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PARLIAMENT DEADLOCK BROKEN

Suspension of 4 Cong MPs revoked, remarks on Sonia expunged

LIZ MATHEW & MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

DIALLING DOWN the discord between the ruling party and Opposition in Parliament, after days of bitter exchanges and adjournments since the Monsoon session began on July 18, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday revoked the suspension of four Congress MPs even as remarks made by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Congress chief Sonia Gandhi were expunged from Rajya Sabha records.

The Lok Sabha decision on the four MPs, Manickam Tagore,

Ramya Haridas, T N Prathapan and S Jothimani, came after the Speaker obtained an assurance from Opposition parties that they would not bring placards into the House. The move also led to a discussion in the afternoon on the issue of price rise.

The Speaker, who is learnt to have initiated the patch-up effort after meeting both sides, also warned that stringent action would be taken against those who violate "laid down procedures" and bring "exhibits" to the House. The four MPs had been suspended on July 25 for "misconduct" on the floor of the House.

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DEBATE ON PRICE RISE IN LOK SABHA

Opp flags inflation, job loss; FM says no recession or stagflation

Economy robust, debt to GDP ratio much better than most: Sitharaman

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

ASSERTING THAT India's economy is showing "very positive signs" and getting "more robust", Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday that there is "no question" of the country "getting into recession or stagflation".

Replying to a discussion on price rise in Lok Sabha, Sitharaman hit out at the Opposition for comparing the country's economic conditions with that of neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, and said India is in a far better position as its "macroeconomic fundamentals are perfect".

"If we talk about India's economy, then we are the fastest growing despite all the chal-



Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament on Monday. PTI

ECONOMY

GST COLLECTION UP 28%, SECOND HIGHEST EVER PAGE 15

lenges — global challenges and domestic challenges," she said. Sitharaman also quoted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

5G auction ends, Govt gets over Rs 1.5 lakh cr

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

INDIA'S BIGGEST ever spectrum auction ended Monday, with bids upwards of Rs 1.5 lakh crore coming in after seven days of bidding spread over 40 rounds, belying initial expectations that the auction process would be wrapped up in under three days. Reliance Jio emerged as the largest spender in the 5G spectrum auction, acquiring almost half of all the airwaves sold for more than Rs 88,000 crore, and was also the only one (among four applicants) to have acquired spectrum in the premium 700 MHz band.

A total of 51.2 GHz of spectrum was sold, of the total 72 GHz that was up for grabs —

EXPLAINED

Earning above estimates

THE AMOUNT earned is far higher than what the government had anticipated, and the highest compared to the seven auctions since 2010. The highest so far was Rs 1.10 lakh crore in 2015.

close to 71%. Union Minister of Communications Ashwini Vaishnaw said the total spectrum sold was "good enough" for covering all circles in the country, estimating "good coverage"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

SILLY SOULS GOA CAFE & BAR

Goa bar not owned by Irani, daughter; (Cong) comments slander: HC

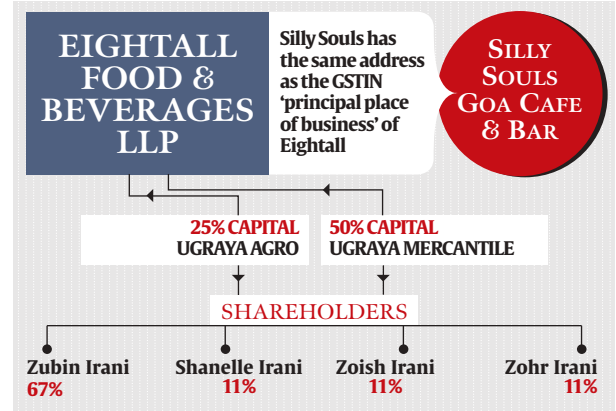
SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

IN ITS order directing Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khara and Netta D'Souza to delete their social media posts on Union Minister Smriti Irani and her daughter in connection with Silly Souls Cafe and Bar in Goa's Assagao, the Delhi High Court has said that "neither the

restaurant nor the land on which it exists" are owned by Irani and her daughter.

While the HC passed the order on Friday, details of the order were made public on Monday. Justice Mini Pushkarna said the court perused the documents filed on record by Irani, particularly the showcase notice issued by the Commissioner of Excise in Goa.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Cops to sports teacher, women's lawn bowls team eyes CWG gold



EXPRESS IN BIRMINGHAM

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 1

LOVELY CHOUBEY used to be a promising long jumper from Jharkhand in her youth, having represented East Zone with dreams of representing India. Born to a Class 4 government employee, she hoped sport would help her take off in life, like



India defeated New Zealand in the semi-final. PTI

in the sand pit. It also led to her trainer putting her through an over-rigorous regimen, and injuring her hips. A distraught Choubey spent months feeling wretched, before then cricket umpire Madhukant Pathak

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ALIA AT ADDA

Actor Alia Bhatt at Express Adda in Mumbai, Monday. Pradip Das

Irani's kin invested in firm whose GST 'place of business' is where cafe is

SANDEEP SINGH & MAYURA JANWALKAR
MUMBAI, GOA, AUGUST 1

AS THE Delhi High Court affirmed Monday, Union Minister Smriti Irani's daughter Zoish Irani neither owns the land on which Silly Souls Goa Café and Bar stands nor did she apply for

a liquor licence as the Congress alleged. In fact, the property is owned by Goan locals Anthony D'Gama (who passed away in May 2021) and wife Merlyn D'Gama; the liquor licence was issued in Anthony D'Gama's name. Their son Dean D'Gama had the licence renewed.

However, Silly Souls Goa Café

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Assam Arunachal (8D/12D Meghalaya) 70000-97000
Varanasi Ayodhya Lucknow(8D) 43000 - 50000
Madhya Pradesh (9D/17D) 50000 - 92000
Rajasthan (6D/8D/9D) 30000 - 55000
Gujarat with Statue of Unity (10D) 45000-57000
Karnataka-Coorg/Hampi/Dandeli (7D/8D/9D) 40K-56K
Ooty Kodai Coimbatore (8D) 50000 - 55000
Central Tamil Nadu (12D) 65000 - 71000
Kerala (6D/8D/10D) 30000 - 65000
Andaman-Havelock Neil Baratang Island (7D) 59K-72K
Bhubaneswar Puri Konark (5D) 42000 - 45000
Hyderabad Ramoji City (4D) 32000 - 36000
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Rajasthan Mewad (9D) Sept 17 - 42000
Kerala (8D) Sept 10 - 46000
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Europe (15D) Apr 2 - 345000

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Vietnam (7D) Oct 9 - 125000
Mauritius-Maritim Resort(7D) Sept 18,25-115000
Maldives-Eriyadu Resort (4D)Sept 13 - 80000
European Highlights (11D) Nov 5 - 260000
England Scotland Ireland Wales (10D) Oct 20 - 255000
Italy Swiss Paris (11D)Oct 4-275000/Swiss Paris(8D)Oct 7-235000
Swiss Italy Austria (8D) Oct 13 - 230000
Swiss Paris Amsterdam Brussels (11D) Sept 27-265000
Russia(7D) Sept 18-175000/Baku (5D)Sept 19-99000
Scandinavia with Tallinn (9D) Oct 21 - 265000
Turkey(11D)Oct 19-190000/Egypt(9D)Oct 28-150000
Best of Australia (12D) Sept 23 - 325000
USA(7D Feb 13 / 13DFeb 10)225000-350000
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FROM PAGE ONE

Delhi HC

“Considering the documents on record, it is clearly seen that there was no licence which was ever issued in favour of the plaintiff or her daughter. The plaintiff or her daughter are not the owners of the restaurant. It has also been established by the plaintiff prima facie that the plaintiff or her daughter never applied for licence,” said the court.

“Neither the restaurant nor the land on which the restaurant exists is owned by the plaintiff or her daughter; even the show cause notice issued by the Government of Goa is not in the name of the plaintiff or her daughter. All these facts have also been affirmed in the affidavit by the plaintiff,” it said.

In its order last week, the court had directed the Congress leaders to remove the allegations, video of the press conference held on July 23, and the contents linked to it from social media platforms. The order was passed on a suit filed by Irani. Besides seeking damages of over Rs 2 crore for alleged defamation, Irani had sought a mandatory and permanent injunction against the Congress leaders and a direction for taking down the posts.

Issuing summons to the Congress leaders, the court has directed them to file a written statement within 30 days. “Along with the written statement, the defendant shall also file an affidavit of admission/ denial of the documents of the plaintiff, without which the written statement shall not be taken on record,” it said.

After hearing Irani’s application for an interim injunction, Justice Pushkarna had said on Friday that she was of the prima facie view that “slanderous and libellous allegations” were made against the minister without verifying the facts, and that “great injury” had been caused to her and her family’s reputation in view of the tweets and retweets that followed the press conference given by the three Congress leaders on July 23.

“I am of the considerate view that statements made by the defendant Nos. 1, 2, & 3 are in the nature of slander and seem to be bogus with malicious intent, only to garner highest amount of viewership, thereby intentionally subjecting the plaintiff to great public ridicule,” Justice Pushkarna said in the interim order.

At the press conference last month, the Congress had accused Irani’s daughter of running the restaurant in Goa “illegally”, with the bar licence procured “fraudulently” in the name of a deceased person. The Congress had also demanded Irani’s resignation from the Union Cabinet.

Irani has alleged that the Congress leaders “conspired with each other and with unknown individuals/organisations to launch a tirade of false, scathing and beligerent personal attacks” against

her and her daughter, “with the common motive to malign, defame and injure” their reputation, moral character and public image.

“Despite being fully aware of the fact that the applicant and her daughter are neither owner(s) of the premises or said restaurant, nor have they applied for any licence in relation to the said restaurant, defendants (Congress leaders) deliberately made various defamatory statements imputing the character of the applicant and her daughter, going to the extent of maliciously peddling lies by stating that the applicant’s daughter is purportedly indulging in corrupt practices and illegal activities under the patronage and knowledge of the applicant,” she said in her suit.

Reacting to the court order, Jairam Ramesh on Friday had tweeted: “The Delhi High Court has issued notice asking us to formally reply to the case filed by Smriti Irani. We look forward to presenting the facts before the court. We will challenge and disprove the spin being put out by Ms Irani.”

Irani’s kin

and Bar has a link to Irani’s family including her daughter through a set of financial transactions, according to official records investigated by The Indian Express.

These records show that daughter Zoish Irani; son Zohr Irani; husband Zubin Irani and his daughter Shanelle Irani own two companies Ugraya Mercantile Pvt Ltd and Ugraya Agro Farms Pvt Ltd. In 2020-21, both these firms invested in a third, Eightall Food and Beverages LLP. Eightall was incorporated in December 2020. As per GSTIN records, Eightall mentions its “principal place of business” as: H No 452, Ground Floor, Bouta Waddo, Assagao, North Goa, Goa.

This is also the address of Sully Souls Goa Cafe and Bar.

Smriti Irani is not a shareholder in any of these companies.

According to filings with the Registrar of Companies, on November 5, 2020, Ugraya Mercantile and Ugraya Agro resolved to invest up to 50 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, of the total capital of Eightall.

As of March 31, 2021, the latest available data with RoC, Ugraya Agro and Ugraya Mercantile each had the same set of shareholders with similar holdings: Zubin Irani (67 per cent), daughters Shanelle Irani and Zoish Irani (11 per cent each) and son Zohr Irani (11 per cent).

Documents filed by Eightall with the RoC for the year ending March 31, 2021, show that Ugraya Mercantile and Ugraya Agro did provide 50 per cent and 25 per cent to the initial capital of Eightall.

As per the latest records filed with the RoC, Eightall’s balance 25 per cent capital came from Taronish Hospitality (20 per cent

and Geeta Vajani (5 per cent). Geeta’s husband Yogesh Vajani is one of the directors in Taronish Hospitality.

Ugraya Mercantile and Ugraya Agro also gave short-term loans of Rs 20 lakh and Rs 10 lakh respectively to Eightall.

Asked about his restaurant’s address being the same as the principal place of business for Eightall, owner of the cafe Dean D’Gama told The Indian Express: “Please talk to my lawyer about it.”

His lawyer Benny Nazareth said: “I am representing the D’Gamas as the owners of this particular property (Silly Souls Cafe). They have got a valid excise license and we have been issued a show-cause notice and we have replied to it. That’s all. I have no mandate from the client to discuss anything beyond that.”

Questions to Zubin Irani (majority shareholder in Ugraya Agro Farms and Ugraya Mercantile) on the investment and its matching address with Silly Souls Goa Cafe and Bar, went unanswered.

Responding to allegations by the Congress last Sunday, Zoish’s lawyer Kirat Singh Nagra had said she “has no control or oversight into the management and affairs of the eatery” – and her interaction was “limited” to an internship.

On Monday, asked about the same address and the resolution by companies in which Zoish is shareholder, he told The Indian Express: “Firstly, the issue is sub judice. Secondly, we would not like to say anything about the restaurant or anything relating to the matter, directly or indirectly.”

When The Indian Express visited the registered office address of Eightall in Palghar, it was the premises of Yogesh K Vajani and Co Chartered Accountants, the accounting firm for Eightall.

When asked about the relationship between Eightall and Silly Souls Goa Cafe and Bar, Yogesh Vajani, said he would “not entertain questions on this matter.”

In the year ending March 31, 2021, Eightall posted revenue from sales amounting to Rs 22.73 lakh and a loss of Rs 3.06 lakh.

While it was incorporated on December 31, 2020, the company’s financial records show it paid Rs 2,72,500 in rent from January to March 2021 and had an alcohol inventory of Rs 3,35,500.

(With inputs from Jayprakash S Naidu in Mumbai)

Parliament

move came on directions from Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu after Finance Minister Sitharaman had demanded an apology from Sonia Gandhi over Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury’s “Rashtrapati” remark on President Droupadi Murmu.

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, had written to Naidu on Friday, urging him to expunge the remarks made by Sitharaman as well as Leader of the House Piyush Goyal about Gandhi, who is a Lok Sabha MP. Kharge pointed out that there was a “time-honoured” convention in Rajya Sabha according to which members are not allowed to reflect on or make critical remarks about the Lok Sabha or its members.

In the Lok Sabha, the four Congress MPs had been suspended after the Opposition vociferously raised various issues, such as the price rise and GST rates on packed food items. The Rajya Sabha, meanwhile, witnessed the suspension of 23 MPs for unruly behaviour but the sanction was only for a week.

While other Opposition parties had earlier agreed to heed the Lok Sabha Speaker’s suggestions on conduct in the House, the Congress assurance on placards has come now. While the Opposition had demanded an immediate discussion on price rise, the Government had insisted that it would happen after Finance Minister Sitharaman, who was affected by Covid, returned to Parliament.

Congress Leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said the Speaker should now convene a meeting of the General Purpose Committee with members from all parties to decide on the mode of protest in the House. He also said the Opposition should get opportunities to raise issues.

“At times, there are issues which the Opposition wants to raise vociferously, and we have to resort to demonstrating our

‘No question of India entering recession’

former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and said that the Reserve Bank of India has done a “very good job in increasing the foreign exchange reserves in India, insulating (it) from problems being faced by neighbouring countries, such as Pakistan and Sri Lanka”.

The Opposition, however, took on the Government, blaming it for widening inequality with rising prices and failing to provide jobs.

The Congress accused the Government of having failed in the fundamentals of economy. The TMC said the Government’s policies had left people without money to even buy LPG cylinders. Not satisfied with Sitharaman’s reply, Congress and DMK MPs walked out of the House.

Earlier, responding to Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who sought to know whether India is heading towards stagflation, Sitharaman said, “There is no question of India getting into recession or stagflation.”

Observing that banks and their health are equally important for looking at the economy, Sitharaman said, “In India, the gross Non-Performing Assets of scheduled commercial banks is on a six-year low at 5.9 per cent in FY-22. So, in China 4,000 banks are on the verge of going bankrupt and our NPAs are improving.”

She said that the debt to GDP ratio of many countries, including the US, is in triple digits whereas it is 56.29 per cent in India. “India is in a far better position than its peers... Indian economy showing very positive signs,” Sitharaman said.

“First of all, as Indians we should appreciate that our people have gone through this pandemic... But in spite of that, because of the various steps taken

by the Government and also by the Reserve Bank of India, we are much better than most countries,” she said.

“I recognise that everybody – Members of Parliament and state governments – all have played their role, otherwise India today will not be where it is compared to the rest of the world. So, I fully credit the people of India... we are recognised as the fastest growing economy and this is not my assessment,” she said.

At the outset of her long reply that lasted for an hour 40 minutes, with frequent disruptions by the Opposition, Sitharaman said, “I find it was more a discussion on political angles of price rise rather than data-driven concerns about prices. Therefore, I am trying to make my reply a little political.”

Comparing inflation figures during the NDA rule with that during the Congress-led UPA government, Sitharaman said, “We have held the inflation well within 7 or below. Retail inflation was over 9 per cent for 22 months during the UPA... Inflation was in double digit nine times.” In 2012-13, the Consumer Price Index was 10.05 per cent while it was 6 per cent in 2020-21, she said.

Sitharaman also hit out at the Congress for issuing oil bonds during its rule. In principle, the decision to issue oil bonds was wrong, she said, adding that the culture of freebies should be ended.

Observing that duties on crude palm oil have been reduced from 35.75 per cent to 8.5 per cent and now to 5.5 per cent, Sitharaman said, the Government has drastically brought down the duty so that edible oil prices can come down.

Hitting out at the Opposition for comparing India with neighbouring Bangladesh and Sri

THE RACE TO FILE TAX RETURNS

570 Highest per second rate of filing (at 4:29 pm)

9,573 Highest per minute rate of filing (at 7:44 pm)

5,17,030 Highest per hour rate of filing (5 pm to 6 pm)

72.42 lakh ITRs filed on Sunday, a record

5.83 crore ITRs filed till July 31

Lanka, Sitharaman said, “India is better than Sri Lanka and Bangladesh... Today, Bangladesh is demanding a loan of \$4.5 billion from the IMF. Sri Lanka is demanding \$3.5 billion. Pakistan is demanding \$7 billion. India’s condition is not like that... India’s macroeconomic fundamentals are perfect... Compare with the US. What are Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.”

Responding to the Opposition demand for a rollback of GST on food items like milk, curd and rice, Sitharaman said, “This issue was discussed in the GST Council in full detail. All the state ministers were present. There was no voting and the decision was taken by a consensus.”

The Finance Minister clarified that GST has been levied only on pre-packaged and labelled items, and not on items being sold loose.

She said the decision to impose GST on these items was taken at three levels, Fitment committee, Group of Ministers

and GST Council, and pointed out that representatives from Opposition-ruled states participated in the process.

None of them expressed dissent, she said, adding that the GST has been levied only on branded food items to curb leakage in revenue.

She also highlighted how there was VAT on food products like pulses in various states including Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

“To those who talk about GST, I want to tell them with folded hands that the GST Council is a constitutional body in which all the states and the Centre sit together and in which decisions are not taken by (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi. The decisions are taken by finance ministers of all the states. They should tell the truth in their states. But they don’t do so,” Sitharaman said.

The Union Finance Minister also clarified that there was no GST on burial and crematorium services. On the GST compensation issue, she said that only one month’s compensation (for June 2022) is pending for states.

In his speech, Congress leader Chowdhury accused the Government of helping corporates. “The Modi government is only for two people,” he said, adding that “two-three companies” are engaged in “loot” while “the poor are forced to live in darkness”.

In response, Sitharaman pointed out that the Congress government in Rajasthan has allotted 2,397 hectares of land to an Adani company. She said that the Rajasthan government had signed an MoU with an Adani firm just a day after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had accused the Government of favouring Adani and Ambani.

5G auction ends, Govt gets over Rs 1.5 lakh cr

of 5G in the next two-three years. The expected total first annual installment that the government will garner from the bidders has been pegged at Rs 13,365 crore.

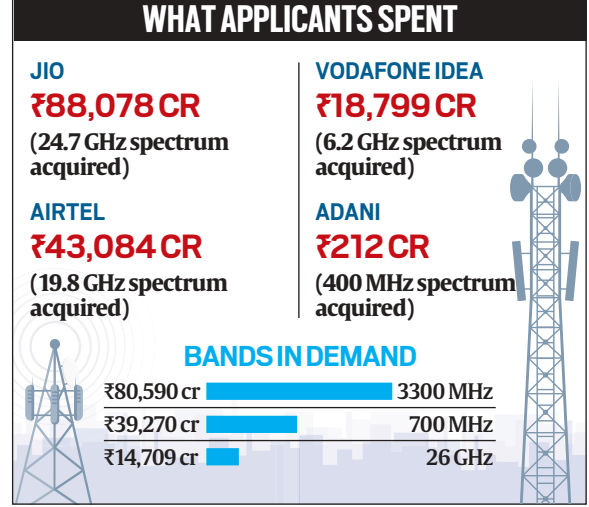
Apart from high-speed data connectivity for users, 5G also has the potential to enable a number of enterprise-level solutions such as machine-to-machine communications, connected vehicles, and more immersive augmented reality and metaverse experiences, among others.

Reliance Jio spent Rs 88,078 crore and acquired a total of 24.7 GHz of spectrum in the 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands, in line with analysts’ predictions.

The country’s second largest telco, Bharti Airtel, shelled out Rs 43,084 crore to acquire a total of 19.8 GHz of spectrum in the 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands.

Vodafone Idea spent Rs 18,799 crore and bid for the 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz and 26 GHz bands, acquiring a total of 6,228 MHz of airwaves.

The fourth applicant, Adani Data Networks Limited, a subsidiary of the Adani Group that had applied to participate in the auction amid a chorus of disruption in the telecom sector, acquired spectrum only in the 26 GHz band and spent Rs 212 crore. The company had earlier clarified that it was participating in the race only to offer private networks solutions for busi-



ness verticals like airports, ports, power generation and logistics, and not to enter the consumer mobility space.

At Rs 1,50,173 crore, the final total bids have exceeded expectations, surpassing the government’s internal estimates of receiving bids of around Rs 1 lakh crore. According to sources, the government had initially anticipated that the 700 MHz band might not find any takers, especially since the band had gone unsold in the previous spectrum auctions in 2016 and 2021, owing to high price compared to other bands. This time, however, the 600 MHz band saw no takers.

The 700 MHz band, which is best suited for coverage in high-density areas, is ideal for data networks and consumer-led services. It received the second

highest amount of total bids, at a value of Rs 39,270 crore.

The 3,300 MHz band saw the highest amount of bids at Rs 80,590 crore. The 26 GHz millimetre band – which is ideal for enterprise level 5G applications including setting up private 5G networks – received the third highest amount of bids at Rs 14,709 crore.

Jio was the only applicant to have acquired spectrum in the coveted 700 MHz band, which industry analysts say will give it a significant headstart over its competitors as far as consumer penetration of 5G is concerned. The company has acquired 10 MHz of the band in each of the 22 circles. Its biggest competitor, Bharti Airtel, has not acquired any spectrum in the 700 MHz band.

Commenting on why the

700 MHz band received more than the anticipated bids, Vaishnav said, “Globally the 5G ecosystem is very well developed in the 700 MHz band as it gives very wide base coverage. It can provide a range of 6-10 kilometres”. He added that in the 800 MHz-2500 GHz spectrum bands, the bidders bought airwaves primarily to increase their coverage of 4G and fill gaps in circles where the 4G network had started to congest.

In terms of the competitiveness of bidding in the latest auction, only the 1,800 MHz spectrum band saw the base price getting breached, whereas all the other bands were sold at their respective reserve prices. The competition in the 1,800 MHz spectrum was led largely by the Uttar Pradesh (East) circle which is the country’s largest mobile telephony circle in terms of subscribers with over 100 million cellphone connections.

Fierce bidding was witnessed especially in Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Northeast circles in the 800 MHz band; Odisha and Uttar Pradesh (East) circles in the 1800 MHz band; and Bihar, Haryana, Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab circles in the 2,100 MHz band.

Payments for spectrum can be made in 20 equal annual installments, to be paid in advance at the beginning of each year. The bidders would be given an option to surrender the spectrum after 10 years, with no future liabilities with respect to balance installments.

protests if the Government does not give us a patient hearing... But sir, it’s not the intention of the Opposition to hurt the Chair,” Chowdhury said, addressing the Speaker. He said that he would convey the Speaker’s instructions to the suspended MPs.

Speaker Birla said he was “hurt” by the incidents that took place in the House during the last two weeks. “There should be a consensus that we do not bring placards inside the House. I will urge all parties that no one should bring placards to the House. I am

giving a final warning, if anyone gets placards to the House I will neither listen to the Government nor the Opposition and will take action,” the Speaker said.

Earlier on Monday, Congress and DMK MPs stormed the well of the Lok Sabha raising slogans demanding the withdrawal of the suspension of MPs. MoS Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said the House should be allowed to function since the Government has listed a discussion on price rise as per the Opposition demand. But the

Opposition MPs continued their protests, leading to the adjournment of Question Hour.

When the Lok Sabha met again at noon, the MPs continued their sloganeering, and proceedings were adjourned till 2 pm. Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who was present in the House, was seen asking Chowdhury and other leaders to approach the Speaker to repeat the request for withdrawal of suspension.

When the Lok Sabha met at 2 pm, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said he had

told the all-party meeting that Finance Minister Sitharaman had tested positive for Covid and a discussion on price rise would take place once she returns. “I am not able to understand why Lok Sabha productivity was lost for the last two weeks,” Joshi said.

The withdrawal of suspension later rekindled prospects of a business-filled session till the last day on August 12. The Government has listed 24 fresh Bills for introduction.

