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Kejriwal questions Centre's finances, FM says he's trying to fan 'worry...fear'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

HOURS AFTER Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal questioned the state of the Central Government's finances, citing its opposition to freebies from political parties, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accused the AAP leader of giving a "perverse twist" to the debate and said that spending on health and education has never been viewed in this category.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Kejriwal said, "For the past few days, the way free services given to the public are being opposed is rather baffling. It is being said that if this is not stopped, governments across the country will go bankrupt. They are saying it will lead to a crisis and all such services should be immediately stopped. This also creates doubts about the economic wellbeing of the Central Government. Such huge opposition makes me wonder if it is in



"For the past few days, the way free services given to the public are being opposed is rather baffling"

ARVIND KEJRIWAL
DELHI CHIEF MINISTER

"Delhi CM has given perverse twist to the debate on freebies. Health and education have never been called freebies"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
UNION FINANCE MINISTER

bad condition."

He said, "For the past 70-75 years, children are getting free education in government schools and poor people are getting free medicines in government hospitals. People also get free

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

SC: Derecognising parties over freebies is anti-democratic

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana on Thursday acknowledged that the impact of freebies promised by political parties on the country's fiscal health was "a serious issue" but said he was not in favour of derecognising any party over it because that would be "anti-democratic".

"Derecognition and all is an anti-democratic thing, which I don't like...It's a democratic country," the CJI, presiding over a two-judge bench, said while

hearing a plea on the issue.

"Nobody is saying this is not an issue. This is a serious issue. People who are getting benefits may say this is a welfare state, and we are entitled to this. People who are opposed may say we are paying tax...and it has to be spent on developmental activities, and not for distributing it in whatever way parties want," the CJI said.

"Nobody can say this cannot be discussed, or debate cannot be initiated....The suggested committee can look into these issues," he said while referring

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



VICE PRESIDENT TAKES OATH

President Droupadi Murmu with newly sworn-in Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Thursday. PTI

RELATED REPORT, PAGE 11

On flight to Kabul, homecoming stories a year after the takeover

And a glimpse of the tentative reachout by New Delhi



EXPRESS IN KABUL

NIRUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN
AUGUST 11

THE A343 Kam Air flight that departed New Delhi Thursday afternoon carried a motley group of passengers, but not enough to fill even half the 300-seater.

Among the 90 or so travellers: Afghan students return-

ing home; a doctor on leave from her hospital in New Delhi to visit her ailing mother and hoping to return to India after a month; a man who had managed to get a medical visa and was returning home after his treatment; a clutch of aid workers, mostly Indian, working at the UN and other humanitarian organisations based in Kabul.

Also, an Indian professional who had departed from Kabul on the Indian Air Force plane on August 17 last year and was returning to "assess" the situation. Plus an MEA delegation that was met on the tarmac by some officials of the Taliban regime.

Scheduled to take off at 1 pm, the flight left two and half hours

late because a massive amount of cargo had to be loaded. It was being sent by the government. Weary of questions about the delay, airlines ground staff hazarded the guess it could be a consignment of humanitarian aid for Afghanistan — food and medicines.

Kam Air, an Afghan airline company, restarted Kabul-Delhi flights once a week from mid-June. Thursday's flight was its eighth round trip. Ariana, the main Afghan airline, may also resume flights to India.

A year after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, the plane to Kabul offered a small glimpse into New Delhi's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



EXPRESS NETWORK

CBI ARRESTS TMC
LEADER IN CATTLE
SMUGGLING CASE3 HELD FOR MURDER
OF BJP LEADER IN
KARNATAKA
PAGES 9, 10

Two students picked up for bullying and suicide of teen

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, AUGUST 11

OVER FIVE months after a 16-year-old student of a private school in Faridabad died by suicide, with his mother alleging that he was harassed over his sexual orientation and the school ignored her complaint, police said two of his former schoolmates were apprehended on Tuesday and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board. While police said the boys have since been released, no further details were available.

"The names of the two minors came up during the probe. They were taken in for questioning and produced before the Juvenile Justice Board. Based

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



Bengaluru woman goes to Delhi HC to stop friend's euthanasia trip to Europe

SOFI AHSAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WHEN THE Delhi High Court reopens next week after a week-long break, it will be called upon to decide on a unique case. A 49-year-old woman from Bengaluru wants the court to stop her friend, a Noida-based 48-year-old man with a debilitating health condition, from travelling

to Europe allegedly to undergo assisted suicide or euthanasia — an option not available in India to a person who is not terminally ill.

According to a petition filed before the court on Wednesday, the man has been suffering from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome since 2014 and is allegedly planning to travel to Switzerland for a physician-assisted suicide. The woman, who has described herself as a close friend of the pa-

tient, has pleaded that his parents, other family members and friends would suffer "irreparable loss" and "hardship" if the plea to halt his travel is not allowed.

The Noida resident, according to the petition, was undergoing a method of treatment called Fecal Microbiota Transplantation at AIIMS for his condition but could not continue in the pandemic

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Staring at looming drought, Jharkhand farmers ask: What will we grow and what will we eat?

PAGE 1
ANCHORABHISHEK ANGAD
BOKARO (JHARKHAND),
AUGUST 11

LAST TIME, Shriram Mahato harvested about 30 quintals of paddy from his 3.5-acre field in Jharkhand's Bokaro district, with the income enough to meet his family's needs for a year. The crop's byproduct, straw, was used to feed the cattle.

On Tuesday, the 65-year-old stood near his empty land in Sadma Khurd village, a folded umbrella tucked under his shoulder, staring at the sky. He has not yet been able to fully plant his crop and has already spent about Rs 10,000 on seeds, fertilisers and pesticides, and Rs 4,000 on ploughing a small portion of his field. The rice from last year's harvest will keep his family of eight going for "about 15 days more". "There has been no rainfall, what will we grow and what will we eat?" he asked.

A drought is looming over



Farmer Shriram Mahato in Sadma Khurd village. Abhishek Angad

Jharkhand this year.

According to senior state government officials, Chief Minister Hemant Soren raised the issue at the NITI Aayog meeting chaired by the Prime Minister last week. Jharkhand's Agriculture Department has launched a statewide survey to "understand the depth of the drought" and the condition of farmers.

Agriculture Department Director Nisha Oraon said the government will offer packages to farmers after the survey report is submitted "by August 18". "We

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

TWO MORE INJURED

Four soldiers killed in terror attack on Army camp in Rajouri

Two militants tried to sneak inside, both killed in 4-hour firefight: Army



Subedar Rajendra Prasad, Rifleman Manoj Kumar, D Lakshmanan and Nishant Malik were killed on Thursday. PTI

ARUN SHARMA
JAMMU, AUGUST 11

FOUR SOLDIERS were killed in a militant attack on an Army camp in Rajouri district of Jammu early on Thursday, just four days ahead of Independence Day. Both the militants involved in the attack were gunned down in the four-hour firefight that followed, the Army said.

The four dead soldiers have been identified as Subedar Rajendra Prasad (48) from Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan, Rifleman Manoj Kumar (26) from Faridabad district of Haryana, Rifleman D Lakshmanan (24) from Madurai district of Tamil Nadu and Rifleman Nishant

Malik (21) from Hisar district of Haryana. Two more soldiers were injured in the attack, which began shortly after 2 am.

Giving details of the attack, Defence PRO Lt Colonel Devender Anand said: "In the early hours of Thursday, alert sentries of the Indian Army post at Parghal, in Darhal area of Rajouri district, detected suspicious persons approaching their post, taking advantage of the inclement weather and dense foliage."

He said the soldiers challenged the two militants who lobbed grenades while attempting to gain entry inside the post. The security personnel then cordoned the area and engaged them in a firefight, he said. "Six

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

China blocks India, US bid to list Jaish dy chief as 'global terrorist'

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

CHINA HAS blocked a proposal by India and the US at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to designate Abdul Rauf Azhar, brother of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar and deputy chief of the Pakistan-based proscribed terror group, as a "global terrorist".

Azhar, referred to as Abdul Rauf Asghar in UN documents, was involved in the planning and execution of several terror attacks, including the hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC-814 (1999), attack on Parliament (2001), and attack on the Indian Air Force base in Pathankot (2016), government sources said.

"A proposal was moved by India, co-sponsored by the US, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

EXPLAINED
Signals
China-Pak
close ties

CHINA'S DECISION to block two proposals to list Pakistan-based terrorists reflects the strategic alliance between Beijing and Islamabad. It is also a reflection of the strained ties between India and China, as well as China and the US in the current geopolitical climate.

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CROSSWORD 4818

ACROSS

1 She was exposed as an opponent of oppressive taxes (6)

4 A girl gets assistance when males are around (6)

9 Much of his life is spent behind bars (7)

10 Like being in bed and rested (5)

11 Be extremely vocal (5)

12 Contemporary gift (7)

13 They protect fighting troops from pesky technocrats (6,5)

18 It's simply picturesque (7)

20 Such a river has its ups and downs (5)

22 It may describe the infinitive 'to burst' (5)

23 It's not a strange place to catch a train (7)

24 It can ruin a good deal (3,3)

25 Astute form of memorial (6)

DOWN

1 Publish or withdraw (3,3)

2 A store of French cannabis (5)

3 Old soldier never at assembly (5)

5 Saunter off free from blame (5)

6 Food locked up (7)

7 Sun worshippers take off for this state (6)

8 Lose one's grip and take no further action (4,3,4)

14 Uncommon payment for an author (7)

15 Not at home with shy friendless person (7)

16 Incorrectly be said to be prejudiced (6)

17 Look somewhat edgy? (6)

19 Game many take to (5)

21 Tendency for snow to pile up (5)

Solutions Crossword 4817: Across: 1 Ruffian, 5 Put up, 8 Brotherliness, 9 Poker, 10 Artiste, 11 Roosts, 12 Walrus, 15 Insider, 17 Ruche, 19 Clerical dress, 20 Repay, 21 Sweated. Down: 1 Rub up, 2 Flocks of sheep, 3 Inherit, 4 Norway, 5 Point, 6 Treasure chest, 7 Possess, 11 Railcar, 13 Abridge, 14 Dreams, 16 Daily, 18 Eased.

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.

Be bold and _____ will come to your aid - Basil King (6,6)

DOEOR

AIOMPY

VITAS

EITGHW

SOLUTION: RODEO, AID, MYOPIA, WEIGHT

SUDOKU 4924

Difficulty Level 2s

Instructions

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4923

DAY TODAY by PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

As Saturn, planet of burdens and responsibilities plays its part, the message is clear: the worst is over. But it could be a while before you have to cope with the results of this week's changing responsibilities. I know you're bogged down by the trees, but do try to see the wood.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

The weekend will be an ideal time to let off steam, so find constructive ways to discharge your excess energy. Family members are likely to find you responsible for matters which are none of your business, and they may need placating. But at least you'll have a chance to flex your creative muscles.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

No one and nothing can prevent you from getting your way. Only your own impatience, impulsiveness and refusal to listen to reason can sabotage or undermine your credibility. In love, take your time, and persuade a partner that you are on the right track.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Financial questions are being brought into perspective by Mercury's uncompromising relationships. Hard choices are necessary and you may be forced to draw in your horns. At least it's now much easier to make up your mind on practical choices.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Even a major move or upheaval on the home front will be to your advantage in the long-term, so don't flinch or fudge the issues. By the beginning of next week you'll have a much clearer idea of where you're heading, partly because you'll have forgotten what happened last week.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Don't go the whole hog over finances, at least not yet. You see, the planets are beginning to assume a very fortunate position, but just for now they are still spreading confusion. If you have a problem, it's impatience and a tendency to try to get the finishing post before you've started.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Of course you would like to be in a much better position. But you have to understand that your Libran perfectionism makes it so hard to accept anything but the very best. Many of you have decided that your independence is worth more than an old, tired emotional tie.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

On the home front, it really does seem to be a case of least said, soonest mended. Save your energy for professional ambitions and worldly achievements. Overseas romance beckons for travelling Scorpios, but you could be swept away by a place as much as a person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

I have written a great deal about your monetary situation in recent times, and as you know only too well, you are over-committed financially. There may be much to be said for borrowing extra, just as long as no strings are involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Although you should now be on much firmer ground when contesting controversial actions and statements, there seems to be little chance of getting other people to see things your way. Unless, that is, you bend the rules and fudge the issues. And I am sure you can do it.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Mercury's current aspects are bright and witty. You must choose your words and timing with the utmost care and on no account offend or alienate people with whom you must remain friends. It's all a matter of discovering your secret, diplomatic skills.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may have over-reacted to emotional situations in the past, but then what else would we expect from a sensitive Piscean? I have a feeling you'll be over-reacting again in the very near future! But then why shouldn't you? Isn't it true that you have given away too much ground in the past?

75

DELHI POLICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Full Dress Rehearsal on 13th August 2022 (04.00 am to 11:00 am)

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4.00 AM to 10.00 AM and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:-

1. Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chhatta Rail.

2. Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chhatta Rail.

3. S.P.Mukherjee Marg from H.C.Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.

4. Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.

5. Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.

6. Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.

7. Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.

8. Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass.

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs:

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid C- Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A point, Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Netaji Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg, Ring Road between Nizamuddin Khatta and ISBT Kashmiri Gate & Outer Ring Road from Nizamuddin Khatta & ISBT Kashmiri Gate via Salimgarh bypass.

North-South Access

Alternative- 1: Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjung Road – Kamal Ataturk Marg- Kautilya Marg- S Marg- 11 Murli- Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street- Mandir Marg – Panchkula Road – Rani Jhansi Road and reach their destinations in North Delhi and vice-versa.

Alternative- 2: Reach Connaught Place – Minto Road – Bhavbhuti Marg – Ajmeri Gate – Shradhanand Marg – Lahori Gate Chowk – Naya Bazar – Peeeli Kothi – S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

Alternative- 3: Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna – Pustha Road – G.T. Road and cross Yudhister Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

East West Access:

1. NH-24 (NH-9)- Nizamuddin Khatta- Barapula Road- under AIMS Flyover- Ring Road.

2. DND- Barapula Road further as per 1 above OR via Ashram on Ring Road & proceed accordingly.

3. NH-24 (NH-9)- Nizamuddin Khatta- Ring Road- Bhairon Road- Mathura Road- Subrahmanyan Bharti Marg- Rajesh Pilot Marg- Prithviraj Road- Safdarjung Road- Kamal Ataturk Marg- Panchsheel Marg- SP Marg/Ridge Road accordingly and vice versa.

4. Vikas Marg- IP Marg- DDU Marg- Minto Road then either via Connaught Place or Ajmeri Gate- DBG & proceed further.

5. Pusta Road (Shastri Park)- GT Road- Yudhister Setu- ISBT Kashmiri Gate and proceed accordingly via Ring Road or Rani Jhansi Road.

DND – NH24 (NH9) – Yudhister Setu- Signature Bridge- Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to reach Ring Road.

Old Iron Bridge and Geeta Colony Bridge towards Shanti Van will be closed.

People are advised to reach early to avoid last minute rush & inconvenience.

SIGNAGES

Adequate informative signage's will be displayed for the guidance of vehicular traffic destined for the Red Fort at all important traffic junctions.

RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT AND INTERSTATE BUSES:

1. Goods vehicles will not be permitted between Nizamuddin Khatta and Wazirabad bridge from 12:00 midnight of 14.08.2022 to 11:00 AM on 15.08.2022.

2. Interstate buses will not be allowed between Maharana Pratap ISBT and Sarai Kale Khan ISBT from 12:00 Midnight of 14.08.2022 to 11:00 AM on 15.08.2022.

3) ISBT Kashmir Gate

a) From New Delhi and South Delhi:- Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg Panchkula Road - Rani Jhansi Road and Rani Jhansi Flyover - Panchkula Road.

b) From West Delhi:- Pusa Road, R/A Hanuman Mandir, Faiz Road, Rani Jhansi Road and thereafter as above.

c) From North Delhi:- There is no restriction.

d) From North-East Delhi:- Yudhister Setu, Boulevard Road, Mori Gate, Pul Dufferin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Old Delhi Railway Station.

2) New Delhi Railway Station:

a) From East:- Vikas Marg , DDU Marg , Bhabhuti Marg , ND Railway Station.

b) From North East:- Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori Gate, Pul Dufferin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

c) From North:- Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori Gate, Pul Dufferin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

d) From West:- Pusa Road, R/A Hanuman Murti, Panchkula Road, Connaught Place, Chelmsford Road and Nd Railway Station OR via DBG Road to reach ND Railway Station.

e) From South:- To reach Connaught Place, Chelmsford Road and ND Railway Station OR via DBG Road to reach ND Railway Station.

4) J.P.N. Hospital:- There is no restriction.

5) Kasturba Hospital:- Ajmeri Gate - Ajmeri Bazar - Chowk Hauz Quazi - Chawri Bazar - Chowk- Barshabullah- Urdu Bazar

DIVERSIONS FROM TRANS YAMUNA AREA

(i) G.T ROAD/ISBT KASHMERE GATE BRIDGE:- Buses bound for KauriaPul / Red Fort / Old Delhi Railway Station shall operate via ISBT Bridge (Yudhister Setu) and terminate at Boulevard Road - Near Mori Gate U turn.

Return route via Boulevard Road after taking 'U' turn from Mori Gate 'U' - turn for ISBT Bridge (Yudhister Setu).

Buses bound for New Delhi/Connaught Place/Central Secretariat shall operate via new ISBT Bridge - Boulevard Road Rani Jhansi Flyover- Rani Jhansi Road - Mandir Marg - Peshwa Road - Gole Market & Shivaji Stadium Terminal / Central Secretariat Terminal.

Buses bound for South Delhi shall follow the route above upto Mandir Marg and proceed further via Shankar Road - Upper Ridge Road, Simon Bolivar Marg- Dhaukuan.

(ii) VIKAS MARG

1. Buses bound for North Delhi shall proceed via Marginal Bandh Road (Pusta), G.T Road, Shastri Park, ISBT Bridge, Boulevard Road and proceed further.

2. Buses bound for South Delhi shall proceed via Mother Dairy Road, NH – 24, towards Nizamuddin Bridge - Ring Road towards Ashram Chowk.

3. Buses bound for New Delhi shall deboard the passengers on Vikas Marg, New Secretariat. Bus stand and will take U turn from Iron Flyover for return journey towards Vikas Marg.

BUSES COMING FROM BARAF - KHANA

All Buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station/KauriaPul/Red Fort/Jama Masjid shall be curtailed as mentioned below:-

1. Buses coming from Roshanara Road for Old Delhi Railway Station shall terminate opposite State Bank of India inside Tis Hazari Courts.

Return journey will be via Boulevard Road towards Barafkhana.

2. Buses coming from Old Rohtak Road for old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort shall terminate at Mori Gate.

Return journey will be via Gokhale Road - Zorawar Singh Marg.

3. Buses coming from New Rohtak Road for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort shall terminate on Gokhale Marg between Tikona Park and In Gate Tis Hazari Court.

Return journey will be via Gokhale Road - Zorawar Singh Marg.

4. Buses coming from Malka Ganj for Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort shall terminate on Gokhale Marg adjoining boundary wall of Tikona Park.

Return journey will be via Gokhale Road - Zorawar Singh Marg.

5. All private and mini buses shall be terminated at MCD car parking (MORI GATE).

Gokhale Road shall be one-way from R/A Mori Gate towards PS Metro Station Kashmiri Gate & R/A Mori Gate to Gokhale Market 'T' Point.

BUSES COMING FROM AJMERI GATE/ MINTO BRIDGE

1. All Buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Bhai Mati Dass Chowk, Mori Gate, ISBT, Pragati Maidan and Ambedkar Stadium Terminal shall terminate Opp. Turkman Gate Asaf Ali Road.

Return journey by taking 'U' Turn on J.L.N Marg and proceed further.

BUSES COMING FROM MALL ROADSIDE

1. All Buses otherwise terminating at Old Delhi Railway Station, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Kauriya Pul shall terminate on Boulevard Road upto Mori Gate.

Return journey by taking 'U' Turn on Boulevard Road, Ring Road and Chandi Ram Akhara, IP College light point.

BUSES COMING FROM SOUTH DELHI

Buses bound for Red Fort, Old Delhi Railway Station, Bhai Mati Dass Chowk (Fountain) from South Delhi will be diverted via Ring Road - NH -24, Marginal Bandh (Pushta) Road, new ISBT Bridge and shall terminate on Boulevard Road.

Return journey by taking 'U' Turn and proceed further via ISBT Bridge.

1. Buses bound for Connaught Place from South Delhi shall be diverted towards Ring Road and further take Upper Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh and reach Connaught Place via Jhandewalan Panchkula Road Shivaji Stadium Terminal.

2. Buses bound for ISBT Maharana Pratap Terminal shall proceed Ring Road and further take Upper Ridge Road upto R/A Karol Bagh Faiz Road Filmistan Azad Mkt. Chowk, Boulevard Road and reach Mori Gate/ISBT.

3. Buses bound for East Delhi from South Delhi shall proceed via Ring Road- Hazrat Nizamuddin Bridge- (NH - 24) - New Patpar Ganj Road.

4. Buses bound for East Delhi from South Delhi coming at Lala Lajpat Rai Marg will be diverted on Mathura Road towards the Ashram Chowk - Ring Road from Lodhi Fly over R/A Neela Gumbad.

5. Buses bound for Red Fort, Jama Masjid, KauriyaPul from Ferozshah Road and going towards Mandi House shall take Barakhamba Road from Mandi House, Ranjesh Singh Flyover and terminate Opp. Turkman Gate Asaf Ali Road.

Return journey by taking J.L.N Marg, Ranjesh Singh Flyover by taking 'U' Turn and proceed further.

6. Mudrika Services (Buses) shall take route via new ISBT Bridge, Shastri Park, Pusta Kailash Gandhi Nagar - Vikas Marg - Mother Dairy Road - NH - 24 - Nizamuddin Bridge - turn left Ring Road for Sarai Kale Khan.

INTER STATE BUSES INCOMING

1. All buses coming from Ghaziabad towards Delhi shall move via Bhupura Chungi Road from Mohan Nagar for Wazirabad Road and then towards Chandni Ram Akhara - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.

2. All Buses coming from Ghaziabad towards Delhi shall be diverted on Ring Road for taking Punjabi Bagh - Azad Pur - Akhara Chandi Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.

3. All buses operating between ISBT and Faridabad (Badarpur) shall either terminate at Sarai Kale Khan or be diverted on Ring Road via Dhaukuan Punjabi Bagh - Azad Pur - Akhara Chandi Ram - U turn ISBT and enter ISBT.

OUTGOING

1. No bus shall be allowed to take 'U' turn at northern loop of Ring Road near Budh Vihar (Monastery) and would be diverted towards Wazirabad to go Trans Yamuna or take U turn from Chandigarh Akhara and take loop of ISBT Flyover to go towards Shastri Park and Buses bound for Dhaukuan shall take Boulevard Road, Rani Jhansi Road, Link Road and upper Ridge Road (VandeMatram Marg).

2. Buses bound for Loni Border shall proceed via Wazirabad Bridge and those bound for Ghaziabad shall proceed via ISBT Bridge.

DTC RECOVERY VANS

DTC recovery vans shall be stationed (from 0600 hrs onward till diversions are cleared) as under:-

1. Central Control Room - Gokhale Marg 2. Ghata Masjid 3. Yamuna Bazar 4. Delhi Gate 5. Chhatta Rail Chowk.

NOTE:- BUSES ORIGINATING FROM EAST, NORTH, CENTRAL, WEST, SOUTH AND INTENDING TO USE BSZ MARG-TILAK MARG- SUBASH MARG-RING ROAD [BETWEEN AKHARA CHANDI RAM AND HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN BRIDGE] BE DIRECTED TO AVOID THESE STRETCHES & TAKE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.

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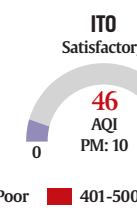
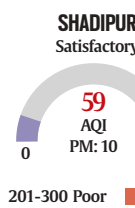
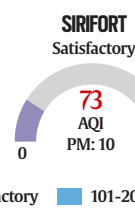
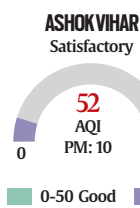
24 Hours Traffic Helpline: 011-25844444/1095

To Share Information Call 1090

For Immediate Police Help Call 112

New Delhi

3 THE CITY



0-50 Good 51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor 401-500 Severe

SKY WATCH
FORECAST: August 12
Generally cloudy sky with light rain. Strong surface winds (speed 30-40 kmph)
MAX: 34
0.4°C below normal
MIN: 27
Normal

AFTER BRAWL OUTSIDE GURGAON CLUB

Background checks mandatory for bouncers

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 11

A DAY after police arrested the manager and six bouncers of the Casa Danza club for allegedly beating up a multinational company's manager and his friends after they confronted one of the bouncers for misbehaving with a woman, the Gurgaon police commissioner Thursday made

police verification and background checks mandatory for all security staff working in the city's bars and clubs.

"If anyone is found to have criminal antecedents, legal action will be taken accordingly against them and security agencies. Action will be taken against those agencies that do not get verification checks done on staff. The exercise is likely to be completed by August 31," said ACP Preet Pal.

Police Commissioner Kala Ramchandran said, "We shall conduct verification of bouncers. There have been some incidents recently involving violent conduct by bouncers, including one at Ghamroz toll plaza last month."

ACP Pal said the security agencies should sensitise their staff to the need for behaving appropriately with patrons and guests.

In the Casa Danza case, police on Thursday said that two

bouncers, among those arrested, had a criminal history. "While one has a case of cheating against him in Delhi, another was booked in a case of assault in Delhi," said a police officer.

The multinational company manager's police complaint alleged that bouncers of the Casa Danza club had beaten him and his friends on Sunday night. "At the time of entry, one security bouncer touched my woman

friend inappropriately and when she confronted him, he started saying things to her. When I intervened, all bouncers...came and called two managers. When my woman friend and I complained to the managers, they directed bouncers to beat us and get rid of us. The bouncers then started beating me and my friends. Apart from the two managers, at least 8-10 bouncers...dragged us to the middle of the road and pinned

me to the ground to beat me with sticks. They hit me in the head and face with sticks," alleged the complainant in the FIR.

"The bouncers kicked and attacked my friends with sticks... My friends suffered injuries... my nose was bleeding and I was facing difficulty breathing. Someone reported the incident to police and a passerby also recorded a video...," the complainant added in FIR.

Harassed physically and mentally: Kin of woman who fell to death

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

"I WANT justice for my daughter. Everyone involved should be in jail," said Rukhsana, whose daughter Kaynat Parveen (21) died on Tuesday in an alleged case of dowry harassment by her husband and in-laws in Northwest Delhi.

Police said that the victim's husband Shakeel, mother-in-law Anwari and sister-in-law Hina had been arrested.

Surrounded by mourning relatives, Rukhsana at her home in Shakarpur said her daughter had called her twice on the day she died, complaining that she was not feeling well. After the second call around 7 pm, Rukhsana took her brother and son to meet Parveen. "She couldn't even stand properly. They had physically and mentally harassed her so much over the year since her marriage," she alleged

She further claimed, "When we questioned them about this, my daughter's sister-in-law Hina threatened us, saying that she would harm her. When I confronted her, she slapped me. We realised my daughter was not safe and went to report the matter to police."

After Rukhsana reached Subash Place police station, her husband Muhammad Jahangir informed her that Parveen had fallen from the in-laws' third-floor residence.

Rukhsana alleged: "They pushed her, and created a ruckus in front of our house so people would think they were not present when my daughter fell. My daughter's body was found facing backwards. Does anybody who jumps to death fall in such a manner?"

The apartment of the accused was locked, with members having left the house, and three having been arrested.

Police said that the Saraswati Vihar SDM had been asked to conduct an inquest and record statements by the victim's family. A case was registered under IPC sections 498 (detaining married woman with criminal intent), 304b (dowry death), 323 (voluntary hurt) and 34 (common intention).

Usha Rangnani, DCP Northwest, said, "During inquest proceedings, the victims' parents in their statement levelled allegations regarding cruelty, harassment and dowry demands against the mother-in-law, sisters-in-law of the victim and also raised suspicion that victim was thrown from third floor of their house by her in-laws."

Flood warning for Yamuna

New Delhi: The Central Water Commission (CWC) has issued a flood warning for the Yamuna in Delhi on Friday.

The warning is for a 'severe' flood situation, which means water level at Old Railway Bridge is likely to touch or exceed 'danger level'. The danger level at the Old Railway Bridge is 205.33 metres. An official at the city's flood control room confirmed that a warning had been issued for Friday with the possibility of the water level touching the 'danger' mark.

As of 10 pm Thursday, water level at Old Railway Bridge was 203.98 metres, below 'warning' level of 204.5 metres. Water level Thursday night had fallen from 204.12 metres at 6 pm. The highest level recorded Thursday was 204.29 metres around 9 am. **ENS**

Was awarded as long as she played for state: Delhi govt on Divya Kakran

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

DAYS AFTER Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Divya Kakran hit out at the Delhi government for not extending her any financial support or awards, the government said she had been awarded cash incentives till the time she played for the state.

On Sunday, while the games were underway, Kakran had tweeted that despite practising and living in Delhi for the past 20 years, she had never been awarded any money by the state government, nor had she received any help.

In a statement, the office of the deputy director of education (sports), said, "As per record she had been playing from Delhi till the year 2016-17 and she was suitably awarded cash incentives as per her performance..." The statement then said she had been awarded Rs 1,99,000 between 2010 and 2017.

"Wrestling Federation of India has confirmed that since the year 2017, Divya Kakran has been representing Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, she is not covered under various reward schemes of the Delhi government as these schemes are meant for players who represent Delhi.

Further, the government of Delhi respects and honours each and every player in the country. Directorate of Sports will be happy to support Divya Kakran also, in case she applies for financial assistance as per procedure, as the directorate is already funding thousands of players every year under its various schemes," the statement said.

Speaking to reporters Thursday, however, Kakran said she hadn't received any help from the Delhi government. "By 2017, I had given Delhi 58 medals. The Delhi government never helped us. I started fighting from Uttar Pradesh in 2018," she said, addressing a press conference, adding that since she has been playing for Uttar Pradesh, she had received a lot of help. "In 2019, the UP government gave me the Rani Laxmi Bai Award. In 2020, they gave me a life-long pension," she added.



Divya Kakran. PTI

Impact on minor rape victim present during hearing 'grave', says HC

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

TAKING NOTE of the fact that many minor victims of sexual abuse are made to appear physically or virtually at the time of hearing of bail applications of accused, the Delhi High Court has said the psychological impact on such children is "immensely grave" as arguments and accusations vary from doubting integrity to questioning the character of the victims.

Seeking inputs from Delhi HC Legal Services Committee and Delhi State Legal Services Authority on practice directions that can be issued to tackle the issue, Justice Jasmeet Singh said it is in the interest of the victim that she is not traumatised again by reliving the incident at court proceedings which could be triggering.

"The psychological impact on a POC victim being present in court is immensely grave as the arguments vary from allegations, accusations, doubting integrity, character etc. The prosecutrix/victim is forced to be present in the court with the accused that is the same person who allegedly has violated her," reads an order passed by Justice Singh on August 1.

The court passed the order while deciding a rape convict's application for suspension of sentence in a 2014 case. In December 2019, the accused was convicted of raping his daughter and sentenced to imprisonment of 10 years. As per jail record, the convict has already undergone a sentence of more than seven years and nine months.

Suspending the convict's sentence, the court said, "The appeal is of 2020 and has been admitted on February 18, 2020, and there is no reasonable chance that appeal would be taken up for hearing in near future." The court has restrained the convict from visiting Rajasthan "under any circumstances" as his wife and daughter live there. He shall not connect with or be in touch with his wife or prosecutrix, the court has said. "The appellant shall not communicate with, or come into contact with any of prosecution witnesses, or any member of the victim's family," reads the order.

Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Online application are invited from Indian Citizens on prescribed application form to fill up the post of **Principal & Assistant Professors** at Constituent Government College, Jewar (G.B. Nagar), purely on contractual basis on a fixed salary under self-finance scheme. The Last date for online submission of application form is **17.08.2022**. Printout of the duly completed online application form along with required self attested documents must reach the Registrar, C.C.S. University, Meerut, (U.P.) India through speed post or registered post upto **20.08.2022**, for more details and to apply please visit university website **https://www.ccsuniversity.ac.in/ccsum/career.php**

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e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No: IRCON/2064/NMDC/22-23/E-tender/Balance works/ROB Dated: 11.08.2022
e-Tender is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of balance works of Road Over Bridge (R.O.B.) along with balance works of Reinforced Earth (R.E.) wall in Package II in connection with "Construction of Private Railway Siding for NMDC's Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar near Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh".

Estimated Cost of the work	₹ 7.04 Cr. - (Incl. 18% GST)
Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission	01.09.2022 up to 15:00 Hrs

For further details, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

AGM/C(PH)
House No. 59, Ashoka Lifestyle, Dharampura-3, Jagdalpur-494001 Dist: Bastar (C.G.)

SIGNATUREGLOBAL SUPERBIA AFFORDABLE GROUP HOUSING

List of application numbers of successful applicants in the re-draw of flats in SignatureGlobal Superbia, Residential Apartments, Sector-95, Gurugram held on Tuesday, 9th of August 2022, at The Pillazio Hotel, Plot No. 292-296, Sector - 29, HUDA City Centre, Gurugram, Haryana.

2 BHK TYPE-I (585.174 Sq.Ft.) (54.364 Sqm)						
53352	53903	54160	54343	54926	54965	54999
55267	55335	55358	56496			

2 BHK TYPE-I (585.174 Sq.Ft.) (54.364 Sqm) WAITING LIST		
1. 56153	2. 54922	3. 54407

2 BHK TYPE-II (594.517 Sq.Ft.) (55.232 Sqm)		
53327	53367	53686 54461

2 BHK TYPE-II (594.517 Sq.Ft.) (55.232 Sqm) WAITING LIST		
1. 53444		

2 BHK TYPE-III (585.562 Sq.Ft.) (54.400 Sqm)						
53358	53391	53408	53480	53486	53784	53897
53927	54034	54113	54387	54671	54709	55049
55570	56004	56083	56690	56750	56939	

2 BHK TYPE-III (585.562 Sq.Ft.) (54.400 Sqm) WAITING LIST		
1. 54821	2. 53343	3. 53551
4. 53348	5. 53442	

Disclaimer:
• The re-draw of flats was held under the supervision of DTPC officials as per the guidelines laid down in Affordable Housing Policy
• Confirmed Allotment list is in ascending order (Top to bottom). 1sq.mt. = 10.7639 sq.ft.

STERNA BUILDCON PRIVATE LIMITED | CIN: U70109DL2009PTC195052
LICENCE NO.: 21 OF 2020 DATED 13-08-2020
Regd. Off.: 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001
Corp. Off.: Ground Floor, Tower A, Signature Tower, South City - 1, Gurugram, Haryana-122001
Email: customercare@signatureglobal.in, Ph: 0124-4908200, 9311144624

For more details visit www.signatureglobal.in
where the list of successful applicants with names and flat nos. is available.

THDC INDIA LIMITED
(श्रेणी-क, मिनी रत्न उपक्रम)
(Schedule-A, Mini Ratna PSU)
CIN : U45203UR1988GOI009822

[Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 (LODR Regulations)] (₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated			
		Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Year ended		
		30.06.2022	30.06.2021	30.06.2022	30.06.2021		
		Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Audited		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Total Income from Operations	333.95	316.27	2227.34	333.97	316.32	2227.44
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	32.78	52.68	1149.41	32.54	52.73	1147.94
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	32.78	52.68	1149.41	32.54	52.73	1147.94
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	57.91	47.58	894.78	57.79	47.63	893.74
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/ (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	59.54	47.14	896.92	59.42	47.19	895.88
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88	3665.88
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	6699.81	6298.69	6640.27	6698.77	6298.53	6639.31
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	Net worth	10365.69	9964.57	10306.15	10364.65	9964.41	10305.20
10	Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	7637.42	5410.23	7080.61	7637.42	5410.23	7080.61
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.84	0.63	0.78	0.84	0.63	0.75
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹1000/-each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) –						
	1. Basic:	15.80	12.98	244.08	15.77	12.99	243.88
	2. Diluted:	15.80	12.98	244.08	15.77	12.99	243.88
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	Debt Redemption Reserve	140.13	88.62	128.00	140.13	88.62	128.00
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.13	0.96	1.98	1.13	0.96	1.97
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.88	4.20	9.93	2.88	4.20	9.92

- Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules, whichever is applicable.

