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**CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES**  
Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India  
J.L.N.B.C.H. Anusadhan Bhawan  
No. 61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. "D" Block,  
Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058  
Email: dg-ccras@nic.in, Website: www.ccraa.nic.in  
Tel: 011-28525852

**ADVERTISEMENT-2022**  
**PANCHKARMA TECHNICIAN COURSE**

The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, Govt., of India invites applications for 12<sup>th</sup> pass students for One year, full time and self financed Panchkarma Technician Course conducted by CCRAS, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India, New Delhi at following 4 Training Centres affiliated to Healthcare Sector Skill Council (HSSC) - National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) i.e. (1) CARL, New Delhi (10 Seats), (2) NARIP, Cheruthuruthy (30 Seats), (3) RARI, Jammu (15 Seats) & (4) CARL, Guwahati (10 Seats).

Please visit the Council's website [www.ccraa.nic.in](http://www.ccraa.nic.in) for the details of the Advertisement, Application Form, Course, How to apply, Course Fee, Age limit, Reservation and Last date for receipt of application etc.

davp 17216/12/0013/2223 **Administrative Officer (Estt.)**

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Web: www.ircon.org, CIN-L45203DL1976GO008171

**Re-e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding)**

e-Tender No.: IRCON/1200026/WPO-SER/BNDM/Re-e-Tender/PEB Date: 14.08.2022  
e-Open Tender in two packet system for and on behalf of IRCON International Limited is invited from eligible bidders for following work:

**Name of work** - "Design & Construction of Industrial Sheds with Pre-Engineered Steel Structures (PEB) excluding its civil works in connection with the Setting up of Detachment Free Rake Examination Facilities at Exchange Yard of Bondamunda, South Eastern Railway" having estimated cost (incll taxes) of Rs. 1166.47 Lakh

**End Date & Time of e-Bid Submission of tender** 28.08.2022 at 15:30 Hrs.

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

**General Manager /Civil,**  
IRCON INTERNATIONAL LTD., 121/C, B, Ashok Nagar, Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834002

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR RUNNING OF CAFETERIA**

- Application is invited from war windows/ widows of defence personnel/ disabled soldier/ ex-servicemen and spouses/widows of ex-servicemen for running of cafeteria at Dte Gen Info Sys(DGIS), New Delhi.
- The critical dates are as under :-  
Last date of Collection of application form - 25 August 22.  
Last date for submission - 15 September 22.
- The application forms be collected from :-  
GSO 1 (M&H), MISO Dte Gen Info Sys, RTR Marg, New Delhi-10 Mob No.9813938966
- The application form with complete documents to be deposited in drop box at Reception DGIS by 1700h on 15 September 2022.

**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

**DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**  
(IN COORDINATION WITH)  
**DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE**  
ORGANIZES  
**NATIONAL LOK ADALAT**

on  
**21<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**  
**FOR SETTLEMENT OF COMPOUNDABLE TRAFFIC CHALLANS**  
**ON SPOT CHALLANS AND NOTICES OF ALL TYPE OF VEHICLES**  
(INCLUDING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES)  
**PENDING AT THE DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE PORTAL UP TO 30.04.2022**  
**IN THE COURT COMPLEX OF: DWARKA, KARKARDOOMA, PATIALA HOUSE, ROHINI, ROUSE AVENUE, SAKET & TIS HAZARI COURTS.**

**Note:** In order to take the maximum challans/notices in the Lok Adalat, it was decided that all compoundable notices till **30.04.2022** available on the Delhi Traffic Police portal except Non Compoundable, Cognizance declined notices, Paid notices, Disposed off notices & those Challans which have been transferred to regular court/evening courts notices will be taken up in this Lok Adalat.

Considering **COVID-19** protocol and maintaining social distancing, **1200 Challans/Notices** in each Bench in all **120 Lok Adalats Benches** shall be taken up for disposal, only **1,44,000 Challans/Notices** shall be disposed off on **21.08.2022**, in the all above court complexes.

**All the notices/challans are to be downloaded by the Violators from Delhi Police Website and there will not be any facility of print out in the court Complexes.**

To download and take printout of the notices/challans Log on to Delhi Police Website  
**<https://delhitrafficpolice.nic.in/notice/lokadalat> & [traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/notice/lokadalat](https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in/notice/lokadalat)**  
This link will be available on 17<sup>th</sup> August-2022 at 10:00 a.m. for National Lok Adalat till the limit of challans get exhausted.

**Visit Court mentioned in your Challan at prescribed time. Please carry printout of your Challan**  
24 Hrs. Traffic Helpline: **1095/25844444**

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**DELHI STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**  
Patiala House Courts Complex, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Pre-Fab Building, New Delhi, 110001  
Helpline **1516**

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E-mail to CP Delhi at: [cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in](mailto:cp.sanjayarora@delhipolice.gov.in) • Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

**FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090**

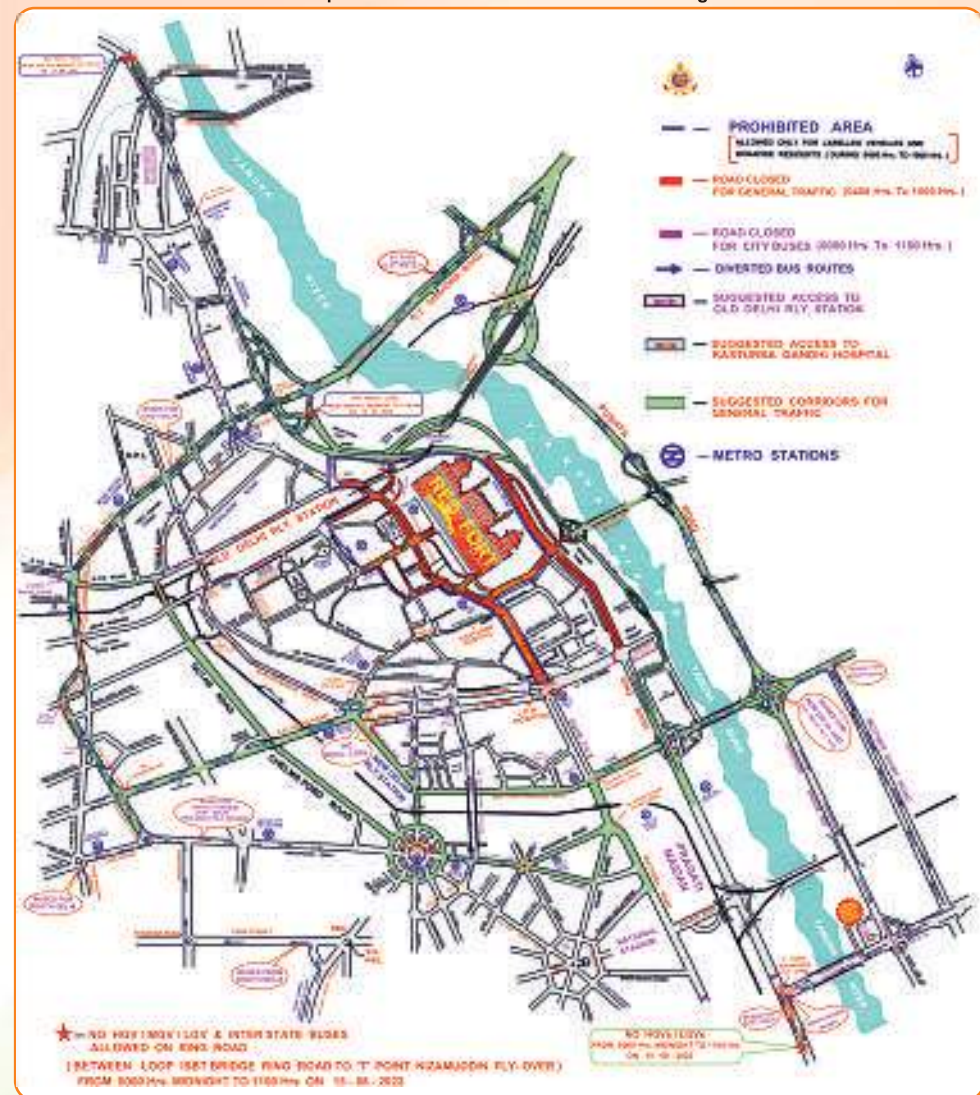
**Independence Day Celebrations**  
**TRAFFIC ADVISORY**  
At Red Fort on 15 August, 2022 (4:00 AM to 11:00 AM)

**DELHI POLICE**  
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

**75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**  
13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> August 2022

**DELHI TRAFFIC POLICE**

Independence Day Ceremony will be celebrated on 15<sup>th</sup> August-2022 at Red Fort. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India will address the nation from the rampart of Red Fort. For the convenience of invitees and security reasons, certain traffic restrictions shall be imposed at and around the Red Fort on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.



#### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- No cameras, binoculars, Remote Control car keys, umbrella, handbags, briefcases, transistors, cigarette lighters, tiffin boxes, water bottles, lunch boxes etc. will be permitted.
- Members of the public are requested not to touch any suspicious object. They are requested to immediately report about the presence of any unidentified/suspected object, suspicious movement of individuals & vehicles or anything out of the ordinary, to the nearest policeman.
- In view of care to be exercised during Covid-19 situation, the invitees are requested to follow guidelines issued by MHA & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at all times while they are in the IDC function area at Red Fort in this regard; attention is invited to the following:
  - In the event of any invitee experiencing/having a history of any symptoms of Covid-19 within 2 weeks of the Independence Day 2022, which is yet untested or confirmed Positive for Corona (Covid-19) the invitee may consider refraining to attend the event.
  - At the entry gates, marking will be available at adequate distance and invitees are requested to position/move on these markings while entering the gate.
  - Controlling officers & ushers will be on duty to assist & guide for seating inside the designated enclosures.
  - (iv) Similarly on conclusion of the function at Red Fort, all invitees are requested to remain seated until requested/guided by the controlling officers/ushers of the designated enclosures to proceed to avoid crowding at exit.
  - Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like Paragliders, para-motors, hang gliders, UAVs, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi up to 15.08.2022.

#### 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:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chhatra Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chhatra Rail.
- S.P.Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Espanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
- Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salingarh Bypass.

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

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for Independence Day Celebration may avoid C- Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A Point Tikla 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 Salingarh bypass.

#### North-South Access

**Alternative- 1:** Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjung Road – Kamal Ataturk Marg- Kautilya Marg- S Marg- 11 Murti- Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street- Mandir Marg – S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice-versa.

**Alternative- 2:** Reach Connaught Place – Minto Road – Bhavbhut Marg – Ajmeri Gate – Shradhanand Marg – Lahori Gate Chowk – Naya Bazar – Peeli 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 – Pusha Road – G.T. Road and cross Yudhister Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

#### East-West access:

- NH-24 (NH-9): Nizamuddin Khatta- Barapulla Road- under AIMS Flyover- Ring Road.
- DND- Barapulla Road further as per 1 above OR via Ashram on Ring Road & proceed accordingly.
- NH-24 (NH-9): Nizamuddin Khatta- Ring Road- Bhairon Road- Mathura Road- Subrahmanyan Bharti Marg- Rajesh Pilot Marg- Pithviraj Road- Safdarjung Road- Kamal Ataturk Marg- Panchsheel Marg- SP Marg/ Ring Road accordingly and vice versa.
- Vikas Marg- IP Marg- DDU Marg- Minto Road- then either via Connaught Place or Ajmeri Gate- DBG & proceed further.
- 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 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:

- 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.
- 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.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 0000 Hrs to 1100 Hrs on 15.08.2022 between ISBT Kashmiri Gate and Ring Road - NH-24(NH-9)/NH 7 point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take available alternative route.

#### How to Approach/Reach Important places:-

- Old Delhi Railway Station:-**
  - From West and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.
  - From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 2) New Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 3) From North:-

- 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 Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 4) From West:-

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

#### 5) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 6) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 7) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 8) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 9) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 10) From West:-

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

#### 11) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 12) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 13) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 14) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 15) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 16) From West:-

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

#### 17) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 18) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 19) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 20) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 21) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 22) From West:-

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

#### 23) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 24) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 25) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 26) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 27) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 28) From West:-

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

#### 29) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 30) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 31) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 32) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 33) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 34) From West:-

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

#### 35) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg- Panchkuan Road - Rani Jhansi Flyover - Azad Market - Boulevard - Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P.Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station from Dhaulka Kuan- Ridge Road (Vande Matram Marg) - Faiz Road- Rani Jhansi Road & thereafter as above & vice versa.

#### 36) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 37) From East/North East:-

- From East/North East:-** Pust Road- Yudhister Setu- Mori Gate- Pul Duffin- SP Mukherjee Marg then proceed further accordingly.

#### 38) Old Delhi Rly. Station:-

- From East:-** Vikas Marg, DDU Marg, Bhabhuti Marg, R/A Rani Jhansi, Yudhister Setu, Rani Jhansi Road, R/A Rani Jhansi, DBG Road and reach ND Railway Station accordingly OR via Mori gate, Pul Duffin, SP Mukherjee Marg, Qutub Road and reach.

#### 39) From North:-

- From North:-** Mori Gate - Pul Dufferin - S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

#### 40) From West:-

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

#### 41) From South:-

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

#### ISBT Kashmere Gate:-

- From New Delhi and South Delhi:-** Mother Teresa Crescent- Park Street - Mandir Marg-



# हर हाथ तिरंगा लहराना है, इंडिया को नं.1 बनाना है

14 अगस्त, शाम 5 बजे  
स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर  
हाथों में तिरंगा लेकर राष्ट्रगान गाएँ

“आइए, आजादी के इस 75वें वर्ष में हम प्रण लें कि हम भारत के 130 करोड़ लोग एक साथ मिलकर भारत को दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ, शक्तिशाली और नंबर 1 राष्ट्र बनाएंगे। जय हिन्द!”

— अरविंद केजरीवाल  
मुख्यमंत्री, दिल्ली





## आज़ादी की 75वीं सालगिरह की आपको ढेर सारी शुभकामनायें।

स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर - आज 14 अगस्त को शाम 5 बजे - आप जहां भी हों, अपने हाथों में तिरंगा लेकर राष्ट्रगान गाइएगा। हम सब देशवासी मिलकर राष्ट्रगान गाएँगे। मैं भी आपके साथ तिरंगा लहराऊंगा, राष्ट्रगान गाऊंगा।

मेरी ज़िंदगी का एक ही मिशन है। मैं भारत को दुनिया का नम्बर वन देश देखना चाहता हूँ। अपने देश को आज़ाद हुए 75 साल हो गए। हम किसी से कम तो नहीं हैं। भगवान ने हमें सब कुछ दिया है - नदियाँ, पहाड़, खनिज पदार्थ, जड़ी बूटियाँ, फसलें, समुद्र। सब कुछ दिया है भगवान ने। भारत के लोग दुनिया में सबसे बुद्धिमान हैं, सबसे मेहनती हैं। कुछ लोग पूछते हैं - क्या भारत दुनिया को लीड कर सकता है? क्यों नहीं? भारत के पास दुनिया के बेस्ट इंजीनियर हैं, बेस्ट डॉक्टर हैं, बेस्ट वकील हैं, बेस्ट वैज्ञानिक हैं।

अब हम सबको ज़िम्मेदारी लेनी होगी। देश के 130 करोड़ लोगों को ज़िम्मेदारी लेनी होगी। व्यापारी, किसान, उद्योगपति, मज़दूर, नौकरीपेशा, डॉक्टर, इंजीनियर, वकील - सबको, सबको साथ आना होगा। 75 साल पहले जब सारा देश इकट्ठा हुआ था तो हमने अंग्रेजों को भगा दिया था। अब हम सब एक बार फिर इकट्ठे होकर भारत को दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ राष्ट्र बनाएँगे। आइए, आज़ादी के 75वें वर्ष में हम प्रण लें कि हम भारत के 130 करोड़ लोग एक साथ मिलकर, एक जुट होकर भारत को दुनिया का सर्वश्रेष्ठ और सबसे शक्तिशाली राष्ट्र बनाएँगे।

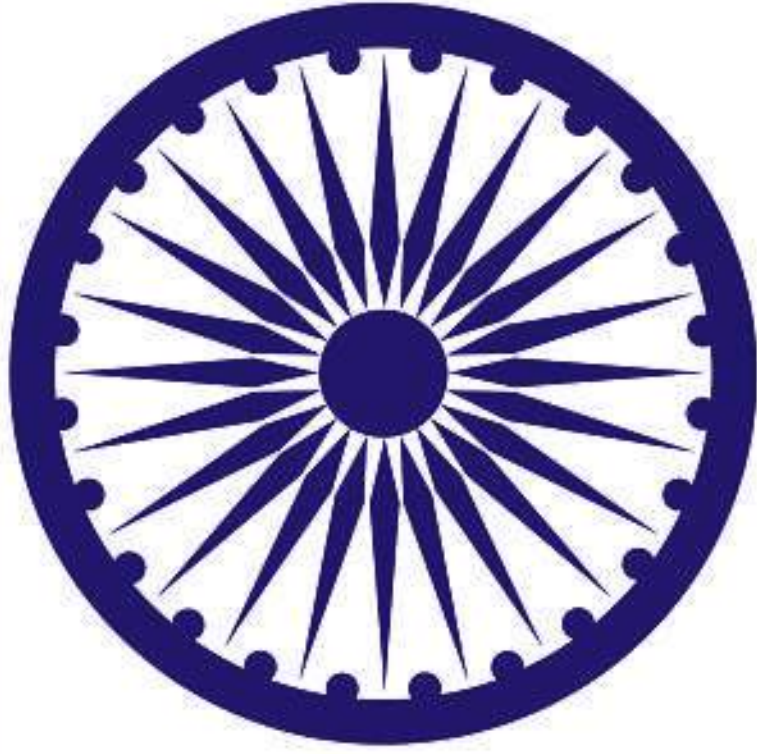
अब भारत रुकेगा नहीं। अब भारत थमेगा नहीं।।

## जय हिंद, जय भारत

आपका  
अरविंद केजरीवाल







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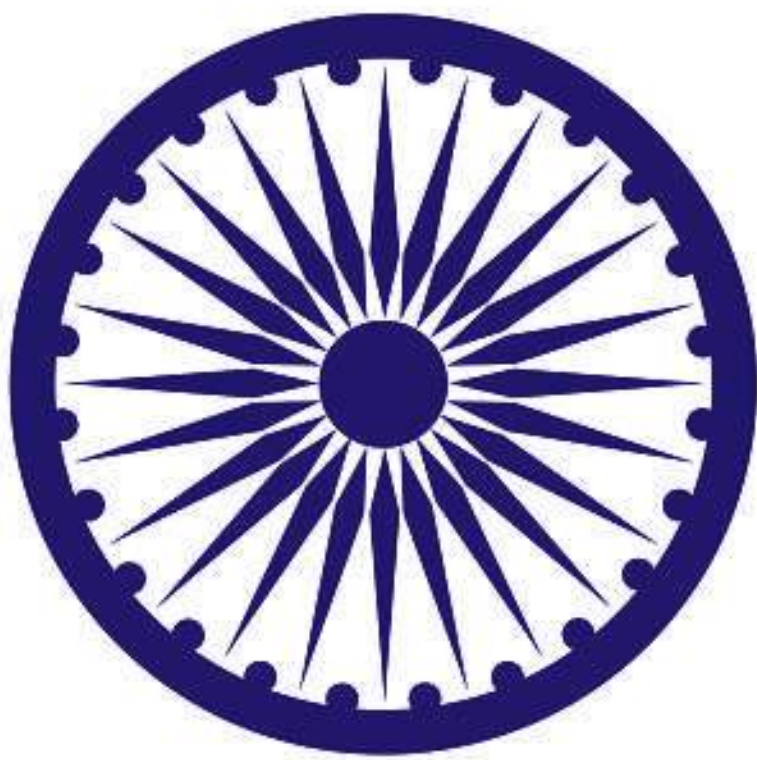


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New Delhi





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सूचना एवं प्रचार निदेशालय, राष्ट्रीय राजधानी क्षेत्र, दिल्ली सरकार

DIP/Shabdarih/D/0076/22-23

New Delhi







FROM PAGE ONE

Rushdie

United Nations, said on Saturday that he was appalled by the attack on the author, who decades ago became a symbol of freedom of expression in the face of repression.

“In no case is violence a response to words spoken or written by others in their exercise of the freedoms of opinion and expression,” Guterres said in a statement.

The New York State Police said at a news conference on Friday afternoon that there was no indication of a motive, but that they were working with the FBI.

Hadi Matar, a 24-year-old New Jersey man, was arrested at the scene and charged with attempted murder and assault, the New York State Police said. He is being held at the Chautauqua County Jail, where he was to be arraigned on Saturday, according to officials.

Matar was born in the United States to Lebanese parents who emigrated from Yaroun, a border village in southern Lebanon, the mayor of the village, Ali Tehfe, told The Associated Press.

A video on TikTok that was subsequently taken down showed the chaotic scene on Friday, moments after the attacker had jumped onto the

stage at the normally placid centre for intellectual discourse, Rushdie, who had been living relatively openly after years of a semi-clandestine existence, had just taken a seat to give a talk when a man attacked him.

A crowd of people immediately rushed to where the author lay on the stage to offer aid. Stunned members of the audience could be seen throughout the amphitheater. While some were screaming, others got up and moved slowly toward the stage. People started to congregate in the aisles. A person could be heard yelling “Oh, my God” repeatedly.

A sheriff’s deputy and another law enforcement officer with a dog ran to the scene about a minute later.

In a statement on Friday, the US national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, called the attack against Rushdie “reprehensible”.

“This act of violence is appalling,” he said.

The state police did not provide an update on Rushdie’s condition on Saturday morning. A spokeswoman for a hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania, where Rushdie is being treated, said it would not provide information on patient conditions.

At a house listed as Matar’s residence in Fairview, New Jersey, no one answered the door

on Saturday morning. A woman in a gray Jeep Rubicon in the driveway kept her windows up, waving off reporters as she sped away. Many of Matar’s neighbours said they did not know him.

Antonio Lopa, who lives across the street from Matar, said he saw between 10 and 15 FBI agents outside Matar’s home on Friday afternoon. They stayed until nearly 1.30 am, he said.

Officials said at a news conference on Friday that they were working to get search warrants for a backpack and electronic devices that were found at the institution.

Rushdie had been living under the threat of an assassination attempt since 1989, about six months after the publication of his novel *The Satanic Verses*. The book was thought of as blasphemous by some Muslims. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who led Iran after its 1979 revolution, issued a fatwa on February 14, 1989. It ordered Muslims to kill Rushdie.

In 1991, the novel’s Japanese translator was stabbed to death and its Italian translator was badly wounded. The novel’s Norwegian publisher was shot three times in 1993 outside his home in Oslo and was seriously injured.

**NYT (WITH INPUTS FROM AP)**

In Parliament country to do so — Parliamentary proceedings show that the ban has been cited more to score political points than make a case for the protection of freedom of speech.

Indeed, Rushdie himself, in a 1990 essay, wrote that the “the demand for the book’s banning was a power play to demonstrate the strength of the Muslim vote, on which Congress has traditionally relied and which it could ill afford to lose.”

Denying this to *The Indian Express*, Natwar Singh, who was Minister of State for External Affairs in the Rajiv government, claimed Saturday the ban was in view of the “law and order situation” and had nothing to with “appeasing” one community.

However, even the BJP, whose government headed by A B Vajpayee had given Rushdie a

visa to travel to India for the first time over a decade after the ban, avoided taking a clear-cut stand on reversing the ban.

The immediate aftermath of the ban saw some Congress members congratulating the Government. In March 1989, Congress MP, Zainul Basher, thanked the then Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha for taking the lead in banning the book.

“...Indonesia and Bangladesh have not yet banned this book but we were on the lead to ban this book in our country. Words fall short to appreciate this gesture of the Indian Government,” he had said.