On Monday, amidst the pandemonium in the morning, Union

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill that seeks to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTU), a deemed-to-be university, into the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous Central university. The amended law will help the Government to expand the scope of the university and cover the entire transport sector. In the Rajya Sabha, sources told The Indian Express that Kharge raised the remarks against Sonia Gandhi with Naidu on Monday morning. Opposition sources said Naidu agreed with Kharge’s contention that Gandhi’s name should not have been taken in Rajya Sabha as she is a member of the other House and not in a position to defend herself.

In his letter on Friday, Kharge wrote: “One of the time-honoured conventions is that reflections or critical remarks should not be made on the other House or on members of the other House.” Referring to a 1987 ruling by the then Chairman R Venkataraman, Kharge pointed out that “no person who is not a member of this House can be referred to in the House in a derogatory manner or in any other way affecting his/her reputation”.

Lawn bowls

invited her over to try out lawn bowls.

A constable in the Jharkhand Police now, Choubey found the gentle rolling pace and calming rhythm of lawn bowls an oasis for her shattered confidence. Despite knowing nothing of it, she got cracking on the nuanced angles of rolling the bowls around the game’s “jack”, the target ball.

On Monday, after two consecutive missed chances, having lost in the semifinals at the same stage, Choubey and her quartet made the finals of the CWG lawn bowls event, edging out New Zealand 16-13.

They say it all changes in lawn bowls in one ball. For Choubey, Pinki, Nayanmoni Saikia, and the day’s sensation Rupa Rani Tirkey, life is about to change forever after they meet South Africa in the finals on Tuesday. A silver, India’s first ever medal in this quaint sport at the CWG, is assured, but no one’s thinking of second-best when gold is up for grabs for this bunch of rocking rollers.

Tirkey played kabaddi when young and similarly drifted towards lawn bowls. Her father worked in a post office, and her mother took over the same job after him. Her sister Reema Rani Tirkey plays cricket.

For the Asian runners-up (after Malaysia), all those international medals merely funded the next big tour – for which athletes were expected to partly fund their travel.

A sports district officer at Ramgarh now, Tirkey’s critical last ball sealed the win for India, helping them go past the Kiwis – a threshold they had been stuttering at all these years. Perhaps aware she had nothing to lose – this is her last Commonwealth Games – Tirkey went for broke. It was calm and collected – like a certain MS Dhoni and his sixes. It sent India from 1-down to 3-up.

Dhoni, incidentally likes to have an occasional bowl at the Jharkhand facility where the team would be camped in practice.

Saikia, also an Assam Police constable, along with Pinki, a sports teacher at a school in Delhi’s RK Puram, completed the team of pathbreakers. The hosting of nationals across Ranchi and Guwahati, and a basic facility in Delhi, helped take the game beyond Jharkhand.

Almost all the lawn bowler finalists in the current team are trained by former cricket umpire Pathak, who is punch played with the result. “Pehle toh isko sport maante hi nahi hai. (First of all people don’t consider this a sport) And then the mocking after losing in 3 semis used to be terrible for Indian players. There was no exposure for them” he recalls.

Pathak met Steve Waugh circa 2000 during an international at Jamsheerpur where he was 4th umpire, and when he travelled to Australia in 2003-4, saw Waugh play lawn bowls at his home. His twin, Mark Waugh, was better at this. “He said it’s as good as batting, and a good workout for cricket. You have to bend just like cricket batsmen do. And it helps in concentration and ghaas ka maamla hota hai (it is also played on grass). I realised it has no physical parameters, anyone from 9 to 99 can play. And it’s great for the Indian mentality. We don’t like exertion. But have sharp brains,” he says.

So he stayed on in Australia and trained to be a coach. Plenty of rejects from other sports formed his trainees in Ranchi. Now the team has access to software that helps them nail the “touchers” – the best rolled balls in the sport, that roll in from around the jack. The Indians put in 250 full-length rolls a day to attain consistency.

CORRECTION

ON 01.08.22, PAGE 1

THE REPORT, ‘Sanjay Arora is Delhi CP: Asthana says he expected extension’, inaccurately quoted the outgoing Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana as saying that he expected an extension. Asthana, who spoke in Hindi, had said:

“There was suspense for a long time, it’s over today. I was also following – will I get an ex-

ension, will it be retirement... Today, when I came to hand over/sign the charge report, I spoke to my Principal Staff Officer. I told him, and he also said, sir, we did not expect you to retire. I said I also worked very hard, the desire to work more remains unfulfilled. This is a fact, because I still felt that I could do a lot more... I wanted to do more, but those who join the force, those who join the service have to retire one day.”

The error is regretted.

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PRESS NIT NO.- 05 (2022-23)

S.No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/ time of receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Procurement of 5,000 MT Alumina Ferric (Alum) Grade-IV, 'IS' marked, for treatment of raw water at various water treatment plants of DJB	Item Rate	17,11,000/-	Tender Id 2022_DJB_227082_1 Publish Date 30-Jul-2022 05:15 PM onwards	23-Aug-2022 upto 03:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 271 (2022-23)
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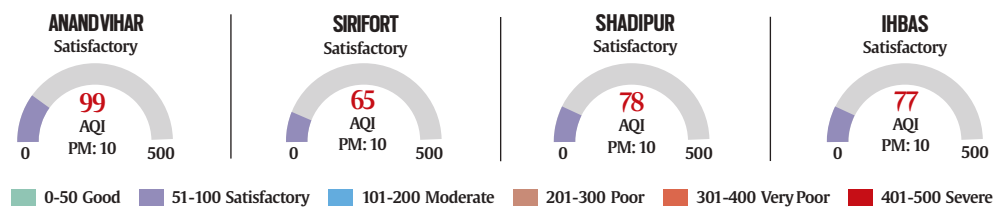
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SKYWATCH
FORECAST: August 2
 Generally cloudy sky,
 Very light rain/
 thundershowers

MAX: 33 | **MIN: 25**
 1.3°C below normal | 2.1°C below normal

MOVES HIGH COURT

Gahlot challenges Centre's veto on foreign travel by state ministers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

DAYS AFTER Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was not able to attend the World Cities Summit in Singapore owing to lack of clearance from the Lieutenant Governor and the Centre, Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot has approached the High Court challenging the central government instruction requiring state government ministers to seek prior clearance for their foreign visits.

"Any discretion enjoyed by the respondents to deny state functionaries the permission to travel abroad for private reasons, on grounds of 'political clearance', is per se an unconstitutional infringement of the right to privacy protected under Article 21 of the Constitution as well as the dignity of the constitutional office held by the functionaries," Gahlot has argued through his counsel.

Besides seeking a direction for framing of guidelines in this regard, he has also prayed for quashing of the L-G's letter advising against Kejriwal's proposed visit to Singapore. The petition terms the requirement for seeking prior political clearance even for personal visits a "draconian and invasive regime".

"This has become a much larger issue. What is the nature of this kind of denial of clearance? Is it completely unfettered? Is it not reviewable? See this case — on June 7, I write to the learned L-G. No reply for a month because we all know how to make things infructuous," Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Gahlot, said.

Justice Yashwant Varma said

the petition "may have raised certain issues" but the relief is claimed for personal visits. "The visits which are being spoken are difficult to be understood as personal visits," observed the court.

Singhvi responded that it is for both personal and official visits. "We are challenging all because guidelines have to be laid before you exercise a pocket veto. This amounts to a pocket veto in the sense that by doing nothing you are exercising a veto and by rejecting you are exercising a veto," he said.

The court asked Gahlot's counsel to file an additional affidavit regarding instances of personal visits and listed the case for further hearing on August 22.

Gahlot in the petition said the Chief Minister was previously also denied permission to attend the C-40 World Mayors' Summit in Copenhagen in 2019. "The petitioner, who holds the portfolio of Transport in the Council of Ministers, Government of NCT of Delhi, had also requested clearance to visit London on the invitation of Transport for London but shockingly, there was not even a response from the authorities concerned in the central government till the time the request became infructuous," read the plea.

The petition states that all these visits were on invitation and were crucial fora for exchanging ideas on improving urban governance and showcasing Delhi's own progress in urban design. "The draconian manner in which the respondents have used their discretion on travel clearances is only exacerbated further by the fact that even personal visits by state government ministers must be cleared by the respondents," Gahlot has said in the plea.

NO RECENT INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL HISTORY

Nigerian national is Delhi's second monkeypox case

ANONNA DUTT
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1



He was admitted to Lok Nayak hospital on Sunday

A 35-YEAR-OLD Nigerian national, living and working in Delhi for more than a year, tested positive for monkeypox Monday. He was admitted to Delhi's nodal Lok Nayak hospital on Sunday and his samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for testing.

Two other Nigerian nationals suspected to have the infection were also admitted to the hospital late Sunday night and Monday afternoon. Although they have similar symptoms, their test reports are awaited.

"Two (the positive case and one of the suspected cases) were admitted to the hospital yesterday; their detailed history is be-

ing taken now by the surveillance teams. Both were working in city restaurants. Although not Indian nationals, they do not have a history of recent international travel," according to a doctor from the hospital.

This is the sixth case of the viral infection detected in India — four persons from Kerala with a

history of travel to UAE, of whom one died Saturday, and now two cases from Delhi.

Delhi's first case of the viral infection, a 34-year-old man from West district's Paschim Vihar, continues to recuperate in the hospital. "He is stable and does not have symptoms other than lesions. He will be discharged once the lesions are completely healed," said the doctor. Another suspect case had been admitted to the hospital but was discharged after being diagnosed with the common chickenpox.

The Centre has set up a task force, led by NITI Aayog member (health) Dr V K Paul, to monitor the situation in the country. The task force will include secretaries from the health ministry, pharmaceutical department, and biotechnology department.

Monkeypox is a viral infection that is mainly transmitted from animals to humans, with limited transmission among humans in West and Central African countries. Monkeypox spreads from person to person through close contact with someone who has monkeypox rash, but scientists are also looking at whether the disease is sexually transmitted.

The most common symptoms of monkeypox include fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes, along with pox rashes that last for two to three weeks. It is a self-limiting disease but can lead to death, especially in children and those with weak immune systems. Complications of the infection include pneumonia, secondary skin infections, confusion, and eye problems.

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Govt to set up creche facility at city's construction sites

New Delhi: The Delhi government has decided to set up mobile health check-up and creche facilities for workers at construction sites. The decision was taken at a board meeting of the Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board Monday.

This will take the form of two schemes—first is a 'Doctors on

Wheels' scheme and the other is to launch mobile creches for children of construction workers.

"Doctor on Wheels' scheme will facilitate routine check-ups of workers at construction sites. We will launch unique mobile creches for children of construction workers at sites," said Deputy CM Manish Sisodia. **ENS**

Ministry of Culture
Government of India

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Har Ghar Tiranga
13th-15th August 2022

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Narendra Modi Prime Minister

13th to 15th August 2022

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COMMON RECRUITMENT PROCESS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY OFFICERS/ MANAGEMENT TRAINEES IN PARTICIPATING BANKS (CRP PO/MT-XII for Vacancies of 2023-24)

The online examination (Preliminary and Main) for the next Common Recruitment Process for selection of personnel for Probationary Officer/ Management Trainee posts, in the Participating Banks is tentatively scheduled in October 2022 / November 2022.

The tentative schedule of events is as follows:

Activity	Tentative Dates
On-line registration including Edit/Modification of Application by candidates	02.08.2022 to 22.08.2022
Payment of Application Fees/Intimation Charges (Online)	02.08.2022 to 22.08.2022
Download of call letters for Pre-Exam Training* Conduct of Pre-Exam Training*	September/ October 2022
Download of call letters for Online examination - Preliminary	October 2022
Online Examination - Preliminary	October 2022
Result of Online exam - Preliminary	November 2022
Download of Call letter for Online exam - Main	November 2022
Online Examination - Main	November 2022
Declaration of Result - Main	December 2022
Download of call letters for interview	January/ February 2023
Conduct of interview	January/ February 2023
Provisional Allotment	April 2023

* In case it is possible and safe to hold PET
 Candidates are advised to regularly keep in touch with the authorised IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates.
 Before registering online candidates are advised to read the detailed notification carefully and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

Mumbai
 Date: 02.08.2022
 Director

NOIDA	July 31		Aug 1	
	Cases	N/A	Deaths	N/A
GURGAON	Cases	201	Deaths	187
	Deaths	0		1

GOVT ISSUES NOTIFICATION TO EXTEND LICENCES FOR A MONTH

Sobering Monday: Booze shops shut, dry day at bars

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

SEVERAL LIQUOR shops and bars in Delhi remained shut on Monday even as the Delhi government allowed them a month-long extension to clear stocks and to make the transition from private shops to government ones smoother.

While the decision to give the extension to licensees was passed in the Delhi Cabinet on Sunday night, and by the L-G's office on Monday afternoon, the notification was issued only in the evening. This meant that shop owners as well as restaurants and bars had no clarity on whether they could continue serving and selling alcohol.

While shops had cleared most of their stock over the weekend, confusion over their operations remained since their licences had expired on Sunday. In a handful of shops that were open, shelves remained mostly bare.

"I went to two liquor shops near my house in the afternoon. While one was shut, the other had half of the shutter down and its shelves were mostly bare. In any case, over the past few days only one or two brands of liquor were available. It is a complete mess," said Raghav Singh (34), a resident of Jangpura Extension. Liquor vendors in areas such as Sarita Vihar, Connaught Place and Mayur Vihar remained shut.

At Connaught Place, restaurants that also serve liquor



An empty liquor store in the capital; (right) a notice outside a popular restaurant. Amit Mehra



Cabinet note sheds light on liquor policy lessons

GAYATHRI MANI &
MALLICA JOSHI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

REVENUE LOSSES to the government, "windfall gain" for a few vendors and discounts leading to unhealthy market practices that pushed "weaker hands" from competition are among the reasons that the Delhi government decided to revert to the old excise policy that was in place till November 2021, according to a cabinet note sent by the AAP government to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena for approval on Sunday night.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia is also learnt to have asked the excise department to prepare a fresh excise policy based on the experiences of the new policy that was introduced in November last year, which aimed to privatise the liquor business and weed out corruption.

According to the cabinet note, the above observations by officials indicate that there is a need to review the new excise policy and assess whether it should continue.

The office of the L-G has alleged irregularities and corrup-

tion in the implementation of the new policy, with Saxena seeking a CBI probe into it.

According to the cabinet note, while tendering for 849 liquor shops spread across 32 zones was done, about 650 eventually opened. After shops were shut in non-conforming areas following protests by residents as well as the BJP, more licensees pulled out. This was followed by the government curtailing discounts on liquor, which was a key part of the new policy.

According to the cabinet note, nine retail licensees did not extend their licences beyond March this year. Three more conveyed their intent to not avail extension beyond July, the note said. It also said that four out of 14 wholesale licensees have also opted to discontinue their licences.

Talking about the hit to revenue, the note said that successful bidders had quoted a licence fee of Rs 8,911 crore. The revenue realisation for 2021-22 was 6,720 crore. In the first quarter of the current fiscal year, Rs 1,485 crore was realised, 37.51% below the budget estimate of Rs 2,375 crore.

The note also talks about the "blockage" of revenue because

of orders passed by courts. It points to the opening of liquor shops in non-conforming wards and areas, wherein the court granted pro-rata relief on payment of license fee.

"... there has been no corresponding reduction in volume of sales, rather there was an increase in Delhi as a whole. The amount of revenue not realised on account of various court orders up to July 2022 is Rs 1,062 crore and there is a continuing shortfall of Rs 84.8 crore every month due to relief given by the High Court in non-conforming areas," it states.

The revenue decline because of the surrendered licences is around Rs 195 crore per month, the note says.

The fact that only 468 out of a targeted 849 liquor shops are open, the note says, is leading to a large number of unserved areas and windfall gain for the license holders that continue to operate, apart from losses for the government, it states.

Talking about discounts, several shops in Delhi started a 'buy one, get one free' scheme on liquor, the note states, adding that this led to unhealthy market practices, pushing out the smaller retailers who could not afford to match these offers.

EXPLAINED Behind the scenes

LATE SUNDAY, the Delhi government passed the file to grant extension to existing licences till August 31 for the transition to take effect. This awaited the L-G's approval, sources had said. On Monday, officials in the L-G office said he granted permission to private licensees to continue selling liquor for another month, after receiving the government's proposal.

another restaurant, an employee said, "Today the bar is closed. We have not received any directions about serving liquor yet. Maybe we will know more a little later in the evening. But as of now, stock is available with us."

At a mall in Mayur Vihar, which has three liquor shops, all were shut.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had said Saturday that all private shops in the city would be shut and government liquor vends would be brought back. The new policy, which came into force in November last year, had marked the exit of the government from the sale of liquor.

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While this policy was extended at the end of March, the extension came to an end on July 31, Sunday.

This also applies to restaurants, clubs and bars, since their licences also expired alongside retail liquor vends selling IMFL. Implementation challenges because of which licensees had started to exit the market, followed by allegations of corruption, have prompted the Delhi government to bring back the old policy for a period of at least six months.

For now, all private vends in the city will shut after August 31 and government vends will re-open starting September 1.

Supertech demolition: As deadline approaches, explosives to be placed inside towers this week

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NOIDA, AUGUST 1

INITIAL PREPARATIONS for the demolition of the Supertech twin towers in Noida Sector 93A will begin in the first week of August, sources said. According to sources, the process for charging the twin towers which involves placing explosives in the building, will begin within a few days this week.

Edifice Engineering, the company responsible for the demolition, had earlier said it will take place on August 21 at 2.30 pm, officials at Noida Authority said.

Sources had earlier said buildings in the Emerald Court and AT5 Village Apartments, which are in the vicinity of the demolition area, have been inspected and photographed for cracks and other deficiencies.

UBS Teotia, president of

Emerald Court RWA, said they had employed Revathi Raman, a structural engineer, to carry out a structural audit of Emerald Court who recommended certain repairs in the building. "We had engaged a company to carry out a structural audit to assess the impact of the demolition on the building around two-three months ago. As per the report, around 300 columns in the 50-metre area of the blast need repairs. We have already submitted the report to Noida Authority and will be meeting with officials sometime this week," he said.

On July 29, in a Miscellaneous Application filed by Supertech Ltd before the Supreme Court, the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) submitted that it had sought relevant information regarding the blast design, ground vibration, post-demolition debris assessment, test

SC IMPOSES 5 LAKH COST ON PETITIONER

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday imposed "exemplary cost" of Rs 5 lakh on a petitioner for filing a PIL seeking directions not to demolish the Supertech twin towers and instead utilise it for some "national cause". A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Sudhanshu Dhulia asked the petitioner, 'Centre for Law and Good Governance', to deposit the amount with the SC Registry in 4 weeks so it can be transferred to the SC Bar Association to be utilised for the welfare of preferably Covid-19 affected dependents of SCBA members.

blast, vibration monitoring report, dust cloud along with the structural audit report in respect of the nearby buildings.

The apex court in its order issued the following directions: "For this purpose, we permit CBRI to address a comprehensive communication on or before August 1, 2022, to Noida (Authority), with copies to Edifice Engineering and IRP of Supertech, specifically setting out information which is required by the CBRI. The information shall be collated and supplied to CBRI on or before August 5, 2022. Thereafter, Noida shall convene a meeting of representatives of CBRI, Edifice Engineering and IRP of Supertech on August 6, 2022, so as to sort out the matter."

The Supreme Court further observed that CBRI had submitted a proposal on April 24 and that Noida Authority in its status report, has sought a direction to

Supertech to make payment to CBRI which shall be made within 10 days. The matter is next listed on August 12. Noida Authority shall file a status report in the meantime, the apex court said.

In a note shared by the Authority on July 19, Edifice Engineering had submitted a vibration prediction report with it, officials said. The report noted that maximum vibration caused due to the demolition is expected to be 34 mm per second, while structures in zone-5 are designed according to norms of 300 mm per second, and there is no need for a structural audit. The authority said if CBRI recommends a structural audit, Supertech will have to get it done by a reputable consultant immediately.

On May 17, the apex court extended the demolition date, and fixed it on August 21, with a cushion period that ends on August 28.

Force will set new benchmarks: Delhi's new police chief



IPS officer Sanjay Arora Monday took charge as the Delhi Police Commissioner. Prem Nath Pandey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

IPS OFFICER Sanjay Arora Monday took charge as the Delhi Police Commissioner and was welcomed by senior police officers with a guard of honour.

"Today, I took charge as CP, Delhi. The rich legacy of Delhi Police is marked with highest citizen services and sacrifices for ensuring the national capital's safety and security. I am confident that together, we will carry forward this spirit and also set new benchmarks in policing," he tweeted.

In his first message after taking charge, Arora said: "In the last 75 years, Delhi Police has seen many historic events and changes in the country. You have successfully faced all big challenges. Because of their hard

work, Delhi Police has earned the trust and respect of Delhi citizens..."

He stressed that the role of Delhi Police is important because the force has the responsibility of the entire national capital. "Policing faces many challenges nowadays such as terrorism, VVIP protection, cyber security, security for women... The role of Delhi Police is also important because we hold complete responsibility for security of the capital of the country. I am happy that the Delhi Police has successfully carried out the responsibility with their hard work," he said.

"The Delhi Police's sacrifices for their service and for the security of people is an inspiration for all. I believe we will all be successful in maintaining the humility and mobility of Delhi Police," he added.

'Weak' booths identified, BJP begins Lok Sabha poll prep

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE LOK Sabha elections are two years away but the BJP has already started preparations by strengthening booths in the national capital where it received fewer votes than the earlier election. The seven BJP MPs in Delhi have got a list of such booths from the central leadership, which includes details of the booth's name and number, position of the BJP can-

didate, and margin of votes polled as compared to other candidates.

The MPs have been told to deputate persons at these booths to look after them — an initiative the party has termed "booth sashaktikaran abhiyaan" (booth strengthening initiative).

Around 200 booths have been identified for each MP, party sources said. A BJP MP said, "One person has to be deputated at two-three booths; it can be more depending on the organisational capabilities. We are in

the process of picking names."

There are 13,000 booths in Delhi, with around 1,000 voters per booth. The weaker booths are those where the party candidate has come second or third, with the vote count varying between single digits to around 300 as per the list prepared, sources said.

The BJP had not only retained all seven parliamentary seats in Delhi in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, but it also saw winning margins between 5.78 lakh and 2.28 lakh votes. The highest winning mar-

gin of 5,78,486 was registered in the West Delhi Lok Sabha seat, where Parvash Verma won with 8,65,648 votes. He bagged 60.05% of the total votes polled.

A senior BJP leader said that in preparation for the 2024 general election, the party has formed a four-member panel to draw up a strategy to win 73,000 'weak' polling booths across the country where it did not perform well in the previous polls.

The members of the panel are BJP national vice-presidents

Baijayant Jay Panda and Dilip Ghosh, national general secretary C T Ravi and national president of the SC morchha Lal Singh Arya.

"The initiative is part of the strategy drawn up by the committee and is being conveyed to the state unit. The party workers whose names would be given by leaders would be trained to reach out to the voters with the party ideology and development agenda of the BJP government at the Centre and states," said the leader.

ARRESTED FROM GHAZIABAD ON MONDAY

Murder accused to actor in 28 films — ex-Armyman's 3 decades on the run

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, AUGUST 1

OMPRAKASH ALIAS Pasha, who is known to locals as "Bajrang Bali" and "Fauji" in Nai Basti area in Ghaziabad's Harbans Nagar, was busy preparing for a role in an upcoming local film, *Chorra Jaat UP Ka*, when police came knocking at his door and arrested him in the early hours of Monday — for a murder he allegedly committed almost three decades ago. In the past 15 years, police say, he acted in regional, small-time films — including as a constable.

Hailing from Naraina village in Panipat's Samalkha tehsil, Omprakash was once in the

Indian Army and worked in the Signal Corps. According to investigators of the Haryana Special Task Force, he took to petty crime in the mid- and late-80s and stole cars, two-wheelers and a sewing machine. He was arrested and released on bail, and in 1988, dismissed from the Army for being absent from duty after 12 years of service.

On January 15, 1992, Omprakash and his partner were booked for allegedly stabbing to death a motorcyclist during a looting bid in Bhiwani. Investigators said after the murder, Omprakash went off the radar and started a "new life", doing odd jobs including acting in regional and Bhojpuri films in



A still from a film where accused Omprakash alias Pasha (extreme left) plays a cop

Uttar Pradesh. Police officers said he has so far acted in 28 films. Some of the film titles featuring him are *Takrav*, *Dabang Chhota UP Ka*, *Jhatka*, *Ma Baap ki Bhul*, and *Paanach Kuwarian*, said police. "He was preparing for a dance

sequence for an upcoming film, which is inspired by a Dev Anand song sequence," said a police officer, requesting anonymity.

Officers said after allegedly committing the murder in 1992, Omprakash ran off to Tamil



Nadu to hide and took shelter at temples for a year. After over 18 months, he went to Ghaziabad and started driving trucks and kept a low profile as he delivered luggage and stock across states. Soon after, he got married for a

second time and in 1997, he purchased a 60 square yard plot in Harbans Nagar. "Since the murder, he cut off all association with his family back in Panipat. He left his first wife with whom he had a daughter and did not visit his village, fearing arrest. He left the world of crime and got busy in domestic matters, raising two daughters and a son. He did odd jobs, including daily wage work. He drove tempos and trucks for at least seven years," said an officer.

According to his crime record, he has five cases — four of theft and one of murder — registered against him in Haryana and two cases in Rajasthan. "In 1986, he stole a car in Sonapat. In 1990, he was booked for stealing a motor-

cycle and a sewing machine in separate cases in Panipat. The same year, he stole a Chetak scooter in Kharkhoda, Sonapat," said DSP Deepak Kumar.

In 2000, with the help of an acquaintance, he got a small role as a sidekick in a regional film in UP. "Over the last 15 years, he claims to have acted in 28 films in UP. He played the role of a head constable in a film and of a village chieftain in *Takrav*. For a week's shoot, he was paid Rs 5,000-5,500, depending on the role and budget," said a police officer.