Notes:

- The above results have been approved by the Board of Directors at their meeting held on 10.08.2022.
- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Quarterly Financial Results is available on the stock exchange websites, www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and can be accessed on the URL <https://www.bseindia.com/xml-data/corpfiling/AttachLive/e5c17561-1e59-431c-9668-bc5988ba26b5.pdf> and https://archives.nseindia.com/content/debt/WDM/Debt_1008202212846_FinancialStatementUnderReg52.pdf.
- For the other line items referred in regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the stock exchanges and are available on the stock exchanges websites, www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com and on the Company's website www.thdc.co.in

Place : Rishikesh
Date : 10.08.2022

For and on Behalf of Board of Directors
(J. Behera)
Director (Finance)/CFO
DIN: 08536589

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Astronauts start work in space laboratory

By ZHAO LEI

Chinese astronauts on the Shenzhou XIV mission have started their work inside the Wentian space laboratory, the China Manned Space Agency said.

Wentian, the first laboratory module of China's Tiangong space station, docked with the front port of the Tianhe core module on July 25 and the Shenzhou XIV mission crew flying with the Tiangong — Chen Dong, Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe — entered the module on the same day.

Before Wentian's docking, Tiangong consisted of the Tianhe module, the Tianzhou 4 cargo ship and the Shenzhou XIV spacecraft.

Wentian consists of three major parts: a crew working compartment, an airlock cabin and an unpressurised service module. It weighs 23 metric tonnes, is 17.9 metres tall, roughly equivalent to a six-storey residential building, and has a diameter of 4.2 metres. It is the largest and heaviest spacecraft China has ever built and also the world's heaviest self-propelled spaceship in service, said Zhang Qiao, head designer of Wentian's overall structure.

The laboratory's flexible solar panels are the largest of their kind in China. When fully unfolded they are more than 55 metres long and have a combined area of nearly 280 square metres.

After Wentian was connected to the Tianhe module, its airlock cabin replaced the one on Tianhe and became the main place for astronauts to put on their spacewalk suits and move out of the space station.

"Its inner space is bigger than that of the airlock cabin on the core module, and its hatch is wider, making it easier for astronauts to make preparations and carry out spacewalks," Zhang said.

Inside the laboratory are eight scientific cabinets. They will mainly be used for biological and life science studies and can support research on the growth, aging and genetic traits of plants, animals and microbes in the



Top: Shenzhou-XIV astronauts Chen Dong (centre), Liu Yang (right) and Cai Xuzhe wave after entering the Wentian module, the first laboratory module of China's space station, on July 25.

Above: A computer generated simulation screen image at the Beijing Aerospace Control Centre shows the Wentian laboratory docked with the Tianhe core module on July 25. PHOTOS BY GUO ZHONGZHENG / XINHUA

space environment, he said.

Outside the airlock cabin are 22 extravehicular payload adapters that can carry scientific equipment needed for experiments that require exposure to the space environment, cosmic rays, vacuum and solar winds, Zhang said.

"In addition to its scientific functions, Wentian also serves as a backup control station to the Tianhe core module in case of emergencies or malfunctions. It has all the same flight-control devices as those inside the core module to operate the entire Tiangong station."

The craft also has three separate sleeping quarters and an independent section for personal hygiene. They can be used in emergencies or handovers by two crews.

Wang Yanan, editor-in-chief of the magazine Aerospace Knowledge, called the laboratory a "marvel of modern engineering and technology". Once scientific equipment inside Wentian begins to operate, it would become valuable assets for scientists everywhere by making many new science ideas possible and fostering international collaboration, he said.

Mission planners said the Tiangong station's second laboratory, Mengtian, will be lifted in October. After it is connected with the Tiangong, the station will form a T-shaped structure, and astronauts will have as much as 110 cubic metres of usable space.

After the laboratories, the Tianzhou 5 cargo craft and the Shenzhou XV crew are due to arrive at the massive orbiting outpost around the end of the year.

Upon Tiangong's completion, it will be crewed regularly by groups of three astronauts in periods usually lasting six months. During handovers to a new three-astronaut group, the station will accommodate up to six astronauts.

In the long run, the orbiting outpost will be capable of docking with multiple crewed and cargo ships at the same time and will also be able to link with non-Chinese spacecraft if they have a Chinese-standard docking hatch.

The China Manned Space Agency has signed agreements with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs on space station collaboration.

The two organisations have jointly invited scientists from around the world to submit research proposals for an opportunity to conduct their own experiments aboard Tiangong.

Scientists from various countries have started to take part in experiments on Tiangong, said Hao Chun, director of the China Manned Space Agency.

Trip bolstered long-standing friendship

Contributors to China-India ties recognised by President Xi. **Xu Weiwei** and **Arunava Das** report

Of the countless awards that Mohan Reddy has been presented in a 40-year medical career, he said that a friendship award personally given to him by Chinese President Xi Jinping in New Delhi nearly eight years ago is the most meaningful.

"I got my lifetime satisfaction and achievement when I met President Xi and received the award from him for my work in the cause of friendship between the people of our two countries," said the physician, who is an ear, nose and throat specialist from Hyderabad.

Reddy, who has been internationally recognised for his innovative research in endoscopic ear surgery techniques, contributed to the Sino-Indian relationship by serving as secretary-general of the Andhra Pradesh Chapter of the India China Friendship Association starting in 2008.

He was overjoyed when he was told that he would receive the honour from China's top leader in 2014, he said.

Reddy said he has always regarded Xi as a highly admirable leader, doing an excellent job in leading a great country, "with a slogan he has proposed that all countries have to work for the common prosperity and shared future for mankind".

"When I met such a great leader, you can imagine that it became a lifetime memory. I can't forget it."

Xi made a state visit to India from Sept 17 to 19, 2014. He met with then Indian president Pranab Mukherjee and had talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. More than a dozen agreements were signed in areas ranging from trade and transportation to culture.

Xi emphasised that the purpose of his visit was to "carry forward the China-India friendship and promote bilateral co-operation". In New Delhi on the third day of his visit, Xi met individuals and representatives of groups in India committed to China-India ties and, in recognition of their long-term commitment to the cause, conferred on them the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence Friendship Award.

He praised the important contributions they had made to the two nations' friendship and paid tribute through them to people from all walks of life in India committed to China-India friendship.

Xi also recalled the moving deeds of the physician Dwarkanath Kotnis (1910-42), poet, philosopher and composer Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) and other Indians who were friendly to China in the past, emphasising that their persistent pursuit and selfless dedication to the cause of China-India friendship was to be cherished.

Reddy said he accepted the award on behalf of the more than 15,000 members of the India China Friendship Association in India.

"Actually, I felt my responsibility has very much increased after getting the award. It made me feel I should work more for the friendship between the two peoples."

All members of the association in India, including workers, teachers, doctors, businesspeople, intellectuals, journalists, students and villagers, understand the importance of friendship between the two countries, Reddy said.

"Our friendship works for the New Delhi

welfare of people of both India and China. We can learn from each other and use our resources for the good cause of development."

There should never be any reason for the two neighbours to be at odds, he said.

"If we were not friends, we'd have to spend a lot of money on defence and the military. We need to remain friends, and instead spend the money on developing our two countries."

Among others to whom Xi presented the friendship award in 2014 was Avijit Banerjee, head of the Department of Chinese Language and Culture at Visva-Bharati University in West Bengal state, who received the honour on behalf of his university. Recalling that event, Banerjee said the meeting with Xi was a moment of great honour and pride for him.

"After hearing that I shook hands with the Chinese leader, many of my friends in India and China wanted to shake hands with me too," he said. "By doing this, they thought that my luck and honour could be passed on to them."

Banerjee got the chance to speak with Xi about strengthening cultural exchanges between India and China.

"When I first started to speak with Xi in Mandarin, he seemed a bit surprised, but then he looked delighted."

Banerjee had spoken in English and Chinese on behalf of all the

winners, expressing their gratitude to the Chinese government and their willingness to make further contributions to promoting India-China ties.

He talked of efforts by the renowned poet Tagore to establish Visva-Bharati University, and the institution's long-term engagement in promoting friendly exchanges.

Cultural exchanges and people-to-people relations are essential to

improving the friendship and understanding between the two countries, Banerjee said.

"My university has been engaged in all kinds of exchange activities with Chinese counterparts, and I am also an active part of it. I hope that this kind of exchanges will not stop. Instead, they should continue to increase and strengthen."

At the 2014 event, Xi also presented the friendship award to Manorama Kotnis, a sister of Dwarkanath Kotnis, a doctor revered in China for his selfless deeds in serving the Chinese people during the revolutionary era in the late 1930s and '40s. The Chinese consulate-general in Mumbai specially flew the then 93-year-old and her family members to Delhi.

Manorama Kotnis, in her wheelchair, grabbed Xi's hand firmly as he presented the award to her, thanked him particularly for taking time in his busy visit to meet them, and said they were deeply moved by the Chinese government and people for always remembering Kotnis and his family.

Dwarkanath Kotnis, also known by the Chinese name Ke Dihua, was sent to China in 1938 as part of an Indian medical mission and sacrificed his life helping the Chinese people during the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1931-45).

SEE VISIT, NEXT PAGE

Carbon trading shows worth after one year

By HOU LIQIANG

More than 194 million metric tonnes of carbon emission allowances have changed hands in China for almost 8.5 billion yuan (Rs 100 billion) since the launch of the carbon trading market a year ago, authorities say.

The programme has played a significant role in enhancing low-carbon development awareness among major emitters as the country forges ahead with its ambitious climate targets, experts said.

Although it only covers the power generation sector now, the initiative of putting a price on carbon emissions has boosted the development of carbon-related services in industries beyond, paving the way for the market's expansion, they said.

Carbon trading is the process of buying and selling permits to emit greenhouse gases among designated emitters.

It began on July 16 last year and now includes 2,162 power-generating companies, covering about 4.5 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. That is the world's largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions covered.

The programme imposes carbon emissions limits for every unit of electricity a power plant generates. After each cycle of trading,

operators can sell any carbon allowances they have left over after complying with the benchmark. If they fall short they will have to buy allowances.

Over the past year, the carbon market has generally run smoothly, with a slight increase in trading prices. Zhao Yingmin, vice-minister of ecology and environment, said at the China International Carbon Trading Conference in Shanghai on July 16.

The carbon price opened at 48 yuan a tonne on the first day of trading and was recently about 60 yuan a tonne.

Zhao, stressing the importance of the market in helping China honour its pledge of reaching peak carbon dioxide emissions before 2030 and realising carbon neutrality before 2060, said China will promote the expansion of the market step by step, adhering to the general principle of pursuing progress while ensuring stability.

By 2025, the national carbon market will cover another seven industries with high energy consumption — iron and steel, construction materials, nonferrous metals, petrochemicals, chemicals, paper manufacturing and aviation — the ministry said.

"The biggest impact of the national carbon market lies in improving the awareness of carbon neutrality among companies with high emissions



Baoshan Iron & Steel Co in Shanghai has made great efforts to turn its production base into a model of low-carbon development. LIU JIMING / FOR CHINA DAILY

The biggest impact of the national carbon market lies in improving the awareness of carbon neutrality among companies with high emissions and their managers."

Meng Bingzhan
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF SINO CARBON INNOVATION & INVESTMENT

and their managers," said Meng Bingzhan, deputy general manager of SinoCarbon Innovation & Investment.

By putting a price on carbon emissions, the market encourages more action from companies to

cut emissions and even consider profiting from reducing emissions by selling leftover allowances, he said.

Wu Wenzhang, general manager of Steelhome, an online business information platform for the steel industry, said China's carbon goals will cause a reshuffling of the industry.

"In future, steel companies that achieve ultralow emissions and environmentally friendly production will have broader space for development."

Li Gao, director for climate change at the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, said China needs to try to improve the support systems for the programme, get the market to better play its role in its operation and enhance the quality of carbon emission data, he said.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

Wall Street of the empire

By YANG FEIYUE
and SUN RUISHENG

A UNESCO world heritage site today, the ancient town of Pingyao in Shanxi province formed the economic backbone of China during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). The town housed the country’s first *piaohao* (money exchange house) that bankrolled the empire when all bookkeeping was on paper and the only way to crunch numbers involved the abacus.

In 19th-century imperial China, business-savvy merchants from Shanxi were making their presence felt in Japan and Korea in the east, Russia in the north and more countries in the south. They had to rely on security guards for transferring their financial wealth, measured in gold and silver, from one place to another. The method was highly risky and led to the inception of the *piaohao*.

The bank of Rishengchang, which means “sunrise prosperity”, was established in 1823 and became the prototype of China’s early financial system, offering remittance services and loans, and accepting deposits. It even boasted a high-capacity underground vault.

At its peak, the Rishengchang bank had more than 30 branches across the country, with business expanding overseas and reaching as far as Europe and the United States. More than a century later, in 1932, the exchange house halted its operations, but its preserved antiquity on public display today continues to fascinate all and sundry.

The erstwhile Rishengchang building was traditional in style, comprising halls and open courtyards. Jia Weixing, a museum guide, sits in traditional costume at a desk in a corner of a courtyard, which is now a museum.

For a decade, it has been Jia’s job to jot down the name, address, “silver exchange” and other details of visitors on a yellow tinted bill, which is then folded neatly into an envelope, in a re-enactment of how serious transactions were conducted 200 years ago.

“The idea is to show people how banking was done in the past. I love the *piaohao* culture of Pingyao.... As we travel back in time, I love playing my part, writing a few ‘bank drafts’ to entertain visitors from across the country,” Jia said.

In his book *Chinese Currency and Banking*, published in 1915, Indian scholar Srinivas Ram Wagel wrote that the modern bill of exchange and discount methods were first proposed by the draft bank in Shanxi.



Jia Weixing, a guide in the Rishengchang museum, reproduces old bank drafts for visitors to show them how banking was done in the past. PROVIDED TO CHINA DAILY

People didn’t need to carry around silver anymore, he wrote, as the bill of exchange from Pingyao could not be counterfeited.

According to Jia, there were at least five marks on the bill of exchange to guarantee authenticity, just like patterns on currency notes today. There were seals and handwriting proofs. The Chinese characters for Rishengchang were printed as watermarks on four corners of the bill for added authentication.

“The *piaohao* also encrypted its bills with codes made up of Chinese characters, which were changed on a regular basis to enhance security,” Jia said.

The Rishengchang museum today preserves the only original bill of exchange from the past. It was these bills that allowed the exchange house to control more than half of the Chinese economy for a century.

The rise of modern banks since 1910 began to eat into the market share of the Rishengchang *piaohao*. “Their operation models were more advanced, and the big banks had foreign capital support, too,” said Li Chao, a member of the museum staff.

Also, the exchange house depended heavily on the Qing administration, which was overthrown after the Xinhai Revolution launched by Sun Yat-sen in 1911.

“Boom turned into bust and the *piaohao* was eventually replaced,” Li said.

In 1956, whatever was left of the Rishengchang building became the office of Pingyao’s supply and marketing co-operative. Major changes weren’t made; money was only spent on fixing some doors, windows and walls.

The co-operative made way for the museum in 1995. The move was part of the protection and development strategy for Pingyao, and the Rishengchang began welcoming guests who wanted to learn about its remarkable history.

Over two decades, the Rishengchang museum witnessed six large-scale restoration projects and a dozen for maintenance. The efforts finally paid off. Tourist numbers increased in leaps and bounds, especially after it was named a “major national cultural relic” under protection of the State Council in 2006.

The Rishengchang will turn 200 next year and several events are being planned to commemorate the anniversary, said Lei Yaxian, head of the Pingyao’s cultural relics bureau.

Peng Ke’er contributed to this story.



Beijing Swifts are observed in Beihai Park in the Chinese capital. CAO XIAORONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Intrepid migrants of the air

Study shows intercontinental flight paths of the Beijing Swift for first time. Xin Wen reports

In late spring, Yuan Xuejun, who works in an office near the Zhengyang Gate in Beijing, loves hearing the sharp, clear notes of birds in the sky.

She is frequently distracted from her work by their chirping, and takes numerous photos of them against the backdrop of the gate.

Each year the birds appear in the spring, before migrating in the autumn.

Yuan, 56, a researcher at the Beijing Central Axis Heritage Protection Centre, said: “I wondered where they headed for the winter. I am so grateful for the chance to fully appreciate the birds and enjoy their boundless energy.”

A study published in the international journal Movement Ecology in June showed the migration routes and preferred habitats of migratory birds for the first time.

Yuan is enchanted by the Beijing Swift (*Apus apus pekinensis*), the only wild migratory avian species in the world named after the Chinese capital, and a subspecies of the common swift (*Apus apus*).

These birds travel about 15,000 kilometres annually to spend the northern winter in southern Africa, covering the same distance when they return to Beijing to build nests and start breeding.

The swifts, which are 16 to 18 centimetres long, fly fast and cover long distances. They rarely land during migration, and perform the round trip of 30,000 km every year, passing over 37 countries and regions.

According to the study, Beijing Swifts begin their autumn migration in the middle of July, leaving the city after breeding. They fly northwest to Mongolia, then west over the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, the Junggar Basin — a large sedimentary area in northwestern China — and then enter Central Asia.



The Beijing Swift has four short, forward-facing claws. ZHANG LONG / FOR CHINA DAILY

Around Aug 16 every year the birds cross the Red Sea and head towards Central Africa. They reach the eastern Congo Basin in early September, where they remain for about one month, before flying south to reach the Southern African Plateau in early November. They stay there for about 100 days.

Liu Yang, corresponding author of the study and professor of life sciences at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong province, said: “To reach Africa, the birds fly in the shape of a parabola.

“The research also suggests that they adapt well to semi-arid areas and have a preference for hot air currents. One of the major reasons for this is that countless insects, the birds’ primary source of food, abound in relatively dry regions.”

Rather than heading straight to the hot and humid south, the swifts take a “labour-saving route” by first flying north and then northwest due to their dietary habits, Liu said.

The return route for the spring migration is almost identical. The birds arrive in the eastern Congo Basin in mid-February from the Southern African Plateau, staying for about a month before crossing the Red Sea. They leave Africa in early April.

Flying almost nonstop, the swifts

return to their breeding area after arriving in Beijing from about mid-April to mid-May.

Understanding the behaviour of birds is important in protecting migratory species, and the difficult task of tracking Beijing Swifts is made easier by devices known as light-level geolocators, which are carried by the birds.

During the breeding season from 2014 to 2018, a research team from Beijing Normal University and Sun Yat-sen University comprising ornithological experts and volunteers from Belgium, Sweden and the United Kingdom conducted fieldwork at the Kuoru Pavilion in Beijing’s landmark Summer Palace.

“Five nets were set up in the Kuoru Pavilion, with each one precisely positioned and designed to protect the structure and ensure the birds were not harmed when captured,” said Zhao Xinru, an ornithologist at Beijing Normal University and a lead researcher for the study paper.

After being captured, randomly selected swifts were fitted with the tracking devices by the volunteers.

“We take particular care to ensure that just the width of a pencil separates the devices and the birds’ bodies so that the swifts are comfortable and can fly freely,” Zhao said.

Liu said a geolocator weighs a little more than 1 gram, and under international standards the devices cannot exceed 3 per cent of the bird’s weight. When tagged to the swifts the geolocators track sunrise and sunset and record light intensity.

“Dawn and sunset vary according to location, and the devices give us the opportunity to determine the swifts’ approximate position based on the birds’ circadian systems,” Liu said.

Data from small electronic chips installed in the geolocators is downloaded and read by software, according to Liu. After an initial estimate, the approximate migration routes of the swifts are outlined.

By 2018, researchers had successfully retrieved data from 25 swifts, and 66 of the birds had been fitted with geolocators.

In spring, flocks of Beijing Swifts hover in the sky over the capital. They nest in the city’s ancient buildings, including pavilions in Beihai Park, halls in the Forbidden City, and the city’s ancient gates.

The birds have four short, forward-facing claws. To become airborne they extend their wings to the full, retracting their claws in flight.

Zhao, the ornithologist, said: “This species flies nearly all its life, except during the breeding season. The swifts’ forward-facing claws are suitable for clinging to cracks in cliffs and gaps in ancient buildings and walls.

“In Beijing, the roofs of ancient architecture provide ideal wooden perches for the birds, which they prefer due to the layer of thermal insulation that exists in wooden structures.”

In recent years surveys on the birds’ numbers carried out by the Beijing Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre have indicated that their nesting locations are increasing, with the swifts showing a preference for nesting in tall buildings.

Visit: Deeds of revered Indian doctor live on for decades

From previous page

Eighty years after his death, his heroic deeds live on in China.

Kotnis’ niece Samangala Borkar was a proud witness at the 2014 ceremony. “When I shook hands with President Xi, it was a spiritual feeling,” she said, “He was so calm, soothing, affectionate and confident.”

The family of Samangala Borkar and her husband, Rajan Borkar, took care of Manorama Kotnis until she died in 2015.

Rajendra Jadhav, chairman of the Kotnis Memorial Committee in Mumbai, was also present at the friendship awards event. He cited Xi as a leader who serves to benefit humankind.

Jyoti Mohapatra, secretary

general of the Friends of China Society (India), said the function was attended by high-level dignitaries from both India and China.

“It felt great collecting the award in 2014 from His Excellency Xi Jinping, president of China, for lifetime achievement and work in fostering warm relations between India and China. The award from President Xi has given us encouragement,” Mohapatra said.

The Friends of China Society (India), which works for peace, brotherhood, all-around development and people-to-people friendship between India and China, was established in 1972.

“Since then, we have been working hard to foster warm relations between India and China,”

Mohapatra said. “We have been working tirelessly for the last 40 years.”

Over the years, dignitaries including a former Indian president, governors and ministers, members of Parliament and members of think tanks working in India for India-China relations have joined the organisation.

“We expect India and China to prosper, and our friendship, solidarity, brotherhood and peace to blossom,” Mohapatra said. “India and China have been true historical friends for thousands of years. There should be peace and friendship between the two great nations.

“We believe India and China are good neighbours, and our cultural heritage is great. The future will

belong to us,” he added.

In 2010, Reddy, the ear, nose and throat specialist, led a delegation of Indian doctors to Hebei, where Dwarkanath Kotnis had worked, for a joint medical mission in memory of the doctor. Since then, India-China joint medical missions have been organised to take forward the spirit of Kotnis, who stands as a symbol of India-China friendship and international fraternity.

The India China Friendship Association was founded on the anti-imperialist and anti-fascist spirit of the people of India and China, Reddy said, and is engaged in many efforts that promote understanding and friendship with China.

“We are always well aware of the (current) difficulties in the

relationship between India and China and the reasons behind them, but whatever the difficulties, they will be short-lived. Whatever challenges, they will be overcome.

“We have a fairly strong belief that the friendship between these two countries can never be stopped by any force. It’s the trend,” he added.

Dismissing talk of China as a potential “threat”, Reddy said that he has “strong confidence that many understand the politics behind the propaganda”, and that “more and more people will definitely come onto the field for promoting peace and friendship between our two countries”.

Aparajit Chakraborty contributed to this story.

New Delhi

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6 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS

15,966

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 562
OXYGEN SUPPORT 133
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 13



DELHI TOTAL
CASES

19,78,266

Aug 10 2,146
Aug 11 2,726
Total 8,840*

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,406	9,033
ICU BEDS	2,119	2,021
Cases	2,146	2,439
Recoveries	2,085	6
Deaths	8	12,036
Tests	18,960	3,96,73,035

*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA	Aug 10	Aug 11
Cases	172	193
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	596	590
Deaths	0	0

Desilting drain, 2 die after roof collapses in Greater Noida, authorities order safety audit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

TWO LABOURERS were killed while one was injured Thursday after the roof of the drain they were desilting collapsed on them in Greater Noida's Sector 4 area.

The deceased, identified as Dilshad (20) and Rehan (18), and the injured labourer, Sajid (25), were brought to the Yatharth Hospital for treatment, where the duo died during treatment, police said, adding that their bodies were sent for post-mortem.

Meanwhile, Sajid remains



The Greater Noida Authority said in a statement that the desilting work was done due to waterlogging. *Gajendra Yadav*

under treatment. His brother Rashid said that he suffered a leg

fracture, Sajid said, "After the drain collapsed, we were pulled

out by the public. However, my friends did not survive."

Rashid said that they do not earn much, as they are all daily wagers. He added that Dilshad was survived by his wife. "When such incidents happen, we, poor labourers are the ones to suffer," he said.

Greater Noida ACEO Amandeep Duli has ordered a safety audit of the quality of old drains. The Greater Noida Authority said in a statement that the desilting work in the drain was done due to waterlogging issues. They added that after news of the incident was received, Greater Noida Authority General Manager K R Verma

reached the spot with a team. The drain's dilapidated condition resulted in the collapse, he said and added that the bars on the roof of the drain were also of low quality.

Greater Noida CEO Surendra Singh also ordered the registration of an FIR against the agency responsible for constructing the drain, along with strict action against the officials and contractors responsible, after conducting an inquiry.

According to Beta-2 SHO Anil Kumar, "We have registered an FIR under IPC section 304 (causing death by negligence). Further investigation is being carried out."

DCW ISSUES NOTICE

4 held for trafficking minor girls, main accused on the run

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

FOUR PEOPLE, including two women, have been arrested for allegedly kidnapping, drugging and sexually assaulting three minor school students at Rohini, said police Thursday, adding that the accused were allegedly planning to take them to Chandigarh to 'sell' them but the minors managed to escape. The arrested have been identified as Bangali Lal Sharma (45), Rukhsana (40), Sandeep (36) and Jyoti (19), police said. The main accused, who allegedly lured the minors and raped them, has not been arrested yet.

According to police, the arrested women were present in the room while the main accused raped the minors. The matter was reported on August 6 by the father of one of the children who alleged that his daughter and her two classmates left home for school in South Delhi but didn't reach their destination.

Two days later, they were

found in Karol Bagh and rescued. Benita Mary Jaiker, DCP (South), said, "The girls were medically examined and all of them gave a history of sexual assault. They said that a man took them to a house in Rohini and sexually assaulted them. We sent a team to the house and found Sharma. The girls identified him and said he along with the main accused took them to the house in Rohini."

Police found that Sharma and Rukhsana ran a human trafficking gang.

The girls revealed that they met the accused at the railway station. The duo took them to the house where they offered the girls spiked drinks.

"After they consumed the drinks, the accused raped them. As per the evidence, only the main accused raped the minors. He was then trying to take them to Chandigarh to sell them. The minors managed to escape and reached Karol Bagh in an auto," said the DCP.

Further raids were conducted and the other three ac-

cused were arrested. They have been booked under sections of kidnapping, causing hurt by poison, rape, criminal intimidation, trafficking, criminal conspiracy and POCSO Act.

"Both women were also present in the room when the alleged incident of rape took place. Sandeep and Sharma used to help transport the girls," added the DCP.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Commission for Women issued a notice to police asking to take strict action. According to the DCW notice signed by Chairperson Swati Maliwal, the minors went to the New Delhi Railway Station to go to Mumbai but the accused approached them, offering to book tickets for them. However, he took them to his residence in Rohini, drugged them and raped them, the notice read.

"The accused lured the girls to go with him. They first went to the metro and then took an auto to reach the house. He has previous involvements," added the DCP.

Pet pitbull attacks woman in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, AUGUST 11

A 35-YEAR-OLD woman suffered injuries after she was allegedly mauled by a pet dog, a pitbull, Thursday morning in Gurgaon's Civil Lines area. Police said the woman is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Delhi.

According to police, the incident took place around 7 am when the woman, identified as Munni Rehman, who works as domestic help, was going to work.

A police officer, requesting anonymity, said, "Preliminary probe has found that the dog attacked her from the rear, following which she fell on the road and the dog got on top of her and bit into her neck. A milkman, who was passing through, stopped his motorcycle and used the cap of milk cans to scare the dog away. The dog let her go after intervention from passersby, but as she was being rescued, the dog again pounced on her and bit her on the head and face."

In the complaint, the victim's sister-in-law Beauty Rehman, a native of Cooch Behar, West Bengal, said she and Munni work as domestic helps and both were on their way to work at 7 am.

"Munni was walking ahead of me. As we reached opposite a house near PWD resthouse, a dog owner had released the dog from the leash. It suddenly attacked and pounced on her. The dog's owner was watching from a distance as it bit her all over her body. She suffered several wounds on her head, face and arms and was rushed to a hospital in a semi-conscious state. In the past, this dog has bitten many people, but its owners are not bothered," she said in the FIR.

Beauty told *The Indian Express*, "The dog first tried to attack two boys, who ran away, and then it jumped on my sister-in-law. A milkman, who was passing through, heard her cries and saw her struggling and scared the dog away. She has suffered a lot of blood loss and her condition is critical." Police said the victim was rushed to Gurgaon civil hospital and then referred to a hospital in Delhi. Pankaj Kumar, SHO Civil Lines, said, "The victim's condition is stable now. We have lodged an FIR against the owner of the dog. The owner had left the dog off the leash. No arrests have been made so far. We are consulting with the municipal corporation authorities if the dog should be moved to a shelter."



A REMINDER

An exhibition on the Partition has been set up at the Rajiv Chowk and Kashmere Gate Metro stations by the Delhi Metro as part of the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to mark 75 years of India's Independence. *Amit Mehra*

Amid Covid uptick, mask mandate to be strictly enforced



The South Delhi district has constituted three teams to monitor enforcement and report daily challan figures. *Archive*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WITH COVID cases and deaths on the rise in the city over the past two weeks, challans will be issued more actively by authorities for not wearing masks.

District magistrates have directed officials to implement existing Covid guidelines in the city more strictly. This includes a fine for not wearing masks, which invites a fine of Rs 500.

Covid cases have been rising for a fortnight, with 2,726 cases being reported on Thursday at a positivity rate of 14.38%. Six Covid deaths were also reported. Since August 3, which is when 2,073 cases were reported in a day, the 2,000 mark has been breached every day, except on August 8.

Earlier this year, in a DDMA meeting, it had been decided that the mask mandate in public

places would remain but people would not be penalised for not wearing one. Apprehensions were raised at the time that doing away with the fine would lead to a sudden increase in cases.

In April as the number of cases started rising, the DDMA decided to bring back the fines. But implementation of the mandate has been lax since then. The South Delhi district has constituted three teams to monitor enforcement and report the daily challan figures of the Coordination Branch of the South district.

Officials said while a close watch is being kept on the rise of cases, there was no need to panic as the rise has not led to any shortage in hospital beds. At present, out of the 9,408 beds set aside for Covid patients, 562 are occupied. A total of 173 people are admitted to ICUs, 146 are on oxygen support and 13 are on ventilator support. There are 8,840 active cases.

INFLUENCER'S DEFENCE: 'DUMMY AIRPLANE'

Scindia says looking into video of man smoking on plane; old incident, says airline

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

AFTER A video of social media influencer and bodybuilder Bobby Kataria alias Balwant Kataria from Gurgaon lighting a cigarette inside a SpiceJet aircraft was shared by several people on social media, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia has ordered an investigation.

"Investigating it. There will be no tolerance towards such hazardous behaviour," Scindia tweeted Thursday.

In the video, Kataria is seen lying down on what appears to be an aircraft seat, lighting a cigarette and taking puffs.

Meanwhile, Kataria, who has 6.3 lakh followers on Instagram, defended himself for the act, which according to him was shot in 2019 or 2020. He told reporters Thursday: "It is a dummy plane and part of my biopic. It was shot in 2019 or 2020... somewhere around February. It was shot in Dubai. People who are sitting in the dummy plane are also part of the shoot. I do not see the need to give any justification. The person who shared the video on social media could have reached out to me, but everyone wanted TRP. I want to ask everyone, how can a

lighter make its way into an aeroplane? It would be detected by a scanner."

SpiceJet Thursday issued a statement saying that the video was old and they had filed a complaint in the matter. The statement also said that Kataria had been put on the 'no-flying' list for a period of 15 days in February.

"The matter had been investigated thoroughly in January 2022 when the video was brought to our notice and a complaint had been filed by the airline with the Udyog Vihar police station in Gurgaon. The video, the investigation had revealed, was shot on January 20, 2022, on flight scheduled to operate from Dubai to Delhi. The said passenger and his co-passengers shot the video on the 21st row when the cabin crew was occupied with completing the onboarding procedure. None of the passengers or crew was aware of the act. The matter was referred to the Internal Committee constituted as per the provisions of Civil Aviation Requirements on the handling of unruly passengers..." SpiceJet said in the statement.

The Gurgaon police, meanwhile, said they had received the complaint but did not have jurisdiction over the matter.

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NOIDA, AUGUST 11

WITH DAYS left to go for the demolition of Noida's Supertech twin towers, the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) has given its clearance for charging the towers subject to certain assurances given by Edifice Engineering and Supertech Ltd, sources said.

The demolition is fixed for August 21, with a cushion period that ends on August 28 the last date for completion of the demolition process keeping in mind the extension order of May 17 of the Supreme Court. Noida Authority held a meeting on August 6 to discuss the status of demolition, following directions of an SC order on July 29 in a miscellaneous application filed by Supertech Ltd. CBRI had sought details of the blast design, ground vibration, post demolition debris assessment, test blast, vibration monitoring report, dust cloud and structural audit of Emerald Court and ATS village which are in the vicinity of the site.

The apex court in its order said, "For this purpose, we permit CBRI to address a comprehensive communication on or before August 1, 2022, to Noida, with

copies to Edifice Engineering and IRP of Supertech, specifically setting out information which is required by the CBRI. The information shall be collated and supplied to CBRI on or before August 5, 2022. Thereafter, NOIDA shall convene a meeting of the representatives of CBRI, Edifice Engineering and the IRP of Supertech on August 6, 2022, so as to sort out the matter."

The matter is next listed on Friday and Noida Authority was instructed to file a status report in the meantime.

According to sources, CBRI gave the clearance for charging the towers from Thursday in order to meet the final demolition of date of August 28, which is subject to submission of the structural analysis report by Edifice Engineering by August 15 and the structural audit report by Supertech Ltd. of the affected towers in Emerald Court and ATS village by August 25. Edifice Engineering and Supertech Ltd. submitted their assurance on Wednesday, based on which CBRI gave its clearance on the same day, sources said.

As per a press note, Noida Authority was to file its status report, post the CBRI's report on structural audit, before the SC by Thursday.



The demolition is fixed for 2.30 pm on August 21. *Archive*

POPULAR FOR FURNITURE, HOME DECOR

After demolition, Banjara Market gets new home in Gurgaon's sector 70

SARA SIDDIQUI
GURGAON, AUGUST 11

AFTER BEING removed from sector 53 in Gurgaon, the Gadia Lohar community that runs the Banjara Market has moved to a new location in sector 70A to set up shops and hutments. More than 400 hutments are currently being built to work as shops and homes for the shopkeepers and their families.

In October last year, the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) demolished

shanties and shops and removed the community from sector 53, saying that the hutments had come up on government land. However, temporary hutments returned. The HSVP then carried out another demolition exercise in April this year.

The Banjara Market is popular among residents of Delhi-NCR for furniture and home decoration articles at reasonable prices. The community, originally from Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, moved to nearby areas over the past few months after the demolition drive.

Pooja (25), who has now set up shop in sector 70A, claimed the authorities did not notify them before the demolition drive. "A lot of our products and household items were destroyed. The government did not help us after the drive."

Jitender Kumar, estate officer 2, HSVP, had told *The Indian Express* earlier that several notices had been sent to the occupants before the demolition drive was carried out.

The HSVP land in the area has been earmarked for the construction of a group housing so-



Over 400 hutments are currently being built to work as shops and homes for shopkeepers and their families. *Sara Siddiqui*

ciety, a bus stand and a college. Sanjeev Singla, estate officer 2, HSVP, said, "The HSVP has got the entire land cleared, which had been encroached by shopkeepers earlier. The site where they have now moved is not under our jurisdiction."

Now in sector 70A, Pooja said they have been paying a fee to a land owner. She, however, did not know who the land owner was. "We give a fee to the owner to live and sell our items here. We will not be removed and will live here for 20-25 years more," she added. The families currently reside in

shops as hutments and homes are under construction. While many people are unaware of the new location, the shopkeepers said they get a fair number of customers over the weekend.

Government authorities, however, said that even if the land is privately owned, running a market without permission is not allowed.

Sumit Kumar, joint commissioner, zone-3, Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon, under which sector 70A falls, said, "No permission has been granted to shopkeepers regarding running

a market in the area. Even if it is on private land, they need requisite clearances from the civic agency. We will look into it and if there is anything illegal or any encroachment, it shall be removed."

Bachchan, a father of three, meanwhile, said that in the absence of any government assistance, they were trying to set up basic facilities at the new site. "We are building these homes ourselves. The government did not help. We are building shops, homes and toilets all on our own in this area," he said.



New Delhi



FROM PAGE ONE

China

list Abdul Rauf Asghar in the UN Security Council 1267 Sanctions Committee. China has, however, placed a technical hold on the proposal. All other 14 member states of the UN Security Council were supportive of the listing proposal," said a source. Listing him as a global terrorist would subject him to assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

This is not the first time that China has obstructed the listing of terrorists in the 1267 Sanctions Committee. In June this year, China placed on hold a joint proposal by India and the US to list the deputy chief of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), Abdul Rehman Makki, in the sanctions list. Makki was involved in raising funds, recruiting and radicalising youths to resort to violence and planning attacks in India, including the Mumbai terror attacks (2008), according to sources.

