcutta High Court referred to the Supreme Court order, observed that the three-month window has now passed, and directed the Speaker to decide on the petition against Roy by October 7.

Chakshu Roy is head of outreach at PRS Legislative Research



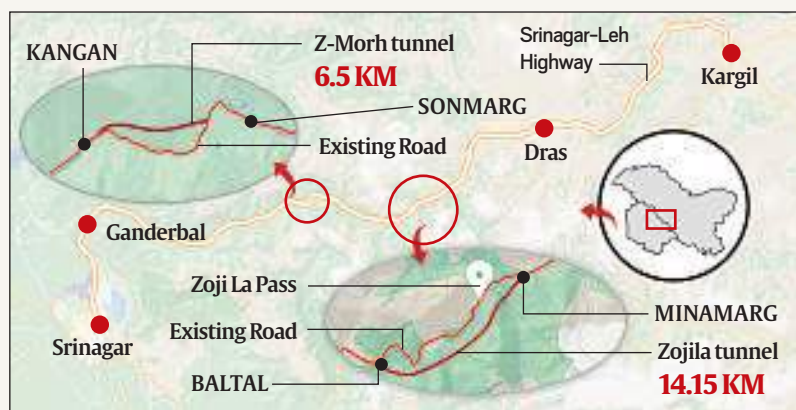
(Above and left) The 434-km Srinagar-Leh road connecting the Kashmir valley with Ladakh is snowed out at the 3,530-metre Zojila pass for four to six months every year. Shuaib Masoodi/Archive



**LONGEST ROAD TUNNEL**

At 14.15 km, the Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. A connecting tunnel from Z-Morh on NH1 to the Zojila tunnel will be built in the Zojila Ghat between Sonmarg and Kargil. The work on the entire 33-km span is divided into two divisions.

The first part involves development and expansion of the 18.475-km highway between Z-Morh to Zojila. A 3-km stretch will be expanded; the rest will be newly de-



veloped. The highway will have 2 twin-tube tunnels, 5 bridges, and 2 snow galleries.

The second part is building the 14.15-km Zojila tunnel itself—9.5 m wide, 7.57 m high, 2 lanes, in shape of a horseshoe.

In addition, a 2,350-m concrete 'cut and cover' tunnel will be built, along with

3 ventilation caverns/shafts. Works also include construction of portals, control buildings, ventilation buildings and muck disposables along the route.

**TWO UTs CLOSER TOGETHER**

When complete, the Zojila tunnel will



At Baltal on Tuesday. PTI

allow travel between Srinagar and Ladakh throughout the year. The distance from Baltal to Minamarg will come down to 13 km from the present 40 km, travel time is expected to be cut by an hour and a half, and the journey is expected to be less strenuous. The project is expected to lead to integrated development of both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

AVISHKE G DASTIDAR

## KASHMIR TO LADAKH, ALL YEAR ROUND

Government is pushing to complete the massive Zojila tunnel, its showpiece infra project in Kashmir and Ladakh, before Republic Day, 2024. Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the west portal of the tunnel in Baltal on Tuesday.







## 17 ECONOMY



₹45,080



₹74.06



\$76.89



₹58,961

Crude oil (Indian basket) as of September 27

SENSEX: 59,667.60 ▼ 410.28 (0.68%) NIFTY: 17,748.60 ▼ 106.50 (0.60%) NIKKEI: 30,183.96 ▼ 56.10 HANG SENG: 24,500.39 ▲ 291.61 FTSE: 7,061.60 ▼ 1.80 DAX: 15,428.09 ▼ 145.79

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH  
IMPORT-EXPORT

## Why is the govt pushing for cos to update IEC?

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT is set to start deactivating Import-Export Codes (IECs) for firms that have not given updated information to the government starting October 6. This move is part of efforts to remove IECs of "front organisations" such as the one allegedly connected to the importer of the 2,988 kg of heroin that was confiscated at the Mundra port, and is currently being investigated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

## What are the update requirements for IEC?

Earlier this year, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended IEC rules to require all firms engaged in import or export to update their details every year between the April-June period. The DGFT later extended the timeline for firms to update details this year till the end of August, based on requests by industry. The IEC granted by the DGFT is mandatory for any firm engaging in exports or imports.

## How is this move connected to the heroin seizure at the Mundra port?

The heroin seized by the DRI was found in a consignment classified as "semi-processed talc stones" imported by Aashi Trading Company. The company had also imported a consignment officially declared as "semi-

**The move is part of efforts to remove IECs of "front organisations" such as the one allegedly connected to the importer of the 2,988 kg of heroin that was confiscated at the Mundra port**

processed talc stones" in June. Government sources said they did not immediately have details of the company available with them. However, the company records were not available with the Registrar of Companies on the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The company could, however, be registered as a sole proprietorship with the MCA as the Ministry does not publish details of such companies. A government official said the move to deactivate IECs that have not been updated was also aimed at cleaning out the IEC of firms such as Aashi Trading Company. "We don't have their emails or phone numbers, there are people who got IECs 20 years back," said the official, noting that the removal of such IECs would be part of the clean up effort by the government. In the first phase of deactivations of IEC, the DGFT is set to deactivate the IECs of firms that have not updated information with the government since the beginning of 2005.

## ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPT TO BE NOTIFIED AS A SECURITY

## Sebi sets stage for spot gold trading on bourses, silver ETFs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has paved the way for spot trading of gold in stock exchanges. Under its proposal, an instrument representing gold called 'Electronic Gold Receipt' (EGR) shall be notified as a security. Corporate entities registered with Sebi as vault managers will accept deposits of gold, store them and create these EGRs.

These EGRs will have trading, clearing and settlement features of other securities such as stock options and stock futures. Any recognised stock exchange can launch EGR trading. Investors can continue to hold EGRs in perpetuity if they so wish. They also have the option of withdrawing the underlying gold from vaults on surrendering these EGRs. To cut costs, Sebi has made these EGRs fungible i.e. an EGR created by one vault manager can be redeemed at any other vault manager.

Further, in a bid to bolster the start-up ecosystem, the Sebi board

## 'WILL LOOK INTO SONY-ZEEL DEAL IF VIOLATION'



Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi along with members in Mumbai on Wednesday. Pradip Das

**Mumbai:** Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the regulator will look into the merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd and Sony Pictures Networks India if there is any violation. "We can't specify timeline for social stock exchange but will coordinate with government to take it ahead," he added. **ENS**

has relaxed the framework for superior voting (SR) shares for tech companies. This class of shares allow promoters or founders to retain control of their company even after selling ordinary shares to new investors. Companies are now allowed to file for an IPO three months after issuing SR shares to promoters, compared to 6 months earlier. Moreover, SR shareholders can be part of a promoter group having a net worth of less than Rs

1,000 crore, a relaxation from Rs 500 crore earlier. The regulator has also focused on corporate governance norms by tightening related party transactions (RPTs). Sebi has expanded the definition of related parties to include all persons and entities that are part of the promoter group irrespective of their actual shareholding. It has also classified persons and entities holding 20 percent or more shares during the immediately preced-

ing financial year as a related party. From April 2023, this threshold will be lowered to 10 percent. It added firms should take approval of shareholders if the size of the related party transaction crosses a certain threshold; the said threshold is the lower of Rs 1000 crore or 10 percent of the annual consolidated turnover of the company.

Sebi has rationalised its delisting and mergers & acquisition regulations. Under the new framework, an acquirer wanting to delist the target firm must propose a higher price for delisting with a suitable premium over the open offer price. If the response to the open offer leads to 90 percent shares being acquired, all shareholders tendering shares shall be paid the same delisting price. If the response leads to the delisting threshold of 90 percent not being met, all shareholders who tender their shares shall be paid the same takeover price.

The board has also okayed the issuance of silver exchange traded funds and the setting up of social bourses. It has approved an Investor Charter, too.

## 'Higher mobility in some cities drives up biz resumption index'

*Higher mobility scores in Hyderabad and Pune took business resumption activity index to a new high for the week ended Sunday, said Nomura*

**The Nomura** India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which compared activity for a particular week against the pre-pandemic level of March 2020, came at 105 for the week ended Sunday, as against 100.5 in the previous reporting week

**'ABERRATION'** The brokerage, however, said this is an "aberration" led by a sharp rise in Apple driving data, and masks an otherwise modest business resumption

**The rise** was primarily due to a sharp 18 percentage point (PP)



spike in the Apple driving index over the week, which reflects higher traffic localised in the cities of Hyderabad and Pune

**THE GOOGLE** workplace index rose by 3.4 PP & the retail & recreation index fell by 0.1 PP

**AFTER THREE** consecutive weeks of contraction, power demand registered tepid growth of 0.8 per cent as compared to the previous week

**If one** were to exclude the rise in Apple driving index, the NIBRI has risen by a modest 2 PP, it said *Source: Nomura/PTI*

**The upcoming festive season in Q4 2021 and the release of the arrears of 'dearness allowance' for public sector employees, should support consumption, although supply-side bottlenecks may weigh on near-term manufacturing growth**

## BRIEFLY

## Wall St falls

*New York/London:* Wall Street indexes sharply dropped on Tuesday as weak consumer confidence data deepened concerns over slowing US economic growth. At 10:38 am ET, the Dow was down 361.68 points, or 1.04 percent, at 34,507.69. Meanwhile, Brent dipped after topping \$80 per barrel for the first time in nearly 3 years. **REUTERS**

## Flight crew tests

*New Delhi:* Flight crew members and air traffic controllers will be tested by their employers for psychoactive substances from January 31 next year, as per DGCA rules.