Prakash finally came on the radar of investigators of the STF last month when police began probing a list of wanted criminals, who had been absconding.

On the directions of senior STF officers SP Jaibir Singh Rathi and DSP Deepak Kumar, a special team led by SI Ram Niwas and SI Vivek Kumar was formed to track him down. "There was a reward of Rs 25,000 from Haryana police for information leading to his arrest. In the last three decades, Omprakash had maintained very limited contact with his family in Samalkha. His second wife and children were not aware of his criminal record. We received a tip-off a fortnight ago regarding his whereabouts in Ghaziabad, following which we started tracking his movements and, finally, we arrested him from his house today," said SI Vivek Kumar.

CUET FIRST PHASE
NTA allows retest for 19 candidates who missed exam due to venue change

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE NATIONAL Testing Agency (NTA) has allowed 19 candidates who missed the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) in July due to last-minute changes in examination centres to sit for a retest.

NTA officials said the retest will be held during the second phase of the CUET-UG, which starts on August 4.

The testing agency had formed a three-member panel to look into, on a case-to-case basis, requests by at least 31 candidates who said they had missed their exams due to the venue change. Headed by a retired IIT-Delhi professor, the panel also comprised a Delhi University (DU) professor and a school teacher.

Of the 19 candidates allowed to take a retest, 17 had initially been allotted Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), Delhi, as the exam centre, which was changed to DU's north campus on July 14, just a day before the exam started.

The NTA accepted the panel's recommendations on allowing the retest following consultations with the UGC, which had earlier opposed it. UGC chairperson Prof M Jagadeesh Kumar had made the commission's position against any retest clear on July 15 itself.

Meanwhile on Monday, the NTA started releasing the admit cards of candidates who are scheduled to take the entrance on August 4, 5 and 6, as part of the second phase. The admit cards of those appearing on August 7, 8, 10 and 20 will be released later.

Prof Kumar said every effort is being made to provide the candidates with their first choice of city.

Bengal to get 7 new dists, total now 30

ATRIMITRA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 1

THE WEST Bengal Cabinet on Monday approved the setting up of seven new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to 30, up from the existing 23.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, the Chief Minister said the seven districts will be carved out of five existing districts -- Murshidabad, Nadia, South and North 24 Parganas, and Bankura.

A new Sundarban district will be carved out of both South and North 24 Parganas districts; two new districts, Ichhamati in Bongaon subdivision and a yet unnamed district in Basirhat, will be created out of North 24 Parganas district; Ranaghat, a city and municipality in Nadia district, will become the fourth new district; a new district of Bishnupur will be carved out of the existing Bankura district; and two new districts of Baharampur and Kandi will be created out of Murshidabad district.

Sources in the state administration said the new districts were created to streamline administrative operations. "It is purely an administrative decision. The Chief Minister wanted to decentralise the system and that is why she went in for smaller districts. Earlier, the government had carved out Kalimping from Darjeeling, Jhargram from West Midnapore and split Burdwan into East and West districts."

Dismissing reports of a possible dissolution of the state Cabinet, CM Banerjee said she would carry out a reshuffle and fill in key vacancies. She added that the new ministers -- four to five of them -- would take oath Wednesday evening.

"Subrata Mukherjee and Sadhan Pandey are no more. Partha da (Partha Chatterjee) is in jail. They had held important departments like panchayat, industry, consumer affairs and many more. I cannot take any more pressure. So I have to get some new faces in the Cabinet. Some leaders will be sent to the party-organisation too."

Sources also said the revamped Cabinet will have TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's imprint, and will have young faces. Babul Supriyo, Partha Bhowmick, Udayan Guha, Snehasish Chakraborty are among the young faces who may be included in the Cabinet.

EXPLAINED

Numbers going up

THE NUMBER of districts around the country has gone up over the years. The 2001 Census recorded 593 districts, which went up to 640 in 2011. At present, India has more than 775 districts. Uttar Pradesh has the most number of districts (75), followed by Madhya Pradesh (52). Goa, by contrast, has only two districts. However, the number of districts in a state is not always a function of the area of a state, or of its population. West Bengal, for example, has 42 Lok Sabha constituencies but only 30 districts even after the addition of the seven new ones.

They had held important departments like panchayat, industry, consumer affairs and many more. I cannot take any more pressure. So I have to get some new faces in the Cabinet. Some leaders will be sent to the party-organisation too."

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TMC announces major reshuffle in party structure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 1

THE TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) on Monday announced major organisational reshuffle in the party, appointing several new office-bearers at the district level.

Most district presidents and chairpersons have been replaced, according to a list issued by the party leadership.

The reshuffle has taken place at a time when senior party leader Partha Chatterjee was arrested in connection with an alleged school staff recruitment scam. The party, however, claimed that the change had nothing to do with the former minister's arrest.

A senior TMC leader said, "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had already announced in May that the organisational overhaul will be executed in June or July. The reshuffle has been effected to synchronise the state cabinet and the party organisation. Some of those who have been relieved from the posts of district presidents may get a place in the council of ministers."

According to a party release, MP Kakali Ghosh Dastidar is the new president of the Barasat organisational district, replacing Ashani Mukhopadhyay, the Barasat Municipality chairman who is considered close to Partha Chatterjee. Shaoni Singha Roy, a former Congress MLA, is the new president of the Murshidabad and Baharampur organisational districts. Khalilur Rahman has been retained as president of Jangipur organisational district. Controversial Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal has been retained.

Koshyari apologises for remarks on Gujaratis, Rajasthanis

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

DAYS AFTER his statement on Mumbai losing its financial capital status if Gujarati and Rajasthani people left the city, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari issued an apology on Monday. He said he couldn't even imagine that his unintentional mistake would be considered as an insult to Maharashtra.

At a function in Mumbai last Friday, Koshyari said, "Sometimes, I tell people in Maharashtra that if Gujarati and Rajasthani people are removed from here, then you will be left with no money. You call Mumbai the financial capital but if these (Gujarati and Rajasthani) people are not here, then it won't be called the financial capital."

The Opposition was quick to demand Koshyari's apology, and even his ouster, while the latter said the next day that his statement was misconstrued.

His statement on Monday said, "I may have committed a mistake while speaking at a public function in Andheri on July 29, where I was talking about the contribution of a few communities in the development of Mumbai. All have contributed to the development of not only Maharashtra but the entire country. Our country is on the path of development especially because of the concerned state's inclusivity and traditions of taking everyone along."

He said that he received tremendous love from people of the state and he tried his best to add to the pride of Maharashtra and Marathi language.



INDIA RANKINGS 2022

ENGINEERING

THE TOP 5 ENGINEERING INSTITUTIONS IN DELHI NCR WITH THE HIGHEST RANKS ARE:

UNIVERSITY/ INSTITUTE	ALL INDIA RANK (#)
1. IIT DELHI	#2
2. AMITY UNIVERSITY	#25
3. JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA	#26
4. DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIV.	#35
5. IIIT	#69

'Faceless militancy' biggest security challenge in J&K: DGP

NAVEEDIQBAL
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1

HIGHLIGHTING A "strategic shift" in Jammu and Kashmir, J&K Police DGP Dilbag Singh said that a "faceless militancy", in which militants have no past record, is now the biggest security challenge in the Valley.

With August 6 marking three years since the revocation of special status to J&K, Singh told The Indian Express that the new modus operandi of militants' handlers is "they immediately ask them (recruits) to commit an act of terror violence -- throw a grenade, fire at somebody or kill someone".

"Once they are involved, it becomes a way of preventing their return to society," he said. Singh attributed this shift to the senior militant leadership having been neutralised and not available for planning, identifying targets and executing attacks. The militant outfits "have started re-activating old connections", said Singh, who has been DGP of J&K since October 2018.

The top police officer also underscored that in most of the recent killings in J&K, especially



DGP Dilbag Singh

through targeted attacks on the migrant population and police personnel, the suspect has no past history -- and is mostly "only a social media sort of follower, looking at some propaganda, being motivated by these things on the Internet".

The challenge in such cases, he said, was that "you cannot check their identities against any database".

According to police records, at least 80 individuals were identified as new recruits this year of whom 60 per cent have been eliminated.

"What have they achieved in the process? Other than their own death and the grief they have brought to their families. Therefore, that is the only worrying factor... social institutions, families, religious and political leaders -- it is their responsibility to advise young people not to get swayed by such machinations or Pakistani media propaganda," Singh said.

Since January 2019, at least

690 militants have been killed across J&K. During the same period, records show, 149 security personnel and 57 J&K Police personnel lost their lives. At present, police records list at least 129 active militants in the region.

The DGP also expressed concern over the lower age of militant recruits. "Recruitment is being seen among school dropouts... sometimes in their teens. It has shifted to a younger demographic. Earlier, they would be 25 or 27 or 30. Now it is 16 or 17 even. This is unfortunate," he said.

Singh also said that the decision not to return the bodies of militants killed in encounters to their families, thereby preventing large funerals, has been "effective" in checking recruitment. He said that "social media alone is a big factor" in the current phase of militancy in the valley.

"Earlier a young terrorist would become an iconic figure in his area. People would follow and try to emulate him. There is hardly any leader of that kind or vintage today," Singh said adding that at least 29 militant commanders from various terror organisations were killed in the Valley this year.

Before Debts Recovery Tribunal-III, Delhi
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110001

Notice under section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993

in the matter of OA No. 994/2017
BANK OF BARODA

Applicant
MR. GAUTAM MISHRA & ORS.
Defendants

To
D-3 M/s Subhkamna Buidtech Pvt. Ltd., Plot No. GH-05/B, Sector-137, Expressway, Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Also at: A-80, Sector-2, Noida-201301

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 04-10-2022 at 10.30 A.M.

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

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

- All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application / software;
 - Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing case to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I/and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.
 - In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748469
- Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 25th day of July, 2022 by order of the Tribunal, DRT-III, Delhi

ICAR- CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON CATTLE
Governing Body: Meera Chand, 200011 Gurgaon, Haryana
Phone : 0121-260133 (A.C.) 260134 (Fax)
EPABX : 0121-260508 (241) and 260501 (241)
Website: <http://www.icar.gov.in>

WALK IN INTERVIEW FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONAL (YP-II)
Online/Offline Walk in interview for one position of YOUNG PROFESSIONAL (YP-II) under ITMU will be held on 22-08-2022 at 11:00 a.m. at ICAR-CIRC, Meerut (UP). Details for the interview can be seen in the website <http://www.circ.icar.gov.in>.

Assistant Administrative Officer

IN REMEMBRANCE

Corps of Signals salutes its following Signallers who left us for their heavenly abode during the month of July 2022.

(a) 15711805W Lance Havildar Pawan Kumar
(b) 15717399X Naik Rajneesh Thakur
(c) 15703163X Local Havildar Jayamurugan C

On behalf of the Corps, we sincerely pray to Almighty for peace to the departed souls & strength to the bereaved families to bear this irreparable loss.

PUBLIC NOTICE

FORM NO. INC-26
(Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)

Advertisement to be published in newspaper for change of registered office of the company from one state to another

BEFORE THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN REGION, NEW DELHI
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13 of Companies Act, 2013 and Clause (a) of sub-rule (5) of Rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 AND

In the matter of Innovation Healthcare Private Limited (CIN:U74999UP2011PTC109144) ('Applicant Company') having its registered office at 324, 3RD Floor, Angel Mega Mall Plot No CK-1, Kaushambhi, Ghazabad - 201010, Uttar Pradesh

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Company proposes to make application to the Regional Director, Northern Region, New Delhi under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 18th day of July, 2022 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of Uttar Pradesh" (ROC Kanpur) to "State of Karnataka (ROC Bangalore)".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or affidavit to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director at the address B-2 wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi - 110003, within fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company with a copy of the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below.

For and on behalf of
Innovation Healthcare Private Limited
Sd/-
Ghaziabad - 201010
Date: 02-08-2022, Place: Uttar Pradesh
Ashvini Suthar (Director)
DIN: 05132549

Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology for Handicapped, Kanpur (UP) -208024
(Autonomous Institute Establishment in 1997 by U.P. Govt.)

WALK IN INTERVIEW

Application are invited for Guest Faculty positions in various Departments of B.Tech /Diploma Program for academic session 2022-23, for more details visit our institute website www.aith.ac.in

Asstt. Rgstrar

ONGC
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

MEHSANA ASSET

Engagement of retired ONGC executives as consultants in Instrumentation discipline for Well Services, ONGC Mehsana

ONGC, Mehsana Asset seeks application from eligible retired ONGC executives (less than 65 years of age on 02.08.2022) for engagement as Junior consultants Instrumentation for a period of two years for posting in Well Services, ONGC Mehsana Asset.

Interested retired ONGC executive of Instrumentation/Electronics/ Electronics and Telecommunication discipline (E1 to E3 level) with at least 05 years of inline experience in maintenance of Work-over/Drilling/ Process Plant/Process platform in ONGC may apply.

Last date of application is 17.08.2022 up to 23:59 hrs.

For detailed advertisement and application form may please visit ongcindia.com; reports.ongc.co.in; bandhan.ongc.co.in.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WIND ENERGY
(Under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India)
Velachery - Tambaram Main Road, Palikarai, Chennai - 600 100.

INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE), Chennai is an autonomous Research and Development Institution of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India. MNRE has sanctioned a project, "VAYUMITRA SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (VSDP) - Phase-II" to NIWE for training 5010 participants under the three qualification packs approved by MSDE, namely, O&M Mechanical Technician (1830); O&M Electrical Technician (1830) and Site Surveyor (1350) through the selected Training Partners from nine Windy States. To select the Training Partners for imparting training under VSDP, Expression of Interest is invited from the institutions / wind energy industries. The detailed information is made available in NIWE website, <https://niwe.res.in>. The last date for submission of EOI is: 24-08-2022.

Additional Director (F&A)

Jaishankar meets visiting Maldives President: Neighbourhood first

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met the visiting President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and said India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the Maldives 'India First' policy are "complementary" and the two policies take the special partnership forward.

Solih arrived in New Delhi on Monday, and he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

Solih's visit to India from August 1 to 4 comes amid his widening political rift with Mohammed Nasheed, former President of the island nation and the current parliament speaker. Both Solih and Nasheed are senior leaders of the Maldivian Democratic Party.

Earlier, the president, accompanied by a high-level delega-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in New Delhi. PTI

tion, was welcomed at the Delhi airport by Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan. Solih is also scheduled to meet President Droupadi Murmu.

"A warm welcome to a close friend and maritime neighbour! President @ibusolih of Maldives arrives in New Delhi for an official visit," External Affairs Ministry

spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Twitter.

"An opportunity to nurture the unwavering friendship between our two countries and lend further momentum to the multi-faceted partnership," he added.

President Solih will also visit Mumbai to participate in business events.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA
STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB)
2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna - 800 001

Publication of Notice regarding Possession of Property u/s 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act 2002

Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, a demand notice was issued on the dates mentioned against each account and stated hereinafter calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said act on the dates mentioned against each account.

The Borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the State Bank of India for an amount and interest thereon. The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name of Account/ Borrower & Address	Name of Proprietor/ Partners /Guarantors/ Owner of Property etc.	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession	Amount Outstanding
1. M/s Jai Mata Dee Stores, Add.: New Area, Opp. Prakash Petrol, Old GT Road, Sasaram, Distt.- Rohtas, Bihar	Proprietor/ Mortgageor: Shri Manoj Kumar Singh S/o Shri Ram Vilash Singh & Guarantor, Smt. Manju Devi W/o Shri Manoj Kumar Singh	16.05.2022	30.07.2022	Rs 43,65,155.00 (Rupees Forty Three Lac Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Fifty Five Only) as on 16/05/2022 plus accrued interest, Charges, other miscellaneous expenses etc. thereafter.

Description of the Immovable property: Land & building in the name of Shri Manoj Kumar Singh alias Manoj Singh S/o Shri Ram Vilash Singh vide Sale Deed No. - 5191 dated 25/04/2012 located at Mouza-Dhanpurwa, Mohalla - New Area, Thana - Sasaram, Thana No. - 137, Nagar Palika - Sasaram, Ward No. - 6A(Old)/34/27(New), Holding No. - 429(Old)/494(New), District- Rohtas, Bihar corresponding to S Khata No. - 162/MS Khata- No.- 6, S Plot No. - 830 & 836/MS Plot No. - 137, 138, 195, Area- 1629 Sq. Ft. Bounded by North- Gali 5 feet Kachchi, South- Gali Nala 5 feet Kachchi Niji, East- Vijay Kumar Singh & West- Ajay Kumar Taitler.

Date : 30.07.2022
Place : Sasaram (Rohtas)

Authorized Officer
State Bank of India SARB, Patna

PUBLIC NOTICE

Name of the Company - STAR CEMENT LIMITED CENTURY HOUSE P15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata West Bengal, Pincode - 700 088. Notice is hereby given that the share certificate no. 570 with distinctive no.(s) 420153472 to 420155466 for 1995 shares in respect of Folio No. 000623, registered in the name of Sukhlal Nakrani and Share Certificate No. 290 with distinctive no.(s) 419583384 to 419585378 for 1995 shares in respect of Folio No. 000343, registered in the name of Jaya Nakrani is/are reported to be lost and the company has received application for issue of duplicate Share Certificate(s). If no objection from any interested person is received by the Company Registrars Maheshwari Datamatics Pvt Ltd., 23, R. N. Mukherjee Road, 5th floor, Kolkata - 700 001 within 15 days from the publication hereof the company will proceed to issue duplicate Share Certificate(s) to the applicant(s). Dated: 02/08/2022

Name of the Company - SHYAM CENTURY FERROUS LIMITED CENTURY HOUSE, P15/1, Taratala Road, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pincode - 700 088. Notice is hereby given that the Share Certificate No. 623 with distinctive no.(s) 852580 to 854079 for 1500 shares in respect of Folio No. 000623, registered in the name of Sukhlal Nakrani and Share Certificate No. 313 with distinctive no.(s) 348854 to 350353 for 1500 shares in respect of Folio No. 000313, registered in the name of Jaya Nakrani is/are reported to be lost and the company has received application for issue of duplicate Share Certificate(s). If no objection from any interested person is received by the Company Registrars Maheshwari Datamatics Pvt Ltd., 23, R. N. Mukherjee Road, 5th floor, Kolkata - 700001 within 15 days from the publication hereof the company will proceed to issue duplicate share Certificate(s) to the applicant(s). Dated: 02/08/2022

6 IN PARLIAMENT

MONSOON SESSION

FROM THE GALLERY

5 QUESTIONS



DMK RAJYA SABHA MP, P. WILSON, LAST WEEK DEMANDED THAT CASTE CENSUS BE MOVED

FROM UNION LIST TO CONCURRENT LIST. HE SPOKE TO ESHA ROY.

What is the issue with caste census?

As of now caste-based reservation is based on the caste census carried out in 1931. It is on the basis of this census that 27% reservation for OBCs has been provided. Even the Mandal Commission report was based on this. The Centre carried out another caste census between 2011 and 2015 but its report has been kept in cold storage. In 2015, the Centre referred it to Niti Aayog but there has been no movement on it ever since.

What powers do states have right now vis a vis caste?

We can notify Socially and Economically backward classes. We can also announce internal reservation – for instance Tamil Nadu gives 69% reservation... But even if we provide such high reservation, the fact is it is not based on a head count.

Why do states need the power to carry out caste census?

When we provide reservation, it needs to be done scientifically to ensure adequate representation. Second, courts usually strike down reservation by states saying there is no empirical data. What is this empirical data? It is a census.

Has the present system of reservation been successful?

Even with the inadequate reservation currently, which is not commensurate with the caste population, there are vacancies in reserved seats, depriving the majority of these communities of opportunities and livelihood.

What is the recourse for states?

To approach courts.

IIT Delhi in talks to set up campus in UAE: Govt in Lok Sabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

ON CENTRE'S request to consider setting up a campus in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), IIT Delhi has held two rounds of meetings with the Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi, the Ministry of Education informed the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The development comes at a time when IIT Madras, among others, is considering requests from many countries, including Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Tanzania, as part of its expansion plans under a framework developed by a committee chaired by former ISRO chairperson Dr K Radhakrishnan.

While the decision to establish an Indian

Institute of Technology in the UAE was announced in the vision statement issued jointly by the two countries in February itself, the government chose IIT Delhi, which had earlier expressed interest in having campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, to execute the proposal.

"As per the joint India-UAE vision statement issued on February 18, 2022, after a virtual summit between the leaders of the two countries...the leaders agreed to establish an Indian Institute of Technology in the United Arab Emirates".

"As a follow up to this, the government has requested the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to explore the possibility of establishing a campus in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). IIT Delhi requested the Indian ambassador to the UAE to identify and



IIT Delhi had earlier expressed interest in setting up campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. File

arrange a meeting with the relevant UAE authorities," according to the answer issued by the Ministry of Education in response to a

question raised by Congress MP MK Raghavan.

In his question, Raghavan, who represents Kerala's Kozhikode constituency in the Lower House, sought to know whether the government has proposed to set up IITs in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries.

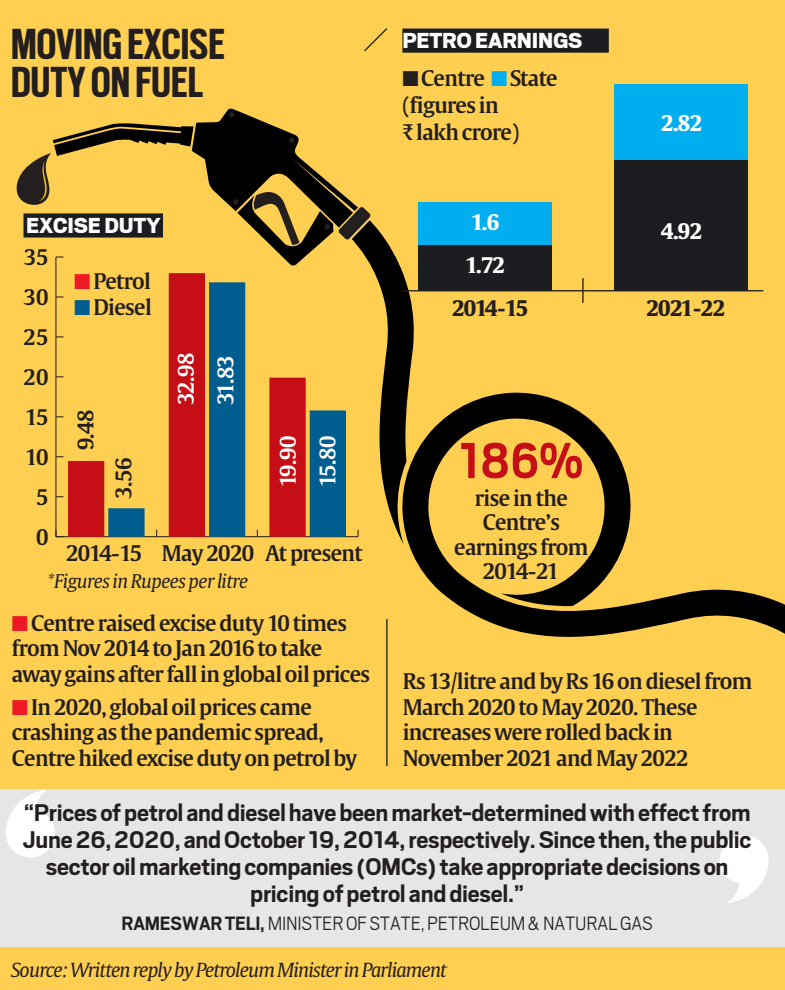
According to further details shared by the Education Ministry, based on IIT Delhi's request, the Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi, or ADEK, was identified as the relevant authority in this regard. Subsequently, two meetings were held.

"In the first ADEK-IITD meeting, both sides made presentations about their respective organisations and conveyed their eagerness and enthusiasm to move forward with this project. In the second ADEK-IITD meeting, ADEK invited representatives from the Department of

Economic Development and from the Advanced Technology Research Council who made presentations on the economic vision and the research priorities of Abu Dhabi, respectively," the statement added.

IIT Delhi, rated India's second best engineering college after IIT Madras in the government's National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), also made a presentation on the model under which new IITs are mentored by the older IITs. IIT Delhi mentors IIT Ropar and IIT Jammu.

In 2021, IIT Delhi had in a proposal to the government expressed its willingness to set up campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. The proposal states that the overseas campuses will offer four-year UG courses with an annual intake of up to 240 students in four branches based on SAT scores.



DEBATE ON PRICE RISE

Opp: Rich-poor divide widened, household budgets in disarray

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE INDIAN economy was on a decline even before the Covid pandemic came in as the government had failed in all five fundamentals of economy – savings, investment, production, consumption and employment, the Congress said on Monday as the Lok Sabha discussed price rise in a heated debate.

Starting the discussion, Congress leader Manish Tewari charged at the government for the rise in prices of essentials, saying the BJP government has “widened the inequality between the rich and the poor and has failed to provide jobs to the people”.

“The government may have balanced its own budget, but it has thrown the budget of 25-crore households out of gear with its policies; every homemaker is in tears,” he said.

Tewari claimed that during the NDA rule, more people are back to being poor. “During the UPA regime, 27 crore people were brought above the poverty line. But then under this government, as many as 23-crore people are once again below the poverty line as defined by the Anoop Satpathy committee; earning less than Rs 375 per day,” he said.

Tewari claimed that under the Modi government, 92 of the richest people in India has wealth equivalent to that of 55-crore Indians put together. “There can’t be bigger inequality than this in our country,” he said.

Tewari said the tell-tale indicator of lack of jobs is the growing number of MGNREGA workers. “The number of people engaged through MGNREGA is the highest ever now. Eight years ago, the government had called this programme ‘gadde khodne ki scheme’ (scheme for digging holes) but thanks to this scheme...today crores of families are able to earn a living. I demand that the government take back its words,” he said.