For the BJP, the ban was an example of what it called the Congress government’s “double standards.”

On August 17, 1993, BJP member B L Sharma (Prem) flagged a poster put up by NGO Sahmat at an exhibition in Ayodhya. Vajpayee slammed the then P V Narasimha Rao government for allowing such a poster. Then L K Advani then took over.

“...this issue of secularism...one of the things that are really polluting it, disturbing it, is the approach of double standards. You cannot have double standards about this poster and a different standard about Salman Rushdie’s book. After all, Salman Rushdie’s book hurts the sentiments of some sections. I can say that I differ with it but this Government went to the extent of banning it without even reading it,” Advani said.

“It is the only democratic country in the world, mind you, in which this book was banned. I disapprove of the book, but at the same time you have one standard for that and another standard for Sahmat and that Sahmat which publishes this objectionable poster about which a reference has been made, is given the Government grant. On the one hand the Government gives them grants and on the other it gives them protection. This double standard will not be allowed. There is resentment among the people against it,” he had said.

In 1999, the issue resurfaced in the context of granting a visa

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# EXPRESS AUDIO

## Game Time: The biggest highlights of the 44th Chess Olympiad

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Indian Express' Sandip G joins host Mihir Vasavda to discuss the biggest highlights of the tournament, and how the Indian teams performed

to Rushdie.

In Lok Sabha on February 24,1999, E Ahamed, the Muslim League MP, said he wanted to express the deep sense of resentment of the Muslim community of India on the Government’s decision to grant a visa to Rushdie. “He has not regretted (it) so far, and it has wounded the sentiments of Muslims all over the country and all over the world...Such a man should not be welcomed in the soil of this country,” he said.

Samajwadi Party’s Mohan Singh saw a “sinister” purpose behind the move. “The Government is trying to create communal riots in the country so as to gain political advantage. I oppose this intention of the Government and appeal to the Government...that the reason on which Rushdie was issued visa is totally wrong.”

He said that Rushdie had not only made a comment on the Prophet but also on Hindu gods and goddesses. “Therefore, it is not only a question of the Muslim society but Rushdie’s ideology about Hindu society also affects the sentiments of Hindu society. Therefore, efforts are being made by the Government of India to thrust India into the fire of communal riots by inviting such a person as a guest.”

Mulayam Singh Yadav and Lalu Yadav weighed in. “Salman Rushdie’s book has been banned

and a conspiracy is being hatched to create riots by allowing him to come here,” said Mulayam. “This Government has issued visa to Salman Rushdie for insulting the Muslim community,” added Lalu.

Ajit Jogi, the Congress MP, too, urged the Government that “it should reconsider its decision in regard to issuing visa to Salman Rushdie as his ideology is against all the religious groups of the country.”

Even in November 2015, Rushdie came up during a discussion in Lok Sabha on incidents of intolerance.

Countering the Opposition attack, BJP’s Meenakshi Lekhi said: “I was going through the records and in the records I came across some comments on Salman Rushdie. Some words have been spoken about Salman Rushdie. His book was banned in the ‘80s. Who was in power at that time I need not say. In 2012, Rushdie was not even allowed to appear in a video conference in Jaipur.”

“So soon after the Nupur Sharma diplomatic embarrassment and the killing of the tailor in Rajasthan, everyone would rather play safe,” said a senior non-Congress Opposition leader. “The fact is Salman Rushdie has called out all of us across party lines...be it the Congress or the BJP. We are disturbed by the attack but are not sure of how a public stand will play out. Let’s

quietly pray for his recovery.”

**Faesal**

reinstatement as he spoke about “another chance” and being “excited to start all over again”.

“Eight months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down,” he said in a Twitter post.

“But I had faith in myself. That I would undo the mistakes I had made. That life would give me another chance. A part of me is exhausted with the memory of those 8 months and wants to erase that legacy. Much of it is already gone. Time will mop off the rest I believe,” he said.

Remarking that “life is beautiful”, Faesal wrote, “It is always worth giving ourselves another chance. Setbacks make us stronger. And there is an amazing world beyond the shadows of the past. I turn 39 next month. And I’m really excited to start all over again.”

The first Kashmiri to top the civil services exams, Faesal was allotted the home cadre in 2008. A doctor-turned-bureaucrat, he served in many capacities in J&K with his last position in the government being Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC).

He was selected as an Edward Mason Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School in June 2018 and was to rejoin government service a year later.

But six months before his return, he surprised everyone when he announced his decision to resign from IAS on January 9, 2019, and hinted at joining politics.

At the time of his resignation, he had tweeted, “To protest the unabated killings in Kashmir and absence of any credible political initiative from Union government, I have decided to resign from IAS. Kashmiri lives matter.”

In March that year, he floated his own political party, the Jammu and Kashmir People’s Movement (JKPM). Following the August 5, 2019 decisions that stripped the erstwhile state of its special status and bifurcated it into Union Territories, Faesal, in an interview to The Indian Express on August 10, called the government decision on Kashmir a “catastrophic turn in our collective history”.

Later, he was prevented from flying to Istanbul from Delhi and subsequently placed under detention. He was released in June 2020. Soon, Faesal announced that he was not only resigning from his party but quitting politics altogether. Ever since, he has been trying to return to the service. During this time, Faesal deleted his past tweets that were critical of the Centre.

# Greetings to the people of Delhi on the completion of 75 years of Independence

The Gates of Delhi Legislative Assembly will be opened for the public

Welcome to witness the glimpses of colourful L.E.D. Lighting on Historical Building and Musical Fountain.

Dates : 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2022 | Time : 5.00 P.M. to 8.00 P.M.

**:- Special Attractions :-**

Cultural programme by Sahitya Kala Academy Artists

Performance by CISF Band | Renovated Phansi Ghar | Corona Warriors Memorial

Murals of Maharani Laxmi Bai and Jaliawala Bagh

All are cordially invited

**Ram Niwas Goel**  
Speaker, Legislative Assembly

Visitors are requested to strictly adhere to COVID-19 related restrictions and maintain social distance during the event and also carry their photo Identity Card and cooperate with security personnels at the gate so that their entry could be facilitated.

DIP/SHABDARTH/ID/0077/22-23

New Delhi













“आज का ये समय भारतीय खेलों के इतिहास का एक तरह से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण कालखंड है। आज खिलाड़ियों का हौसला भी बुलंद है, ट्रेनिंग भी बेहतर हो रही है और खेल के प्रति देश में माहौल भी जबरदस्त है।”  
- नरेन्द्र मोदी



## FELICITATION CEREMONY OF MEDAL WINNERS & PARTICIPANTS OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES-2022

Chief Guest  
**Sh. Manohar Lal**  
Chief Minister, Haryana

August Presence  
**Rao Inderjit Singh**

Union Minister of State for Statistics & Programme  
Implementation and Planning (Independent Charge)  
& Minister of State, Corporate Affairs

**S. Sandeep Singh**  
Minister of State for Sports & Youth Affairs  
(Independent Charge), Haryana

**Date** - Tuesday, August 16, 2022

**Time** - 4:00 PM

**Venue** - Apparel House, Sector 44,  
Gurugram

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programme



### GOLD MEDAL

Vinesh Phogat  
Wrestling



Sakshi Malik  
Wrestling



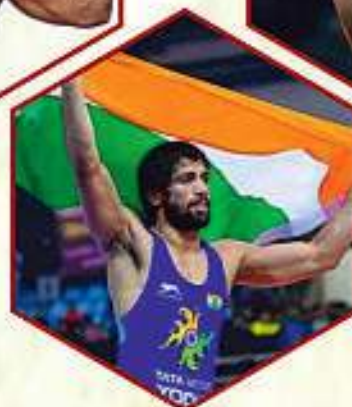
Bajrang Punia  
Wrestling



Deepak Punia  
Wrestling



Naveen Malik  
Wrestling



Ravi Kumar Dahiya  
Wrestling



Neetu  
Boxing



Amit Panghal  
Boxing



Sudhir  
Powerlifting (Para)

### SILVER MEDAL



Anshu Malik  
Wrestling



Sagar  
Boxing



Shefali Verma  
Cricket



Abhishek  
Hockey



Surender  
Hockey

### BRONZE MEDAL



Pooja Sihag  
Wrestling



Pooja Gahlot  
Wrestling



Deepak Nehra  
Wrestling



Mohit Grewal  
Wrestling

Jasmine  
Boxing



Sandeep Punia  
Athletics

### BRONZE MEDAL, WOMEN HOCKEY



Savita Punia



Jyoti



Monica Malik



Nisha Varsi



Neha Goyal



Udita



Navneet



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Sonika



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New Delhi



# 12 GOVT & POLITICS

## Sonia Gandhi tests positive for Covid-19, again

*New Delhi:* Over two months after contracting the Covid-19 infection, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday tested positive for the virus again and will remain in isolation.

Earlier this week, her daughter and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had also tested positive.

"Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has tested positive for Covid-19 today. She will remain in isolation as per Govt. protocol," Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet Saturday. Sonia had tested positive for Covid-19 in June as well.



Sonia Gandhi

PTI

## 11 Opp parties to fight 'misuse' of EVMs, media

*New Delhi:* Eleven Opposition parties, including the Congress, on Saturday resolved to fight against what they called the misuse of electronic voting machines (EVMs), money power and the media by the BJP-led government at the Centre, claiming it poses the "gravest challenge" to democracy in India.

The 11 parties are the Congress, CPI(M), SP, BSP, CPI, NCP, TRS, RJD, RLD, Welfare Party and the Swaraj India. The parties also passed three resolutions at a conference in New Delhi. The parties discussed the challenge of 3Ms — machine, money and media — faced by India's electoral democracy.

PTI

## Islam does not permit violence: AIMPLB member

*Lucknow:* All-India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) member Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali Saturday condemned the attack on author Salman Rushdie and said Islam does not permit such acts.

The Sunni cleric said as per Islamic laws, one must follow the law of the land. "...And the laws regarding anyone's sentiments being hurt is that you take the legal course of action. Islam does not permit violence. The act against Rushdie should not be associated with Islam or Muslims because Islam doesn't allow such an act. No religion supports such actions," he told *The Sunday Express*.

ENS

## Gujarat ex-Dy CM injured after cow runs through rally crowd

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, SURAT, AUG 13

FORMER DEPUTY Chief Minister and BJP MLA Nitin Patel suffered minor hairline fracture on his left knee during a Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra after a stray cow ran through the rally in Mehsana's Kadi Saturday.

According to a district health official, Patel was injured on the privately-run Bhagyoday Hospital in Kadi, which is also his constituency and was discharged following primary care.

Videos of the incident, which surfaced on social media, show a cow running through the rally causing fear persons, including Patel, to tumble and fall down.

A block-level health official said, "The rally was passing

## Taiwan an internal question for Beijing, different from LAC issue: China envoy

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

THE TAIWAN question is different from the boundary question between India and China, China's ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, said on Saturday in his first media interaction since the border standoff began two years ago.

Sun said both sides are continuously trying to bring the ties back on track.

Calling the current border situation "stable", he said the two sides are working towards switching over from "emergency response" to "normal management" of the situation.

On the standoff, he said India and China have met several times at diplomatic and military levels, and have agreed to maintain the dialogue in a "constructive and forward-looking manner". On infrastructure building and military exercises along Line of Actual Control, Sun said China always conducts normal exercises, and the two sides are

working on the "principle of mutual and equal security".

"There should not be a winner takes all and the law of the jungle [approach]...the two sides are making joint efforts and should handle their differences carefully," he said.

Sun recounted the "positive impetus" created by the BRICS meeting, participated by both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping; Chinese Foreign Minister and State Councillor Wang Yi's meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval; congratulatory letter from Xi to newly elected President Droupadi Murmu. He said the "leaders' guidance" has an "irreplaceable role" in relations between the two countries.

He was non-committal on a possible meeting between Modi and Xi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Uzbekistan next month, and instead said the two sides need to strengthen "mutual confidence".

Responding to questions, he

**EXPLAINED**  
**What Beijing says, what Delhi wants**

THE CHINESE envoy has differentiated between the Taiwan issue and the India-China border issue. His remarks make it clear that Beijing views the two issues differently, but New Delhi has been firm and wants to draw the line on the impact of the border situation on bilateral relations.

said, "Taiwan question is different from the boundary question between China and India. The Taiwan question is truly an internal affair because Taiwan has always been and will always be a part of China. This is a fact and nobody can change it.

"So how to solve the Taiwan question is purely a business of the Chinese government. No foreign forces, or the so-called in-

dependent Taiwan forces, can change that. This is the firm determination of China.

"The China-India boundary question is an issue left over from history. Or, I may say, this is a historical burden that was left over.... So China and India have boundary disputes. This is a fact. And how to solve it, we have clearly stated. I think the Indian side also agreed that these disputes should be solved through dialogues and consultations to seek for a fair and reasonable and mutually acceptable solution. And before that, we should try to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border areas."

Calling it a "boundary issue", the Chinese envoy said, "This is not the kind of territory which always belonged to China. And some other forces tried to separate this part of China's territory. So the Chinese government and people will never tolerate such actions.... That's the difference of nature between the Taiwan question and the boundary question."

Lashing out at US House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan as a "political farce" and calling the US the "culprit of this crisis", Sun said the One-China policy is the "political foundation" of India-China relations. "India's One-China policy has not changed; we hope the Indian side will once again reiterate," he said.

New Delhi has not reiterated the One-China policy, and the MEA spokesperson had said on Friday that it did not spell out the One-China policy. The MEA spokesperson stated that the government's "relevant" policies are "well-known and consistent" and "do not require reiteration".

On blocking the listing of Pakistan-based terrorists as global terrorist at the UN, Sun said China is a "responsible" country and needs more time to evaluate but underlined that "terrorism is common enemy" and that Beijing supports the fight against "terrorism".

He also said that Indian students can return to China "soon", but did not offer any timeframe.



## COLOURS OF FREEDOM

Victoria Memorial illuminated as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, ahead of Independence Day, in Kolkata on Saturday. *Shashi Ghosh*

## 'Shah Bano, Satanic Verses... issues dealt with not on merit but for votes, a disaster for nation'

THE BAN on Satanic Verses by the Rajiv Gandhi government in 1988 followed its decision to circumvent the Shah Bano judgment and to allow shilanyas at Babri Masjid, all seen as measures taken to placate different sectarian groups. Kerala Governor **ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN**, a staunch advocate of reforms in Muslim personal laws, had quit the Rajiv government over its actions following the Shah Bano order. Excerpts from an interview with **MANOJ CG:**

**How do you see the attack on Salman Rushdie 33 years after a fatwa was issued against him by Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini?**

So far, we do not know about the antecedents of the assailant. But the general impression is that the attack has something to do with the fatwa. In a civilised society, there is no room for violence or taking the law in one's own hands. This heinous act deserves severe condemnation.

**How do you see the growing, and disturbing, trend of violence in the name of blasphemy?**

Violence in the name of blasphemy is reprehensible and violates basic scriptural teachings

that prescribe to 'turn away from vain talk and say: To us our deeds and to you yours: Peace be on you, we seek not engagement with ignorant' (Quran 28:55).

**Three events that happened in the second half of the 1980s were said to be linked -- the Rajiv Gandhi government's decision to overturn the Supreme Court judgment in the Shah Bano case by bringing a legislation in Parliament, the decision to open the locks of the Babri Masjid, and the ban on Rushdie's Satanic Verses. You resigned from the government over the decision overturning the Shah Bano judgment. How do you see what happened?**

I have written and spoken about these events in detail. It is intriguing that India was the first country in the world that banned the book. Next day there was a protest march in Pakistan and anger was shown on the ground that India had acted, but the Muslim government of Pakistan had not banned the book. On the first day itself, more than 10 lives were lost and property worth crores burnt down. Later, Muslim countries started competing with each other and the fatwa of Iran came. About three months later,



**THE EXPRESS**  
**INTERVIEW**  
WITH  
**ARIF MOHAMMED KHAN**  
KERALA GOVERNOR,  
FORMER UNION MINISTER

in response to my question in Parliament, the government replied that after the ban, not a single copy of the book was seized. Actually, the book had record sales after the ban. It is also interesting that Sri Syed Shahabuddin, who played a crucial role in getting the Shah Bano judgment overturned, was the man who wrote to Sri Rajiv Gandhi demanding the ban, and he was immediately obliged.

## Hizb chief's son, Bitta Karate's wife among 4 fired from J&K govt service

Dismissed for being threat to 'security'

**BASHAARAT MASOOD**  
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 13

A SON of Syed Salahuddin, the Pakistan-based chief of Hizbul Mujahideen, and the wife of jailed militant leader Farooq Ahmad Dar were among four government employees whose services were terminated Saturday by the J&K government for being a threat to "the security of the state".

Syed Abdul Mueed, Manager (Information Technology) at the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, a Kashmir Administrative Service (KAS) officer, Majid Hussain Qadri, a Senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University, Muheet Ahmad Bhat, a senior scientist in Kashmir University, were dismissed under Article 311 (2)(C) of the Constitution that allows the government to dismiss an employee without holding an inquiry against the person.

Over 30 government employees have been dismissed so far under this provision.

While the KAS officer, Assabah-ul-Arjamand Khan, is the wife of the jailed Farooq Ahmad Dar who is also known as Bitta Karate, Syed Abdul Mueed is son of Syed Salahuddin. Mueed is the third son of Salahuddin to be dismissed from government service.

The General Administration Department (GAD) order terminating the service of Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat stated: "Whereas the Lieutenant Governor is satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and on the basis of the information available that the activities of Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat, Scientist-D in Post Graduate department of Computer Sciences, University of Kashmir... are such as to warrant his dismissal from

the service... And whereas the Lieutenant Governor is satisfied under sub clause (C) of the proviso of clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the state, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in the case of Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat... Accordingly, the Lieutenant Governor hereby dismisses Dr Muheet Ahmad Bhat... from service with immediate effect".

A doctorate in Computer Sciences, Bhat was a senior scientist in Kashmir University and is one of the employees credited with the digitisation and automation exercise there, especially of its examination wing. A resident of Srinagar, Bhat is a former president of the Kashmir University Teachers Association.

Similar circulars have been issued for the dismissal of the three other employees — Khan, Qadri and Mueed.

Khan, a District Panchayat Officer (DPO) in the Rural Development Department, is a 2011 batch KAS officer.

Majid Qadri was Senior Assistant Professor in Kashmir University's Department of Management Studies. He was arrested in 2004 — when he was a research scholar at the university — for alleged contact with militants. Following his release, he completed a doctorate and was later appointed as Assistant Professor in the Kashmir University.

Mueed, a Manager in Information Technology at the JKEDI, a premier institute for entrepreneurship development in J&K, is the son of Hizb chief Syed Salahuddin. Mueed's two brothers, Shahid Yousuf and Syed Shakeel, have already been dismissed from government service.

Reacting to dismissals, People's Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone said a son cannot be held responsible for his father's actions.

## 'Shah Bano, Satanic Verses... issues dealt with not on merit but for votes, a disaster for nation'

Mr Shahabuddin himself later admitted that personally he had not read the book and the ban was demanded on the basis of some news reports.

**In 2015, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram, who was Minister of State for Home at the time of the ban on Satanic Verses, said the decision was wrong. What in your view prompted Rajiv Gandhi to take that decision?**

Around 2015, many senior Congress leaders found fault with the somersault on Shah Bano as well. But in 2017, it was the Congress leaders who were again supporting the (All India Muslim) Personal Law Board and did not allow the law banning triple divorce to be enacted in the Rajya Sabha. The law could be enacted only in 2019, when their numbers in the Rajya Sabha dwindled. All these issues which you have referred to were dealt with not on merit but purely to build sectional vote banks, and the consequences proved disastrous for the country.

**After all these years, the ban on the book has still not been revoked. Do you think it is time to revoke the ban?**

Possibly because the decision makers were themselves not sin-

cere about the ban, they made no attempt to stop sales of the book.

**How should politics in a democracy like India -- where identity politics plays a big role -- respond to challenges to freedom of expression? What is the tension between politics and judiciary on this?**

Freedom of expression is a sacred right, it is part of our fundamental rights, (there is) sort of a national commitment to uphold it. More than that, it is part of our cultural heritage. Historically, India is known not only for promotion of knowledge and wisdom but also for its free spirit. For example, Charvaka rubbished everything that Indians held sacred but nobody abused him or threw a pebble at him. Instead he was referred to respectfully as Mahatma, an acknowledgement of his cerebral powers. In fact, the Sanskrit language has no word for blasphemy. Ishninda (criticism of God) is a term of recent vintage. That explains the proverbial Indian tolerance or respect and acceptance of diverse traditions. These unfortunate episodes make it abundantly clear that it is extremely dangerous to compromise long-term national interests at the altar of political convenience.

## HC drops proceedings against judge who concluded POCSO trial in a day

**SANTOSH SINGH AND ANANTHAKRISHNAN G**  
PATNA, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

THE PATNA High Court has dropped disciplinary proceedings initiated against a Bihar judicial officer, accused of acting in "undue haste" after he concluded trial in a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2022, in a day and sentenced the convict to life imprisonment.

An official communication dated August 12 said the HC "...has

been pleased to drop departmental proceedings against... Shashi Kant Rai, Spl Judge POCSO-cum Additional District and Sessions Judge VI, Araria, initiated against him vide Court's Memorandum... dated 05.08.2022".

The judge had approached the Supreme Court against the action. Hearing his plea on August 8, a bench of Justices UU Lalit and S Ravindra Bhat had orally told Advocate Gaurav Agarwal who appeared for the HC that it is advisable to drop the proceedings.

"Our sincere advice is to drop everything. If you don't want to,

we'll go threadbare into it. Unless you're alleging corruption, there has to be something glaring," the bench had said. It added that "he is only following up on his orders" and that the action "is extremely unfair against him".

The HC, sources said, had also taken into consideration the SC order of August 8 as well as the communication received from Advocate Agarwal. Sources added that the judge is likely to resume his duty on August 16.

Initially while issuing notice on the plea by the judge, the SC bench had taken exception to his ap-

proach. "You have heard and sentenced the accused to life imprisonment in a single day. It does not happen like this. Pendency is one issue and approach to a matter is different," remarked Justice Lalit.

In another case of child rape, the judge had sentenced a man to death after completing trial within 4 days. The SC said while it did not mean that the judgement has to be set aside merely because the process was completed in 4 days "but we cannot say such an approach is commendable. That is why departmental proceedings are initiated".

Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, who appeared for the judge, pointed out that he was suspended on February 8, 2022, "for doing his job" and strongly pleaded for revoking the action.

"We have been trying to devise methods to assess mitigating factors on death sentences and they have to see the prison records. Here, this judge has passed the death sentence in 4 days," said Justice Lalit. "What about sentencing issues to be heard?... There are umpteen judgments of the Supreme Court which say that sentencing issues should not be

done on the same day," he added.

Singh said the case in which the death sentence was awarded involved the murder of a Dalit girl. But Justice Bhat said, "There is a system of rewards for prosecution to have death sentences".

Singh, however, said, "These issues have to be legislated" and asked "why suspend the judge?"

The judge said fast track completion of trial and sentencing in the two cases had "caught immense media attention and was widely reported and appreciated" and complained of "institutional bias" against him because of this".

## Kerala MLA withdraws PoK remark after facing backlash

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 13

AMID PROTESTS against his "Azad Kashmir and India-occupied Kashmir" remarks, CPM-backed Kerala legislator K T Jaleel withdrew his statement on Saturday.



KT Jaleel

Jaleel turned to Facebook, "I have noticed that some of my words have created misunderstanding. My note on Kashmir visit had been misconstrued. I inform everybody that I had withdrawn those lines to ensure social harmony and for the benefit of society."



# 13 EXPRESS NETWORK

## FROM PAGE ONE

### Lanka

deeply appreciative of the support and understanding of all countries to Lanka, especially during its severe economic crisis. It also sought further information and material that could assist in consultations on the matter.