The source said there is "in-controvertible evidence" for both these listing proposals. "Both individuals have also been sanctioned by the US under its domestic legislation," said the source. "It is unfortunate that the sanctions committee has been prevented from playing its role due to political considerations. China's actions expose its doublespeak and double standards when it comes to the international community's shared battle against terrorism. Such politically motivated actions by China, in nearly every listing case of a Pakistan-based terrorist, undermine the entire sanctity of the working methods of the UNSC Sanctions Committees," said the source.

A day before Beijing blocked this latest proposal, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, had said at a Security Council meeting chaired by permanent member and Council president China that "the practice of placing holds and blocks on listing requests without giving any justification must end".

"An effective functioning of the Sanctions Committees requires them to become more transparent, accountable and objective...It is most regrettable that genuine and evidence-based listing proposals pertaining to some of the most notorious terrorists in the world are being placed on hold," she said.

"Double standards and continuing politicisation have rendered the credibility of the sanctions regime at an all-time low. We do hope that all members of the UNSC can pronounce together in one voice, sooner than later, when it comes to this collective fight against international terrorism," she had said.

China on Thursday sought to defend its move. "We need more time to assess the application to sanction this individual," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing in Beijing while replying to a question. Wang said the 1267 Committee of the UNSC has clear provisions about designating terrorist organisations and officials.

"China has always strictly followed the rules and procedures of the committee and in a constructive and responsible manner participated in its work. We hope other members will also do the same," Wang said.

Kejriwal

ration. So what happened all of a sudden that so much ruckus is being created to roll back these public services? I really hope and pray that the Central Government is financially sound and thinking wisely."

Calling for a "genuine debate" on the issue, Sitharaman told reporters, "The Delhi Chief Minister has given a perverse twist to the debate on freebies. Health and education have never been called

freebies. No Indian government has ever denied them. So by classifying education and health as freebies, Kejriwal is trying to bring in a sense of worry and fear in the minds of the poor."

Kejriwal, who has been under attack over the introduction of schemes such as free electricity in Delhi and Punjab, also questioned the need to bring in the Agnipath scheme for military recruitment.

"It was being said that this scheme was brought because the pension bill of soldiers had bloated so much that the Central Government was finding it hard to bear the expense. This has happened for the first time since Independence that a Central Government has said such a thing," he said.

Referring to the rural employment guarantee scheme, the Delhi Chief Minister said, "Through MGNREGA, the Central Government used to give 100 days of guaranteed employment to the poorest. They are now saying that they don't have the funds to run MGNREGA. There has been a reduction of 25 per cent in funds allocated to that scheme this year as compared to previous year."

He also alleged that taxpayers' money was used to write-off taxes for the "super rich and huge companies" while tax was imposed "on food items consumed by the poor".

A plea against freebies promised by political parties is being heard in the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, the Election Commission had said that being a constitutional authority, it "may not be appropriate" for it to be part of a committee proposed to be set up by the Supreme Court to suggest ways to deal with the issue.

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had targeted political opponents and accused them of promising freebies in exchange for votes. Describing the distribution of freebies as "revdi culture", he said it was "very dangerous" for the country, its development and wellbeing.

In the run-up to the elections in Punjab earlier this year, AAP had made a pre-election guarantee of providing 300 units of free power every month -- it came into effect in July. After coming to power, the new AAP government in Punjab sought a special financial package of Rs 1 lakh crore from the Centre spread over two years to improve the state's poor fiscal health.

(WITH ENS/DLHI)

SC

to the court's suggestion last week about the setting up of a panel to make recommendations.

The court also expressed its reservations on how far it can go into the issue. "I can't ignore the amount of debate or exchange of views permeating in social media, newspapers, etc. The question is to what extent we can interfere?...The reason is that there is an Election Commission under the Constitution, an independent body, and the political parties are there...It is the wisdom of all those people I want to have a thought about," he said.

"We seriously feel it is definitely an issue of concern. Some financial discipline has to be there. We are actually experiencing it in other countries... Definitely, there is an issue. But in a country like India, there are issues of poverty, etc. We can't ignore those issues also. The Government of India introduces certain schemes, state governments also introduce certain schemes, like feeding of people in drought areas, sometimes in Covid situations..." the CJ said.

"I am very reluctant to interfere in issues, which have to be decided by the Legislature. I'm a strict orthodox man, you can say. I don't want to encroach the areas which

are meant for the Legislature or the Executive..." he said.

On Thursday, the Centre suggested that the proposed committee may comprise a member of a national taxpayers' association or a retired Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Union Finance Secretary, finance secretaries of all states, a representative from every recognised national political party, the chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, an RBI representative, the NITI Aayog CEO, a representative nominated by the Chief Election Commissioner, FICCI or CII representatives and those from "stressed sectors".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Government, said that "distributing things free can never be the only way of welfare". "There are always scientific ways of people's welfare. Elected governments must follow scientific methods...So far as welfare schemes are concerned, every government does and every government should do. Now this freebie culture, distribution of something free, has been elevated to the level of an art and sometimes elections are fought only by some sections on that," Mehta said.

He said that "if it's the understanding of any political section of our country that distributing freebies is the only way of welfare of the people, that makes a dangerous situation. We are leading the country to disaster".

Mehta urged the court to issue directions in the interim till the issue is examined. "The question is not only the exercise of Your Lordship's power but your Lordship's Constitutional desire to ensure how the mandate of the Constitution should be implemented. Do something till either Legislature steps in, or the Election Commission or whichever body Your Lordships decide examines it and places it before the court," submitted the SG.

"(If) the government has understood the welfare of the people to be the distribution of free things to a certain section... in a given set of circumstances, there may be justification. But if it becomes a norm, then Your Lordships may step in and lay down guidelines... Welfare scheme every responsible government must understand, but distributing everything free and taking it to the level of an art is not welfareism," Mehta said.

Appearing for the petitioner Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, Senior Advocate Vikas Singh referred to the court's July 2013 judgment in the case "S. Subramaniam Balaji Vs State of Tamil Nadu and Others". "Your earlier judgement says there is a legislative vacuum, that a model code of conduct can be framed, which the ECI has not done for all these years," he said.

Pointing out that today, states have a cumulative debt of Rs 15 lakh crore, he said parties should specify in their manifesto where the money for the promises will come from. He said that the purpose can't be to get power regardless of what happens to fiscal discipline.

Also representing the petitioners, Senior Advocate Arvind Datar, who had appeared in the Subramaniam Balaji case, explained the background. "The DMK promised to give colour TVs to all those who didn't have one... They came to power. In the next election, AIADMK promised laptops, grinders, etc... We challenged it on a Constitutional principle, under Article 282, money must be for a public purpose and we cited international judgments which say where money is not spent for public purpose, courts have judicial power to stop the payment," he said.

Datar said that at the time, "the SC had said that giving freebies is to implement directive principles". "Giving a laptop or gold chain can't be to promote directive principles," he said, adding that he did not think the proposed committee will achieve any result.

Datar said when the Supreme Court has held free and fair elections to be part of the basic structure of the Constitution, it can consider issuing directions on freebies, too. But the CJ said, "That is a different issue... confined only to a person contesting the election". "In the anxiety of going to do something, we can't commit a blunder," he said.

Flight to Kabul

tentative efforts to build a relationship with the Taliban, without recognising the regime. The official line, as laid out by National Security Adviser Ajit K Doval at the fourth Regional Security Dialogue in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in May is that India has a special relationship with

Afghanistan and its people, and this would continue to guide its Afghanistan policy, but also that the Taliban must form an inclusive government that provides representation to all its peoples. That it respects women's rights and allows girls to return to school and removes restrictions on women including on their employment. India has also repeatedly said that Afghanistan should not become a safe haven for cadres of terrorist groups to plot attacks on other countries.

Following more than a dozen countries, India recently reopened its embassy in Kabul in June with a small group of officials headed by an IFS officer who is officiating as deputy chief of mission.

The tarmac reception to the official delegation created a buzz in the bus ferrying the other passengers to the terminal.

The Indian professional, who did not want his identity revealed, said he would "assess" the situation and take a call on whether he could return to work in Kabul. Last year, he, his wife and their child were among the hundreds who caught the first IAF plane sent by India to evacuate its nationals.

He recalled those final hours in Kabul just a year ago and the nerve-racking bus ride to the airport from the Indian embassy. Both he and his Afghan colleague, who dropped him off at the Indian mission, were in tears, he recalled.

His wife had pleaded with him not to make this trip, he said. But he had told her that he would, at least, collect his original documents and certificates that he had left in safekeeping in trustworthy hands.

An Afghan doctor, who obtained her post-graduate qualification in gynaecology and obstetrics and is now employed in a New Delhi hospital, said she had taken leave from her work as her mother had suffered a stroke and her family members had insisted that, as a doctor, it was her duty to come back and look after her mother.

She hoped she would get a visa to return after a month to her home in south Delhi that she and another Afghan woman have rented together. She had mixed feelings about going back. Her brothers had told her Afghanistan was now entirely safe. But she was apprehensive, and worried about the loss of freedom for women, and the restrictions that she would have to observe.

"But Afghanistan is my home, that is where I must finally live," she said, trying to brush off her apprehensions.

An Afghan couple living in Australia transited through Delhi to catch the flight, as did another expat Afghan family. They hoped to return back to Australia within a couple of weeks.

An Afghan businessman, who came back to Kabul from his long-time home in the US recently, had decided to visit India to meet friends and was returning after a satisfying week. He travelled on a long-term visa that he had obtained some years ago in the US. It had been cancelled during Covid but had been restored recently, he said.

One man was returning to Kabul after medical treatment in New Delhi. Asked if Afghans were now getting visas to travel to India for medical reasons, he said: "Some have got the visas, I was one of the lucky ones". Since last year, India has issued about 200 emergency visas in response to online applications.

Euthanasia

situation due "to donor availability issues". The petition said that his symptoms started in 2014 and his condition deteriorated over the past eight years, making him "completely bed bound and just able to walk a few steps inside home".

According to the petition, the man is the only son of his parents, who are in their seventies, and has a sister.

The petitioner declined to speak to *The Indian Express* when contacted through her lawyer. Records attached with the petition reveals that she has been in constant communication with the man and his family members about his health condition. They include a message purportedly sent by the man to the petitioner: "Looking at euthanasia options. Had enough."

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EXPRESS AUDIO

Shrikant Tyagi case, St Xavier's controversy, and 'Modi circuit'

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Malavika Prasad joins host Shashank Bhargava to talk about the Shrikant Tyagi case. She explains what happened, the action taken, and Tyagi's affiliation with BJP.

4 soldiers killed in terror attack on Rajouri Army camp

soldiers of the Indian Army were injured in the operation and of them, three bravehearts succumbed to their injuries while repulsing this suicide attack by militants," he said, adding that the two militants were killed. The fourth soldier succumbed to his injuries later in the day.

According to officials and eyewitnesses, the first gunshot was heard around 2 am when the militants attempted to breach the external fence of the camp.

Two AK-47 rifles along with nine magazines and 300 rounds, five grenades and other "administrative stores" were recovered. Sources said some of the seized bullets were

colour-coded, indicating that they were ammunition piercing and incendiary rounds.

PTI quoted J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh as saying that the two militants were suspected to be from the Jaish-e-Mohammed. Rajouri SSP Mohammad Aslam said the militants appeared to be foreigners, but were yet to be identified.

Sources said the security forces had been put on alert after some residents reported to have seen two suspicious persons in Darhal bazaar on Tuesday. A cordon-and-search operation was launched in the area, but the men could not be tracked, they said.

"It is pertinent to mention that there is no financial constraints for providing [him] with better treatments within India or abroad but he is now adamant on his decision to go for Euthanasia, which also affects the life of age old parents miserably," the petition stated.

According to the petition, the patient earlier obtained a Schengen visa, which allows unrestricted travel to 26 European countries, by providing "false information" that he is seeking treatment at a clinic in Belgium. In reality, the petition claimed, he travelled to Zurich in Switzerland in June via Belgium for the first round of psychological evaluation for euthanasia.

According to the petition, the man has decided to undergo euthanasia through Zurich-based organisation Dignitas, which provides assistance to foreign nationals.

"According to the information received by the Petitioner, his application was accepted by Dignitas, first evaluation was approved (and he is) now awaiting the final decision by the end of August 2022," the petition claimed.

Medical records attached with the petition show that the patient was given a letter in May, purportedly by a doctor in AIMS, stating that he was travelling to Belgium for medical consultation and future treatment since the condition is in early stages of research and not very well known in India.

While the petition is limited to not granting the man emigration clearance on the ground that he has made "false claims" to authorities for getting travel permission, and for constituting a medical team to examine him, there is not much a legal precedent to claim the relief.

"I did not find any precedents. The legal position has to be decided by the court. He is not travelling with bonafide intentions. He is misleading the Indian authorities that is why we are praying for not granting him emigration clearance. We have no other option," said advocate Subash Chandran, who represents the woman in the case.

In 2018, the Supreme Court had delivered a landmark ruling that made passive euthanasia legal for terminally ill individuals, allowing them to decline the use of life support measures, and letting families of those in incurable coma to withdraw such measures.

While Section 309 of IPC criminalises attempted suicide, the Mental Healthcare Act Section 115(1) states that "any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code."

2011, the Supreme Court had turned down a plea of author and activist Pinki Virani for stopping life support to Aruna Shanbaug - a nurse who spent nearly 42 years in a vegetative state after sexual assault before her death in 2015. In 2011, voters in Zurich rejected Swiss plans to ban assisted suicide or outlaw it for foreigners.

Many countries, including Singapore, have come under criticism for promoting "suicide tourism".

2 students

on their involvement and the investigation so far, Sections 6 (sexual assault) and 18 (attempt to commit an offence) of the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act were invoked and added to the FIR. At the time of the alleged suicide, the two students had already shifted to another school," said a police officer, who is part of the SIT formed to investigate the case.

"The two minor students were questioned by the Juvenile Justice Board and later released," said Sube Singh, spokesperson, Faridabad police.

On February 24, the 16-year-old boy was reported to have jumped to his death from the 15th floor of his residential society. Police had found a purported suicide note, addressed to his mother, in which he had blamed his school and "higher authorities".

His mother, who worked at the same school, had filed a police complaint, following which a case of abetment of suicide under IPC Section 306 was registered against the academic headmistress and the school administration. The academic headmistress was arrested on February 27, and later granted bail by a district court.

In the FIR, the teenager's mother had said that a year before the incident, he had confided in her that some boys in the school had harassed him over his sexual orientation. She had alleged that in March 2021, her son was sexually harassed in the school washroom by a group of schoolboys. "I had filed several complaints to the school authorities but no action was taken by them. My son was depressed and his treatment was going on," she had said.

"My son was subjected to prolonged bullying and sexual harassment. He was blindfolded, stripped and sexually assaulted multiple times in the school washroom during the lunch break. I had complained to the school principal and authorities verbally and later in September 2021, I wrote an email stating that due to the abuse, my son had lost mental composure and was having suicidal tendencies. My son had shared a detailed account of the harassment he suffered in a diary with the names of the accused students, which I have shared with the police," she had told The Indian Express last month.

In the months since the incident, the boy's mother has alleged laxity in the police probe.

Jharkhand

will work on two fronts: how to compensate farmers and ensure a contingency plan for the drought; and how to tackle food shortage due to the drought. We will extend all help possible to the farmers," she said.

"Every three years it is the same problem, and then there is a food crisis," said Mahato, the Bokaro farmer. He says the fam-

ily's "only hope" is his son Raj Kishore who works for daily wages as a painter in Bokaro city.

According to the India Meteorological Department, Jharkhand received deficient rainfall between June 1 and August 11 this year. While the state's average rainfall for this period is 616.5 mm, it received only 348.3 mm this time -- 44 per cent less. As on August 11, some districts, such as Chatra, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur and Sahibganj received less than 40 per cent per cent of normal rainfall while Bokaro received less than 65 per cent.

Abhishek Anand, scientist and officer in-charge, IMD Ranchi, said: "The onset of monsoon was in June but the rainfall was very less because conditions such as low pressure and depression were not formed during June and July, barring twice or thrice, in the North Bay of Bengal, which typically affect Bihar, Jharkhand and other regions."

At the fields, meanwhile, there is already fear of farmers falling into debt traps.

"The last time when rains were less, in 2019, we were able to sow some crops. This year, the problem is much more because there was not enough rain for the entire sowing season. We have already spent Rs 13,000, and if it does not rain we will fall into another round of loans and debt," said Mahato's neighbour Nilawati Kumari, who works on fields owned by her husband's family.

"We do get ration rice but the card covers just three of us, which means about 15 kg every month. We also get 5 kg of rice extra per person per month after the (Central) government announced it last year," Mahato said.

Mahato, who holds a Priority Household (PHH) ration card for rural families, was referring to the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), launched during the Covid lockdown. The scheme, which provides 5 kg of free foodgrains additionally per month to each beneficiary covered under the National Food Security Act, will end on September 30.

"My family will be in severe crisis if this scheme is discontinued," Mahato said.

Officials point out that the impact of deficient rainfall over the years in Jharkhand is seen in the shrinking area of paddy cultivation. In 2016-17, the area under cultivation was 17,06,000 hectares. This dipped to 13,57,000 hectares in 2019-20. In 2021-22, the cultivation area increased to Rs 17,50,000 hectares, which produced 51,16,000 tonnes of paddy. In 2021-22, crop was cultivated in only 17,11,000 hectares, generating 44,60,000 tonnes of paddy.

At the NITI Aayog meeting, officials said Soren sought a "drought relief package" from the Centre, pointing out that this year "Jharkhand has received less than 50 per cent of rainfall and the sowing (of paddy) have been done in less than 20 per cent of the land" so far.

According to officials, he also said that the state "bears the brunt of drought every three-four years since there are no irrigation facilities".

Condemning the attack, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha tweeted on Thursday: "Heartfelt condolences to the families of the bravehearts martyred in the attack. We shall deal with evil designs of terrorists and their backers in a befitting manner."

The attack comes just over a week after two Jammu Kashmir Ghaznavi Force (JGFF) militants hurled a crude grenade at a police barrack in Ramban district on August 2. While both the militants were arrested, police had said they were looking for some more suspects, including a person who allegedly gave Rs 50,000 to the militants for carrying out the attack.

Official data shows that about 80 per cent of the state's population, residing in around 32,500 villages, depend on agriculture and allied activities for livelihood. It also shows that for farming, 85 per cent of groundwater is under-utilised.

"The agriculture economy in Jharkhand is mostly rain-fed cultivation with a single crop -- paddy. Wells are the main source of irrigation followed by tanks and canals. This system is heavily dependent on rainfall," said an official.

The Economic Survey of 2021-22 points out that better irrigation facilities and "a judicious mix of water and land management can improve agricultural productivity" in the state.

Taking a cue, officials said, the Water Resources Department has started restoration work in 192 ponds, dams and other water bodies at a cost of around Rs 144 crore.

Agriculture Department director Oraon said that scientists have suggested ways of diversifying crops, such as sowing cereals. "We have placed orders for 60,000 quintals of seeds of cereals for the late kharif crops. We are also working on early rabi crops, which can be sown by the farmers. This is to avert a food crisis," Oraon said, adding that she was on her way to Khunti district "to assess the situation".

However, the disconnect between official plans and ground reality was visible when a state survey team visited Mahato's village in Peterwar block.

"We are in deep trouble. Why don't you tell us about schemes such as PM-KISAN?" Mahato asked the team angrily, referring to the Centrally funded scheme under which Rs 6,000 is transferred in three equal installments to eligible famer families in a year.

"Nobody had informed us about this scheme. When we got to know about it, block officers told us that registration had stopped. It's not a significant amount but this is the time we need money," said Mahato's neighbour Nilawati Kumari.

When contacted, Agriculture director Oraon said "new registrations may have been halted to do the E-KYC of all farmers".

Jharkhand Kisan Mahasabha working president Pankaj Roy, who is from Peterwar and had come to meet the distressed farmers when the survey team arrived, asked: "Why is the Agriculture department not thinking of providing irrigation facilities when the Tenughat reservoir is barely 10km away? Why can't check dams be built and rainwater stored?"

A member of the official team, which included district and state-level agriculture officers, replied that the visit was "only for the survey" and that farmers need to "visit the block office for any details".

Watching the heated exchange from a distance was Koplesh Kumar Mahato, a local school teacher. "My students are unable to pay tuition fees because of the delay in sowing. Here, everything is linked to paddy," he said.

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OPP SKIPS CEREMONY

THE SWEARING-IN ceremony of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice-President was virtually an all-government affair. Almost all of the Opposition leaders gave it a skip. While Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge was down with Covid, the Leader of the Congress in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury was in Baharampur, his constituency. UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi is said to be unwell again. Sources said floor leaders of bigger parties of both the Houses too were invited but they stayed away.

MASKS, PLEASE

RISE IN Covid-19 cases in the national capital has meant a return to masks in the Supreme Court as well. On Thursday, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana reminded lawyers who had assembled in his court to argue their cases to wear masks. "Please wear a mask. The majority of our staff and colleagues are getting it. Judges are also getting," said the CJI. Many judges and staffers of the court had in the recent past been diagnosed with the virus, some of them having repeat infections.

WIN-WIN PLAN

THE CONGRESS on Thursday announced that it would hold a mega rally at Ramhila Maidan on August 28 on the issue of price rise and unemployment. While the party's decision to hit the streets has enthused many leaders, some of them are apprehensive about the spike in Covid cases in Delhi. With the national capital seeing a sharp rise in the number of daily Covid-19 cases, they wonder whether the administration would allow a big rally. Others believe denial of permission, if that happens, can also be exploited politically.

Bogus, rubbish: Nitish on Sushil Modi's claims about V-P aspirations

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA, AUGUST 11

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday termed senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi's claim that he wanted to become the next Vice President of the country as "bogus" and "rubbish".

The JD(U) leader on Wednesday took oath as Bihar Chief Minister for a record eighth time, a day after snapping ties with the BJP-led NDA and joining hands with the RJD and the Congress to form a 'Mahagathbandhan' government.

Talking to reporters here, Kumar said, "You people must have heard that this man (Sushil Modi) is saying that he wanted to become Vice President. What a joke... It's bogus and rubbish. I had no such desire at all. We supported

the NDA candidate in the Presidential and Vice President polls". The BJP leader had alleged that Kumar wanted to become the vice president and had parted ways with BJP after the party failed to accommodate his ambitions. Without mentioning his (Sushil Modi) name, Kumar said, "Since he is not holding any important posts, he may get something by making such statements against me. Let him say whatever he wants, I have no problems at all".

Modi had criticised Kumar for parting ways with the BJP, saying the JD(U) leader insulted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of Bihar who had voted for the NDA in the 2020 Assembly elections. The BJP leader had also alleged that Kumar would take advantage of Lalu Prasad's illness and will cause a split in the RJD.

SENA'S DECISION TO APPOINT DANVE AS LOP IN COUNCIL

Consult allies before taking major decisions: Ajit Pawar to Uddhav

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

SHIV SENA's unilateral decision to appoint Ambadas Danve as the leader of Opposition of the state Legislative Council has created fissures within the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance. So much so that a delegation of NCP, led by Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, Ajit Pawar, met Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday night to advise him to consult allies before taking any such major decision.

Congress has openly expressed its displeasure, with party state president Nana Patole saying on Thursday that the alliance with the Sena was never "natural" and "permanent". "The post of Leader of Opposition in state Assembly is with the NCP and deputy chairperson's post is with Shiv Sena. We were of the opinion that the leader of Opposition post in the Legislative Council should be given to Congress. But Shiv Sena did not even consult us and went ahead without taking us into confidence. We oppose this," Patole told mediapersons in Aurangabad. "The alliance with the Sena was

Newly inducted Maharashtra ministers pay tribute at the memorial of Bal Thackeray in Mumbai on Thursday. *Express*

never natural and it was done because Uddhav and Sharad Pawar met Sonia Gandhi," he added.

"MVA is a not permanent one. If Congress is not taken into confidence during the decision-making process, then we will also have to think over it," Patole said.

On Wednesday night, the NCP delegation met Thackeray at the latter's residence Matoshree in Mumbai. "We hadn't met him (Thackeray) after he stepped down from the CM's post. Many issues, including some political ones, were discussed," NCP state chief

Jayant Patil told mediapersons.

On Congress' position about Danve's selection, Patil said the MVA stands united and a meeting will be held with Patole once he returns to Mumbai. According to sources, Congress and NCP are wary about more defections from the Sena and especially, from the state Council. As per the number strength in the Legislative Council, Opposition Sena has 12 members while NCP and Congress have 10 each. "Though Uddhav has announced that he will resign from the Council, his resignation is yet

to be submitted. It ensures that Sena remains the biggest Opposition party in the Council," a source said. However, three Sena MLCs have reportedly shifted allegiance to the Shinde camp and are likely to join the faction soon.

"In that case, the Congress will get the leader of Opposition's post. We wanted to discuss all of this and then decide on the name. But Sena went ahead without taking us into confidence," said a Congress leader.

On August 8, Thackeray had sent a letter to the chairman of the Legislative Council, recommending Danve's name as the leader of Opposition. Since the post is vacant, it was accepted by Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe – a Sena leader and Thackeray loyalist. The next day, Danve's appointment was confirmed. Congress Legislative Party leader Balasaheb Thorat had written to the chairman of the Legislative Council on August 3 staking claim to the post.

The Thackeray-led Sena, however, downplayed Patole's statement. "We don't take Nana Patole's statement seriously but it is unfortunate that he made such a critical juncture," Sena MP Vinayak Raut told *The Indian Express*.



RAKHI GIFT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi gives a Tricolour to a girl who tied him a rakhi during Raksha Bandhan celebrations, in New Delhi, Thursday. Modi celebrated the day with the daughters of his office staffers and gave them a national flag each for the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' programme. *PTI*

COAL SMUGGLING CASE

ED summons 8 Bengal IPS officers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 11

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has summoned eight senior police officers of West Bengal to New Delhi for questioning in the coal smuggling case, officials said on Thursday.

Among the IPS officers summoned by the central agency were Gyanwant Singh (ADG, CID), Koteswara Rao, S Selvamurugan, Shyam Singh, Rajeev Mishra, Sukesh Kumar Jain and Tathagata Basu, they said.

The IPS officers have been given specific dates to appear before the ED at its New Delhi office,

they added. "These IPS officers played crucial role in the coal smuggling case. There is evidence that these officers benefited from the scam. All of them were posted in areas where the smuggling happened," the ED official said.

Seven of these eight officers were summoned by the ED last year as well.

THE PATNA POWERSHIFT

Behind Nitish break-up with BJP: Sidelining of Sushil Modi, absence of 'Jaitley channel'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 11

AFTER FORMING the Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance) government and taking oath as the Bihar Chief Minister for a record eighth time Wednesday, a day after he walked out of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) again, Janata Dal (United) supremo Nitish Kumar said that if BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi had been his deputy CM the situation leading to his snapping ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would not have arisen.

The BJP, which was stunned by Nitish's move, pushed Sushil, 70, to the margins of the Bihar political scene despite the fact that the latter had enjoyed a warm and close relationship with the CM in their successive coalition governments as his deputy from November 2005 to June 2013 and again from July 2017 to December 2020. Nitish also had a seamless communication line with former Union minister late Arun Jaitley. The Bihar BJP circles then used to dub it as Nitish's "Jaitley channel". Sushil was also known to be close to Jaitley. So, the relations between

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar with Deputy CM Tejashwi Yadav at a function in Patna, Thursday. *PTI*

the two NDA allies had remained smooth at both the state and central levels.

However, their ties developed the first crack during the BJP National Executive meet held in Patna in 2010, when big advertisements were published in Bihar newspapers showing the then Gujarat CM and current Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar in the same frame from a picture from a 2009 Haryana rally. Upset by the ads, Nitish cancelled the dinner he was going to host for the visiting BJP leaders. Although the then ruling

JD(U)-BJP alliance had survived but some hiccups remained that eventually reached a breaking point in June 2013. But even then, Nitish had kept Sushil and Jaitley posted about his reservations about Modi's expected projection as the BJP-led NDA's PM candidate for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

But now, Nitish did not bother to share his concerns with the BJP central leadership and took them by surprise. Less than a month ago, on July 12, PM Modi shared stage with Nitish at a function held in Patna as part of the Bihar Assembly's centenary celebrations, where the latter welcomed the PM. PM Modi also praised Nitish, calling him a "popular leader" and a "valuable ally", highlighting his role in ensuring 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayat Raj institutions. A hint of a discord that the BJP leaders might have sensed was Nitish's move to skip four central dispensation-led meetings consecutively.

Yet, when Home Minister Amit Shah called up Nitish Monday, a day before he severed his alliance with the BJP, he reportedly told the former that there was "no issue". A JD(U) leader said: "Even though Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan came to meet Nitish recently and PM, Shah and Nadda would intermittently call him up, there used to be no warmth in his communications."

He said, "Nitish and Sushil entered politics through JP Movement in 1970s. In the course of their partnership, if there was any communal incident, Nitish would call up Sushil and another BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav to help him defuse it. But with the present BJP leaders, there was a huge communication gap."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

At native village, locals still have faith in Nitish but some doubt his post-poll vaults

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NALANDA, AUGUST 11

THE BOARD abutting the concrete lane leading up to Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ancestral home at Kalyan Bigaha village, in Nalanda district, gives a taste of the sense of pride among residents over the 'local boy'. It reads: "Kalyan Bigaha ke laal, aapne kar diya kamaal! Aap hi vikas purush, aap hi Nitish Kumar (Oh, son of Kalyan Bigaha, you have pulled off a wonder! You are the development man, you are Nitish Kumar)."

The JD(U) leader's frequent political flip-flops, however, seem to be beginning to make people here somewhat restless.

"We trust whatever Nitish-jii does. The same thing happened in Maharashtra, too. What's wrong here?" said Sudender Singh, 60, a farmer from Kurmi community, which Nitish belongs to.

Sudender was talking about the BJP walking away with most Shiv Sena MLAs, and the government, in Maharashtra.

Brakes Kumar, 50, another Kurmi farmer, however, was dis-

A poster hailing Nitish Kumar's 15 years as CM, on way to his ancestral home at Kalyan Bigaha village, in Nalanda. *Express*

missive: "Nitish-jii has become a thali ka baigan (fickle-minded). It is increasingly becoming difficult to trust him. Aisa lagta hai baraati koi bhii ho, dulha ek hi rahega (it appears the groom will remain the same in every wedding). I don't think this alliance will last long."

Raja Malik, 27, who comes from Dom community, a SC sub-caste, pitched in: "Everyone in this village, and even in this region, supports Nitish Kumar. But in their heart, people feel he should not have broken the alliance with BJP."

PUNJAB

Speaker apologises after security staff assault truck driver

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AMRITSAR, AUGUST 11

THE SECURITY personnel attached with Punjab Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan Thursday thrashed a truck driver near Amritsar after the he allegedly rammed his vehicle into the Aam Aadmi Party leader's car. As a purported video of the incident, which took place on the Amritsar-Jalandhar bypass road near Daburji village, went viral, the Speaker tendered an apology for his staff's behaviour but demanded an independent probe into the incident.

As per the eyewitnesses, a truck loaded with onions scratched against the Speaker's car. Only one stretch of the road, where the incident took place, was operational as some repair work was underway on the other side. As a result, it was tough for the truck driver to give safe passage to the Speaker's cavalcade, eyewitnesses said.

They said, the security personnel moving with Speaker first thrashed the truck driver inside the vehicle's cabin and then pulled him out and beat him up in full public view.

As the video of the incident went viral, Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira took a dig at the AAP government in state. "I have been told that security personnel the Speaker beat up



Kultar Singh Sandhwan

the driver of a truck merely for not giving way to their cavalcade! These are leaders of Aam Aadmi Party who promised no security etc but are now thrashing people on petty issues," Khaira said in a tweet.

In a press note, Amritsar district administration said that Sandhwan escaped unhurt after a truck driver rammed the truck into the Speaker's car.

"The security guards of Speaker had heated arguments with driver but adopting a humane approach Sandhwan apologised for their behaviour. He (sandhwan) said that every driver must behave properly on road and follow the traffic rules," the statement read.

Later, Sandhwan demanded an independent enquiry into the accident. "On my way to Amritsar Sahib, the car in which I was traveling was hit by a truck. I am thankful to God that I was saved. My security personnel had an argument with the truck driver, I apologize. But it is very important to investigate such negligence causing danger to life," the Speaker said in a tweet.

Punjab CM revises sand rate by reverting price cut effected by Channi

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 11

THE AAP government Thursday gave its nod to revise rates of sand to Rs 9 per cubic feet, nine months after former Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi had slashed the price of the construction essential to Rs 5.50 per cubic feet. The rates of sand at the pit-head, before Channi effected the spike, was Rs 9 per cubic feet.

The AAP government also fixed the maximum retail price of gravel at Rs 20 per cubic feet. The rates of sand and gravel have been revised by amending the Sand and Gravel Mining Policy. The amendment was approved in a Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

The Cabinet also approved a new policy for crusher units and decided to impose an environment charge of Rs 1 per cubic feet on output material, which will fetch Rs 225 crore to the state exchequer. Addressing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Mines

Minister Harjot Singh Bains said the rate of sand has been revised as the state government was losing revenue even as the common masses were not benefitting with the existing policy and rates.

"The previous government had taken a cosmetic measure. Nobody ever got sand at the rate of Rs 5.50 per cubic feet. When we checked the files, we found the state government's royalty was reduced from Rs 2.40 to 70 paise. It was made to appear that the contractors were bearing the difference. However, the contractors' share was not affected. Of the Rs 3.50 that was slashed, nearly Rs 2.50 was from the state exchequer's share. The price of sand remained unaffected but the contractors benefitted by pocketing state's share of royalty," said Bains.

He said the government will make officials from mining department sit at the pithead to ensure people got sand at Rs 9 per cubic feet and the state got its royalty. He said the consumers would have to pay the transportation charges.

Dharmaveer Paswan, a motorbike mechanic at Hamaut bazaar, a few kilometers from Kalyan Bigaha.

Laddoo Singh of Kharuara village near Bakhtiyarpur also acknowledged the Yadav factor as a "challenge". Singh, who belongs to Kurmi caste, said: "If a tree is laden with fruit, it must remain flexible. Otherwise it will snap at the first gust of wind. So the challenge will be to control the Yadavs. I was telling some Yadavs in our village to not start flying high, else this experiment will also fail."

Reminded that the Grand Alliance governed for two years earlier, Paswan said, "Nitish-jii was an equal partner then. He is a junior (partner) now."

Paswan's neighbour Basant Prasad Yadav, who runs a sweet shop in Hamaut market, was more dismissive. He said, "Nitish Kumar is finished. From 'Paltu Ram' (turncoat), he has become 'Bhatku Ram' (aimless person). He should have become deputy CM and let Tejashwi Yadav be the CM. You should know your strengths and accordingly demand a post — he should have been deputy CM even in the last alliance (with BJP)..."

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

TMC's Anubrata Mondal held after skipping CBI summons

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10 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

HIMACHAL PRADESH No-trust motion is defeated

Shimla: A no-confidence motion moved by Congress and CPI-M against the Jai Ram Thakur government was defeated by voice vote in the Assembly Thursday. The motion was moved just 4 months before the state goes to polls. Opposition MLAs walked out during the CM's reply to the debate on the motion. The Opposition also targeted the BJP government over law and order, jobs and price rise. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH Four drown as boat capsizes

Banda: At least four people drowned and several others were missing after a boat carrying over 30 people capsized in the Yamuna on Thursday, police said. Additional SP Lakshmi Niwas Mishra said seven to eight people swam to safety, but many are feared drowned. The boat was travelling from Marka to Jarauli Ghat in Fatehpur district. **PTI**

ODISHA Compensate for girl's death: HC

Cuttack: The Odisha High Court directed the state government on Thursday to pay Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the father of a seven-year-old girl for her "avoidable" death due to a wall collapse at a school in Keonjhar district nine years ago. The victim, Raimati Soren was a resident of Kolhabeda Ashram School hostel. In 2013, a wall collapsed, crushing her under the debris. **PTI**

MADHYA PRADESH Two booked for ruckus at temple

Bhopal: Two people have been booked by the police in Madhya Pradesh's Ujjain district for creating ruckus and forcefully entering the restricted Nandi Hall of Mahakaleshwar temple during Tejasvi Surya's visit, national president of BJP's Yuva Morcha. The incident took place on Wednesday when Surya visited the temple. In a video that went viral, a mob can be seen breaking the barricading. **ENS**

MAHARASHTRA Man behind temple theft held

Mumbai: A 32-year-old man was arrested by the Shivaji Nagar police for allegedly committing a theft in a temple at Govandi. The accused, identified as Akhtar Haider Ansari, escaped with two idols of Hanuman and goddess Durga, as well as a brass metal plate. The stolen items were recovered after his arrest. Police said the theft took place early on August 3. **ENS**

FOUR SOLDIERS KILLED IN J&K MILITANT ATTACK

A last call before line got cut, an unanswered call on fateful morning – tale of kin left behind

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, CHANDIGARH, CHENNAI, GURGAON, AUG 11

HOURS BEFORE he succumbed to militants' bullets in the early hours of Thursday, Subedar Rajendra Prasad Bhamboo, 48, had spoken with his daughter on a video call, before hanging up due to poor cell-phone network. "Around 5 am today, we were informed that he was injured. We were subsequently told that he had passed away," Bhamboo's younger brother, Rajesh, a government school teacher, said.