Tewari attacked the government for increasing the GST on flour, curd, paneer, pencil



Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhury speaks in Lok Sabha on Monday. UNI

and sharper. “You did not spare even children,” he said, adding that he was saddened to see 18 per cent GST on crematoriums.

Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Choudhury said the PM says the culture of freebies (revdi culture) should end. “What is the distinction between revdi culture and other culture,” he asked.

Trinamool Congress's Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar said the government's policies had left people without money to buy even LPG cylinder. She said the government was forcing people to eat vegetables uncooked. “This is what you are forcing people to do,” she said, while mimicking eating a raw brinjal.

Biju Janata Dal's Pinaki Mishra tore into the government's defence against the criticism on high fuel prices. “Of the Rs 27-lakh crore collected by the government since 2014, only 3.4 per cent has gone to service oil bonds. So, don't tell us that oil prices are rising to service oil bonds...they are going up because you have to balance your budget,” he said.

BJP member Jaskaur Meena said eight years of Modi government have been for the welfare of the poor.

Jayadev Galla of the TDP wanted to know the measures taken by the government and the RBI to control inflation. CPI member AM Ariff also raised the issue of GST on food items, while taking exception to 5 per cent GST on rice and its products.

BJP leader and former MoS for Finance Jayant Sinha said the inflation is higher in the US and Europe as compared to India, which is the result of measures taken by the Modi government. “There is no ‘mehngai’ (inflation). The Opposition has been looking for it but is unable to find it,” he said.

Hasnain Masoodi of the National Conference, Harsimrat Kaur Badal (SAD), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM), Hanuman Beniwal (RLP), ET Mohammed Basheer (IUML), ST Hasan (Samajwadi Party) and NK Premachandran (RSP) were among those who took part in the debate.

INDIAN ANTARCTIC BILL ALSO PASSED

WMD Bill passed by voice vote in RS; Opp says request for division ignored

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE WEAPONS of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022, was passed in Rajya Sabha on Monday amid sloganeering by Opposition MPs to protest the arrest of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut.

The Bill, introduced by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and gives the Centre the power to freeze, seize or attach financial assets of persons involved in such activities.

The Bill, passed by Lok Sabha in the previous session, was passed by a voice vote in the Upper House, a move challenged by several Opposition MPs, who alleged that it had been passed even as the House remained disrupted.

Later in the afternoon, the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, which seeks to extend domestic laws to Indian research stations in Antarctica and introduces a permit system for expeditions to Antarctica, was also passed through voice vote.

On the “unanimous support” for WMD Bill, Jaishankar said, “All members have recognised that terrorism is a serious threat,



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Rajya Sabha Monday. PTI

that weapons of mass destruction are a serious threat, that there is a gap in the law. Currently, the law covers only trading; it does not cover financing. This gap needs to be filled because Recommendation 7 of the Financial Action Task Force requires all countries, including us, to ensure that financing for WMD-related activities is prohibited.”

“Keeping in mind the lacunae of the current law, we have brought this amendment,” he said.

Earlier, Opposition protests started with the commencement of the House at 2 pm,

with TMC's Derek O'Brien raising a point of order. “In the last six years, not even one issue under Rule 267 that the Opposition raised has been accepted. Not even one. Today, we are raising (one) on ED. Today, we are raising the issue of our colleague, Sanjay Raut,” O'Brien said.

Opposition MPs accused BJP's Bhubaneswar Kalita, who was in the Chair, of not admitting any of their requests when he refused other points of order raised by Opposition members.

CPI's Elamaram Kareem and DMK's Tiruchi Siva challenged the Chair for not allowing a division when the WMD Bill was passed. Kalita said he “could not hear” the request amid the din of slogans.

“I repeatedly asked for division,” Kareem said. “When I was asking for division, how could you pass the Bill?”

Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge said while the Chair could allow passing of a Bill when the House was not in order, it refused to admit points of order under similar circumstances.

Hitting back, Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said, “The Leader of Opposition is casting aspersions on the Chair...None of our members was responsible for disorder. Members of the Opposition are creating disorder and then raising a point of order...”

Journey of Opp placards: Social media to Khan Market to Parliament

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AMONG THE many tasks that Manickam Tagore has is sifting through creatives that the Congress's social media team uploads on its various handles. The Congress whip in the Lok Sabha also scans through interesting posts he receives from his friends, among them those from the Left. He then identifies the interesting ones and sends them to his aide.

These are modified and made into placards – the display of which has become the bone of contention between Opposition members and the Chair during this session and led to the suspension of four Congress MPs, including Tagore, in the Lok Sabha and 23 Opposition members in the Rajya Sabha. While the Congress MPs were initially suspended for the remainder of the Monsoon session, the Rajya Sabha members were suspended till the end of last week.

Speaker Om Birla revoked the suspension of the Lok Sabha MPs – Tagore, Ramya Haridas, TN Prathapan and S Jothimani – on Monday after seeking assurance from the

Opposition that it will not bring placards or other exhibits into the House. Tagore told The Indian Express that the Opposition members were forced to display placards as Sansad TV did not telecast their protests.

In the Congress, Tagore is in charge of getting the placards made for members of the Lok Sabha and his counterpart Syed Nasir Hussain does the same in the Rajya Sabha. “We go through the creatives put out by the Congress social media team. Sometimes, slight modifications are made. For instance, if a picture of a gas cylinder is to be put... we ask the designers to add that,” Tagore said.

He added, “So the creatives on many issues – be it on price rise, Agnipath scheme, misuse of investigative agencies – are ready with us. We have the designs ready on issues like unemployment and all. We will get them printed when we next stage a demonstration on an issue.”

Tagore's personal assistant gets the creatives printed from a shop in Khan Market. “Generally, the whip does the work of coordination. So, as the whip in the Rajya Sabha, the placards, banners, protests, venues are coordinated by me in the Upper House,” said Hussain. The task of distributing the placards to



BJP MPs from West Bengal protest against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her government, at the Parliament House on Monday. Praveen Khanna

Opposition members is not theirs. Tagore leaves the placards at the Congress parliamentary party office. Ramya Haridas and her Lok Sabha colleague Vijay Vasanth distribute the placards to Opposition MPs and collect them back for the following day. “Before me, the late Rajeev Satav used to do this. Now, it is my responsibility,” Tagore said.

“Many things I have picked from the Left groups too. You might have seen some placards in complete red. Those must have come from the Left circles. We then make small changes, like cutting out the names... like CPM or SFI,” he said.

The Congress provides placards to all Opposition parties except the Trinamool Congress (TMC). For West Bengal's ruling party, its Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien is in charge of placards. The TMC's posters – white letters on a black background – are slogan-driven unlike the slightly colourful ones of the Congress.

Slogan drafting is a collective effort, according to a party functionary. “We prepare the slogans a day before. We sift through the draft slogans and then we modify and finalise the slogans. Then we translate them into Hindi and Bangla. We assign one member each from

the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha to bring the placards to Parliament,” said a TMC MP.

So where do they get the placards printed? O'Brien told The Indian Express, “Ninety per cent of the printers, unlike two to three years ago, do not want to print these political placards. So, we must not let you know. Let it remain a political secret.”

The TMC does not throw away the placards even if an issue is over. The posters are kept at its Parliament office. The TMC also does not print the party's name on the placards so that MPs from other parties can use them.

Interestingly, DMK members are keen on being given placards in Tamil but the Congress still sticks to Hindi and English as otherwise, MPs from other states may ask for posters in their language.

“We have no option but to display placards because Sansad TV does not show our protests. The world doesn't show why we are protesting. When we protest, our leader is not given an opportunity to speak for two minutes. So, how do we show the world why we are protesting? We will not go to the Well or show placards if the camera pans towards us,” said Tagore.

7 GOVT & POLITICS



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



FRENCH CONNECTION

DURING MONDAY'S discussion on price rise in the Lok Sabha, as Trinamool Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar rose to speak, her party colleague Mahua Moitra shifted her bag kept on the seat to the floor. The act did not escape the eye of the BJP, with party spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla claiming that "Marie Antoinette Mahua Moitra was hiding her expensive bag". Half an hour after Poonawalla's tweet, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi also invoked name of Antoinette, queen of France in 18th century, to make a point. "At a time of back-breaking inflation and record price rise, such speeches are vulgar and the epitome of Marie Antoinette 'let them eat cake'," Gogoi posted, criticising Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's response to the debate in the House.

BREAKING ICE, WARMLY

ON MONDAY afternoon, the Lok Sabha was back in business after the suspension of four Congress MPs was revoked. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was staying away from Parliament due to Covid, extended a courtesy gesture to the Opposition benches, seemingly to break the ice. Wearing a face mask, Sitharaman chatted briefly with Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, TMC's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and Mithun Reddy of the YSRCP. Telangana Rashtira Samiti member Nama Nageswara Rao also joined them. The Finance Minister greeted everyone warmly before taking her seat.

MAIDEN MISTAKE

It was YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Niranjan Reddy Sirgapor's maiden speech in Parliament on Monday where he talked of the merits of the Indian Antarctic Bill-2022. While supporting the Bill, the new MP had several recommendations for Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh. Sirgapor got so taken up with making his points to the Union minister that he addressed most of his speech to Singh. Bhubaneswar Kalita of the BJD, who was in the Chair, had to remind Sirgapor that he needed to address the Chair and not the minister who had moved the Bill.



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren

BJP's nefarious designs to topple my govt have failed, says Soren

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 1

STATING THAT "the BJP can't survive without power like a fish can't without water", Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Monday said that the saffron party's "nefarious intentions" to topple his government have failed. He was referring to the arrest of three Congress MLAs with Rs 50 lakh cash in West Bengal on Saturday.

"We saw another example of BJP's hunger for power...and dirty politics. This is a big attack on our country's democracy. Nor was I unsettled by their acts earlier, neither I am today," Soren said while addressing the media on Monday.

All three legislators Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kacchap, and Naman Bixal Kongeri are in police custody. A complaint against them was also lodged in Ranchi by a Congress MLA, Kumar Jaimangal, who claimed that the [the arrested MLAs] allegedly promised him that they will also make him meet Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Ranchi police registered a zero FIR against the three MLAs on charges of cheating, criminal conspiracy and sedition, and under the Prevention of Corruption Act, and Representation of the People Act.

"The examples of the non-BJP ruled states are in front of you. Since the day the government has been formed here...we hear every 24 hours that the government is falling...If you see their statements, their Twitter accounts, Facebook posts, you will know the conspiracy very very clearly," Soren said.

ED calls him 'direct beneficiary' of Rs 1 cr, gets Raut's custody

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

SEEKING SHIV Sena MP Sanjay Raut's custody, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday claimed that the leader and his family were 'direct beneficiaries' of around Rs 1.06 crore linked to redevelopment of a chawl project in a northern suburb of Mumbai.

The special court later sent Raut, who was arrested early on Monday morning, to the ED custody till August 4. The case relates to Patra Chawl where it is claimed that instead of providing houses for displaced residents, directors of HDIL and others cheated them.

It is alleged that Rs 1,039.70 crore were received in the accounts of HDIL and Guru Ashish Constructions, of which Rs 112 crore were received by co-accused Pravin Raut, who, the agency alleged, is Raut's "frontman". "Being the frontman...he (Pravin) utilised his proximity with Raut for obtaining the approval from MHADA and other advantages best known to them," the ED re-



Former Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray meets the family of party MP Sanjay Raut (above), in Mumbai on Monday.

mand plea said. The ED claimed that in his July 1 statement, Raut had denied knowledge of Pravin's involvement in the project, stating that they came in contact in 2012-13 through their wives. The agency claimed that Raut failed to give a valid explanation for the amounts received in his bank accounts. Pravin was the director of Guru Ashish between 2007-13.

The ED claimed that Pravin's wife was a housewife and Raut's wife when they set up Avanti Infrastructure. Raut's wife Varsha had received Rs 13.95 lakh for investment of Rs 5,625 in Avanti Infrastructure, the ED alleged.

"These companies were set up by Sanjay Raut and Pravin Raut to route the proceeds of crime generated from Patra Chawl project to

project it as untainted," the ED claimed. Raut's lawyer Ashok Mundargi said the case was one of a "political vendetta". "This is being raked up because of change in atmosphere is all I will say," he said.

Special judge MG Deshpande said, "Considering the compass of inquiry and volume of matter, I strongly feel that custodial interrogation is necessary..."

PATRA CHAWL: 672 TENANTS FIGHT TO RECLAIM PROPERTY

Case revives 'dream home' hope of ex-residents

VALLABH OZARKAR
MUMBAI, AUGUST 1

GOREGAON RESIDENT Sanjay Naik was in his early 30s when he vacated his accommodation in Patra Chawl, spread over 47 acres in Siddharth Nagar, as the area had to undergo "redevelopment". At that time, he was assured that he would get his home back in three years' time. Fourteen years on, Naik's wait is far from over.

With the project coming under spotlight with its link with the arrest of Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut, Naik, now in his late 40s, along with 671 other tenants who have been fighting to reclaim their properties, are hoping that the stalled project will fi-



Residents had handed over their homes to the MHADA in 2008 for redevelopment of the project. Vallabh Ozarkar

nally see the light of day. A small-time real estate agent, Naik says with Rs 20,000 of his monthly income going in rent, it has been a struggle for him to cover the rest of household expenses.

Naik and 671 other tenants had handed over their homes to the Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) in 2008 for redevelopment of the project. The authority, in turn, gave the contract to Guru Ashish Construction Private Limited (GACPL) to rehabilitate the tenants and to redevelop the locality. Subsequently, a tripartite agreement was signed between GACPL, the tenants' society and MHADA. Residents say as per the agreement, the developer was supposed to pay rent to all 672

tenants every month till the completion of the project. However, the rent was paid only till 2014-15.

When *The Indian Express* visited the site where the Patra Chawl previously stood, the entire area was barricaded with almost no signs of construction activity.

On the arrest of Raut, Rajesh Dalvi, chairman of Patra Chawl cooperative housing society, says, "We, as tenants, are not interested in the politics that is being played. We are only concerned about rent, homes and the commitments, which had been given to us in the agreement we had with the state. We have faced a lot over the last 14 years. The families have faced immense hardship. We hope whatever is happening now brings some sort of closure to this issue."

Return fee of SC/ST, women students: HC to Patna universities

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 1

PATNA HIGH Court has taken exception to several universities still charging education fee till masters courses from SC/ST and women students against the state government's decision announced on July 24, 2015.

The court has set a deadline of one month to reimburse the fees to students from whom the institutions had wrongly charged it. If the order is not complied with, it would amount to contempt of court and invite derecognition.

Responding to a PIL, a division bench of Chief Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice S Kumar on July 22 directed "all universities in Bihar to immediately refund the amount, if not already disbursed in terms of directions issued", as indicated by Director, Education, Bihar, in its

affidavit on June 28, 2022.

The state government had said that Rs 287 crore had been reimbursed to the students from whom education and tuition fee had been taken wrongly and more students had to be reimbursed fee paid to the universities.

The court said: "Violation of the order shall tantamount to contempt and humiliation of proceedings for derecognition of the institution(s) concerned."

"...We are constrained to take note of the sheer apathy displayed by the state... Equally, we may note that college and university administrations have showcased a striking lack of commitment towards the duty they hold to their students and state...," the court said.

The petitioner advocates Dinu Kumar and Ritika Rani told *The Indian Express*: "The matter was pending for a while. But the court has now set a deadline."

Job surety, Rs 3k for jobless in Gujarat: Kejriwal's new promise

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 1

DELHI CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Monday announced "employment guarantee" and unemployment allowance for all jobless youths of Gujarat if elected to power.

At a rally at Veraval in Gir Somnath Monday, Kejriwal made an appeal to all unemployed youths of the state not to take any extreme steps as he will provide "jobs to all." In reference to the recent suicide of a government job aspirant youth — Jayesh Sarvaiyya — in Rajkot, he said, "I got to know that a 23-year-old kid committed suicide because he was unemployed and couldn't find any job. Today, I have come to give a guarantee for employment. You don't have to commit suicide now. There are elections in December and only five months are left; so, please wait for the time being and we will give jobs to everyone. We



Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal in Rajkot, Gujarat, Monday. Express

are greatly anguished whenever our children commit suicide."

The AAP leader, who is on his seventh trip to Gujarat since April, arrived at the Porbandar airport for a day-long visit to Veraval and Rajkot. Last week in Surat, he had promised 300 units of free electricity to each household.

"Today, I have come here to give a guarantee of employment on five aspects. First, within five

years we will give employment to all Gujarat youth. Second, we will give Rs 3,000 monthly allowance till the youth doesn't get a job.

Third, we will announce 10 lakh government job vacancies. Fourth, we will bring a special law against paper leaks so that strict action is taken against paper leak mafia. Fifth, we will make the process of recruitment in cooperative societies transparent," Kejriwal added.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA: 24 CRORE HOMES TO HOIST TRICOLOUR FROM AUGUST 13-15 TO MARK 75 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

A flag business unfurls in Gujarat with corporate-govt partnership

KAMAAL SAIYED & RASHI MISHRA
SURAT, AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 1

INSIDE A textile factory in Pandesara area of Surat, a roll of white fabric (called grey fabric) flows onto the constantly rolling, dyeing and printing machine. Along the way, saffron and green dyes are added. Then the Ashoka Chakra is stamped. At the other end, the Tricolour comes out in reams that cascade onto a waiting trolley.

Sanjay Sarawagi, the factory owner, says he has orders to supply one crore flags for the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign in which the Centre has identified 24 crore homes across the country that would hoist the Tricolour from August 13 to 15 to mark 75 years of Independence. After the flag code was amended in December last year to allow machine-made and

polyester cloth, this is the biggest order that textile firms in Surat have got — through a "corporate-government partnership".

Union MoS for Textiles and Railways Darshana Jardosh, who is the BJP MP from Surat, told *The Indian Express*: "Companies have been told to use their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) funds for these flags. We are trying to make people buy the flags, and we have a fixed price of Rs 25 for a single flag (measuring 20"x30"). Only when people spend money on something, will they care for it. If something is given free, no proper care is taken."

According to Jardosh, "Apart from Surat where the flag-making is on a large scale, flags are being made in Noida (UP), Maharashtra and southern India. Surat's textile industry has a wide reach and we know that Surat has the capacity to meet the demand, as it has the infrastructure for



At a printing and dyeing mill in Pandesara, Surat. Hanif Malek

every stage of the manufacturing process. We (the Ministries of Textiles and Culture) have formed a body and got a target for 11 crore flags for the campaign. Similarly, other ministries also have got targets as have state governments.

There are 24 crore houses in the country and attempts are being made to ensure that the tricolour reaches each and every house."

Sarawagi says he has engaged over 5,000 workers, including 3,000 women, to finish the order

of one crore flags from Aditya Birla group, which he has to deliver by August 10. "We started the work on July 1. Our people are working in two shifts 24x7, and we load the flags onto vehicles of the client that come daily," he said.

The vendors have been chosen by the Union ministry of textiles, according to Rajesh Vataliya, marketing head of Grasim Industries of the Aditya Birla Group. "We also got intimation from the ministry to supply flags to Meghalaya, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur and Maharashtra."

Grasim industries has been assigned vendors such as Jai Singh Sharma of Jay Pradhan Shree Tradex Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, Shree Arvind Gadia of Gadia Enterprises, Surat, Gujarat, Sanjay Sarawagi of Laxmipati Sarees, Surat, Gujarat, Vikas Kundaliya and Brijesh Gondaliya of Unique Fur fabric Pvt Ltd, Surat, Gujarat, Manan

Ram Gopal meets Yogi; SP says discussed minority, backward issues

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 1

IN WHAT is seen as a significant political development in Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party secretary general and Rajya Sabha member Ram Gopal Yadav met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Monday evening.

The SP maintained that the duo discussed the "plight of backward communities and Muslims" in the state.

The meeting held at the Chief Minister's official residence lasted for around half-an-hour, it is learnt. Yadav, considered number 2 in the party and a key adviser to former chief minister and party president Akhilesh Yadav, left without responding to media questions after the meeting.

SP chief spokesperson Rajendra Chaudhary said he did not have confirmed news about any such meeting.

The SP later tweeted, "Today, the chief national general secretary of Samajwadi Party, Professor Ram Gopal Yadav, met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. Talks were held in the context of persecution of backwards and Muslims across the state by filing false cases unilaterally. The government should take back the fake cases."

Playing down the meeting, a section of party leaders said Yadav met Adityanath regarding alleged harassment of SP workers by the police and administration in different parts of the state.

A five-term member of Rajya Sabha, Yadav is seen as the second most influential leader in SP. He had backed Akhilesh during the feud in SP's first family in 2016, when Akhilesh took over the party's reins. A national general secretary of the party until then, Yadav was appointed SP's secretary-general after Akhilesh



UP CM Yogi Adityanath and (right) SP's Ram Gopal Yadav

took command in 2017.

Yadav's meeting with Adityanath holds significance in the backdrop of recent political developments in UP. After the SP-led alliance lost the Assembly elections and subsequently the UP Legislative Council polls, as further embarrassment, it drew a blank in Lok Sabha bypolls to Azamgarh and Rampur seats — both considered SP strongholds.

A cousin of party's founder and former CM Mulayam Singh Yadav, Ram Gopal had been active in the party's organisation affairs and electoral campaigns in the past. But he largely remained missing from the campaign trail in both the Assembly polls and Lok Sabha bypolls — his presence at the odd rallies was seen as symbolic.

After the poor Assembly poll showing, and the Lok Sabha bypoll losses, the SP has only three MPs each in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Last month, the party lost ally Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP), which claims to have influence among non-Yadav OBCs in eastern UP. The SP has also parted ways with Shivpal Singh Yadav's outfit.

After Shivpal, Akhilesh's estranged uncle, and SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar cross-voted in support of the NDA nominee in the Presidential polls, the SP had issued letters to both, stating that they were free to go wherever they expected to get more respect.

DAKSHINA KANNADA KILLINGS

Bomma hints at visiting homes of 2 other victims

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 1

BEING A nationalist party, the BJP will not discriminate against any section of the society, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in a hint that he might visit the homes of two Muslim men murdered last month in Dakshina Kannada region.

Bomma's remarks came after Opposition Congress and JD(S) targeted him for not visiting the homes of Masood B and Mohammed Fazil, even though he met the family of murdered BYM leader Praveen Nettaru last week.

Masood and Fazil's murders are suspected to be linked to the deep communal divide. "Ours is a national party. Nationalism is our stand. There is no question of discrimination against anyone," Bommai said, indicating that he may visit families of the other victims. Bommai also claimed that

the anger against the state government among party workers and the cadre of affiliated groups in Karnataka had begun to subside since July 27, when activists heckled party's state unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel and minister Sunil Kumar Karkala.

"A sense of confidence is building among them as the investigation progresses," he said. "I am confident that the police will nab the killers." Karnataka Police have arrested two persons in connection with Nettaru's murder and has decided to hand over the probe to the NIA. Opposition Congress and JD(S) have accused the Bommai government of washing its hands off the case by deciding to hand over the probe to the NIA.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Chief Minister on Monday visited Anjanadri Hills, in Koppal district, considered the birthplace of Hanuman, to oversee development of the region as a tourist destination.

eight lakh flags a day." Adding that they don't have a CSR, Tejwani said, "We have been told to supply the Tricolour consignment to different states and the respective state governments will pay us."

In Ahmedabad, flag-making units have received large-scale orders from several business houses. "This is the first time that we have got orders on such a large scale. Usually, for Independence Day, we make 10-15 lakh flags every year. We got orders from Mathura (UP), Surat (Gujarat) and Ahmedabad (Gujarat), as the units there were over-burdened," said Imran Khan, 40, a tailor from the old city area.

Khan has received bundles of printed flags in satin and roto polyester from Mathura, Surat and Ahmedabad. "We have got 10-15 lakh meters of bundles...satin from Surat and roto from Mathura" says Khan. He is making flags of 30"x20" and 23"x15" sizes.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Six from Punjab die while trying to save drowning friend

AMIL BHATNAGAR
SHIMLA, AUGUST 1

SEVEN TOURISTS from Punjab drowned to death Monday when six of them jumped into the Gobind Sagar Lake in Himachal Pradesh's Una district to save a person from their group who had stepped into the water body for a dip and lost his balance.

All seven bodies have been fished out and were being sent for post-mortem, said officials, adding that the victims were part of a group of 11 tourists from Punjab's Mohali.

"We received information at 3.50 pm that some persons went missing while rescuing someone from the lake. One of the tourists had gone inside and others jumped into the lake to save him. As a result, all of them drowned. Immediately rescue divers were informed and officials reached the spot. The bodies of the victims have been retrieved and the family members are being informed," said an official from Bangar Police Station.

As per officials, the victims had traveled from Chandigarh on Monday to pay visit to a temple in Una. They also decided to

visit Gobind Sagar Lake in the afternoon before returning the same evening. Some of them decided to venture into the lake. One of the victims went close to the lake shore and stepped inside, unaware of the water body's depth and slipped.

The victim called for help as he began drowning, said eye-witnesses. Six of his fellow tourists jumped in one after another and attempted to make a chain by holding hands. They lost balance and slipped into the lake where they eventually drowned. The other four members of the group decided against jumping into the water and had even warned others against entering the lake.

The victims have been identified as Pawan Kumar (35), Raman Kumar (19), Lal Singh (18), Lakhvir Singh (16), Arun Kumar (14), Vishal Kumar (18) and Shiva (15). The deceased hail from Banur town in Mohali, said officials. The bodies will be handed over to the family after the post-mortem.

Sub-inspector Jagjit Singh, SHO Banur police station, said that four of the victims were from one family. "We are still awaiting more details from our Himachal counterparts," he said.