Earlier, announcing that it had asked China to defer docking of the ship, Lanka had said it was doing so “in light of certain concerns” raised with it, without naming India. The ship was since awaiting clearance to enter from its location 600 nautical miles east of Hambantota. Ships like Yuan Wang 5 can track satellite, rocket and intercontinental ballistic missile launches. China has around seven of these tracking ships that are capable of operating throughout the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans. The ships supplement Beijing’s land-based tracking stations.

New Delhi is concerned about the possibility of the ship’s tracking systems attempting to snoop on Indian installations while on its way to the Sri Lankan port.

Hambantota, a strategically important deep-sea port, where the ship is headed, was developed by Lanka mostly using loans from Beijing.

### PM to medallists

a protective shield not just for Indians coming out of the war zone, but also for people of other countries,” Modi said. Around 22,500 Indian nationals, mostly medical students, have returned from Ukraine since February 21.

As part of the government’s evacuation efforts, christened Operation Ganga, 90 special flights, of which 76 were by commercial airlines, and 14 by Indian Air Force were operated. During the crisis, many evacuated students, carrying the Tricolour for easy identification by border security forces, crossed into neighbouring countries like Poland and Hungary.

Modi said that just like Indian freedom fighters, despite representing different streams of thought, had a common goal, the country’s athletes also compete with the same spirit.

Among the freedom fighters whose names the PM took were Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru, Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Birs Munda, Rani Lakshmbai, Jhalkaribai, Ashfaqulla Khan, and Alluri Sitarama Raju.

“You weave the country in unity of thought and goal, which was also one of the great strengths of our freedom struggle... From the Independence movement to the building of a free nation, the way India unitedly made efforts, you also take to the field with the same spirit. Regardless of your state, district, village, language, you perform for the country’s pride and prestige,” Modi said.

India bagged 22 gold, 16 silver and 23 bronze medals in various disciplines in CWG 2022. In his address, Modi also said, “While all of you were competing in Birmingham, crores of Indians were keeping awake till late night here in India, watching your every action. Many people used to sleep with alarms set up, so that they remained updated on the performances.”

### Data localisation

event of a crime. Law-enforcement agencies investigating cases often need quick access to data related to individuals. So while as an idea, data localisation is important, the Ministry is of the opinion that it belongs in the larger IT Act replacement, than in the data protection Bill,” the official said.

The official added that the view in the government is that data should be stored in a region that is “trusted” by the Indian government and should be accessible in the event of a crime.

The government is targeting to finalise the Bill by the Winter Session of Parliament, with some officials also saying it could get pushed to the Budget session next year.

If finalised in this version, this would be a significant departure from the government’s long-held stance on data localisation, which has been a key part of multiple iterations of the Data Protection Bill — the initial one formulated by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee in 2018 and the one finally recommended by the Joint Committee of Parliament in 2021.

Earlier this month, the government withdrew the Bill from Parliament, saying that it would come up with a “comprehensive legal framework” for the online ecosystem.

The withdrawal came despite

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw saying in February 2022 that he hoped to get Parliament’s nod on the Bill by the Monsoon Session.

The localisation requirements in the old data protection Bill were strongly opposed by industry bodies — that represent top tech firms like Facebook, Google and Amazon — flagging that the norms could have “negative effects on the ability of companies to do business in India”.

In a 2018 letter to then IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, industry groupings like the US-India Business Council and Digital Europe had requested the government to remove “forced localisation requirements” from the draft Bill.

Under the withdrawn data protection Bill, companies were required to store a copy of certain sensitive personal data — like health and financial data — within India and the export of undefined “critical” personal data from the country was prohibited.

Earlier this month, *The Indian Express* had reported that after receiving several complaints by start-ups, the government was looking at diluting data localisation norms.

“It would allow start-ups to use tools, software and servers of foreign companies, which would have been a challenge under the localisation requirements in the withdrawn Bill,” a start-up founder said.

### Countdown

Solar Industries, one of the country’s biggest brands in the same. “KMP Enterprises, Palwal, an authorised magazine holder, that can store explosives and transport them, was hired.”

Explaining the difference between the explosives used for this demolition and for mining purposes, Mehta said that the latter were deployed underground and were heavy. “The towers do not require those kinds of explosives. A few of the explosives used in mining are being used here in specific columns that are stronger. These columns have to go because then only the fall will be created. They are generally located in the lower floors, at the base. On the top floors, we are using a very minimal quantum of explosives as that is enough to blast the columns.”

Approximately, 80 gm / metre explosives will be used, and placed almost 2 metres in. “The explosives resemble a plastic tube containing a powder of sorts. Roughly 3,700 kg of explosives is what we expect will be used for the whole exercise, out of which around 250-300 kg will be used every day for charging the building (placing the explosives in). There are 9,640 holes drilled in the towers, which are to be charged.”

On Saturday, when work went on till 7 pm, they achieved around 15% of the scheduled charging for the day, Mehta said. “Not even a single gram of explosives” can be stored at the site, he added. “Once we are finished for the day, we record exactly what we have used. It is as precious as gold,” he said, elaborating on the precautions.

There were 46 people involved in the charging process, Mehta said. “The team consists of around 10 Indian local blasters, around five blasters from Jet Demolition, a South Africa-based company which is partnering with Edifice for the demolition, and one additional expert from the UK, who has an experience of over 50 years. They are accompanied by 30 labourers.”

Mehta added that residents of the two buildings located in the vicinity of the demolition site, Supertech Emerald Court and ATS Village, had nothing to be alarmed out.

“People living in the radius of 250 metres of the demolition site have to evacuate between 7 am and 5 pm, which is again a safety measure; nothing is going to happen. We have studied the vibration prediction report, which we got done by a third party in the UK, we have done an analysis of the Emerald building vis-a-vis the fall. All of it suggests that the vibrations will be minimal. This zone falls in Seismic Zone 5, and the vibrations that you get there — also known as the Peak Particle Velocity — are approximately 300 mm per second. Here what will be generated by the demolition is one-tenth that. We will also make sure that all animals are evacuated from the 250-metre radius.”

Some towers of ATS Village located right next to the two towers to be demolished are covered in large sheets of cloth, to ward off dust arising from the exercise.

### Wankhede

tremendous faith in the judiciary, the caste scrutinising committee and the government of Maharashtra... Truth prevails.”

Malik, who was arrested in a money laundering case earlier this year, had alleged that Wankhede had forged his caste certificate and other documents to secure a job under the SC quota after clearing the civil services examination. An inquiry into Wankhede’s caste certificate was set up after activists Manoj Sansare and Ashok Kamble filed a complaint against Wankhede on November 3, 2021.

This was after Wankhede led the probe in the Cordelia cruise ship drug bust case of October 2020, in which actor Shah Rukh Khan’s son Aryan Khan was arrested. Aryan was later released on bail by the Bombay High Court, which observed that there was “hardly any positive evidence” to show a conspiracy between the accused as alleged by the NCB.

In May this year, an NCB SIT discharged Aryan in the case while the Union Ministry of Home Affairs initiated a probe against Wankhede for “shoddy investigation”. Wankhede was subsequently transferred in May to the DG Taxpayer Service Directorate in Chennai.

Malik had claimed that Wankhede is a Muslim by birth, and that his father’s name was Dawood, not Dnyandeve. Wankhede had denied the claims.

### Kabul

Onib has spent the last year appealing to Indian officialdom through various channels — through Indian media, former President Hamid Karzai, former Vice-President Abdullah Abdullah, the Afghan Ambassador in Delhi, on social media — all to no avail yet.

Those who have applied for visas cannot help noticing that India has evacuated Hindus and Sikhs in several batches. But even thinking aloud the possibility that their religion might have gone against them is difficult for many.

“We have grown up loving India, its movies, its culture. For us, it is the safest place, because of our historical links, natural affinity, the language, everything. Victimising students for the security issue is not on,” said Haroon Wali, a research scholar at the English and Foreign Languages University in Hyderabad.

Wali now faces dismissal from his job as an Assistant Professor at an Afghan educational institute which funded his studies at EFLU, and the demand to return the entire funding, as he has not been able to fulfill the main requirement for the financing — that scholars submit regular progress reports or a degree. “How can I do that when I am here? I have no progress to report. I am broke, I am in a financial crisis, and I am in every other kind of crisis,” he said.

Pointing out that 16,000 students have been “supported” by India since 2001, Wali said it was because India knew these students would be its best ambassadors in Afghanistan. “This is what Pakistan wants to achieve but cannot. It is unthinkable that India has left us in the lurch,” he said.

Every country including China, Pakistan, Turkey and Russia that had Afghan students stuck in Afghanistan during the Taliban takeover either evacuated them immediately or arranged for their visas, Dadgar said, “but not India”.

Some senior scholars unable to return to India have families there. They had left them behind, believing their own return to India was imminent. Gulab Mir Rahmany’s wife and three children are in Kerala. His wife is pursuing a PhD in Physics in Kerala University. Rahmany is also a doctoral student in the same university.

After failing to get any response to his e-visa application, he went to Iran in February to try his luck from there. He has now maxed his Iranian visit extensions.

“I have been away from my wife and children for more than one year. Imagine the depression my wife and I are undergoing. She has to do her course work, she is in the lab, and she has to look after the kids,” he said. “My request is that the Government of India should assess its position neutrally, see the record of the students. Every student has a track record. I have my supervisor who knows me, knows my work.”

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**www.indianexpress.com**

## Maharashtra couple killed over caste; 5 in custody

Jalgaon woman’s 17-yr-old brother among those nabbed

**SAGAR RAJPUT**  
MUMBAI, AUGUST 13

A 17-YEAR-OLD boy, along with four others, has been taken into custody by police in Maharashtra’s Jalgaon district for allegedly strangling his 20-year-old sister to death and shooting dead a 22-year-old man — from a different caste — who was in a relationship with her.

The police said that the four others are also related to the woman with one of them being a minor. They were opposed to the woman’s relationship with the deceased, Rakesh Sanjay Rajput.

The killings took place late Friday, after one of the accused spotted the woman with Rajput

near their house.

A police officer said, “Around 8 pm, the relative spotted the couple together and took them home. All five accused assaulted Rajput at the house.”

“The five then made the couple sit in a car and took them to an isolated area on the border of Jalgaon. The 17-year-old brother shot Rajput,” the officer added.

Rajput was shot on his head... The five ensured that the woman saw her lover die and then strangled her with a cloth.”

Soon after the incident, the 17-year-old boy surrendered.

A team was sent to the spot and the bodies were recovered from a drain at Varad road. They were sent to the city civil hospi-

tal, where both were declared dead,” said the officer.

The police detained the other minor and the three accused on Saturday. “The two minors have been produced before the juvenile justice board, which has sent them to a children’s home. The three adults will be produced in court on Sunday,” said Sub-Divisional Police Officer Krushikesh Rawale.

When contacted, a relative of Rajput said, “The woman’s relatives had earlier threatened Rajput that they would kill him if he is seen with her.”

A policeman said: “Both the victims belonged to different castes. There was growing enmity between both families.”

## HC warns TN police over use of orderlies

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, AUGUST 13

THE MADRAS High Court on Friday chastised higher-level police officers in Tamil Nadu for deploying their colleagues as “orderlies” at home to conduct menial tasks. The court called it a continuation of the “colonial slavery system”. Justice S M Subramaniam warned that the court would be forced to act if strict action is not taken to end this practice.

Reminding that “no public servant can imagine or live in a world of Mughal emperors, and all such authorities under the Constitution are “public servants” and they are bound to serve the public in accordance with the principles laid down in the Constitution and as per statutes and rules enacted by Parliament and State Legislature”, the HC said: “It is needless to state that

indisciplined higher police officials lose their morale in enforcing discipline in uniformed forces, more so, against their subordinate officials.”

Earlier, the state government made a submission that it had issued orders to police officers to follow government orders as well as interim orders passed by the HC against use of police personnel for household work and later informed that 19 police personnel were withdrawn (from menial jobs at seniors’ houses) and put on regular departmental duties.

Stating that the court is “aware of the fact that large number of uniformed police personnel are still performing household and menial works in the residences of the higher police officials”, the judge said the instructions issued by the government in June 2022 to stop orderly system “has not been followed scrupulously by the Police Department”.

## Unnao victim moves SC, seeks ‘counter case’ transfer to Delhi

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

THE UNNAO rape victim has moved the Supreme Court seeking the transfer of a criminal case filed by the father of one of the accused in her sexual assault case from a trial court in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi.

A Delhi court had in December 2019 sentenced expelled former BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar to imprisonment for the remainder of his life for kidnapping and raping the girl in UP’s Unnao in 2017 when she was a minor.

A local court at Unnao recently issued a non-bailable warrant against the victim on a criminal complaint of alleged cheating and forgery filed by the father of one of the accused being tried in the gang rape case in a Delhi court.

The transfer plea, filed in the apex court, alleged the “counter judicial proceedings” against the victim girl have been initiated in the Unnao court with the ulterior motive of propping up a defence in the sexual assault case.

Sengar’s appeal against the conviction is pending in the Delhi High Court.

## Appointment of Kerala CM secy’s wife in varsity stirs row

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 13

THE SAVE University Campaign Committee has submitted to Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan that the wife of CPI(M) leader K K Ragesh, who is also the Chief Minister’s private secretary, was selected as an associate professor at Kannur University over several deserving candidates.

The committee had furnished details it obtained through the Right To Information Act, which showed that the university had selected Priya Varghese, wife of Ragesh, flouting the norms.

The committee, in its complaint to the Governor, pointed out that Varghese had the lowest research score, fixed as per the UGC norms, among six candidates who had applied for the post in the Malayalam Department in November last year. Varghese’s research score was 156 against that of Joseph Skaria’s 651, C Ganesh’s 645 and Muhammad Rafi’s 346. However, Varghese had emerged as the top scorer in the interview with 32 marks out of 50.

## Four literary figures felicitated in Goa; among them, a wheelchair-bound writer who has MS

**MAYURA JANWALKAR**  
PANAJI, AUGUST 13

“SINCE I cannot hold a pen in my hand, I type with one finger on the mobile phone,” says 35-year-old Shradha Garad, who has been physically challenged since she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2014. But after numerous taps of her right index finger, she published her first book in Konkani in 2020 and was recognised with the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar.

“The mobile phone is the only source I have. Writing is a lifeline for me. Only through writing do I have happiness,” says the wheelchair-bound woman.



**Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai with the four writers at Raj Bhavan on Saturday.**  
*Express*

Garad, who has a Master’s degree in Konkani, said her first book *Kanya Parmal* — a collection of her poems — won her accolades and her book on “Stories for kids” was on its way and was expected to be released next month. Four more books are on the way to publication and she hopes to finish her sixth book by next year.

Garad was among Goa’s four literary figures felicitated at the Raj Bhavan by Governor P S Sreedharan Pillai on Saturday. Jnanpith awardee Damodar Mauzo, among Goa’s most prominent writers, was also felicitated.

Two days ahead of India’s 75th Independence Day, Pillai said: “What is freedom... we are already

## Dalit boy dies; kin say assaulted for touching ‘upper caste water’

**DEEP MUKHERJEE**  
JAIPUR, AUGUST 13

AFTER A 9-year-old Dalit boy from Rajasthan’s Jalore district died at a Ahmedabad hospital on Saturday, family members alleged that the child died of an assault on July 20 by a teacher, who got infuriated upon seeing him drinking water from a pot meant for upper-caste people.

Police said the accused teacher has been arrested and booked for murder and under the SC/ST Act. “We have registered an FIR under relevant sections, including murder (IPC) and SC/ST Act. The boy’s post-mortem will be conducted and a police team has been sent to Ahmedabad,” said Jalore SP

Harsh Vardhan Agarwalla. “On July 20, my son Indra Kumar, a student of Class 3 at Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Jalore, was beaten up by teacher Chail Singh because he drank water from an earthen pot meant for Singh. My son didn’t know that the pot was meant for Singh, who belongs to an upper caste,” said Dewaram Meghwal, father of Indra and a resident of Surana village in Jalore district.

A complaint letter submitted to the Saila police station by the family on Saturday says that Singh beat up Indra while abusing him with casteist slurs for drinking water from an earthen pot meant for upper caste people. The letter adds that Indra had sustained injuries in his right ear and eye due to the beating by Singh.

## ‘Mass conversion’ ban, 10-year jail: Himachal House passes Bill

**AMIL BHATNAGAR**  
SHIMLA, AUGUST 13

ON THE last day of the final session of the current House before the state heads for polls slated for November, the Himachal Pradesh Assembly on Saturday passed a Bill amending the current anti-religious conversion law to ban any “mass conversion” and enhance the maximum punishment for forced conversion to a maximum of 10 years imprisonment from the existing seven years.

The Jairem Thakur-led BJP gov-

ernment tabled the amendment to Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion Act, 2019, on Friday.

The Himachal Pradesh Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022, passed unanimously by the House, inserts in the 2019 law a reference to “mass conversion”, which is described as two or more people converting at the same time.

The government asserted that it brought the amended legislation to make the 2019 anti-conversion law more stringent, which prohibits religious conversion through coercion, misrepresentation or fraudulent

means while stipulating a maximum seven-year jail punishment for the crime.

Opposition parties argued that the amended law will contravene constitutional provisions for persons belonging to SC and ST communities. The lone CPI(M) MLA, Rakesh Singha, said these vulnerable communities will be victimised by the new law.

The Chief Minister said, “...there is no specific targeting of any community. It only focuses on the fact that if a person is voluntarily converting to another religion they must declare it beforehand.”



The bridge over the Chenab river in Reasi district on Saturday. *PTI*

## Final joints in place in world’s highest rly bridge over Chenab

**ARUN SHARMA**  
JAMMU, AUGUST 13

The ‘golden joint’ connecting two ends of the overarch deck of the world’s highest railway bridge over Chenab river was inaugurated on Saturday in Jammu and Kashmir’s Reasi district.

Constructed at Rs 1,250 crore, the 1.3-km bridge is 359 metres above the Chenab river bed and it is 30 metres higher than the Eiffel Tower. It will provide all-weather rail connectivity to Kashmir. At present, Kashmir only has a truncated railway line running between Jammu province’s Banihal area to Baramulla in the Valley.

With the completion of the golden joint, the work on railway

bridge over Chenab is almost over, officials said.

The occasion was marked by bursting of firecrackers, with Konkani Rail workers waving national flags, singing the national anthem and chanting ‘Bharat Mata Ki Jai’ from the centre of the bridge.

“This is a historic moment,” a senior official said, adding that the completion of the ‘golden joint’ has been a long journey. The term ‘golden joint’ was coined by the civil engineers who worked on connecting the two ends of the deck of the bridge, he added.

Konkan Railways Chairman and MD Sanjay Gupta said: “The term ‘Golden Joint’ was coined by the engineers working on the

project... it is important because this joint not only connects both side of the deck but also proves the quality and precision of work by different teams.”

With the completion of the joint, the Bakkal and Kouri sides of the bridge are linked with each other, opening a new chapter in the connectivity between them, said Surinder Mahi, Chief Administrative Officer of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railways.

The bridge had to overcome several challenges. The geology, the harsh terrain, and the hostile environment were just a few of them. The structure, with a main arch span of 467 metres, has been designed to withstand winds up to 100 kmp/h.

## UP man held, charged with sedition for ‘Pak flag’ hoisting

**Lucknow:** A 21-year-old was arrested for allegedly hoisting Pakistan’s national flag atop his house in Bedupura village under Taryan Sujan police station area in Kushinagar district on Saturday.

Police said the accused, Salman Ahmed, was produced before a local court which sent him to judicial custody. “During questioning, Salman said he didn’t have any specific motive behind hosting Pakistan’s national flag and said it was a mistake...,” police said.

An FIR was lodged on charges of sedition and promoting enmity between two groups against Salman and his aunt Shehnaz at Taryan Sujan police station. **ENS**



# The Bihar Handshake

Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav have come a long way since 2017, when they parted ways after two years of what had then seemed an unlikely alliance. Now, as Nitish’s JD(U) splits from the BJP and reunites with the RJD, SANTOSH SINGH charts their journeys — two leaders separated by age, experience and politics, yet now joined by a shared purpose: taking on BJP in 2024



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with his Deputy, Tejashwi Yadav, at the swearing-in ceremony at Raj Bhavan in Patna. *PTI*

## NITISH: 2017 VS 2022

- Greater flexibility. For someone who quit the Mahagathbandhan on the issue of corruption after Tejashwi was booked in the IRCTC case, Nitish now has no qualms about joining hands with the RJD — and Tejashwi
- After the tensions of the last Mahagathbandhan government, when JD(U) accused the RJD of interference, Nitish and Tejashwi have reportedly arrived at a working relationship
- Nitish would want to ensure that the RJD’s overtly Yadav image doesn’t put off his own core vote base — women and EBCs

## TEJASHWI: 2017 VS 2022

- In 2015, Tejashwi was 27 and a rookie MLA, whose promotion to Deputy CM was seen as a nod to father Lalu. It was also against the backdrop of a continuing family tussle. Now he is a leader in his own right, having led the RJD to single-largest party in the 2020 Assembly elections
- Tejashwi insists RJD will be accommodative “in the interest of the state, country, democracy and Opposition”. This is set to be reflected in its choices for Cabinet
- RJD avoided any muscular celebrations after return to power, to dispel fears of Yadav hegemony. Tejashwi has also told Nitish to convey any such issues promptly

## NITISH 2.0

HERE’S SOMETHING about Nitish Kumar and the number 7. As Chief Minister, he has been staying at 7, Circular Road, while using 1, Anne Marg, the official CM residence, as his office. Now, with Nitish severing his five-year-old alliance with the BJP and walking over to the Mahagathbandhan camp, many point out that a famous Delhi address — 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, the official residence of the Prime Minister — could be on his mind. After all, as he left the NDA, Nitish sent out a political dare, couched as prophesy, to the current occupant of 7, Lok Kalyan: “Jo 2014 me aaye the, 2024 me aayenge kya (the one who came to power in 2014, would he also return in 2014)?”

Though there has been much talk about Nitish’s growing discomfort with an “overbearing” BJP, the stark message to have emerged out of Nitish’s latest U-turn is his rekindled national ambition. Though he hasn’t spoken openly about his PM hopes and continues to talk about “serving” Bihar, soon after taking oath as Chief Minister for a record eighth time, Nitish had urged all Opposition parties to start preparing for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. JD(U) sources hint he may soon start touring other states to explore the chances of a broader national coalition to take on the BJP in the 2024 elections.

JD(U) national spokesperson K C Tyagi told *The Sunday Express*: “We have been getting a very positive response (about Nitish Kumar walking out of the NDA). Just the thought of Nitish playing an important role in national politics looks exciting. It is too early to say, but Nitish Kumar has recharged the Opposition.”

Saying the Mahagathbandhan, an alliance of seven parties that has the JD(U), RJD and Congress, besides other smaller parties, could “offer a template for a national opposition against the BJP”, another top JD(U) leader said, “Bihar has been the factory of political experiments and coalitions. The BJP is now up against a tough Opposition in Bihar. Who knows, there might be a strong Opposition at the national level too?”

JD(U) sources point out that Nitish has little left to prove in state politics. He is credited with turning around Bihar’s fortunes after its long years of decay and for building a formidable social coalition built around women and the extremely backward classes among OBCs. He is also the state’s longest-serving CM, having broken the record of 16 years held by Dr Srikrishna Singh, Bihar’s first CM and earlier its state premier. As a close Nitish aide says, “Arre, ab to deputy PM aur PM hi bacha hai na (now only the posts of deputy PM and PM are left to be achieved).”