## Videocon case

*New Delhi:* Sebi on Tuesday imposed fines totalling Rs 75 lakh on Venugopal Dhoot and two other entities for insider trading activities.

## IndiGo codeshare

*New Delhi:* American Airlines and IndiGo announced that they have entered into a codeshare agreement which allows the former to sell seats on the Indian carrier's flights operating on 29 routes.

## IGL connections

*New Delhi:* Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) gave out 3.1 lakh new piped natural gas connections to households in the Capital and adjoining cities in 2020-21 despite the fiscal being impacted by Covid curbs, chairman Arun Kumar Singh said. **PTI**

## Powell questioned

*Washington:* US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell faced heated questions from senators criticising its trading guidelines, financial regulation and diversity efforts. Speaking to members of US Senate Banking Committee, he vowed to improve policies where needed. **REUTERS**

## Textiles PLI seeks to incentivise MMF fabric, apparel production

KARUNJIT SINGH  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has notified the Rs 10,683-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, specifically aimed at boosting the production of man-made fibre (MMF) fabric, MMF apparel and technical textiles.

## Product lines being incentivised by the scheme

The scheme is incentivising production of 14 categories of

MMF fabrics, 10 categories of technical textiles and MMF apparel. The MMF fabrics for which production is being incentivised include woven fabrics containing nylon, polyester and other man-made fibres. Technical textiles that are set to be covered under the scheme include defence textiles such as bullet proof vests, fighter aircraft and submarine clothing and tents, mobile textiles such as safety airbags and tyre cords and protective textiles such as personal protective equipment and fire retardant fabrics and clothing. The

## Producers eligible for incentives under the scheme

The first phase will be open to producers that invest at least Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, gear and civil work (excluding land and administrative building cost). Such producers will receive incentives under the scheme once they achieve a turnover of at least Rs 600 crore. In the second phase, producers investing Rs 100 crore and generating a turnover of at least Rs 200 crore will receive incentives.

*Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

## Adani Group buys 10% in Grameen eStore

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ADANI GROUP has acquired a 10 per cent stake in government promoted CSC SPV's e-commerce subsidiary CSC Grameen eStore. CSC SPV Managing Director Dinesh Tyagi said the association

with Adani Group will help meet the financial requirements of village-level entrepreneurs (VLE), who manage e-stores that provide groceries, consumer durables, automobiles etc in rural areas and small towns.

When contacted, Adani Capital MD and CEO Gaurav Gupta said the government through the CSC

network has played a pivotal role in making available products and services to every Indian, even in the remotest areas.

The government holds a golden share in the CSC SPV, while banking companies are major investors in the organisation with Punjab National Bank holding the majority stake.

## NCLT allows Future group to hold shareholder meetings to sell assets to RIL

**Mumbai:** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed Future Group firms to hold meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek approval for sale of assets to Reliance Retail Ltd.

"The National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench has passed an order allowing the company to hold meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek approval for the scheme," Future Retail said in a filing. "The NCLT has rejected the intervention application filed by Amazon. The order was pronounced in open court today and a copy thereof is awaited," it said. The NCLT has asked the firm for a suitable date for the extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders and creditors. **ENS**

## China energy crunch triggers shutdowns, pleas for more coal

REUTERS  
SHANGHAI, SEPTEMBER 28

CHINA FACES mounting pressure to ramp up coal imports and ensure supplies to keep lights on, factories open and water flowing as a severe power crunch roils the northeastern industrial heartland. With electricity shortages sparked by coal shortages crippling large sections of industry, the governor of Jilin province, one of the hardest hit in the world's no.2 economy, called for a surge in coal imports, while a power company association said supply was being expanded "at any cost".

For the second straight day, the main state grid operator sought to

## Britain looks to calm fuel panic

**London:** Britain's transport minister pleaded with motorists on Tuesday to stop filling up old water bottles with fuel at gas stations after panic buying left pumps dry across major cities and prompted the government to put the army on standby. **REUTERS**

reassure customers, saying it would work to guarantee coal supply and strictly control power use by high-energy consuming and polluting sectors, and ensure power supply to residents.

## FM bats for social protection at UN meet 'Cos in fintech space should ensure safety, data privacy'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

CITING MEASURES such as Direct Benefit Transfer-enabled Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar biometric identification, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said social protection should have digitisation of public financial management systems at the core of the design. She also urged the UN that post-pandemic policies must provide for adequate recognition of the mental wellbeing of vulnerable sections.

Speaking at the UN's high-level discussion on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication, Sitharaman also said insights from behavioural economics can be leveraged in onboarding those workers who are currently not covered under the formal security net.

"One key principle underpinning the post-pandemic recovery with policies integrating health and social protection is the institutional recognition of mental wellbeing of vulnerable sections through psychosocial support.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. via Twitter

Future policies must adequately provide for this imperative," she said in her virtual address.

The comprehensive social protection system envisaged to be created under the proposed global accelerator for jobs and social protection should have digitalisation of public financial management systems at the core of the design, she said.

"In India, the DBT method enabled Jandhan, the Aadhaar biometric identification and mobile trinity helped during the pandemic in rolling out social protection measures without any delays," she added.

**GUJARAT UNIVERSITY**  
AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT  
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Online tenders are invited by the Registrar, Gujarat University for **Printing and Supply of Answer Book and Brown Sticker** of various examinations. Details specification, eligibility criteria, other terms & condition are available on [www.nprocure.com](http://www.nprocure.com) or [www.gujaratuniversity.ac.in](http://www.gujaratuniversity.ac.in)  
Date: 29/09/2021 Registrar

**DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV**  
O.H.T.O. I. A. Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI-20.  
e-mail: [eesouthiv498@gmail.com](mailto:eesouthiv498@gmail.com)/Tel. 011-26388976  
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"  
Press N.I.T. No: 34 SV (2021-22)  
S. No. Name of work Estimated Cost (in Rs.) Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/tender of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution  
1. Desilting of 900/1200/1600 mm dia S/L & raising / tracing of manholes from RUB Pul Pahladpur to Mathura Road, near MCIE under EE(South)-IV (Re-invited) 48,43,326/- 2021\_DJB\_206810\_1 24.09.2021 14.10.2021 up to 3.00 pm  
Further details in this regard may be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)  
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 441/2021-22 Sd/- (Rajeev Kumar Gupta)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV

## Covid cover claims at ₹31,624 crore; Maharashtra leads

GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

SINCE THE time the Covid pandemic began in March 2020, insurance companies have received 25.64 lakh claims for Rs 31,624 crore from people affected by the virus, with badly hit Maharashtra accounting for the largest numbers by far. The average claim works out to Rs 1.23 lakh per person, and the average settlement to Rs 91,287.

As of Monday, firms had settled 22.38 lakh claims worth Rs 20,430 crore, with the money going to the health sector. A total of 1.81 lakh claims for Rs 1,319 crore have been repudiated, according to figures compiled by the General Insurance Council. The figures also show a massive jump in the health portfolio of insurers.

While 8.47 lakh insurance claims were filed in Maharashtra for Rs 8,650 crore, it was followed by Gujarat (3.24 lakh claims for Rs 3,793 crore), Karnataka (2.53 lakh claims for Rs 2,712 crore) and Tamil Nadu (2.41 lakh claims for Rs 3,447 crore). Telangana reported the highest average per person claim of Rs 1.72 lakh while Arunachal Pradesh registered the highest average per person settled claim of Rs 1.24 lakh.

In the five months ending August 21, the health portfolio of insurers jumped by 32.25 per cent to Rs 30,192 crore, as against Rs 22,830 crore in the same period a year ago. "The second wave of the pandemic was more severe than the first, causing higher uncertainty and fear among the masses. This resulted in increased demand for health insurance, including group policies, as more employers realised the need to cover their employees," said Vijay Kumar, CEO and principal officer, Digit Insurance.

Retail health policies jumped 22.35 per cent to Rs 9,566 crore and group policies rose 25.79 per cent to Rs 11,903 crore in the April-



A vaccination drive for homeless and migrant workers in New Delhi. PTI

August period.