10 electrocuted in West Bengal

Kolkata: At least 10 people were killed and several others injured after a pick-up van ferrying passengers was electrocuted on Sunday night in Cooch Behar. The incident took place around midnight, police said.

"The incident took place at Dharla Bridge under Mekhliganj police station limits. A pick-up van on its way to Jalpesh was electrocuted. Preliminary in-

quiry reveals it might be due to faulty wiring of a generator (music system) set up in the vehicle," ASP Matabhanga Amit Varma said.

According to the police, there were a total 27 passengers, 10 of whom were declared dead on arrival by doctors at a nearby hospital. One person is critical and 16 were referred to a Jalpaiguri hospital.

NTR's daughter found dead; suicide suspected

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 1



K Uma Maheshwari

TELOGU DESAM Party (TDP) founder and former Andhra Pradesh CM N T Rama Rao's daughter K Uma Maheshwari, 60, was found dead at her Jubilee Hills residence on Monday.

She was unwell for several months. Police officials said it was a case of suicide. She was the youngest of NTR's children and his fourth daughter.

Family members told police that Maheshwari's daughter and son-in-law and husband were at home, and they had breakfast at 10 am. "She then gave instructions to the cook to prepare lunch for her daughter and son-in-law, and then went to her room.

When she did not come out at 12.30 pm, they knocked at the door and were able to break it open by 1.30 pm only to find her dead," they told the police.

They called the police and then informed her brother Nandamuri Balakrishna and former CM N Chandrababu Naidu. Naidu and his wife Bhuvaneshwari, Maheshwari's sister, and other family members rushed to her residence after coming to know about her demise.

4 PATIENTS AMONG THOSE KILLED

8 dead, 5 injured in MP hospital fire

Fluctuation in voltage triggered blaze: official

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 1

AT LEAST eight people, including four patients, were killed and five others suffered injuries after a fire broke out at a hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur on Monday.

The blaze started at New Life Multi-Speciality Hospital in Chandl Bhatta locality at around 2 pm, said officials.

Fire officer Kushagra Thakur told *The Indian Express* that the department received a call at 2.15 pm and rushed four fire engines and around 40 personnel to the spot.

"It appears that when the hospital authorities switched on the generator after a power outage, there was voltage fluctuation which resulted in sparks and caused the fire," he said.

Thakur said the fire first engulfed the pharmacy on the ground floor before spreading to the upper floors, blocking the hospital's entry and exit point.

"There were seven people who were rescued from inside the hospital but all were brought out in an unconscious state with major burn injuries. They were found in the corridors of the hospital," added the official.

Jabalpur collector Dr Ilayaraja T said that at the time of the fire, there were fewer than 25 people in the hospital — four patients, their caregivers, and nine staff members including two doctors who were also running an OPD



on the ground floor. Among the eight dead were four patients, three staffers and one caregiver. Of the five injured, he said, two were in critical condition and admitted to the ICU of the government medical college in Jabalpur.

The collector said the hospital was registered in January 2021.

According to authorities, the hospital had applied for a provisional NOC in March 2021. But until December 2021, it had not installed any static firefighting installations such as smoke detectors, hose pipes and water tanks. It only had portable fire extinguishers.

After this, a notice was issued to the licensing authority of the hospital in December 2021

Police and fire officials inspect the gutted building of Life Multispeciality Hospital at Damoh Naka, in Jabalpur on Monday; (right) smoke billows out from the hospital earlier in the day.

about its failure in complying with fire safety norms.

The collector added that a magisterial-level inquiry into the incident has been ordered and will be headed by an Additional District Magistrate.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced compensation of Rs five lakh for the deceased and Rs 50,000 for those injured in the incident, officials said.



HC junks plea against Chadha's appointment to Punjab panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

THE PUNJAB and Haryana HC on Monday disposed of a petition challenging the appointment of AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha as the chairman of a temporary advisory panel formed by the Punjab government and directed the state to decide on a representation filed earlier in this regard.

The division bench of Chief Justice and Justice Arun Palli was hearing a PIL filed by advocate Jagmohan Bhatti. A detailed judgment in the matter was yet to be released by the court.

Bhatti filed the PIL terming the move of the Punjab government to appoint Chadha as chairman of a temporary advisory panel "illegal," "arbitrary," and "in exercise of non-existent laws of the central and state governments". He contended that the appointment of Chadha, a Rajya Sabha MP and an "outsider not being a part of the state Assembly", in a minister rank was in violation of the Constitution.

ISRO's newly developed SSLV to undertake its maiden flight on Aug 7

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake the maiden flight of its newly developed Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on August 7, ahead of Independence Day celebration.

"The launch of the SSLV-D1/EOS-02 Mission is scheduled for Sunday, August 7, 2022, at 9:18 am (IST) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota," the space agency said on Twitter.

This is significant given that India was set to celebrate 75th Independence Day with the first human spaceflight, as per the deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence day, 2018.

The work on Gaganyaan mission, country's first manned flight to space, was delayed due to the pandemic, with the first abort test scheduled for later this year, to demonstrate the crew escape system to be used in case of an emergency mid-flight.

The SSLV mission too was delayed by a couple of years due to the pandemic. Experts believed that this could hamper the economic prospects of the space agency in the global space market as the new launch vehicle has been designed keeping in mind commercial launches of small satellites with a quick turn-around time for the mis-

sions. On its first flight, the SSLV will carry one of India's Earth Observation Satellites - EOS-2 - that will have applications in mapping and developing various GIS applications.

It will carry a mid-wavelength infrared camera and a long-wavelength infrared camera with a resolution of 6 metres. The satellite, weighing 142 kg, will have a mission life of ten months.

"The SSLV launch was long overdue. It will shift the burden of commercial launches from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV). And, will likely offer cheap, quick launch for small satellites. ISRO should have the wherewithal to do that, especially now that space startups are being encouraged," said Ajey Lele, senior fellow at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

In its maiden flight itself, SSLV will also carry the AzadiSat, a satellite developed by 750 rural students from across the country coordinated by SpaceKidz India, a space start-up.

The satellite was shipped to Sriharikota on Monday, ready for integration with the launch vehicle.

Primarily designed as a commercial vehicle, the SSLV is likely to cost a fourth of the current PSLV. It can also be assembled by a team of six people within seven days in comparison to a team of 600 people who take a couple of months to assemble a PSLV.

Normal rainfall over country in August and September, says IMD

ANJALI MARAR
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 1

FOR THE third consecutive month this monsoon, rainfall over the country is expected to be normal, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

Moreover, cumulative rainfall in August and September will also be normal over India. Quantitatively, rainfall will range between 94 and 106 per cent of the Long Period Average.

Normal or above rainfall is forecast over Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi-Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. But Maharashtra, coastal Karnataka, Goa, Kerala,

Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura will receive below normal rainfall in August, said Mohapatra.

"Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and areas along Gangetic West Bengal will receive some good rain spells during August. It will make up for the rainfall deficit that has been prevailing since June this year," said Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of IMD.

The monsoon trough, which presently lies to the north of its normal position, will start shifting southwards from August 5. "This will revive rainfall over central India," added Mohapatra.

The rainfall in July this year has been unique in multiple ways. This is the first time since 2005 when the country's July rainfall ended with 17 per cent surplus. With 42 per cent sur-

plus rain, July this year was central India's wettest since 1992.

In stark contrast, east and northeast India witnessed 44 per cent rainfall deficit, making it the driest July in 102 years, said IMD officials.

Such vast rainfall variation was attributed to the prolonged stay of the monsoon trough to the south of its normal position and the formation of four low-pressure systems resulting in a total of 21 low-pressure days against a normal of three low-pressure systems and 14 associated days in July.

This led to localised flooding in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, whereas dry weather continued for majority days over Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, West Bengal and some areas of northeast India regions, explained IMD officials.

At BJP meeting in Bihar, grudging realisation: Can't do without Nitish

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 1

EVEN AS the BJP has claimed that no other political party can match its organisational strength and growth, it has made it clear that it would contest the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2025 Assembly elections in Bihar with its allies "under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi".

The message came out of a two-day (July 30-31) joint meeting of all seven wings of the BJP - of farmers, women, youth, OBCs, EBCs, SCs and STs - the first such meeting anywhere in the country. The meeting, attended by over 700 delegates across the country, was addressed by BJP national president J P Nadra and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, among other top leaders of the party.

Speaking on Saturday, Nadra referred to the BJP as a "national party with regional aspirations" and said no other party was anywhere close to it in terms of organisational strength and growth.

The same day, JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh said that the "BJP could prepare for 243 seats rather than 200 seats and the JD(U) could also do the same as all parties are free to strengthen their base". Of the 243 seats in the Bihar Assembly, the BJP contested



Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief J P Nadra in Patna on Sunday. PTI

110 seats and won 74 in the 2020 election while the JD(U) contested 115 and won 43. Smaller allies HAM(S) and VIP fought on the other seats.

Just as the comments by Nadra and Lalan Singh triggered talk of whether the uneasy alliance partners were preparing to go their own ways, came a statement from BJP national general secretary Arun Singh that served to put a lid on the speculation.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Singh, quoting Amit Shah's statement, said the BJP would contest the 2024 Lok Sabha and 2025 Assembly polls with its allies, JD(U), HAM(S) and National Lok Janshakti Party... We have to first ensure that we win the maximum number of seats in Bihar to make Narendra Modi PM again."

Of the 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar, the NDA, of which the Ram Vilas Paswan-led IJP was a part, had won 39 seats with the BJP winning all the 17 seats it contested and the JD(U) winning 16. Several MLAs who attended

internal sessions of the two-day meet said the party did discuss the "indispensability of Nitish Kumar in the NDA alliance". BJP also talked about "mutual trust and respect" between the two alliance partners.

A source also said the meeting took note of the fact that the BJP had failed to find a leader in the state to match Nitish's stature. "While discussing Nitish, Amit Shah asked party leaders in the core committee meeting to raise their hands if they are in favour of continuing with Nitish's leadership for the NDA. Almost all of them raised their hands."

Nadra reportedly expressed his regret that the BJP had failed to give Bihar a tall leader over the last two decades. A delegate who attended the meeting said, "The message was very clear - to keep expanding and energising the party but not do anything that disturbs the 'winning' BJP-JD(U) combination. All wings of the party were told to go up to the booth level."

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
N.I.T. No.:	12-2022-23-W-V
Name of work with location	Construction of span 1 and 2 of foot over bridge no. 2 at Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station under Sr.DENV/NDLs.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 6695560.75
Earnest Money	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no 201025/CE-I/CT/5/1 dated: 31.08.2016)
Completion period of work	4 Months
Date and time for Submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 15.00 hrs on 16.08.2022 Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 16.08.2022
Website particulars notice board/location	Complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.
No. 128-W/280/O.E.T/22-23/WV-NIT-12 Dated : 01.08.2022	1958/2022
Serving Customers With A Smile	

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY	
The tender called vide tender notice No. CAO/CN/BN/48/2022 dated 12/07/2022, Tender Ref. No. SBC-YARD-REMODELLING-02 under Sl. No. 2 due for closing on 02/08/2022 has been cancelled and recalled as under.	Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BN/58/2022 Dated : 28-07-2022
Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Bengaluru Yard	Rs. 77,03,447/-
Remodelling / Construction of Platform and PF Shelter, P/Way works and other Miscellaneous works (Composite Work).	
(Tender Ref. No. : SBC-YARD-REMODELLING-02R)	
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18-08-2022	
Last date for submission of bids:	
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in	
Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works Bengaluru Cantonment PWB/27/AAS/PRB/SWR/2022-23	
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY	

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./ AUTH	NAME OF WORK/ NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE/ CLOSING DATE/ TIME	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/ CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY GURUGRAM	FABRICATION OF PARKING SHED IN GUEST HOUSE, PREPARING EXAMINATION BRANCH IN BOYS HOSTEL & SUPPLY & PLACING OF DUAL SEATED DESK IN THE CAMPUS OF GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, SECTOR-51, GURUGRAM	02.08.2022 23.08.2022	37.16 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416374943 ceguruniiv@gmail.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaprocmnt.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (SDW) C/O EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW)-III STP YAMUNAVIHAR, WAZIRABAD ROAD DELHI-110053
Tele-22814128, Email: eesdw3.djb@nic.in
Press Tender Notice - N.I.T No. 09 (2022-23)

S.No.	Description of work	Date of Uploading of E-Procurement solution/ Tender ID/Pre-bid meeting	Estimated cost/Earnest Money & Tender Fee	Last date of submission of tender
1.	Augmentation/Up-gradation of various existing STPs at Yamuna Vihar Ph-I (10 MGD) & III (25 MGD), Delhi (Package-4) (Re-invited)	30-07-2022/ 2022_DJB_227087_1 /08.08.2022	20 Lakh deposit + 1.96Cr. in the form of BG/1500-	30-08-2022 at 03.00 PM

For Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 270 (2022-23)
Sd/ (Bhushan Verma)
Exe. Engineer (SDW)-III
"STOP CORONA; WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING, MAINTAINING HAND HYGIENE"

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED
A Mini Ratna Company (A subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.
*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
S.P.D.C.No.B1/0865/2022

SPECIAL PROJECTS DEPARTMENT
CORRIGENDUM-I

The Special Projects Department has invited e-tender for
"1) S.P.D.C.No.B1/0865/2022 Construction of Pedestrian Plaza at Monegar Choultry Road (M.C. Road) in Dn. No.51, Zone-V under Mega Street Projects and 2) S.P.D.C.No.B1/0866/2022 Construction of Pedestrian Plaza along Khader Nawaz Khan Road (KNK Road) in Dn. No. 111, Zone -IX under Mega Street Projects" published on 16.07.2022 in Dinakaran Tamil daily newspaper and New Indian Express English newspaper.

As Published	Revised
Pre-Bid meeting date and time : 02-08-2022 @ 3 p.m.	Pre-Bid meeting date and time : 23-08-2022 @ 3 p.m.
Tender submission date and time : 01-09-2022 @ 3 p.m.	Tender submission date and time : 14-09-2022 @ 3 p.m.
Tender opening date and time : 02-09-2022 @ 3 p.m.	Tender opening date and time : 15-09-2022 @ 3 p.m.

All other condition remains same.
Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)
DIPR/3691/TENDER/2022

BRIEFLY



Satyendra Prakash

Satyendra Prakash takes over as PIB-D-G

New Delhi: Senior Indian Information Service officer Satyendra Prakash on Monday assumed charge as the head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) and principal spokesperson for the Government of India on Monday. A 1988-batch IIS officer, Prakash was the principal DG, Central Bureau of Communication, before being appointed as the Principal Director General of the PIB. He has represented the Centre on various national and international fora such as the UNESCO, UNICEF and the UNDP. **ENS**

KERALA

Man catches brother who fell from terrace

Malappuram: A man had a miraculous escape when he fell, head first, from the terrace of his house as his elder brother caught him before the former hit the ground. Neither of the siblings were injured in the incident. CCTV visuals of the incident, which went viral and telecast on several TV channels, show the elder brother spraying water onto the terrace via a hose while the younger one — not visible in the video initially — is cleaning it. Visuals show the younger brother coming down, the elder one catching him and both tumbling down onto the tiled surface at the front of their house. Both brothers appeared unhurt in the incident that occurred on Sunday. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH Govt plans emergency medical care

Lucknow: Government is planning to put in place an emergency medical care system on the lines of Covid command centre and existing police emergency system. It will have its own integrated trauma and emergency system with a call centre and command centre in place, and the facility for "live emergency monitoring system". Also, emergency medical and trauma care would be provided free of cost for the first 48 hours. The benefit will be provided through 35 government medical colleges and institutions in state, and the plan is to involve about 30 private medical colleges in later phases. **ENS**

MONKEYPOX DEATH
Centre contacts UAE to know how patient took flight to Kerala

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

DAYS AFTER a 22-year-old Kerala man monkeypox patient died, the Indian government has reached out to authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to know how he could board a flight to India despite having declared positive for the infection. The man, as per sources, boarded a flight to Kerala on July 22 after even as he was positive in the UAE itself.

"We have reached out to the officials in that country [UAE] to see why the man was allowed to board a flight despite having tested positive for monkeypox. We are stringently screening everyone at our airports and we expect the same from other countries as well," an official in the know of the matter said.

The official added, "We have also been sensitising people about the infection, yet the patient did not immediately report to a health facility even after reaching Kerala. The person was out and about for five days before seeking care at a health facility when his symptoms worsened."

A sample was sent to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, by the hospital where the 22-year-old was admitted. He tested positive for monkeypox again. This is the first death linked to monkeypox infection in India. Kerala Health Minister Veena George said since the person did not have the typical symptoms of monkeypox, even though he tested positive for the infection, a high-level probe will be conducted to determine the cause of death.

So far, six cases of monkeypox have been recorded across the country, including a Nigerian national living in Delhi testing positive on Monday. The Nigerian who was admitted to Delhi's nodal Lok Nayak Hospital on Sunday, doesn't have history of international travel in last 21 days.

The Centre has set up a task

Rajasthan reports first suspected case

Jaipur: Rajasthan has reported its first suspected case of monkeypox. A 20-year-old, exhibiting symptoms of the disease, has been admitted to a government hospital in Jaipur and his samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, Dr Ajit Singh, Superintendent of Rajasthan University of Health Sciences, said on Monday. The youth was referred from Kishangarh late on Sunday. He has been kept under observation in the special ward created for monkeypox cases, he said. The youth is suffering from fever for the last four days and has rashes on his body, Dr Singh added. **PTI**

force headed by NITI Aayog member (health) Dr VK Paul to keep an eye on the monkeypox situation in the country. The committee, besides monitoring the situation, has been tasked with developing indigenous diagnostic kits for the infection.

According to sources, though the committee is also looking at vaccine development — the Indian Council of Medical Research recently gave a call to collaborate for monkeypox vaccine development — at present, there is neither a need nor the scientific data to back vaccination even among the high-risk groups. The government will also encourage research on topics such as modes of transmission or whether the smallpox vaccine administered as part of eradication drive 40 years ago can protect against the monkeypox, a virus from the similar family.

Monkeypox death: Kerala man's samples confirm virus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 1

SAMPLES TAKEN from a 22-year-old man who died in Kerala's Thrissur district last week have tested positive for monkeypox, officials said Monday, confirming the first death due to the virus.

After an initial confirmation by its Kerala unit, the National Institute of Virology-Pune Monday confirmed the youth had died after contracting the virus, health department officials said.

The 22-year-old man died at a private hospital in Thrissur on Saturday, over a week after he had returned from the UAE.

On Sunday, Health Minister Veena George said the youth had tested positive for monkeypox in the UAE itself. The government had also ordered a probe into the circumstances that led to delay in reporting the test result to the health department. The youth's family, it is learnt, had informed the hospital where he had been admitted with symptoms of encephalitis and fatigue of his UAE test result only on Saturday.

Kerala: IAS officer facing trial in mishap case transferred

LDF govt's decision follows protests

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 1

THE KERALA government on Monday transferred IAS officer Sriram Venkitaraman as district collector and executive magistrate of Alappuzha, apparently under pressure from protesting organisations.

Venkitaraman, who was made general manager of the State Civil Supplies Corporation, will be replaced as new district collector by V R Krishna Teja.

Venkitaraman, who had allegedly caused the death of a journalist in a case of drink driving in 2019, was made the district collector last week. His appointment had sparked widespread protests from various Muslim organisations in

Kerala, particularly the pro-CPI(M) Sunni Muslim sect led by prominent scholar Kanthapuram A P Aboobacker Musaliyar.

The deceased, K M Basheer, was the bureau chief of 'Siraj daily', a mouthpiece of AP Sunni Muslims in Kerala. Last Saturday, various organisations from the minority community had staged a protest march to the State Secretariat and all district collectorates, demanding that Venkitaraman be removed as Alappuzha district collector.

The Alappuzha unit of opposition Congress had decided to boycott Venkitaraman, who is facing trial in the 2019 road accident in which Basheer was killed.

Following the accident, the IAS officer was suspended, but was reinstated in March 2020.

Rajasthan: Minor girl kills 9-yr-old niece with sword

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, AUGUST 1

A MINOR girl allegedly killed her 9-year-old niece with a sword in the early hours of Monday in Dungarpur district during a religious ceremony, said police.

According to police, the incident took place around 3 am on Monday, when the girl picked up a sword and started threatening her family members.

"The 15-year-old accused had recently appeared in her Class 10 examinations and had come home from hostel. A puja of Dasha Mata was going on in her house for the past few days. Prima facie, it appears that the family members were doing the puja in the early hours of Monday when the girl picked up a sword and scared them all away," said Govind Singh, SHO, Chitauri police station, Dungarpur.

"While the family members left the house, her 9-year-old niece was left behind. Around 4-5 am when the family members returned, they found that she had killed the niece with the

According to police, the family said the girl was behaving unusually for the past few days.

"Women in Dungarpur often fast for the Dasha Mata puja, which is done to wish the well-being of the home. The accused girl was also fasting for 3-4 days. It is possible that she developed some psychological condition and not eating food had a role to play in it. Even now, she is not behaving normally," said Sagwara Circle Officer Narpat Singh.

According to police, the family has said the girl was behaving unusually for the past few days. "The girl, who is from the scheduled tribe community, has been hospitalised and medical tests will be conducted to determine her condition and the exact reason for the crime," said Singh.

Yasin Malik discontinues hunger strike for 2 months

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

KASHMIRI SEPARATIST leader Yasin Malik discontinued his fasting on Monday evening after he was told that his demands/concerns have been sent to senior authorities.

Malik has deferred his hunger strike for a period of two months at the request of Director General (DG) Prisons Sandeep Goel. "On my request, Malik had discontinued his fasting and will be having regular meals," said Goel



Malik was in the medical investigation room in Tihar

He began a hunger strike on July 22 after the Centre didn't respond to his plea that he be allowed to appear physically at Jammu court for the hearing.

Malik was admitted to the RML hospital sometime back after a fluctuation in blood pressure and late returned to Tihar Jail where he allegedly refused to eat anything and was put on IV fluid. Sources said Malik also wrote to the doctors that he didn't want to be treated. He is serving a life sentence in an alleged terror funding case.

Malik, head of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) was arrested by the NIA in 2019. Malik was in the medical investigation room in Tihar where he was being registered IV fluids.

A few months ago, alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar, too, went on a hunger strike twice, demanding that he be allowed to see his wife Leena Maria Paul, who is also lodged at Tihar jail, more often. Chandrashekhar was on intravenous fluid or glucose but later he ended his hunger strike.

AIR FORCE SCHOOL NARAINA
AIR FORCE STATION, NEW DELHI
(An English Medium Co-Education School)

RECRUITMENT OF HM (REGULAR)

1. Air Force School Naraina, Delhi Cantt. invites application against the regular post of HM (initial appointment on probation).
2. Eligibility for the post and other relevant details are available on the website of AF Schools: www.racecourseschools.in. Applications must be received at school mail: jafsnldelhi@gmail.com/drop box at Air Force Station, Race Course on or before 18 Aug. 22.
3. Decision of Chairman, School Management Committee for selection will be final and binding.

School Management

RAJASTHAN HOUSING BOARD
No. ACE-1/RHB/JPR/2022-23/326 Date: 27.07.2022
NIB: 05/2022-23

Bids for 1. Development work of EWS-504 & LIG-208 flats under CMJAY Scheme at Sector-03, Pratap Nagar, Jaipur. 2. Supply, Testing & Installation of RHB Logo with LED's on Major Building, Parks, Gates and Statue Circles of Rajasthan Housing Board, Jaipur. 3. Providing, Laying and Jointing of pipe line and construction of tube well for various sectors at Pratap Nagar, Jaipur. 4. Construction of compound wall at Sector-06 & 13, I.G. Nagar, Jaipur are invited from interested bidders from 04.08.2022 to 16.08.2022 upto 6:00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state & <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rhb> department website.

UBN: RHB2223WSOB00210, RHB2223WSOB00209, RHB2223WSOB00206, RHB2223WSOB00207

Raj.Samwadi/C/2022-23/5785 Addl. Chief Engineer-I, Jaipur

KANWARIYAS 'BEATEN UP' IN BUDAUN

Budaun: Some Kanwariyas were injured after they were allegedly beaten up by the members of a particular community in Uttar Pradesh district on Monday, police said. Kanwariyas were returning from Bareilly, they said, adding that as they reached Dungaon village in the evening, the members of a particular community objected to music being played on speakers. An argument broke out between the two groups and then Kanwariyas were beaten up by the mob, police said, adding that an FIR has been filed. **PTI**

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
...मरोसे का प्रतीक! ...the name you can BANK upon!

CIRCLE SASTRA, ARRAH
Above Bank of India, Near Peer Baba More, Ara, Bhojpur-802301
Email- cs8187@pnb.co.in
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Ara-802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice dated 22.06.2021 calling upon the Borrower M/s. Sai Pooja Store, Smt. Pooja Jaiswal (Prop of M/s Sai Pooja Store) W/o Sh. Ganesh Prasad Jaiswal, Sh. Ganesh Prasad Jaiswal S/o Sh. Ram Ji Prasad Jaiswal to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 68,33,798.03 (Rupees Sixty Eight Lakhs Thirty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Eight and Paisea Three Only) and interest there on within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 28th day of July, 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank for an amount of Rs. 75,05,137.21 (Rupees Seventy Five Lakhs Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Seven and Paisea Twenty One Only) as on 30.06.2022 along with future interest and expenses from 01.07.2022 until payment in full.

The Borrower's/Guarantor's/Mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect to time available to redeem the secured assets.