But those sceptical of a larger national role for Nitish or the possibility of him being the Opposition’s joint face against Modi point to his “paltu ram” image, the consummate politician who has swung between

Though there has been much talk about Nitish’s discomfort with an “overbearing” BJP, the message to have emerged out of Nitish’s latest U-turn is his rekindled national ambition

campus with the ease of a trapeze artiste. Nitish, who joined hands with the BJP in 1995, first quit the NDA in 2013, in the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections, when it became clear that Narendra Modi would be the prime ministerial candidate. Though he didn’t openly pitch himself for the post, he was evidently uneasy about Modi’s growing profile. When he finally parted ways with the BJP in 2013, it was on the ground that the NDA should have a leader with a “clean and secular image”.

Then, in the run-up to the 2015 polls, Nitish did the unthinkable by joining hands with his old socialist fellow-traveller and later foe, Lalu Prasad’s RJD. In the elections that year, held two years after Nitish quit the NDA, the coalition got 178 seats, with the BJP reduced to 53 seats. Nitish had found his sweet revenge against Modi.

Barely two years later, in 2017, he snapped ties with the RJD citing his no-corruption plank as the CBI booked RJD leader and now his Deputy CM, Tejashwi Yadav, in the IRCTC case.

Now, five years since he left the Mahagathbandhan camp, Nitish is back, rallying the Opposition to prepare for the 2024 polls and ruing his time in the BJP. Another somersault, yet Nitish had managed a clean landing — displaying no unease about the contradictions inherent in his moves. The Nitish of 2022 had clearly travelled a fair distance from the Nitish of 2017.

For someone who would often talk of the “triple Cs” of crime, corruption and communalism” as the guiding principles of his governance model, Nitish, when asked if ‘corruption’ was no longer an issue, didn’t bat an eyelid when he said, Tejashwi by his side, “Very much so. We cannot compromise on corruption.”

JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh a.k.a. Lalan Singh too defended the party’s decision to return to the RJD despite its strident stand on corruption, saying, “It has been five years since the IRCTC case. There is hardly any movement in it. It is nothing but an act of political vendetta.”

Nitish’s last stint in the Mahagathbandhan camp was anything but smooth. Only a few months into the arrangement, the stress had started showing, with the JD(U) accusing the RJD of interference. Nitish was no longer the last word in matters of governance, as he had been in the NDA. While the BJP had no strong state leader to match Nitish’s charisma, here in the Mahagathbandhan, he had to share space and spotlight with Lalu and family. The RJD leader’s constant reference to Nitish as “chhote bhai (younger brother)” is also believed to have rankled Nitish.

All that, JD(U) sources insist, is behind them now. Nitish and Tejashwi have reportedly worked out a working arrangement. Tejashwi has already been granted Z-plus security, a perk Nitish’s deputies in the BJP — Sushil Kumar Modi, Tarkishore Prasad and

Renu Devi — never enjoyed. Sushil Modi recently said, “I was deputy CM for over 12 years, yet the government didn’t feel the need to give me a bullet-proof vehicle or Z-plus security.”

Nitish, who by all accounts felt “suffocated” in the BJP, believes he is now his own man — that his 71 years and record-breaking stint as CM have equipped him to tackle a young and ambitious Tejashwi and handle the pulls and pressures of the RJD.

Nitish would also want to ensure that the RJD and its overtly Yadav image don’t put off his own core vote base — women and EBCs. Sources say that this time around, the RJD is on the same page as the JD(U) as it seeks to expand beyond its Muslim-Yadav vote base, a shift that is likely to reflect in Tejashwi’s choice of ministers too.

Nitish’s growing discomfort with the BJP had also sprung from his party’s shrinking footprint. In the 2020 elections to the 243-member Assembly, which the JD(U) contested as part of the NDA, the party had shrunk to 43 seats from its previous tally of 71 while the BJP’s had increased from 53 to 74. The RJD had ended up as the single largest party that year, winning 75 seats while the Congress won 19 and Left parties 16. Nitish, sources say, now believes his party has a better chance outside the NDA.

JD(U) leaders point to JP Nadda’s statement, made at the BJP’s recent national executive in Hyderabad, where he questioned the future of regional and dynastic parties, to say that Nitish’s fear isn’t misplaced: that any prolonged association with the BJP could end up diminishing the JD(U)’s influence in the state.

JD(U) president Lalan Singh told *The Indian Express*: “How can J P Nadda say regional parties will be finished? The BJP tries to gobble up its allies. We called their bluff.”

His critics in the BJP, however, say Nitish needed the BJP as much as it needed him. “We have seen leaders like Mulayam Singh Yadav, Mayawati, Mamata Banerjee and Navin Patnaik who can win polls on their own. But here is Nitish Kumar who needs others to win. We dare him to contest alone if he thinks he is so experienced. What he did is politically immoral,” said former Union minister and BJP Patna Saheb MP Ravi Shankar Prasad.

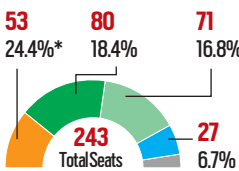
Morality aside, even the staunchest of Nitish’s critics would agree that he is playing the long game.

One lasting image of the Grand Alliance 2.0 is the Nitish-Tejashwi hug. It is a half-embrace, like Nitish is wont to — he seldom does a full embrace.

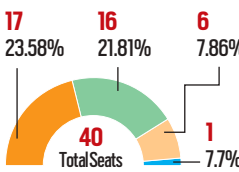
### BIHAR: State of play



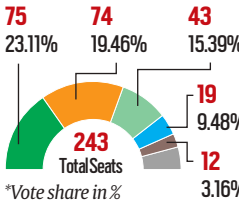
#### 2015 ASSEMBLY POLLS



#### 2019 LOK SABHA



#### 2020 ASSEMBLY POLLS



NOT LONG ago, in his sharpest attack on Tejashwi Yadav till date, Nitish Kumar mentioned his long association with Tejashwi’s father Lalu Prasad, adding: “I often keep quiet because he is the son of my brother-like friend.”

The remark in the Assembly by Nitish followed then Leader of Opposition Tejashwi’s charge against him of “plagiarism and payment of a fine of Rs 25,000”.

As the saying goes, there are no permanent friends or enemies in politics, only permanent interests. And then there is Bihar. A state where one JP Movement would spark enough leaders — including Nitish and Lalu — to upturn its own and national politics, and where politics has revolved around the same faces for decades since. The former comrades are sometimes friends, sometimes enemies, but always around.

With Tejashwi’s return to his ‘Chacha’ Nitish as Deputy CM, that is set to continue.

But if Nitish’s somersaults have come to surprise few, it is the new Tejashwi who made this latest turnaround possible. Observers say this is the prime reason Mahagathbandhan 2022 is unlike Mahagathbandhan 2015, and more likely to survive. In 2015, Tejashwi was 27 and a rookie MLA, whose promotion to Deputy CM was seen as a nod to father Lalu. It was also against the backdrop of a family tussle for power, which had not been settled till then.

Now he comes to the alliance as a leader in his own right, having led the RJD to single-largest party in the 2020 Assembly elections, shouldering the burden of the campaign as ill-ness and prison sidelined Lalu. Brother Tej Pratap Yadav is now firmly in Tejashwi’s shadow, waiting hopefully for at least a ministerial portfolio.

Showing willingness to take charge, Tejashwi did not even put Lalu’s photos prominently in the 2020 campaign material, and went beyond his father’s tested slogans of “social justice” and “secularism”. His main promises were “10 lakh jobs” and “economic justice”.

When the RJD ended short of managing to form a government, Tejashwi adopted his role as Leader of Opposition with all seriousness, sharp and impressive in his attacks, interspersed with facts and figures.

The RJD under him has a devoted ‘research team’ besides a political advisor in friend Sanjay Yadav. Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Kumar Jha (an academic), RJD national spokesperson Subodh Mehta and state RJD chief Jagdanand Singh are part of his core team.

## TEJASHWI 2.0

The RJD has also been trying assiduously to change its image from a MY (Muslims, Yadavs) party to one open ‘A to Z’. Tejashwi’s wedding to a school friend, a Goan Christian, has helped sharpen that image. The RJD leader has talked about the wedding having the full blessing of Lalu.

At the same time, Tejashwi has ensured Lalu remains very much in the picture, taking his inputs on key decisions. The decision to put aside what happened with Nitish last time, when he swung to the BJP and caused the Mahagathbandhan government to collapse, and re-align with him, was also taken after due consultation with Lalu.

Once Tejashwi would have resisted to this, party leaders say. This time, he did not need much persuasion to make the more pragmatic and sagacious move.

The RJD leader, now 32, is also said to be clear in his mind about the role he sees for himself in his second innings in power. Including conceding to Nitish’s seniority for now, despite the RJD having nearly double the seats as the JD(U) in the Assembly.

Speaking to *The Sunday Express* on his priorities, Tejashwi said: “It would be a combination of jobs, strengthening of the social sector, such as in health and education, and a focus on youths.” Providing 10 lakh jobs was “the top agenda and first priority”, he added. “Soon there will be bumper recruitment in Bihar. After that, we will move to incentivising job creation in the private sector, especially in the small and medium sector. I am glad the discussion on demand for jobs and employment is taking place,” the new Bihar Deputy CM said.

On the BJP questioning him over the job promise, Tejashwi said: “It is healthy for a democracy that people remember poll promises. They will now question the BJP on its endless list of promises... The BJP promised 19 lakh jobs, wasted almost two years of Bihar and did not create a single job,” he said, speaking over the phone from Delhi, where he met senior leaders of RJD allies the first time after the tie-up with the JD(U) was struck, including with Sonia Gandhi.

Asked specifically how Mahagathbandhan 2.0 was different, Tejashwi said: “The RJD has always been accommodative in the interest of the state. Two, we have been accommodative in the interest of the country, state, people, Constitution, democracy and a united Opposition. The difference would be that we will work to show results in key areas in the first year itself.”

Whether Cabinet expansion would reflect this accommodation, a detail being watched closely, Tejashwi said: “Our party is diverse and so are our representatives. This diversity would definitely be reflected.”

However, the apprehension in many quarters of a return of Yadav domination goes beyond Cabinet, to fears that the RJD in power means return of jungle raj. Tejashwi didn’t sound apologetic on the matter. “It is like crying wolf all the time. The claim is baseless and

meaningless. Unfortunately, it is something that is perpetuated unquestioningly by friends in the media also. How is it that until days ago all was fine and within 24 hours the bogey of jungle raj is back? Their baseless allegations in the last 30 years have done greater harm to Bihar and Biharis,” he said.

In what might make Mahagathbandhan 2022 a smoother ride, there are signs that the RJD and JD(U) have reached an agreement for Nitish to move on to the national stage sooner rather than later, leaving Bihar to his Deputy CM.

Tejashwi did not admit this, but did not hedge either. Asked if he saw Nitish becoming a fulcrum of anti-Modi politics in 2024, he said: “Opposition unity needs to be worked out on a priority basis and we will take part in discussions to present an alternative that people are desperately looking for.”

A senior RJD leader admitted to “long-term” goals, noting that Tejashwi has the advantage of age with him. “In 2015, it was a matter of an erratic and unplanned frog jump. The JD(U) and RJD came together with the short-sighted goal of retaining power and keeping the BJP out. But Mahagathbandhan 2.0 is equivalent to a lion’s jump. A lion takes a step back before a jump. Ours is a long-term goal, thinking of both national and state politics,” the leader said.

That said, the real challenge to the alliance will come soon, on the matter of transfers. This had been a problem in 2015 too. This time, the RJD is mindful of not asserting in a manner that would make Nitish “uncomfortable”.

As for signs that a shuffle of the cards was imminent in Bihar, before Nitish and Tejashwi revealed their hand, there were plenty. But with few leaders of Lalu and Nitish vintage or stature in Patna, the BJP perhaps was ill-equipped to spot them.

The first issue on which Nitish reached out to Tejashwi was the caste census, with both leading a joint delegation on the matter to the Centre. Then came an iftar party earlier this year, when Nitish dropped in at Lalu family residence for the first time in five years. At the iftar party he himself hosted, the CM pointedly walked out till the gate to see Tejashwi off, a moment captured by an excited media. In July, Nitish visited Lalu at AIIMS, after he was airlifted there for treatment.

The first thing Tejashwi did after taking oath as Deputy CM was to ask his enthusiastic supporters not to engage in overt celebrations but to get back to work. But the joy was difficult to contain, especially at Lalu’s 10, Circular Road Residence, where the shadow of recent cases, arrest of a close Lalu aide, and raids seemed to lift.

An RJD supporter quipped: “Let the ED and CBI open small offices at Laluji’s residence, rather than bothering the family.”

Tejashwi will move soon though, to the Deputy CM’s residence at 5, Deshratna Marg. It is an address just 250 metres down from CM House.



Across  
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website:pchidambaram.in  
Twitter:@Pchidambaram,IN

# ‘Sovereign, Secular, Democratic’

READERS WILL recall the three words *Sovereign*, *Secular* and *Democratic* in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. They are the defining qualities of a modern republic. India won its freedom on August 15, 1947, in order to establish such a republic.

Tomorrow, the nation will celebrate the 75th anniversary of Independence. I am certain the nation will survive to celebrate the 100th anniversary and many more anniversaries, but — I ask this question with great trepidation — will the Republic remain sovereign, secular and democratic in 2047?

## WHITHER SOVEREIGNTY?

For centuries, most parts of India were sovereign only in the sense they were not ruled by foreign kings and queens. The state was ‘sovereign’ but the people were not. Several rulers were despots, incompetent and did little to improve the lives of the people.

Under a republican Constitution, it is not only the State that is sovereign, the people are also sovereign. The power to change the rulers is the hallmark of a sovereign people. Free and fair election is the sovereign right of the people. However, in recent years, that has come under a cloud. Elections, nowadays, seem to be largely determined by money and it is the BJP which has the largest amount of money. In fact, the BJP government invented a dia-

bolically clever and opaque instrument (Electoral Bonds) to garner nearly 95 per cent of the money donated to political parties. The BJP has also other instruments to win elections: media that is tamed, institutions that are captured, laws that are weaponised and agencies that are suborned. And if the BJP loses an election, it has the ultimate weapon called Operation Lotus that it shamelessly employed in Goa, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh and attempted in Rajasthan.

Will we reach a point when elections cease to be free or fair? I sincerely hope not, but that danger cannot be ruled out altogether. *Congress-mukt Bharat* is not a bullet aimed at the Congress alone. Mr JP Nadda’s recent statement that “small parties will vanish leaving only the BJP as a national party” is more than the usual political rhetoric; it is an idea that is carefully nurtured in the BJP nursery.

The people will not lose their sovereignty in a flash. It will be like the spread of slow poison. The erosion will begin by depriving, bit by bit, personal liberty, freedom of speech and writing, right to dissent, right to protest, privacy, freedom to travel and, ultimately, freedom from fear. Ask yourself, in which direction is India headed?

## WHITHER SECULARISM?

India will be the most populous coun-

try in a few years and the population will peak at 160 crore. Since fertility rates are converging, the religious composition of the population will not change significantly from the current proportions: Hindu 78.4 per cent, Muslim 14.4, Christian 2.2, Sikh 1.7 and others 3.3. For 2,000 years India was a plural country and, today, India is a plural country, but we seem to be in an overdrive to deny our pluralism. On the contrary, the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, among others, proudly acknowledge the huge benefits of having a plural society. Their institutions including courts, media and universities, *actively* seek and promote diversity in their ranks. Currently, there is one honourable judge each from the Muslim and Christian communities in the Supreme Court and none from the Sikhs. There is an apprehension that another Muslim or Christian judge may not be appointed until after the incumbent retired.

Ask yourself, can India be anything but secular? Our music, literature, cinema, sports, science, medicine, law, teaching and civil services will be poorer if we exclude Muslims and Christians. It is the leaders of the BJP and the RSS who gave a bad name to secularism. They called it ‘ap-peasement’, and that has distorted their outlook and policy on Jammu & Kashmir, electoral representation, reservations, language, food habits, clothes, and personal law. The death of secularism and the declaration of a Hindu *rashtra* (nation) will be a body blow to the idea of India and may hasten the death of democracy itself. The

overwhelming majority of Indians does not wish that outcome, but the overwhelming majority of BJP supporters seems to want a Hindu *rashtra*. When an irresistible force (the Hindutva believers) meets an immovable block (the moderate and tolerant Indians), I do not know which will prevail.

## WHITHER DEMOCRACY?

Democracy is not just voting once every five years. Democracy has to be practised every day through dialogue, discussion, debate and dissent. By that standard, democracy in India is gasping for breath. There are fewer days every year on which Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies meet. The Sweden-based V-Dem Institute called India an “electoral autocracy” and lowered India’s rank to 53 in the Democracy Index 2021. Each state party fights for its space in its home-state but is loath to help other state parties to protect their spaces or to join forces to fight the BJP. Nightmarish as it may seem, we cannot rule out the emergence of a one-party system (as Mr Nadda devoutly wishes). His party will claim we are a democracy but with Indian characteristics!

Tomorrow, when you salute the Tricolour, please remember its designer, Pingali Venkayya, and that, in the current political context, the tri-colour represents sovereignty, secularism and democracy.

inside  
TRACK

COOMI KAPOOR



## OUTFOXING BJP

JD(U) CHIEF Nitish Kumar has been smarting ever since the 2020 Assembly elections when the BJP deliberately undercut the JD(U) by encouraging Chirag Paswan to field candidates against his party. Since the numbers always favoured a JD(U)-RJD tie-up and Tejashwi Yadav was willing to bury the hatchet, why did Nitish bide his time? The Bihar CM knew that the BJP is a wily enemy to cross. As long as it remained the largest party, it was entitled to be called first to form a government by Governor Phagu Chauhan. (After the 2020 polls, the RJD emerged as the largest single party, finishing ahead of the BJP, but the BJP quickly wooed smaller parties and Independents so that it soon inched ahead of the RJD). But on June 30 this year, the tables suddenly turned — four MLAs from Owaisi’s AIMIM merged with the RJD. While some media headlines suggested that Owaisi was shell-shocked at the defections, a savvy Bihar politician hinted that Nitish had actually engineered the coup with Owaisi’s consent. With the four AIMIM MLAs joining the RJD, it became the single largest party. Nitish was emboldened, aware that the Governor had no option but to invite the RJD first.

## WRONG MESSAGE

Mamata Banerjee is reportedly furious with her nephew Abhishek Banerjee for instantly disassociating the TMC from former minister Partha Chatterjee and announcing his suspension from the party. Abhishek acted within a week of the embarrassing photographs of mountains of cash found by the Enforcement Directorate from the residences of Chatterjee’s friend Arpita Mukherjee. While Abhishek patted himself on the back, tweeting that unlike the BJP, the TMC acted promptly against corruption, Banerjee, a shrewd politician, had a different take. In a closed-door meeting of a few senior party members, she reportedly blasted her nephew for his childish behaviour. She pointed out that if the party turned totally against Chatterjee, he would have no option but to turn approver against them and accuse TMC leaders of being in the know of the pay-offs in the teachers’ recruitment scam. A seasoned politician would have given a non-committal reply about the law taking

its course and merely removed Chatterjee as minister to demonstrate the TMC’s commitment to fighting corruption.

## NOT SO FRIENDLY

Akhilesh Yadav appears to have fallen out with his recent buddy and ally, RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary. Though the issue on which the twoscent of two of UP’s most important political dynasties fought is minor, the ramifications in western UP politics could be significant. One reason that Akhilesh is peeved is that he supported Jayant’s Rajya Sabha bid on the understanding that Jayant would ask for the allotment of Akhilesh’s old Pandara Park bungalow so that the Yadav family would have a house in Delhi. But Jayant instead opted for a house on Shahjahan Road. Jayant believes that part of his Assembly alliance agreement was that the SP would support his nomination for the Rajya Sabha, but Akhilesh kept him dangling till the last moment.

## DOOR STILL OPEN?

Uddhav Thackeray, fighting to retain leadership of the Shiv Sena, requested his close lieutenant Milind Narvekar to speak to all the MLAs who have defected to Eknath Shinde’s side and ask why they had betrayed the party. Narvekar reported back that it was a gloomy picture as most of the MLAs had a long litany of complaints on the Thackerays’ style of functioning. To Narvekar’s surprise, Uddhav perceived the MLAs’ response as good news. Uddhav explained to his puzzled aide that the first sign of a possible reconciliation is open communication. That the defecting MLAs spoke so freely was a hopeful sign. If they had cut him dead, then there would have been reason to worry.

## UNHAPPY COINCIDENCE

The Congress’s black-clothes protest on August 5 was probably a bad idea. Amit Shah quickly noted that it was the anniversary of laying the foundation stone for the Ram Janambhoomi temple. Natwar Singh had an equally negative interpretation: Black shirts were the uniform of Benito Mussolini’s fascist militia.

## TOUGH DEADLINE

Former NITI Aayog chief Amitabh Kant, a Modi favourite, was the surprise choice for the much coveted post of the G-20 Sherpa. The three-member committee of Kant, former foreign secretary Harsh Shringla as coordinator and Swagat Das as security in-charge has a tough task ahead. India is to host next year’s G-20 Summit, but Pragati Maidan, which will be the summit headquarters, looks far from complete.

life &  
WORK

RICHARD KAMEI

jenpuna@gmail.com



# 25 yrs of Indo-Naga talks: In search of a destination



PM Modi, NSCN (IM)’s Muivah at the signing of the 2015 Framework Agreement

1997 onwards, several rounds of talks were held, which finally culminated in the Framework Agreement signed between the Government of India and the NSCN-IM in August 2015. The agreement identified the unique history of the Nagas and acknowledged the decades of struggles for their political demands. Yet, the agreement is far from reaching a solution for the Nagas.

Since 1997, the NSCN-IM has remained the primary stakeholder in the Indo-Naga peace talks. However, the peace talks have also seen the participation of various groups, particularly the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), since 2017. In the recent past, the Centre, represented by interlocutor R N Ravi, conducted several rounds of meetings in which he included several Naga political groups. This was signalled as a step towards inclusivity, which boiled down to the speculated October 31, 2019, for concluding the peace talks.

To the echoes of inclusivity, it is important to note the Naga Mothers’ Association (NMA) statement made around that time where it appealed for proper inclusivity, urging for inclusion of the Naga Hoho (NH), the NMA, the Naga Students’ Federation (NSF) and the Naga Peoples’ Movement for Human Rights (NPMHR) on the basis of their contribution to the peace process for decades. The Eastern Nagaland Peoples’ Organisation’s (ENPO) demand for ‘Frontier Nagaland’ since 2010 also raised a question about the existing idea of inclusivity among the Nagas.

In the year 2020, the interlocutor, Ravi, made it to the news when his letter addressed to the Chief Minister of Nagaland was leaked on June 25. The incident led to distrust as Ravi had painted the Nagaland government and the insurgents in a bad light, linking them to failures of law and order. Following this incident, the NSCN-IM released the contents of the document of the Framework Agreement of 2015 in August 2020. Eventually, in September 2021, Ravi quit and was replaced by former IB special director A K Mishra as the sixth interlocutor for the Indo-Naga peace talks. The soured relationship between the NSCN-IM and Ravi was put to an end. The peace talks have now resumed to achieve a solution for the Nagas soon.

As the Indo-Naga peace talks marked their 25th year this August 2022, the prospect of the solution to Naga political demands still has no clear answers. The NSCN-IM remains firm over its demands for a separate flag and constitution for the Nagas. The hope for the unification of all the Naga-inhabited areas continues to live in the minds and aspirations of the Nagas. Recently, the Global Naga Forum (GNF) organised a two-day “Naga Solidarity Walk” from Kohima, Nagaland, to Senapati, Manipur, under the theme “One People, One Destiny”. The rally demonstrated that the Nagas are one and uphold Naga history and the need to defend their lands.