Rifleman Nishant Malik, 21, spoke with his family, based in Hansi town of Haryana's Hisar district, on a video call on Wednesday. On Thursday morning, his sister dialled Malik's number — it was the day of Raksha Bandhan. There



Security personnel near the encounter site in Darhal, Rajouri. PTI

was no response. "In the evening, his father was informed about Nishant's martyrdom," a family friend, Ranbir Malik, a sub-divisional officer (public health) posted at Hansi, said.

At T Pudurpatti village, in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, Rifleman D Lakshmanan's twin brother,

Ramu, said they both wanted to join the forces and had worked hard to prepare for the recruitment process. "Lakshmanan alone cleared the recruitment. We were proud of him..." Ramu told media.

Rifleman Manoj Kumar, from Shahjahanpur village in Haryana's Faridabad district, had joined the

Army two years ago. Youngest of four siblings in the family, Kumar got married in November 2021. Sube Singh, spokesperson of Faridabad police, said, Kumar's family was informed about his death early Thursday morning, Singh added.

For four families in three different corners of India, life suddenly lost meaning on Thursday with the soldiers' death in a militant attack at an Army camp in J&K's Rajouri district.

Back in Maligaon village, in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district, Bhamboo's brother said he was due to retire in February 2023. "He was also to be promoted before that. He had come home for a month, before returning to J&K... His daughter was supposed to get married in March next year, after his retirement," Rajesh said.

"My father," Rajesh said, "is 80

years old. He was in the Army, and had served in the Jat regiment... I haven't mustered the courage to share the news with my parents."

Bhamboo is survived by two daughters and a son.

Rifleman Malik's family friend Ranbir said Nishant's father, Jaivir Malik, was also in the Army and had "received bullet injuries during Kargil war". Nishant, he said, had joined the Army around two-and-a-half years ago. "In July, he had appeared for his BA final year exam and returned to his unit on July 18," Ranbir said.

Nearly 2,700 km away, in the southern corner of India, Rifleman Lakshmanan's brother said the body is expected to arrive in the village on Saturday. After Lakshmanan left to join the forces, Ramu said, "I decided to support our parents, Dhammaraj and Andal, take care of our farmland."

JAMMU RECORDS WETTEST AUGUST DAY SINCE 2010



A vehicle buried in debris after a landslide triggered by heavy rainfall in Jammu, Thursday. PTI

Monsoon to remain active over central India till August 15: IMD

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, AUGUST 11

THE INDIA Meteorological Department (IMD) Thursday said prevailing active monsoon conditions will cause widespread heavy rain over central India regions.

IMD officials said there were multiple favourable weather systems influencing Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and

Gujarat, where rainfall activity will continue till Monday. These systems include low-pressure ones present over central Madhya Pradesh, a well-marked low pressure system over Gujarat, the monsoon trough running between these two systems and an off-shore trough running parallel along the coasts of Gujarat till Kerala. Besides, an east-west wind shear zone, where the monsoon winds remain active, also persists.

"The monsoon trough is likely to be active and oscillate

between its normal and southern position for the next five days," said the IMD in its weather bulletin issued on Thursday.

Parts of Jammu, which received heavy rain, remained among the country's wettest areas on the day. Jammu recorded 189.6 mm on Thursday, the highest for a single day in August since 2010, the IMD's rainfall data stated. Similarly, heavy rain was recorded at Udhampur (121.6mm) and Katra (77.8mm) on Thursday.

Karnataka cops arrest three for murder of BJP youth leader

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 11

AFTER A two-week search spanning multiple districts of Karnataka and neighbouring Kerala, the Dakshina Kannada police Thursday arrested three men who allegedly attacked and killed BJP youth leader Praveen Nettaru in the district last month.

The three accused are: Shihabuddin alias Shihab, 33, an agricultural product supplier; Riyaz Ankathadka, 27, a chicken supplier; and Bashir, 29, a hotel worker. They hail from Sullia and Puttur regions of Dakshina Kannada, police said.

"Today morning, the Dakshina Kannada police arrested the assailants who carried out the murder on July 26. They were arrested near Talapady check post (on the Kerala border)," Karnataka Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Alok Kumar said.

"We were aware of their identities and had gathered information about them. They were on the run, so there was a delay in the arrest," the ADGP said.

The total number of arrests in the case is now 10.

Seven persons were arrested earlier by the Dakshina Kannada police for allegedly providing logistical support for the murder in Bellare village, including the identification of Nettaru as a target.

Some of the accused persons have links to the Popular Front of India and the Social Democratic Party of India and these links are being investigated, said the police official.

"We also have to find out exactly why the murder was carried out. We have a vague idea of why it was done. The NIA is also working with us. We were waiting for the completion of the in-



Praveen Nettaru was killed in Dakshina Kannada district on July 26. Express

vestigation to hand over the case," ADGP Kumar said.

Three days after the murder, on July 29, the Karnataka government decided to hand over the investigation of the case to the National Investigation Agency. The Karnataka police, however, continued the investigation after obtaining leads on the assailants.

The ADGP indicated that the planning began around a week before the incident. Another killing that occurred in Bellare village on July 19 — that of a Muslim youth named Masood B — has been speculated to be the point of origin of the Nettaru murder plan.

One of the accused arrested for providing logistical support knew the BJP leader well, police said. "The accused Shafiq's father Ibrahim used to work for Praveen. He was employed in the Akshaya Fresh Farm Chicken Shop until three months prior to the murder," the ADGP said.

After the Nettaru murder, Karnataka minister C N Ashwathnarayan suggested the use of police encounters against the assailants. This came after right-wing workers expressed anger against the party. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai also said the "Yogi model" may be used in Karnataka.

GUJARAT: 2019 MIGRANT WORKER DEATH

Son of 'custodial death victim' alleges death threat by accused cop

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
VADODARA, AUGUST 11

THE SON of a migrant worker from Telangana, who allegedly died in police custody in Vadodara in 2019, Wednesday approached the Gotri police station, complaining of death threat against him by one of the six accused police personnel.

Salim, son of Babu Shaikh Nisar, 65, who allegedly died in custody at the Fatehgunj police station in Vadodara on December 10, 2019, was present in the Vadodara district court on Wednesday to submit an affidavit seeking expedition of the trial in the alleged custodial death of his father.

Salim told police that the accused accosted him near the parking area and issued a death threat in the presence of police.

Salim stated, "Today

(Wednesday), I was present in the sessions court... After the hearing was adjourned, I was waiting near the parking when one of the accused — Rajesh Savji Gadchar alias Raju Rabari — was passing by, escorted by police... He threatened me saying he will kill me."

A senior official of the Vadodara city police said that Salim's application was being "seriously looked into" and a probe would be initiated.

Nisar, who had arrived in Vadodara to sell bedsheets, allegedly went missing on December 10, 2019, after he was apprehended in Fulwadi area by personnel from Fatehgunj police station on suspicion of theft.

The CID has said Nisar "has expired and his body is yet to be recovered". It has said that of the eight accused policemen, six who are in judicial custody have been "uncooperative".

I-T Dept 'baaratis' seize Rs 56 crore cash, gold worth Rs 14 crore in raids on two Maharashtra businessmen



Officials during the raid in Jalna on Thursday. PTI

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

THEY LEFT for Maharashtra's Jalna in around 120 vehicles on August 3, taking care to leave separately. All the vehicles were decked up. Some carried boards declaring "dulhan hum le jayenge". Others had posters saying "Rahul weds Anjali".

One would be forgiven for assuming that this was a usual bridegroom *baarat* making its way to a wedding of a familiar-sounding couple. It was anything but.

The around 250 travellers were Income Tax Department and local police officers, disguised as *baraatis*, and on their radar were two major manufacturers of steel TMT bars, suspected of evading tax.

Once they entered Jalna, they conducted raids at the premises, warehouses and farmhouses linked to the two businessmen. It took them over 11 hours to count the money seized at a local SBI branch, said an officer.

The department also raided properties associated with the businessmen in Aurangabad, Nashik and Mumbai between

August 3 and 9, the I-T Department said in a statement.

The elaborate ruse was worth it. In all, the officers ended up seizing Rs 56 crore in unaccounted cash as well as gold and jewellery worth Rs 14 crore, along with incriminating documents, the statement said.

According to the I-T Department, the two businessmen evaded tax of more than Rs 120 crore.

The stash of cash and jewellery was kept in more than 30 accounts of a cooperative bank and inside an undisclosed chamber of a farmhouse.

The I-T statement said: "The Income-Tax Department carried out a search operation on 03.08.2022 on two major groups engaged in the manufacturing of steel TMT Bars. The search operation covered more than 30 premises spread over Jalna, Aurangabad, Nashik and Mumbai."

"The initial analysis of seized evidence of both the groups has revealed that they were engaged in large scale tax evasion, resorting to inflation of expenditure through bogus purchases from several entities. These entities have also been found to be involved in GST frauds."

of a petty thief and his run-ins with the police and legal system. Though the movie has only a passing reference to potholes, it's the poster that has got the goat of supporters of the CPI(M)-led Left Front government in the state, with calls on social media for a boycott of the movie.

Prem Kumar, a prominent pro-CPI(M) voice on television debates, took to Facebook to say, "It has been made with a clear agenda to insult those who try to work hard. By advertising this poster, distributors of this movie have demonstrated that they are part of an anti-people front. It is a campaign against a democratically elected government. I have changed my mind about watching this movie."



Poster of Nna Thaana Case Kodu

Advocate Resmitha Ramachandran, another prominent pro-Left voice, shared the poster on her Facebook page, along with a message: "I had

hoped to watch this movie. But I have changed my decision. I will watch it only after this advertisement is withdrawn and those in charge tender an apology."

Congress legislator and Opposition Leader V D Satheesan hit back, questioning the Left's attack on the poster. "Those who claim to be champions of freedom of expression have come out against a film poster. It shows that they won't spare anyone who criticises them. If the poster talks about potholes on Kerala roads, it should be seen as the filmmaker's expression of free speech," he said.

Reacting to the boycott calls, Malayalam novelist Benyamin said on Facebook, "If you are afraid of a film advertisement, then you need to understand that some-

thing is seriously wrong with you. I have decided I'll go to the theatre to watch the movie."

Just as the online debate gained momentum, CPI(M) leader and PWD Minister Mohammed Riyas stepped in, leaving the cyber-attackers confused. "I see it as constructive criticism. It is a film poster and should be seen as such," he said.

The poster pressed all the wrong buttons considering it came in the backdrop of a controversy over the state's roads that have been ravaged by the monsoons and which have claimed a few lives in recent weeks. Last week, a two-wheeler rider died in an accident after his bike fell into a pothole on the Thrissur-Kochi stretch of National Highway 544,

which is a tolled corridor. Subsequently, the CPI(M) and BJP had engaged in a blame game.

As Public Works Minister Mohammed Riyas blamed the Centre for the lack of maintenance of national highways, BJP leader from Kerala and Union Minister V Murali ledharan said the state had not brought up the issue.

On Tuesday, the Kerala High Court took suo motu action on the rider's death, directing the NHAI and collectors of Thrissur and Emakulam to repair highway potholes within a week.

There have been several social media memes over the poor condition of roads, including of people fishing in potholes. Two youths recently took their protest a step further: by stripping down to their

towels and bathing in a pothole on a road connecting Pandikad in Malappuram to Palakkad district. U A Latheef, MLA of the Opposition Indian Union Muslim League, is seen arriving at the scene and asking the protesters to plant plantains in the crater.

Last month, the Opposition had walked out of the Assembly after a debate on the condition of roads. While Congress MLA Eldose Kunnappillil had blamed lack of coordination between agencies and underfunding, minister Riyas said Kerala has 3 lakh km of roads, of which the PWD maintains only under 30,000 km.

In 2019, the Palarivattom fly-over in Kochi, constructed at a cost of Rs 39 crore, had to be closed for traffic after it developed cracks,

barely three years after its inauguration. In 2020, a bridge under construction collapsed along the NH bypass stretch at Thalassery in North Kerala. This year, another under-construction bridge on a state PWD road collapsed in Kozhikode.

Actor Boban said, "The movie is not targeted at any party or the government. All parties should understand the issues faced by the common man. I enjoyed the poster. Once you watch the film, you will understand the issue the poster talks about."

Producer Santhosh T Kuruvilla told *The Indian Express*, "This movie was registered in 2018... It's a story of the pit in this movie. We explained this to the minister and he was convinced."

2017 ABDUCTION-ASSAULT CASE

Actress getting more film offers after crime against her: PC George

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 11

CONTROVERSIAL KERALA politician PC George on Thursday said the woman actor who was allegedly abducted and sexually assaulted in 2017 had benefited from the incident, as she "got more opportunities" in the film industry after the crime was committed against her.

Addressing the media in Kottayam, George said that the victim is getting offers to act in many films. For her, he claimed, the loss was only in her personal life, "if the incident was true".

"But following the case, she got more opportunities to act in films. She is the only person who benefited from the case," George said.

Earlier, months after the incident was reported, George had backed Malayalam actor Dileep, who is accused of conspiring the abduction and assault. The former legislator had then said, "It is my



P C George

responsibility to stand with the truth. It is sad to see that an innocent Dileep had to spend 85 days in jail (judicial custody)."

George was arrested recently in a sexual assault case, and in a case of hate speech against the Muslim community.

Meanwhile, the special court in Kochi, where the trial of the 2017 abduction and assault case is being heard, on Thursday came down on the investigating officer, Deputy Superintendent of Police Bajju Paulose, and said the officer is skipping court proceedings and had been trying to obtain documents from the court using his subordinates.

The prosecution had earlier sought further probe into the case when examination of the investigating officer was scheduled in trial court.

COURT FOCUSES ON RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Why seek personal financial details of ex-minister at primary stage: HC to ED

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 11

OBSERVING THAT a person's right to privacy cannot be breached without following the "procedure established by law", the Kerala High Court on Thursday asked Enforcement Directorate (ED) to explain why it had sought details of personal assets of former state minister Thomas Isaac "at the preliminary stage itself", in its probe into alleged FEMA violations at KIIFB.

The bench of Justice V G Arun made the oral observations while considering a petition moved by Isaac against ED summons to him regarding the central agency's probe into alleged violations of financial dealings at the Board. As then state Finance minister, Isaac was ex officio vice-chairman of Kerala Infrastructure Investment Board (KIIB).

In a reprieve for Isaac, the court said he need not appear before ED until next Wednesday. The court also posted Isaac's pe-



Former Kerala minister Thomas Isaac. File

tion for further hearing that day.

The agency had asked Isaac to appear before the probe officer on Thursday.

During the hearing, the court also asked Isaac why he cannot be questioned if ED has any doubts. It asked whether a person cannot be summoned by the agency as a witness, and not as a suspect.

In response, Isaac's lawyer told the court that the only doubt ED has is whether he should be questioned, and added that the CPI(M) leader was being treated as a suspect. The lawyer said ED has not clarified in its summons the alleged violation committed by Isaac.

In his petition, Isaac stated

that ED had sought details of his assets — both movable and immovable — as also those of his family members. The agency had also asked for his Income Tax returns and details of financial transactions, according to Isaac's plea.

The court said Isaac has a right to privacy, and that cannot be breached without following the procedure established by law. The court then asked of the ED, "At the first instance, at the preliminary stage itself, can you ask for all these details? What is the material before you to decide that all these materials should be produced? I want an answer why you need all these documents."

The ED submitted that Isaac was served notice not as an accused but as a witness, and that the agency wants him to cooperate with the investigation and turn up before the investigating officer.

Isaac was asked to appear before ED on Thursday (August 11) in connection with the probe into the alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) at KIIFB, the state

government's flagship entity for mobilising funds for infrastructure projects.

Earlier, the agency had registered a case and served notices to top Board officials. The case is related to alleged FEMA violations in connection with KIIFB raising Rs 2,150 crore masala bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange. The ED has stated that prima facie, there are violations of FEMA.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led Union government, Isaac, earlier in the day, said that they were using the ED as a "political tool" to "isolate, arrest or detain their opponents or topple state governments ruled by opposition".

Throwing his weight behind Isaac, Congress leader V D Satheesan said the agency cannot probe foreign financial dealings and its notices to the CPI(M) leader were of no relevance, PTI reported.

BJP state president K Surendran criticised both the CPI(M) and the Congress, questioning why Satheesan was trying to rescue the CPI(M) leader.

Dhankhar takes over as 14th Vice-President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR was on Thursday sworn in as the 14th Vice-President of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath to Dhankhar (71) during a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. Dhankhar took the oath in Hindi in the name of god.

"Bahut-bahut badhai (many congratulations)," Murmu said after Dhankhar signed the register of oath.

PM Narendra Modi, Dhankhar's predecessor M Venkaiah Naidu, former president Ram Nath Kovind, former vice president M Hamid Ansari, and Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman and Nitin Gadkari were among those present on the occasion.

In the morning, Dhankhar paid tributes at Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. "Felt blessed, inspired and motivated to be ever in service of Bharat in serene sublimity of Raj Ghat while paying respects to pu-jya Bapu," he tweeted then.

Dhankhar was declared

elected as the Vice-President on Saturday after he bagged 528 votes against his rival candidate Margaret Alva's 182.

A man of many interests, his long legal career at the Rajasthan High Court and the Supreme Court and a brief stint as the junior parliamentary affairs minister at the Centre will come in handy as he presides over Rajya Sabha as its chairman.

While Dhankhar's surprise appointment as the West Bengal governor in 2019 brought him back to the political limelight, he did not shy away from the hurly-burly of politics and was caught in frequent run-ins with the state's ruling Trinamool Congress.

The BJP described Dhankhar as a "kisan putra" while announcing his candidature for the vice presidential election, a move seen in political circles as aimed at reaching out to the politically significant Jat community which had participated in huge numbers in the year-long farmers' protests on the borders of the national capital against agriculture reform measures unveiled in June 2020.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I,NO-15705638P,Hav Anoop.B S/O- Late Balakrishna Kurup,Residing at Karthika (House),Pollathai, Kalavoor,(VII)Ambalapuzha (Taluk),Alappuzha (District) Kerala, Pin-688522. In my service records the name of my wife has been wrongly mentioned as Dhanlekshmi.G instead of Dhanalekshmi.G as in Aadhaar Card. It need corrections. Objections be filled to concerned authorities within seven days.

0020443692-1

I, Kunal S/o Arvind Kumar Jain R/o C-153, New Panchvati Colony, Ghaziabad have Changed my name to Kunal Jain. 0070798989-1

I Rattan Singh Gahlaut, S/o Late Sheo Lal Gahlot, R/o House No.97 Dabri Village New Delhi 110045 have change my name to Rattan Singh Gahlot

0070799015-1

I Vikas Kataria S/o Mukesh Kumar Kataria R/o H.no 2718 F-block Omaxe City Near Mapple Bear School Sector 9 Sonipat Haryana- 131001 have changed my name to Vikas Kumar Kataria. 00707989976-1

I Vishal S/o Naveen Kumar R/o- 346, Sector-7A, Faridabad, Haryana-121006 have changed my name to Vishal Aggarwal for all future Purposes 0070798974-1

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : CKP-SOUTH-22-23-09, dated 10.08.2022. e-Tenders against Open Tender are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Chakradharpur, S.E. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Name of Work : Dangoposi-Banspani TBR (Through Ballast renewal) - 12.392 km & TBR (In Turnouts) - 28 Nos.) (2nd call). Tender Value : ₹ 1,09,95,592.54. EMD : ₹ 2,05,000/-, Cost of Tender form : 0.00. Date of opening: 05.09.2022. The tender can be viewed at website <http://www.irops.gov.in> The tenderer/bidder must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. (PR-462)

"IMPORTANT" Whilst care is taken prior to acceptance of advertising copy, it is not possible to verify its contents. The Indian Express (P) Limited cannot be held responsible for such contents, nor for any loss or damage incurred as a result of transactions with companies, associations or individuals advertising in its newspapers or Publications. We therefore recommend that readers make necessary inquiries before sending any monies or entering into any agreements with advertisers or otherwise acting on an advertisement in any manner whatsoever.

Advvt. No.-89/2022

Government of India

Public Enterprises Selection Board

invites applications for the post of

Director (Technical)

in

Bharat Coking Coal Limited

Last date of receipt of applications in

PESB is by 15.00 hours on

17th October, 2022

For details login to website

<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - West Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI-West/TEND/07/2022-23 Date: 11-08-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - West Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Restoration of Road Cut Portion by BWSSB / BSNL / BESCOM / KPTCL in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads of Govindarajanagar, Chamaraipet, Rajajinagar, Mahalakshmi Layout, Malleshwaram and Gandhinagar Constituency Area of RI-West Division for the year 2020-21 (November-2020-July-21)	106.00	2.00

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 12-08-2022. 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on 19-08-2022 at 15.00 Hrs. at the Office of the Chief Engineer, Road Infrastructure, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Head Office, Bengaluru - 560002. 3) Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 26-08-2022. 4) Technical Bids will be Opened on 29-08-2022 at 16.30 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-West Division, Annex Building, No.3, Room No.101, 1st Floor, N.R. Square, BBMP. Further details can be had from the above office

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-West Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC. BE AWARE

Wear Mask 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

Vayoshreshtha Samman
Inviting nomination for National Award,2022

The last date for receipt of nominations is 29th August, 2022

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India invites nominations on the National Awards portal (<https://awards.gov.in/>) for conferment of "Vayoshreshtha Samman (National Award)", 2022 for eminent senior citizens and institutions involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons, especially indigent senior citizens.

►Detailed eligibility criteria, proforma for nomination for the Awards and the procedure for nomination etc., are available on the website of the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment as indicated <http://socialjustice.gov.in>.

►Nominations in the prescribed proforma complete in all respects with the requisite supporting documents of the nominee, photograph and bio-data of the nominee (in the case of individual category), may be uploaded on <https://awards.gov.in/>. No physical applications shall be entertained.

►The last date for receipt of nominations is 29th August, 2022. Self nominations and applications from individuals or institutions not recommended by the prescribed agencies/individuals will not be entertained and shall be liable to be summarily rejected.

CBC 38101/11/0023/2223

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
DEPARTMENT OF POWER
(ENERGY BRANCH)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR (TECHNICAL) IN PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

For details, login to:
www.punjab.gov.in, www.pspcl.in and www.pserc.gov.in

Last Date For Receipt of Applications is 12.09.2022 upto 05.00 P.M.

16270/Pb

Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Limited
(Subsidiary of MPBCDC, a Government of Maharashtra undertaking)

MAHATMA PHULE RENEWABLE ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNOLOGY LIMITED (MAHAPREIT) Invites Online Applications for Request for Qualification (RFQ) as A Selection Procedure of Eligible Contractors / Bidder, for Construction of **DIGITECH PARK AND DATA CENTER** Project on EPC Basis. Last Date of Submission of RFQ - 16/09/2022 For additional details, please visit www.mahapreit.in

Executive Director (Admin)

TATA
TATA STEEL LIMITED

Registered Office: Bombay House, 24, Homi Mody Street, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001, India
Tel.: +91 22 6665 8282
Email: cosec@tatasteel.com Website: www.tatasteel.com
CIN: L27100MH1907PLC000260

POSTAL BALLOT NOTICE AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

Notice is hereby given that Tata Steel Limited ('the Company') is seeking approval of the Members of the Company by way of postal ballot through remote e-voting on the following 4 resolution(s):

SN	Description of Resolutions
Ordinary Resolutions:	
1	Omnibus Material Related Party Transaction(s) with Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited – Operational Transaction(s)
2	One time Material Related Party Transaction(s) with Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited – Financial Transaction(s)
3	Omnibus Material Related Party Transaction(s) between T S Global Procurement Company Pte. Ltd., an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited and Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, an indirect subsidiary of Tata Steel Limited
4	Omnibus Material Related Party Transaction(s) between Tata Steel Limited and Tata Metaliks Limited – Financial Transaction

The Postal Ballot Notice ('Notice') is available on the website of the Company at <https://www.tatasteel.com/investors/investor-information/postal-ballot/>, the website of the National Securities Depository Limited ('NSDL') at www.evoting.nsdl.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges on which the equity shares of the Company are listed i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com.

In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, and the General Circular Nos. 14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020, 33/2020 dated September 28, 2020, 39/2020 dated December 31, 2020, 10/2021 dated June 23, 2021, 20/2021 dated December 8, 2021 and 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022, issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (collectively called '**MCA Circulars**'), the Company has sent the postal ballot notice on Thursday, August 11, 2022, only through electronic mode, to those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the Company/Depositories and whose names are recorded in the Register of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on **Friday, August 5, 2022 ('Cut-off date')**. Accordingly, physical copy of the Notice along with Postal Ballot Form and pre-paid business reply envelope has not been sent to the Members for this Postal Ballot.

The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide remote e-voting facility to its Members. The remote e-voting period commences on **Tuesday, August 16, 2022 from 9.00 a.m. (IST)** and ends on **Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 5.00 p.m. (IST)**. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter. Voting rights of the Members shall be in proportion to the shares held by them in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Cut-off date. Once vote on a resolution is cast, the Member will not be able to change it subsequently. Please note that communication of assent or dissent of the Members would only take place through the remote e-voting system. Only those Members whose names are recorded in the Register of Members of the Company or in the Register of Beneficial Owners maintained by the Depositories as on the Cut-off date will be entitled to cast their votes by remote e-voting.

To facilitate Members to receive this Notice electronically, the Company has made arrangements with its Registrar and Transfer Agent, TSR Consultants Private Limited ('RTA') for registration of e-mail addresses in terms of the MCA Circulars. Members who have not registered their e-mail addresses with the Company may register the same with the RTA on or before **5:00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, September 7, 2022**, basis which, the NSDL will provide the Member with copy of the Notice. The procedure to register e-mail address with the RTA and the procedure for remote e-voting is provided in the Notice.

In case of any queries, you may refer the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Shareholders and e-voting user manual for Shareholders available at the download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or call on toll free no.: 1800 1020 990 and 1800 22 44 30 or send a request to Mr. Amit Vishal, Asst. Vice-President, NSDL or Mr. Sanjeev Yadav, Asst. Manager, NSDL at evoting@nsdl.co.in or at NSDL, 4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013.

The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Mr. P. N. Parikh (Membership No. FCS 327, CP No. 1228) or failing him, Ms. Jigyasa N. Ved (Membership No. FCS 6488, CP No. 6018) or failing her, Mr. Mitesh Dhabliwala (Membership No. FCS 8331, CP No. 9511) of Parikh & Associates, Practicing Company Secretaries, as the Scrutinizer to scrutinize the postal ballot process in a fair and transparent manner.

The Scrutinizer will submit his report to the Chairman of the Company, or any other person authorized by him, **on or before Friday, September 16, 2022**. The results of the voting conducted by Postal Ballot along with the Scrutinizer's Report will be made available on the website of the Company at www.tatasteel.com and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com and intimated to BSE Limited ('BSE') and the National Stock Exchange of the India Limited ('NSE'), where the equity shares of the Company are listed, on or before Friday, September 16, 2022. Additionally, the result will also be placed on the notice board at the Registered Office of the Company.

Tata Steel Limited
Sd/-
Parvathesam Kanchinadham
Company Secretary &
Chief Legal Officer (Corporate & Compliance)
Membership No. ACS: 15921

August 11, 2022
Mumbai

TATA STEEL

New Delhi

E-TENDER PRESS NOTICE

The EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD-XIII, I&FC Department Govt. of Delhi, on behalf of the President of India, invites Online Percentage rate tender from the approved and eligible contractors registered with IRRIGATION AND FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT. The contractors who are registered with other department and now got their registrations verified from I&FC Deptt. Are eligible to participate in Tender process for the work:-

- NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2022-23/55 (ID No. 2022_IFC_227307_1) Major Head of Account: 2711 (Revenue) Name Work: Plantation of trees in Kh. No. 55/13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 at village Hastsal. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 11,39,168/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 22,783/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 16-08-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
- NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2022-23/50 (2ndCall) (ID No. 2022_IFC_227313_1) Major Head of Account 4217 (MLA LAD) Name of Work: Improvement of existing Barat Ghar Chaupal near Ranbir Kharab house in village Mundella Khurd AC-35. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 26,95,346/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 53,907/-Time allowed 120 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 16-08-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
- NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2022-23/52 (2ndCall) (ID No. 2022_IFC_227309_1) Major Head of Account: 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Providing and laying of RCC pipe NP-3 class and de-silting of water body bearing Kh. No. 896 at village Jaffarpur in Najafgarh Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 29,77,830/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 59,557/- Time allowed 60 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 16-08-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
- NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2022-23/51 (3rdCall) (ID No. 2022_IFC_227324_1) Major Head of Account 2711 (Revenue) Name of Work: Construction of R.C.C retaining wall (in depression portion) on left bank B.C. Drain U/S RD 400. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 81,84,932/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 1,63,699/- Time allowed 365 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 16-08-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.
- NIT No. E.E/CD-13/Acs/2022-23/14 (3rdCall) (ID No. 2022_IFC_227318_1) Major Head of Account: 2711-(Revenue) Name of Work: Desilting of water body in Kh. No. 153 at village Dhansa in N. G. Block. Estimated Cost (in Rs.) 5,45,775/- Earnest Money (in Rs.) 10,916/- Time allowed 30 Days. Last date & time of receiving & opening of tender through E-Procurement System 16-08-2022 on 03.00 Hrs & 03.05 Hrs respectively.

Note:-

- Details of above mentioned works & eligibility criteria can be seen and downloaded from the web site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
- Amendment(s)/ alteration(s)/ corrigendum if any, will be available at website only.
- EMD in the form of Bankers Cheque/DD/Fixed Deposit receipt in/Fo EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt Shall be scanned and uploaded to the e-tender website within the period of bid submission. The original EMD should be deposited in the office of EE/CD-XIII, I&FC Deptt. Within the period of bid submission.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CD.XIII.
DIP/Shabdarth/0283-22-23

Dip in adoption numbers point to trafficking: House panel

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

CONCERNED OVER the declining number of children for adoption in the country, a Parliamentary panel has expressed apprehension that this may point to an illegal child adoption market and trafficking.

In its 118th Report on Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws, submitted to Parliament in the recently concluded Monsoon Session, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on personnel, public grievances, law and justice has noted "the paradoxical situation where on one hand there are a large number of parents willing to adopt a child, (and) on the other, there are not many children available for adoption".

The committee, chaired by BJP Rajya Sabha member Sushil Kumar Modi, noted that according to adoption statistics of Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), the number of children adopted within the country declined from 5,693 in 2010 to 3142 in 2020-21. The number of children taken in inter-country adoption decreased from 628 in 2010 to 417 in 2020-21.

This, the committee reported, "is a cause of grave concern".

"The committee expresses serious concern about decline in the number of children coming to adoption agencies over the years," the report highlighted. "This decline, by and large, points to trafficking or a thriving illegal child adoption market. The committee is of the view that there is a need to increase surveillance, especially on unregistered child care institutions and adoption agencies/hospitals with a past record of trafficking."

The report noted that as per information provided by CARA, 26,734 prospective adoptive parents were registered with CARA as on December 16, 2021, and were waiting for referral for inter-country adoption. Another 1,205

EXPLAINED
Preventing illegal adoptions

A LARGER pool of children should be available for placing them in adoption with families registering for adoption under law, the House panel has recommended in a bid to prevent illegal and informal adoptions. Besides, the time-frame stipulated for adoption under JJ Act is lengthy, and cutting down that wait time will keep prospective adoptive parents from taking any illegal or non-regular route.

prospective adoptive parents awaited inter-country adoption as of that day, the report observed.

As per information furnished by the Women and Child Development (WCD) Ministry, the report noted, the average time taken for prospective adoptive parents to get a referral for children in the age group of 0-4 years is approximately two years.

"The committee takes note of the paradoxical situation where on one hand there are a large number of parents willing to adopt a child, on the other, there are not many children available for adoption, all this while the 2020 World Orphan Report estimates the number of orphans in India at 31 million," the report stated.

"Also, as per information furnished by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, as per Census 2011 there are 55,258 child beggars in the age group of 0 to 19 years in the country," it added.

According to UNICEF, almost 10,000 children become orphans every day. There are about 140 million orphans in the world.

HC abolishes Karnataka ACB, shifts cases to Lokayukta

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 11

A DIVISION bench of Karnataka High Court on Thursday ordered abolishing the state government-controlled Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) police and revival of an anti-corruption police unit attached to the quasi-judicial institution Karnataka Lokayukta, which works independent of the state.

The bench of Justices B Veerappa and K S Hemalekha issued the order in the course of its judgment in a series of petitions filed against the creation of ACB, following allegations of deep corruption in Lokayukta.

ruption in Lokayukta.

The HC order quashed a notification issued by the then Congress government in the state on March 14, 2016, to create the ACB and also subsequent notifications transferring power to probe corruption cases under Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, from Karnataka Lokayukta police to the ACB.

The HC said that "the Anti Corruption Bureau is abolished" with this order.

"All inquiries, investigations and other disciplinary proceedings pending before ACB will get transferred to the Lokayukta. However, all inquiries, investigations, disciplinary proceedings, or-

ders of convictions/acquittals and all other proceedings held by ACB till today are hereby saved and the Police Wing of Karnataka Lokayukta shall proceed from the stage at which they are pending as on today, in accordance with law," the bench ruled.

The court said it is "high time" the state government strengthened the institution of Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta and got back their "glory". It observed that the institution of Lokayukta has been reduced to being "paper tigers" by the March 14, 2016 executive order to transfer police powers to ACB. The order for abolishing the ACB relates to cases filed in 2016

by the Advocates Association of Bengaluru, the Samaj Parivartana Samudaya, and advocate Chidananda Urs over Lokayukta powers being given to ACB.

The HC stated that "there was no necessity for the State Government to constitute ACB parallel to the institution of Lokayukta, that too when a person to be appointed as Lokayukta shall be a person who has held the office of a Judge of Supreme Court, or that of the Chief Justice of a High Court, or a person who has held the office of a Judge of a High Court for not less than ten years; and a person to be appointed a Upa-Lokayukta shall be a person who has held the office

of a Judge of a High Court for not less than five years."

The court said, "The Government Order constituting the ACB is unsustainable, suffers from mala fides and legal infirmities."

"The impugned executive order passed by the State Government has indirectly diluted the powers of Lokayukta, and the ACB cannot function either as a parallel body or an alternate body or substitute the Lokayukta. Therefore, the Government Order constituting the ACB for a function already being conferred on the Lokayukta is impermissible in law," the HC said.

"On careful perusal of the impugned executive Government Order, it also clearly depicts that the 'Hon'ble Chief Minister is the supreme' and there is no independent application of mind by the State Government before passing the impugned executive order," the court said. The order, it said, is based "only on the recommendation made by the DG & IG, thereby the executive order passed by the State Government cannot be sustained."

HC acknowledged Lokayukta had become a powerful institution and was plagued by internal corruption but observed that the solution to the problem was in cleaning the institution and not withdrawing its powers to probe.

WEST BENGAL

Couple stabs 4 of their family to death, woman held: Police

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 11

A WOMAN was arrested in Howrah district on Thursday for allegedly killing four members of her family, police said. Her husband Debraj, who is also allegedly involved in the crime, is on the run. The police identified the arrested accused as Pallabi Ghosh.

The incident took place in MC Ghosh Lane in the Howrah police station area around 11 pm on Wednesday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Debashis Ghosh (36), his wife Rekha Ghosh (30), their daughter Tiasa Ghosh (13) and Debashis's mother Madhavi Ghosh (56). All of them were stabbed to death using sharp weapons.

According to police sources, there were frequent arguments in the family. The two brothers' (Debraj and Debashis) relationship had been poor for some time, and they had a heated argument on Wednesday evening.

According to police sources, Pallabi said during interrogation that she "could not control her anger." "A murder case has been registered and an investigation is on," said a police officer.

A court remanded Pallabi in police custody for three days on Thursday, police said.

Kutch emerges epicentre of Gujarat's Lumpy Skin disease outbreak, records more than half the toll

GOPAL KATESHIYA
BHUJPUR (KUTCH), AUGUST 11

ALTAF BAFAN (26), a cattle-herder of Bhujpur village in Kutch, used to take care of around 450 cows. Now his herd has shrunk after at least 100 cows died of Lumpy Skin disease. Two of them died on Hadakudi pasture, where he used to take the cattle for grazing. The pasture has now turned into a graveyard.