Description of immovable property

All that part and parcel of the property situated at Mauza and Thana No.-131, PS- Mohania, Khata no. 645, Ward no. 12, Plot No. 338/2308, 336, Distt.-Kaimur, Total Area-10 Decimals (3 Decimal + 7 Decimal), Mortgaged by Sh. Ganesh Prasad Jaiswal S/o Sh. Ram Ji Prasad Jaiswal, Boundary:- North-Sarvajeet Upadhyay, South-G.T Road, East-Gupt Nath, West-Ramker for each Plot.

Date : 28/07/2022
Place : Kaimur

Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
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CIRCLE SASTRA ARRAH, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Arrah- 802301, Email:-cs8187@pnb.co.in
POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice/(s) / date of receipt of the said notice (s). **The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred to him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this 28th day of July, 2022.**

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the account	Name of the Borrower (Owner of the Property)	Description of the Property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of affixture of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice	Name of Authorized Officer
1.	Mokari (114000)	M/s Khushi Mini Rice Mill.	Smt Kailashi devi.	All that part and parcel of the property situated at, Mauza- Bhabhua, Thana No-491, Old Ward No-06, New Ward No-25, Khata No 45, Plot No 464, District - Kaimur, Area- 03 decimal. Bounded by: North- Part land of Ram Avtar Haluai, South-Gurfehan Sah, East- 6 Feet Wide Gali, West- 6 Feet Wide Gali	23.03.2022	28.07.2022	Rs. 23,16,861.50 (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakh Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-One and Paisea Fifty Only) as on 19.02.2022	S C Lenka.
2.	Mokari (114000)	Om Prakash Singh	Om Prakash Singh	All that part and parcel of the property situated at: Mauza- Kurasan, Thana No.-355, Thana + Anchal- Bhabua, Distt: Kaimur (Bhabua), Khata no- 40, Plot No- 2686, Area- 15 decimals. Bounded:- North- Ramvriksh Singh & Aniruddh Singh, South- Sudama Singh Plot 2687, East- Nahar, West- Moti Aar.	08.04.2022	28.07.2022	Rs. 11,89,403.42 (Rupees Eleven lakhs eighty nine thousand four hundred three and paisea forty two only) as on 01.03.2022.	S C Lenka.

The borrower's/Guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 28/07/2022
Place: Kaimur

Shri S C Lenka
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank

पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank
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The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sr. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the account	Name of the Borrower (Owner of the Property)	Description of the Property Mortgaged	Date of Demand Notice	Date of affixture of Possession Notice	Amount Outstanding as on the date of Demand Notice	Name of Authorized Officer
1.	Shahpur (089900)	M/s Maa Aranya Industries.	Mr.Omkar Nath Tiwary S/o- Radha Mohan Tiwary, Mr. Dilip Kumar Tiwary S/o- Radha Mohan Tiwary and Mr. Radha Mohan Tiwary S/o- Lt. Kesho Tiwary	All that part and parcel of the property situated at: Mauza- Dalpatpur (Chandwa), Ara, Thana no-235, PS- Ara Nawada, Anchal- Ara, Nagar Nigam ward no- 14, Distt- Bhojpur, Khata no- 31, Plot no- 12, Area- 4 katha = 12.498 decimals. Boundary:-North- Ara Buxar Main Road, South- Sri Yadav, East- Bimlesh Tiwari, West- 14 Feet Rasta	18.04.2022	27.07.2022	Rs. 66,50,863.67/- (Rupees Sixty Six Lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Three and paisea Sixty Seven only) as on 29.03.2022.	Md. Aqueel Jawed Khan.
2.	Arrah (159920)	Md. Imteyaz	Md. Imteyaz	All that part and parcel of the property situated at: Mauza- Sanadiyan Thana- Ara Muffasli, Anchal- Ara, District- Bhojpur, Thana No 241, S Khata No 15, S Khesra No 1394, Area-10 Dhur. Boundary- North- Rasta, South- Baban Yadav wagairah, East- Anwarul Haque, West- Nij haq Aka digar baider.	20.04.2022	27.07.2022	Rs. 7,00,287.39/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Two Hundred Eighty Seven and Paisea Thirty Nine Only) as on 31.03.2022	Md. Aqueel Jawed Khan.
3.	Arrah (159920)	Mr. Bimal Yadav and Smt. Hira Devi.	Mr. Bimal Yadav	All that part and parcel of the property situated at: Mauza- Kasbey Ara, Mohalla- Shree Tola, PS- Ara Thana- 237, Ward No 18 (old), Nagar Nigam ward No-36, Old Khata No 2327, New Khata No 412, Plot No 10918 (old), 10795 Part, New Plot No 503, Area-11 Dhur (0.55 Katha/ 1.718 decimal), Bounded:-North- Naali, South- Ram Jalan Yadav, East- Sunaina devi, West- Buddhu Yadav	20.04.2022	27.07.2022	Rs. 8,62,298.45/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Sixty Two Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Eight and Forty Five Paisea Only) as on 31.03.2022.	Md. Aqueel Jawed Khan.
4.	Gausganj (745500)	Mrs. Dharmshilla Devi and Sh. Shankar Singh	Mrs. Dharamshilla Devi	All that part and parcel of the property situated at: Mauza- Singahi Balihar, Thana No-247, Old Ward No-30, Old Khata No 90, new Khata No 631, Old Plot no- 188 part, New Plot no-1221, Nagar Nigam ward No- 27, PS- Ara, town, Anchal- Ara, District- Bhojpur, Area- 01 katha. Boundary:- North- 10ft Pvt Rasta, South- Nij mokir, East- 08 feet Pvt Rasta, West- Md. Badud	21.04.2022	27.07.2022	Rs. 9,08,630/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Eight Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Only) as on 10.05.2021.	Md. Aqueel Jawed Khan.

The borrower's/Guarantor's/mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 27/07/2022
Place: Arrah, Bhojpur

Md. Aqueel Jawed Khan
Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

NO CHEERS FOR DELHI

Rolling back new liquor policy, reverting to old regime where government dominates sale of liquor, is a bad idea

THE DELHI GOVERNMENT'S flip-flops on liquor are detrimental to the policy credibility of the government. In 2020, the government proposed a new liquor policy and by November 2021, it came into effect. On the face of it, the new policy made a lot of sense. It took the government out of the business of selling liquor and opened up space for private sector vendors to provide this service. Selling liquor is not a strategic enterprise and should ideally be dominated by private sector players. According to the government, this reform was aimed at ending the liquor mafia and black marketing apart from increasing government revenues and improving customer experience. The new policy also provided greater flexibility to private vendors to offer discounts and compete in the market to attract customers. Reportedly, this new policy led to the government's revenue increasing by 27 per cent.

The story seemed to turn sour, however, when the Economic Offences Wing of Delhi Police started investigating allegations of irregularities and corruption in the disbursement of liquor licenses. It was alleged that the Delhi government gave out "illegal" licences to companies that violated the terms and conditions of the excise policy. Manish Sisodia, the minister in charge, was accused of implementing this policy without the approval of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, and providing waivers and undue benefits to new licensees. The Delhi government, it was alleged, had revised the rates of foreign liquor (making them cheaper) and removed the levy of import pass fee of ₹50 per case of beer, and such decisions, it was said, resulted in a loss of revenue to the state exchequer. As the investigations began, the Delhi government, in an unwise and knee-jerk reaction, overturned its policy and rolled back to the old regime where the government used to dominate the sale of liquor.

This has not just inconvenienced customers but also left the private vendors high and dry. There are, at present, 468 private vendors in Delhi — each employing an array of workers such as salesmen, sanitation staff, security guards and managers. A summary policy reversal means all of them will lose their jobs for no fault of their own. Those who are lucky enough to migrate to a government outlet will likely see a sharp mark down in their salaries. This is apart from the loss to entrepreneurs who spent upwards of Rs 250 crore to acquire the licence of a zonal vendor, which does not include the nearly Rs 25 crore that it could take to set up the actual shop. This raises two questions: Who pays for these losses? Why would anyone invest in a state where government policy can change overnight? These are important questions that the government can ill afford to ignore.

NO, MINISTER

Punjab Minister Jouramajra's humiliation of a V-C says unflattering things about AAP government's show trial politics

PUNJAB HEALTH MINISTER Chetan Singh Jouramajra's concern over the crumbling public health infrastructure in the state — as in so much of the country — is unexceptionable. But the manner in which he humiliated a vice-chancellor and senior doctor, in full public view, is disturbing. It is also of a piece with how the newly elected Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab appears to be defining its relationship with officials it needs to work with. There is a need for systemic accountability. But the politics of photo-ops does not serve that purpose. It only places greater hurdles in the way of sustainable reform.

On Friday, Jouramajra forced Dr Raj Bahadur to lie down on a damaged mattress in front of hospital staff and patients — the incident captured on video — at Guru Gobind Singh Medical College in Faridkot. In addition to being V-C of the institute, Bahadur is a distinguished and respected surgeon. He has resigned from his post, citing "humiliation" at the hands of the minister. After the uproar that followed — Opposition leaders in the state, including the Punjab Congress president, have come out in support of the V-C — Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann apologised to Bahadur and promised to take it up with Jouramajra. While the apology is welcome, it does not detract from the larger issue. Since the AAP has come to power in Punjab, several of its leaders have used social media to play to the gallery. Last month, AAP MLA Sheetal Agarwal was video-streaming on Facebook his problems with the district office in Jalandhar. In March, AAP MLA Raman Arora allegedly insulted government school teachers. Minister Harjot Bains publicly issued orders to officials before he was sworn in. The list goes on.

The AAP, at its inception, was a party of and from a protest movement that positioned itself against government corruption. It is now a party of government. Hyperbolic posts on social media, "sting operations" and humiliating officials are not the tools employed by a mature party. In Delhi, the AAP found its feet once it went beyond "dharnas" and articulated a model of governance. In Punjab — the first full state in which it has power — it cannot rely on virtue signalling on social media as an alternative to taking the bureaucracy along and working with officialdom.

THE BOY FROM AIZAWL

Jeremy Lalrinnunga, who defied odds to win at Commonwealth Games, could be poster boy of weightlifting in years to come

WITH SHOOTING NOT part of the Birmingham edition of the Commonwealth Games, India expected a dent to its medals tally. However, the weightlifters took it upon themselves to fill the void. They took on the extra burden to ensure that the tricolour continues to fly at medal ceremonies. They accounted for all the first six medals in the Indian kitty, including three golds. While Mirabai Chanu's triumph was a foregone conclusion, the gold medals of Achinta Sheuli and Jeremy Lalrinnunga hint at a bright future for Indian weightlifting. Lalrinnunga, not yet 20 and a vivacious personality from Aizawl with an active social media presence, who defied a pulled muscle, injured elbow and severe cramps to win the 67kg weight category, could well be the poster boy of the sport in years to come.

In weightlifting, the top practitioners lift bars several times heavier than their own body weight. That cannot be possible without a sound technique. Knees, hips, shoulders and arms need to be in perfect alignment, otherwise not only can a lifter fail, but also suffer grievous injury. Jeremy's near-perfect lifts are a testimony to India's expertise and depth in a sport that has consistently delivered medals for the nation on the world stage. Remember, it was way back in 2000 that Karnam Malleswari won an Olympic bronze medal.

With age on his side, Jeremy will be tipped for many such successes. With the Hangzhou Asian Games a little more than a year away, and Paris Olympics in 2024, India would expect the lifters to climb the podium again. But the road ahead is tough as the level of competition, even at the continental level, is much higher than at Birmingham. To be on the top of the world, the boy from Aizawl needs to be stronger and lift much heavier weights. With a total lift of 300 kg, he broke a Commonwealth Games record. That happens to be 39 kg less than the world record.

Big Brothers of investigation



D SIVANANDHAN

Central agencies like ED have grown more powerful, state and city police are pale shadows of themselves

THERE WAS A time, not long ago, when city and state police forces across the country had a healthy competition with each other to be seen as the best police force. They were involved in solving and investigating some of the most sensational cases in the country.

Mumbai Police and its crime branch, Delhi Police and its special cell, Gujarat Police and its Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), Bengaluru Police, Hyderabad Police, were in the news for solving high-profile cases. Cases from the underworld, involving terrorism, human trafficking, narcotics etc were cracked by these police forces. Healthy competition would sometimes turn into ugly fights. Rivalry between the Mumbai Crime Branch and Delhi Special Cell was well-known.

Today, these once high-profile police forces have become a pale shadow of themselves and central agencies have taken over the investigation of sensational cases.

In the past few years, there has been a significant shift in the way cases, especially the high-profile ones, are being investigated across the country. At the drop of a hat, cases are taken away from the state and city police and handed over to central agencies. There have been many such cases, including the suicide case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the Antilia case, among others. Now, only the Enforcement Directorate (ED), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), are in the limelight.

One agency which has become especially busy in the past few years is the ED. Formed in 1956, the ED became a prime agency following enactment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in 2002, implemented from July 1, 2005.

Even the Supreme Court (SC), last week, acknowledged the ED's sweeping powers under the PMLA. These include starting an investigation against anyone without complaint or application. An ED officer does not even have to file a First Information Report (FIR). The FIR is

a mandatory provision under the Criminal Procedure Code and Indian Penal Code. Without it, an investigating officer does not have authority to proceed with an investigation. However, under the PMLA, an officer just needs to file an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) which is for internal use and need not be shared with the accused. An investigating officer can also issue summons without giving any specific reason. The apex court said that the stringent conditions for bail under the Act are legal and not arbitrary.

A day before the SC judgment, the government, in reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha, had said that raids conducted by the ED between 2014 and 2022 had jumped 27 times as compared to the raids conducted during 2004-2014. The ED is the only central investigative agency that does not require permission from the government or any authority to summon or prosecute politicians or government officials for inquiry into economic offences and financial crimes like money laundering.

In the past few years, the ED has made some high-profile arrests, including former Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, Former Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Chhagan Bujbal, Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, senior NCP leader and former minister Nawab Malik. There is a long list of prominent leaders who have been summoned and questioned, including Congress President Sonia Gandhi. Such has been the frequency of these investigations, summons and questioning that several news channels have decided to keep their media crew permanently parked outside the offices of these agencies in Delhi and Mumbai.

Similarly, the NIA, CBI, NCB, and other central investigative agencies have also been involved in investigating high-profile cases, like the Aryan Khan drug case and the drug nexus investigation in the Sushant Singh Rajput case by the NCB. The CBI has taken over all five cases registered by the Maharashtra police

against an officer of the rank of Director General of Police, who retired under suspension recently. During the same time as the ED, NIA, CBI, NCB, and others rose to fame, the once famed city and state police have suffered a major loss of reputation. Mumbai Police faced embarrassment in the last two years when two commissioners were embroiled in serious legal cases.

In fact, a police commissioner who retired last month was arrested by the ED within a week of his retirement for his alleged involvement in a major scam. The Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi government had to unceremoniously remove a sitting Mumbai Police chief from his post after he made serious allegations of corruption against the Home Minister. Never in its history has the Mumbai Police or the office of the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai, been tarnished the way it has been in the past year and a half.

Even Delhi Police continues to be embroiled in a bitter battle with the state government and issues regarding its jurisdiction. The reputation of Hyderabad Police was recently tarnished after the commission of inquiry which conducted a probe into the December 2019 encounter of four rape accused by the police, gave its report to the SC. It found that the encounter was fake, and recommended that the 10 police officers who were involved be tried on charges of murder.

Over the past few years, major amendments in key Acts have given teeth to central agencies. These agencies have the mandate for investigations across the country and are not bound by any jurisdictions. It is quite clear that the central agencies are now going to be the big brothers of investigations, while state and city police forces function in their shadows with limited powers and jurisdictions.

The writer is a former Director General of Police, Maharashtra, Police Commissioner of Mumbai, Joint Director of CBI and IB

At the drop of a hat, cases are taken away from the state and city police and handed over to central agencies.

There have been many such cases, including the suicide case of actor Sushant Singh Rajput, the Antilia case, among others. Now, only the Enforcement Directorate (ED), National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), are in the limelight.



LIVIA LEU

DELHI TO BERN, DRAWING CLOSER

As geopolitical sands shift, India remains a foreign policy priority for Switzerland

TODAY I AM in India for Foreign Office consultations between our two countries. This is my third official visit to New Delhi, this time as State Secretary in charge of Switzerland's Foreign Policy. It is a privilege to be back here during this month, which marks 75 years of India's Independence. I extend my congratulations to the Indian people on this historic occasion. I am also pleased that our two countries will commemorate next year the 75th anniversary of the signing in New Delhi of the 1948 Treaty of Friendship. We can be proud that our friendship has withstood the test of time and has remained firm in the face of shifting geopolitical sands.

India is a priority for Switzerland. This is emphasised in Switzerland's foreign policy strategy that seeks to further advance ties with India.

Switzerland and Indian partners are collaborating on digital transformation, sustainability, health, life sciences, medtech, infrastructure, cleantech, fintech, blockchain, AI and robotics. Innovation and investment continue to be the primary drivers of our bilateral relations. Going forward, Switzerland intends to further deepen its innovation cooperation with India. With over 330 Swiss companies, Switzerland is the 12th largest investor in India. About 100 Swiss companies manufacture locally and support the Make in India initiative. As a former delegate for trade agreements and head of bilateral economic relations for the Swiss government, I am well aware of our enormous bilateral economic potential. Trade talks between Switzerland (European Free Trade Association (EFTA)) and India are high on the priority list. After a productive exchange at the World Economic Forum in Davos in May, our two commerce ministers are expected to meet again in New

Delhi in the beginning of October.

The thematic scope of our bilateral relations has only grown over time and will continue to expand in the future. Digitalisation is emerging as a relatively new area of engagement with enormous potential for Switzerland and India. It is a thematic priority identified in my country's foreign policy strategy and actively promoted by my President. Switzerland plays a leading role in researching new technologies and is home to many innovative and world-leading technology companies. As one of the most innovative countries of the world, Switzerland seeks to engage with India, the leader of the Industry 4.0 revolution, in areas ranging from digital governance to digital self-determination.

Switzerland was elected to the United Nations Security Council as a non-permanent member for the first time this year in June. I am, therefore, interested to hear about the experience of India as an elected member of the Security Council. At a time when the world is witnessing worrying geopolitical developments, Switzerland recognises the responsibilities that come with this membership. These are reflected in its priorities during its UN Security Council membership.

In the Security Council, Switzerland will do everything possible to ensure sustainable peace. Switzerland is a truly peace-loving country that has contributed significantly to peacebuilding, conflict prevention and mediation. Having served as ambassador in Tehran as a go-between for the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran, I have first-hand knowledge of Switzerland's good offices. Many years ago, from 1971 to 1976, Switzerland represented India's interests in Pakistan and vice versa.

In wars, protecting civilians is crucial. We

see this in a shocking way in Ukraine and in many other conflict zones. Switzerland has condemned the military aggression of Russia in the strongest terms. Our thoughts go to the families of the many victims of the war. In the Security Council, Switzerland will focus on the protection of civilians and on international humanitarian law.

Switzerland will also address climate change and its impact on security. Climate change is here. We experience that every day. The security consequences are mounting. They must be addressed.

Last but not least, Switzerland desires effective UN institutions. India has been advocating for a reform of the Security Council. Switzerland's fourth priority in 2023 and 2024 will be to contribute to improving the United Nations Security Council's effectiveness towards greater transparency and accountability.

There are convergences in Swiss and Indian priorities at the UN Security Council. Switzerland, like India, is committed to a robust and effective multilateral system. With reliable voices, our two countries can together contribute to global good. This engagement, in my opinion, is a result of not only our shared priorities, but also our shared democratic values and foreign policy independence.

Switzerland is prepared to take the baton from India at the UN Security Council. As our countries get ready to commemorate the 75th anniversary of their friendship next year, there can be no better tribute to our friendship and partnership — aptly immortalised in popular Indian cinema — than by working together for lasting peace through bilateral and multilateral engagements.

The writer is Swiss State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

AUGUST 2, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

LOK DAL CRISIS

THE LOK DAL seems to be hurtling towards a major crisis. Madhu Limaye, general secretary of the party, resigned his post. Three party secretaries have already resigned. Party workers and leaders from different states will meet in New Delhi to decide what they would do. The question of forming a new party may also be raised at that meeting.

BLOW-OUT IN OILFIELD

THERE HAS BEEN a blow-out in a well in Bombay High oilfield — an uncontrollable flow of gas with traces of oil. The blow-out

has not yet been controlled. It occurred when the jack-up rig "Sagar Vikas" was drilling for the first time into a new formation where geological data had suggested the presence of gas. There has been no report of any casualty.

BEIRUT AIRPORT TAKEN

ISRAELI FORCES CARRIED out a big offensive against Palestinian guerrillas in Beirut and Defence Minister Ariel Sharon said they had captured the city's international airport. Launching one of the biggest actions of the eight-week war, Israeli planes, ships and armour bombarded Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) strongholds for about 14

hours before a cease-fire was arranged.

KENYA COUP ATTEMPT

ELEMENTS OF THE Kenyan airforce tried to oust the government of President Daniel Arap Moi but the attempted coup was crushed by other sections of the armed forces and the police, the state radio reported. President Daniel Arap Moi broadcast to the nation after the abortive coup attempt and thanked army leaders and their men for "their total loyalty to me and to the government and the people of Kenya." At least eight people were reported killed and 50 wounded.



A fresh start at 75

Pakistan needs a reset. Ending the stalemate with India will expand the diplomatic, political and economic space for it to navigate its multiple crises



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

AS INDIA AND Pakistan celebrate the 75th anniversary of their Independence this month and reflect on the tragedies of Partition, it is an appropriate moment to take a fresh look at the unfortunate state of bilateral relations and consider new initiatives to break the stalemate.

While Delhi has a strong government in place and Prime Minister Narendra Modi has considerable freedom of political and diplomatic action, Islamabad is going through one of the more difficult moments in its history. It is not clear how long the current government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will last; nor is it certain that fresh elections will produce greater internal coherence in Pakistan.

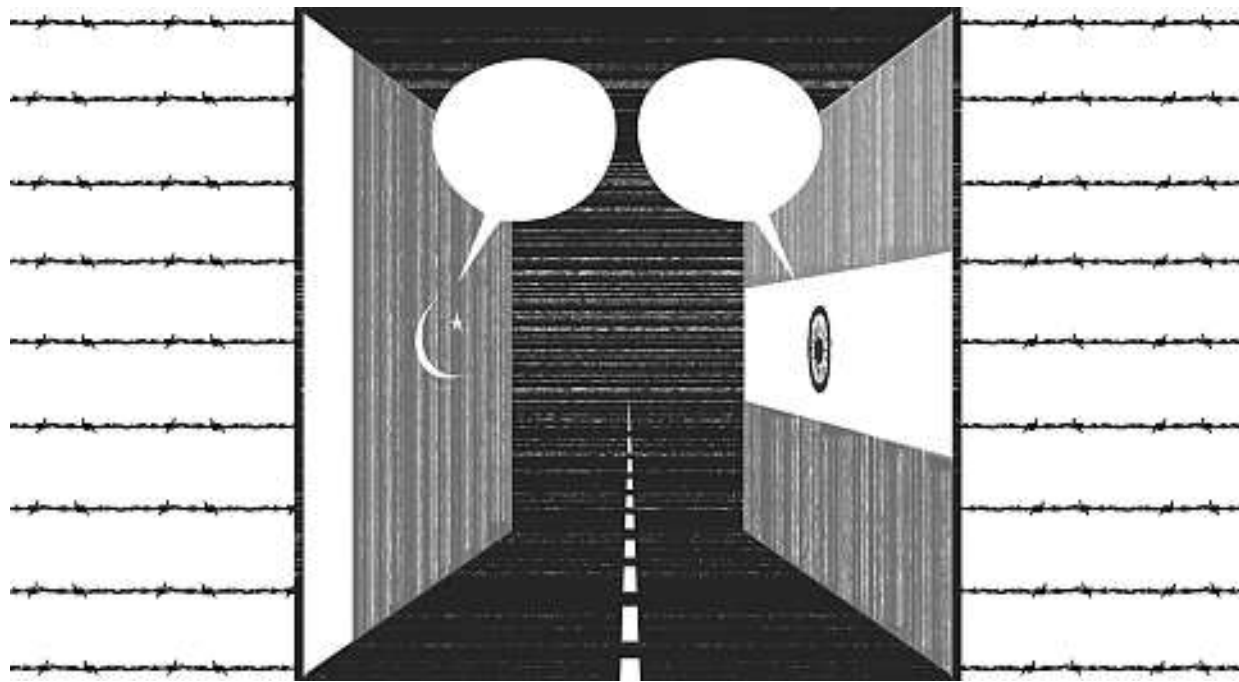
In an interview to an Indian TV channel in Tashkent last week on the margins of a regional summit, the young foreign minister of Pakistan, Bilawal Zardari Bhutto, was honest in summing up the problems with engaging India. Unlike his recent predecessor, the loquacious and quarrelsome Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Bhutto was not trying to posture against India. Nor did he take the reporter's bait to attack Imran Khan's policies. Bhutto's dignity is refreshing but may not be enough to fix the problems with Pakistan's diplomacy.

Bhutto was realistic in acknowledging that Pakistan has no choice but to find a way to live with India — "aaj nahi to kal" — if not today, then tomorrow. But he was frank enough to point to the difficulties. He reaffirmed Pakistan's current position that India's constitutional changes in Kashmir three years ago this month as one of the main obstacles.

On the face of it, all major parties other than Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf are part of the current coalition government in Islamabad. It was apparently set up with the support of the Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa. Ousted as prime minister in April, Imran Khan has mounted a relentless campaign against the current government. He is winning popular support and has swept the bypolls to the Punjab assembly last month. He has got the judiciary to throw out the provincial government in Lahore led by Hamza Sharif.

It is one thing for Imran to go all out against his civilian rivals. But entirely another to confront the army chief and the so-called deep state. Imran has encouraged his supporters to attack Bajwa with little pushback so far from Rawalpindi. Speculation is rife that the army establishment is itself divided. Many retired senior officers have been openly backing Imran Khan and criticising his ouster. With Bajwa set to retire in November, there is natural jockeying for succession.