*The writer teaches anthropology at the Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan*



ANURADHA MASCHERENAS

‘BHAI’, FOR me, has always been dad, not brother. Part of a joint family where he was the eldest of three brothers, he was *mota bhai* (elder brother in Gujarati) and my mother *mota bhabhi* — not just to his younger siblings, but all of us children too. We addressed our grandparents as “mummy” and “papa”, just the way *Bhai* and his brothers did.

Now as I sit outside a hospital ICU — where he has landed after his metabolic parameters went haywire — I am trying my best to summon all my memories of *Bhai* in his heyday. Trying hard not to think of him as the 81-year-old on the other side

# Bhai, are you listening?

of the ICU door, in a state of stupor, with irregular heartbeats and incessant coughing due to aspiration.

Doctors counsel relatives of patients every morning and, depending on the severity of the condition, it’s often the more composed among them who is apprised of the situation. Yes, they were doing their best and there were chances of recovery but there is always a downside and some what-ifs that remain unanswered. My siblings and I would take turns to appear for these sessions, little realising that I would break down so fast on reaching home.

*Bhai*. The way he held my gold medal at the university convocation or the times he proudly prodded me with a “*kya*, journalist madam” in front of relatives, or that one instance when I sobbed bitterly as he refused to let me

travel to another city for work.

Many of these memories, treasured ones, are from the Saturday evenings that meant dressing up to meet my boyfriend who would soon be my husband. Despite all that my mother did to desperately talk me out of my interfaith match, it was the glowering look on *Bhai*’s face that remains stuck in my mind. As I would walk out of the door for the appointed date with my boyfriend, there he would be, sitting on the rocking chair, grim-faced and bespectacled, hiding behind the folds of a newspaper, trying hard not to say anything.

Of course, now, several years later, our Saturdays are incomplete without a mandatory visit to the parents during which *Bhai* and his son-in-law spend

hours in mindless chatter — who was the better James Bond, Roger Moore or Sean Connery, of old Pune when Liberty Cinema (theatre) and West End Cinema were vibrant, or simply where you could find the best *khaman dhoklas* in Pune.

And God forbid, if we missed even a single visit, there would be several follow-up calls asking, nay demanding, why we hadn’t made time to call on them.

At the old family house, the regular gatherings, laced with banter and good food, rarely ended without a card game of Seven of Hearts (*Badaam Saat*). *Mota Bhabhi* would initiate the game and *Bhai* and other would happily join in.

There are countless other memories. Of *Bhai* the dentist, who insisted on

wearing white clothes and who would loudly express his displeasure if his laundry wasn’t delivered on time with his freshly ironed whites. Of him scrubbing his favourite red scooter, a daily chore, before setting off with *Mota Bhabhi* for the morning visit to the temple.

Despite *Mota Bhabhi* being all ready for the temple visit, much to her chagrin, he would make it a point to press the horn at 8 am and shout, “*Arre, sambhlej ke* (are you listening?)”

Now it’s a weary *Mota Bhabhi*’s turn to nudge a hand that has lost count of the innumerable needle pricks and say, “*Mota Bhai, sambhloj ke? Uto, chalo ghare* (Mota Bhai, are you listening? Get up, let’s go home).”

It has been a fortnight. And *Bhai* is still behind that ICU door.

Fifth  
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter:@tavleen\_singh



# Has India changed enough?

IF YOU were born as I was, almost exactly three years after that momentous midnight of August 15, 1947, then your story reflects in some ways the story of India as a modern nation. This is the only reason that this week I bring some of my own story into this column. My first memory of home is of a tall, narrow house called Hasan Manzil in Karnal. It was allotted to my father’s family when they were forced out of Pakistan. There was no running water and only one toilet of the kind that needed a manual scavenger to come and clean it once a day, so the reek of that lavatory permeated every small room in this old-fashioned *haveli*. It mingled with the stench of cow dung and the open drain that waited up from the bazaar below. This was my grandmother’s house.

My father was an Army officer, so mercifully this was not our permanent home. We moved with him to military towns like Ambala and Babina. Housing for Army officers was more salubrious and had modern toilets, but the towns were dismal, dirty and depressing. Those of us privileged enough to live in the cantonment were warned to stay far away from ‘civil areas’. Of course, India was in those times also a country of romantic, beautiful towns and jungles full of wildlife. But, before my eyes, the jungles shrank, and the beautiful towns became squalid urban settlements. Then there were the shortages. Everything was in short supply and everyone, even rich people, lived in dis-creet, socialist poverty.

The first speech from the Red Fort that I covered as a journalist was on August 15, 1975. Indira Gandhi looked scared, twitchy, and frail. It was not just because she suspended democracy weeks before, but because it was in the early hours of that morning that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated along with his whole family. Dictators get nervous when they hear of such things and Mrs Gandhi was unable to conceal her nervousness that day. It was a bad time for India, and it seemed for a while that things would get worse rather than better. Then came that election of 1977 when Mrs Gandhi and her son lost their own seats and it seemed for a moment that India would shake off the shackles of socialism and central planning and really begin a new journey.

This did not happen. It was only in 1991 when P V Narasimha Rao became prime minister that India changed dramatically. He was boring and uncharismatic, and he made boring speeches from the Red Fort, but just by allowing the breath of free markets to start filtering through India’s stagnant, statist economy, he succeeded in bringing magical change. Suddenly an Indian middle class became visible, and it grew and grew and grew.

That was when a ‘new’ India was born, and it was our good fortune that the prime ministers who came after Narasimha Rao like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Dr Manmohan Singh, continued with the process of dismantling the stranglehold that the state had over the economy. Then when Dr Manmohan Singh won a second term, Sonia Gandhi made him regent and became de facto prime minister herself. She brought back socialist controls and dynastic democracy. But that is another story.

Tomorrow as India celebrates her 75th birthday as a modern nation state, should we be optimistic? Filled with hope? Or are there evil currents in the air that could drag us towards another long season of bad times? It is hard to say for sure. Liberal democracy and free markets have so far proved to be the recipe for prosperity and progress in more countries than we can list here. And, before Narendra Modi became prime minister, he often said that he believed in these ideas, and that he would ensure ‘minimum government and maximum governance’. It is a promise that he has so far failed to keep. It is not just big business that comes upon an interfering official around every corner, ordinary people do as well. Officials seem even to want to control the kind of films that Bollywood makes. Official interference in the media is no secret.

If the lives of ordinary Indians had improved exponentially in the past eight years, Modi might have only a few disgruntled dissidents to worry about. But the truth is that the lives of ordinary Indians have not really improved. They will not improve unless there is enough economic growth for millions of jobs to get created. They will not improve if government schools remain academies of literacy, not education. They will not improve unless public services like healthcare show significant reform. They will not improve if millions of Indians continue to be compelled to live in shanties and filthy villages.

There is much good that Modi has succeeded in doing as prime minister. This is why he won a second term. This is why an *India Today* poll last week shows that if a Lok Sabha election was held tomorrow, Modi would bring the BJP a full majority. But there are things that have not changed since those years when the Indian nation had just been born. It is only when those things change, and the average Indian can look forward to seeing real improvement in their lives, that the old shadows will lift. Meanwhile Happy 75th India.



THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE



FREEDOM ISSUE

A Man of Letters

As India completes 75 years, three new letters enrich the history of its most charismatic revolutionary — Bhagat Singh



FREEDOM ISSUE

Girl, Woman, Other

In forgetting their contribution and treating them with prejudice, India continues to diminish its women

eye

THE THINGS WE CARRIED WITH US

The arts had been a domain of freedom and disruption in the run-up to the Independence. How did they catalyse India’s journey after 1947? In this Independence Day special, first, a look back at the defining cultural moments of the last 75 years



BY AMIT CHAUDHURI

WHAT HAVE been the most compelling works in the arts and in literature in India in the last 75 years? The anniversary gives us a chance to consider the question anew, but the answer is more difficult to arrive at than we assume. After all, we love our cultural icons much more than we do their work. Anyway, the question is too general and, as a result, unwieldy. Let me narrow it down. Before doing so, let me also say that I think the idea of “Independence” as a break and catalyst in our modernity is of limited use. Many of the greatest shifts and innovations in culture took place well before Independence, in the 19th century: it was then that the sphere of culture — of poetry, dance, fiction, art, the classical genres, cinema — began to be formulated as a domain of freedom and unpredictability. It was then — and not after Independence — that we became either citizens or daydreamers, or both. I would roughly, perhaps tentatively, date the moment of citizenship, at least in Bengal, to 1828, to the formation of the Brahmo Samaj, and daydreaming to 1860, to the composition of the *Meghnadbadhakabya* by Michael Madhusudan Dutt and *Hutom Pyachar Naksha* by Kaliprasanna Sinha. Since then a hundred and sixty years have passed. Others will date these moments differently; but, whatever their dates might be, they will predate Independence. I see the legacy of those traditions of citizenship on the one hand and daydreaming on the other carried forward well after Independence to, at least, the late 1970s. In the ‘80s, another break or fissure, more significant than Independence, begins to appear, to do with the onset of globalisation and the free market, the ascendancy of English, the creation of a neoliberal elite, and the gradual rise of the Right. All of these were formalised in India in 1991 by both economic deregulation and the assault on the Babri Masjid. Whether, since 1991, we have been “free” — in our dreams, our imagination, and our thoughts and actions — is moot.



I’d like to dwell briefly, first, on just a few of the developments that extend, post-Independence, the legacy of daydreaming — a form of freedom that not only overrides the coloniser, but our own citizenly proprieties as “Indians”. In that legacy’s line, I’d put Ustad Amir Khan’s post-Independence innovations in the *vilambit* or “slow” *Khayal*, which made it “*ati vilambit*”, or “most slow”/ “radically slow”. Amir Khan had taken a cue from the pre-Independence singer Ustad Abdul Waheed Khan, whose secretive experiments had already been moving the *Khayal* in the direction of slowness, consolidating the legacies of enchantment, trance, and daydream, severing *Khayal* from overt intelligibility, and pushing it towards seeming purposelessness. This lineage has had a great spiritual impact, after Independence, on the Indian notion of music as a form whose limits — and whose very musicality — are to be tested. The emergence of Amir Khan’s idea of the *Khayal* is not unrelated to a mode of thinking that makes a film like *Pather Panchali* possible in 1955. These projects and artworks extend an already-existing domain of possibility and enchantment, of freedom, that had been put in place by 19th and early 20th-century forebears like Rabindranath Tagore, Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, and Abdul Waheed Khan.

Perhaps, the most intelligent and uncompromising theorist-practitioner in the last 50 years in this domain of freedom, who never underestimated the power of the nation-state, whether it’s “independent” or otherwise, to curtail or delegitimise the imagination, was Mani Kaul. His scepticism and concerns about the deep, probably inescapable, legacies for Indians of the Enlightenment and the European Renaissance (with their privileging of the instrumental and of knowledge as a form of mastery) informs the poetic resistance of his filmmaking, turning it into a form of knowledge that can’t be assimilated to a clear purpose. The great value of this type of resistance — of its seeming irresponsibility and obfuscation — in Nehruvian India shouldn’t be ignored. It created an important option for us. Kaul’s theoretical positions in relation to his belligerent poetics are to be found scattered across his interviews and snippets of lectures uploaded on YouTube. They point to an idea of the arts as a kind of dissent which we have now lost sight of, just as the challenge posed by Kaul’s work has slipped from our sights.

With globalisation came a seemingly irreversible change. One of its principal manifestations — in the world and not least in India — has been the roughly 30-year-old dominance of the English language. In writing, this has



PHOTOS: EXPRESS ARCHIVE

POETIC RESISTANCE

(Clockwise from top) Guru Dutt; Mani Kaul; Ustad Amir Khan; Ritwik Ghatak

meant that certain locations (New York; London — in that order) are seen as final arbiters of approbation. Much of our writing, and the idea of writing, now comes to us in India mediated by elsewhere. This is a pity on several levels. It gives us permission not to make our own judgements; to end up loving our cultural icons more than we love their work. And it allows us to reaffirm, on some level, the myth that India had no criticism and, by implication, no history. Again, this is a pity in a country that has such a remarkable intellectual history, and which produced critics as shrewd and profound as Bhattanayaka and Abhinavagupta. For this reason, I’d like to acknowledge two instances of cultural reassessment in Independent India which imply a robust critical milieu at work. Such reassessments, though they may be relatively few, are cause for optimism.

The first has to do with the work of the Bengali poet Jibanananda Das, which has been central to post-Independence Bengali poetry but whose centrality itself represents a critical shift. Das’s work wasn’t really understood in his lifetime. His reputation was, to some extent, dependent on Buddhadeva Bose’s championing; his ongoing, posthumous reputation in the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s is part of a reconsideration on the part of Bengali poets and readers of the qualities of Das’s poetry, as well as of what makes poetry itself indispensable. This reassessment is unrelated to Das’s reputation in the Anglophone world or abroad, where it is still near non-existent. Das’s 20th-century standing in Bengal is a testimony not only to his poetry, but to the aliveness of his inheritors. The poetry was written mainly before Independence; the reassessment is a post-Independence achievement.

The same could be said of *Kaagaz ke Phool* (1959) by Guru Dutt, which failed at the box office and deepened the filmmaker’s depression and may have contributed, alongside the circumstances of his personal life, to his untimely death. But the fortunes of the film itself were reversed in the 1970s, when critics like Iqbal Masud and others re-evaluated its significance, so that it now stands at the core of our present-day ease with the idea that a so-called “commercial” Hindi film can also be an artwork. Dutt’s reputation — like Ritwik Ghatak’s — is as much a homemade achievement as his films are.

These are important instances of the complex negotiation we call “freedom”. If we leave the assessments of our inheritance and contemporaries to others — to other countries, to corporations, to the State, to the powerful among us, or to ideologies — how can we be free?

Amit Chaudhuri is a novelist, essayist and musician. His new novel *Sojourn* is out this month

Vandana Kalra

Satish Gujral, Partition series, ‘40s-50s

Born in Jhelum in 1925, a young Gujral accompanied his father to help relocate refugees to India during Partition. The trauma he experienced and his painful memories of the time led to several acclaimed works in the ‘40s and ‘50s, including *Days of Glory* (1952-86), in which helpless, huddled figures sit in isolation, and *The Despair* (1954), that portrays loss through its wailing subjects.

MF Husain, Zameen, 1955

Considered one of his seminal works, *Zameen*, captures MF Husain’s love for the land. The panoramic painting won him the National Award in 1955. Divided into various segments, the figures come together to tell the story of India, its daily life and festivities. The motifs range from a rooster to a packhorse, bull and the wheel, several of which became recurring themes in the artist’s work.

KG Subramanyan, The Tale of the Talking Face, 1970s

The artist-pedagogue started working on the series during the Emergency. The black-and-white drawings, also published as a book in 1989, depicted the perils of democracy and how authoritarianism only brings suffering. The allegorical satire had as its central protagonist an autocratic princess whose dictatorial measures bring hardships on her kingdom.



Gulammohammed Sheikh, City For Sale, 1981-84

The epic painting referenced how sectarian violence had become commonplace in Gujarat. The multilayered canvas captured and merged disparate scenes from the city

of Baroda, Sheikh’s home since the 1950s. His largest work till then, it had riots raging in one part of the city, even as everyday life continued in other parts, represented through scenes of people heading for a movie, *Silsila* (1981), and a woman with a vegetable cart making her way to town.



COURTESY DHEERAJ THAKUR



COURTESY NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART, NEW DELHI

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

(Clockwise from above, left) Gulammohammed Sheikh’s *City for Sale* (1981-84); Riyas Komu’s *Dhamma Swaraj* (2018); MF Husain’s *Zameen* (1955)

Nalini Malani, City of Desires, 1992

The artist’s first site-specific wall-drawing installation, briefly on view at Mumbai’s Chemould Gallery, was video-recorded for posterity. Dignity in poverty had been her sub-

ject since the ‘80s. *City of Desires* saw Malani sketch live with charcoal and watercolours the plight of Mumbai’s homeless; Vietnamese refugees in boats; and others, capturing the effects of disparity. She erased the mural in remembrance, and to mourn the loss, of a 19th-century fresco at Rajasthan’s Shrinathji Temple

in Nathdwara to neglect and vandalism.

Jitish Kallat, Public Notice series, 2003-10

In the series, Kallat turns to historic texts as reminders of the vision of our forefathers. In the first, made in 2003, he hand-inscribed India’s first PM Jawaharlal Nehru’s *Tryst With Destiny* speech on the eve of Independence, using rubber glue on acrylic mirror panels and setting it aflame. It reflects on the founding ideals of a new nation — the promise of a democracy, peace, unity, end of poverty and ignorance. In subsequent works, Kallat deployed Gandhi’s 1930 speech on Dandi March eve; and Swami Vivekananda’s 1893 World Parliament of Religions speech in Chicago, about fanaticism and universal tolerance.

Riyas Komu, Dhamma Swaraj, 2018

By bringing together BR Ambedkar’s *dhamma* and Mahatma Gandhi’s *swaraj*, Komu’s triptych asserts that freedom can’t exist without justice and justice implies equality. “*Dhamma Swaraj* is a conversation. A will to dissent. It’s conceived as an orientation towards the future...to invoke dialogue between the past and present, intensities of thoughts, philosophies and politics. The figures of Gandhi and Ambedkar extend outside the frame...to reach out to the potentials and possibilities of a shared politics, of coming together as communities abandoned by ideologies of the present. The intertwined figures act as a memory of politics, a vision of acting together...to show what binds and decides, what’s preserved and what’s decaying,” he says.



New Delhi









# Girl, Woman, Other

In forgetting their contribution and treating them with prejudice, India continues to diminish its women

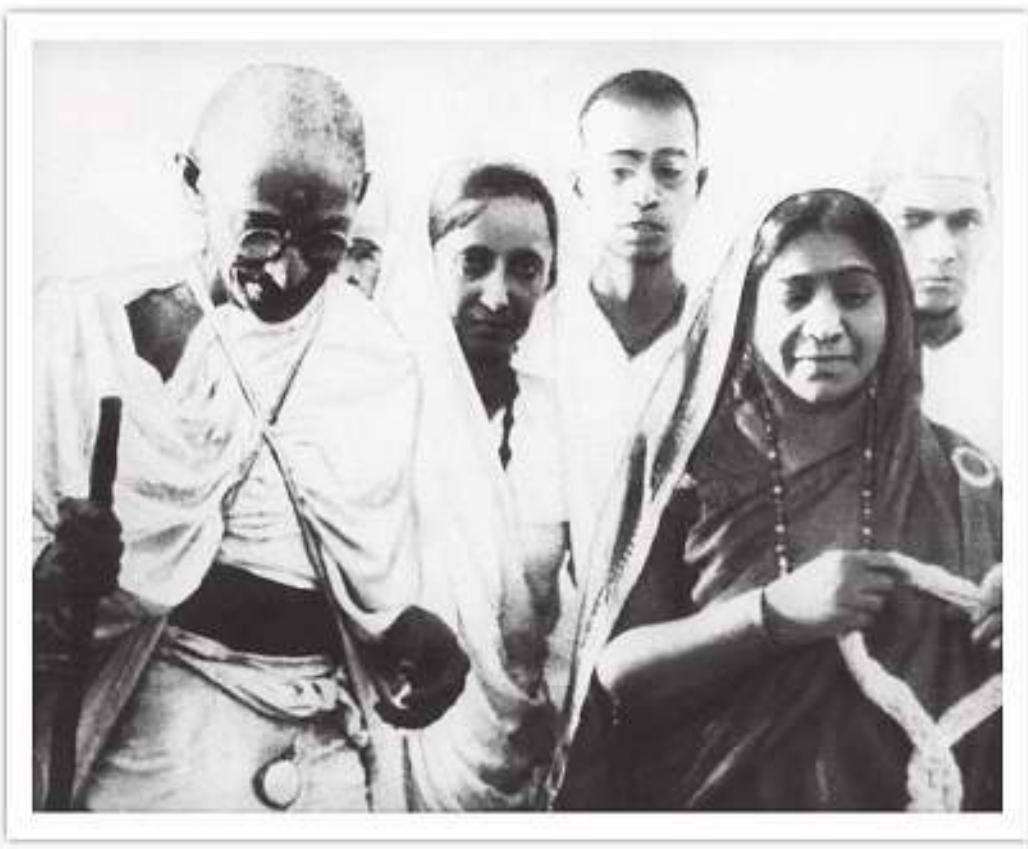


BY SHASHI DESHPANDE

JUST a few hours from now, independent India will be 75 years. The nation will, as usual, have the traditional official celebrations. But the truth is that we are jaded, the miracle of freedom no longer dazzles us. For those of us who saw the British flag come down and the Indian flag take its place, these are disquieting times. Times of evading the truth, of evading reality. We celebrate our Independence, but we have edged out the story of Partition. Is it intentional amnesia? Or have we truly forgotten it? True, humans can forget what they want to in a heartbeat. But Partition is the Siamese twin of our freedom. It was the price we paid for freedom, the price that was paid by people who lost the homes they had lived in for generations only because of a line drawn on a map.

And what about women's contribution to the freedom movement? We only know that Gandhiji brought women into the freedom movement. But recently, during a conversation with novelist Githa Hariharan, when Nayantra Sahgal said that there were over 30,000 women in prison in 1932, I was staggered by the number. Thirty thousand women in prison? And how many more out of it? Prominent women in the movement like Sarojini Naidu or Vijayalakshmi

Pandit became household names at the time. But of these 30,000 women we know nothing. What happened to them after Independence? Did they go back to their homes and take up the household duties which had been their lot earlier? Why were



they, barring a very few, not in politics? And why were these few women invariably connected to important men?

An even worse and equally forgotten story is of women who were raped during the Partition riots. I have been haunted by these women since I came across a pile of *Harijan* (Gandhiji's journal) issues at home and read Gandhiji's words trying to comfort and advise the raped women. What happened to them? Where did they go finally? Their families would not accept them, for they were disgraced, dishonoured women. What happened to the babies born of rape? Women

## THE GREAT ALONE

Sarojini Naidu with Mahatma Gandhi during the 1930 Salt Satyagraha. While some freedom fighters like Naidu entered politics, many were lost to obscurity

who were raped in Bangladesh during the war were given the title of "*Biranganas* (heroines)" by the government. A crass, insensitive way of thinking. Better, perhaps, to be invisible than a heroine.

Women were considered comrades in the freedom struggle. Now? They are stalked, subjected to acid attacks, domestic abuse, marital rape, sexual harassment at home and outside; they are trolled on social media, judged by what they wear, what they do. Legislation is unable to keep up with these crimes. They say that the condition of women spells out how civilised a country is. By this measure, we have failed. In spite of our boastful claims about a modern progressive India, the majority of women, and a great many men, remain outside the world of op-

portunities and achievement.

The truth is that very soon after Independence, we forgot our dreams for the country, our aspirations for people, and latched on to the reality of power. Seventy-five years after Independence, we are a polarised country, full of hate. Listening to the "debates" on TV, one gets the full brunt of this hatred. The shouting and shrieking makes one wonder: why are they angry? Not only those out of power, even those in power are angry. What makes them so angry?

Nevertheless, I am convinced that political power is the only factor that can help. Without it, a people remain voiceless. Look at these numbers: The Constituent Assembly, which was convened before Independence to draft the Constitution, had 389 members, of which 11 were women. The present Parliament has 785 members, with 78 women among them. Any significant change in 75 years? Not really.

Not that there are no women in politics. We see party spokeswomen who can out-shout and out-shriek other panellists, even the anchor. They have learnt to be as good haters as the men are, to be as angry as the men. This spectacle convinces me that I shall see no changes in India in my lifetime. We have gone too far ahead on the road of hatred to turn back. One had also hoped that open and rampant sexism would no longer be possible. But not too long ago, a male Member of Parliament told a female colleague to go home and do her work of patting out bhakris (rotis) — showing a contempt not only for this particular woman, but for all women's work. If women did not pat out bhakris or roll out chapatis, what would the country eat? And this statement was made to a woman who comes from a powerful political party. Do we then give up hope?