"It has turned into a ghostly place with so many cows buried there," says Bafan, who gets Rs 150 per cattle head per month from their owner. "It is so painful to watch the cows suffer this way. It is the houseflies that killed most of these cows."

Trenches and cattle carcasses on the pastoral land adjoining Mundra-Mandvi coastal highway suggest high casualty numbers. Dogs feed on the carcasses, while black droppings and cattle egret feast on flies swarming the remains.

"Heavy rain prevented vehicles from ferrying the carcasses... Therefore, those providing carcass disposal services as well as cattle owners started dumping them on the roadside. We had to dig trenches to bury the carcasses," says Bhimji Nanjar, husband of Bhujpur sarpanch Laxmi.

The disease that originated in Africa has been sweeping Gujarat for three months since the first case was reported in Kaiyari in Kutch's Abdasa taluka on April 23. The border district, with live-



Vinod Nanjar, a casual labourer, has lost two of his cows to Lumpy Skin Disease. His only surviving cow is afflicted too. *Nirmal Harindran*

stock population of around 23.79 lakh, has been the worst affected district, accounting for 38,891 cases or 52 per cent of the total reported cases in the state as of August 10. It also accounts for 1,835 deaths, more than half of the deaths in a state which reported 2,782 deaths till Wednesday.

The disease has spread in 23 districts and prohibitory orders have been imposed on transportation of cattle in the state.

The fear that the carcasses would spread the disease led to dramatic scenes in Gandhidham on July 27. As the disease spread to

eastern part of the Kutch after ravaging Mundra, Mandvi, Lakhpat, Nakhtrana, Bhuj and other talukas in West Kutch, residents of Sathvara Colony in Sector 5 forced a tractor loaded with cow carcasses to return to the headquarters of Gandhidham municipality.

"They were dumping carcasses in bushes behind the ground where the Saturday weekly market is held. Dogs would drag parts of carcasses to streets in our locality. We had no other option but to protest," says Raju Sathvara, who runs a cold drinks outlet on Ambedkar Road.

Deendayal Port Authority, which runs the largest port at Kandla, allowed the municipality to bury carcasses in an open plot near its sewage treatment plant. Four tractors of the municipality loaded with carcasses make trips to this ground from the town as well as Kamdhenu Gaushala on the outskirts of Adipur.

"Around 600 cattle deaths were reported in the town due to the disease so far though the number of daily casualty has gone down now," says Darshansinh Chavda, chief officer of the municipality. "The actual number of car-



I-DAY FERVOUR

A boat rally as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Surat district on Thursday. *PTI*

Sexual harassment case: SC calls on courts to treat victims sensitively

ANANTHAKRISHNAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

UNDERLINING THAT "courts must remain alive to their duty to treat victims sensitively in cases alleging all forms of sexual harassment and sexual assault", the Supreme Court in a recent order directed the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Gwalior, to order a police investigation into a sexual harassment complaint lodged by a woman employee of the Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education against a former vice chancellor of the institution.

A Bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and J B Pardiwala termed police's failure to register an FIR on the basis of the woman's complaint as "most unfortunate". It also disagreed with the conclusion of the Madhya Pradesh High Court that the magistrate was not under any obligation to direct police to register an FIR as the expres-

sion used in the relevant provisions of the law was "may".

"It is true that the use of the word "may" implies that the Magistrate has discretion in directing the police to investigate or proceeding with the case as a complaint case. But this discretion cannot be exercised arbitrarily and must be guided by judicial reasoning," the Bench said, directing that the probe must be supervised by a woman officer not below the rank of superintendent of police to be nominated by the DIG of the zone concerned.

The Supreme Court also issued important guidelines to be followed by trial courts while dealing with such cases.

The Bench said, "It is the duty and responsibility of trial courts to deal with the aggrieved persons before them in an appropriate manner by... allowing proceedings to be conducted in camera, where appropriate..., allowing the installation of a screen to ensure that the aggrieved woman does not

have to see the accused while testifying, or in the alternative, directing the accused to leave the room while the aggrieved woman's testimony is being recorded..., ensuring that the counsel for the accused conducts the cross-examination of the aggrieved woman in a respectful fashion and without asking inappropriate questions, especially regarding the sexual history of the aggrieved woman..., (and) completing cross-examination in one sitting, as far as possible."

The woman had alleged that in March 2019, the then vice chancellor "touched her inappropriately at the institute, upon which she disengaged herself and shouted at him". She subsequently lodged complaints with the local police station as well as with an SP. As no action was forthcoming, she then moved the JMFC, which sought a status report from the police. The report said the occurrence of any offence was not found.

Uttarakhand plans to make abandoned bridges tourist attractions

AVANEESH MISHRA
DEHRADUN, AUGUST 11

THE UTTARAKHAND government has devised a plan to turn abandoned bridges into restaurants in order to generate revenue while promoting tourism. According to Uttarakhand Tourism and Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Satpal Maharaj, the construction of the National Highway and two-lane bridges on them meant that several bridges in the state went out of use.

To start the project, the PWD has identified five such abandoned bridges that fall on the Chardham Yatra route. The five

GOVERNANCE
UTTARAKHAND

bridges identified are on Delhi-Badrinath highway, Dehradun-Rishikesh highway, Rishikesh-Phoolchatti highway, Rudraprayag-Gaurikund highway and Kotdwar-Pauri highway.

Initially, one or two of these identified bridges would be developed as restaurants. If the initiative is successful, more bridges will be brought under this scheme and made into tourist attractions.

Maharaj says that although not in use, the structure of these bridges is still very strong. "I



One of the bridges that will be converted into a restaurant.

thought we could build a glass floor on these bridges and construct restaurants or similar facilities. On one side of these bridges there will be scenery and, on the

other, we can create parking facilities. I directed the PWD to analyse and identify the bridges. If successful, we can make these two-storey facilities," said Maharaj.

Claiming Uttarakhand would be the first state in the country to implement such an initiative, Maharaj said this idea came to him when he visited New Zealand and saw a restaurant built on an abandoned metal bridge.

"I saw customers enjoying the view of a river on both sides. Later, when I visited Gangotri, I found several narrow metal bridges in our state that were defunct," said Maharaj. The minister said the government does not need a separate proposal for this initiative because the PWD and the Tourism Department can collaborate and accomplish the result.

"These are several beautiful PWD properties from the British era. These properties are not in

good condition but are in beautiful locations. We plan to renovate them in PPP mode," he said.

The minister also said the plan is to give the bridges on lease and construct restaurants in PPP mode. He also said he had directed the PWD officials to give the lease for at least 30 years because no one would be interested in investing several lakh rupees for a short duration (say five years).

The minister was confident that the move will boost tourism and generating revenue.

PWD Chief Engineer and Head of Department Ayaz Ahmad said that they have identified five bridges and have passed on the list to Tourism Department, which will move ahead with the project.

CONCESSION STOPPED FOR OVER 2 YEARS

Senior citizen concession: Loss to Railways lowest in lower classes

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

NON-AC SLEEPER and unreserved general class train tickets make up around 40 per cent of the total travel concessions availed by senior citizens, according to Railways data. Ticket concessions for senior citizens have been stopped for more than two years citing pandemic-related concerns, and during the ongoing Monsoon session of Parliament, the Railways Minister had told Lok Sabha that restarting the concession "is not desirable".

Before the pandemic, in the year 2019-20, senior citizens availed of concessions amounting to Rs 1,667 crore in all classes of rail travel. This was a growth of about 1.8 per cent over the previous year's figure.

The revenue foregone by the Railways on account of unreserved tickets, which is mostly the lowest class of train travel, is about Rs 215 crore. The non-AC Sleeper segment saw revenue foregone to the tune of around Rs 451 crore that year.

Amid a rising clamour for the restoration of senior citizen concessions, the political dispensation is looking for ways to bring it back in an avatar that is least burdensome on Railways' coffers. Sources said that since the revenue loss from concessions availed in non-AC Sleeper and general class are lower than in higher classes, the possibility of bringing it back in these two

classes are being studied.

Data reviewed by The Indian Express show that while the overall senior citizen concession burden on account of revenue foregone increased from Rs 1,492 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 1,667 crore in 2019-20, concession availed through unreserved ticketing system has remained more or less at a standard Rs 200 crore or thereabouts each year. In 2017-18, Rs 212 crore was the burden, which increased to Rs 223 crore the following year, but came down to Rs 215 crore in 2019-20.

Similarly, revenue loss on account of non-AC Sleeper class, increased from Rs 427 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 458 crore the following year, but came down to Rs 451 crore the next year.

All train operations were suspended in the wake of the nationwide lockdown in the last week of March 2020.

The revenue loss on account of senior citizen concession in the most popular class, AC III-tier, had continued to increase year after year. In 2017-18 the loss was Rs 419 crore, which jumped to Rs 474 crore the next year, and in 2019-20, it was around Rs 504 crore. Without concessions, Railways actually makes a small profit in AC-III tier class. Similar is the growth in AC-II tier, which saw revenue foregone rising from Rs 247 crore four years ago to Rs 285 crore in 2019-20.

Senior citizens — women at 58 years and above and men at 60 years and above — were entitled to the concession.

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022

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

125 yrs after her birth, the fame and failings of Enid Blyton

PAROMITA CHAKRABARTI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

REPORTING ON the death of children's author Enid Blyton on November 29, 1968, the obituary in The Times, UK, records, "Miss Enid Blyton, who died yesterday, was perhaps the most successful and most controversial children's author of the postwar period."

Born on August 11, 1897, in London, Enid Blyton, who would have been 125 this year, remains one of the most popular children's writers of all time. Yet, controversies over Blyton's work — its intellectual worth, inherent racism and problematic views on gender — have been ongoing since her lifetime.

Her books were removed from libraries across the world; her stories struck off syllabi. Between 1930 and 1950, the BBC refused to dramatised her work, describing her as a "tenacious second rater" in its internal correspondence. Last year, as part of its attempt to re-evaluate controversial aspects of British culture, the UK-based charity English Heritage, which installs iconic blue plaques at sites that were once the working or living

quarters of Britain's culturati, updated the information associated with Blyton's plaque: "Blyton's work has been criticised during her lifetime and after for its racism, xenophobia and lack of literary merit. A 1966 Guardian article noted the racism of *The Little Black Doll* (1966), in which the doll of the title, Sambo, is only accepted by his owner once his 'ugly black face' is washed 'clean' by rain. In 1960, the publisher Macmillan refused to publish her story *The Mystery That Never Was* for what it called its 'faint but unattractive touch of old-fashioned xenophobia'..." It also goes on to mention Blyton's rejection by the British Royal Mint for commemoration on a 50 p coin in 2016 because "the advisory committee minutes record, she was 'a racist, sexist, homophobe and not a very well-regarded writer'."

What's problematic?

Blyton's problematic gender politics, most apparent, perhaps, in her iconic *Famous Five* series, neatly divides domains into feminine and masculine, in which scientist fathers remain closeted in studies, cheerful aunts and mothers produce "smashing" pic-

nic hampers and teas; girls do the washing up after meals and are almost invariably feminine and in need of chaperoning; those who are tomboyish are aberrations — difficult, headstrong, and never as wise or mature as a "real" boy. Later woke interpretations have cast George, the star of the *Famous Five* series, as gender-fluid, but Blyton, by all indications, wasn't thinking along those lines.

Historical context

Blyton wrote the bulk of her work between 1928 and 1960. In the UK, even though the Representation of the People Act 1918 enfranchised all men over 21 and all women over 30 who met requisite property qualifications, it would be the 1928 Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act that would grant all men and women over the age of 21 to vote on equal terms. While World War II (1939-1945) would see more women joining the workforce, before that, for a majority of middle-class women, a life of domesticity was the norm.

It may, perhaps, be possible to contextualise Blyton's views on gender roles in this light, but her tacit commentary on race was



The children's author would have turned 125 on August 11 this year.

Photo courtesy: www.enidblyton.co.uk

far more damaging and untenable even for her time — one that had seen two tumultuous World Wars against fascism. Yet, in almost all her books, "gypsies" and foreigners are cast in an unfavourable light — they are sinister, unfriendly, often dishonest and violent. As early as 1966, British Labour MP Lena Jeger had raised questions about the racism in *The Little Black Doll*.

In her supremely popular series for younger children, *Noddy*, about a wooden toy who comes to live in Toyland, the antagonists are almost always goliwogs — a racial caricature of a Black rag doll. In other series for older children, such as the *Adventure* one (Book I, *Island of Adventure*, 1944), or *Famous Five*, Black or dark-skinned characters are often portrayed as heartless or comical.

Popularity vs shortcomings

While the late Eighties and early Nineties initiated a lot of purging of her texts — goliwogs made way for goblins, mentions of corporal punishments were ironed out as were references to rigid gender norms — Blyton's popularity has remained undiminished. Her

stories of adventure, the magical world of flying chairs and new lands atop enchanted trees are a throwback to the very life of uncomplicated simplicity that critics decry and readers continue to thrive on.

In 2008, Blyton was voted as Britain's favourite author, ahead of Roald Dahl and JK Rowling. Blyton's books have sold 600 million copies and she remains a favourite with children in the subcontinent, including in India, even as authors such as Jamaica Kincaid, Michael Rosen and Rowling voice their discomfort with her views.

How then does one reconcile this unease with Blyton's undeniably narrow world view with her continuing popularity?

The pragmatic answer is that while it is essential to recognise and highlight Blyton's failures — and they remain unmitigated despite her vast sales — it is impossible to purge literary canons based on the vices of writers. What our revisionist reading can initiate are conversations around the fault lines, a recognition of the insular world that Blyton's characters inhabit and how much more joy a less exclusionary and more diverse universe could bring.

EVERYDAY GLOBAL

WHAT IS THE BUTTERFLY MINE, LIKELY DEPLOYED BY RUSSIA IN UKRAINE



PFM-1 Butterfly Mine or Green Parrot. Photo courtesy: Imperial War Museum

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 11

Intelligence assessment

An intelligence bulletin by the UK Ministry of Defence has said that Russia is likely to have deployed anti-personnel mines in the Ukraine war.

"In Donetsk and Kramatorsk, Russia has highly likely attempted employment of PFM-1 and PFM-1S scatterable anti-personnel mines. Commonly called the 'Butterfly Mine', the PFM-1 series are deeply controversial, indiscriminate weapons. PFM-1S were used to devastating effect in the Soviet-Afghan War where they allegedly maimed high numbers of children who 'mistook them for toys,'" the bulletin said.

It added that it is highly likely that the Soviet-era stock being used by Russia will have degraded over time and is now unreliable and unpredictable.

The 'Butterfly mine'

The PFM-1 and PFM-1S are two kinds of anti-personnel landmines that are referred to as 'Butterfly Mines' or 'Green Parrots'. These names are derived from their shape and colour. The main difference

between the PFM-1 and PFM-1S mine is that the latter comes with a self-destruction mechanism which gets activated within one to 40 hours.

Because of the relatively lesser explosive packed in this small mine, it often injures and maims the handler rather than killing them. These mines are also difficult to detect as they are made of plastic and can evade metal detectors.

These mines can be deployed in the field of action through several means, like being dropped from helicopters or through ballistic dispersion using artillery and mortar shells. They glide to the ground without exploding and later explode on contact. Since these mines were green in colour when they were first put to use they also earned the name 'Green Parrots'.

Technical specifications

The PFM series mines are moulded in polythene plastic and have two wings, one of which is heavier than the other. The thicker wing is the pressure activation for the main fuse which is contained in the central body. The thinner wing acts as a stabiliser for the mine when it is air-dropped, thus giving it the name 'butterfly'. As per data available on the mine, a pressure exceeding 5 kg will activate the mine which contains 40g of explosive.



SANDEEP SINGH

LOWER-THAN-EXPECTED United States inflation data at 8.5 per cent in July, down from the 9.1 per cent of June, has generally boosted investor sentiment around the world. Indian markets were already drawing comfort from softening crude oil prices and overall inflation, and were on the rise.

However, experts say that inflation remains a concern, and central banks may continue to raise rates — which could impact demand and the margins and share prices of companies. They, therefore, call for a step-by-step deployment in equities.

US numbers boost

As US inflation cooled in July, equity markets witnessed a relief rally. The Dow Jones Industrial in the US rose 1.6 per cent to close at 33,309 on Wednesday, and Asian markets traded strong on Thursday — with the Hang Seng in Hong Kong and Shanghai Composite in China rising 2.4 per cent and 1.6 per cent respectively. Markets in Europe traded flat on Thursday.

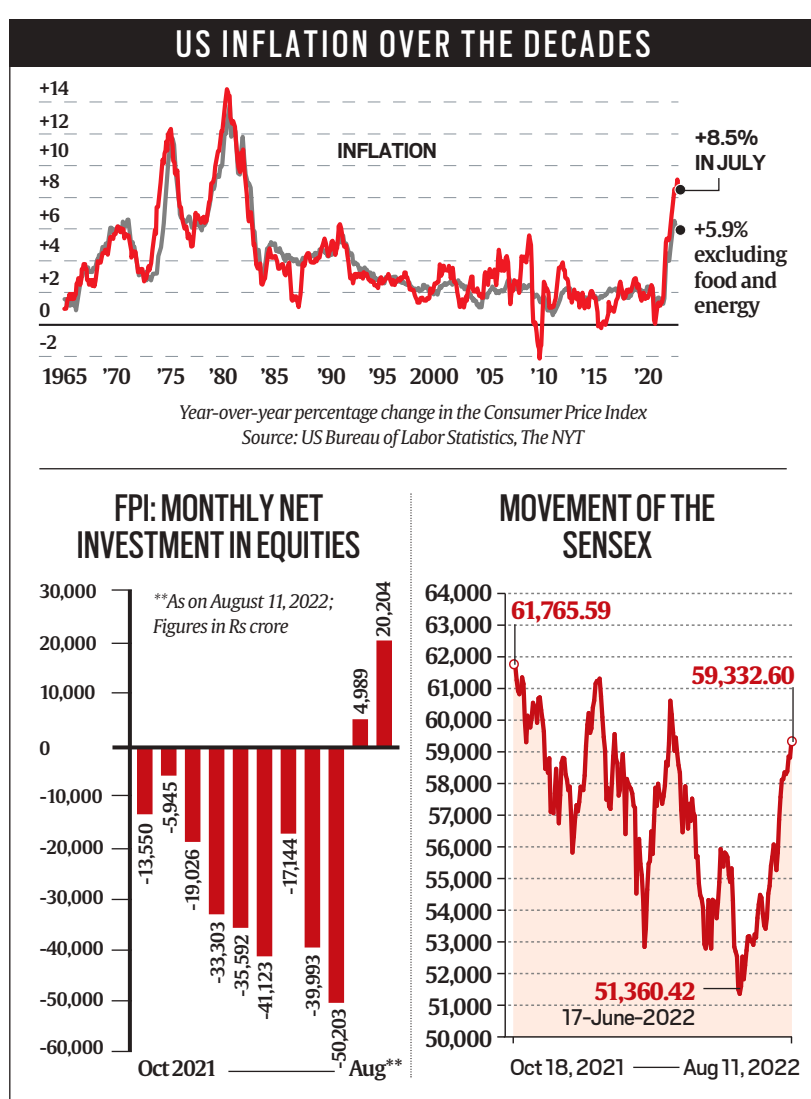
In India, the benchmark Sensex at the Bombay Stock Exchange rose 0.9 per cent to close at 59,332, the highest in four months. Since June 17 — when the Sensex closed at 51,360, the lowest since May 2021 — the index has risen 15.5 per cent, inching close to 60,000.

The return of FPIs

While softening crude prices and easing inflation have brought comfort, positive FPI flows over the last month have supported the markets — alongside continuing domestic retail inflows through mutual funds and direct investments.

FPI inflows turned positive in July — for the first time since September 2021 — with a net inflow of Rs 4,989 crore. In August, they have already pumped in a net of Rs 20,204 crore. Between October 2021 and June 2022, FPIs had pulled out an aggregate of Rs 2,55,879 crore from Indian equities.

Inflows from DILs, who invested a net of Rs 3,08,772 crore between October 2021 and July 2022, have provided strong support. August, however, has witnessed some profit-booking following the sharp recovery in markets, and DILs have seen a net outflow — Rs 3,404 crore



til date — for the first time in 11 months.

"DILs holding up goes beyond the conventional dimension of Indian markets which used to fall significantly when FPIs pulled out, and rose when they came back. This time domestic investors have absorbed most of the stress of FPI outflows, and Indian retail investors have gained muscle in terms of technicals," C J George, MD, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Shrikant Chouhan, Head of Equity Research at Kotak Securities, said: "Investors cheered the US inflation data for July, which came in below the estimate and raised hopes that the Federal Reserve may not be that aggressive in hiking interest rates in its next meeting. Traders have also drawn comfort from falling crude prices and FPI inflows into

local shares over the last few sessions."

What has changed?

While inflation has been the top concern around the world over the last four-five months, there has been a visible softening of late. Brent crude prices have fallen from around \$110 per barrel in March-April to under \$100 now. Global commodity prices and food prices that shot up after the war in Ukraine began, have also softened.

In his monetary policy statement recently, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that domestic edible oil prices were expected to soften further on the back of improving supplies from key producing countries, and supply-side interventions from the government. "The resumption of wheat supply from

the Black Sea region, if it sustains, could help to temper international prices. Supply chain pressures, though elevated, are on an easing trajectory," he said.

The RBI has maintained that inflation has peaked and household inflation has eased; however, it still remains at unacceptably elevated levels.

Should you invest now?

The decline in US inflation numbers in July is reassuring for the markets. While company margins will be impacted in the second quarter by the higher interest rates, experts feel that the market may not come down as a result — because of a sense that both inflation and rate hikes have peaked and things will start improving beginning the third quarter of the financial year.

"Even as markets have risen, I think investors can enter or continue to invest in equities. They must, however, follow a staggered approach, or do it through SIPs, as we are still not seeing a very firm trend, and there are geopolitical and global inflation concerns still around," George said.

There are some who feel that the Indian markets could witness sustained growth over the medium term on the back of potential economic activity. "Credit growth is rising, companies in key sectors are preparing to invest, and the Indian economy could benefit from the global supply chain diversification strategy. All these may lead to higher growth in the medium term, and investors could enter with a medium- to long-term view," the CIO of an asset management firm said.

What are the concerns?

Despite the easing of inflation in India and the July softening in the US, both RBI and Fed officials have maintained that price pressures continue, and that there could be more rate hikes in line with inflation levels.

Earlier this month, announcing a 50 basis point hike in the repo rate, the RBI Governor said: "The MPC stressed that sustained high inflation could destabilise inflation expectations and harm growth in the medium term. [It] therefore judged that further calibrated withdrawal of monetary accommodation is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored and contain the second-round effects. Accordingly, [it] decided to increase the policy repo rate..."

Market experts also remain wary of the geopolitical situation. Russia and Ukraine continue to be at war, and there are renewed concerns over China-Taiwan tensions following the visit of the Speaker of the US House, Nancy Pelosi, to the island.

Prescribed frequently in India, do Vitamin D supplements help?

EXPERT
EXPLAINS

DR SUNEELA GARG

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

A STUDY of over 25,000 people above the age of 50 years from the United States, recently published in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that Vitamin D supplementation did not reduce the risk of fractures. Considering that a large proportion of our population has low Vitamin D levels, Vitamin

D is frequently prescribed with calcium supplements. Does it help?

Should doctors continue prescribing Vitamin D supplements?

This is a very controversial issue. We have always believed that Vitamin D helps in maintaining bone health but it is hard to know for sure, considering a large chunk of our population is deficient. Plus, it is not just Vitamin D deficiency. Our population has several other deficiencies such as iron deficiency leading to anaemia. So, how can we determine what is causing the persistent aches and pains or fractures.

If we need to make a programme decision on whether the elderly should be prescribed Vitamin D, we need to carry out a large scale study to see whether it helps. Some say that

Vitamin D doesn't prevent fractures but helps in the healing. It has to be evidence-based.

However, what we need to ensure while prescribing Vitamin D supplements is that the levels of the individual are checked. Most of the treatment is empirical and the serum test to determine the Vitamin D levels is not usually done. There are studies that suggest high levels can pose more of a risk than help.

So, who really needs Vitamin D supplements?

In our country, the most important group, where we know for sure Vitamin D supplements help, is the paediatric population. Children with the deficiency can develop rickets (a condition that causes bone pain, poor growth, and soft and weak bones leading to deformities in children).

We also need to see the impacts on vulnerable segments such as pregnant women and those with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, which are on the rise in India. (It is believed that lower levels of Vitamin D are associated with decreased insulin release and insulin resistance in the cells).

But again, what is very important is that we test the people before giving any sort of supplement because there are various types of deficiencies seen in India.

There is, however, research to suggest that the supplement does help those in countries where exposure to natural sunlight is limited. We might increasingly need it for people staying indoors in air-conditioned environments and sunlight-deprived apartments. You need at least 30 minutes in the sun every day to maintain normal levels of Vitamin D.

Your team conducted a study on Vitamin D levels in those with Type 2 diabetes. What were the findings?

We did find a high-level of Vitamin D deficiency and insufficiency of over 90 per cent. But that figure alone does not mean too much because the background Vitamin D deficiency was also very high in the population. We don't usually test for it, so whenever we did, more often than not, they were found to be deficient.

In Covid cases, Vitamin D, Vitamin C and Zinc were some of the most commonly prescribed supplements. Did it help in any way?

A lot of things were prescribed during Covid-19. People believed that these supplements would boost the immune system

and help in fighting the infection. But there is no evidence to suggest that people who took these supplements either did not get the infection or when they did, they had milder disease.

But we learnt a lot during Covid-19. There were several therapies tested and studies carried out to generate evidence. We should do similar large scale studies to understand which supplements help and which they don't. There is not really a lot of evidence or robust trials for many supplements available in the market today.

(Dr Garg is the former head and professor of community medicine, Maulana Azad Medical College. She is a member of Lancet's Covid-19 Commission in India. She spoke to Anonna Dutt.)

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2022

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

IF NAMES BE NOT CORRECT, LANGUAGE IS NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRUTH OF THINGS.

— CONFUCIUS

The Indian **EXPRESS**

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

BREAKING A TABOO

Sustained engagement with NATO must be an important part of Delhi's self-assured strategy of multi-alignment

IT IS PERHAPS not too surprising that India's first formal engagement with the Brussels-based North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, as reported in this newspaper, took so long to organise. NATO has been in existence since 1949 and has dominated European geopolitics since. After the end of the Cold War, it expanded in Europe and its engagement with Asia and its waters has significantly increased. It is perhaps understandable that India, which rejected military alliances during the Cold War, deliberately stayed away from the US-led NATO and the Warsaw Pact led by the Soviet Union. The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 ended the great Cold War divide in Europe. While the Warsaw Pact disintegrated along with the Soviet Union, NATO endured as a military alliance of the triumphant West. Although post-Soviet Russia engaged NATO as part of building a new Europe, talking to the world's most powerful military grouping remained a political taboo in Delhi. The entrenched nostalgia for the Soviet Union in the Indian political classes and the deference to Russian political sensitivities in the foreign policy establishment coupled with the persistent suspicion of the West saw Delhi refuse repeated requests for talks with NATO.

While Delhi struggled to come out of its defensive crouch, the Western military alliance reached out to key Asian countries, including China and Pakistan. Many small countries across Asia take advantage of the engagement with NATO in a range of areas — from training to capacity building. But Delhi remained unmoved. It was not that NATO was offering membership to India nor was Delhi interested in one. The question was only about politico-military exchanges. Yet the conservatives in Delhi continued to veto consultations with NATO. The Modi government chose to break the ideological straitjacket and begin a formal engagement in December 2019 after constructing a new domestic consensus. The first round of talks had covered a range of issues including Afghanistan, terrorism, China, Russia, and maritime security. Covid had apparently prevented a continuation of this dialogue in the following years.

The case for renewing India's dialogue with NATO has become even more important since the end of 2019. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan, the return of the Taliban, Russian invasion of Ukraine and the consequent war in the heart of Europe, the rise of an assertive China, the Sino-Russian alliance, and the emergence of the Indo-Pacific have dramatically altered the international security context. Meanwhile, as India rises as a large economy its geopolitical salience as a swing state among the great powers is growing. At the same time, India's vulnerabilities have also risen on the border with China and the conflict with Pakistan shows no signs of abating. India, therefore has adopted the strategy of multi-alignment — deepening ties with the US, building a partnership with Europe, holding onto the traditional partnership with Russia, and talking to China to resolve bilateral issues. Sustained engagement with NATO must be an increasingly important part of this self-assured strategy of multi-alignment.

EC HAS A POINT

Election monitor does well to refrain from stepping into debate on freebies. That discussion must remain in the political domain

DEBATE OVER THE rampant culture of freebies in India is gaining traction. The Prime Minister kickstarted it, calling for an end to free "revdi(s)", the Opposition parties objected to the manner in which the conversation is being framed, the RBI underlined the risk that power subsidies pose to state finances, and the Supreme Court has sought suggestions on the composition of a committee that can look into the issue. Various actors in India's political and institutional landscape have begun to wade into a conversation that is critical, though not entirely new. It is especially warranted in this moment considering the acute fiscal stress at both the central and state levels. However, as matters of economic policy lie in the domain of the government, whose contours are shaped by the political representatives, legitimate questions are being raised over the judiciary's intervention.

In this context, it is welcome and apt that the Election Commission has stated in its supplementary affidavit filed in the Supreme Court that it "may not be appropriate for the Commission, being the Constitutional Authority, to be part of the proposed committee." The EC has done well to voice its reservations. As a neutral arbiter of elections, it will not be proper for it to wade into a contentious issue which pits the ruling dispensation at the Centre against the Opposition parties that govern states. There is also the equally controversial process of defining what constitutes "irrational freebies", and what doesn't. As the EC notes, "both 'freebie' and 'irrational' are subjective and open to interpretation."

It is true that political parties, driven by short-term electoral calculations, often resort to fiscally profligate promises. It is also true that the fiscal risks at the state level are growing. But the allocation of public money is, at its core, a political decision. Suggestions proffered by experts can and should be taken on board. But the provision of free or highly subsidised goods and services in an attempt to either sway the electorate or to compensate for the lack of employment/income opportunities in a system that offers scarce safety nets for the vulnerable, is a decision to be taken, and questioned, in the political domain, by political representatives. Ultimately, the voters need to judge the economic and fiscal implications of such policies. While a wider conversation on this issue is needed, it needs to be located firmly in the political process.

ALL IN A NAME

Kim Jong-un has defeated Covid by calling the infected 'fever patients'. If only democracies could rename problems away

OTHER LEADERS SHOULD be so lucky as Kim Jong-un. The Supreme Leader of North Korea, according to (unreliable) reports by state-controlled media, has declared "victory... in the war against the malignant pandemic disease". North Korea is known to have a crumbling health infrastructure. But the isolationist and authoritarian country also lacks the testing capacity to accurately measure the spread of the disease. Kim's "victory" over Covid-19, therefore, is difficult to prove or to deny.

Kim isn't the only leader to have declared premature victory against the "malignant pandemic disease". Strongmen, democratically elected or otherwise, have taken the pulpit and claimed they had vanquished the microscopic enemy as early as 2020, after the first wave. Then came the devastation of the Delta variant, and the leaders had to either expound the necessity of "living with the virus" or simply pretend they had never declared victory in the first place. Kim, though, has taken a different tack and his "victory" could be permanent. Covid patients have simply been reclassified as "fever patients". This sleight-of-hand with nomenclature is a work of authoritarian wizardry that democratic leaders will find difficult to mimic.

Imagine the possibilities of all the problems that plague a government — the ones they are held to account for — being taken care of with a simple act of renaming. Too many poor people? They are just ferociously frugal. Prices too high? That's just pro-business policy. And there is no malnutrition, just people becoming calorie conscious. The renaming does not, of course, change the fate of those who are suffering. But if you never have to face a vote or political adversaries, what's the difference?



MEERAN CHADHA BORWANKAR

SINCE I WORKED in state police for many more years than in central agencies, I have a sure recipe for "killing" police as an organisation, a task our politicians have taken up in real earnestness. I have observed that they prefer slow death to police as an institution, rather than the fast painless one. And that they are building up the muscle of central investigating agencies so that state police organisations become irrelevant and defunct.

Some of them, in any case, have lost their sheen to recent scandals. In the federal structure, states must be shown their proper place, especially those led by the Opposition. And no better strategy than "picking up" those voicing dissent while making meaningless noises about healthy relations between Union and state.

Having risen from the ranks, the political "masters" know that the best way to "strike" at police is through police stations. It is in these precincts that most of them have cooled their heels at the start of their careers and later lorded over with seamless ease. Police stations and outposts are the forums where maximum citizen-police interactions take place.

If the officer in-charge is impartial, efficient and compassionate, then who will approach the local member of legislature (MLA) or parliament (MP) for "divine" intervention? The strategy commonly used with considerable finesse is to have a police station "manned" by an officer of choice who, in turn, pays daily obeisance to the mighty politician along with a bag that the officer does not bother to conceal. Neither does the self-serving narcissist politician.

The officer in-charge would naturally allocate "beats" to constables who give more time to local "dadas" belonging to the ruling party instead of investigating crime or maintaining order. One need not worry if there is mid-term change in the ruling party as the same modus operandi will be adopted by the new wearer of the crown. The collection is redistributed without any eyebrows being raised as the system has been well oiled and understood by all. If you think that the Crown and Zamindari system ended with the British, I can only pity you for your naivete.

After ensuring an "efficient" beat system

The slow tortuous execution of the police as an institution continues unhindered

Now the naive are bound to ask "but how does police as an institution still work"? To them, I say look out for Sisyphus-like characters in the police. They will find many from beat constable, to sub-Inspector, inspector, Dy SP, SP and senior police leaders, foolishly working honestly and tirelessly. All this, while the politicians of all hues are busy collecting crores and dividing the country on caste and communal lines. These characters, though few in number, are equally adamant at salvaging the criminal justice system.

and police station in the district, one has the onerous task of getting men and women of choice as chiefs of district police and their deputies. Instead of spending energy on a number of selections, one chooses the district police chief who is then advised to get cronies of his choice — the team that comes after making due payments to the politicians, reimbursing their "personal expenditure" and simultaneously collecting from street hawkers, traders, merchants, restaurant and bar owners. Maximum funds are raised through the power of arrest and settling of disparate disputes. Victims of crime and the accused both have to shell it out. Money is needed by the officers to secure "good" postings, by politicians for their life-style desires and their parties for election purposes.

While conducting all these "operations", due care is taken to remain visible during local public meetings, "poojas", family functions of party workers, amid hyperbole about citizens' welfare. Though unashamedly false, they nevertheless elicit some applause from the gullible and the innocent.

The next step of posting of zonal Inspectors General of police is not a big deal. There are not many senior officers and many of them would be knocking at the door for "right" postings. A word to the top bureaucratic echelons ensures that the chosen one is posted at the earliest and that the wheels move smoothly.

Talking of the top, maybe I should have started with the topmost police leaders. They are much fewer in number and selection is not difficult at all. The one who either joins the "operation collection" or is ready to turn a Nelson's eye to it, is selected. Preference is, of course, given to the former but the latter can be considered provided the officer can bully the dissenting voices with phone tapping, criminal action or through measures which are discussed only in private.

And if nothing else works, air drop the top leader from Timbuktu. Get him favourable media coverage and install him with such great fanfare that the ranks think that they have the best leader and citizens applaud the "bold action". Media, in any case, is either bought over or scared and who cares about

the non-existent independent media? It can always be dubbed as anti-national. Local police leadership, demoralised and unhappy about the air-dropping, cannot speak out as the service conduct rules do not permit them. Besides, they have notoriously lost one vertebra each in every year of their service.

Now the naive are bound to ask "but how does police as an institution still work"? To them, I say look out for Sisyphus-like characters in the police. They will find many from beat constable, to sub-Inspector, inspector, Dy SP, SP and senior police leaders, foolishly working honestly and tirelessly. All this, while the politicians of all hues are busy collecting crores and dividing the country on caste and communal lines. These characters, though few in number, are equally adamant at salvaging the criminal justice system.

They are tragically oblivious to their own irrelevance and to the fact that political executives won hands-down long back. The judiciary, encumbered under the weight of its mounting pendency, notices their fruitless efforts, makes an occasional sharp, acidic comment and resumes its slumber. Besides, many of its members are busy looking for post-retirement avenues for which they are totally dependent on the all-powerful executive. Throwing crumbs, beguiling citizens — the slow tortuous execution of the police as an institution thus continues unhindered.