Kumar added that most of the growth happened in the first quarter compared to the same period last year. "We are seeing the demand plateauing now that the second wave has stabilised," Kumar said. However, insurers do not expect a steep plunge given the lingering fear of a third wave, apart from the general growth in awareness about insurance and its benefits. Despite the payouts due to the spike in claims, the insurers expect an accelerated growth for the segment due to this. Health insurance premiums have been the main drivers of the non life insurance industry since the commencement of the pandemic.

"In India, structural growth has been the key driver for the health insurance business for a long time, with an exceptionally high share of out-of-pocket expenditure, poor state of government health facilities and rising affluence among the masses," notes a report by Emkay Global Financial Services. "An increase in the number of people (retail and group) opting for health insurance, demand for better coverage among existing policyholders, demand for short-term Covid-19 health cover and increased claims costs driving prices up have resulted in very strong growth in premiums," the report adds.

According to Care Ratings, growth in premiums of stand-alone health insurers has continued to be higher than the industry average FY22 so far.

**National Centre for Radio Astrophysics**  
**TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH**  
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.

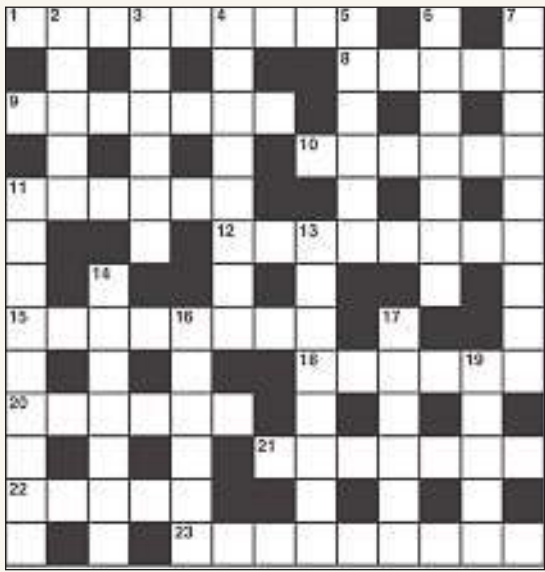
**TENDER NOTICE NO. 06/2021-2022**  
Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to Software Packages and Allied Services of the Square Kilometer Array (SKA)  
Eoi Document Fee : Rs. 11,800/-  
For detailed Eoi and for downloading please visit website: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1>

**OSBI**  
Marketing & Communications Department, 9th Floor, State Bank Bhavan  
Madam Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
RFP NO: SBI/M&C/2021-22/02  
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Empanelment as Printer Agencies for SBI. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and <https://bank.sbi>  
Commencement of download of RFP: from 29.09.2021.  
Last date and time for submission of bids: 25.10.2021 up to 15:00 hrs.  
Place: Mumbai  
Date: 29.09.2021  
sd/-  
Deputy General Manager (M&C)

**DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR**  
**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV**  
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e-mail: [eesouthiv498@gmail.com](mailto:eesouthiv498@gmail.com)/Tel. 011-26388976  
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"  
Press N.I.T. No: 34 SV (2021-22)  
S. No. Name of work Estimated Cost (in Rs.) Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date/tender of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution  
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ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 441/2021-22 Sd/- (Rajeev Kumar Gupta)  
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV



CROSSWORD 4547



- ACROSS**  
1 Not a properly constituted company? (9)  
8 Quick to feel pain (5)  
9 See 4 Down  
10 Minister is to eat about six (6)  
11 Pull down the tents and abscond (6)  
12 Apt to be not on the level (8)  
15 Figure of importance to American defence (8)  
18 Material on which one flourishes (6)  
20 Highly bred? (6)  
21 Moving passage from 'Tristan' (7)  
22 Act it so as to be understood (5)  
23 Litter that may be picked up (9)
- DOWN**  
2 A swell in the avenue (5)  
3 Catch a parent out (6)  
4 and 9 Across: Business associate caught napping? (8,7)  
5 Discovery means plea is changed (6)  
6 Entails conspicuous change (7)  
7 Turn up with a worker as escort (9)  
11 Girlfriend peers around inside looking frantic (9)  
13 Chat easily - or just the reverse (8)  
14 China to rebuild ancient city (7)  
16 They represent us - amen (6)  
17 Where doctors acquire their bedside manner? (6)  
19 The very best from France (5)

**Solutions Crossword 4546:** Across: 1 Section, 4 Arrow, 7 Rare, 8 Misleads, 10 Average out, 12 Etcher, 13 Cartel, 15 Interested, 18 Undraped, 19 Pale, 20 Timid, 21 Samoyed. Down: 1 Syria, 2 Currency, 3 Nailed, 4 All but a few, 5 Real, 6 Wastrel, 9 Take in hand, 11 Statuary, 12 Exhaust, 14 Recess, 16 Dread, 17 Adam.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 clue.  
You reclaim your power by \_\_ what you were once taught to \_\_ - Bryant H. McGill (6, -4)

**TVAEO**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

**EMOPHN**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

**TGLUI**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

**IMNOGV**  
[Shaded squares: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100]

**SUDOKU 4609**  
Difficulty Level 1s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.  
Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4608**  
[Sudoku grid solution]

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
  
**Lalwati**  
Age: 65 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow Orange Colour Saree and Red Colour Petticoat with White & Blue Colour Blouse and Hawai Chappal in feet.  
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Hauz Khas, New Delhi at E-mail [ld-cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:ld-cic@cbi.gov.in) or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Phone: SHO  
011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Hauz Khas, New Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 South Distt., Delhi  
DP/681/SD/2021 Ph. No. 011-26867878, 26510077

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**  
  
**Pradeep**  
General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Pradeep S/o Jai Prakash R/o H.No. 237, Gali No. 7, Kadiapur Kadi Vihar, Delhi** has been missing / kidnapped from his home since **23.07.2021 at 11:00 Hrs.** In this regard a FIR/DD No. 06 A dated **26.07.2021** has been registered at **PS. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.  
His physical description is as under:-  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'8"ft., **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Half sleeves grey shirt black pant & sports shoes in feet.  
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-  
SHO  
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Swaroop Nagar, Delhi  
E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) Ph. No.: 011-27811415  
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No. 7065036327  
Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/1299/ON/2021

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**  
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 82/83 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Orange coloured chader & barefoot,** was found dead on 25.09.21 at 3:26 PM from Standing Jabal Pur Express Train No.02127/28, Coach No. D-2 at washing Line No.23, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of Sabzi Mandi. In this regard a FIR/DD No.19A, dated 25.09.21 u/s 174 CrPC has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi  
If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.  
SHO  
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station  
DP/276/RLY/2021 Ph.: 011-24356743, 24358593

**Government of Maharashtra**  
**Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department, Madam Cama Road, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.**  
**Notice for Tender**  
**Once Used Servicable Empty B-Twill Gunny (Jute) Bags of 50 k.g. Packaging Capacity**  
FOOD, Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection Department, Government of Maharashtra, invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies to participate in the competitive bidding process to purchase Once Used Servicable Empty B-Twill Gunny (Jute) Bags of 50 k. g. packaging capacity for KMS 2021-22 & RMS 2022-23.  
Interested participants may visit NeML web site <https://www.neml.in> and get registered for participation.  
For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit <https://www.neml.in>  
Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 20.10.2021 by 2.00 p.m.  
Sd/-  
**Jt. Secretary**  
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department,  
Government of Maharashtra  
DGIPR 2021-22-2123

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
This is notified for the information of rail passengers that the timings of the following Special Express train at given stations will be revised as under :-  
**Revised Timings of Train No. 04011 Delhi Jn.- Hoshiarpur Express Special (Daily) with effect from 01.10.2021**

Station	Existing Timings		Revised Timings	
	Arr.	Dep.	Arr.	Dep.
Delhi Jn.	----	17:25	----	18:30
Panipat Jn	18:35	18:37	20:46	20:48
Karnal	19:02	19:04	21:13	21:15
Ambala Cant Jn	20:30	20:35	22:40	22:45
Chandigarh	21:20	21:25	23:25	23:35
Ludhiana Jn	23:35	23:43	02:50	02:58
Phagwara Jn	00:14	00:16	03:27	03:29
Jalandhar City	00:40	01:05	04:00	04:25
Jalandhar Cant	01:14	01:16	04:36	04:38
Khurdpur	01:33	01:35	04:53	04:55
Hoshiarpur	02:10	----	05:35	----

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute and composition etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.  
All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19, may please be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