"A moment comes...when an age ends, when the soul of a nation, long suppressed, finds utterance" — these were the words of our first Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru.

We have to hope, to wait for all the voices which have been suppressed, even in free India, to find utterance. That will be real Independence.

Shashi Deshpande is a novelist

## DOWN IN JUNGLELAND



Ranjit Lal

Ranjit Lal is an author, environmentalist and bird watcher

## Free Spirits

Even in the animal world, it matters to be unrestrained

MANY YEARS ago, at a bird-ringing camp, I remember holding a little bird (I have even forgotten what species), that had been caught in the mist net, ringed and was now ready for release. I held my cupped palms upwards, opened them and with a whirr and a squeak (of delight?), the little bird took off to freedom, taking and freeing a little bit of myself with it. There is really no way to describe the uplifting feeling. Of course, it also made me feel smugly virtuous for the rest of the day and made me understand why wild animal rescuers are often in tears when they release their wards (even snakes) back where they belong — never to see them again. Of course, politicians do this with white doves all the time — but for venal reasons. Others buy captive birds like (often garishly dyed) *munias* and release them *en masse* but this is to buy the approval of the Gods and only leads to the capture of more such birds (so they can be bought and freed).

A few years ago, I was given charge of a pair of goldfish that lived in yes, a small goldfish bowl. Chhotu and Motu were attractive to watch, their orange-gold colours were lovely, their movements graceful and I could understand why doctors and dentists kept large kaleidoscopic aquariums in their waiting rooms. But I used to wonder: Didn't they go stir crazy swimming round and round in that bowl all day every day? Especially since they had begun recognising me as provider of their rations and would wait expectantly, looking at me! Perhaps, they'd be happier in a larger tank, but they'd still be confined and I couldn't possibly release them in a local pond or the river. Before I could make up my mind what to do, they died: Never again. As for keeping birds, that was out of the question. I felt very uncomfortable even in Singapore's famous Jurong Bird Park, but, of course, I'd visited the place!

But do animals, birds, reptiles, fishes and even insects understand what freedom is? Some certainly seem to: decades ago, in Bombay, we used to spend weekends at the (then deserted) beach — at Marve — much to the delight of our Boxer, Bambi. When let off the leash on the beach, she would race on the sands at top speed, her ears flapping, tongue hanging out, delirious with delight. Oh yes, she knew what it meant to be free! After two days of such exulting freedom she would spend the next two days, back at home, asleep on her sofa, paws twitching as



RANJIT LAL

### SOARING HIGH

Free spirits in the wild have their own rhythm

she probably dreamt of chasing crabs on the sand!

We unfortunately, seem far better at taking away freedom than giving it: both in the animal kingdom and in our own! We've been capturing animals for zoos and circuses for millennia. In many zoos, the animals are confined in dark dingy cages, and promptly go mad, pacing up and down relentlessly, or shaking their heads (it's called stereotypical behaviour) or mutilating themselves. Even in "enlightened" zoos, where the enclosures have been specially designed and the animals given "toys" to play with or made to find their food (hidden by the keepers), or puzzles to solve, to keep the boredom at bay, the bottom line that keeps bugging you is: ah, but they're still not free! That's true for safari parks as well as National Parks, whose borders animals do not recognise but we do.

The late Gerald Durrell once said that freedom was really not all it was made out to be. Wild, free animals had a very rough and tough life — they had territories to defend, mates to fight over (sometimes to the death), food to hunt down, babies to look after, enemies to avoid. In good zoos, they were provided with all possible amenities, and even partners, even if they had a limited amount of space to roam around in. Then again, even wild free animals didn't just roam around aimlessly: many had their clearly marked out territories which they patrolled — or if they were migratory — more or less fixed migratory routes and rest-and-recreation destinations in winter. Apart from educating the public about the biodiversity of species, the main *raison-d'être* of zoos is to preserve the population of critically endangered species. And even we have territories — our homes, our offices, the restaurants we eat at — which are more or less fixed. As are our country's borders.

If zoos are bad, then circuses are much worse! Fortunately, circuses using animal acts are becoming a thing of the past, but we still have grand tuskers, be-decked from head to toe, leading noisy processions (An elephant can be the most silent mover in the forest). As for animals used for research in medicine, they're the worst off. Every time I see a beagle, or a Labrador, or even a badly behaved macaque, or a white rat, I give it a silent salutation, thanking its kind for testing the pills I take, or the pacemaker that ticks away in my chest.

Until we learn to eat rocks and stones, we will take away the freedom (and life) of the animals we consume. As we do of the quadrillions of plants which we boil alive! Ah, and what would a bonsai banyan tree think when it sees a full-grown banyan tree in the wild?



BY SHUBHRA GUPTA

LET ME tell you about a brand new rom com which I quite enjoyed. *Wedding Season*, directed by Tom Dey, is about a personable pair of *desis* in New Jersey, looking for their dream partner just so they can get their pushy parents off their back. When Asha and Ravi meet, it's cute. Strike one. Going by standard rom com rule number two, they have to be oblivious of each other's charms to begin with, which these two, well played by Suraj Sharma and Pallavi Sharda, duly comply with.

But the nicest thing of all, apart from the obvious spark between the two, is that they are handed out parity by the writers: she has a real job, formerly in high-flying finance, now in micro-loans, and he is looking for a way to come clean about where his heart really lies. They are equals, whichever metric you apply.

You already know about this other film, which I did not enjoy at all. Aanand L Rai's *Raksha Bandhan* is also about finding the right match, but it's all askew: the heavy lifting is done by an older brother for his four younger sisters, who are portrayed as these helpless creatures, incapable of harbouring a single independent thought. Akshay Kumar is meant to be an *adarsh bade bhaiyya*, but the concern he is seen lavishing upon said *behens* is strictly to do with "procuring" proper grooms for these "difficult" girls. How is labelling young women "fat" and "dark" acceptable in this day and age? Under the guise of a socially-relevant film, which supposedly speaks out against dowry, it ends up infantilising its characters, as well as the viewers.

Here we are in 2022, trying to deal with the ravages of the pandemic, the after-effects of climate change, the rapidly changing rules of engagement. What does India at 75 need, more than anything else? Ways to negotiate a world trying to rebuild itself, with acceptance, openness, and compassion. Gender parity is a crucial cornerstone of a just society, and one of the most effective ways of talking it up is through cinema. If representation is key, who would you rather see: a young woman with intelligence and emotional acuity, or one who is dependent on the patriarch for every single thing?

Bollywood needs to grow up. It's something we've been saying for years, but now it is more urgent than ever. It's not as if filmmakers haven't heeded our call. But the moment someone tries to make a grown-up film for grown-ups, it's not just the over-judicious, under-confident official censors that



## ROOTING FOR HER

(Clockwise from top) Smita Patil in *Bhumika*; Swara Bhasker in *Anaarkali of Aarah* and Kareena Kapoor Khan in *Jab We Met*

stand against growth; increasingly, it is militant groups of citizens who have become our moral guardians, keeping us "safe" from the "pollution" of free thought. As aware audiences, we need to grow up, too.

An important aspect of that growing up, both from creators and consumers of cinema, is the accordance of mutual respect. The tendency to box films which are either helmed or headlined by female professionals as "women-oriented" has only damaged the possibility of all-round growth. This kind of tight compartmentalisation allows for easy dismissal of such films. It also limits the audience: only women end up going to watch those movies in the theatres, or clicking on them on OTT platforms in their scant disposable time. Given that the ma-

jority of those who go to the movies are young men between the ages of 15-25 years, it is imperative that the stigma around stories fronted by women be removed. No, you are not a sissy if you watch a film made by a woman; you are just a viewer making a sensible choice.

Why wouldn't a lover of good, meaningful cinema, male or female, want to watch feisty mother Shamsu and daughter Badru get their own back on the latter's abusive husband, Hamza? Between them, Alia Bhatt, Shefali Shah and Vijay Varma have given us moments to savour, long after we have finished watching their *Darlings*. Women telling women's stories? Freely and with flair? High time.

Shubhra Gupta is film critic, *The Indian Express*



## BRIEFLY

## Pujara hits 79-ball 107 for Sussex

**Sussex** : Star India batter Cheteshwar Pujara cracked 22 runs in an over en route to his scintillating 107 off 79 balls for his county side Sussex in the Royal London One Day Cup in Birmingham. However, Pujara's innings went in vain as Sussex fell short by four runs while chasing Warwickshire's 310 for six on Friday. Pujara, India's batting mainstay in Tests, looked in ominous touch as he slammed three fours and a six in the 45th over off medium pacer Liam Norwell to keep Sussex in the chase. Overall, Pujara smashed seven fours and two sixes during his innings. He was dismissed in the first ball of the 49th over by Oliver Hannon-Dalby as Sussex finished at 306 for seven.

## Anahat in World Jr squash quarters

**Nancy (France)**: Promising Indian squash player Anahat Singh entered the quarterfinals of the women's singles event of the WSF World Juniors 2022 after beating England's Torrie Malik 3-1 in the fourth round here on Saturday. Anahat, who was a member of India's squash contingent in the just-concluded Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, defeated Malik 11-5, 11-5, 6-1, 11-7. She will face Egypt's Fayrouz Abouelkheir for a place in the semifinals. "I really didn't expect that, but surprisingly I wasn't nervous!" Anahat said after her win over Malik.

## Shakib to lead B'desh at Asia Cup, T20 WC

**Dhaka**: The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) on Saturday appointed premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as the skipper of the T20 team for the upcoming Asia Cup, the New Zealand tri-series and the T20 World Cup. While the Asia Cup will be held in the UAE, Australia will host the T20 showpiece. The BCB made the announcement after weeks of uncertainty as Shakib was told by the Board to choose between playing for Bangladesh or keeping his endorsement with a "betting company" Betwinner News. He had ended his deal with the company.

## Sharma shoots 68, moves to tied 12th

**Singapore**: India's Shubhankar Sharma made a sharp move up with a solid 4-under 68 to get to 9-under which saw him rise to tied 12th in \$1.5 million third International Series Singapore here on Saturday. Sharma's card may have looked even better but for a late bogey on 17th. But he quickly made up for it with a birdie on 18th. Veer Ahlawat continued to be the top Indian even though he barely made a move on the third day. He stayed at 10-under but slipped from overnight third to tied eighth.

## IOA delegation to visit Lausanne

**New Delhi**: Playing down threats of suspension, Indian Olympic Association acting president Anil Khanna on Saturday said a three-member delegation will visit the IOC Committee's headquarters next month to apprise the IOC of current status with regards to its elections. Weeks after the IOC had threatened to suspend the IOA if it failed to conduct its election at the earliest, Khanna said his body is committed to "abide" by the country's Sports Code and the law of the land.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



## CHAMPION MEETS PM

2022 CWG gold medalist Mirabai Chanu gifts PM Modi a signed jersey on behalf of the weightlifting contingent on Saturday.

PIB handout

## ‘India not far from Olympic medal’

40-year-old table tennis star Sharath Kamal in conversation with Anil Dias where he talks about how he made tweaks to his game, like a stronger backhand to complement his forehead and his dreams of a team medal in 2024.

THREE GOLD medals and a silver in his kitty made this the most successful Commonwealth Games for the evergreen table tennis star Sharath Kamal, who at 40 is willing to step out of his comfort zone and adapt.

**How do you do what you do? How have you managed to be at the top of your sport for so long?**

That comes through lots of practice and understanding the process over time. I'm able to understand what my body requires, what my mind requires, and what it takes to be in the best shape. This is not just my effort. It's a complete effort with my coaches – mental coach, physical coach, and nutritionist. They tell me, at this stage, we'll be doing this or that. These are the tournaments we'll be playing. It's a long-drawn process where planning and organisation are quite important aspects. When we stick to the plan, the results come in.

**Over the years you have played opponents with different styles. Table tennis has changed a lot too. How have you managed to adapt?**

Without adaptability, you don't have longevity. You need to keep adapting to new techniques, new technology, and new knowledge. You need to constantly keep updating yourself so that you are in the race with all of your competitors. That's one thing I've been able to keep up with. Be the change in the ball from a 38mm diameter to 40mm (in 2000), a change in the rubber or change in techniques. I was able to keep up with the changes and adapt.

**What were the most testing aspects of the game you've had to change and adapt to?**

The game patterns have changed. The scoring has changed and that's been the most difficult change. Apart from that, the service rule has changed, the size of the ball has changed, the material of the ball has changed and the equipment has changed. Earlier the ball used to travel very fast



Sharath Kamal has made tweaks to his game, like a stronger backhand to complement his forehead.

PTI

**How do you prepare yourself for each match and has anything changed in all these years?**

We analyse all the matches and we sit down and talk about it. That's how we build a practice session. If there's something we are not doing well we practice that and if there's something we are doing well, we sharpen that. We are constantly evolving.

**Viswanathan Anand recently spoke about how he keeps up with the younger generation in chess. He said it isn't something that happened overnight and he has made small tweaks over time that helps him compete. Do you think that's the same for you?**

It's a lot more physical for me (laughs). If I can keep up physically, then I can keep up technically. That's something which I have learnt, especially after the period where I

kept losing to the youngsters between 2011 to 2015. The thing is that they already started off with the new technology and I had to change and adapt to the new and I fell behind. So in that sense, I had to completely upgrade myself. There were not minor tweaks, there were major things.

**Major things like?**

Well, the backhand technique. Let's say till 2010 I used to play only forehand, my entire game used to be forehand based. Though it is still more forehand based, backhand is now an integral part of my game. It took me a while to work on the coordination between backhand and forehand.

You said you kept losing to players between 2011 to 2015. How did you bounce back from that? You also had a major injury in 2015 which set you back by six months...

Things started to work out because in those four years I was trying to adapt. The injury also slowed down the process but by 2017 I was back on track.

**Coming to Indian table tennis, how far do you think we are from winning an Olympic medal?**

We are not far from winning an Olympic medal but it's not very easy either. At Paris 2024, unfortunately for me, I am looking at a team medal because that is something that is possible with me Sathiyam (Gnanasekaran) and Harmeet (Desai).

**What about singles for you?**

Singles are very far-fetched for me. I'm not in the top 10 of the world to think of an Olympic singles medal. Also, I'm 40 so it will be physically demanding. I need to keep up physically to be the best in the business. I do have to work a lot more on the physical aspect and some technical aspects also need to be worked on.

But within eight years from now, I can say that India could stand a chance of winning a singles medal at the Olympics.

**There's always a question of who after you in men's table tennis. Right now it**

## STRESS FRACTURE DERAILS SINDHU'S WORLDS PLANS

India's star shuttler P V Sindhu on Saturday pulled out of the upcoming BWF World Championships owing to a stress fracture on her left foot. In a statement which she shared on Twitter, the double Olympic medallist confirmed that she will be missing the 2022 World Championships. Sindhu has won the World Championships gold in 2019, along with two silver medals and two bronze. "While I am on the high of winning a gold medal at the CWG for India. Unfortunately, I have to pull out of the world championships. I felt pain and there was an injury scare at the quarter-finals of the CWG, but with the help of my coach, physio and trainer, I decided to push as far as I could," Sindhu said in the statement. "The pain was unbearable during and post the finals. Hence I rushed for an MRI as soon as I got back to Hyderabad. The doctors confirmed a stress fracture on my left foot and recommended rest for a few weeks. I should be back to training in a few weeks. Thank you all for your support and love," she added. The World Championships will be held in Tokyo from August 21 till August 28.

PTI

**seems to be Sathiyam. Do you think Sathiyam or any of the current top players can ever reach your level?**

Sathiyam has already reached the level that I am playing and in fact, I am catching up with him. He is doing extremely well in international tournaments, raising the bar and I'm just trying to keep up with the rankings

**You've obviously interacted with a lot of Indian players. Have you seen a spark in anyone?**

Lots of Indian players have a spark. A lot of players have been doing well at the junior level and they are highly ranked in their category too. They need the confidence that they can be the best in the world. We always had good talent in the junior category. It is just that in the transition from junior to senior, it gets lost.

Table tennis is slowly improving in the country and hopefully, in the near future, there will be a setup to produce new champions one by one. It can't be just a one-off that someone is coming out and playing well.

**Manika Batra was asked to tank a match before the Tokyo Olympics. What is your take on having to tank matches in order for your compatriot to make the cut for a major multi-sport event?**

I cannot comment on that because someone asked her to do it and not me. Post that, there have been a lot of complications. I try to keep away from it and focus on the game at hand

**How would you define yourself and your career?**

I can't ask for anything better. At 40, I'm still peaking. I don't think anybody has done that across any sport. I am really happy to be in the spot where I am.

**What's next for you?**

The main focus is the Paris Olympic games. But we do have World Championships coming up and a few other tournaments. First, let us bask in this glory and then get back to the drawing board.

## ‘Let’s cry after mixed doubles’: How Sharath comforted Sreeja after her loss

ANIL DIAS

MUMBAI, AUGUST 13

TO SAY she was distraught would be an understatement. After her heart-breaking 3-4 (11-3, 6-11, 2-11, 11-7, 13-15, 11-9, 7-11) loss to Australia's Yangzi Liu in the women's singles bronze medal match of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, India's Sreeja Akula was inconsolable.

Half an hour later, Sharath Kamal, India's 40-year-old table tennis star, had just finished a match himself. He walked into the dressing room and on seeing the 24-year-old Sreeja crying, he said something that would lighten the mood.

"Don't cry now, cry after the mixed doubles match," he said with a laugh, referring to the final he was supposed to play alongside Sreeja in about five hours.

Sreeja couldn't control her laughter. She and Sharath teamed up to win India's first-ever mixed doubles Commonwealth

Games gold and it was a sort of redemption for Sreeja after her loss earlier in the day.

This was also the moment when the decision of Sreeja's parents to back their daughter's table tennis career and put academics on the backburner paid off.

Till Sreeja turned 18, they had no idea whether she could make a career out of the sport.

"Nobody in my family is a sportsperson," Sreeja tells *The Indian Express* after returning from Birmingham. "When you don't have a sportsperson in your family, there's always an apprehension of being a professional athlete." Sreeja's table tennis journey began at the age of eight. Watching her sister, Ravali – who's three years older than her – play and excel at state tournaments, Sreeja wanted to be like her.

"My dad did play table tennis at local tournaments but it wasn't at a high level. My parents wanted my sister to play some indoor sport and because my dad loved table tennis, they decided to enroll her in

classes," she says.

Though Ravali showed plenty of promise, studies got in the way after Grade 10. She gave up table tennis for academics. So when Sreeja reached that age, she thought that the natural progression was to give up table tennis and focus on her studies.

"I wanted to become a chartered accountant. My sister convinced me and my family not to make the same mistake she made. She convinced me to continue playing TT because she saw how much I loved it and that I was quite decent at it too," she says. There was another problem. Though she was doing well at the junior level, her parents weren't quite sure it would be financially sustainable to play a sport professionally.

"It's only when I turned 18 and got a job with RBI because of table tennis that my family let go of that apprehension. It was then that I too could concentrate more on the sport because I didn't have to worry about the financial aspect."

2019 was the breakthrough year for her,



she says. "It was the first time I played in the senior category and won two medals. At the Commonwealth TT Championships in

**I wanted to become a chartered accountant. My sister convinced me and my family not to make the same mistake she made. She convinced me to continue playing TT because she saw how much I loved it and that I was quite decent at it too."**

SREEJA AKULA

Cuttack, I won bronze in singles and mixed doubles and silver in doubles."

While Sreeja and Sharath made the unlikely partnership in Birmingham, they had partnered with each other once before. And it happened by chance.

"At the 2019 Commonwealth Championship, it so happened that Manika (Batra) fell sick after the team event. And since I play with a pimped rubber like her,

Sharath asked me to play with him. I was so nervous but we ended up winning bronze so it was alright," she says.

While she was playing her best in 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic hit and that meant a break. And she wasn't used to taking breaks. "I like to over-work myself. I train all the time so I wasn't used to so much free time but I quite enjoyed it. I got to spend time with family and that was quite refreshing," she says.

This year she won the national championships, sealing a spot in India's team for the Commonwealth Games. "It's like I'm living a dream, but a dream I've worked very hard for," she says.

So what does she expect to change after her gold in Birmingham? Not much, Sreeja, who trains in Hyderabad, says.

"I'll still have to drive 40 minutes at 5.45am to my training center. I'll still take the metro every evening to avoid traffic. If anything, I'll be training harder." Sreeja, who is coached by Somnath Ghosh at his academy in a Hyderabad mall, says.



# England’s idea, India’s profit

Most of cricket's innovations were born in England but as India's T20 takeover shows, it has the knack of embracing the idea whose time has come and making it work like never before

SANDEEP DWIVEDI  
AUGUST 13

ATLORD’S this week among the thousands witnessing The Hundred, the latest variant English cricket has come up with, were two titans of the global corporate world. Had cricket been a stock, it would have hit the roof.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Reliance boss Mukesh Ambani at a cricket game wasn’t just a celebrity-watch frame as it used to be once. Back in the day, they would be seen as two cricket nuts, finding time from making millions to be fans again. Now, it had a layer of intrigue. Ambani has cricket in his portfolio, Pichai’s has more than a passing interest in the game. Google was reportedly interested in the IPL media rights. It was also best placed to spot all new trends.

Were the two there to invest in The Hundred or did they have grander plans? Was this an asset acquisition recce before the ultimate takeover of the game?

India has made a habit of running away with any cricketing idea born in England and making it work like never before. From successfully marketing a borrowed concept, T20 cricket, to owning the entire cricket ecosystem, India is about to make the big leap. BCCI’s unrivalled influence in ICC is an old story. The latest buzz is about the more-happening parallel universe of franchise cricket monopolised by IPL owners.

So during that Hundred game when Ravi Shastri came down from the commentary box to be in the frame with Pichai and Ambani and posted it on social media, he was being a true chronicler of cricket. The frame of the beaming trio at the Home of Cricket captured the winds of change screaming on cricketing meadows around the world.

India is not a cricketing pioneer but this isn’t the avian world where the early riser is the odds-on favourite to get the worm. In the complex world of consumer behaviour and marketing, being the first mover can be a disadvantage at times.

Timeless Tests to five-dayers, one-dayers, Twenty20 or now The Hundred; India has played no role in how the game has evolved. What it has is the knack of embracing the idea whose time has come.

England started T20 cricket in 2003, only for India to ridicule it. BCCI old hand Niranjan Shah’s famous 2006 quote – “What is Twenty20? Why not Ten 10 or One 1?” – is often fished out to embarrass the Indian board. It’s thrown at BCCI to remind them about their initial reluctance in accepting a format they would eventually adopt like their very own.

But in case the IPL had hit the screen before MS Dhoni’s pack of fearless cricketers, playing entertaining cricket, won the 2007 ICC World T20, would it be a mega hit? Maybe not.

It was only in 2008, a year after ICC’s very suc-



Ravi Shastri (2nd from left) with Google CEO Sundar Pichai (left) and Reliance boss Mukesh Ambani (2nd from right) at The Hundred this week. *Twitter/RaviShastriOfc*

cessful T20 World Cup had got high TRPs and the entire world had signed up for the format, did India launch IPL. Standing on the shoulders of the billions who watch the game, and overwhelming corporate interest, India would soon own the format. England’s domestic T20 was reduced to an also-ran. After a point, they even stopped convincing their own players to skip IPL.

If the English were pioneers, the Indians were the marketers, and also the profiteers.

### Winners don’t always come first

Thinker and writer Malcolm Gladwell on The Diary of A CEO, a podcast hosted by Steven Bartlett, gives a compelling argument as he shares the contrarian theory that “being first was so overrated”.