From a distance at least, Rawalpindi no longer seems to have that kind of absolute authority over Pakistan that it once did. This is not surprising. Decades of promoting undemocratic rule would not have mattered if the army could deliver competent governance and economic growth. It could not. Meanwhile, the army's experiments with religious extremism at home and jihad abroad have seen Pakistan lose its once enviable



C R Sasikumar

diplomatic standing in the world.

More than three decades of support for the Kashmir insurgency has certainly bled Kashmir, but has not shaken it loose from India. Pakistan, which could easily mobilise international support for its Kashmir cause against India in the 1990s, now can't count on anyone other than China and Turkey to back it.

The US and the West which once viewed Pakistan as the main partner in Southern Asia now have an "India-first" policy in the region. The Gulf countries that Pakistan had cultivated in the name of religious solidarity now find Delhi a more valuable partner. Prolonged neglect of the economy and an obsession with geopolitics are costing Islamabad dearly today.

Pakistan's economy is in a deep crisis and Islamabad is negotiating an IMF bailout for the 23rd time since its Independence. Long reared on the notion of strategic parity with India, Pakistan's economy today is 10 times smaller. Worse still, Bangladesh's economy is expected to be \$100 billion larger than that of Pakistan at the end of 2022.

Pakistan's relative decline in the region is only part of the problem. The changing international environment marked by the deepening confrontation between the US on the one hand and China and Russia on the other has further complicated Pakistan's diplomacy. Valued as a bridge between the US and China in the 1970s, Pakistan greatly benefited from partnerships with both in the last four decades. It is now struggling to navigate the Sino-US confrontation.

On his part, Bajwa noted the dangers of aligning too closely to China and has sought to rebuild ties with the US. But Imran Khan has chosen to cast himself as an anti-American patriot and thrown Pakistan's lot with China. Imran Khan also ostentatiously presented himself at the Kremlin as Putin was ordering the invasion of Ukraine in February. The US interest in Pakistan has rapidly declined after the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and there is little enthusiasm in Washington for indulging Islamabad.

Bajwa saw the need for a comprehensive reset of Pakistan's foreign policy. He was right in calling for a shift from geopolitics to geopolitics. He made a bold bid in early 2021 to renew engagement with India. But that initiative sputtered, thanks to the opposition from the then PM Imran Khan. The leaders of

Delhi, of course, should be the last one to tell Pakistan how to run its India policy. The source of change must necessarily come from within Pakistan. Given the massive emotional, ideological, political and strategic investments that Pakistan has made in the Kashmir insurgency, Rawalpindi and Islamabad will need much political courage to modify their current hard line and create the capacity to fend off the potential domestic backlash led by Imran Khan. But what Delhi can do is this — keep the lines of communication open with Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The reported back channel between national security adviser Ajit Doval and Bajwa did produce a ceasefire in February 2021 and is hopefully active today.

the current coalition — Nawaz Sharif of the Muslim League and Asif Ali Zardari of the People's Party — had both sought to improve relations with India in the past. But under pressure from Imran Khan, neither Bajwa nor the civilian leaders have much room to make a new beginning with India.

One does not have to be a genius to see that Pakistan needs a fresh start, and that ending the stalemate with India is a necessary part of it. Even small steps to improve relations with India will expand the diplomatic, political and economic space for Pakistan to navigate its multiple current crises. But that would demand an end to Pakistan's preconditions on Kashmir to engage India.

Delhi, of course, should be the last one to tell Pakistan how to run its India policy. The source of change must necessarily come from within Pakistan. Given the massive emotional, ideological, political and strategic investments that Pakistan has made in the Kashmir insurgency, Rawalpindi and Islamabad will need much political courage to modify their current hard line and create the capacity to fend off the potential domestic backlash led by Imran Khan.

But what Delhi can do is this — keep the lines of communication open with Islamabad and Rawalpindi. The reported back channel between national security adviser Ajit Doval and Bajwa did produce a ceasefire in February 2021 and is hopefully active today.

During the last eight years, Modi has demonstrated the toughness to change the terms of engagement with Pakistan on terror and Kashmir. But he also offered the hand of friendship by inviting Nawaz Sharif to his inauguration in 2014 and travelling to Lahore on short notice in December 2015.

There is no better moment than the 75th anniversary of Independence and Partition for the Indian PM to articulate a new vision for South Asia's future. The elites in Islamabad and Rawalpindi may not be ready to respond to Modi's peace call from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15. But it is important that Modi's message of goodwill is heard by the people of Pakistan and the Subcontinent.

The writer is senior fellow, Asia Society Policy Institute, Delhi and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The recent change of government in Punjab led to the provincial bureaucracy once again being upturned based on the whims of its new political overlords. The system must change to provide greater security of tenure to officers who simply want to focus on discharging their responsibilities." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

Taking on the Tatmadaw

India has a direct security interest in the restoration of democracy in Myanmar. Delhi, along with Quad and ASEAN, must force sanctions on junta



RADHA KUMAR

AUGUST 1 MARKED 18 months of the military coup in Myanmar. According to UN human rights monitors, over 2,000 people have been killed, around 14,000 are in prison, including 90 lawmakers, over 7,00,000 are refugees and half a million internally displaced. Humanitarian aid to coup opponents is blocked. The economy is in free fall.

Yet we in India appear to have resigned ourselves to the suffering in that country, along with the rest of the world. Even the Tatmadaw's recent execution of four democracy activists received only a pro forma expression of "deep concern" from the Ministry of External Affairs.

The contrast between the Indian response to the crisis in Sri Lanka and the dawning civil war in Myanmar could not be starker. For Sri Lanka, the Modi administration extended \$3.5 billion in credit and supplied essential fuel. When it came to Myanmar, Home Minister Shah ordered that refugees be refused entry. Mizoram's Chief Minister Zoramthanga was brave enough to refuse, and the state hosts several thousand democracy activists who were forced to flee. But there is no support from the Union administration for Mizoram's aid effort, and apparently there is no Indian policy vis a vis the coup either, apart from an anodyne statement of support for democracy that is clearly meaningless in the current conditions.

True, it is ASEAN which shouldered the responsibility to mediate in Myanmar, whereas India took the initiative with Sri Lanka. But ASEAN has been largely unsuccessful. The five-point consensus that the junta agreed on with the regional grouping included an immediate end to violence and resumption of negotiations between the ousted administration and the Tatmadaw. The latter immediately postponed implementation of the agreement, and has since consistently violated it.

ASEAN's reaction has been weak at best. The US, EU, Australia and Canada announced targeted sanctions on the junta, and the EU imposed an embargo on arms sales to the country. ASEAN did not. ASEAN members' state-owned enterprises continue to trade with the junta. In an Asian reverberation of the renewed conflict between autocracy and democracy, Russia and China are now the top arms exporters to the Tatmadaw post-coup. India's Bharat Electronics Limited is also reportedly supplying the junta with remote air defence and coastal surveillance equipment.

Given our land and sea borders with Myanmar, and the troubled history of cross-border insurgencies between our two countries, the Modi administration's inertia is alarming, though not entirely surprising. Successive Indian administrations maintained relations with the junta in the hope that they would cooperate against cross-border Indian armed groups. But these insurgencies have mostly petered out. In fact, over the 10 years of Myanmar's partial democracy, from 2011 to 2021, cross-border support for Indian insurgents dipped sharply. In other words, we have a direct se-

curity interest in the restoration of our neighbour's democracy.

Security is not the only or even chief reason for us to do more than express concern. Mizos are as distressed by the junta's attack on Myanmar's elected administration as Tamils are over Sri Lanka's meltdown. Most Mizos wish the Modi administration would not only show compassion for Myanmar's people in this dark hour of their need, but actively support the National Unity Government that formed post-coup.

Though the international community has not accepted the junta or its nominees as official representatives of Myanmar, it has not recognised the unity government as the legitimate successor of the pre-coup elected administration either. Its armed wing, the recently-formed People's Defence Force (PDF), exists in a shadowy limbo. If it is too weak to impose significant costs on the junta, one root cause is the lack of support from neighbours.

As against Europe's military support for Ukraine's defence, no Asian country has stepped up to support the unity government and PDF. Even when they find funds to buy arms, their access is blocked. Bangladesh and Thailand do not allow arms to cross to the resistance. Rumour has it that Indian security forces recently intercepted an arms shipment to the PDF too.

The UN Security Council's statement condemning the executions has added another layer of complexity. The call for an arms embargo is laudable on the face of it, but in practice works mostly against the unity government and the PDF. Even if China and Russia stop arming the Tatmadaw — which is a big if — the most that can be expected is a return to some kind of limited power-sharing. The 2008 Myanmar constitution tried that, with 20 per cent of legislative seats reserved for the military. As we now see, the experiment did not work. Voters naturally resented the curtailment of their freedom to elect, and democrats found the subordination of civil to military authority intolerable. When its front parties failed to win the seats required for military control, the Tatmadaw took the country by force.

Members of Myanmar's civil disobedience movement believe that the only way for Myanmar to regain democracy is if the junta is defeated. General Hlaing, they say, is willing to let the country go North Korea's way so long as the military can remain in power.

But there are many ways to bell the cat, and they have not been exhausted. Sanctions that will starve the junta are a first step that Myanmar's neighbours are yet to try. While ASEAN has the initiative, all Myanmar's neighbours need to unite on sanctions, especially nations such as Japan, Australia and India that are members of the Quad along with the US. Myanmar ought to have topped the recent Quad summit's agenda and it is shameful that it did not. It is still not too late to call a virtual emergency meeting of Quad heads of state, along with ASEAN heads of state, to agree to stringent sanctions. That would show intent and might galvanise sorely-needed pressure on the junta to retreat.

Our neighbourhood is more unstable today than it has been for decades. Four of our bordering countries are in free fall, while China's grip comes closer to our shores by the hour. Can the Modi administration afford to fiddle while wildfires ignite around us?

Kumar is a writer and policy analyst

Force to reckon with

Successive commissioners have shaped Delhi Police into a professional unit



S N SHRIVASTAVA

THE DECISION TO appoint Sanjay Arora, an IPS officer of the 1988 batch from Tamil Nadu cadre, as Commissioner of Police (CP), Delhi is based purely on merit. I have watched him closely during my days in CRPF. He had worked in Naxal-affected areas as well as Jammu and Kashmir as inspector general and additional director general, respectively. I am certain that he will continue to display the work ethic that he displayed in the past and succeed in his present assignment.

Delhi, being the national capital, has strategic importance and the authorities responsible for law and order in the city remain in the public gaze. The Delhi Police has not only remained in the cross-hairs of our enemies but tremors are felt in the city whenever any upheaval takes place anywhere. Any breach of law and order in the city is, therefore, unacceptable. Below-par performance from the Delhi Police is easily discernable and has obvious consequences. The role of the Delhi CP, hence, is critical.

The force, in its long history, has experienced many highs and lows. Whenever the chips are down, it throws up officers and personnel who take up the toughest challenges. This force has had the benefit of commissioners with rich experience in handling challenging and tricky situations.

Ved Marwah was my first police commissioner when I reported to Delhi Police for field training fresh from the National Police

Academy. Interestingly, he was not the first choice as Delhi's CP in May 1985. In the aftermath of the 1984 riots, the primary task before the Delhi Police was to raise the morale of the demoralised police force and to bring it back on track after serious criticism of its handling of the riots. S S Jog, a Maharashtra cadre officer, who had replaced Subhash Tandon, a UP cadre officer, who was commissioner during the riots, was keen to return to his home state for personal reasons. Orders were issued to appoint Julio Ribeiro, another Maharashtra cadre officer, as CP of Delhi in April 1985. But before Ribeiro could join the Delhi Police, the city was rocked by a series of transistor bomb blasts in buses. In the next couple of days, more bomb blasts took place sending shock waves through the city. Marwah, then officiating CP, took charge and not only were the cases solved with the arrest of the terrorists in two days but any social disturbance as a fall-out of the blasts was not allowed to happen.

The leadership displayed by Marwah may have led the government to review its order appointing Ribeiro. He handled the situation admirably at a time when Sikh militancy was at its peak. He not only restored the pride of the force but took its morale to a new level. During those difficult times, he personally supervised the investigation of all major terror crimes and ensured that they were resolved.

Each commissioner who headed the force displayed a few specific abilities, which set

them apart. One thing that was common to all, however, was the vision to make the Delhi Police an outfit equipped to handle contemporary needs. In the process, specialised units were created to deal with newer challenges, which involved meticulous training of the manpower and equipping them with the appropriate knowledge and tools.

The Delhi Police grew as a professional force through successive commissioners belonging to the Union Territories cadre (later renamed as AGMUT cadre). The foundation was laid during Marwah's time and his successor, Raja Vijay Karan, another UT cadre officer, set in motion an image makeover of the Delhi Police. He initiated many citizen-centric programmes. He introduced openness in the Delhi Police by inviting workable ideas from officers and men of whatever rank and implementing them. This was a novel initiative for police organisations in India.

M B Kaushal, who was in the hot seat for three years in the early 1990s, knew his officers and men well. The "connect" he had with the personnel, cutting across ranks, made him popular in the force. He was followed by Nikhil Kumar, who demanded professionalism and commitment from his team. He would support his team, even at the risk of his job. As a young DCP, I had ordered a firing to disperse an unlawful crowd, which led to the death of three persons and injuries to many more. I was shaken at the loss of lives and other damages.

Kumar visited the site of the incident and reassured me by placing his hand on my shoulder and saying that the police action was unavoidable in the circumstances. This had a positive impact and my confidence shot up. Such large-heartedness from the police leadership brushes off on young officers who try to imitate these habits when they are at the helm of affairs.

Yudhvir Dadwal had the onerous responsibility of preparing the force for the Commonwealth Games in 2010. He galvanised the organisation to provide seamless connectivity between the various facilities, impeccable security and incident-free crowd-management, earning praise from all concerned. One of his great contributions was modernising and laying down systems to eliminate arbitrariness in police functioning. High professional competence was the trademark of Neeraj Kumar. He would take a keen interest in the investigation of cases, whether terrorist crimes or economic offences. He was approachable to the public and used to come up with new ideas and schemes, especially in community policing.

The contributions of other police commissioners and officers I worked with were no less important in shaping the force into an effective professional unit.

The writer is a former Commissioner of Police, Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FLASHPOINT TAIWAN

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Impending storm' (IE, August 1). China has been quite aggressive in implementing its designs to claim superpower status alongside the US. Obviously, Washington is not comfortable with that. Beijing's open support to Russia in the Ukraine crisis has further riled the US. Now, Taiwan can well prove to be the flashpoint. While the heads of the two nations try to do some damage control with their relationship, they must also engage in a balancing act between popular sentiments and realpolitik.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Impending storm' (IE, August 1). The deteriorating ties between existing and aspiring superpowers is a cause for concern from the global order's stability perspective. Taiwan has been a boiling issue for quite a while now. Though it is commendable that both sides are talking to each other, refusal to cede any ground is worrisome. Having said that, on the question of Nancy Pelosi's expected visit to Taiwan, there are divergent views within US policy

makers. When the US is already appearing weak because of a hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan and the devastation in Ukraine, despite American commitments made earlier, they will try to remain tough on the question of Taiwan. Whatever decision Pelosi makes will have long term ramifications in the US-China relationship. Treading cautiously and after constructive deliberations between all branches of the government is the best way forward.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

SAFETY CONCERNS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Turbulence ahead' (IE, August 1). Safety concerns cannot be termed as "overblown", despite flying being considered the safest mode of transportation. The alarming frequency of safety incidents with SpiceJet, do not invoke confidence. With Jet to fly again and Akasa waiting in the wings, there is intense competition in the domestic flying space. That does not mean that safety can be compromised. Hopefully, DGCA's recent order asking SpiceJet to cut down on flights sends a strong signal to other airlines to remain on their toes.

Bal Govind, Noida



LIUTENANT UHURA ON 'STAR TREK' NICHELLE NICHOLS DIES AT 89

Nichelle Nichols, the actress revered by "Star Trek" fans everywhere for her role as Lieutenant Uhura, the communications officer on the starship USS Enterprise, died on Saturday in Silver City, N.M. She was 89. She had a long career as an entertainer, beginning as a teenage supper-club singer in Chicago, and later appearing on television.

TOPOF THE WORLD



Beyoncé released her latest album, 'Renaissance'

USA

Beyoncé to change lyrics after criticism

DAYS AFTER the release of her latest album, "Renaissance," Beyoncé will modify the lyrics of one of its songs, a representative for the singer said on Monday, in response to an outcry from disability rights advocates who say the pop star should not have used a word that has historically been employed as a derogatory slur. In "Heated," a dancehall-inspired track, the singer uses the words "spaz" and "spazzin'" in an energetically recited portion of the song that's a callback to the freestyles at some ballroom events. "The word, not used intentionally in a harmful way, will be replaced," a spokeswoman for Beyoncé said. **NYT**

PAKISTAN

Talks with TTP end in deadlock, says report

Islamabad: Talks between the 17-member delegation of the tribal council leaders from Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province and the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan being held in Afghanistan ended in a deadlock. The latest impasse comes after the outfit refused to back down from its demand for the reversal of the merger of erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the Express Tribune reported on Monday. The outfit has also refused to lay down the arms in case a peace deal materialises, the report said. **PTI**

PAKISTAN

Imran Khan's Instagram account hacked

Islamabad: The Instagram account of Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan was briefly hacked on Monday by crypto scammers who shared a post lauding Tesla Motors founder Elon Musk for "donating" three bitcoins, according to media reports. The account was recovered soon with the help of Meta, PTI social media head Arslan Khalid told *the Dawn*. Khalid said he monitored Khan's account where the hackers shared a cryptocurrency link with his 7.4 million followers. Khalid said the hackers also shared a screenshot of a tweet from Elon Musk. **PTI**

PHILIPPINES

Marcos rules out rejoining ICC

Manila: Newly elected President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said Monday the Philippines has no plan to rejoin the International Criminal Court, a decision that supports his predecessor's stance but rejects the wishes of human rights activists. Former President Rodrigo Duterte withdrew the Philippines from ICC in 2019 in a move rights activists said was an attempt to evade accountability and prevent an international probe into thousands of killings in his campaign against illegal drugs. **AP**

BOMBING CONTINUES IN SOUTH AND EAST

'Relief for the world' as first Ukraine grain ship leaves Odesa for Lebanon

More ships to follow: Ukraine

REUTERS
KYIV, AUGUST 1

A SHIP carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for Lebanon on Monday under a safe passage agreement, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said, the first departure since the Russian invasion blocked shipping through the Black Sea five months ago.

Ukraine's foreign minister called it "a day of relief for the world", especially for countries threatened by food shortages and hunger because of the disrupted shipments.

The sailing was made possible after Turkey and the UN brokered a grain-and-fertiliser export agreement between Russia and Ukraine last month - a rare diplomatic breakthrough in a conflict that is grinding on with no resolution in sight.

"The first grain ship since #RussianAggression has left port," Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said. "Today Ukraine, together with its partners, makes another step to prevent world hunger."

The Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni will head to Lebanon after transiting through the Bosphorus Strait.

UN Secretary-General



The Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni leaves the sea port in Odesa on Monday. Reuters

Antonio Guterres said he hoped Tuesday's departure would be the first of many such cargos and that the UN would charter a ship to replenish supplies of aid.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports. The deal aims to allow safe passage for grain shipments in and out of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter:

"The day of relief for the world, especially for our friends in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, as the first Ukrainian grain leaves Odesa after months of Russian blockade."

Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said the vessel would anchor off Istanbul on Tuesday afternoon and be inspected by a joint team of Russian, Ukrainian, United Nations and Turkish representa-

tives. "It will then continue as long as no problems arise," Akar said. Ukrainian presidential officials have said 17 ships are docked in Black Sea ports with almost 600,000 tonnes of cargo, mostly grain. More ships would follow, Kubrakov said.

Meanwhile, the war of attrition continued elsewhere.

Three civilians were killed by Russian shelling in Donetsk region - two in Bakhmut and one

in nearby Soledar - in the last 24 hours, regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

An industrial city and transport hub, Bakhmut has been under Russian bombardment for the past week as the Kremlin's forces try to occupy all of Donetsk. Russian strikes also hit Kharkiv on Monday, regional governor Oleh Synegubov said. Two civilians were wounded, he added.

Not right time for Gotabaya to return: Ranil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, AUGUST 1

IT IS not the right time for Gotabaya Rajapaksa to return to Sri Lanka as his presence here could inflame political tensions in the country which is grappling with the worst economic crisis in history, his successor Ranil Wickremesinghe has said.

The six-time former prime minister said in an interview with the *Wall Street Journal* on Sunday that the former president's return in the current situation could inflame political tensions among tens of thousands of protesters who blame the erstwhile powerful family for the current economic crisis.

Sri Lanka's cabinet spokesman Bandula Gunawardena recently



The President said presence of Gotabaya Rajapaksa can inflame political tensions

said Rajapaksa was not in hiding and was expected to return soon.

Wickremesinghe, who remained in contact with Rajapaksa to deal with administrative handover issues and other government business, said the former president had not indicated about

Travel ban on Basil, Mahinda extended

Colombo: Sri Lanka's Supreme Court on Monday extended until August 4 the overseas travel ban on former PM Mahinda Rajapaksa and his younger brother and former finance minister Basil Rajapaksa, who are widely blamed for the current economic crisis. On July 15, the SC had barred them from leaving the country till July 28. The ban was later extended till August 2. **PTI**

his planned return to Lanka soon.

"I don't believe it's the time for him to return," 73-year-old Wickremesinghe said, adding

that the leader, who escaped Sri Lanka in the middle of the economic turmoil, had not "indicated" of returning soon.

"I think we've already hit the bottom," Wickremesinghe said. "I can see the light at the end of the tunnel; it's how fast we can get to it." The president acknowledged that it would take months for Sri Lankans to see their economic circumstances improve markedly.

Wickremesinghe expected the IMF staff-level agreement to be reached by the end of August, the report said, adding that Sri Lanka will have to secure up to \$3 billion from other sources next year to support essential imports. He also told the newspaper it would be months before Sri Lankans would see any marked improvement in their economic circumstances.

Pakistan's annual inflation rises to 14-year high at 24.9% in July

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 1

PAKISTAN'S ANNUAL consumer price inflation reached 24.9% in July, up from 21.3% in June and the highest in 14 years, the statistics bureau said on Monday.

Non-food items, mainly fuel and electricity charges, were the major reason for the rise, it said, adding surging prices for vegetables, pulses, cooking oil, wheat flour and milk were also a significant factor. On a month-on-month basis, inflation jumped by 4.3% in July, the bureau said.

Pakistan is in economic turmoil with fast depleting foreign reserves. However, sufficient measures have been put in place

Ex-PM Abbasi received kickbacks from an Indian firm: Opp leader

Lahore: A senior Pakistani opposition leader has alleged that former PM Shahid Khaqan Abbasi received kickbacks from an Indian company when he was serving as the federal petroleum minister in the cabinet of Premier Nawaz Sharif five years ago, media reports said on Monday. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shahbaz Gill alleged that Abbasi took PKR 140 mil-

lion as a bribe from an Indian firm as consultancy fees, the Dawn reported. Gill, the chief of staff to ousted prime minister Imran Khan, did not disclose the name of the Indian company. Reacting to the allegations levelled against him, Abbasi, 63, said instead of dishing the dirt at him, the former ruling party should file a petition against him with concrete evidence. **PTI**

to contain the current account deficit as energy imports have declined and non-energy im-

THERE CAN BE NO WINNERS IN A NUCLEAR WAR: PUTIN One miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation: UN chief

THE NEW YORK TIMES
AUGUST 1

THE SECRETARY general of the United Nations warned on Monday that humanity was "just one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation," citing the war in Ukraine among the conflicts driving the risk to a level not seen since the height of the Cold War.

"All this at a time when the risks of proliferation are growing and guardrails to prevent escalation are weakening," the official, António Guterres, said. Guterres was speaking at the opening session of a conference at the UN headquarters in New



António Guterres at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday.

York about upholding and securing the 50-year-old global Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The conference took place after a two-year delay because of the pandemic and was attended by high-level representatives from member states, including the PM of Japan, the US Secretary of State and dozens of foreign ministers and delegations.

to tackle the economic and political crisis. However, the TNA has not made a decision yet to take up Cabinet positions in such a government.

President Wickremesinghe last week wrote to the members of Parliament calling on them to join him to form a national all-party government to tackle the island nation's economic crisis.

The main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balavegaya (SJB), however, said invitations to form the all-party government must be extended to parties and not individuals. TNA had officially supported Wickremesinghe's rival Dullas Alahapperuma in the parliamentary vote on July 20 to elect the successor to the resigned president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

President Vladimir V Putin and other Russian have repeatedly suggested that nuclear war could erupt if NATO intervened in the war in Ukraine. In his remarks to the session, Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said the treaty had made the world safer but was under increasing strain. Blinken mentioned Russia, Iran and North Korea as examples of nuclear-related concerns.

Putin also sent a message to the nonproliferation conference. "We believe that there can be no winners in a nuclear war, and it must never be fought," Putin wrote, according to Tass. "We advocate equal and inseparable security for all members of the international community."

TRIAL TO FOCUS ON ADVANCES PAID TO MOST SUCCESSFUL AUTHORS

Stephen King set to bat for US govt in case against publishers' merger

DIANE BARTZ
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 1

THE US Justice Department will ask a federal judge on Monday to block a \$2.2 billion merger of two of the "Big Five" book publishers, Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster, in a trial that is expected to feature testimony from horror writer Stephen King.