**RailMadad Helpline No. 139**

**Visit RailMadad Website :-**  
[www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in)  
Download RailMadad app.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
Your Convenience - Our Concern  
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**UT Govt of Jammu and Kashmir**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Electric Division-I, Parade, JPDCL Jammu**  
**E-Mail: [xened1power@gmail.com](mailto:xened1power@gmail.com) Phone/Fax No: 01991-244098**  
No. ED-I/4058-59 Date: 25/09/2021  
**CORRIGENDUM-I**  
**e- NIT No: ED-I/e-NIT/43of 2021-22 dated: 22-09-2021**  
Please read the name of the item given in BOQ as mentioned below against serial no.:-

S.No. as mentioned in BOQ	Read as	Instead of
1.01	11 KV CT/PT Unit 15/5 Amp (Dry type) along with Trivector Meter complete	CT/PT Unit (Dry type) along with Trivector Meter complete

All other terms and conditions shall remain the same as already in SBD.  
Sd/-Executive Engineer,  
Electric Division-I JPDCL Parade Jammu.  
DIPJ-3236

**KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
Public Health Institute, Sheshadri Road, Opp S.J.P College, K.R Circle, Bengaluru - 560001. Email: [ad.kdws@gmail.com](mailto:ad.kdws@gmail.com), [md.kmscsl@gmail.com](mailto:md.kmscsl@gmail.com)  
No: KSMSCSL/EQPT/GHJ/TND/35/2021-22 Date: 28/09/2021  
**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
Ref: 1) Tender Notification No. KSMSCSL/EQPT/GHJ/TND/35/2021-22 (IND-845) dated 28/09/2021. Nation wide short term Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender: 1) Tender for Supply and installation of PICU Equipments for General Hospital Jayanagar. The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system.  
Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available through website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 28/09/2021. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.  
Sd/- Managing Director, KSMSCSL, Bengaluru  
DIPR/DDUJA/17/17/2021-22  
**STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.**

**Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency**  
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasthradhar Road, Dehradun  
Ref. No. 1765 / 11-02(xvii)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 28-09-2021  
**PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice**  
The Zonal Manager, NPCC on behalf of Chief Engineer, URRDA, Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of **Pithoragarh, Champawat & Nainital** for 33 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to **Rs. 90.88 Crore** including their maintenance for two years (for stage I)/five years (for stage I & II/Bridges) from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent". Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement **04.10.2021**  
**Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission:** The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in [www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersuk.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 regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with the NPCC LTD., 98-NEHRU COLONY, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND) OR PIU NPCC, PMGSY, FIRST FLOOR, BICH GALLI, NEAR INDIAN GAS AGENCY, CHAUKHITYA, ALMORA UTTARAKHAND 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 will 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 **30-10-2021 01:00 PM.**  
For further details please log on to [www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in](http://www.pmgstendersuk.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.  
**Notice :** For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2675725 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

**DAY TODAY** BY PETER VIDAL  
**ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
  
You should pay more attention to financial matters, but realise that personal possessions are not everything. If you are hatching a money-making scheme or plotting a sensible purchase, you have about twenty-four hours. That's unless you want to put things off until next week.  
**TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)**  
  
Take control and get back in the driving-seat. Lunar alignments should give you the idea that with just a little effort, you will come a step closer to achieving a cherished dream. And if that doesn't work, perhaps someone you have always respected will give you the necessary nudge.  
**GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
  
If you are alternating between great enthusiasm and a feeling that life is all against you, you're doing something wrong. You may use the power of your mind to temper excitement with caution and qualify pessimism with hope. It's all a matter of finding the right balance.  
**CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
  
You should be able to begin to relax and enjoy better social contacts. There is still a fair amount of tension, and it would be unrealistic to expect this to dissipate, but it shouldn't reduce the potential for pleasure. In fact, you will soon discover more ways to enjoy yourself.  
**LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
  
Over the next twenty-four hours you will find it difficult to compromise. However, if only for your own sake, there will be situations when it will be by far the most sensible thing to find a middle path. Just because somebody else is stuck in their ways, that is no reason for you not to change.  
**VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)**  
  
Take advantage of Venus' charming relationship with Jupiter to raise the romantic temperature. The only snag could be the tendency for your expectations to spiral out of control, which could mean they'll be impossible to satisfy. One good way to start is by meeting others' needs rather than your own.  
**LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)**  
  
The romantic situation is dominated by secrecy. There is nothing wrong with keeping your feelings to yourself, for it may be that other people are just not ready to hear what you have to say. Be patient and give them all the time they need to catch up.  
**SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**  
  
You have done everything expected of you, and more. The pleasant news is that your horoscope is rapidly becoming very much more relaxed, and the only likely hitch could involve money, especially if other people are involved. Make sure you know who is paying.  
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**  
  
Your emotional ambitions are being stirred. This means that your level of desire is going up, but the pressing question is whether your actual circumstances will allow your hopes to be satisfied. Perhaps you will be able to reach some of your goals, but leave others until later.  
**CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
  
The Moon's major impact today is enthusiastic and ambitious, which indicates that the world is generally a compatible place, and you should feel that you're on the right track. Relationships with children and younger relatives should improve, but do please take the initiative.  
**AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
  
Your plans will go well if you deal with fundamentals first. This means taking nothing and nobody for granted, and recognising that if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing yourself. The only question is whether you have enough time, so don't over-commit yourself.  
**PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
  
Take your time and spend just as long as you need to make the right choices. It's important not to be hurried, especially where work is concerned. Make a point of developing overseas links, and getting in touch with people you've not seen for far too long.

**UJVN LIMITED**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O. "UJJWAL" MAHARAJ BAGH, GHS ROAD, DEHRADUN, Uttarakhand, PIN No. 248001  
Tel: 0135-276308, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507, website: [www.ujvn.ltd](http://www.ujvn.ltd)  
No. 718 **Time Extension Notice -I** Date : 28.09.2021  
The dates of "e"-Tender Notice No: 09e/EE(G)/CPH/2021-22 for "SITC of Dry Type 11kV/110V NGTR with panels including dismantling of Unit 1,2,3 & 4 at Chibro Power House" due to unavoidable circumstances invited by Executive Engineer (G) Chibro Power House for are extended as follows.  
Last date of submission of bid in the portal: 06.10.2021 up to 17:00  
Last date of submission of hard copy: 07.10.2021 from 15:00 Hrs.  
Date of opening of the bid Part-I on website: 08.10.2021 from 10:00  
All other condition shall be same as previous. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://uktenders.gov.in>"  
EE(G),Chibro  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED MALE**  
  
**Gautam**  
General Public is hereby informed that a male (depicted in the photo) namely **Gautam S/o Umesh Singh R/o D-30, Sudershan Park, Moti Nagar, Delhi** **Age - 17 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 17.09.2021 from his home. In this regard a **FIR No. 576/2021 U/s 363 IPC dt. 20.09.2021** has been lodged at Police Station-Moti Nagar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:- **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'7" **Face:** Long, **Physique/Build :** Medium, **Clothing:** Blue Jeans pant and Black T-Shirt and Hawai Chappal in feet.  
Any person having any information/Clue about this missing male, may inform **SHO, Moti Nagar, Delhi** at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Tele No. : 11-24368638 or 24368641  
Fax No. : 11-24368639 SHO  
DP/569/WD/2021 P.S., Moti Nagar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-25101150, 25938880

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
**Road Construction Department,**  
**Road Division, Daltonganj.**  
**e-Procurement Notice**  
e-Tender Reference no.- **RCD/Daltonganj/848** Dated :- **27.09.2021**

	कार्य का नाम	
1	Construction of Road from Daltonganj 2 no. Town Link Road to Pandit Jag Narayan Tripathi B.Ed College Bahinagar (Chiyanki) Under Road Division, Daltonganj (Total Length - 510 M) for the Year 2021-22.	
2	Rs.- 3,02,13,000.00, (Three Crore Two Lacs Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty One Only).	
3	Rs.- 3,02,500.00, (Three Lacs Two Thousand Five Hundred Only).	
4	06 Months	
5	08-10-2021 from 10.30 A.M.	
6	01-11-2021 upto 12.00 Noon	
7	02-11-2021 at 12.30 P.M.	
8	21-10-2021 at 03.00 P.M.	
9	अथवा, ई-प्रोक्यूमेंट सेल, कमरा नं०-330ए, तीसरा तल्ला, पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची।	
10	कार्यपालक अभियंता, पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमंडल, डालटनगंज। 06562-225019	
11	eeecdmedini-jnr@nic.in	
12	0651-2401010	

**Note : Estimated amount may vary.**  
Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Road Construction Department,**  
**Road Division, Daltonganj.**  
**PR 254047 Road(21-22)#D**

New Delhi



# The Usual Suspects

Mumbai Indians keep play-off hopes alive with end-overs blitz against Punjab Kings

**SYNOPSIS:** Hardik the blazing finisher completes the job after Pollard the crafty bowler sets it up

**SANDIP G**  
SEPTEMBER 28

For the umpteenth time in their history, Mumbai Indians grabbed a match from the jaws of defeat, just as Punjab Kings snatched defeat from the brink of victory. In the end, Mumbai was more desperate for the win — one that kept them in the play-off hunt.