Gladwell, a best-selling author and most-heard podcaster, brings in the conversation the iconic American entrepreneur and Apple founder late Steve Jobs to make a riveting case for his prophecy that seems to be true for the growth of T20 cricket.

On the question about timing a big launch or betting your shirt on an enterprise, he starts by saying that Steve Jobs wasn’t a pioneer in anything. “He is late to every market that he eventually wins. His genius was in understanding that being first is massively overrated. He is 10 years late on smartphone. All of the ideas that go into the first Macintosh computer (Apple’s mass-market desktops) are all taken from Xerox Parc (Apple engineers, it is said, had visited this computer firm and got inspired),” he says.

“His genius was in understanding that if you are first, you are probably too early. He understands that in the world of consumer electronics, you are better off being the person who tweaks the idea than the person who truly innovates. He was very commercial in the way he approached innovation. He had an uncanny sense to bring something to the mass market and when the time was right to do so. He did a very good job of never being too early.”

As Gladwell recommends, the Indian corporations have been fastidiously late in their T20 cricketing voyages. The dubious, read Allen Stanford, and the dreamy have tried to copy IPL and paste it on the cricketing map, but failed. India waited patiently, keeping its weapons sharpened for the strategic strike.

While Kolkata Knight Riders have been the most adventurous of the Indian IPL franchise owners, others too have their expansion plans. Each team in the just-launched UAE and South Africa leagues has IPL owners. KKR, meanwhile, has a presence in the Caribbean and the USA is their next destination.

### Windfall expected

It’s no coincidence that the en masse off-shore investment of IPL owners comes within days of BCCI’s record-breaking IPL broadcasting rights deal. With the Indian board earning \$6 billion for over five years, each IPL team waits for a windfall. They now expect to get close to Rs 400 crore annually, a roughly Rs 300 crore hike. Many used this disposable income to shop for franchise teams in the several T20 leagues mushrooming around the world.

The other stars of the cricket constellation too were in the right place to take a leap into the unknown. T20 franchise tournaments were the most preferred option for both the very young and the ageing. Quinton de Kock and Trent Bolt wanted voluntary retirement from their national teams. South Africa would actually cancel its series with Australia as it had to start its own T20 league with IPL owners.

Coach Phil Simmons would say he was tired of begging West Indian players to drop by for national duty. Simmons’ job is expected to get tougher as the USA, next door, will be starting its own T20 league next year.

The American experiment has been tried before but has failed, though this looks like a real deal. With India pushing for T20 cricket’s inclusion at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, the world’s biggest sporting market will be expected to come up with Super Bowl innovations and razzmatazz to attract a global audience. And watching the fireworks, celebrating T20’s latest conquest, will be Indian faces in the dugout, patting their backs for backing the right idea at the right time.

Meanwhile, in this churning, what about the game’s oldest format – Tests. India waits for England to come up with an original idea.

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## Man United suffer 4-0 loss at Brentford

REUTERS  
AUGUST 13

A SHAMBOLIC Manchester United side conceded four goals in the opening 35 minutes in a 4-0 drubbing at Brentford on Saturday as their woeful start to the Premier League season continued.

United’s seventh successive away league defeat was assured long before the interval as Brentford took ruthless advantage of a catalogue of errors by the visitors.

The rout began in the 10th minute when United keeper David de Gea allowed a weak shot by Josh Dasilva to slip past him.

Things got worse for United eight minutes later when De Gea played the ball out to former Brentford player Christian Eriksen who was caught in possession and Mathias Jensen slotted home.

When United’s defence failed to deal with a corner and Ben Mee glanced in a close-range header to make it 3-0 the Brentford fans were ecstatic while United’s new manager Erik ten Hag looked ashen-faced in his technical area.

Brentford’s fourth was a gem as Ivan Toney delivered a diagonal ball to Bryan Mbeumo from a counter-attack and Mbeumo calmly beat De Gea.

Ten Hag made three substitutions at halftime with Raphael Varane, Tyrell Malacia and Scott McTominay coming on but despite a slight improvement United offered little fight.

Brentford’s fans serenaded their players with “Hey Jude” at the final whistle while United’s players looked crestfallen as they trudged off rock bottom of the table having also lost their opener at home to Brighton & Hove Albion.

### Man City crush Bournemouth, Arsenal thump Leicester

Two games into the new season champions Manchester City have already raised the bar high as they crushed promoted Bournemouth 4-0 on Saturday to maintain their fast start.

Arsenal joined them on six point as former City striker Gabriel Jesus struck twice in a 4-2 win over Leicester City.

Leeds United looked on course for a second successive win but squandered a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 with Southampton -- one of three draws on a sultry Saturday afternoon.

City, bidding for a fifth Premier League title in six seasons, cruised to an opening win at West Ham United and were equally dominant against Bournemouth.

ADVERTORIAL

## BlueRose Bookshelf

# 20 Books to Put on Your Must-Read List

*There can be no better companion than a book as it has the potential to open your mind to new ideas and perspectives. A book can be a good teacher and help pick you up when you are down. Today, BlueRose Publishers present 20 of their books that will be difficult to put down.*



Vinod Behari Lal’s book **“Hai Kisi Ke Paas Aisa Shabd”** is a new representation of sensitivity through Hindi poetry. Readers will enjoy this collection of 70 poetry on topics ranging from love to metaphysics. The language chosen will enthrall the readers.

**“Success Flight”**, Hema Thareja’s autobiography, sheds light on the author’s experiences and the lessons she learned from them. Thareja provides insights into how the reader might deal with difficulties through these lessons.

V Vasanthi’s **“No Rhyme or Reason”** is a collection of poems that express the author’s opinions on a wide range of human experience themes and issues. Readers will resonate with the author’s perspective.

The book **“Orphaned At Freedom”** – A Subcontinent’s Tale, by Arun Bhatnagar, is a temple of information for readers to examine the true reason for our country’s partition into three countries: India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. This enthralling read also serves as an authentic voice.

Prashanth Raghuraman’s **“Nuzhayadhe Tholayadhe”** is a gripping thriller that will have readers on the edge of their seats. The book is equal parts entertaining and poignant, making for an intense reading experience.

The **“Buried Secret of Sham-pur”** by Manisha Rath is built on supernatural tropes combined with nail-biting dramatic story narration. Readers will be left wondering whether the protagonist will be able to save everyone or succumb to evil forces herself. Highly recommended for any fan of horror and suspense.

**“Every Last Decision”** by Rida Hareem depicts the protagonist’s journey through life’s hardships and tribulations. This book is about friendship, the feelings that go along with it, and how vital it is to retain self-respect and dignity in that connection.

Pradeep Seth Salil’s **“Shrangaar Se Yatharth Tak”** is a collection of poems. The poems address humanity’s universal and fundamental values and emotions. It deals with the feelings of love, connection, and separation.

Moni’s **“Unheard Emotions”** is written from a female perspective and addresses patriarchy and society’s orthodox toward women. The novel will force readers to confront some of society’s harsher realities.

**“Tere Ashk Mere Moti”** by Amit Sharma discusses the various hues of life and delves into issues like as love, sorrow, happiness, emotional hardships, and enthusiasm. The book will help readers develop a closer relationship with God or divinity.

Women have historically suffered discrimination, particularly in economics and business. Garima Mishra’s book, **“Be the Woman of Impact”**, tells the lives of famous women in business. It’s a sassy and educational book that can also teach readers how to establish and grow a business.

Preeti Kumari’s **“Kokhhki Hook”** is a tragic narrative of a lady who defies all odds only to undergo the greatest upheaval of her life. This work is a criticism on the loss of compassion in both rural and urban areas.

Dr Lalit Mitta’s **“Concise Textbook on Review of Evidence-based Biomedical Interventions in Autism”** is an excellent resource for learning more about the illness. The author examines several biological approaches in autism care, including elimination diets, the function of chelation, and HMOs. Mitta takes an evidence-based strategy that is supported by conclusive research and literature.

Ravi Kumar Teotia’s **“Santan Kaliyag ki - Kahani Sangrah”** is a collection of short stories. The stories discuss the younger generation’s disregard for their parents and why such regard is necessary.

**“The Last Crystal Arrow”** by Ravi Sharma exposes us to a witch who falls in love with a man and

then attempts to transform into a human. In a world of magic, love, and vengeance, anticipate the unexpected.

**“Ashrudhara”** by Madhu Bala Rastogi is a poetry lover’s dream. The poetry will arouse your conscience and assist you in reflecting on the deeper aspects of your life.

**“Eleven Lives”** by Siddharth Tiwari is the narrative of Meera, who discovers in her afterlife that she has already lived 11 lives, the majority of which was not born a human.

**“The Encyclopedic Vision of Ruskin Bond”** by Ishrat Ali Laljee examines the author’s writings spanning six decades, beginning with his debut. It provides a more comprehensive look at the legend’s life and intellect.

**“Eternal Bliss”** by Vrinda Bhatnagar depicts spirituality through the eyes of a young adult. It delves into the grander dimensions of the universe. It is an attempt to trace the author’s path to Purush and Prakriti.

**“A Mouthful of Money”** by Priti Khan is a modest attempt to capture several aspects of the Indian voice-over profession. It helps aspiring voice-over artists discover the intricacies of the voice and learn vocal exercises, voice cultures, and tactics.



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# 21 ECONOMY

## POLICY WATCH SOCIAL MEDIA

### Self-governing body for user complaints: Why are Big Tech companies divided?

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

FOR THE purpose of addressing complaints of social media users, a widening divide is being seen between internet companies on plans for setting up a self-regulatory body, as an alternative to the Centre's grievance appellate committee (GAC).

It is learnt that Meta and Twitter are in support of the industry proposal for such a body's creation; however, Snap and Google have opposed it.

The two have flagged concerns over the potential inability to legally challenge any final content moderation decisions of a self-governing body, in addition to the difference in the moderation policies of different platforms, many executives aware of these discussions told *The Indian Express*.

#### What is the proposal?

Social media companies, along with industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), are currently chalking up the contours of a self-regulatory mechanism in response to the Ministry of Electronics and IT's (MeitY's) proposal to set up GACs to address complaints raised by users about social media companies' content-moderation decisions.

#### Why are Google and Snap opposing this?

During a closed-door meeting, Google is learnt to have expressed reservations about the current structure of the self-regulatory body which, in a draft policy, said that decisions passed by the body will be binding in nature. This is where the company's concern stems from. A source said, "Orders passed by the GAC can be challenged in court, whereas the scope for challenging a 'binding' order passed by a self-regulatory body is much lower."

**Meta and Twitter are in support of the industry proposal for such a body's creation; however, Snap and Google have opposed it**

EXPLAINED

Another argument is that while having senior executives of all social media companies in the self-regulatory body could make it easy to reach a consensus, disagreements are also likely. In a statement, a Google spokesperson said: "We had a preliminary meeting and are engaging in active discussions with the industry as well as the government. We are exploring all options and look forward to working with stakeholders to find the best possible solution." Meta declined to comment. Queries sent to Twitter, Snap and IMAI remained unanswered.

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#### Why is this significant?

An absence of consensus among social media companies could jeopardise their bargaining power with the government to allow a self-regulatory body instead of its proposed GACs. Industry bodies like the US-India Business Council and the Asia Internet Coalition, which count major American tech firms as members, have opposed the formation of these GACs, questioning their effect on independence.

#### What was the Centre's proposal on GACs?

In amendments proposed to the IT Rules, the MeitY suggested setting up GACs, even as it said it is open to a self-regulatory body of social media companies to handle such issues. Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## MoS IT ON CONTENT MODERATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### 'Open to self-regulatory body; want to see diversity, start-ups'

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 13

A SELF-REGULATORY body which social media companies such as Meta, Twitter and Google are currently putting together, to address complaints raised by users about the platforms' content-moderation decisions, could be formulated with participation between the industry and government, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar told *The Sunday Express*.

He also said that the self-regulatory body cannot be "dominated by the Big Tech", and should have equal representation from smaller start-ups.

Social media companies, along with industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), are currently chalking up the contours of a self-regulatory mechanism in response to the Ministry of Electronics and IT's (MeitY's) proposal to set up 'government appellate committees' (GACs) to address grievances raised by users. In proposed amendments to the Information Technology Rules, MeitY has suggested setting up these committees, even



Rajeev Chandrasekhar, MoS, Electronics & IT. The minister said the self-regulatory body cannot be "dominated by the Big Tech". File

as it said it is open to a self-regulatory body of social media companies to handle such issues.

"The government is open to any type of institutional mechanism including a self-regulatory organisation which could be a partnership between the industry and the government," Chandrasekhar told this paper.

According to an initial draft of the self-governing body's composition, it includes a senior retired judge from either the Supreme Court or other high courts, and executives of social

media companies, among other people. "Whether there should be government representation as a bureaucrat or other individuals representing various stakeholders including the government is a matter of finer details. The government representative could also be a non-government person but someone who represents the government's view on the policy outcomes expected of the self-regulatory organisation," the MoSIT added.

*The Indian Express* reported earlier that there is a growing divide in internet companies on setting up the self-regulatory body, with firms like Google and Snap expressing reservations over the potential inability to legally challenge any final content moderation decisions of a self-governing body, in addition to the difference in the content moderation policies of different platforms. Apart from that, there are concerns within the industry that a self-regulatory body could end up largely focusing on big social media companies who have more bargaining power, compared to smaller firms.

Asked about these concerns, Chandrasekhar said, "We are discouraging the industry and the self-regulatory body to be dominated by Big Tech companies. We would not consider it prudent if industry organisations or the self-regulatory body are dominated by the bigger firms," adding that the government would look for diversity in the self-governing body.

He said, "We would like to see a diversity, smaller Indian and foreign start-ups equally and visibly represented, and policies made with their inputs as well. While assessing the feasibility of any such self-regulatory body, we will 100 per cent take these facts into consideration."

"We want the ecosystem to be extremely diverse going forward, with both Indian and foreign start-ups participating in it. I have said this before that the time of dominance of all these Big Tech companies is nearing an end. The future of the internet is not going to be driven by these old companies but by new innovators. So we want them to be represented and their voices to be heard."

The minister reiterated that legislations related to the internet ecosystem are currently evolving and the government could "move to" a self-regulatory body at a later date even if it goes ahead with its proposed GACs.

## BoM tops list of PSBs in Q1 loan, deposit growth

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) was the top performer among state-run banks in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during Q1FY23, according to published quarterly numbers of public sector banks (PSBs)

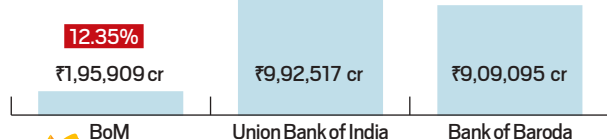
**₹15,306 cr**

Cumulative profit recorded by all 12 PSBs in Q1FY23, an annual growth of 9.2%. However, SBI and PNB posted lower profits in the June quarter

**STATE BANK OF INDIA**, India's largest lender, stood at the fourth spot with 13.66% growth in gross advances, but in absolute terms, its aggregate loans were about 17 times higher than BoM at ₹24,50,821 crore

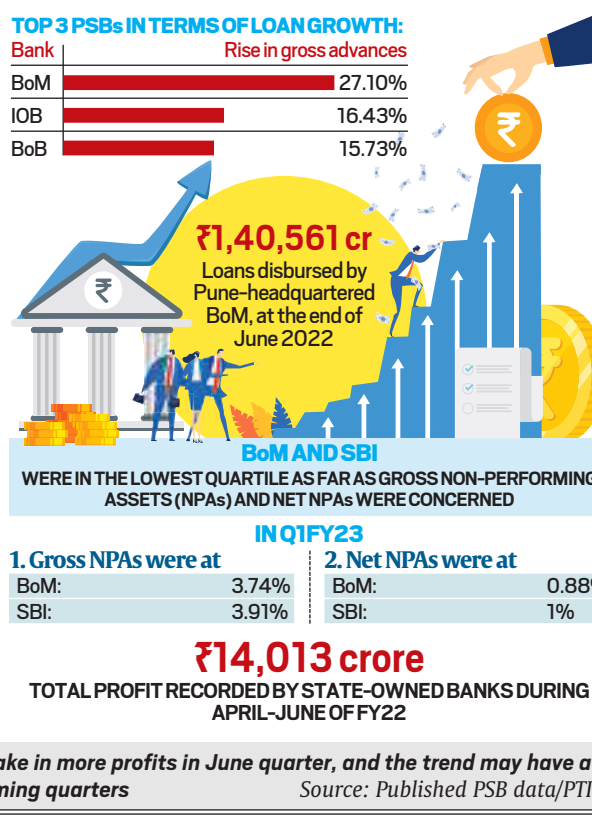
**TOP 3 PSBs IN TERMS OF DEPOSIT GROWTH:**

**Rise in deposits** **Deposits at end of June**



**Persistent decline in bad loans helped PSBs rake in more profits in June quarter, and the trend may have a positive bearing on their balance sheets in coming quarters**

Source: Published PSB data/PTI



## BRIEFLY

### KKR stake sale

**Mumbai:** Global investment firm KKR, the largest shareholder in Max Healthcare Institute, plans to exit the New Delhi-based hospital chain by selling its entire 27.54% stake for about ₹9,000 crore. The private equity giant, which holds the stake through affiliate firm Kayak Investment, intends to sell its total 267 million shares through the deal "soon". The deal, which would be at a discount of up to 5% to the current price, is intended to be executed probably within the next fortnight, said sources close to the development. When contacted, KKR declined to comment. **FE**

### Airtel AGM

**New Delhi:** Bharti Airtel's shareholders cleared the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as managing director for five years with effect from February 1, 2023. Over 97% of total votes polled were in favour of the resolution, the telco said in a filing on the outcome of its annual general meeting (AGM).

### Rlnfra Q1 loss

**New Delhi:** Reliance Infrastructure (Rlnfra) posted narrowing of its consolidated net loss to ₹66.11 crore for the June quarter. It had clocked a consolidated net loss of ₹95.15 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. **PTI**

## 'Window of opportunity for 11% growth in next decade'

**New Delhi:** India can "bend time" and catapult to an 11 per cent growth rate in the next decade if it capitalises on the demographic dividend, and boosts manufacturing, as well as exports, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said on Saturday.

India has a window of opportunity in terms of its demographic advantage, capability to boost manufacturing, increase in exports value as well as internalisation, Patra said while delivering a speech to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' organised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Bhubaneswar.

If India capitalises on its opportunities and overcomes challenges, it is widely believed that India will "bend time", Patra said.

It is possible to imagine "India striking out into the next decade with a growth rate of 11 per cent".

He said, if this is achieved, India will become the second largest economy in the world not by 2048, but by 2031.

The RBI Deputy Governor

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### 'Russian origin of fuel'

Meanwhile, as per a *Reuters* report, the US has expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of US sanctions, Patra said.

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## TOP OF THE WORLD



A protest at a railway station in London. AP

UK  
Driver walkout halts trains as strikes spread

**London:** Thousands of UK train drivers walked off the job Saturday in a strike over jobs, pay and conditions, scuppering services across much of the country. The action was the latest in a series of strikes by workers seeking raises to offset soaring prices for food and fuel. The 24-hour strike by members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen halted trains on major routes. The disputes centre on pay, working conditions and job security. More strikes are scheduled next week on nationwide trains and on London's bus and subway network. **AP**

## MALI

## Germany puts on hold role in military mission

**Berlin:** Germany announced Friday that it was suspending its participation in a UN peacekeeping mission in Mali after the West African nation refused to grant a civilian aircraft carrying German troops permission to use its airspace. The flight was part of a troop rotation, and German officials said it was not the first time Mali has denied overflight permission. Germany's defense minister, Christine Lambrecht, alleged her Malian counterpart, Sadio Camara, had not adhered to agreements. German troops will now focus on ensuring their own security, her ministry said. **AP**

## FRANCE

## Major wildfire halted, highway reopened

**Paris:** Firefighters have managed to halt a "monster" blaze in southwest France, allowing authorities to reopen a stretch of highway to traffic ahead of a busy weekend. "The fire did not advance overnight thanks to the significant means employed," the local prefect tweeted Saturday. Reinforcements from across Europe helped firefighters tackle the blaze which has ravaged forests in Gironde since Tuesday and forced 10,000 people to evacuate. Heatwaves have sparked wildfires across Europe this summer, throwing the spotlight on climate change. **REUTERS**

## MONTENEGRO

## Shooter kills 10, 3-day mourning announced

**Cetinje:** Montenegro declared three days of mourning Saturday, a day after 10 people, including two children, were killed in a daylight attack by a 34-year-old gunman who police said had recently exhibited a "change in behavior." The attacker used a hunting rifle to shoot to death two children, 8 and 11, and their mother, who lived as his tenants in the city of Cetinje. He then randomly shot 13 more people on the street, seven of them fatally. He was shot dead after a gunbattle with police. **AP**

## DAY AFTER STABBING, GOVT IN TEHRAN MAINTAINS SILENCE

## Praise, worry in Iran over attack on Rushdie

NASSER KARIMI & JON GAMBRELL  
TEHRAN, AUGUST 13

IRANIANS REACTED with praise and worry Saturday over the attack on novelist Salman Rushdie, the target of a decades-old fatwa by the late Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini calling for his death.

It remains unclear why Rushdie's attacker, identified by police as Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey, stabbed the author as he prepared to speak at an event Friday in western New York. Iran's theocratic government and its state-run media have assigned no motive to the assault.

But in Tehran, some willing to speak to the AP offered praise for an attack targeting a writer they believe tarnished the Islamic faith with his 1988 book *The Satanic Verses*.

"I don't know Salman Rushdie, but I am happy to hear that he was attacked since he insulted Islam," said Reza Amiri, a 27-year-old deliveryman. "This is the fate for anybody who in-



People scan publications carrying reports on the attack on Rushdie at a newsstand in Tehran on Saturday. AP

sults sanctities," he said.

Others, however, worried aloud that Iran could become even more cut off from the world as tensions remain high over its tattered nuclear deal.

"I feel those who did it are trying to isolate Iran," said Mahshid Barati, a 39-year-old geography teacher. "This will negatively affect relations with many — even Russia and China."

On Saturday, front-page headlines offered their own takes on the

attack. The hard-line *Vatan-e Emrouz*'s main story described "A knife in the neck of Salman Rushdie." The reformist newspaper *Etemad*'s headline asked: "Salman Rushdie near death?" The conservative newspaper *Khorasan* bore a large image of Rushdie on a stretcher, its headline blaring: "Satan on the path to hell."

The 15th Khordad Foundation — which put the over \$3-million bounty on Rushdie — remained quiet. **AP**



## ACTOR ANNE HECHÉ BRAIN-DEAD AFTER CRASH

Actor Anne Heche, who had been in a coma since a car crash last week, has been declared brain-dead and is being kept on life-support to see if her organs are viable for donation. Heche, 53, sustained a severe anoxic brain injury after the crash on August 5. **NYT**

## Japanese translator's unsolved killing, other attacks back in focus

HIKARI HIDA & MIKE IVES  
TOKYO, AUGUST 13

THE ATTACK on Salman Rushdie in western New York State on Friday prompted renewed interest in previous attacks on people connected to his 1988 novel, *The Satanic Verses*, including its Japanese translator, who was killed in 1991.

The translator, Hitoshi Igarashi, was stabbed to death at age 44 that July at Tsukuba University where he had been teaching comparative Islamic culture. No arrests were ever made, and the crime remains unsolved.

Speculation about the killing circulated in the Japanese media for years. The most prominent theory was that investigators had briefly identified a

Bangladeshi student at Tsukuba University as a suspect, but that they had stood down amid worries over the implications for Japan's relations with Islamic nations. No solid evidence of that theory ever emerged.