The Indian Penal Code defines conspiracy as an illegal act and holds each conspirator to be equally responsible, but it does not define "killing of an institution" as an offence. It has emboldened the executive to strike at not only the police but at the criminal justice system as a whole. While politicians deconstruct and destroy institutions, we the citizens are mute spectators. I desist from labelling us as reluctant conspirators or active participants in destroying the institution of police because many of us have put our hopes on those toiling on the tough path with their honest commitment to serve. Can we strengthen those hands and save the institution, I wonder?

The writer is former Commissioner of Police, Pune



BALBIR PUNJ

POPE FRANCIS'S six-day-long apology tour of Canada ended on July 29 in Iqaluit, the capital of the Nunavut territory, with an address to a crowd of mainly indigenous people, where he admitted that their stories "renewed in me the indignation and shame that I have felt for months."

Terming his journey as a "penitential pilgrimage", the 85-year-old Pontiff repeatedly sought "forgiveness for the Church's role in the residential school system". The Canadian government, however, said that his apology didn't go far enough. The government's criticism echoes that of survivors and concerns the Pope's omission of any reference to the sexual abuse suffered by children as well as his refusal to name the Catholic Church as an institution bearing any responsibility.

Murray Sinclair, the former Chairperson of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) commented, "It is important to underscore that the Church was not just an agent of the state, nor simply a participant in Government policy, but was a lead co-author of the darkest chapters in the history of this land."

It's obvious that Canada finds the Vatican's "apology" half-hearted, aimed at mere optics. But why such scepticism about the Pope's intentions? Because as recently as 2018, he refused to apologise for residential school abuses, even after the TRC in 2015 documented the abuse and torture inflicted by the Church on the indigenous population.

Canada is just one of the scores of coun-

THE POPE'S PENITENCE

He apologised in Canada. He should also acknowledge Church's excesses in India

tries where the Catholic Church is accused of decimating local culture and subjecting generations to atrocities in a bid to "civilise" and convert them to Christianity. If the Vatican is genuinely remorseful about its record, why stop at Canada? Why not seek forgiveness from all those societies that were affected during its evangelical drive lasting several centuries? Nearer home, the Church's record on persecution of people in Goa is as bad, if not worse, than in Canada.

The exploitation of Hindus, Muslims, and local Christians at the hands of the Catholic Church started with the Portuguese takeover of Goa in 1510. Through the notorious Inquisition, the Church, in cahoots with the Portuguese state, resorted to a host of repressive measures to stamp out the local culture. It didn't spare even local Christians who didn't owe allegiance to the Vatican. According to BR Ambedkar, "The inquisitors of Goa discovered that they were heretics, and like a wolf on the fold, down came the delegates of the Pope upon the Syrian Churches."

The persecution of the Canadian indigenous population started with the enactment of The Indian Act in 1876. Children were taken away from their families and sent to residential schools, which were functional till the 1990s. In a recent statement, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said, "Canada's history will forever be stained by the tragic reality of the residential school system, which forcibly separated at least 1,50,000 indigenous children from their families and communities..." It has been reported

that in these schools, children were beaten, forced to practise Christianity, and not allowed to speak their native languages.

From the 1990s onward, the Canadian government and the churches involved began to acknowledge their responsibility for an educational scheme designed to "kill the Indian in the child". A report by the TRC states that over 6,000 children were estimated to have died because of the abuse in residential schools.

The justification for such atrocities partly comes from the so-called Doctrine of Discovery, the 19th-century international legal concept that legitimises European colonial seizure of land and resources from native people.

The havoc which the Catholic Church wreaked in Canada, India and other parts of the world, was not the result of a random act by an over-enthusiastic, misguided local satrap. It was a part of a policy entailed in Pope Nicholas V's Papal Bull of 1452, which calls upon believers to, "...invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ whosoever placed..."

The forced obliteration of local identity in Goa, spanning four centuries, had institutional and doctrinal support provided by the Church. India and Canada are victims of the same crime. The belated apology by the Pope in Canada is a welcome step. Why doesn't he apologise in India as well?

The writer is a former Member of Parliament and a columnist



AUGUST 12, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

MANDAL DEFERRED

THE GOVERNMENT WILL not take any hasty decision on the far-reaching recommendations of the Mandal Commission on backward classes, Home Minister R Venkataraman told the Lok Sabha. In his reply to the nine-hour long discussion, the home minister said identification of the backward classes was one of the main tasks before it. Though the commission had mentioned state-wise figures, Venkataraman said the state governments had their own figures of backward classes. It would be difficult to take a decision till this problem was sorted out.

INDIA-PAK TALKS

MAHARAJA KRISHNA RASGOTRA and Niaz A Naik began talks in Islamabad launching a bilateral quest for peace in the Subcontinent. Two rounds of discussions were held at the foreign office. There are indications to suggest that Rasgotra gave the Pakistani delegation the text of the treaty of friendship and cooperation proposed by India. This means that the delegation is now discussing three documents: Pakistan's draft of the no-war pact; Indian draft of a treaty of peace and cooperation the Indian draft for the setting up of a joint commission to tackle such bilateral issues as trade, travel and cultural exchanges.

PM ON N-FUEL

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi asserted that India had not surrendered its right to reprocess spent fuel at Tarapur and there would be no change in the 1963 agreement.

NAM SUMMIT

INDIA HAS ANNOUNCED its willingness to host the seventh Non-Aligned summit if there is consensus among members. The Indian offer has been conveyed to the Iraqi president Saddam Hussain who suggested India hold the seventh summit and Iraq the eighth in 1985.

15 THE IDEAS PAGE

The intimate enemy

I have no lived memory of Partition. But I feel as if some part of my identity lies in the other country, one which I am constantly reminded is our enemy to the extent that I cannot even cheer their cricket team



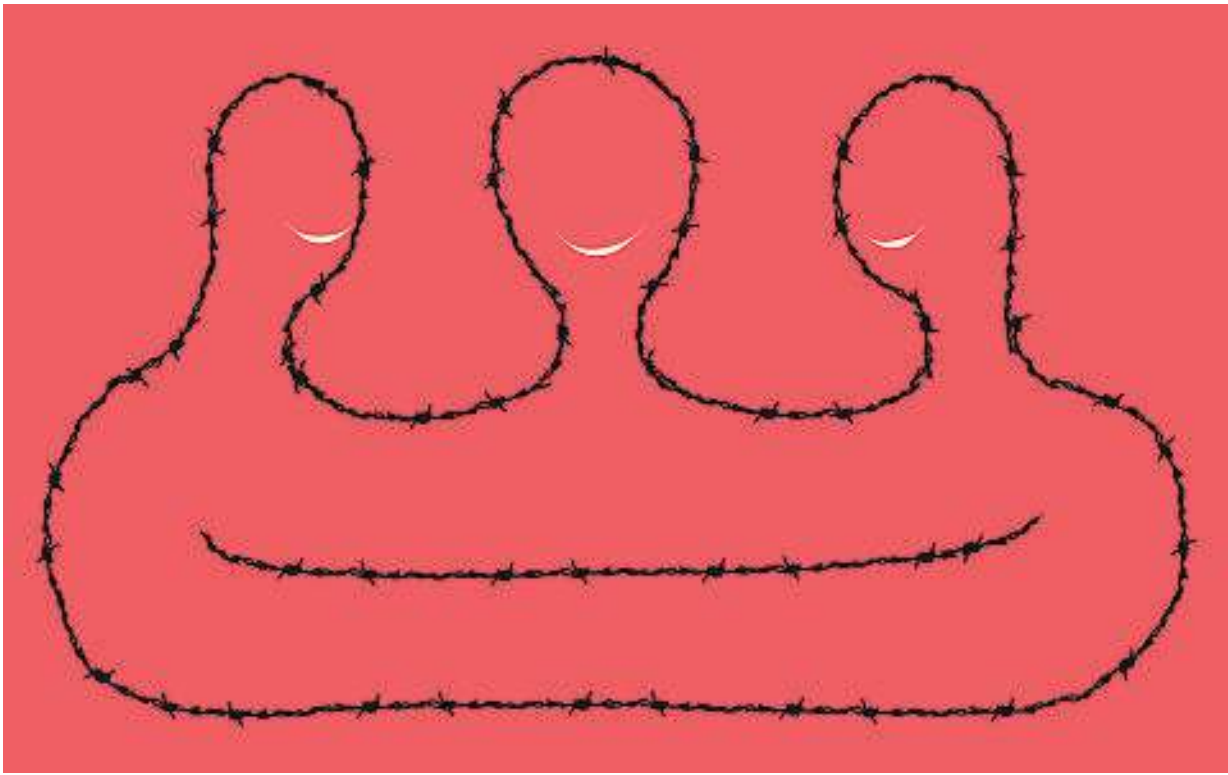
VIKRAM PATEL

AMIDST THE EUPHORIA commemorating the 75th anniversary of our Independence, I asked my 89-year-old father, who had lived through that occasion, how he felt about the historic day that forever transformed the lives of the hundreds of millions who had called an undivided India their home. On that fateful date, India was cleaved into two countries on religious lines leading not only to monumental suffering and loss but leaving behind a toxic legacy, which has continued to impact the lives of more than a billion people for seven decades. My father, who had been a student in Karachi for nearly a decade, had to leave what was about to become a foreign country and soon morph into our primal enemy, just a fortnight before that fabled midnight hour which has forever altered the shape of this vast region and the destinies of her people.

Unsurprisingly, my father celebrated this auspicious occasion, recalling with immense joy and pride the vivid memories of how Indians of all hues had united to get rid of the colonial tyrants whose insatiable greed and inhumanity had impoverished our nation and led to the death of millions of our citizens. Incredibly, we had done so not by waging a bloody war, but through the uniquely Indian idea of non-violence which had subsequently inspired civil rights and freedom movements that led to the end of segregation in the US, Apartheid in South Africa and communist dictatorships in Eastern Europe. Our country was born with a Constitution which remains one of the most progressive of any nation and whose architect was the most unflinching and brilliant champion of social justice. Who could not celebrate these achievements?

But my father then added that he also felt sadness, an emotion one could not loudly express for the fear of being misunderstood. He expressed a melancholy about having had to leave behind a place which he had loved and considered as home, bidding a hurried farewell to friends who begged him not to go, not knowing when they would meet again (and, indeed, they never did). But, the communal violence, both real and the fear of much worse to come, was sufficient to trigger our family's move from one part of India to another before the former became another country. My father's family had to make their home in a new country, displaced by an arbitrary line drawn on a map by an Englishman who had first set foot on Indian soil just a month before her partition.

These last few months have seen countless such stories of separation and loss being shared in the media, and while there have been a handful of heart-warming accounts of relatives and neighbours who haven't seen each other for decades being reunited, most of those who can still remember the division of our country and who were displaced are filled with sadness. A kind of sadness which accompanies the loss of a part of one's being. Their minds and hearts are awash with nostalgia and the most poignant question of all: How might things have turned out had we



C R Sasikumar

never been partitioned? We would never have fought all those wars and might have instead spent our scarce resources on lifting our people out of poverty. Our nation would have become one of the most powerful in the world! Our cricket team would surely have been unbeatable! When I probed, my father admitted this was what he would have wished for.

And so, it seems that while we celebrate this glorious moment of our history, perhaps we should also acknowledge that our celebration is bittersweet, and we might pause and commiserate for our divided and lost family. What baffles me, though, is the deep sadness I feel personally about an event that happened nearly three decades before I was even born. I have no lived memory of Partition. But, somehow, I feel as if some part of my identity lies in the other country, one which I am constantly reminded is our enemy to the extent that I cannot even cheer their cricket team, a country which is so despised by some of my fellow citizens that its name is deployed to target political opponents or to troll other citizens who embrace the religion which dominates that country.

But why do I feel this sadness, this nostalgia for a country which I have never even visited? Is it because I adore the music, the food, the clothes and the language which people celebrate on the other side of the border? Is this why, when I am in a foreign land, I feel such a strong affinity to other "South Asians", oblivious that they might be citizens of the "enemy country"? Why do we immediately lapse into Urdu (they do) or Hindi (I do), even though we are all fluent in the language of our former coloniser, and are thrilled that we not only understand each other but experience a powerful current of connection? Is this why, when we celebrated an event to mark the 75th anniversary of our Independence in Harvard, I was moved to tears by the stories I heard from the other side?

As a scientist of the mind, I should not be surprised by this observation, for it is well recognised that one's experiences can be transmitted down to the next generation,

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and this could be due to a combination of the shared stories that children grow up with (such as my own family's stories of their memorable years in Sind) and the larger social environments which influence the way memories and histories are interpreted. Some say there might also be biological mechanisms, for our life experiences influence our genes and these modified genes can be passed on to our children. So, the intergenerational transmission of nostalgic memories and longing is a reality, but tragically so is its malevolent sibling, the intergenerational transmission of grief and hate.

Perhaps this is why so many of our youth who have never known the violence and horrors of Partition can be so quickly mobilised to hate our neighbour, ironically the home of many of their own ancestors. Interrupting these endless cycles of hate and hostility across generations is a key reason why nearly 50 countries which have experienced histories of fratricide established truth and reconciliation commissions tasked with documenting and understanding past horrors in the hope of healing and lasting peace. Many of these countries have erected national museums and monuments as a reminder to future generations of the tragic events of the past and the importance of forgiveness, unity, compassion and a common destiny.

Even if the notion of reunification might be too far-fetched, surely a joint commemoration of Partition is long overdue, not only to resolve the grief and hate that continues to poison our minds, but also to recognise that the real threat to our region and all of its peoples is not the Other, but the politics of othering. I dream that one day, our peoples may be able to mingle freely across a porous border, not to ferry weapons and sow fear, but to celebrate our common ancestry and culture and our shared future. Then we might all, the peoples of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, celebrate our independence, together as one large family, with no regrets.

Vikram Patel is *The Pershing Square Professor of Global Health at Harvard Medical School*

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Only two (Commonwealth Games) have been held in Asia and none in Africa – the two continents where the overwhelming majority of the Commonwealth's population live."
— THE GUARDIAN

Goa's colonial burden

Myth of an outdated law of foreign origin now serving all inhabitants of Goa as a common civil code needs to be duly busted



TAHIR MAHMOOD

THE PORTUGUESE Civil Code of 1867, the so-called "common civil code" of Goa, is in the news again. A 28-member parliamentary standing committee headed by senior BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member, Sushil Kumar Modi, recently visited the state to study it in the context of the demand for a uniform civil code. "Even in the case of Goa," the law ministry has reportedly told the standing committee, that "if it (the code) requires review it must be looked into" (IE, July 31). So, what is so special about Goa that prompted the ministry to use ifs and buts?

Long before the arrival of the British imperialists in India, the Portuguese had occupied certain territories in the coastal regions of the country and established what they called Estado Portugueso da India (Portuguese State of India) with its capital in Cochin, later shifted to Goa. They did not interfere with the local customs relating to family relations and framed, in the mid-19th century, three separate codes of religion-based customary laws of Goa, Daman and Diu. The first of these was titled Usages and Customs of Gentile Hindus of Goa but the Portuguese clarified that "non-Catholic inhabitants of Goa who are not Hindu gentiles" could also follow their customs on the subjects it covered. The other two codes of customary law, for Daman and Diu, were called Usages and Customs of Non-Christian Inhabitants. The three codes were formally enforced as the law by royal decrees issued by the King of Portugal.

The Portuguese Civil Code of 1867 was extended to Goa, Daman and Diu by a royal decree of November 18, 1869, declaring that the code would apply to the natives subject to the local usages and customs "so far as they are not inconsistent with morality or public order". The three local codes of customary law were accordingly revised in later years. In 1910, the Portuguese parliament enacted two civil marriage and divorce decrees and, in 1946, a canonical marriage decree for Catholics. All of these too were extended to Goa, Daman and Diu. The family law applied by the Portuguese, both at home and in the occupied Indian territories, was thus not a uniform code but a loose conglomeration of civil and religious laws.

Fourteen years after the advent of Independence, Goa and its affiliated territories were liberated and turned into a Union Territory (UT) under central rule. The Goa, Daman and Diu Administration Act of 1962 declared that all laws in force in these territories before their liberation would continue to be in force "until amended or repealed by a competent legislature or other competent authority" (Section 5). None of the pre-liberation family laws was, however, amended or repealed. Nor was any central law on family rights, including

the four Hindu law Acts of 1955-56, extended to any of the three territories.

In 1987, the Goa, Daman and Diu Reorganisation Act made Goa a full-fledged state with its own legislative assembly and left Daman and Diu as a UT. Section 67 of the Act said that "such adaptations and modifications of the law, whether by way of repeal or amendment, as may be necessary or expedient" could be made within two years from its enforcement by the appropriate government. No such action was, however, taken either by the state government in Goa or by the central government for Daman and Diu. Twenty-five years later, the Goa state legislature enacted the Succession, Special Notaries and Inventory Proceedings Act, amending certain provisions, mainly procedural, of the 155-year old civil code. In 2019, the UT of Daman and Diu was merged with another such territory – Dadra and Nagar Haveli (also ruled in the past by Portugal) – to form a single UT under central rule. As laid down in Section 17 of the unifying Act, this development did not in any way change the family law system prevailing in either of these places since their liberation from foreign rule.

As mentioned above, the law ministry has told the concerned standing committee of Parliament that the Portuguese civil code and its later amendments as in force in Goa may – if required – be duly reviewed. Such a review is, in my opinion, long-overdue.

The myth of an outdated law of foreign origin now serving all inhabitants of Goa as a fully common civil code needs to be duly busted. Moreover, there is no justification for retaining over a century-old archaic law, 75 years after the independence of India. To me, it seems quite inexplicable that the Hindu law Acts of 1955-56 governing four religious communities in the rest of the country cannot be extended to the same communities in Goa, Daman and Diu. Over a fourth of Goa's population is Christian. Why can they not be given the benefits of the Christian family law Acts in force elsewhere in the country – especially the Divorce Act of 1869, which in recent years has been brought on par with the modern divorce law under the latest version of Special Marriage Act of 1954?

What has been said now by the law ministry about Goa is in the context of implementing the constitutional directive of Article 44 for a uniform civil code for the citizens throughout the territory of India. In recent months, the ministry has told Parliament about its reference on this issue to the Law Commission. However, while the 21st Law Commission had already given its opinion against the feasibility and need of such a code at this juncture, the next Law Commission is nowhere in sight.

The ministry has now reportedly told the parliamentary committee that enacting a uniform civil code would be possible only when a "sizeable majority" of the people seeks such a change. This is, more or less, what we have been hearing from successive governments since the enactment of the Constitution 72 years ago. And the long wait seems to be endless.

The writer is Professor of Law & ex-member, Law Commission of India



BIBEK DEBROY

THE CHESS Olympiad that concluded on August 9 was held in India for the first time. Covid and then the Russia-Ukraine conflict aided the locational shift to Chennai. An event like this stimulates interest in chess and attracts the young. Those positive externalities are obvious. Despite the absence of two strong teams (China and Russia. Pakistan's non-participation doesn't matter), the Indian teams did well. India's breadth and depth of talent in chess is remarkable. For those unaware, there is a double system of gauging strength – ratings and titles. The two are correlated, but the requirements are slightly different. ELO (named after the creator, Arpad Elo) rating of 2,700 (higher, the better) places the player in the super category, a potential world title challenger (Olympiad is a team event.) As of now, there are three Indians in that league – Viswanathan Anand, P Harikrishna and Vidit Gujrathi – but there are others, younger, knocking at the door. The parallel system of titles proceeds upwards through Candidate Master (CM), FIDE (French acronym for the International Chess Federation) Master (FM), International Master (IM) and Grand Master (GM). There are around 2,000 GMs in the world today and Parimarjan Negi, Rameshbabu Praggananandhaa and Dommaraju Gukesh became GMs well before their 14th birthdays. To put matters in perspective, 75 of these GMs are Indian. Viswanathan Anand became a GM in 1988,

The swashbucklers

Moheschunder Bannerjee and Mir Sultan Khan starred in a different era of chess

Dibyendu Barua in 1991 and Pravin Thipsay in 1997. After that, there was a long dry spell, before it started to rain GMs. To set matters in perspective again, for more than 20 years, after Manuel Aaron in 1961, there was a dry spell of IMs too, before the shower started. In the post-Anand era, more than one Indian player has the potential to become a world champion.

Now that the Chess Olympiad is being held in India, the media has remembered Anand and Aaron and their contributions as role models. Chess has origins in India, with it being played on an ashtapada (an 8X8 square). Texts describe Indian armies as chaturanga (with four components), consisting of infantry, cavalry, elephants and chariots. The analogy with pawn, knight, bishop and rook is obvious. An aksauhini (army) consisted of 21,870 chariots, 21,870 elephants, 65,610 horses and 109,350 infantry, in the ratio 1/1/3/5. Ask any chess player how many pawns a rook, a bishop and a knight are worth, under normal circumstances. In an exceptional situation on the board, the answer will vary. Usually, the response will be a bishop and a knight are both worth three pawns, while a rook is worth five. Barring the bishop/elephant, I find that a remarkable coincidence. But then, India was known for its numerous elephants. They weren't at a premium. Thanks to the PM mentioning it, most people are now aware of the Shiva temple of Sathuranga (Chaturanga) Vallabhanathar in Tiruvannamalai.

When we were kids, there was an Indian system of playing chess, with slightly different rules. There was no casting. Instead, the king had a knight's leap once, before it faced a check, so that it could be tucked into a fortress. Pawns on the second rank could only move one square. Therefore, there was no en passant capture. When a pawn was promoted, it got promoted to whatever the eighth rank square was meant for, not necessarily a queen. At least initially, positions were relatively closed and players preferred the knight to the bishop since a knight could leap over closed positions.

A favoured technique was to fianchetto the bishop. Move the knight's pawn (either on queen-side or king-side one square), place the bishop there and tuck in the king behind this protection, with that single knight's leap allowed for the king. Rules have now become standardised and international, with those Indian rules forgotten. The new breed of Indian players will talk about the King's Indian or Queen's Indian, attack and defence, with bishop fianchetto and a hypermodern strategy of attacking from a distance without using pawns to fight over the centre (impossible under Indian rules because pawns could only move one square). I wonder how many are aware of antecedents of that nomenclature.

Since history isn't usually a strong point, media reportage hasn't gone back before Aaron. The names of Moheschunder

Bannerjee (often known as "the Brahmin" and his name is invariably spelt wrong) and Saumacharun Ghatak, especially the former, won't resonate. John Cochrane was a very strong chess player, remembered for the Cochrane Gambit and Cochrane Defence. His protégé was Howard Staunton, unofficially regarded as a world chess champion. (Today's chess pieces are named after Staunton. The first official world chess champion was Wilhelm Steinitz, in 1886.) Posted in India (Calcutta) from 1840-sto 1860, Cochrane looked for good chess players and discovered these two Bengalis and others. Through Cochrane's records, more than 400 of Banerjee's games have survived. Without any formal training, he didn't fare too badly. Before the days of positional chess, that was a swashbuckling era, driven by tactics, rather than strategy. Most chess players will know of the Grunfeld Defence, introduced by Ernst Grunfeld in 1922. "The Brahmin" used it in his game against Cochrane in 1855. Much later, there was Mir Sultan Khan, whom Pakistan claims. Around 1930, he won the British championship thrice. He defeated Jose Raul Capablanca, world champion from 1921 to 1927 in a tournament held in 1930-31 and played first board for England in the 1930 Chess Olympiad. We have forgotten both Moheschunder Banerjee and Mir Sultan Khan.

The writer is chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the PM. Views are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHO NEEDS NDA?

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'NDA shrinking' (IE, August 11). Victories in state polls aren't necessarily a basis of national outcomes. Despite three critical wins in 2018, the Congress crashed in 2019. For 2024, the opposition has to start with unity and a common national agenda and most importantly, it needs a suitable national political face, but personal egos are most likely to come in between. However, Nitish seems to be consensus candidate for the face of opposition. With 12 assembly elections due in 2022 and 2023, NDA will try to take its national dominance to states. In contrast, opposition parties have the task of developing their prospects in states into a credible national campaign.

Sanjay Chopra, Mohali

THIS REFERS TO your editorial, 'NDA shrinking' (IE, Aug 11). For an ideology-based national level party like the BJP, alliances with regional parties representing feudal and family driven interests were always fraught with compromises of its core principles for electoral gains. Till 2014, it was a political necessity. Now, with a considerable portion of the electorate having accepted its political narrative, the BJP actually does not need these regional crutches. Its divorce with the JD (U) in Bihar

could also be a blessing in disguise for the BJP. With one more opportunistic prime ministerial aspirant in the ranks of the opposition, BJP can flaunt its doctrinal purity and Modi's performance record to claim voter's nod in 2024.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

BOTH TO BLAME

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A betrayal in Bihar' (IE, August 11). The breakup of the NDA in Bihar with Nitish Kumar parting ways with the BJP is a result of political chicanery. It is not, however, a black swan event. There were rumblings of dissension in the BJP-led alliance, especially from its largest ally, the JD(U). Nitish Kumar had dropped subtle hints of his disenchantment with the BJP by repeatedly missing to attend Niti Ayog meetings on flimsy grounds and frequently sparring with Centre on various vital issues. The BJP also bears its fair share of blame for this debacle. It lacked the leadership to rein in its loud-mouthed leaders, which fomented fear in the minds of its rivals about their political survival. The BJP president J P Nadda's comment that no regional party could stand before the BJP is a case in point. This is a notion that has no place in a parliamentary democracy.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

TOP OF THE WORLD



Kim Jong Un's sister Kim Yo Jong glorified his leadership. *File*

NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong Un claims victory against Covid

NORTH KOREA'S official Korean Central News Agency said Thursday that Kim Jong Un declared victory over Covid and ordered an easing of preventive measures just three months after the country first acknowledged an outbreak. In her first known televised speech, his sister Kim Yo Jong said he suffered a fever and glorified his "epoch-making" leadership. In a dubious claim, she accused South Korea of spreading Covid to North Korea's largely unvaccinated populace, saying the initial infections were caused by "leaflets, banknotes, awful booklets" and other items flown across the border by anti-North Korean activists in the South. **REUTERS**

SIERRA LEONE

Dozens killed during protests against govt

DOZENS DIED in anti-government protests in Sierra Leone, police and other sources said on Thursday, sharply raising the death toll from the previous day's clashes as shocked citizens stayed mostly behind closed doors in the capital Freetown. Six police officers and 21 civilians were killed, the sources said, during protests over perceived failure by the government to cushion the impact of rising prices. One video verified by Reuters showed a police officer firing a gun into a crowd. President Julius Maada Bio said the circumstances surrounding Wednesday's events would be "fully investigated". **REUTERS**

MALI

Bamako starts 3 days of mourning after attacks

MALI DECLARED three days of national mourning from Thursday after weekend attacks by Islamic extremists killed dozens of soldiers and police officers across the volatile West African country. The Malian army said an attack Sunday in the Gao killed 42 soldiers. A statement said the assault was carried out by Islamic militants who used drones, artillery and booby-trapped vehicles. Also Sunday, five police officers were killed in the south. **AP**

MOSCOW SAYS EXPLOSIONS ACCIDENTAL

Warplanes destroyed at Crimea airbase hint at Kyiv's new capabilities to attack

Independent satellite pictures show 8 warplanes burnt at Russia's Saki airbase

TOM BALMFORTH
KYIV, AUGUST 11

SATELLITE PICTURES released on Thursday showed devastation at a Russian air base in Crimea, hit in an attack that suggested Kyiv may have obtained new long-range strike capability with potential to change the course of the war.

Pictures released by independent satellite firm *Planet Labs* showed three near-identical craters where buildings at Russia's Saki air base had been struck with apparent precision. The base, on the southwest coast of Crimea, had suffered extensive fire damage with the burnt-out husks of at least eight destroyed



A satellite image shows the destroyed Saki air base. *Reuters*

warplanes clearly visible.

Russia has denied aircraft were damaged and said explosions seen at the base on Tuesday were accidental.

Ukraine has not publicly claimed responsibility for the attack or said exactly how it was carried out. "Officially, we are not confirming or denying anything;

there are numerous scenarios for what might have happened... bearing in mind that there were several epicentres of explosions at exactly the same time," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak told *Reuters*.

Western military experts said the scale of the damage and the apparent precision of the strike suggested a powerful new capability with potentially important implications.

The Institute for the Study of War think tank said Ukrainian officials were framing the Crimea strike as "start of Ukraine's counteroffensive in the south, suggesting that the Ukrainian military expects intense fighting in August and September." **REUTERS**

West begins ban on Russian coal

Kyiv: On a day of give and take, Western nations made more pledges to send arms to Ukraine while the EU's full ban on Russian coal imports kicked in on Thursday amid claims sanctions against Moscow now even affected its defense exports.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz pledged Thursday that Germany "is shipping arms — a great, great many, sweeping and very effective. And we will continue to do so in the coming time."

Britain and Denmark also made more commitments to shore up Ukraine's defence to push back Russia's invasion which has devastated the nation. **AP**



A THAAD interceptor seen in Seongju in June. *Reuters*

As Seoul, Beijing clash over US missile shield, patch-up gets thorny

HYONHEE SHIN
SEOUL, AUGUST 11

CHINA AND South Korea clashed on Thursday over a US missile defence shield, threatening to undermine efforts by the new government in Seoul to overcome longstanding security differences.

The disagreement over the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system installed in South Korea emerged after an apparently smooth first visit to China by South Korea's foreign minister this week.

China, contending that the THAAD's powerful radar could peer into its airspace, curbed trade and cultural imports after Seoul announced its deployment in 2016, dealing a major blow to relations.

A senior official in South Korea's presidential office told reporters on Thursday that THAAD is a means of self-defence and can never be subject to negotiations, after China demanded that South Korea not deploy any more batteries and limit the use of existing ones.

President Yoon Suk-yeol, seeing the system as key to countering North Korea missiles, has vowed to abandon the previous government's promises not to

EXPLAINED
Defence crucial

WHILE CHINA sees THAAD as a tool that undermines its strategic security interest, South Korea considers it a means of self defence, key particularly in countering North Korea's missiles. That is why Seoul has, in no weak terms, conveyed to Beijing there can be no negotiation on the defence system.

increase THAAD deployments, and not to participate in a US-led global missile shield or create a trilateral military alliance involving Japan.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, meeting on Tuesday, explored ways to reopen denuclearisation negotiations with North Korea and resume cultural exports, such as K-pop music and movies, to China.

A Wang spokesman told a briefing the THAAD deployment in South Korea "undermines China's strategic security interest". **REUTERS**

Taliban cleric killed in blast in Kabul: officials

MOHAMMAD YUNUS
YAWAR & JIBRAN AHMAD
KABUL, PESHAWAR, AUG 11

A PROMINENT Taliban cleric, Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani, was killed in an attack in a seminary in Kabul when the attacker detonated explosives hidden in an artificial leg on Thursday, according to officials and Taliban sources.

"Very sadly informed that respected cleric (Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani) was martyred in a cowardly attack by enemies," said Bilal Karimi, a spokesperson for the Taliban administration.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the blast.

Four Taliban sources told Reuters the attacker was someone who had previously lost his leg and had hidden the explosives in a plastic artificial leg.



Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani

"We are investigating who this ... person was and who had brought him to this important place to enter the personal office of Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani. It's a very huge loss for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," said one senior official of the interior ministry, referring to the group's name for its administration.

Haqqani was a prominent cleric in the Taliban who had survived previous attacks, including a large blast in the northern Pakistani city of Peshawar in 2020 claimed by the Islamic State that killed at least seven people. **REUTERS**

Support waning, Japan Cabinet purged over church with Abe ties

MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO, AUGUST 11

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida has reshuffled his Cabinet, in an apparent bid to distance his administration from the conservative Unification Church over its ties to the assassinated leader Shinzo Abe and senior ruling party members.

The reshuffle on Wednesday, second in just 10 months since Kishida took office, followed his July election victory that had been expected to ensure long-term stability until 2025.

But Abe's shocking assassination on July 8 and its impact on politics increased uncertainty as public support for Kishida's Cabinet plunged.

Kishida said it was important to gain people's trust and that the new Cabinet included only those who agreed to strictly review their ties to the church and help the victims of the allegedly fraudulent religious businesses.

"We have to be careful about our relationship with an organisation that has known social

problems so that they won't raise suspicions among the public," Kishida said.

A survey released Monday by the NHK public television showed support for Kishida's Cabinet fell to 46% from 59%. Most of the respondents said they think politicians have not sufficiently explained their ties to the Unification Church. Kishida's plan to hold a state funeral for Abe has also split public opinion because of Abe's arch-conservative stance on security and wartime history.

"The Cabinet reshuffle was damage control" to divert the public's attention from the Unification Church scandal, political analyst Atsuo Ito told a TBS talk show.

Abe was fatally shot while giving a campaign speech two days before the parliamentary election. Police and media reports say the suspect targeted Abe over suspected ties to the Unification Church, which the man hated because his mother's huge financial donations to the church had ruined his family. **AP**



FRANCE BATTLES WILDFIRE

More than 1,000 firefighters were struggling Thursday to contain a wildfire in southwestern France. Nearly 10,000 people have been evacuated so far. *AP*

Gotabaya lands in Thailand, likely to return to Lanka in November: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE, BANGKOK, AUGUST 11

SRI LANKA'S ousted president Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in Thailand Thursday on a charter flight for a temporary stay before seeking permanent asylum in another country after his short-term visit pass expired in Singapore, according to a media report.

Rajapaksa is believed to have arrived at Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport around 8 pm Bangkok time, *The Straits Times* newspaper reported.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha on Wednesday confirmed a temporary visit to Thailand by

the 73-year-old embattled Sri Lankan leader for humanitarian reasons, and said he promised not to conduct political activities in the kingdom during his search for asylum in another country.

Thailand Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said the ousted president can stay in Thailand for 90 days as he is still a diplomatic passport holder, the report said. Meanwhile, a report in the Daily Mirror newspaper in Sri Lanka said Rajapaksa will return to Sri Lanka in November after his 90-day Thai visa runs out.

Sri Lanka had directly appealed on behalf of Gotabaya and sought permission to allow him to seek temporary shelter in Thailand, the report said.

CHINA SHIP WON'T DOCK AT SL PORT

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Hambantota Port authorities said the Chinese research vessel that was to dock there Thursday won't reach the port as scheduled. The Harbour Master for the Hambantota Port says no vessel can enter the port without his permission, *newsfirst.lk* website reported. Last week, Sri Lanka had asked Beijing to defer the arrival of "Yuan Wang 5", over concerns raised by India. **PTI**

Armed man tries to breach FBI building

KANISHKA SINGH
AUGUST 11

POLICE WERE locked in a stand-off on Thursday with an armed man who tried to breach the FBI building in Cincinnati, Ohio, earlier in the day before fleeing and exchanging gunfire with officers, authorities said.

The incident was active as of

Thursday afternoon (US time) but contained, an Ohio state official told reporters in a press briefing. Authorities said no officials were injured and the suspect was not successful in breaching the building.

"Law enforcement has traded shots with a male suspect who is wearing a gray shirt and body armor," Clinton County Emergency Management

Agency said earlier, urging people in the area to stay inside and lock their doors.

NBC News reported that the suspect, who was armed with an AR-15-style semiautomatic rifle, fired a nail gun into the building. Authorities shut down two highways and imposed an area lockdown. The suspect was fleeing in a white vehicle when he fired shots, authorities said. **REUTERS**

With grants, promises, Nepal minister back after 3-day China trip

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, AUGUST 11

NEPAL'S FOREIGN Minister Narayan Khadka has returned a happy man from China. Beijing has offered Nepal a huge grant in return for Kathmandu's assurances to stick to "One China" policy, the *Indian Express* has learnt.

Khadka led an 11-member delegation to China earlier this week on the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister and state councillor Wang Yi.

Upon Khadka's return, a press release issued by Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said Khadka and Yi discussed enhancing, among other things, "bilateral trade, connectivity network, health, tourism, agriculture, education". China will also fund and provide equipment for Covid control mechanism in Nepal, it added.

Sources, however, said Beijing also assured Nepal of a 800-million RMB (118.6 million USD) grant for the current financial year, for projects of Kathmandu's preference. This will be in addition to the RMB 3.5 billion promised by Xi Jinping



Narayan Khadka. *File*

during his visit to Nepal in October 2019. China also promised to stand by Nepal "in defence of its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity unconditionally", sources said.

On his part, Khadka, the sources cited above added, convinced the Chinese side of Nepal's firm adherence to the "One China policy" "irreversibly".

Also, on Chinese concern about West's disproportionate presence and about the US-Nepal ties, Khadka is believed to have assured Yi that Nepal's co-operation with Western countries, particularly the US, was for the sake of development and had no security or military component. **FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com**

LOSS FROM ICE CHUNKS FALLING INTO OCEAN SPANS ALMOST THE AREA OF SWITZERLAND

‘Antarctica crumbling at edges’: NASA study flags worrying loss to ice shelves

STEVE GORMAN
LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 10

ANTARCTICA'S COASTAL glaciers are shedding icebergs more rapidly than nature can replenish the crumbling ice, doubling previous estimates of losses from the world's largest ice sheet over the past 25 years, a satellite analysis has showed.