## The blazing finisher

Just four overs remained for Mumbai Indians to blast 40 runs on a sluggish surface to beat Punjab Kings and keep their play-off hopes afloat. Hardik Pandya, until then, had looked laboured and lacklustre, his shots lacking punch and his feet rebelling against his mind's designs. But, as the well-worn cliché goes, it takes just a shot, or a ball, to retrieve the lost touch, or tattered morale.

Hardik had to wait for the 18th ball he faced. The ball after he had copped a blow from Mohammed Shami, he backed away and sledgehammered a shot through midwicket. A blow so powerful that Shami looked crestfallen. Touch reignited, Hardik flicked the next ball, all bottom-hand and whirling wrists, beyond the walls of the city. A short so majestic that Shami looked stupefied. From thereon, it was evident that no matter how hard Punjab would try to force a win, even if they threw everything they had at Mumbai, stopping Hardik, or Mumbai, was impossible.

Eventually, and irresistibly, Mumbai hauled the target with an over in the bank, Hardik providing the finishing touches with 16 runs off Shami's last over. Soon after Shami has struck him on the body, he had queried out of genuine concern if he was alright, but in the end Hardik would have to ask his India colleague whether his onslaught had left him tattered. It's the destruction Hardik could wreak — at one stage, he was 12 off 16, he ended up with 40 off 30.

Not to forget Kieron Pollard, whose six and four in the 18th over bowled by Arshdeep Singh were critical in the context of the game, as well as his match-changing bowling cameo.

## Crafty Pollard

Pollard the bowler is antithetical to Pollard the batsman. Pollard the batsman is all smouldering violence. Biff, blast, bludgeon, he does to any ball in his hitting arc, which extends from extra cover to mid-wicket. A T20 strike rate of 154 testifies. Pollard, the bowler, though is different. Grind, graft, grate he does to get his wickets. That it took him 500 T20 games to complete 300 wickets attests.

Of late, the West Indian has been a reluctant bowler — he had bowled just 55 balls this IPL season before Tuesday's game. Maybe, at 38, he needs to preserve his shoulders for the hacks and heaves. But the slow, low wicket of Abu Dhabi was irresistible — the sort of wicket on which his cutters and floaters could be rewarding. It indeed turned out to be the case.

Just after the Powerplay, Pollard trundled in. These days, his run-up is a stroll — he could walk his run-up and still produce as much pace. But the accuracy, sharpness and smarts remain. Twice he illustrated the amalgam of these understated virtues that had started in most of his triple century of wickets.

He knew his fellow Caribbean Chris Gayle inside out. What he likes and what he dislikes. Gayle likes pace. He loves width. Pollard gave him neither. He fired one into his body — angling away from him a touch, good-length on middle-stump. Gayle, prematurely, opened up, took out his front leg, looking to unfurl a short-arm pull over long-on. But Pollard had dropped a few yards of his pace on this ball (from late 120 kph to 115 kph) so



Hardik Pandya's quickfire 40 runs from 30 balls came with four boundaries and two sixes. *ipl20.com*

POINTS TABLE					
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
CSK	10	8	2	+1.069	16
DC	11	8	3	+0.562	16
RCB	10	6	4	-0.359	12
KKR	11	5	6	+0.363	10
MI	11	5	6	-0.453	10
PBKS	11	4	7	-0.288	8
RR	10	4	6	-0.369	8
SRH	10	2	8	-0.501	4

the ball arrived slower at Gayle. The scrambled seam gripped the surface and stopped on him a trifle. Three balls later, Pollard unfurled the killer blow, the unkindest cut off all for the Kings, the wicket of KL Rahul. He, like Pollard, misconstrued that the ball was there to be pulled, but it was again a slower one with a scrambled seam. Rahul miscued. It's the funny thing about pull shots — you could neither be late nor early.

Pollard didn't bowl another over. But the two blows, more or less, stalled the designs of Punjab. They didn't quite have the resources to recover and post a serious challenge. It was the brand of wicket wherein batsmen were required to invent and improvise, by disrupting the lengths and dishevelled lines of the slower bowlers. Punjab Kings didn't have the breed of batsmen who could unleash a sandstorm of pyrotechnics — they had either the classical ones or the slugging ones. It was the sort of pitch tailored for Pollard's cameo with the ball. And for Pandya to unleash mayhem.

**BRIEF SCORES:** *Punjab Kings 135 for 6 in 20 overs (Aiden Markram 42, Deepak Hooda 28, Kieron Pollard 2/8, Jasprit Bumrah 2/24) lost to Mumbai Indians 137/4 (Hardik Pandya 40 no, Saurabh Tiwary 45, Kieron Pollard 15 no) by six wickets.*



KKR's Sunil Narine returned with figures of 2/18 from his four overs and earned the scalp of Shreyas Iyer. *Xipl20.com*

ing Anrich Nortje's pace straightaway against Narine and using up his spinners early — were questionable. At the same time, the DC skipper didn't have enough runs to defend.

# Ashwin-Morgan verbal war could have T20 WC sequel

**SANDIP G**  
SEPTEMBER 28

AT A time when the sports-world is lamenting about too much camaraderie between players there barges in incidents that reaffirms the faith that there's still a lot of emotional overload and heat-of-the-moment flare-up.

Like the one that brewed between KKR skipper Eoin Morgan and DC spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Tuesday. Ashwin, eventually, had the last laugh over Morgan.

More appropriately, the last word, literally and metaphorically. As soon as he twinkled out the KKR captain's wicket with a brisk off-break, caught at slip, he charged towards the embarrassed Irishman like a man possessed, his eyes red with rage, and kept shrieking "C'mon, C'mon, C'mon", like a boxer who had felled the opponent on the court, but mockingly challenging him to get up again so that he could knock him down again.

Ashwin sometimes do celebrates wildly, usually in the longest format and especially if the dismissal involves an elaborate set-up, but not after a two-ball-two-trick play in a T20 game. But there was a backstory. Morgan and Ashwin were almost on each other's throat soon after Ashwin was caught in the deep in the last over of Delhi Capitals' innings.

Morgan first came as a pacifier to resolve a heated exchange between Ashwin and Tim Southee, but something snapped in Morgan and morphed into an aggressor. Finally, Ashwin's state-mate and KKR keeper Dinesh Karthik had to separate



The trigger for the flare-up apparently was the extra run Ashwin had taken on the last ball of the 19th over. *Twitter*

them.

But Ashwin kept staring back intermittently at Morgan and the KKR huddle, even as he walked back to the pavilion, muttering something to himself.

The trigger for the flare-up apparently was the extra run Ashwin had stolen off the last ball off the 19th over. The ball had stuck Rishabh Pant's arm and ricocheted away. Ashwin sensed an opportunity to scamper a single, which he did.

Some of the KKR fielders had then protested—Ashwin yet again was in a sportsmanship issue (after the widely-debated Mankading the year before and involving an England bowler).

Morgan had then tweeted: "can't believe what I'm seeing!! @IPL Terrible example to set for young kids coming through. In time I think Ashwin will regret that."

There could be a sequel too. Wait for the World Cup.

## TODAY'S MATCH

■ RR vs RCB, 7:30 pm

## EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

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

## I'm not superstitious



Dhawan gave up his lucky charm for stand-in opener Steve Smith.

Even if he was uncomfortable within, Shikhar Dhawan carried a stoic approach to the crease. Cricketers can be naturally superstitious people, luck playing a big factor in the game being their reason. Dhawan's superstition is to play second fiddle and allow his opening partner to take first strike. He considers this his lucky charm like Mohinder Amarnath and Steve Waugh's red handkerchiefs, Lasith Malinga's ball kiss or Anil Kumble inevitably handing over his cap and

sweater to Sachin Tendulkar before coming on to bowl. Against Kolkata Knight Riders, however, Dhawan had to eschew his preference and take first strike.

His regular opening partner at Delhi Capitals, Prithvi Shaw, was out injured and Steve Smith was put in a makeshift role. Not that the change did any harm to Dhawan. On his way to a 20-ball 24, he reclaimed the Orange Cap from Sanju Samson, getting an LBW reprieve on umpire's call on 22 even.

## Chaku's cheekiness

"Don't be over-smart and pompous!" was DK's advise to Varun Chakravarthi. Dinesh Karthik wasn't too chuffed after Varun Chakravarthi slipped in a full toss, perhaps attempting to experiment with something.

Karthik piped up, "your job is 4 overs 10 runs or 12 runs (Naalu-Pathu, Naalu-panimtu daan un velai!").

He then added an interesting remark, "Overaaa thenavathu venaam!" Thenavathu literally means pompous or oversmart; in this context it perhaps means don't be too cheeky and casual.