Several others survived attempts on their lives, including Ettore Capriolo, the Italian translator, who was stabbed in his apartment in Milan days before the attack on Igarashi. In July 1993, Turkish novelist Aziz Nesin, who had published a translated excerpt in a local newspaper, narrowly escaped death when a crowd of militants burned down a hotel where he was staying. In October 1993, Norwegian publisher William Nygaard was shot at near his home in Oslo. He recovered and went on to reprint the book in defiance. **NYT**

## Pakistan to attend counter-terror SCO exercise in India: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 13

PAKISTAN WILL attend counter-terrorism drills hosted by India under the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in October despite a chill in bilateral ties, a media report said Saturday.

While Pakistani and Indian military contingents have taken part in counter-terrorism exercises together, this will be the

first time that Pakistan will be attending such drills in India, *The Express Tribune* reported.

Pakistan will attend the international counter-terrorism exercise scheduled in October this year under SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS), the newspaper quoted Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Asim Iftikhar as saying on Friday.

"Yes, there will be exercises under the ambit of SCO RATS," the spokesperson said.

"These exercises are scheduled to be held in India in Manesar in October, and as Pakistan is a member, we will participate," he said. "At what level, I think when we approach that, we will let you know."

The exercise scheduled to be held in Manesar in Haryana will see participation from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, besides India.



Supporters of Opposition presidential candidate Raila Odinga in Nairobi on Saturday. AP

## Kenya on edge as Opp leader inches ahead in presidential race

DUNCAN MIRIRI  
NAIROBI, AUGUST 13

VETERAN OPPOSITION leader Raila Odinga led Kenya's presidential race, official results showed Saturday, pushing Deputy President William Ruto into second place.

With just over 26% of votes counted, Odinga had 54% and Ruto had 45%, according to election commission data.

East Africa's most vibrant democracy held presidential, parliamentary and local polls

Tuesday. Incumbent President Uhuru Kenyatta, who fell out with Ruto, has endorsed Odinga.

Official tallying has been proceeding slowly, fueling public anxiety. Election commission chairman Wafula Chebukati blamed party agents, who are allowed to scrutinise results forms before they are added to the final tally. "We are not moving as fast as we should," he said.

Media outlets have been tallying results forms on the election commission website. This tally is ahead of the official one.

As of 1200 GMT, *Reuters* had

tallied 237 forms, which showed Ruto with nearly 53% of the vote, compared to over 46% for Odinga.

These forms are preliminary. Kenyan law requires that they are physically brought to a national tallying center, where party representatives can examine them. The process was designed as a safeguard against rigging allegations that have triggered violence in previous polls. Over 1,200 people were killed after a disputed 2007 poll and more than 100 killed after a disputed 2017 poll.

Officials have until Tuesday to declare a winner. **REUTERS**

## Climate, tax, health: US House passes sweeping package

EMILY COCHRANE  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 13

THE US Congress gave final approval on Friday to legislation that would reduce the cost of prescription drugs and pour billions of dollars into the effort to slow global warming, as House Democrats overcame united Republican opposition to deliver on key components of President Joe Biden's domestic agenda.

With a party-line vote of 220 to 207, the House agreed to the single largest federal investment in the fight against climate change and the most substantial changes to national health care policy since passage of the Affordable Care Act. The bill now goes to Biden for his signature.

The legislation would inject more than \$370 billion into climate and energy programs aimed at helping the US cut greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 40 percent below 2005 levels by the end of the decade. It would also extend for three years subsidies to help people afford insurance under the Affordable Care Act, as well as fulfil a long-held Democratic goal to lower the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to directly negotiate prices and capping recipients' annual out-

EXPLAINED

Where the legislation falls short

For all the legislation will achieve, it is a scaled-back version of Biden's original goal. The focus may, therefore, fall on the areas it does not deliver on: there will be no free community college, and no new climate measures. Medicaid will not be expanded in a dozen states and undocumented immigrants will not be given legal status. There will not be a tax on the super rich, and no extra money will go toward affordable housing.

of-pocket drug costs.

The package would be financed largely by tax increases, including a new tax on company stock buybacks and a 15 percent corporate minimum tax for wealthy companies. Initial analyses found that it could reduce the nation's deficit by \$300 billion over a decade.

It is most likely the last major legislative package to become law before the November polls. **NYT**



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, surrounded by House Democrats, signs the Inflation Reduction Act. AP

## LAKE GARDA'S TEMPERATURES NEARS THE AVERAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

## Italy's largest lake shrinks to near-historic low amid drought

ANDREA ROSA & LUIGI NAVARRA  
SIRMIONE, AUGUST 13

ITALY'S WORST drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded, exposing swaths of previously underwater rocks and warning the water to temperatures that approach the average in the Caribbean Sea.

Tourists flocking to the popular northern lake Friday for the start of Italy's key summer long weekend found a vastly different landscape than in past years.

An expansive stretch of bleached rock extended far from the normal shoreline, ringing the southern Sirmione Peninsula with a yellow halo between the green hues of the water and the trees on the shore.

"We came last year, we liked it, and we came back this year," tourist Beatrice Masi said as she sat on the rocks. "We found the landscape had changed a lot. We were a bit shocked when we arrived because we had our usual walk around, and the water wasn't there."

Northern Italy hasn't seen significant rainfall for months, and snowfall this year was down



The peninsula of Sirmione on Garda lake in Italy. AP

70%, drying up important rivers like the Po, which flows across Italy's agricultural and industrial heartland. Many European countries, including Spain, Germany, Portugal, France, the Netherlands and Britain, are enduring droughts this summer that have hurt farmers and shippers and promoted authorities to restrict water use.

The parched condition of the Po, Italy's longest river, has already caused billions of euros in losses to farmers who normally rely on it to irrigate fields and rice paddies.

To compensate, authorities allowed more water from Lake

Garda to flow out to local rivers — 70 cubic meters of water per second. But in late July, they reduced the amount to protect the lake and the financially important tourism tied to it.

With 45 cubic meters (1,589 cubic feet) of water per second being diverted to rivers, the lake on Friday was 32 centimeters above the water table, near the record lows in 2003 and 2007.

Garda Mayor Davide Bedinelli said he had to protect both farmers and the tourist industry. He insisted that the summer tourist season was going better than expected, despite cancellations, mostly from

German tourists, during Italy's latest heat wave in late July.

"Drought is a fact that we have to deal with this year, but the tourist season is in no danger," Bedinelli wrote in a July 20 Facebook post.

He confirmed the lake was losing two centimeters of water a day. The lake's temperature, meanwhile, has been above average for August, according to seatemperature.org. On Friday, the Garda's water was nearly 26 degrees Celsius, several degrees warmer than the average August temperature of 22 C and nearing the Caribbean Sea's average of around 27 C. **AP**







BRIDGE

Dealer: North Vulnerable: None

NORTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ KJ103		1C	Pass	1D
♥ Q3	Pass	1S	Pass	3NT
♦ AB				
♣ Q9874				

SOUTH

♠ Q2

♥ AJ10

♦ KQ10753

♣ 53

South had an interesting choice of bids on the second round. He chose 3NT thinking that it reflected his values. With two heart stoppers he hoped that he would have time to set up and use the diamond suit. West led the nine of hearts. Dummy played the queen and East the king. With dummy having the ace of diamonds it looks like there are lots of tricks. After winning the heart lead, what should South play next?

The West Hand: S-A86H-9872D-J962C-62  
The East Hand: S-9754H-K654D-4C-AKJ10  
There is one card that South must not touch and one that he must. Start the spades. Lead the queen and set up three spade tricks while there is an entry to do so. Even if diamonds divide South has only nine top tricks. When South knocks out the ace of spades the defenders will have to be quick to take their clubs because South will in fact have twelve tricks if the diamonds divide, now that he has set up the spades.  
If South touches a diamond he may find that they do not divide. That would be bad for many reasons. His entry to the spade suit will be gone and if South continues diamonds and loses one he may then lose a spade and three clubs. South could go down if he plays on diamonds.  
It looks like 3NT was cold as long as South attacked spades and not diamonds. Can you envision a layout where the king of hearts is outside but 3NT is in jeopardy?  
There is one. On this hand East has good clubs and can get four club tricks if West leads them. He can't set 3NT once West leads a heart but East can set 3NT in the bidding. For the record, what would a double by East mean?

If East doubles 3NT, that would ask for a club lead. West would lead a club and East would win. West will get in again with the ace of spades and another club lead will set 3NT.

Look at that East hand. Would you double 3NT for a club lead? It is percent-age bridge and will gain much more than it loses.  
Dealer: North Vulnerable: East/West

NORTH		SOUTH (YOU)
♠ 5432		♠ AKJ108
♥ None		♥ AK
♦ 7632		♦ AKQJ5
♣ J8643		♣ 9

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1D	Pass	1S
Pass	2S	Pass	Pass

South plays in 2S, a quiet enough contract. West leads the six of spades. Right away a problem. How you expect this hand to play out?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2386

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

8. Customary (8)

9. Pokes gently (6)

10. Mix up or confuse (6)

11. Reels or stumbles (8)

12. Underground cemetery (8)

13. Weather map line (6)

14. Deferral of action (15)

18. Number of members needed in order to validate a meeting (6)

20. Hams it up (8)

23. Mahesh of Indian tennis (8)

24. Method (6)

25. Set fire to (6)

26. Assign (8)

DOWN

1. North American country (6)

2. White wine (8)

3. American dinner jacket (6)

4. Almost there but still not there? (5,3,2,5)

5. A foray or an attack (8)

6. Slowly (6)

7. A long time back? (5,3)

15. Dietary fibre (8)

16. Owned up or confessed (8)

17. Do business (8)

19. Mend (6)

21. Without difficulty (6)

22. A score (6)

CRYPIC CLUES

ACROSS

8. Country long restricted by revolutionary voices (3,5)

9. Canter around for a drink (6)

10. Cake to place along a tea-urn and cups (6)

11. Attempt to find one on issue (8)

12. "Remember me and Rome" is, unusually, inscribed in it (8)

13. Symbol obtained when side is broken? (6)

14. Consider matters closed when you reflect (5,6,4)

18. Relative endlessly making an announcement without cover (6)

20. Cocktail Indian split in fast car (3,2)

23. Sea-dog in abandoned American

DOWN

1. A Catholic woman returned in secret (6)

2. Miserable evangelist that's found in Derbyshire (4,4)

3. Members of council unnaturally retiring round these parts (6)

4. Dressed as Banquo, using the English dining place in Whitehall? (10,5)

5. This competitor may be less than good after party (8)

6. She went round city limits with head tribesman for the tool (6)

7. Fuel leasing arrangement gains nothing (8)

15. Women finally admitted to trendy, cultured get-together (3,5)

16. Former UK PM could have had teeth? (3,5)

naval base (3,5)

24. Politician in a trick to go with the habit (6)

25. Such upbringing could seem severe (6)

26. It's a certainty! (8)

17. Name torn off decoration (8)

19. Boy gives untruth about a direct debit (6)

21. Modern flood precaution in Nottinghamshire (6)

22. That is about fifty - most unused (6)

Solutions to 2385

QUICK CLUES Across: 7. Liquor, 8. Unkindly, 9. Propound, 10. Lairds, 11. Decipher, 12. Tidbit, 13. Represented, 18. Turban, 20. Impelled, 22. Strafe, 23. Aspirant, 24. Indigene, 25. Emerge. Down: 1. Pierces, 2. Surprise, 3. Crouch, 4. Skeleton, 5. Envied, 6. Aladdin, 8. Underestimate, 14. Rendered, 15. Enlarges, 16. Ousting, 17. Teenage, 19. Brazil, 21. Pepper. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 7. Coyote, 8. Paignton, 9. Frascati, 10. Epochs, 11. Taking to, 12. O'Neill, 13. Get one's goat, 18. Commie, 20. Overmark, 22. Wallow, 23. War chest, 24. Wanders, 25. Gifted. Down: 1. Doorway, 2. Lot's wife, 3. Penang, 4. Live-long, 5. Encode, 6. Tophole, 8. Prisoner of war, 14. One's word, 15. Air shaft, 16. Sonatas, 17. One-step, 19. Malady, 21. Enrage.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday August 14

It's a fine day for sticking close to family. If you are able to go out, then enjoy yourself, but returning to your nest could be especially pleasurable. The theme for the next twelve months should be security.

Monday August 15

Your general celestial pattern has now moved on a stage, and you will be taking an extra look at your financial situation.

Tuesday August 16

You should try to make others accept your high standards. With a little luck, you'll reach number one after another year has passed. Family affairs will benefit if you take a more active lead.

Wednesday August 17

Your greatest asset is your ability to charm anyone in any circumstances. Your most pressing task is to settle past business and answer pending questions.

Thursday August 18

You may pass on a number of opportunities over the next year if it looks as if they're going to upset people. But you'll be a better person for that.

Friday August 19

With a leap and a bound you'll be free, leaving behind unwanted burdens and ducking out of a battle with authority. Don't take on too much, too soon, though, or you'll end up back where you started.

Saturday August 20

You could be torn between emotional security and the need to break loose. You don't have to choose and you can pursue adventurous activities.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Fortunately, a close partner now comes round to your way of thinking at home. One of your current problems at work is that you just have too many irons in the fire. There's a great deal you can achieve if you want to, but it's essential that you have all your priorities properly worked out.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

You're in a mood to gamble — cautiously of course. If you compute the odds very carefully and go for safe options, the pay-off could be magnificent, but not for a few years. It's up to you to think ahead! Children and younger relations rely on your support, by the way, so please give it freely.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Your stars are moving this way and that, making all sorts of promises. The fact that you have been feeling neglected, at least as far as one particular person is concerned, has more to do with your own deep feeling that you should be the centre of attention.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You may ponder long on family questions. It's your material security which requires attention, and you should avoid the tendency to get into an emotional state. After current feelings have passed, you'll be able to tackle domestic questions with a clear head.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The stars tell a traditional tale over the current period: be practical, work hard and be scrupulously honest. Avoid the tendency to criticise or judge others too harshly, though. Romantic relationships work best if you enjoy shared activities and the person of your dreams should also be your best friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

The Moon will be exerting its emotional sway over your house of marriage, so you have a chance to settle matrimonial questions. It's practical arrangements which seem to matter most, and it may be a close working partnership which counts more than an emotional one. In other words, it's good news all round.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Prosperous planets are on the move — at last. It's an ideal moment for a business venture or two. Go for long-term investments and serious purchases rather than luxuries or immediate gains. In love, passions remain high, expectations even higher.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your social skills are underestimated, even by you. Yet your ideas are currently a great deal more interesting and potentially entertaining than anyone else's. The only snag is that you may have to subsidise them, and you'll have to find extra cash from somewhere.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Your stars are in two minds, unsure which way to go. Irrational desires vie with reason and logic for your attention and you must make your choices. You have to realise that even way-out ideas can be put into practice if you have sufficient commonsense. Don't be taken in by false promises.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Your stars are looking generally positive, but your reputation is at stake, especially at work. You should now make your ideas public and pursue them any way you can either to secure professional promotion or acquire power in your community. You have learnt your lesson — always put people before profit.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

Mercury's current disciplined movements suit your classic, careful, Virgoan qualities. It's a moment for serious thought, tough questions and hard talking. Cut away the frills and concentrate on what is truly important. You'll even take your pleasures seriously.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You seem to be on the move. A bunch of powerful planets is aligned with your house of foreign travel, suggesting that distant parts are calling. If you have to stay where you are, you can do no worse than introduce a healthy dose of good old-fashioned fun and pleasure

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.  
A good traveler has no \_\_\_\_\_, and is not intent on arriving. - Lao Tzu (5,5)

NNAEI	EIRZDP
██	██
AALNS	FISUFX
██	██

SOLUTION: INANE, NASAL, PRIZED, SURFEX  
Answer: A good traveler has no **fixed plans**, and is not intent on arriving. - Lao Tzu

SUDOKU 4926

Difficulty Level 3s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4925

5	8		4		2	3		
	3	6				8	9	
4			5	1			8	
		5			1			
1			2				9	
	5	4				9	1	
3	9			2			8	5

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY

APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



**AGM - IREDA**  
The 35th AGM of the IREDA, the PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, was held at India Habitat Centre. Addressing the Shareholders, Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA, highlighted the Annual accounts.



**PROGRAMME-PSB**  
Punjab & Sind Bank Zone Mumbai organized a Credit Outreach Programme recently under the guidance of Swarup Kumar Saha, MD & CEO of the Bank along-with 3 GMs Pankaj Diwedi, Rajesh Pandey & Chaman Lal.



**CSR-THDC**  
THDC-Vishnugad-Pipalkoti Hydro Electric Project is running a sewing training center for the women of project-affected villages of Mayapur and Pipalkoti areas of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.



**HANDING OVER - BEL**  
BEML executed order for supply of construction equipment for CameroonCassav project. The equipment was handed over to Z Doufene, DG, MINEPAT, Govt of Cameroon, by A Banerjee, CMD BEML.



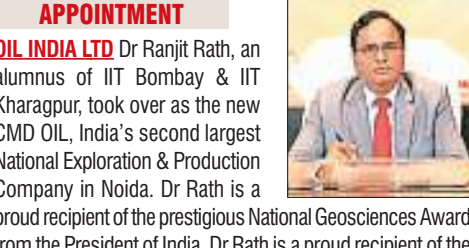
**MEETING - PNVNL**  
Under the chairmanship of the MD, a meeting was held recently in the auditorium at Discom Headquarters, Meerut. The MD expressed happiness over the receipt of revenue, reduction in line losses & 100% MU based billing against last month's target.



**PROGRAM - MoSJE**  
M/o SJE is running a flagship campaign known as Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyaan, launched on 15 August 2020 in 272 districts of India. D/o SJE organized "Nashe se Azaadi" - National Youth and Students Interaction Program.



**FELICITATION - CRPF**  
S Dutta, IG, Manipur & Nagaland Sector, all gazetted officers, subordinate officers and jawans warmly welcomed and felicitated the eminent Indian weightlifter Mirabai Janu in 143 Battalion.



**APPOINTMENT**  
**OIL INDIA LTD** Dr Ranjit Rath, an alumnus of IIT Bombay & IIT Kharagpur, took over as the new CMD OIL, India's second largest National Exploration & Production Company in Noida. Dr Rath is a proud recipient of the prestigious National Geosciences Award from the President of India. Dr Rath is a proud recipient of the prestigious National Geosciences Award from the President of India. A Geoscientist with impeccable experience & expertise of more than 25 yrs in the field of geosciences, Dr Rath, prior to joining at the helm of affairs of OIL, the Navratna PSU under the Ministry of P&NG, was the CMD of Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Ltd. under the Ministry of Mines.



**TOURNAMENT- CRPF**  
The opening ceremony of Inter GC/BN (Adm/Ops) Basketball Tournament-2022 of Manipur & Nagaland, Sector was held at GC CRPF, Langjing, Imphal. The Chief Guest was DK Tripathi, DIG, Manipur & Nagaland Sector.

**PUNJAB AND SIND BANK** In terms of increase in Policy Repo Rate by RBI from 4.90% to 5.40%, PSB has revised Repo Rate component in all eligible External Benchmark Lending Rate linked loan rate with effect from 08th August 2022.

**POWERGRID** has announced on consolidated basis, total income of Rs11,169 cr for Q1FY23, which is 7% higher compared to Rs10,392 cr in the Q1 of the previous year. The PAT for Q1FY23 on a consolidated basis is Rs3,801 cr, which is 14% over Q1FY22 (excluding exceptional items) on comparable basis. In Q1FY22, PAT of Rs5,998 cr included an exceptional item of Rs3,014 cr (Rs 2,657 cr net of tax) on account of monetization of assets. The Company's Gross Fixed Assets on a consolidated basis stood at Rs2,64,838 cr as on June 30, 2022. The total transmission assets of POWERGRID and its subsidiaries at the end of the quarter stood at 1,72,662 ckm of transmission lines, 267 substations and 4,85,777 MVA of transformation capacity.

**IREDA**, a PSU under the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), today announced audited financial results for the first quarter ended June 30, 2022. The company has posted Profit Before Tax (PBT) of Rs 339.86 cr, which is 72% higher compared to Rs197.20 cr in the Q1 of the previous financial year. IREDA's Net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have been reduced to 2.92% in Q1, FY 2022-23 from 4.77% in Q1, FY 2021-22, a significant reduction of 39% YoY.

**TMU** Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh Teerthanker Mahaveer University (TMU) has been accredited with an 'A' grade by the prestigious National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NACC). The University scored a cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.15 on a 4-point scale in the second cycle. The timing could not have been more perfect, with the University currently celebrating its 21 years of excellence in higher education. Speaking on this achievements, the Chancellor of TMU, Shri Suresh Jain, conveyed, "It is a moment to be cherished and I heartily congratulate each and every stakeholder of the institute, be it students, faculty members, staff members, alumni, and others, as without their contributions, it was not possible to earn this accolade."

**Oil India** Board in its 535th Board Meeting held on 10th August 2022 approved the Q1 FY 2022-23 results. Details of Q1 FY 2022-23 results are as follows:

**Highlights:**  
Oil India Limited (OIL) has reported 206% increase in Profit After Tax (PAT) during Q1FY23 at Rs. 1,555.49 crore from Rs.507.94 crore in Q1FY22. The turnover has increased by 96.36% to Rs.6,029.86 crore during Q1FY23 vis-à-vis Rs.3,070.78 cr in Q1 FY 22. The Earnings Per Share (EPS) for Q1FY23 was also increased to Rs. 14.34/share from Rs. 4.68/share for Q1FY22. Company realised average crude price of US\$ 112.73 / bbl in Q1FY23 vis-à-vis US\$ 67.15 / bbl in Q1FY22. Average Natural Gas price for Q1FY23 also increased to US\$ 6.10 / MMBTU vis-à-vis US\$ 1.79 / MMBTU during Q1FY22. Company has reported increase of 4.14% in its Crude Oil production for Q1FY23 to 0.779 MMT vis-à-vis 0.748 MMT of production in Q4FY22 as well as Q1FY22. Natural Gas production for Q1FY23 was also higher at 771 MMSCM vis-à-vis 734 MMSCM in Q4FY22 and 711 MM-SCM in Q1FY22, registering increase of 5.04% sequentially and 8.44% over corresponding quarter last year. OIL's group turnover has recorded rise of 86.51% increase to Rs.11,566.93 cr in Q1FY23 from Rs.6,201.88 cr in Q1FY22. Group PAT of OIL for Q1FY23 also increased to Rs.3,230.23 cr from Rs. 1,214.65 cr in Q1FY22.

**SAIL** posted its financial performance for the first quarter of the current financial year 2022-23 (Q1 FY 23). The company saw a growth of 16.4% in its revenue from operations in Q1 FY23 over corresponding period last year. SAIL also recorded the best ever Q1 production. The first quarter of FY'23 saw twin challenges of higher input costs and subdued market demand, both global and domestic, impacting the performance of the company. High cost of production due to increase in imported coking coal prices had an impact on the bottom-line of the company. The decline in global demand and prices for steel had a direct bearing on the domestic market and price realisation. Since peaking in April'22, the prices for steel have continuously remained under pressure during the quarter. The Company, however, said that the construction and infrastructure projects have gained momentum which will boost the demand for steel products. The company is confident of improved performances in the second half of the current financial year with significant reduction in prices of imported coal and uptick in demand.

**BOB** Partition Vibhishika Memorial Day 14 August is celebrated as "Vibhishika Memorial Day" in memory of the sacrifices of the people during Partition. Under its resolve to provide the best services and commitment to take the government's program to every citizen, the Dehradun main branch of Bank of Baroda on the occasion of "Vibhishika Memorial Day" has dedicated about 50 senior citizens attached to its branch, retired soldiers from the army. The esteemed customers were honored with shawls by the Karkamals of Regional Head Shri Ne-tra Mani. A large number of staff members including Deputy Regional Head Shri Bishambhar Dutt, Branch Head Shri Brahmanand Mishra, and Chief Manager were present during this program.