The first-of-its-kind study, led by researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) near Los Angeles and published in the journal *Nature*, raises new concern about how fast climate

change is weakening Antarctica's floating ice shelves and accelerating the rise of global sea levels.

The study's key finding was that the net loss of Antarctic ice from coastal glacier chunks "calving" off into the ocean is nearly as great as the net amount of ice that scientists already knew was being lost due to thinning caused by the melting of ice shelves from below by warming seas.

Taken together, thinning and calving have reduced the mass of Antarctica's ice shelves by 12 trillion tons since 1997, double the previous estimate, the analysis

concluded.

The net loss of the continent's ice sheet from calving alone in the past quarter-century spans nearly 37,000 sq km, an area almost the size of Switzerland, according to JPL scientist Chad Greene, the study's lead author.

"Antarctica is crumbling at its edges," Greene said in a NASA announcement of the findings. "And when ice shelves dwindle and weaken, the continent's massive glaciers tend to speed up and increase the rate of global sea level rise."

The consequences could be enormous. Antarctica holds 88%



Antarctica holds 88% of the sea level potential of all the world's ice. *Reuters*

of the sea level potential of all the world's ice, he said.

Ice shelves, permanent floating sheets of frozen freshwater attached to land, take thousands of centuries to form and act like buttresses holding back glaciers that would otherwise easily slide off into the ocean, causing seas to rise.

When ice shelves are stable, the long-term natural cycle of calving and re-growth keeps their size fairly constant.

In recent decades, though, warming oceans have weakened the shelves from underneath, a phenomenon previously documented by satellite altimeters

measuring the changing height of the ice and showing losses averaging 149 million tons a year from 2002 to 2020, according to NASA.

For their analysis, Greene's team synthesized satellite imagery from visible, thermal-infrared and radar wavelengths to chart glacial flow and calving since 1997 more accurately than ever over 30,000 miles (50,000 km) of Antarctic coastline.

The losses measured from calving outpaced natural ice shelf replenishment so greatly that researchers found it unlikely Antarctica can return to pre-2000 glacier levels by the end of

this century.

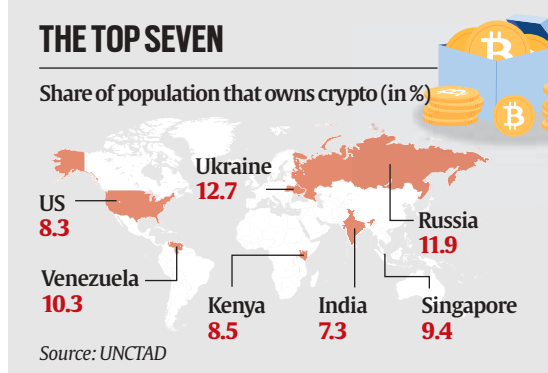
The accelerated glacial calving, like ice thinning, was most pronounced in West Antarctica, an area hit harder by warming ocean currents. But even in East Antarctica, a region whose ice shelves were long considered less vulnerable, "we're seeing more losses than gains," Greene said.

One East Antarctic calving event that took the world by surprise was the collapse and disintegration of the massive Conger-Glenzer ice shelf in March, possibly a sign of greater weakening to come, Greene said.

AP

SECTOR WATCH
CRYPTOCURRENCY

UN: 7.3% of India population owned digital currency in 2021; 7th in world

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS, AUGUST 11

OVER 7 PER CENT of India's population owns digital currency, according to the UN, which said that the use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the Covid pandemic.

The UN trade and development body UNCTAD said that in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns cryptocurrencies.

Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 per cent, followed by Russia (11.9 per cent), Venezuela (10.3 per cent), Singapore (9.4 per cent), Kenya (8.5 per cent) and the US (8.3 per cent). In India, 7.3 per cent of the population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population.

"Global use of cryptocurrencies has increased exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in developing countries," UNCTAD said.

In three policy briefs published on Wednesday, it said that while these private digital

currencies have rewarded some and facilitate remittances, they are an unstable financial asset that can also bring social risks and costs.

The policy brief titled "All that glitters is not gold: The high cost of leaving cryptocurrencies unregulated" examines the reasons for the rapid uptake of cryptocurrencies in developing countries, including facilitation of remittances and as a hedge against currency and inflation risks.

It said that recent digital currency shocks in the market suggest that there are private risks to holding crypto, but if the central bank steps in to protect financial stability, then the problem becomes a public one.

"If cryptocurrencies become a widespread means of payment and even replace domestic currencies unofficially (a process called cryptoisation), this could jeopardise the monetary sovereignty of countries," it said.

In developing countries with unmet demand for reserve currencies, stablecoins pose particular risks. For some of these reasons, the International Monetary Fund has expressed the view that cryptocurrencies pose risks as legal tender, it said.

NO PLANS TO SLASH FERTILISER SUBSIDY RATES AT THE MOMENT: SOURCE

'Inflation spike, CAD concerns easing; govt being watchful'

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

WITH THE easing of global commodity prices and India witnessing normal monsoon, concerns about any sharp spike in inflation or the current account deficit (CAD) are easing, a government source said on Thursday. The government, however, is not letting its guard down and is watchful of the evolving situation, the source added.

Despite having to bear additional fiscal burden, the Centre isn't planning to slash the fertiliser subsidy rates at the moment, the source said. It doesn't wish to add to farmers' costs of production at this juncture. The government's fertiliser subsidy bill is expected to exceed its FY23 Budget Estimate of Rs 1.05 trillion by about Rs 1.4 trillion, as global prices shot up in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia war.

The Centre is also unlikely to commit to extending the GST compensation for states beyond five years through FY22, accord-

EXPLAINED
Eye on inflation data

THE OFFICIAL data for retail inflation in July will be released on Friday. Retail inflation has remained above the upper band of the RBI's medium-term target of 2-6 per cent for the sixth straight month till June.

ing to some states' demand, as any such decision will mean prolonging cess burden on consumers, said the source. "Will all the states be ready to say let's keep the cess on the items in the 28% or 18% brackets for a much longer period to fund the GST compensation? These are things we all have to bear in mind," said the source, indicating that the Centre isn't going to take on extra burden on this front.

"(However) global crude oil prices are now moderating, so

are fertiliser prices. So, the magnitude of worry that was there in March (just after the Ukraine war) has eased now. But we are closely watching the situation," the source said.

The official data for retail inflation in July will be released on Friday and it is expected to ease 20-25 basis points sequentially from the June level of 7.01 per cent, according to some analysts. Retail inflation has remained above the upper band of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) medium-term target of 2-6 per cent for the sixth straight month till June. The aim is to first bring inflation down to 6 per cent, the source said.

India is in a much better position than peers on the economic front, and the steps initiated by the government and the central bank have started to yield results, the source said. The Centre has taken measures to check inflation by reducing fuel taxes, raising the export duty on select steel products and iron ore and cut import duty on pulses, among others.

On cryptocurrency, the source said that the recent volatility in the cryptocurrency market has started a debate among its followers about the merits and demerits of these virtual assets, which augurs well for policymakers across the globe, as they weigh how to regulate such assets.

As India is set to take over the G20 presidency in December, the forum can be used to firm up a global strategy on the regulation of crypto-currencies. However, the government is yet to take a final call on whether or not to push for such an agenda at the G20, said the source.

The government is serious about pursuing disinvestment of all the companies that it has announced, said the source. In certain cases, the process is taking longer, as it involves comprehensive deliberations involving multiple stakeholders. The government has budgeted to garner Rs 65,000 crore in disinvestment receipts in FY23, against a realisation of just Rs 13,531 crore in FY22, after the initial public offer of LIC was deferred to this fiscal.

OPEC, unlike IEA, sees lower demand growth for '22

London: OPEC on Thursday cut its 2022 forecast for growth in world oil demand for a third time since April, citing the economic impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, high inflation and efforts to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

The view from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries contrasts with that of the International Energy Agency, the adviser to industrialised countries, which earlier on Thursday raised its 2022 demand growth outlook.

OPEC in a monthly report said it expects 2022 oil demand to rise by 3.1 million barrels per day (bpd), or 3.2 per cent, down 260,000 bpd from the previous forecast. **REUTERS**

Yields fall for second day

REUTERS
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

GOVERNMENT BOND yields fell for a second consecutive session on Thursday, spurred by hopes of easing inflation and a slower pace of interest rate hikes from the Reserve Bank of India.

The 10-year benchmark government bond yield ended at 7.2673 per cent compared with 7.3101 per cent on Wednesday. The yield has fallen eight basis points in the last two sessions.

"The peak of inflation is behind us," said Debendra Kumar Dash, senior vice president, treasury, at AU Small Finance Bank, adding that going forward data is expected to ease and any major upside in bond yields was unlikely.

Retail inflation data for July is due on Friday. Elevated inflation has been a major concern for the RBI despite raising key policy rates.

Inflation fight not over, Fed officials call for more rate hikes

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 11

SLOWING US inflation may have opened the door for the Federal Reserve to temper the pace of coming interest rate hikes, but policymakers left no doubt they will continue to tighten monetary policy until price pressures are fully broken.

AUS Labor Department report Wednesday showing consumer prices didn't rise at all in July compared with June was just one step in what policymakers said would be a long process, with a red-hot job market and suddenly buoyant equity prices suggesting the economy needs more of the cooling that would come from higher borrowing costs. The Fed is "far, far away from declaring victory" on inflation, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank president Neel Kashkari said at the Aspen Ideas Conference, despite the "welcome" news in the CPI report.

Kashkari said he hasn't "seen anything that changes" the need to raise the Fed's policy rate to 3.9 per cent by year-end and to 4.4 per cent by the end of 2023.

The rate is currently in the 2.25

US JOBLESS CLAIMS RISE



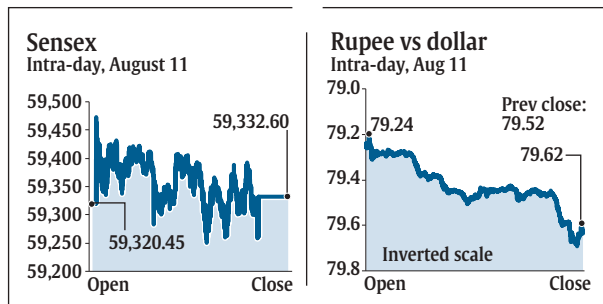
Reuters file

Washington: The number of Americans who signed up for unemployment benefits rose last week to the highest level since November, though the US job market continues to show signs of strength. **AP**

per cent-2.5 per cent range.

San Francisco Fed president Mary Daly, in an interview with the *Financial Times*, also warned it is far too early for the US central bank to "declare victory" in its fight against inflation. However, Daly said that a half-percentage point rate rise was her "baseline" but did not rule out a third consecutive 0.75 per cent point rate rise at the next meeting in September.

Sensex reclaims 59K, stocks surge to 4-month high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 11

SHARES SURGED to a four-month high on Thursday as softer-than-anticipated US inflation data calmed the markets and fears of very aggressive rate hikes by the US Fed receded. The indices were driven up by gains in IT and bank stocks.

The NSE Nifty 50, posting gains for four straight sessions, closed 0.71 per cent higher at 17,659 while the BSE Sensex rallied 515.31 points or 0.88 per cent to reclaim the 59,000 mark and end the session at 59,332.60, its highest closing since April 8, 2022.

Sustained purchases by foreign investors help propel stocks as did the positive cues from the Asian markets. Foreign investors have bought a net \$2.24 billion worth of Indian equities so far this month, compared with \$518 million worth of net sales in the same period last month, according to data from Refinitiv.

The Nifty's IT index settled 1.8 per cent higher, with Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro adding between 1 per cent and 2 per cent. Nifty's public sector bank index climbed 2.4 per cent to snap a five-day losing run and was the

best performer among other sub-indices. Shares of State Bank of India rose nearly 2 per cent.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, climbing 2.75 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, Tech Mahindra, TCS, SBI and Wipro. On the other hand, ITC, NTPC, HUL, Bharti Airtel, Maruti and Nestle India were among the major laggards, sliding as much as 1.56 per cent. Broader markets gained as well, with the BSE midcap index advancing 0.83 per cent and the smallcap gauge rising 0.52 per cent.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) remained net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth Rs 1,061.88 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, the rupee depreciated by 37 paise to close at 79.62 against the US dollar on Thursday despite sustained foreign capital inflows and a positive trend in equities, as per a PTI report.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local currency opened at 79.22 and saw an intra-day high of 79.22 and a low of 79.94 against the American currency. It finally ended at 79.62, down 37 paise over its previous close of 79.25. **FE, WITH PTI**

BRIEFLY

RBI directors

New Delhi: The government has reappointed four independent directors, including S Gurumurthy and Satish K Marathe, on the board of RBI for another four years. The Centre also re-nominated Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi as part-time, non-official directors on the Central Board for four more years after completion of their present tenure on September 18.

Atal Pension

New Delhi: Income tax payers will not be allowed to enrol in the government's social security scheme Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from October 1, according to a notification. The government introduced APY on June 1, 2015, to provide social security to workers mainly in the unorganised sector.

Spectrum, DoT

New Delhi: The DoT has extended due date to August 17 for entities to make the payment for the spectrum acquired by them in the recently-concluded auctions.

Power demand

New Delhi: The supply of coal to electricity generating plants increased by 17.09 per cent to 58.45 million tonnes in July due to rise in power demand, the government data said.

HZL stake sale

New Delhi: As many as six merchant bankers are vying to handle and manage the sale of the government's 29.53 per cent residual stake in Hindustan Zinc Ltd. **PTI**

Adani Group to invest ₹57,575 cr in Odisha for two projects

Ahmedabad: Adani Group will invest Rs 57,575 crore in setting up an alumina refinery and an iron ore project in Odisha, the conglomerate announced on Thursday. The two projects are expected to create 9,300 direct jobs.

The High-Level Clearance Authority of Odisha, headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, approved Adani Group's proposal to set up two projects — a 4 million metric tonne per annum integrated alumina refinery and a 30 mmtpa iron ore (value addition) Project, a company statement said. "Metals are critical commodities in which our nation must be self-reliant, and these projects are aligned with our vision of Atmanirbharta..." Gautam Adani, chairman of Adani Group, said. **ENS**

June quarter: Lower bad loans push PSU banks' profitability

New Delhi: Public sector banks have raked in more profits in the three months ended June on the back of a persistent decline in bad loans and the trend may have a positive bearing on their balance sheets in the coming quarters.

In the June quarter, Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and State Bank of India (SBI) were in the lowest quartile as far as Gross Non Performing Assets (NPA) and net NPAs were concerned, according to an analysis of the quarterly financial numbers published by the public sector lenders.

Cumulatively, all the 12 public sector banks reported a profit of about Rs 15,306 crore in the three months ended June, registering an annual growth of 9.2 per cent. However, leading public sector lenders — SBI and PNB — posted lower profits in the June quarter.

During the April-June period

Cumulatively, all the 12 public sector banks reported a profit of about Rs 15,306 crore in the three months ended June, an annual growth of 9.2 per cent

of the previous fiscal, state-owned banks recorded a total profit of Rs 14,013 crore.

As per the analysis, the gross NPAs reported by BoM and SBI were 3.74 per cent and 3.91 per cent of their total advances, respectively, in the first quarter of the current fiscal.

The net NPAs for these banks came down to 0.88 per cent and 1 per cent respectively, at the end of June.

THE STATUS

India in June proposed appointing a government panel to hear complaints from users about content moderation decisions, but has also said it is open to the idea of a self-regulatory body if the industry is willing.

reases the likelihood of a government panel being formed — a prospect that Facebook and Twitter are keen to avoid as they fear government and regulatory overreach in India, sources said.

At a closed-door meeting this week, an executive from Google told other attendees the company was unconvinced about the merits of a self-regulatory body. The body would mean external reviews of decisions that could force Google to reinstate content, even if it violated Google's internal policies, the executive was quoted as saying. Snap and ShareChat also voiced concern about a self-regulatory system.

Google said in a statement it had attended a preliminary meeting and is engaging with the industry and the government, adding that it was "exploring all options" for a "best possible solution." ShareChat and Facebook declined to comment.

'Musk seeks info on Twitter bot counters'

REUTERS
DALLAS, AUGUST 11

ELON MUSK's legal team is demanding that Twitter Inc turn over the names of employees responsible for calculating what percentage of the social media site's users are bot and spam accounts, according to a source familiar with the matter.

Bot and spam accounts on Twitter have become a central issue in the legal fight over whether Musk, who is Tesla's chief executive, must complete his \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company.

Musk said last month he was terminating the deal because Twitter has withheld information about these accounts. Twitter sued Musk to complete

ISSUES OVER BOT, SPAM ACCOUNTS

BOT AND spam accounts on Twitter have become a central issue in the legal fight over whether Elon Musk, who is Tesla's chief executive, must complete his \$44 billion acquisition of the social media company.



Reuters file

the deal, and has said the issue has no bearing on the agreement with Musk.

Twitter and Musk are in the discovery phase of the lawsuit and readying for a trial scheduled to begin October 17 in Delaware. Both sides have issued subpoenas to banks and advisers as they seek to gather

evidence.

The process also includes agreeing on "custodians," or people with control over relevant information.

In a letter filed under seal on Tuesday, Musk's lawyers asked the judge overseeing the case to compel Twitter to hand over the employee names so that the de-

fense team can question them, the source said.

Twitter and a lawyer for Musk declined to comment. Twitter has previously said it has worked to cooperatively share relevant information with Musk to complete the deal.

Twitter has been attempting to find evidence that Musk tried to torpedo the financing of the deal while also looking into his motivation for backing out of the deal, legal experts said.

Twitter sent dozens of civil subpoenas this week to global banks such as units of Morgan Stanley, co-investors in the deal including an affiliate of Brookfield Asset Management Inc, and Musk advisers, according to filings over the past two days in the Delaware Court of Chancery.



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File No: PUR-1/1-KGHAT(F)/2022-TDC

Date:

e-Procurement Short NOTICE
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The General Manager, HPTDC Ritz Annexe, Shimla on behalf of Managing Director, HPTDC invites item rate bid through electronic tendering system for the purchase of furniture & fixture for HPTDC, New Hotel at Kiarghal, Distt. Solan(HP) from the registered dealers and manufacturers under G.S.T., Act 2017:-
1.Earliest Money Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rs. Two Lakhs) only
2. Cost of Tender Rs. 5000/- (Rs. Five thousand) only
Other terms & Conditions can be downloaded from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in> or www.hptdc.in

GENERAL MANAGER



The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(OF THE BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA)



TENDER NOTICE

E-tender is invited for the supply of following item.
(1) Biennial Rate Contract for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) of various ratings with 2 Years on-site Warranty,

RE-INVITED E-TENDERS

(2) 73746, (3) 74050, (4) 74211, (5) 74439 (Corrigendum).

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

PRO/AAM(M)/77/2022

GENERAL MANAGER



TATA POWER
(Corporate Contracts Department)

The Tata Power Company Limited, 2nd Floor, Sahar Receiving Station, Sahar Airport Road, Andheri East, Mumbai-400059
(Board Line: 022-67173188) CIN: L28920MH1919PLC000567

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
The Tata Power Company Limited Invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from eligible parties for Cafeteria and Housekeeping services at its Mundra Ultra Mega Power Plant location.
Details of pre-qualification requirements, bid security, purchasing of tender document, etc. may be downloaded using the following URL: <https://www.tatapower.com/tender/tenderlist.aspx>. Eligible parties willing to participate may submit their Expression of Interest along with tender fee on or before 22nd August 2022.



Appeal for Identification
General Public is hereby informed that a person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** about 25-30 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Sex:** Male, **Injury Marks :** Head crash, deep injury in neck, chest and stomach and both hands and legs were broken. **Wearing:** Blue colour pant, and Red colour shirt. Who was found dead at KM Pole No. 25/19-25/21, PF No.2, Narela Rly Station, Delhi. In this regard, a **DD No.32A, dated 05.08.2022** U/s 174 Cr.PC. has been lodged at PS Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. Dead Body preserved Subzi Mandi Mortuary For Identification.
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.
Any, person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.
SHO P.S., Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/49/RLY/2022




APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General public is hereby informed that an unidentified deadbody of male **Age :** About 50-55 years, **Height :** 5'6", **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build :** Medium, wearing white colour banyan and white colour lower, was found dead on 06.08.2022 in train accident at K.M. Pole No. 06/03 & 06/05 Up main line near Satyawati flyover, Azadpur Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 10-A dated 06.08.2022 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for Identification for 72 hours in the mortuary of Subzi Mandi, Delhi.
Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.
SHO - P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/43/RLY/22

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Engineer-I/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work.

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest money	1. Hiring of truck and multi utility vehicle for leading of P.Way material, manpower & machinery from station to station in Delhi Division and out of Delhi Division & other Misc. works for day to day maintenance of track works in the section of ADEN/PNP. Approx. Cost : Rs.1,14,69,254.66/- Earnest Money : Rs. 3,44,078/-
Completion Period	24 Months
Date and Time of Submission of Tender and Opening of Tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 02.09.2022 opening of e-Tender at 11:00 hrs. on 02.09.2022
Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and website where the tender form can be downloaded.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.Gem.gov.in
Similar nature of work	


NOTE: All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XVIII is compulsory.
No. 128-W/280/Tender Notice/22-23/W-4 (NIT-20) Dated: 11.08.2022
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



DIRECTORATE OF HORTICULTURE & FARM FORESTRY
Indravati Bhawan, 2nd block, 4th Floor, Nava Raipur Atal Nagar, Chhattisgarh
e-mail-dihorti-cg@nic.in, eghorticulture@gmail.com
Website: <http://agriportal.cg.nic.in/horticulture> Ph.No 0771-2433001 0771-2433002

E-TENDER

Directorate of Horticulture & Farm Forestry, Government of Chhattisgarh, invites E-Tender from reputed and authorized FIRM / COMPANY/PLACEMENT AGENCY from all over India, to provide young, hardworking and dedicated Personnel/ ManPower with computer literacy to work with Technical Support Group of the State Horticulture Mission. Additionally we require to Hire Professional.
Complete e-tender form and essential documents has to be submitted online by the bidder at the e-tender website: "eproc.cgstate.gov.in" and also be sent in a sealed envelop at the office by hand or post, in the name of "To The Mission Director, State Horticulture Mission, Chhattisgarh" with the title "EOI" For Selection of Reputed & Authorized Firm/Company/Placement Agency for Placement of Personnel at Nhm Under (Midh) CG."
The physical documents to be submitted at office must contain a tender envelop (main Cover) including 2 envelopes, A & B. **Envelop A** must have the tender fee DD & Security Deposit FDR both & Technical Bid should be in. **Envelop B. Financial bid has to be strictly submitted online.**
Tender Fee- Rs. 1000/- (Rs one thousand only in form of DD)
Security Deposit- Rs 5,00,000 (Rs. five lakh only in form of FDR)
Last date of submission (online 29/8/22 by 12.00 offline physical submission) 29/8/22 by 12:30 pm
Pre-Bid of Tender- 18/8/22 at 12 noon
Opening of Tender- 29/8/22 at 1.00 PM
93534




NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Removal of garbage which includes waste material animal carcase, cow dung, leaves, malba from railway land to nearby MCD dustbins in the section of SSE/Pway/NDLS under ADEN/NDLS.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs.92,04,465.29 (Rupees Ninety Two Lakh Four Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five and Twenty Nine Paise Only)
Earnest Money to be Deposit	Rs. 1,84,100/- (Rs. One Lakh Eighty Four Thousand One Hundred Only)
Cost of tender document	Rs.0.00/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	06.09.2022 @ 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in


•The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system.
•For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
•No manual offers are acceptable.
•Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. **No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/46/2022-23/W-3 Dated : 10.08.2022**
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



SEARCH FOR MISSING
General Public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Neha W/o Pinto R/o Gali No. 01, Om Dharm Kanta, Saboli, Delhi** has been missing since 21.07.2022 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 37A dated 23.07.2022 has been lodged at Police Station Harsh Vihar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-
Age: 34 Years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Pink Colour Suit & Salwar and Blue Colour Hawai Chappal in feet.
Any person having any information/ Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Harsh Vihar, Delhi at E-mail ld-cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Phone: **SHO**
011-24368638, 24368641
P.S. Harsh Vihar, Delhi
North East Distt., Delhi
DP/1848/NE/2022
Ph. No. 011- 22585985, 22583307

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely **Sabina Khatun**, W/o Md. Rizwan, R/o H. No. H-99, Shakurpur, JJ Colony, Delhi, is missing since 16.07.2022 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 42A, dated 17.07.2022** has been lodged at **P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing woman but no clue has come to light so far.
The description of the missing woman is as under:
Gender: Female, **Age:** About 22 years, **Height:** 5'0", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** White colour suit and white colour lower.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing woman, kindly inform to the following:
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
SHO
P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-27356336, 27356014
DP/1690/NW/2022



Sabina Khatun

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन
सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग
मंत्रालय महानदी भवन नवा रायपुर अटल नगर

क्रमांक एफ 01-17/2021/1-11/नय नवा रायपुर अटल नगर 08/08/2022

// तृतीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना //

छत्तीसगढ़ मंत्रालय, महानदी भवन, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग के लिये कॉन्टेंट (अनुमानित वार्षिक क्रय मूल्य लगभग राशि रुपये 70.00 लाख) क्रय करने हेतु निर्धारित शर्तों के अन्तर्गत एक वर्ष की अवधि के लिए मोहरबंद/चपडी/लॉख अथवा सेलो टेप से बंद की गई निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विज्ञापन प्रकाशित होने के दिनों के सप्ताह कागज पर आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत कर रुपये 100.00 (रुपये एक सौ) मात्र छत्तीसगढ़ मंत्रालय, सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग (लेखा शाखा) में नगद भुगतान करके कार्यालय दिवस में छत्तीसगढ़ मंत्रालय, महानदी भवन के प्रथम तल स्थित कक्ष क्र. ए-1-08 में अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। निर्धारित तिथि के अवकाश होने की स्थिति में आगामी कार्य दिवस को माना जाएगा।

निविदा बिक्री की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 22.08.2022 तक 11:00 अंश तक	प्रातः 10.30 से सायं 4.00 बजे तक
निविदा जमा करने की तिथि	दिनांक 2२.08.2022 तक	अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 23.08.2022 को	अपरान्ह 4.00 बजे मंत्रालय के समिति कक्ष क्र. एस 3-12 में

टीप:- निविदा की नियम शर्तों की जानकारी सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग की वेबसाइट www.gad.cg.gov.in में उपलब्ध है।


हस्ता/-
अवर सचिव
छत्तीसगढ़ शासन
सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

S.No	Tender Notice No.	No of Works	Value of Works	Tender Downloading	Closing Date	Contact No
1	T.N.No.07/2022-23/CE/(GVMC)/SE/(W)/EE-(BML)/DB, Dt:08-08-2022	1 No	Rs.241.70 Lakhs	12-08-2022	26-08-2022	9948525297
2	S.H.T.N.No.28/2022-23/SE-W/EE-II(Works)/DB, Dt:06-08-2022	01 Work	Rs.1,04,18,221.00	08-08-2022	16-08-2022	9948525297
3	T.N.No.05/2022-23/GVMC/CE/SE/P-II/EE-(PD-IV)/DB, Dt:06-08-2022	01 (One)	Rs.795.62 Lakhs	06-08-2022	22-08-2022	0891-2746301

Note: Further details at <http://www.tender.aeprocurement.gov.in>

For Commissioner



SBI
Anytime Channels, Corporate Centre, 3rd Floor, World Trade Centre Arcade, Cuff Parade, Mumbai - 400005


CORRIGENDUM - 3

RFP No. SBI/ACV/2022 -23/001 Dated: 20.06.2022
Last date for Bid submission with reference to RFP for procurement of OTC Lock Management Solution and Services has been extended to 22nd August 2022. Further amendments, if any, in RFP document, shall be uploaded at Bank's portal <https://bank.sbi.in> Procurement News link and e-tendering portal <https://e.tenders.sbi/SBI> in due course.

Place: Mumbai

Date: 10.08.2022

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (Implementation & Rollout)



SBI
Strategic Training Unit, 16th Floor, Corporate Centre, State Bank Bhavan, Madame Cama Road, Mumbai - 400021

BEHAVIORAL COMPETENCY ASSESSMENT - ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT

Offers are invited from reputed Consultant/Service Provider for Reviewing, Designing & Conducting Competency Assessment followed by Development Intervention for Top Executives of the Bank. For Details, please see Procurement News at Bank's Website <https://bank.sbi/>.
Last date for submission of applications is 05.09.2022, 5.00 PM.

Place: Mumbai


Date: 12.08.2022

Sd/- Deputy General Manager (STU)


NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)
Sr. DMM, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
1.	93225461	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Electro-Pneumatic flushing system in LHB Non AC coaches conforming to MMDTS 19027 Rev.01 Date-07.08.20.	1000 Set	05.09.22

Note:1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained.
No. : Sr. DMM/NS/LP/93225461/2022 Date: 10.08.2022. 2060/22



SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT
101, The Orion, Opposite Datta Bopu Youth Centre, Koregaon Park, Pune - 411001, Telephone: 020-26051072
E-mail: tenders.pmp@mahametro.org | www.punemetrorail.org

Tender Notice No. P1PD-09/2022

Dated: 12.08.2022

Name of the Work: Licensing of Co-Branding Rights of Select Seven (7) Metro Stations of Reach-01 & Reach-02 of Pune Metro Rail Project for a period of 05 years.
Cost of Documents: INR 47,200/- (Rupees Forty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Only) non-refundable (inclusive of applicable taxes) though e-payment by Debit Card/Credit Card/Net banking, as per procedure given in e-tender portal.
Interested bidders may visit Pune Metro Rail website www.punemetrorail.org or download the bidding documents and obtain further details regarding the tender from our e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.tenders.in> from 17.00 Hrs. on 12/08/2022.
Executive Director (Procurement & Contracts), MAHA-METRO

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender under single packet system for the under noted work:


1	Name of work with its Location	Computerisation of Drawing Office for TRD/DRG/ DJI Division
2	Approx. Cost of Work	Rs. 1866539.72/-
3	Bid Security Deposit	Rs. 37300.00/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	26.08.2022 (00.00 Hrs) to 09.09.2022 (15.00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	09.09.2022 (15.00 Hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	29376203
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 17-TRD-NDLS-2022-23 Dated : 11.08.2022 2066/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Sunny Bhola S/o Jawahar Lal Bhola R/o WZ-563, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Delhi-14** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 387/10 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC P.S. Nangloi, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrants of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sunny Bhola** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sunny Bhola** have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sunny Bhola of FIR No. 387/10 U/s 498A/406/34 IPC, P.S.: Nangloi, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.09.2022.
By order
Tania Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate
Mahila Court-03, West District
Room No.245, 2nd Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/22/OD/2022




कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय भण्डार, उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान
जल यशवन, बी ब्लॉक, नेहरू कालोनी, देहरादून।

ई-निविदा सूचना
पत्रांक : 459 / ई-निविदा / 2022-23
उत्तराखण्ड जल संस्थान की ओर से केन्द्रीय भण्डार, देहरादून द्वारा निम्न कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा, दृ-विड सिस्टम (तकनीकी विड एवं कांतिगियर विड) आधार पर निम्नानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा कार्य विवरण
घरोहर धनराशि रु.
ई-निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड करने की तिथि एवं समय
ई-निविदा अपनोद करने की प्रारंभ एवं अंतिम तिथि व समय
ई-निविदा सूचना क्र.सं. 7 अनुसार मूल प्रपत्र विभाग में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय
तकनीकी विड खोलने वाली तिथि एवं समय
निविदा की वैधता
फि-विड-निविदा से सम्बंधित सुचारु/संशोधन ई-मेल eeecs-usuk@nic.in पर send करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय


1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1/-22	कार्य कर अनुसार पर ISI marked C.I. Detachable Joints with full threaded bolts and nuts, rubber rings complete conforming to IS: 8794/1988 for water works purpose and C.I. Detachable Joints with full threaded bolts and nuts, rubber rings complete conforming to IS suitable for PVC Pipes की आपूर्ति। 60,000.00 16.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	22.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	30.08.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	20.08.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	
अर्हती:- Only manufacturers of ISI marked C.I. Detachable Joints or agency authorised by manufacturer having BIS license for IS: 8794/1988 are allowed to take part in this tender.							
7/-22-23	कार्य कर अनुसार पर Stainless Steel (SS) Water Tanker 3.5 Kilo Liter Capacity mounted on suitable make Truck Chassis with Cabin including motor pump set, hose pipe 30 Mtr. & essential accessories की आपूर्ति। 10,15,000.00 16.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	22.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	30.08.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	20.08.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	
अर्हती:- Only manufacturer/Fabricators of Water Tankers are allowed to take part in this tender and no joint ventures or dealers are allowed for this tender.							
8/-22-23	कार्य कर अनुसार पर Mild Steel (MS) Water Tanker 3.5 Kilo Liter Capacity mounted on suitable make Truck Chassis with Cabin including motor pump set, hose pipe 30 Mtr. & essential accessories की आपूर्ति। 8,73,000.00 16.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	22.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	30.08.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	20.08.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	
अर्हती:- Only manufacturer/Fabricators of Water Tankers are allowed to take part in this tender and no joint ventures or dealers are allowed for this tender.							
12/-22-23	कार्य कर अनुसार पर Temper proof water meters as per standard conforming to IS: 779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO:4064 with EEC/MID certification mark shall be with protection class of IP68 including Integrated Meter Data Management Software and Android based Reading System with 2 years warranty anywhere in Uttarakhand की आपूर्ति। 20,00,000.00 16.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	22.08.2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	29.08.2022 upto 5:00 p.m.	30.08.2022 at 11:00 a.m.	120 days	20.08.2022 upto 11:00 a.m.	
अर्हती:- 1. EEC/MID certification license for water meters and factory as per standard conforming to IS:779:1994/IS:2373-1981/ISO: 4064 certificate holder or dealers authorized by the manufacturer are allowed to participate in this tender. The Joint Venture are also allowed in this tender. 2. The preference will be given to the water meter manufacturers. Manufacturer must have supplied minimum 18000 water meter to government/semi govt/PSU in last seven years i.e 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.							

ई-निविदा से सम्बंधित समस्त जाकारियां व शर्तें उत्तराखण्ड की वेबसाइट <http://juks.uk.gov.in> पर ऑन लाइन देखी / प्राप्त की जा सकती है।



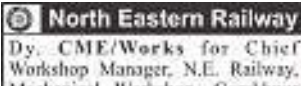
Coal India Limited
(Maharatna Company)

All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.



Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice - e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work : Name of work : "Arresting seepage on track bed, tunnel/ station/ventilation shaft, box walls, floors, mezzanine & ceiling by grouting with cement admixed with non-shrinkable water proofing compound and with cementitious grout on both UP & DN track including rebar grouting to arrest movement of BLT plinth on Viaduct from Dakshineswar to Kavi Subhash of Metro Railway, Kolkata". Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 49.01789; Earnest Money : Rs. 98,000/-; Completion Period: Three (03) months; Date and Time of Closing : 14.09.2022 at 12.00 hrs. The tender document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Abridged e-Tender Notice No. Civil-2403-2022 (Open)
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North Eastern Railway

Dy. CME/Works for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites open tenders through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:
S.No.: 1, E-Tender Notice No & Name of the work: HREPS Tender No. 13-GKP-MWS-2022-23 "Repairing of Anti Roll bar bracket & bearing assembly on FIAT Bogie in Mechanical Workshop Gorakhpur". Estimated cost (in ₹): ₹ 4802958.00. Earnest Money (in ₹): ₹ 96000/-, Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.09 hrs. Dated 10.09.2022, Cost of the Tender forms- ₹ 00/-, Period of Contract: 06 Months.
The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in.
Dy. CME/Works/ Gorakhpur
About any Passenger Amenty complaint SMS on Mob. 99784815955
DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAIN



I did what I needed to and we had fun and let the clock do the talking... to be able to run 10.60 consistently means a lot. It's remarkable. It's hard to keep up the speed at this high level."

SHELLY-ANN FRASER-PRYCE
AFTER CLOCKING THE FASTEST 100M OF THE YEAR IN MONACO



(L-R) Sable's parents Mukund and Vaishali at their fields; Sable's new under-construction home at Mandwa village in Maharashtra's Beed district. The village still awaits proper roads.

Deepak Joshi

MIHIR VASAVDA

YOU NEED to cross a water obstacle to reach the home of India's best steeplechaser.

Not the vertical hurdle on a flat track that Avinash Sable gracefully leaps over to bag medals, but a five-foot wide crater, with brown slushy water, that can swallow a sedan.

Beyond this point, there are no roads, no water. "And no prospects, too," says Amol Kadam, a school teacher. "75 years of independence and we still wait for our basic rights. But it's okay, we will wait for 75 years more, and 75 after that for a decent road and tapped water. Who's in a rush?"