Chakravarthi had a sheepish smile as he turned back to bowl. Just before that ball, Karthik had given detailed guidelines on how to bowl to Rishabh Pant.

"Maathi adika Maathan, normal aa podu" (He won't switch hit, you can bowl normally). And then came that full toss. A single that took Pant off strike.

Not sure what Varun was trying but Karthik interpreted it as being a touch too casual perhaps.

## The agape Saffers

Because it was two South Africans with jaws wide agape, you could believe it was the usual 'cricketing souls leaving the body' at the latest catastrophe that strikes players from that part of the world. Except, it was only a pair of shocked jaws from both. Ravi Bishnoi's last delivery was full and outside off and saw Quinton de Kock open his mouth for a gasp-ful of air before lofting it on a nice pivot.

Aiden Markram in the outfield saw the skier dipping down to his right faster than he liked, and dived desperately for what would've been a sensational catch. Instead it was a dreadfully unlucky drop as Markram scampered a good distance for the ball to graze his outstretched fingers and plop out, tumbling away to a

four. All through this slowly playing out punishment Markram had his heart in his open mouth. They say it's a quick burst of extra oxygen to help deal with startling events, but Markram's visage opened like a crab-cracker chasing the slippery catch.

Meanwhile the bowler, the unfortunate Bishnoi who snares batters with his crab-limbed run-up, and has been taking catches with an un-creased unfazed face, stayed assiduously zip-lipped, not betraying his disappointment at the dropped catch.



# Narine helps Knights make Capital gains

**SYNOPSIS:** KKR's chokehold suffocates DC. Narine bowls a worldie

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY**  
SEPTEMBER 28

FIVE DOT balls brought about a well-set Shubman Gill's dismissal and a wicket-maiden for Kagiso Rabada. Then, Ravichandran Ashwin made one hang a bit more in the air and spin away to settle the score with Eoin Morgan. The two had got into a heated exchange after Ashwin was dismissed during the Delhi Capitals innings. The latter bellowed a 'come on' in the Kolkata Knight Riders captain's face after getting his man.

KKR's run rate suddenly slipped below six runs per over, but chasing 128 for victory they basically needed two good overs from thereon. Nitish Rana hit two sixes in a Lalit Yadav over and although the excellent Avesh Khan (3/13) saw off Dinesh Karthik, Sunil Narine laid into Rabada with two sixes and a four to take his team to a three-wicket victory, which consolidated KKR's position in the top four.

Rishabh Pant's bowling selections — not us-

The Sharjah sticky dog, or sandy-dog based on one's preference, was an antidote to DC's cricketing style. The ball never came on to the bat and the slowness of the pitch took the sting out of their fast bowlers. The Powerplay was the key for DC to build the platform for a big total. Without Prithvi Shaw, out injured, they missed aggression upfront. Steve Smith's conventional cricket held up one end, but it didn't put the KKR bowlers under much pressure. Shreyas Iyer could have raised the tempo, but Narine had reserved a beauty for him.

Only 39 runs were scored in the Powerplay. DC reached 50 in 8.2 overs, their slowest in this year's IPL. Three figures came up in 16.3 overs. The DC innings didn't have a single six. It's another matter that the Sharjah pitch requires improvement ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, but attributing DC's crawl to a slow surface only would be disrespectful to the KKR bowlers and Morgan's fine captaincy.

Narine was at his vintage best. Venkatesh Iyer has been a revelation. Only five months ago, he was languishing in obscurity. Now he is making his presence felt as a medium pacer also. Morgan was confident enough to give Iyer an over at the

death, as the bowler returned with figures of 2/29 from four overs.

DC's innings started to regress from the 13th over after Smith got out for 39. They needed someone to bat through, something that Rana (36 not out) did for KKR later. In the next three overs following Smith's departure, DC added just 17 runs for three more wickets. That was where the game was lost.

## Narine's worldie

Six metres from the popping crease, length-wise, and around 90 kmph in speed; that had been the recipe for success for spinners on this pitch. Through his 2/18 from four overs, Narine rolled back the years. It was important from KKR's point of view to remove Shreyas Iyer, arguably the best player against spin on either side, early. Narine bowled a worldie to clean him up. The ball drifted away before breaking back, catching Iyer in two minds.

**BRIEF SCORES:** *Delhi Capitals 127/9 in 20 overs (R Pant 39, S Smith 39; L Ferguson 2/10, S Narine 2/18, V Iyer 2/28) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 130/7 in 18.2 overs. (N Rana 36 not out, S Gill 30; A Khan 3/13) by 3 wickets.*

# Simultaneous evening games to finish league stage

**DEVENDRA PANDEY**  
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE LAST day of the league stage of the IPL will have two matches played simultaneously at different venues after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) agreed to a request from official broadcaster Star India. *The Indian Express* understands that the matter was discussed during an IPL Governing Council meeting a few days ago before receiving the nod.

Hence, on the last day of the league stage of the ongoing season, instead of one afternoon match and one evening game, two matches will be held at the same time in the evening at two venues. The rationale behind Star's request is the lower TRP of afternoon games.

"In a first for the IPL, the last two league matches before the VIVO IPL 2021 Playoffs will be played concurrently. On the last day of the league stage (08.10.2021) of the ongoing season, instead of having one afternoon match and one evening match, two matches (SRH vs MI and RCB vs DC) will be played si-

multaneously at 7.30 PM IST (6.00 PM GST)," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

A BCCI official revealed that broadcasters aren't getting high TRP (Television Rating Points) for afternoon matches.

"The official broadcaster had asked the BCCI whether they can have two games simultaneously in two different venues. The broadcasters have informed us that TRP for afternoon games is less compared to evening games. As Star has multiple channels under their banner, they can provide live telecast of two games smoothly. So, BCCI has agreed to the request," the board official told *The Indian Express*.

It is learnt that the BCCI will take feedback from Star about the TRP generated by the two games. As the board is planning to have two new IPL teams next year, this could help it to conduct more games in fewer days. Afternoon games make it tough for the players given the harsh Indian summer.

"This could help us in our scheduling going ahead, as two new teams means more games. The BCCI will decide if such norms can be continued ahead," the official added.



# Taranjeet scorches track, bounces back after accident

Three years after breaking collarbone when a car hit her outside JLN stadium, 19-year-old sprinter wins 100 metres gold in Under-23 championships

**ANDREW AMSAN**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

EVERY TIME sprinter Taranjeet Kaur steps out of the gates of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, dread fills her heart. It was in 2018 that she was hit by a car about 50 metres from the main gate, leaving her motionless by a pavement. For the next 15 minutes, Taranjeet stared at a group of on-lookers as none of them approached to help. "An archery coach recognised me and rushed me to the hospital. My collarbone was broken in three. I couldn't carry out my daily chores without assistance for the next three months and I was almost certain my career would end," recalls Taranjeet.

On Tuesday, almost three years later at the same venue, the 19-year-old won the 100m title with 11.54s on the clock at the on-going U-23 Nationals. Daneshwari of Karnataka (11.66s) and Nithya Gandhe (11.90s) took the next two spots. Taranjeet returned later in the evening to top her heats in the 200m.

Taranjeet's sensational post-accident comeback is due in no small part to India's greatest wrestler Sushil Kumar.

## Life-changing advice

When Taranjeet returned to the tracks after six months of rehabilitation, she realised that every month away from the tracks took her years back in terms of performance.

"Girls who I used to beat with ease earlier were miles ahead of me. It took me 40 seconds to complete 200m (Taranjeet's best is 23s). I would sit and weep after practice. I had lost all hope again," she recalls.

Just when she was about to hang up her spikes, Taranjeet received a pep talk from Sushil at North Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium.

"I was crying and Sushil sir saw me. He asked me why I was weeping? I told him about my accident and how I am not able to regain my form. I asked if he couldn't see the support bandages I was wearing. He said no. He said he couldn't see it," says Taranjeet.

Sushil's answer left young Taranjeet perplexed. She couldn't understand why the double Olympic medallist refused to acknowledge the bandages.

"He told me that if I believed that the badges weren't there then it wouldn't affect me. He consoled me and encouraged me to fight harder," says Taranjeet.

Sushil asked the youngest to wipe her tears and stand up. "He said 'let me welcome



Taranjeet Kaur, 19, on way to winning gold with a timing of 11.54s at the ongoing U-23 Nationals at the JLN Stadium in New Delhi. *Andrew Amsan*

**"Girls who I used to beat with ease earlier were miles ahead of me. It took me 40 seconds to complete 200m (Taranjeet's best is 23s). I would sit and weep after practice. I had lost all hope again."**

## TARANJEET KAUR

you to a new start' and clapped for me."

The few minutes of interaction with Sushil changed Taranjeet's life forever. "This is a second life for me. If Sushil sir hadn't spoken to me that day I wouldn't have been here today. I am certain of that."

## Dragged into running

Taranjeet took up athletics as a 13-year-old with only one goal in mind: to cut down on her weight. She weighed 75kg when she decided to walk into the Chhatrasal Stadium to meet athletics coach Sunita Rai.

"On the first day, I cried after running just one round. I couldn't. But Sunita ma'am encouraged me and motivated me. Initially, she tied a rope around another athlete's hip and mine. I was literally dragged into running,"

says Taranjeet.

Coach Sunita says she saw a spark in the teenager and took her under her wing, despite Taranjeet being "unfit for athletics".

"I knew there was something special about this girl. The first thing I noticed was that she was very strong. I had a feeling she would do something on the circuit and that is why I decided to coach her despite her weight troubles," says Sunita.

Taranjeet's gold-winning run of 11.50s run at the recently concluded Open Nationals in Warangal was her personal best.

The Delhi runner won the 100 and 200 double at U-20 Federation Cup earlier this year as well. She was naturally delighted on winning back-to-back national golds but the discomfort in the shoulder area still hampers her performance. "When the workload increases, it hurts," she says.

But with renewed vigour and steel-like resilience, Taranjeet feels nothing can stop her from breaking idol Dutee Chand's 100m mark of 11.17s.

"I met her once and told her that I would like to be like her. She told me 'don't aspire to be like me but become better than me. Become a Taranjeet,'" she says.

# Breathlessness, fatigue after covid recovery could be signs of underlying heart disease

CARDIAC ISSUES are being noticed in patients, even 3 months after recovery from coronavirus infection. Covid recovered patients, mainly those who suffer from - difficulty in breathing, body fatigue & sweating, are more likely to be diagnosed with abnormal heart functioning. These patients are at higher risk of suffering a cardiac arrest or heart attack in the future, which can be life-threatening.

This was told by Dr. Amar Singhal who works as Head of Interventional Cardiology at Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi. Dr. Amar Singhal says that "Coronavirus is predominantly a respiratory infection but has been also noted to cause inflammation in different parts of the cardiovascular system, from muscles of the heart to blood supplying arteries. Around 16% of patients have cardiac involvement during Covid-19 infection. These patients can have cardiac sequelae in the form of arrhythmia which can even further lead to palpitation and a faster heart-beat." He says that "The virus involvement is seen in blood clot formation, known as thrombosis. It also leads to endothelium (inner-most layer of arteries) dysfunction. Patients who suffer such issues are disposed to a higher risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke."



**Dr Amar Singhal**  
*Head of the Interventional Cardiology, Sri Balaji Action Medical Institute, Paschim Vihar. Email ID- asinghal2000@gmail.com*



He says "We are getting cases of heavy breathing, palpitation, fastening of heart breath. Many of them (around 40%) are having a history of different levels of Covid-19 infection — mild, moderate, or severe. Even those who didn't have any pro-cardiac issues can develop heart complications post corona." "Post recovery when these people face breathing complications, it is the lungs which are checked."

An ECG test reveals heart conditions later. One should avoid any physical exercise up to six months to avoid clotting in the heart," he said. He further added "Patients can lower their risk of cardiovascular disease-related mortality by being careful on recognizing the signs and symptoms. A simple ECG test can reveal if the symptoms are heart-related or not. Most of the heart-related diseases are completely treatable, provided medical attention is given on time."

**Call a cardiologist or nearest hospital immediately if you're experiencing symptoms of a heart attack, including:**

- A rise in blood pressure - if you have a cuff, monitor for 180/120 or above
- Chest or back pain
- Numbness or weakness

- Loss of vision
- Difficulty breathing or speaking

**Issued in Public Interest by Dr. Amar Singhal**  
*The views/ suggestions/ opinions expressed in the article are the sole responsibility of the expert.*

# Pioneer in Financing Green Energy for Sustainable Development

## Excerpts from the Chairman's Speech at the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 28th September 2021

आज़ादी का अमृत महोत्सव

**Dear Shareholders,**

It is my pleasure to present to you the performance of your Company during the 34th year of its operation. The entire world has been facing an unprecedented health crisis in the form of COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted supply chains across all sectors and hampered economic activities globally. The global and Indian economies have passed through prolonged and sequential lockdowns. However, these times have shown new ways of survival and doing business. While the year was full of challenges both on operational and business fronts, I would like to inform that, IREDA with its dedicated manpower and unflinching commitment towards sustainable growth, has maintained its position as India's leading financial institution focused on the Renewable Energy (RE) sector.

Despite the pandemic regime, IREDA completed the Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 on second highest loan disbursements (since inception) amounting to ₹8,827 Crore, highest ever PBT of ₹569.52 Crore with an increase of 136.20% over the amount of ₹241.11 Crore in the previous year and a net reduction in NPA from 7.18% in the previous year to 5.61% ending FY2020-21 which is a significant reduction of -22% from the previous year. This truly indicates your Company's ability to translate a global pandemic situation into an opportunity and adaptability to manage unforeseen transition. I am confident that, in the coming years we will see IREDA scaling newer heights in making our nation energy sufficient, energy efficient and energy independent.

**GLOBAL ENERGY SCENARIO**

The global power sector is constantly undergoing major transformation with new energy sources and new players entering the arena of energy supply. While Energy-related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions have risen by 1% per year on average since 2010, energy landscape is undergoing a revolution, with greater focus being lent to cleaner sources of energy. More than 100 countries have pledged carbon neutrality by 2040 and many more such commitments are on the horizon.

As per IRENA, Renewable capacity addition has seen a recorded growth of 260 GW being added in 2020, exceeding 2019 growth by 50%. Employment Opportunities in renewables are expected to reach 42 million globally by 2050 which is four times their current level, through the increased focus of investments on renewables.

Falling costs of wind and solar power are making way for increased investments in renewables, that are now the preferred mode for energy generation and sourcing. Share of renewables in new capacity additions rose considerably for the second year in a row.

**GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR**

A Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme has been announced in the budget of FY 2021-22 for manufacturing sector to grow in double digits on a sustained basis, with core competencies and cutting-edge technologies. The government has committed nearly ₹1.97 Lakh Crore, over 5 years starting FY 2021-22 including ₹4,500 Crore for manufacturing of 'High Efficiency Solar PV Modules' under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Mission which will be implemented by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy where IREDA is the nodal agency to bring scale and size in Solar PV manufacturing, create and nurture global champions and provide Employment to youth.

With the already achieved Emission reduction of 28% over 2005 levels, against the target of 35% by 2030 and coveted milestone of 100 GW of installed Renewable Energy Capacity, our nation has emerged as one of the few countries globally to have achieved the commitments under Paris Climate Change (COP21) along with an exponential increase in renewable energy capacity.

Renewable Energy sector in India has emerged as a significant player in the grid connected power generation capacity. Renewable energy capacity in India has increased by 250% between 2014 and 2021. Today India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar power and 4th in wind power in terms of installed capacity. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW. As the economy grows, the electricity consumption is projected to reach 15,280 TWh in 2040 from 4,926 TWh in 2012.

Though our country lacks sufficient conventional energy resources compared to its required energy needs driven by huge population and rapidly increasing economy, India has been endowed with a wind power potential of around 695 GW at 120m above ground level and huge solar potential of about 748 GW assuming 3% of the waste land area to be covered by Solar PV modules. With vast potential in hydro sector being explored across states in the northeast, India highlights ~26% of the total installed capacity coming from Renewable Sources.

**PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS**

	<b>Loan disbursement</b>	Rs 8,827 crores as against Rs. 8,785 crore during FY 2019-20 (Second highest)
	<b>Net worth</b>	Rs 2,995 crores as against Rs. 2,521 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 19%)
	<b>Profit Before Tax</b>	Rs. 570 crores as against Rs. 241 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 136%) (All-time high)
	<b>Profit After Tax</b>	Rs. 346 crores as against Rs. 215 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 61%)
	<b>NPAs</b>	Reduction - from 7.18% last year to 5.61% (Reduction by 22%)
	<b>Loan Book</b>	Rs. 27,854 crores as against Rs. 23,548 crores as on 31.03.2020 (up 18.29%) (Annual growth: 2nd highest ever)

The earning per share has increased from ₹2.73 for the FY ending March 2020 to ₹4.42 for the FY ending March 2021 which is an increase of -62% over the previous year. In accordance with the DIPAM guidelines on Capital Restructuring, your Company is required to pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT or 5% of Net Worth, whichever is higher. However, for the FY 2020-21, your Company has obtained exemption from payment of dividend to maintain high exposure limits due to increased net worth.

Your Company has delivered another year of significant achievements showing significant progress in various facets during the year. The year witnessed impressive growth, with sanctioned and disbursed loans amounting to ₹11,001.30 Crore and ₹8,826.64 Crore respectively despite the global COVID-19 Pandemic. Cumulative sanctions and disbursements as on year-end stood at ₹96,601.19 Crore and ₹63,115.90 Crore respectively. In the coming years, your company will continuously endeavor to enhance value of all its stakeholders and maintaining sustainable growth.