The hopelessness in the 36-year-old's voice is visible on the faces of the thousand-odd inhabitants of Mandwa, a blink-and-miss village in the centre of the Balaghat Mountain Range in Maharashtra's Beed district.

It's pouring down on a Tuesday afternoon, which you'd assume would be happy news for one of Maharashtra's most drought-prone districts. Rather, it only exposes the complex relationship the region has with nature: if it rains a lot, like on Tuesday afternoon, the crops get damaged; and when it rains less, it's a drought.

"There's injustice from politicians, there's injustice from nature. If you are born here, the circumstances are such that you are destined to be a failure," Kadam laments. "This is why Avinash Sable's success means so much to us. He's like a wallflower; not to be seen by the world. But still he's here. An invisible genius, that's what Avinash is."

Around here, however, he isn't 'invisible'. With the GPS as useful as a raincoat in this barren land, a temple was, for years, a guide to navigate the slippery terrains – school, 5km south of the temple; market, a couple of kilometres to the west...

These days, the Commonwealth Games silver medallist's under-construction, the eight-bedroom house has become a reference. Call it palatial navigation.

Being constructed on one of the highest points of the range, the rooftop of this mansion offers an unobstructed, breathtaking view of the village: lush green slopes in the front where deer prance around and cattle graze, acres of family's farmland to the left and right along with a water bund to ensure year-round supply.

Sable, who crisscrosses the world for training and competition, yearns to return to nature's lap, his younger brother Yogesh says. "When he decided to construct a house here, I asked, 'why not in Pune or some other city?'" Yogesh recalls. "He replied, 'what's in a city? I'm going to live here for the rest of my life.'"

The 'lazy' mason

Sable's story doesn't begin at this under-construction palace.

It starts, instead, at a tin-shed hut with no lights and one room a kilometre downhill, where Mukund and Vaishali Sable, who worked at a brick kiln, raised their three children. The husband and wife would start their work at around 2 am and slog on well past sun set for a combined wage of Rs 100-150 per day.

"It wasn't much but just enough to get by. Let's just say we didn't sleep on an empty stomach. But there wasn't anything else we would indulge in," Vaishali says.

Yogesh, who walked – and occasionally ran – 6km to school every day with his brother Sable, adds: "We had no expectations from life. Our aim was to get some basic education and get work as a farmer or labourer, like everyone else around here."

Sable was in Class 7 when, following selection trials at his school, he got selected by talent scouts for distance-running under a state government scheme for promising junior athletes. In 2006, he was sent to an academy in Aurangabad but three years later, Sable was dropped from the programme because, according to Yogesh, 'the coaches did not see any potential in him.'

Even before he could dream of being a sportsman, Sable's career had crashed. He returned to Mandwa after his first brush with 'failure'. But the happy-go-lucky teenager quickly adopted a new routine – and even found his new passion: the hum-

How a lazy mason cleared hurdles, built a new home

Avinash Sable grew up poor, working in brick kilns in a drought-hit village, but rose to be a champion steeplechaser, famous for hoodwinking two Kenyans on way to win CWG silver medal



Following his silver medal win at Birmingham 2022, Avinash Sable returned to a rousing welcome in India.

PTI

ble *vada pav*.

"For two years, he would wake up at 5 am, practice for half an hour, tend the cattle, and used to leave for college (10+2) at 8 am," Yogesh says. On his way to college, Sable would drop by the brick kiln to borrow Rs 10 from his parents so that he could eat *vada pav* after college. "Every day, he ate that, every day! He was so lazy," Yogesh laughs. "You could see it from his appearance. He'd put on so much that it didn't look like he is a poor labourer's son," Mukund, his father, bel-

lows.

This is also the time he began working as a mason. It's what most did in Mandwa – with a severe paucity of employment opportunities, youngsters here, Kadam, the school teacher, says are generally left with two options: either work as a labourer in and around the village or move to a city and become a daily wage there. Farming, he adds, due to the water crisis, isn't a viable career option for the majority.

"Avinash had done his Class 12 in Arts. What job will you get after 12th Arts? So, he started working for anyone who needed men for construction activities... pakka hard labour. He did this to support his expenses, to buy clothes, a mobile phone... a very basic one. He did not want to be a burden to our parents so for two years after college, he worked as a mason for Rs 100 per day," Yogesh says.

His parents offered to sell the tiny farmland they owned to fund his graduation.

Sable, however, refused to take their help.

The 'goofy' Armyman

Instead, the 'goofy and absent-minded' Sable, banking on his brief sporting background, chose to take part in a recruitment camp held by the Army, in Ahmednagar, the closest major town to Mandwa.

Sable, his younger brother says, passed all tests with 'flying colours'. "But he had forgotten to carry his documents so they sent him back!" Six months later, he reappeared for trials in Osmanabad, got selected again, and this time, Sable's memory hadn't failed him.

Yogesh recalls how the two brothers spent their nights on a footpath outside the Army Institute of Physical Training (AIPT) in Pune in 2012 when they went for his medicals and other verifications because they had no money to stay in a hotel.

"We had just Rs 2,000 in our pockets for all the fees and our travel. We couldn't afford a room so we slept overnight on a footpath outside the AIPT. And that too, only one person would sleep so that the other could guard the money," Yogesh says.

In December 2012, Sable became a part of the army – 'the first from the village to get a proper job with a fixed monthly salary', according to Yogesh. "He was content with it. He hoped to save enough to build a house and live a peaceful life."

Instead, the next couple of years in the army would turn into a series of adventures,

some of which he laughs about with his brother and some, which were near-fatal.

This one time, while undergoing his training, Yogesh says Sable and his training partner were on a night patrol when both passed out. As his luck would have it, a senior was on supervising duty and saw both trainees sleeping with the rifles unguarded. "Next day, he was punished. I don't think anyone would've been punished as much as him," Yogesh laughs. "He'd have been standing with those truck tires around his shoulders all day... so many punishments!"

Sable Jr narrates a story when, again during training, a misfired bullet nearly hit his elder brother while the other time, in Siachen, he had another narrow escape when a fellow soldier passed away in a mishap on duty, where Sable too was supposed to be posted.

Even the family isn't exactly aware of how he returned to sport but Yogesh feels it was a taunt that drew Sable back to running. "He was very healthy, weighing around 84-85kg. Someone taunted him, saying that 'anyone can join the Army, there's nothing special in what he achieved,'" Yogesh says, adding that it's one of the few subjects Sable hasn't opened up about. "That, in a way, propelled him. The Army life was very tough anyway, so he thought, why not give sports another shot?"

Sable, the steeplechaser

In 2015, stumbling upon one life goal after another – from masonry to army – Sable

finally found his calling in sport. He'd practice to get back into shape in the spare hours after duty, even if it meant running for hours in the middle of the night.

Olympian Nitendra Rawat, a marathoner, was one of the first to help him. During the 2016 National Championships, Sable was on the Services' cross-country team where he finished fifth in a race full of established names. Rawat saw the potential in Sable and after the race, introduced him to Amrith Kumar, the army coach who'd go on to play an inspirational role in the athlete's career.

Yogesh says to support his running, Sable would go hunting for races and take part in – and won – events all over Mumbai and its suburbs. "The salary he received from the army, he gave it at home because he did not wish that our parents should work at the brick kiln, given he was now an

earning member," Yogesh says. "So, to support his sports expenses, mainly dietary needs, he began running races. The cash prize was used for protein supplements."

The switch to steeplechase happened after the 2017 nationals, Yogesh, himself a 5k runner, says. During the championship in Chennai, Sable clocked close to 9:05 minutes, which was the second-fastest time of the race behind another army man and former Asian medallist, Naveen Dagar.

His diary entries from 2018 to 2020 provide a peek into Sable's mindset as well as his evolution from a wannabe long-distance runner to a champion steeplechaser.



FROM SABLE'S DIARY

A note to his late coach Nikolai

I WILL train with you because my target is the World Championship and the Olympics. I have trained under you before and for a big competition, I need a coach who is experienced and disciplined, and who has good work-outs (techniques) as well as can set lofty targets for me. Whatever I am today, and the timings I have run, is all because of you. I need you to realise my dream of competing in the World Championship and Olympics. I hope that you will accept my request.

In one of the posts, he declares his target – "now start of Asian Games" – and meticulously notes down his everyday training regimen, including the number of laps he needs to run, the pace that needs to be maintained, along with other stretching and running exercises.

In another entry, he seems to be self-motivating himself vis-à-vis his steeplechase progress while there are pages dedicated to Belarusian coach Nicolai Shesarev, who – Yogesh says – turned Sable into a serious runner with lofty targets.

The family man

When Sable qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, the Maharashtra government awarded a cash prize of Rs 50 lakh.

Sable used that money in a way that was hardly surprising: first to get a permanent water connection at his home, then construct a water bund to ensure a year-round supply for the crops before building a new house. "All our life, we have had to walk at least 2km to get drinking water," Vaishali says. "Now, we just need to turn the tap on. It's magic, which has been made possible by Sable."

The family moved from their small hut downhill to a smaller one closer to their farmland and their under-construction home. Last year, after a disappointing finish at the Tokyo Olympics, Sable found refuge in this corner of the world.

He'd spend mornings tending the cattle and taking after the farms. And in the afternoons, he'd go back to his masonry days and construct parts of his new house. "That was the time he was confused and clueless. He wasn't sure if he'd compete again, so he found solace in this," Yogesh says.

The family's life has changed beyond recognition, his father Mukund says. "*Dev manus aah* (He is a God-like figure). Lives with simplicity, does everything for the family..."

Mukund hasn't watched many of Sable's races. He doesn't understand what steeplechase is. And doesn't bother about the other finer nuances. But his chest swells with pride while talking about his son's thrilling run in Birmingham last week, where Sable became the first non-Kenyan athlete to finish on the podium of the 3,000m steeplechase after six editions of the Commonwealth Games.

"I just know he finished second, and I am very proud of him. But I didn't understand the race," Mukund says. "*Kenya kaay aah?* (What is Kenya?)"

For people still waiting for roads and water, it's a world too far removed.

Arjun Tendulkar to switch sides, turn up for Goa



Mumbai: Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar's son **Arjun Tendulkar** is expected to turn up for Goa in the upcoming season. In part of the transfer process, Tendulkar Junior, on Thursday, applied for a No Objection Certificate (NoC) from Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA).

Goa Cricket Association secretary Vipul Phadke told *The Indian Express* that Arjun had expressed interest in playing for the state as a professional player for the forthcoming season. "He wanted to play for Goa in the forthcoming season so he approached us. We told him to first get a NoC from MCA which he got today. We will have his fitness and skill test going ahead. Like many players Arjun wanted to play for Goa but a process will be followed be-

fore we pick him," Phadke said.

Last season when Mumbai reached the Ranji Trophy final, Arjun had been picked by the MCA senior selection committee but he didn't get any game. As a junior he had made the cut for the India under-19 team and this was followed by Indian Premier League (IPL) team Mumbai Indians signing him. Though, Arjun hasn't yet made it to the MI playing XI.

In its statement, SRT Sports Management company stated, "Getting maximum game time on the ground is important for Arjun at this juncture of his career. We believe that the shift will improve the probability of Arjun featuring in more competitive matches. He is embarking on a new phase of his cricketing career." **DEVENDRA PANDEY**

KL Rahul declared fit, to lead India vs Zimbabwe

New Delhi: Senior opener KL Rahul will be leading the Indian team in the three-match ODI series in Zimbabwe after being declared fit by the BCCI medical team.

Shikhar Dhawan, who was named the captain initially, will now be Rahul's deputy. Rahul was recovering from a sports hernia surgery and was supposed to play the West Indies series before testing positive for Covid-19.

Since his recovery was taking time, he was not initially selected for the Zimbabwe tour and given time to get fully fit before the all-important Asia Cup. However, the medical team has now given an all clear after he cleared all the requisite fitness parameters to be available for selection. Since he is an all format first-choice deputy to regular skipper Rohit Sharma, his availability meant that Dhawan was relegated to vice-captaincy for the series. Rahul's addition took the squad strength to 16 as the selectors didn't replace any player. **PTI**

Morocco fire coach three months before World Cup

Casablanca: Morocco has fired its football coach Vahid Halilhodzic just three months before the country competes in the World Cup finals in Qatar.

The announcement by the Moroccan football federation on Thursday ends months of speculation over the fate of the Franco-Bosnian coach, who has now suffered the extraordinary feat of being fired three times by national teams after they qualified for World Cup finals.

"Given the differences and divergent visions between the Royal Moroccan Football Federation and national coach Vahid Halilhodzic on the best way to prepare the national football team for the Qatar 2022 World Cup, the two parties decided to separate," the federation said in a statement.

Halilhodzic's possible departure had been the cause of much speculation since Morocco's tepid showing at the Africa Cup of Nations in January and, in particular, his fall out with midfielder Hakim Ziyech. **AP**

Chess an escape from war for South Sudan's players

Newest country in the world, it continues to see conflict between the government and rebel groups; Players at Olympiad say it is everyday reality

SANDIPP
AUGUST 11

DENG CYPRIANO, South Sudan's best-rated chess player, hates talking about war. The 40-year-old says his world goes numb when he thinks of war. The rattle of bullets pierces his ears. The rumbling military jeeps with Kalashnikovs noses pounce in front of his eyes. "An everyday reality for us, not a piece of news," he said during the recently-concluded Chess Olympiad in Chennai.

He and his team are a universe away from reality. An alternative reality almost. "And I see this beautiful world of chess, sunshine, people from all around the world and I feel positive and hopeful of humanity and peace. I hear the voice of the friends I have made, and I feel this is a beautiful world," he says.

Almost everyone in the team has a survival story to tell, but they don't want to relive their tales of war and famine, death and desperation. "These few days are to be celebrated, for these are some of the best days in our life, and we don't know whether we would see days like these," he says.

Eleven years after South Sudan was carved off Sudan, after a protracted and bloody civil war, the newest country in the world, continues to see repeated bouts of conflict between the government and rebel groups, as well as climatic shocks such as severe flooding and localised drought.

According to the UN, about 8.3 million people currently require humanitarian assistance (about two-thirds of the total population), while 1.4 million children under five are acutely malnourished. The country also has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world.

A game of chess seems trivial when people are fighting for food and life every day. But the game, for Cypriano and his team, is an escape from the unimaginable realities of life. "The game we play, again it is war, but a peaceful war. It has indeed made a difference to our lives. We could see the world, represent our country, make friends and possibly show those fighting that there is a better world outside," he says.

Several indigenous versions of the sport have been popular for centuries in South Sudan as well as other Central African countries. Cypriano and his friends picked it up in child-



South Sudan chess players during Olympiad in Chennai. *Express Photo*

hood and played it wherever they could squeeze in their ragged chessboard, in the corner of the house, or under the shades of a tree in the park. "When we could not buy chess boards, we made them from wood. The rules were somewhat different, but the basics were the same," he says.

Serious chess often began at the Munuki Chess Club in Juba, the capital city. The country's chess fraternity flocks the club, which also organises tournaments to forge brotherhood between the diverse and often feuding ethnicities of the country. "It helps to bring people together and South Sudan really needs people to know each other, not through the tribal lens or the ethnic lens, but through capacities, capabilities and hobbies and mutual interests," club president Jada Albert Modi had told The Juba Post. There is no official mentoring, as the players pick and polish the game on the go. They barely fine-tune their games online, an integral part of modern-day chess development, as internet accessibility is difficult and the connection is often weak. So they often assemble in bars that have free internet access, though they can't stay forever in the bar. Besides, it's a difficult place for women to enter as well. "But data, online membership, all these are very expensive for us. We could manage it for a day or two, or maybe a week. But not for a month," says Supriano.

Most of them don't have laptops or PCs either. When the FIDE-appointed trained Vedant Goswami met them online for the first class,

he was in for a shock. "They had just one laptop. During the zoom meeting, all of them, some 10-15 people including players and officials, used to squeeze into one screen in a small room. It was difficult because you don't know who is who. It was difficult to give personalized coaching like that. We then finally arranged some more laptops for them. The internet connection would go off too," he says.

Their game, he felt, was raw. "They were better than I had expected. There is obviously Deng who has a rating of over 2000 (2105), but most of them were raw. Every move they would look to attack and their defence was weak. So I had to prepare them on the defensive and positional front. The women's team was quite weak, then I learnt that it was difficult for them to go out and play in bars or clubs as it is unsafe," he explains.

The tournaments come few and far between but that has dissuaded them constantly working on their game. "We don't have resources, but we see people in our country and we ourselves, struggle for food. So we don't complain about resources. We just find our ways to survive and get better, to be famous and show the country and world that a sport can change lives. Chess can bring people together, it can create relationships between us, it can also bring peace to South Sudanese as well," Cypriano says.

His eyes are bright and fresh now. They don't show scars of war. Chess has healed some of those.

Medvedev's loss means Rafa could be top seed at US Open

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AUGUST 11

DANIIL MEDVEDEV'S lead at the top of the men's tennis rankings took a big hit after he bowed out of his second-round encounter at the 2022 Canadian Open to Nick Kyrgios.

As the defending champion, the Russian lost nearly 1000 ranking points at the Masters 1000 event, bringing his lead over World No. 2 Alexander Zverev down to just 125 points. However, still reeling from the injury he suffered during the semifinal at Roland Garros this year, Zverev will fail to capitalise and himself drop 1000 points next week, when he will be unable to defend his title in Cincinnati.

This leaves the door open for Rafael Nadal to usurp the top spot of the men's rankings. Following his triumphs at the Australian Open and French Open this year, Nadal has successfully kept his place in the top 5.

Since injury and subsequent surgery derailed the second half of his 2021 season, following Montreal, Nadal will not be defending a single ranking point till the end of the season. This puts him in pole position to end the year as World No. 1, but with Medvedev's early defeat on Wednesday, he could reach the position as early as the US Open.

The Spaniard confirmed on Tuesday that he will travel to Cincinnati to play the Masters 1000 event there. In the American midwest, Medvedev will be defending 360 points from his semifinal finish last year. If Nadal lifts the title there, and Medvedev fails to at least reach the quarterfinal, the Spaniard will be the new World No. 1.

However, chances of Nadal going all the way in Cincinnati are slim. Al of the best men's players in the world, barring Zverev due to injury and Novak Djokovic due to his unvaccinated status, are expected to make up a stacked draw in Cincinnati.



Daniil Medvedev lost to Nick Kyrgios in the second round in Toronto. *AP*.

Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director

Pioneer in Financing Green Energy for Sustainable Development

Excerpts from the Chairman's Speech at the 35th Annual General Meeting held on 10th August 2022

Dear Shareholders,

It is my pleasure to present to you the performance of your Company during the 35th year of its operation, which has been path breaking.

While the global economy is facing unprecedented volatility and disruption due to Covid-19 and global uncertainties, the Indian economy is still consolidating and emerging robust despite supply chain disruptions, inflation, etc. These difficult times have taught us ways of survival as well as doing business. While the year was full of challenges on operational and business fronts, I would like to inform you that, your Company with its committed manpower and focused approach towards sustainable performance, has not only maintained its position as India's leading financial institution dedicated to the Renewable Energy (RE) sector, but has also achieved highest ever sanctions, disbursements and profits for the year ending FY 22.

Despite a volatile economic scenario in FY 22 and the second and third waves of Covid, your Company reported a historic all-time high annual Profit Before Tax (PBT) of ₹ 833.84 Crore in FY 22 and Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹ 633.53 Crore in FY 22 thereby registering a massive growth of 46.41% and 82.88%, respectively over FY 21. The Loan Book of your Company has grown from ₹ 27,853.92 Crore as at the end of FY 21 to ₹ 33,930.61 Crore as at the end of FY 22 (registering a growth of 21.82%). Your Company has achieved highest-ever loan sanction of ₹ 23,921.06 Crore, with a growth of 117.44% over the previous year's sanction of ₹ 11,001.30 Crore and a highest ever loan disbursement of ₹ 16,070.82 Crore registering a record increase of 82.04% over the previous year.

The net-worth of your Company as on 31st March 2022 has reached ₹ 5,268.11 Crore as against ₹ 2,995.19 Crore at the end of FY 21, an increase of 75.89%, which includes equity infusion of ₹ 1,500 Crore by the Government of India (GoI). With stringent review and monitoring as well as constant follow up, the Net NPAs of your Company have reduced to 3.12% ending FY 22 as against 5.61% as at the end of FY 21, which is a significant reduction as compared to the previous year.

This reflects your Company's ability to translate the unforeseen globally turbulent times into an opportunity to adapt and manage a successful transition. I am confident that, in the coming years, your Company shall scale new heights and be successful in making our nation energy sufficient, energy efficient and energy independent.

With the rapid pace of innovation and technology development, there is a strong convergence theme emerging within the energy value chain of your Company. The Company, due to its special position in the renewable energy space and knowledge of the infra sector is in a strong position to encash the infra credit opportunities in our country.

GLOBAL ENERGY SCENARIO

With massive untapped renewable energy potential, India aims to become a major producer of green hydrogen to support the decarbonization of its industrial economy. As assessed by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), hydrogen will account for around 12 per cent of total energy supply in a 1.5°C world by 2050.

Falling cost of wind and solar power have been making way for increased investments in renewables, that are now the preferred mode for energy generation and sourcing. However, with the latest technological advancements, new RE capacity additions are expected in the fields of Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, RE Hybrids and Offshore Wind under the Atmanirhar Bharat Mission and Panchamrit goals announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in Glasgow at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in November 2021.

Our Nation's power intensity is much lower as compared to the other BRICS nations, and to achieve the \$5 trillion economy target by 2024-25, it definitely needs to work on infrastructure strengthening for which Public Private Partnership is the way ahead. For meeting our country's clean energy investment needs over the next decade, we need a financial system which keeps pace with the financial requirements for the energy companies. As India moves ahead on the Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS) pathway, additional investment will be required for debt financing. Your Company is poised to play a crucial role in the Indian renewable story, as we are more agile than our larger counterparts and can thus exploit emerging market opportunities.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES AND INDIAN RENEWABLE ENERGY SECTOR

The Government of India (GoI) has been proactively engaged by setting in place a mechanism through favorable policies and regulations to support the Renewable Energy sector. Our Country has been aggressively pushing for innovative market mechanisms and business models, institutional strengthening, capacity building and demand creation to ensure the growth of Renewable Power generation for clean and sustainable energy transition.

A number of initiatives have been taken to incentivize local development and manufacturing of renewable energy equipment. The Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) Scheme of Ministry of Electronics & Information

Technology mainly provides subsidy for capital expenditure – 20% for Investments in Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and 25% in non-SEZs covering solar PV cells, solar PV modules, EVA, backsheet and solar glass. With the implementation of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Order, procurement and use of domestically manufactured solar PV modules and solar inverters has been mandated for Government and its entities. Domestic products are also mandated under the MNRE Schemes of CPSU Scheme Phase-II, PM-KUSUM and Grid-connected Rooftop Solar Programme Phase-II. The Government has also imposed Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on the import of solar PV cells and modules. Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the National Hydrogen Mission on India's 75th Independence Day to aid the Government meet its climate targets and make India a green hydrogen hub.

Your Company is the Implementing Agency for the PLI scheme for "High Efficiency Solar PV Modules" with a total outlay of ₹ 4500 Crore. The PLI scheme allocation in Budget 2022 will attract additional investment into manufacture of solar Photovoltaic cells and modules thereby cutting dependence on Chinese imports and nurturing global champions apart from providing employment. To decarbonize the road transport sector, the Government has introduced incentive programs to promote clean mobility solutions in the form of FAME-II, FAME-II apart from delicensing establishment for charging infrastructure under the Electricity Act 2003.

At COP-21, as part of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), India has committed to achieving 40 per cent of its installed electricity capacity from non-fossil energy sources by 2030. The country has already achieved this target. India has taken bold steps to lead in creating a sustainable world and was ranked 3rd in renewable energy country attractive index. Our country has a liberal foreign investment policy for renewables allowing 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route. In recent years RE Sector has seen inflow of investment in India from Global as well as Indian investors.

Our country stands 4th in the world in terms of installed RE capacity; 5th in solar power and 4th in wind power in terms of installed capacity. Our country also has an ambition to install 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030. As the economy grows, the electricity consumption is projected to reach 15,280 TWh in 2040 from 4,326 TWh in 2012. Renewable Energy is expected to tap majorly in this segment.

Though our country falls short in the resources of conventional energy as compared to its energy needs, primarily on account of its population and rapidly growing economy, its has been endowed with a wind power potential of around 695 GW at 120m above ground level and a solar potential of about 748 GW assuming 3% of the waste land area is covered by Solar PV modules. The Government of India is leaving no stone unturned in strengthening development of human and organisational capacities in these domain areas.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Let me highlight the operational and financial achievements of your Company for FY 22:

Profit Before Tax	₹ 833.84 Crore as against ₹ 569.52 Crore (up by 46.41%)
Profit After Tax	₹ 633.53 Crore as against ₹ 346.41 Crore (up by 82.88%)
Loan Sanction	₹ 23,921.06 Crore as against ₹ 11,001.30 Crore (up by 117.44%)
Loan Disbursement	₹ 16,070.82 Crore as against ₹ 8,828.35 Crore (up by 82.04%)
Loan Book	₹ 33,930.61 Crore as against ₹ 27,853.92 Crore (up by 21.82%)
Net-worth	₹ 5,268.11 Crore as against ₹ 2,995.19 Crore (up by 75.89%)
Net NPA	3.12% as against 5.61% (reduction by 44.39%)

The earning per share has increased from ₹ 4.42 for the FY21 to ₹ 8.03 for the FY22 which is an increase of ~82% over the previous year. As per 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 22, your Company has obtained exemption from DIPAM for payment of dividend. Your Company is rated 'AA+' by CARE Edge, India Ratings & Research and ICRA credit rating agencies. Brinkwork credit rating agency has assigned 'AAA Negative' rating and 'AAA (CE)' for outstanding bonds. Further, bank loans of your Company have been assigned 'AAA Negative' rating by Brinkwork credit rating agency.

During the year, your Company mobilized funds amounting to ₹ 106 Crore through the domestic bond market by private placement of unsecured taxable bonds. These bonds were issued with a maturity of 3 years 1 month and 14 days with a coupon rate of 5.98% p.a., which was lower by 25 bps as compared to similarly rated CPSU entity. These bonds are listed on NSE as well as BSE.

Your Company has played a significant catalytic role in the RE sector and in view of the expected growth in the sector has enhanced the scope of its operation. Your Company is now financing transmission and distribution companies, as well as companies operating in the areas of energy storage, Smart Meters, e-mobility energy efficiency, Ethanol, CBG etc. as also for your project/scheme/activity directly or indirectly linked with renewable energy, energy efficiency and/or conserving energy and/or other environment friendly technologies. Your Company has been digitizing its operations and services to ensure transparency, ease of doing business and improving process efficiencies. Your Company has revamped its systems/business process to enable ease of doing business, good governance and to enhance transparency practice to its customers without even visiting the office.

POLICY AND OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

I would also like to share with you, the following major initiatives undertaken by your Company during the year to meet the requirements of our business operations, enhance ease of doing business and improve transparency and overall efficiency of work and employee satisfaction:

- Memorandum of Association (MoA):** MoA of your Company has been amended to include E-Mobility, energy storage, introduce new financing instruments & participate in trusts/funds/factoring business.
- Memorandum of Understanding:** During the year, your Company has entered into Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with M/s. TANGEDCO, NEPCO, BVLCL, THDC, GSI and CPET for rendering consultancy services in the areas of techno-commercial feasibility studies and debt raising services for renewable energy.
- Pan India presence:** Your Company has opened a new branch office in Guwahati (Eastern India) apart from its existing branch offices in Hyderabad and Chennai (Southern India) and Mumbai (Western India). It further plans to open branches across the country for ease of business and convenience of customers as per the operational requirements.
- Reduction in Lending rate:** To retain the competitive edge and support the RE developers with attractive interest rates, lending rates have been revised five times in FY 22 to align them with market conditions.
- Reduction in cycle time for sanctions, documentation, and disbursement** because of simplification of procedures and implementation of E-Office.
- Streamlining of Systems & Procedures:** Credit appraisal mechanism has been strengthened by introducing Financial Concurrence team. A project's progress and recovery are monitored on a fortnightly basis. Your Company has ensured ease of doing business through faceless sanctions. A **Whistle-blower portal** has been hosted which has been appreciated by the CVC.
- Leveraging technology:** Cutting edge technology is being implemented for ensuring contactless and transparent transactions. Your Company is migrating to Dynamics 365 ERP system, a fully integrated IT solution.
- MNRE Scheme on Production Linked Incentive (PLI):** MNRE has designated your Company as the Implementing Agency for the PLI scheme for "High Efficiency Solar PV Modules". Letter of Award (LoA) for support under the scheme have been issued to three agencies for an outlay of ₹ 4500 Crore.
- MNRE Scheme on CPSU Scheme - Phase-II:** Your Company is the Implementing Agency for the VGF Based Bidding (Tranche-II) for 5,000 MW Grid Connected Solar Power Projects Under CPSU Scheme - Phase-II. Capacities have been allocated to qualified bidders post e-reverse auction.
- Stakeholder Consultation:** Quarterly Interactions with stakeholders, industry experts, borrowers and IREDA veterans and employees ensure streamlining transactions, bring transparency, reducing delays and increasing efficiency.
- Participation in World Expo:** Your Company showcased its corporate journey at the World Expo held in Dubai and deliberated on the various issues with investors, developers, policy makers and other stakeholders.
- Casual Training and Development Programs:** Your Company has introduced virtual weekly/fortnightly lectures focused training and development programs from reputed professionals'/institutions in various fields for enhance capacity building of employees.
- Covid Response and Work from Home:** Your Company took proactive steps including RT-PCR and antibody tests for all employees, vaccination drives for employees of IREDA, MNRE, MoP, NHPC and other CPSEs and Government Departments. A meditation session is held every morning apart from a Yoga session every evening to reduce stress and improve the overall health of its employees.
- Important Policy changes:** Your Company has introduced/ reviewed the following policies to expand its business portfolio:
 - Introduced a new product where lending rates are aligned with incremental cost of borrowing.
 - Scheme for financial assistance to 'Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)' projects under SATAT Scheme/GoI.
 - Increasing exposure limits to 70% of the project cost for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) based Waste to Energy (WTE) projects.
 - Increasing exposure limits to 90% of the project cost for Ethanol projects of existing sugar mills, eligible for availing interest subvention.
 - Increasing exposure limits to 75% in case of takeover of commissioned Small Hydro Power (SHP) Projects.
 - Comprehensiveness policy for financing new technologies to promote usage/penetration of Renewable Energy viz. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and manufacturing of batteries, production of Green Hydrogen (Electrolysers), Electric Mobility Segment, Waste Recycling units.
- Option to pre-close a loan with replacement of asset as a step towards ease of doing business.
- General eligibility conditions modified to include projects with losses due to depreciation and interest on account of CCs, CCs, Unsecured Loans, NDCs or other mezzanine debt which are subordinated to senior lenders.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - BEYOND BUSINESS

As a socially responsible corporate, your Company is committed in increasing its CSR impact and reach over the coming years, to play an important role in India's sustainable development by inter-weaving economic, social and environmental objectives. In compliance with the Companies Act, 2013, your Company has made a budgetary allocation of ₹ 6.85 Crore, based on 2% of the average size of the Profit Before Tax.

For the FY 22, a CSR Budget of ₹ 6.85 Crore was available, against which an amount of ₹ 5.51 Crore was spent on various projects including the contribution of ₹ 132 Lakh to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES) Fund. This amount includes the unspent fund in respect of projects sanctioned in the previous years.

Let me also share that one of the CSR initiatives of your Company, "Therapy on Wheels" has been recognized for the "Zero Project" award by Austrian ESSL Foundation. The Zero Project is an initiative of the Austrian ESSL Foundation focusing globally on the rights of people with disabilities. The Zero Projects approach aims to identify, curate, and share inclusive solutions, as intended, and encouraged by Article 32 of the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). "Therapy on Wheels" is a mobile therapy-center-on-wheels, a well-equipped setup which provides physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy to children with disabilities. The project was launched in November 2020.

Your Company will continue to assist meaningful community development projects in line with its business plans and GoI's vision for the nation's sustainable development.

MoU RATING

Your Company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), GoI setting key targets for the FY 22. For the FY 21, your Company has achieved 'Excellent' Rating as per MoU evaluation. For the FY 22, final rating on MoU is subject to assessment by the Government.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

In a service industry, employees constitute the core. The management of your Company understands the importance of its core resource and invests in their development and retention.

With 150 full-time employees ending March 2022, your Company is committed to utilize the available human resource optimally and continue regular capacity building of the employees through weekly focused training and development from subject matter experts in all spheres of power and RE sectors. Your Company provides equal growth opportunities for women and they represent around 24% of the total work force. The management ensures conducive work policies to facilitate work-life balance, thus enabling the employees to focus on achievement of the Company's strategic goals through increased productivity.

During the Covid-19 Pandemic of FY 22, an exemplary internal Covid-Care Response Team took care of COVID-19 positive employees, their family members and others by providing 24x7 support including vaccination camps, mental health support including regular meditation sessions, delivery of food and medicines, hospitalization, arranging for plasma, Oxygen Concentrators etc.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Your Company strives to ensure highest standards of professionalism, integrity, accountability, fairness, transparency, social responsiveness and business ethics for efficient and ethical conduct of business. It makes consistent efforts to inculcate good Corporate Governance practices in the systems and processes to ensure compliance with statutory obligations and also to follow the underlying spirit. 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 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. The essence of Corporate Governance is about maintaining the right balance between economic, social, individual and community goals. These principles have been and will continue to be our guiding force in future.

Over the several years of its operation, your Company has acquired core competence as well as sectoral expertise, which has resulted in a competitive edge and quick response mechanism. Your Company has weathered several difficult situations in the past and has yet continued to grow.

An enabling policy framework with a twin objective of ensuring power availability to all and reducing the adverse environmental impact because of generating electricity with conventional sources. With support from the GoI, Renewable Energy (RE) capacity addition gained momentum. With our country's commitment to be a Net Carbon Zero nation by 2070, the RE capacity is poised to increase manifold. The sector continues to enjoy focus from the MNRE, Government of India, in terms of policy initiatives, removal of bottlenecks and consequent shortening of implementation timelines, etc. Several new projects are underway, and the Government is putting in place all possible enablers. Infrastructure investment is a huge opportunity, and your Company is geared up

to use this opportunity by tapping potential opportunities in the coming years. A proposal for upgradation of your Company to Schedule 'A' CPSE and grant of "Navratna" status has been submitted to GoI.

Your Company is expected to continue its growth trajectory through innovation and repositioning itself in a dynamic market. The Government has introduced a Production Linked Scheme (PLI) to set-up an efficient domestic manufacturing capacity of Solar Modules of GW-scale and reduce dependence on import. The MNRE has designated your Company as the Implementing Agency for the said scheme.

Your Company 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 your Company 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.

The emerging power ecosystem heralds a great potential for your Company. Your Company is in turn committed to provide its support to ensure adequate and affordable resources for the sector. Your Company will continue its efforts through various international and multilateral lenders for new lines of credit to ensure availability of cheap finance to the sector. While your Company is a debt listed company, it is fully geared up to get its equity listed and your Company is also planning to come out with an IPO and also issue Green Bonds in the international & domestic market to garner capital for onward lending.

Your Company is set to support sustainable energy solutions under proposed National Hydrogen Energy Mission in sync with the Government's vision, for hydrogen energy utilization.

While your Company's current portfolio is spread across the southern, western and northern regions of the country, the company is exploring capacity addition in the eastern and north eastern regions on the country. Your Company plans to open multiple branches to ensure Pan-India presence, in the near future, subject to operational requirements of the Company.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to place on record my sincere thanks & gratitude to the Government of India particularly the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) for their support especially equity infusion and dividend exemption, I am grateful to other organs of the Government like Department of Public Enterprises, 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, 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 special thanks to the Statutory Auditors, Secretarial Auditors, Cost Auditors and the Internal Auditors for their contribution. I express my sincere gratitude to all investors, lenders, borrowers and customers including State Governments, state power utilities and private entrepreneurs in the Renewable Energy sector, for continuing to place their trust in the Company.

I am thankful for the support and co-operation of international financial institutions namely Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Agence française de développement (AFD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Nordic Investment Bank (NIB), International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank.

I convey my appreciation to my colleagues on the Board for the immense value they add in strengthening the Company and last but not the least, the untiring efforts of the employees for their commitment and involvement.

May I now request that, the Directors' Report, the Audited Balance Sheet, the Profit and Loss Account and Auditors' Report for the FY 22, be adopted.

Thank You,

Sd/-
Pradip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN:- 07448576

Dated: August 10th, 2022
Place: New Delhi

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 10th August, 2022. For full text please visit www.ireda.in.)

ENERGY FOR EVER
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(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

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