Loans sanctioned during the year including co-financed projects/take over loans would support capacity addition of 6965.82 MW as against 5673.48 MW in previous year.

During the year, your Company mobilized funds amounting to ₹500 Crore from the Domestic Bond Market through Private Placement of Taxable Sub-ordinated Tier-II Bonds. These Bonds were issued with a maturity of 10 years with coupon rate of 7.74% p.a., your Company is a leading RE Financier, which contributes to the growth of RE expansion in the country.

**POLICY AND OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES**

I would like to share with you, the following major initiatives undertaken by your Company during the year to meet the growth aspirations in our business operations.

- Introduction of "Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL)" in line

with the special scheme to provide credit to eligible borrowers & 100% guarantee coverage for the GECL assistance.

- Extension of "Scheme for Moratorium of Term Loan's instalments" to mitigate the burden of debt servicing brought about by disruptions on account of the fall-out of the COVID-19.
- Introduction of "IREDA Policy framework for deferment of Interest Instalments and shifting of Repayment Schedule.
- Introduction of "Policy for granting of In-Principle Loan Sanction to Applicants".
- IREDA has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SJVN Limited and NHPC Limited, for providing technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects.
- Disbursement process, operations and financial procedures have been simplified and efficient. Credit appraisal process/mechanism has been strengthened by introducing dedicated financial concurrence teams.
- IREDA has started Quarterly Interactions with its Borrowers to understand the prevalent concerns and demonstrate your company's achievements and initiatives taken based on the market and industry feedback for regular improvement in operations, efficiencies and business development e.g. reduction in the applicable rates of interest, exposure norms, Delegation of Powers etc.
- Implementation of latest IT technology and systems including Office 365, Data Leak Protection and Information Protection systems, Installation of face recognition biometric attendance machines for contactless attendance and the ongoing process for Implementation of cloud-based ERP - Dynamics 365.
- To meet its commitment towards ease of doing business, during the FY 2020-21, your Company has opened its third branch office in Mumbai, being the financial capital to ensure ease of access and support to the customer, borrowers and other stakeholders.
- Further, post the closure of FY 2020-21, to explore the opportunities for promoting the use of Renewable Energy in the state, your Company has opened its fourth branch office in the country in Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the facilitation of its customer, borrowers, and other stakeholders.
- Post the closure of FY 2020-21, your Company signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), for providing its professional expertise in Renewable energy project development, bid process management, implementation support and fund raising.

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

IREDA aims at creating a sustainable ecosystem through its activities for the community and environment. In compliance with the requirement of the Companies Act, 2013, we have made a budgetary allocation of ₹7.27 Crore in the Financial Year 2020-21 for CSR activities. During the year, projects worth of ₹9.02 Crore was sanctioned by IREDA towards a wide spectrum of activities including contribution to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES) Fund and providing PPE-Kits, Masks for Healthcare staff engaged in Hospitals/ Quarantine centers and COVID appropriate behavior promotional material in Balarampur and Chandauli Aspirational Districts to support the preventive measures to contain the spread of the pandemic.

IREDA has taken several initiatives to contain the first and second waves of COVID-19 & has constituted an exemplary 'COVID Care Response Team' which continuously took care of all those who

approached IREDA in critical phase including arranging and regular delivery of food and medicines, hospitalization, plasma donation, Oxygen Concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders etc.

Considering the ongoing pandemic, your company has contributed ₹7.50 Crore towards PM-CARES Fund for FY 2020-21. Your Company has spent ₹16.42 Crore during the FY 2020-21 on CSR activities for the projects which were completed/ongoing during the year. Your company will continue to have its heart placed in meaningful community development in close interaction with its business plans.

**MOU RATINGS**

The performance of your Company in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the Financial Year 2020-21 is expected to be "Excellent".

**HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

IREDA is committed towards optimizing the potential of its human capital by introducing conducive work policies that facilitate work life balance, thereby enabling our workforce to focus on achievement of Company's strategic goals by ensuring high level of productivity. Several In-House virtual training programs were facilitated for employees through lecture series and other focused development training programs. The focus of conducting the virtual programs was maintained in order to ensure specific skill development in line with the corporate goals. During the year, the Company achieved a total of 526 man-days of training.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, your Company honored all its commitments and were able to achieve this while following all safety guidelines, strict social distancing and minimizing our workforce in offices. The credit for this goes to the dedication of the team members which made this achievement possible. IREDA has taken several initiatives to contain the first and second waves of COVID-19 & has constituted an exemplary 'COVID Care Response Team' which continuously took care of COVID-19 positive employees and their family members. The Team helped employees and their family members by regularly counselling them and providing them all necessary support including regular delivery of food and medicines, hospitalization, plasma donation, Oxygen Concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders etc. The vaccination drive was also carried out for the safety of its employees.

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The essence of Corporate Governance is about maintaining the right balance between economic, social, individual and community goals. Your Company believes that, good corporate governance is a way of life and the way we do our business, encompassing every day's activities and is enshrined as a part of our way of working. Your Company is focused on enhancement of long-term value creation for all its stakeholders without compromising on societal obligations, environment and regulatory compliances. Our actions are governed by our values and principles, which are reinforced at all levels of the organisation. These principles have been and will continue to be our guiding force in future.

**FUTURE STRATEGIES**

IREDA will continue its trajectory of registering growth, through innovation and repositioning in the ever-changing space. With an objective to set-up highly efficient domestic manufacturing capacity of Solar Modules of GW-scale and reduction in import dependence, Govt. of India has approved Production Linked Scheme through MNRE. Considering the commitment of IREDA towards the growth of RE sector, MNRE has designated your Company as the Implementing

Agency for the said scheme. The financial outlay for PLI over a five-year period is ₹4,500 Crore.

IREDA is in the process of setting up a debt fund (Fund) in the form of an Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) to tap large Institutional Investors viz. Pension funds, Insurance Funds, Environmental, Social and Governance Funds, etc. AIF will also help IREDA in financing new projects of those borrowers who are nearing the exposure limit. Further, your Company is also planning to do Asset-Based Securitization (ABS) by issuance of Pass-Through Certificates.

While your company is presently a debt listed company, it is fully geared up and working in the direction of getting equity listed and accordingly IREDA shall also come out with the IPO of fresh Equity shares and plans to make further issue of Green Bonds in the international & domestic market to garner capital for onward lending.

Further, Hon'ble Finance Minister, in the budget announcement of February, 2021, had announced infusion of ₹1,500 Crore as Equity in your Company with which IREDA would be able to extend additional loan facility of ₹12,000 Crore and improve its capital adequacy which will help IREDA in borrowing at lower rate of interest, thus lowering the interest rates for developers. It would also help in financing of around 4,500 MW of RE projects worth ₹18,000 Crore to ₹19,000 Crore apart from generating an employment of 13,500 jobs per year and reduce emissions of 8.55 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

IREDA is geared up towards five-fold growth in the loan book from ~₹28000 Crore ending March 2021 to ₹1.35 Lakh Crore ending March 2026.

Your Company plans to increase the revenue per employee from ~₹17 Crore in FY 2020-21 to ~₹55 Crore ending FY 2025-26. While your Company has sanctioned and disbursed loans to most of the RE Projects in the Southern Western and northern region of the country, time has come to expand the business towards development of RE projects in the Eastern and North Eastern region of India and hence, your Company plans to open multiple branch locations to ensure PAN-India Coverage.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to place on record my personal gratitude and your Company's grateful appreciation for the Government of India particularly the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Department of Public Enterprises. My sincere thanks also to other organs of the Government like NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and other Ministries / Departments of the Government of India, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Reserve Bank of India, Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. & BSE Ltd. & other regulatory authorities for continuous support, guidance, co-operation and assistance. My distinct thanks to all investors, lenders, borrowers and customers including State Governments, State power utilities and private entrepreneurs in the Renewable Energy sector, for placing their trust in the Company.

I am thankful for the support and co-operation of international financial institutions.

I am indebted to the Board of Directors and the enthusiastic team of employees for their untiring commitment, efforts and their continuous involvement in achieving the goals of the Company.

My special thanks go to the International Financial Institutions, bankers, bond-holders, domestic financial institutions, investors and clients for the assistance and co-operation received.

In the end, I wish to express my gratitude to the members and stakeholders for their trust and support.

Thank You,

**Pradiip Kumar Das**  
Chairman & Managing Director  
DIN:- 07448576

**Sd/-**

Dated: September 28, 2021  
Place: New Delhi

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the AGM held on 28th September, 2021. For full text please visit [www.ireda.in](http://www.ireda.in))

**Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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