Also on Monday, in the same federal courthouse in Washington, the Justice Department will argue before a different judge that UnitedHealth Group's \$8 billion

deal to buy Change Healthcare should be stopped.

In the publisher merger trial, the government has focused not on what consumers pay for books but on advances paid to the most successful authors, especially those given \$250,000 or more.

"The evidence will show that the proposed merger would likely result in authors of anticipated top-selling books receiving smaller advances, meaning authors who labour for years over their manuscripts will be paid less for their efforts," the government said in a pretrial brief.

The government also intends



Author Stephen King in New York. Reuters File

to show there was concern among the merging parties that the deal is not legal. It previously disclosed an email sent by Simon & Schuster CEO Jonathan Karp who wrote: "I'm pretty sure the Department of Justice wouldn't allow Penguin Random House to buy us, but that's assuming we still have a Department of Justice." King, author of "The Shining," "Carrie" and other blockbusters, will testify for the government, along with publishing executives and authors' agents.

Penguin Random House, the largest book publisher in the United States, said it planned to

buy rival Simon & Schuster in November 2020. Penguin Random House is owned by German media conglomerate Bertelsmann. Simon & Schuster is owned by ViacomCBS, now Paramount Global. The Justice Department filed its lawsuit in November 2021.

The defense, led by lawyer Daniel Petrocelli who defeated the Trump administration's 2018 bid to stop AT&T Inc from buying Time Warner, will argue the market for books, and for publishers to win top-selling authors, is competitive and that the merger will make it even more so.

The publishers will likely argue that the evidence shows that in bidding for potential best-sellers Penguin Random House and Simon & Schuster "are rarely the top two bidders."

The top five publishers are Penguin Random House, HarperCollins, Macmillan, Simon & Schuster and Hachette, with Walt Disney Co and Amazon.com Inc also in market. HarperCollins is owned by News Corp. Judge Florence Pan of the US District Court for the District of Columbia will decide if the deal may go forward. The trial is expected to last two to three weeks. **REUTERS**

EXPLAINED What the visit means for Xi

MILITARY WON'T SIT IDLY: BEIJING

Pelosi set to visit Taiwan despite China warnings

YIMOU LEE & MARTIN QUIN POLLARD
TAIPEI/BEIJING, AUGUST 1

US HOUSE of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi was set to visit Taiwan on Tuesday, two people briefed on the matter said, as China warned that its military would never "sit idly by" if she visited the self-ruled island claimed by Beijing.

Pelosi, who began an Asia trip earlier on Monday in Singapore, was due to spend Tuesday night in Taiwan, the people said.

Taiwan's foreign ministry said it had no comment on reports of Pelosi's travel plans.

Amid widespread speculation over whether she would make a stop in Taiwan, Pelosi's office said on Sunday she was leading a congressional delegation to the region that would include visits to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan. It did not mention Taiwan.

One source told Reuters that the US had informed some allies about Pelosi's visit to Taiwan. Another source said Pelosi was scheduled to meet activists who are outspoken on China rights issues during her stay in Taiwan.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said earlier on Monday that it would be "a gross interference in China's internal affairs" if Pelosi visits

CHINA VIEWS visits by Pelosi to Taiwan as sending an encouraging signal to the pro-independence camp in the island. As per Xi, who is also confronting a brittle economic and political moment and careening into a crisis over Taiwan, the visit could damage him, even as he rallies nationalist support.

Taiwan, and warned that it would lead to "very serious developments and consequences." "We would like to tell the US again that China is standing by, the Chinese People's Liberation Army will never sit idly by, and China will take resolute responses and strong countermeasures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity," Zhao said.

The White House dismissed China's rhetoric as groundless and inappropriate. "It is not uncommon for congressional leaders to travel to Taiwan," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said to CNN Monday. "We shouldn't be intimidated by that rhetoric. We're going to do whatever we can to support her." **REUTERS**

Lanka Tamil party backs call to form all-party unity govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, AUGUST 1

SRI LANKA'S main Tamil minority party TNA on Monday announced that it will support President Ranil Wickremesinghe's efforts to form an all-party national government to help the country to recover from the worst economic crisis.

R Sampanthan, a veteran Tamil political leader, told reporters that the move to form an all-party government is the best step to be taken right now and his party will support the move.

Another Tamil National Alliance (TNA) spokesman said that the party has decided that the formation of an all-party government would be suitable



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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

TELLING NUMBERS

Over 59 lakh cases pending in High Courts, and where 96 women judges are serving

CASES PENDING IN HIGH COURTS ALL INDIA: 59,57,454

High Court	Pending cases*	High Court	Pending cases*
Allahabad	10,26,417	Telangana	2,58,932
Rajasthan	6,05,215	Patna	2,20,403
Bombay	5,92,583	Andhra Pradesh	2,35,482
Madras	5,63,595	Calcutta	2,15,859
Punjab & Haryana	4,50,527	Odisha	1,85,567
Madhya Pradesh	4,17,003	Gujarat	1,58,512
Karnataka	2,96,965	Delhi	1,05,814

*As of July 22, 2022

WOMEN JUDGES IN HIGHER JUDICIARY

SUPREME COURT: 4

Women judges	High Courts	Total
12 each	Delhi, Madras	24
9	Telangana	9
8	Bombay	8
7 each	Calcutta, Punjab & Haryana	14
6 each	Gujarat, Kerala	12
5 each	Allahabad, Karnataka	10
4	Andhra Pradesh	4
3	Madhya Pradesh	3
2 each	Gauhati, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Ladakh, Rajasthan	8
1 each	Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim	4
Nil	Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Patna, Uttarakhand	0
Grand total	25 High Courts	96

Figures as of July 25, 2022

WOMEN JUDGES IN DISTRICT & SUBORDINATE COURTS

Civil judges (junior division)	Civil judges (senior division)	District judges
All India 3,719	All India 1,611	All India 1,435
UP 404	UP 170	UP 220
Maharashtra 346	Maharashtra 139	Rajasthan 126
MP 300	MP 133	Maharashtra 112
Rajasthan 260	Rajasthan 121	Tamil Nadu 112
Bihar 256	Karnataka 120	MP 103

Figures as of July 25, 2022

Source: Ministry of Law & Justice, Rajya Sabha reply

OVER 59 LAKH cases were pending in the High Courts until July 22, Law Minister Kiren Rijju said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha last week. In reply to another question, the Minister tabled data on women judges serving in various courts, including 4 in the Supreme Court and 96 in the High Courts, as of July 25.

Pendency of cases

Replying to a question from Dr C M Ramesh (BJP) on July 28, Rijju provided a break-up for a backlog of 59,57,454 cases in 25 High Courts. Allahabad High Court has the highest number of pending cases at over 10 lakh. Next are the High Courts of Rajasthan (just over 6 lakh) and Bombay (just under 6 lakh).

While noting that disposal of pending cases in courts is within the domain of the judiciary, and that the government has no direct role in their disposal, Rijju said: "The Central Government is fully committed to speedy disposal of cases in accordance with Article 21 of the Constitution and reducing pendency. The Government has taken several ini-

tiatives to provide an ecosystem for faster disposal of cases by the judiciary."

He listed various initiatives such as virtual courts and videoconferencing, and filling up of vacant positions.

Women judges

The Minister presented the details on women judges in reply to a question by Dr Amee Yajnik (Congress). The 4 women judges in the Supreme Court are against a sanctioned strength of 34 judges, and the 96 women judges in the High Courts are against a sanctioned strength of 1,108 judges.

Out of the 96 women judges in the High Courts, Delhi and Madras HCs between them account for one-fourth, at 12 women judges each. Telangana has 9 women judges, Bombay has 8, and Calcutta and Punjab & Haryana have 7 each. Five HCs — Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Patna, and Uttarakhand — do not have a single woman judge.

The Minister also tabled data on women judges serving in district and subordinate courts.

SIMPLY PUT

Civil code and govt stance

Previous regimes were reluctant to interfere with personal laws. Of late, govt has been underlining the need for wider consultations, and what Article 44 says on UCC. Replies in Parliament reflect the evolving stance.

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE GOVERNMENT'S stance on a uniform civil code (UCC) has evolved from one regime to the next, especially in the last eight years. This was reflected in the recent stand of the Ministry of Law and Justice, which is learnt to have conveyed to a parliamentary committee that review of personal laws — as in Goa where a 155-year-old Portuguese-era law is still in force — can be undertaken when a "sizeable majority" of the population seek amendment of the existing laws or a new law is enacted (*The Indian Express*, July 31).

The shift in stance can be seen in the government's written replies in Parliament since 1991. Previous regimes would underline a "consistent policy" — "not to interfere in the personal laws of the minority community". This later evolved to "wide stakeholder consultation would be required" and then to "committed to honour" the constitutional mandate enshrined in the Article 44 of the Constitution.

From over two dozen occasions in the last 31 years, a look at the government's replies to questions raised by at least 58 MPs (including half from the BJP; 9 from Congress; 7 from Shiv Sena; 2 each from Trinamool Congress, BJD, CPI, AIADMK and TDP; 1 each from BSP, CPM and IUML; and an independent):

1991-04: 'No interference'

On July 19, 1991, the late P R Kumararamangalam of the Congress, Law Minister in the P V Narashimha Rao government, said in reply to a question from Shiv Sena's Ashok Deshmukh: "Introduction of Uniform Civil Code for all citizens will necessarily involve changes in the personal laws of minority communities. The consistent policy of the Government has been not to interfere on its own in the personal laws of the minority communities unless initiative for the change comes from such communities."

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government followed the same stance. On August 17, 2000, the late Arun Jaitley, then Law Minister, said in reply to a question from his BJP colleague Yogi Adityanath in Lok Sabha: "It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the personal laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiative comes from the concerned communities themselves. Hence, it is not pos-



In their respective terms as Law Minister, both H R Bhardwaj (left) and Arun Jaitley spoke of a "consistent" policy not to interfere in personal laws of minorities. *Archive*

sible to lay down any time frame in this regard."

And on November 29, 2001, to a question from Brijlal Khabri (BSP), Jaitley said: "The policy of the Government is not to effect any changes in these laws unless the initiative therefore comes from those communities."

The UPA years

This continued in the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government, with the additional stance that initiatives for changes in personal laws of minority communities should come from "a sizeable cross-section" of such communities themselves.

On July 7, 2004, in reply to a question from Shiv Sena's Chandrakant Bhaurao Khaire, Minister of State K Venkatapathy said, "It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from a sizeable cross-section of such community themselves."

On August 4, 2006, Law Minister H R Bhardwaj reiterated this while replying to a question from Shiv Sena's Mohan Rawale. And on August 24, 2007, when Adityanath raised a question, MoS Venkatapathy reiterated the "consistent policy of not to interfere" in the personal laws of the minority community.

During UPA-2 (2009-2014), the question of UCC was raised by BJP's Radha Mohan Singh (April 29, 2010) and Murli Manohar Joshi (March 10, 2011). In written replies to both

questions, Law Minister Veerappa Moily mentioned the government's "consistent policy" "not to interfere" in personal laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from "a sizeable cross-section of such communities".

Modi government, 1st term

During the Narendra Modi-led NDA government's first term (2014-19), members asked questions about the UCC on at least 13 occasions, as compared to 2 occasions in the 13th Lok Sabha, 3 in the 14th and 2 in the 15th.

On July 14, 2014, when Adityanath asked whether the government proposes to implement UCC, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad replied, "Provision of Uniform Civil Code is there in Article 44 in Constitution. Wide stakeholder consultation would be required for further steps in this regard."

On April 23, 2015, Law Minister D V Sadananda Gowda, replying to a question from Arun Shirole (BJP), referred to Dr B R Ambedkar and the "importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved". He said wide "consultation" with stakeholders would be required.

Gowda reiterated the need for a "wider consultation" on December 3, 2015, while replying to a raised by five members of the BJP and Congress — Ranjeet Ranjan, Arjun Meghwal, Dr Shashi Tharoor, Nana Patole and Dr Manoj Rajoria. The Minister said the government had received certain representations from various quarters for bringing in a UCC as

envisaged under Article 44.

On March 3, 2016, when Congress MPs K V Thomas and Patole asked if the government had started consultations with stakeholders on UCC, Gowda replied, "In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, wider consultation with stakeholders would be required for taking further steps in this regard and it may not be possible to lay down any rigid time frame in the matter."

On July 28, 2016, Minister of State on P P Chaudhary too highlighted the need of "in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities". He was replying to a question raised by five members — Dr Thokchom Meinya, Chandu Lal Sahu, C N Jayadevan, Jayadev Galla and Ch Malla Reddy. In subsequent replies, Chaudhary reiterated the need for an "in-depth study" on four occasions — March 15 and March 29, 2017, and March 28 and April 4, 2018.

Stress on consultations

During its current term since 2019, the government has given written replies on UCC on at least five occasions.

On July 17, 2019, in a reply to a question from Ramapati Ram Tripathi (BJP), then Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "In view of the importance of the subject matter and sensitivity involved, and the matter requiring in-depth study of the provisions of various personal laws governing different communities, the Government had requested the 21st Law Commission of India to undertake examination of various issues relating to uniform civil code and to make recommendation thereon."

When Dushyant Singh (BJP) asked if the government plans to introduce a Bill on UCC, Prasad said on September 16, 2020: "Article 44 of the Constitution of India states that the state shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India. The Government is committed to honour this Constitutional mandate. However, this requires wide scale consultations."

Last week, Law Minister Kiren Rijju told Lok Sabha that the BJP's view on UCC should be considered the view of the government. Replying to Janardan Singh Sigrivai (BJP) and Adoor Prakash (Congress) on July 22, Rijju said in Lok Sabha: "There are some writ petitions pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court... regarding uniform civil code. Since the matter is *sub-judice*, no decision on implementation of uniform civil code in the country has been taken as of now."

3 reasons why GST collections are surging

AANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

GROSS GST collections have risen 28% year-on-year to Rs 1,48,995 crore for July (for sales in June), the second highest level since the July 2017 rollout of the indirect tax regime, data released by the Finance Ministry on Monday showed. The high inflation rate and buoyancy in consumption patterns triggered by the economic recovery, alongside greater enforcement actions against anti-evasion activities, have contributed to the rise in GST collections.

The Finance Ministry said the jump in GST revenue displays a "very high buoyancy", and "impact of various measures taken by the (GST) Council... to ensure better compliance". Better reporting, along with the economic recovery, "has been having a positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis", it said. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said last month that Rs 1.40 lakh crore is now the "rough bottom line" for monthly GST revenue collections.

Under The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14% from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to implementation of the taxation regime for five years after its rollout. This period ended on June 30. The GST Council meeting in June did not take any decision to extend the compensation mechanism, despite demands made by at least a dozen states.

What the jump signifies

"GST collections reported a healthy trend, rising for the second month in a row, with the 28% YoY rise being a function of the economic recovery, better compliance, as well as elevated

inflation," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA, said. "With the headline GST collection in July 2022 exceeding our monthly average forecast of Rs 1.45 trillion for this year, we foresee an upside of Rs 1.15 trillion relative to the FY 2023 for CGST collections," she said.

After the compensation regime for states ended in June 2022, the higher GST growth is expected to ease the revenue concerns of some states going forward. However, states that depend heavily on compensation may find FY 2023 to be challenging, and some may even resort to higher enforcement actions to shore up revenue, experts said.

Under The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14% from the base year 2015-16 for losses arising due to implementation of the taxation regime for five years after its rollout. This period ended on June 30. The GST Council meeting in June did not take any decision to extend the compensation mechanism, despite demands made by at least a dozen states.

With the compensation regime ending, authorities are taking more enforcement related measures. Vivek Jalan, Partner, Tax Connect Advisory, said, "It is understood that revenue targets have been set for the state officers as well, which they would now try to achieve. It

is important to note that even if a dealer is registered with the Centre, the state can still investigate it on a specific issue and vice versa."

Since states will no longer be compensated for shortfall in revenues, SGST departments of states have been getting aggressive on collections, Jalan said. "Industry-wise action has of late been an area of interest to the revenue authorities. Therefore, it is imperative for industry captains to keep a close watch on developments in their industry," Jalan said.

Abhishek Jain, Partner, Indirect Tax, KPMG India, said, "These consistent high collections indicate recovery from the pandemic, and can also be attributed to inflation and tight checks and balances implemented by the government. Further, with rationalisations being implemented subsequent to the recent GST Council meet, these numbers may go up further in the coming months."

Break-up of revenues

Before this, collections had touched their highest-ever level of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022 for year-end sales in March. This is the sixth time that monthly GST collections have crossed Rs 1.40 lakh crore, and the fifth month in a row since March 2022. Collections in July 2021 stood at Rs 1,16,393 crore.

A total 7.45 crore e-way bills were gener-

ated in June, compared with 7.36 crore in May.

The average monthly gross GST collection for the first four months of 2022-23 has been Rs 1.50 lakh crore; the corresponding figure last fiscal was Rs 1.12 lakh crore.

Revenue from import of goods was 48% higher in July compared to last year; revenue from domestic transactions (including import of services) was 22% higher.

Except Daman & Diu, Bihar, and Tripura, which recorded a contraction, all other states/UTs recorded a growth in GST generated in their respective regions.

Out of the gross GST revenue of Rs 1,48,995 crore, CGST — the tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the Centre — is Rs 25,751 crore. SGST — the tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the states — is Rs 32,807 crore, the Ministry said.

CGST — the tax levied on all inter-state supplies of goods and services — is Rs 79,518 crore (including Rs 41,420 crore collected on import of goods), and cess is Rs 10,920 crore (including Rs 995 crore collected on import of goods).

The government has settled Rs 32,365 crore to CGST and Rs 26,774 crore to SGST from IGST. The total revenue of the Centre and states in July after regular settlement is Rs 58,116 crore for CGST and Rs 59,581 crore for SGST, the Ministry said.

How Army dogs are recruited and trained, and what duties they perform

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 1

A TWO-YEAR-OLD Army dog named Axel was killed in the line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir on July 30 while taking part in a search operation with a Rashtriya Rifles battalion. Axel was given a ceremonial guard of honour by the Army before his burial in the Army Dog Unit he served in

The last mission

Axel, serving in the 26 Army Dog Unit in the Kashmir Valley, was deployed on a search mission during an anti-terror operation being carried out by the 29 Rashtriya Rifles. While he was clearing the rooms where suspected terrorists were holed up, one of the terrorists in hiding shot him. A postmortem conducted at the 54 Army Veterinary Hospital revealed that he had more than ten bullet wounds and a fracture

of the femur.

Axel was honoured at a ceremony held by HQs 10 Sector Rashtriya Rifles where wreaths were laid by the General Officer Commanding Kilo Force of Rashtriya Rifles and other senior officers. He was later buried in the unit grounds of 26 Army Dog Unit.

Dog units in Army

In a statement in Parliament in 2019, the Minister of State for Defence had said the Army had 25 full dog units and two half units. A full dog unit comprises 24 dogs and a half unit has 12. The various breeds in these units include Labradors, German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois and Great Mountain Swiss Dogs. Axel was reportedly a Belgian Malinois breed dog.

Their training and duties

Army dogs perform a variety of duties, including guard duty, patrolling, sniffing out explosives such as Improvised Explosive



PTI

Devices (IEDs), mine detection, sniffing out contraband items, assaulting potential targets, avalanche debris detection. They also participate in search operations for fugitives and terrorists in hiding.

Each Army dog has a handler who is responsible for its well-being, and to guide it

through the various tasks it has to perform. Army dogs are trained at the Remount and Veterinary Corps Centre and School in Meerut, where a dog training school came up in 1960. Based on the breed and aptitude of the dogs, they are trained in various skills before being inducted.



Twitter/Northern Command

Tribute to the mortal remains of Axel, the Indian Army's assault dog shot dead by a terrorist in Kashmir on Sunday.

Service in the Army

Army dogs are in service for around eight years before they are retired. There was an earlier practice of euthanising Army dogs after they were no longer in active service. This information came out in a reply to an RTI query in 2015, leading to a public uproar, following which the policy was amended. Army dogs are no longer put to permanent sleep.

A PIL had been filed in Delhi High Court in 2016, and then Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain had submitted a declaration saying that the policy of euthanising the animals was being amended and that retired dogs would be rehabilitated.

Decorations for bravery

In the Indian Army, animals, including dogs, are eligible to be awarded the Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card, Vice Chief of Staff Commendation Card as well as General Officer Commanding in Chief

Commendation Card for their acts of gallantry as well as distinguished service.

The dog handlers are eligible for gallantry medals as well, and have been awarded Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal while taking part in operations with their dogs.

In the United Kingdom, the highest award for animals in military or police service is the PDSA Dickin Medal. It was instituted in 1943 by Maria Dickin, founder of People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) for any animal displaying conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving with British armed forces or civil emergency services. The bronze Dickin Medal is embossed with words "For Gallantry" on one side and "We Also Serve" on the other.

In the US, there is a Medal of Bravery, which is awarded to animals and was instituted in 2019. The US also has a K-9 Medal of courage which has been instituted by the American Humane Association.

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Mohd Asraf S/o Shoukat Ali R/o H.No.-301, Lancer Road, Timarpur, Delhi have changed my name to Mohad Asraf, for all purposes. 0040625063-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Late Fakir Chand Residence-E-325, Mangolpuri, Delhi-83 have changed my minor daughter name Divyanshi to Divyanshi Shresth for all future purpose. 0070797210-1

I, Manoj Kumar S/o Baldev Raj R/o H.NO E-181 East of kailash Delhi 110065 have changed my name to Manoj Kathuria for all purposes 0040625007-1

I, Manoj Kumar Chauhan S/o Late Mange Ram Chauhan R/o H.No-260, Hari Nagar, Ashram, Delhi-110014, have changed my name to Manoj Chauhan for all future purposes. 0070797208-1

I, Mahender Kumar S/o Om Prakash Sardana R/o, H.No. 1766, Sector-45, Near Euro International School, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 have changed my name to Mahender Kumar Sardana for all future purposes. 0070797207-1

I, Khalid Ahmed Khan S/o late Nizam Khan R/o. E-61 Sector-6, NOIDA, Gautambudhanagar-201301 hereby change the name of my son from Bhaktiyar Khan to Bhaktiyar Khalid Khan for all future purpose.. 0070797227-1

I, Kaboola Devi W/o Late. Gyan Singh, (Army No.-9204567) R/o Village, Post-Bilsuri, Sikandrabad, U.P., declare that my Year of Birth has been wrongly mentioned- as 1945 in the Army Record of my husband. My actual date-of-birth is 10/05/1942 which may be amended accordingly. 0070797219-1

I, Jasleen Kaur Kohli@ Jasleen Chadha D/o Sh. Baljit Singh Kohli W/o Sh. Gurmeet Chadha, R/o 7214, Tower-7, ATS One Hamlet, Sec-104, Noida-201301, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Jasleen Chadha for all future purposes. 0040625017-1

I, Girija Devi W/o Shri Ramesh Kumar R/o E-130, Shastri Market, South Moti Bagh, New Delhi-110021, have changed my name to Girja. 0040625006-1

I, Ayushi Sahu D/O Bhav Singh Sahu R/O KLPIII/6 Air Force Hindan Ghaziabad UP 201004 have changed my name to Ayushi Singh Sahu vide affidavit dated 28.06.22 before notary Ghaziabad. 0070797183-1

I, Ashima W/o Deepak Gupta, R/o 10/21, Kalkaji Extn., New Delhi-110019, have changed my name to Ashima Gupta for all purposes 0040625007-2

I, Virender Kumar Pahuja S/o Ram Chand Pahuja R/o Flat No. 202, Tower-3, NRI Residency, Sector-45 Noida, G.B.Nagar U.P-201301 have changed my name to Virender Pahuja for all the future purposes. 0070797233-1

I, Sunita Kumari W/o Rajesh Kumar R/o Flat. No.D-504 Indian O/A Apartment, Sector-62, Noida, G.B.Nagar U.P-201301, have changed my name to Sunita Devi for all the future purposes. 0070797216-1

I, Shilpa D/o Sanjeev Kumar and W/o Amit Bedi R/O K-61/62, Block-K, Kirti Nagar, Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Shilpa Bedi 0070797228-1

Rakshi Fahim W/O, Syed Javed Fahim R/O B-165, Block B New Ashok Nagar Delhi 110096 have changed my name to Rakshi Fahim for all purposes. 0040625008-1

Prashant S/o Sh. Rajkumar R/o 18/36, Triok Puri, Chilla Saroda Khadar, East Delhi, Delhi-110091 have changed my name to Prashant Gupta. 0070797184-1

Rajesh Kumar Gupta s/o Late Shri N. L Gupta R/o 32 Gali No. 5 JtXtn. Laxmi Nagar Delhi-110092 have changed the name of my minor son Krishna Gupta age 15 years from Krishna Gupta to Krishn Gupta for all future purposes 0040625101-1

I, Mayank Shriyans Jain S/o Sh. Shriyans Kumar Jain R/o 09184, ATS Advantage, Ahinsa Khandi, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed the name of my minor daughter from Tanesha alias Tanesha Jain for all purposes. 0040624999-5

I, Jagrit Verma S/o Benu Kumar R/o WZ-24A, Gali-No.-15, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Jagrit Kumar. 0070797214-1

Gagan Chawla S/o Sh. Chander Prakash Chawla R/o B-5/15, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110063 have changed the name of my minor son from Agastya Chawla to Shivansh Chawla for all purposes. 0040624999-4

I, Tenpa Tsering S/O Late Mr.Ngawang Sherab, R/o H.No.71, Block-3, Old-Camp, New Aruna Nagar, Majnu Ka Tilla, Delhi-110054,inform that name of mine and my father and mother has been Wrongly written as Tenpa Tsering Bhutia and Ngawang Sherab Bhutia,Dikyi Palmo Bhutia in my Passport bearing-No.E7635020 the actual name of mine,and my father and mother are Tenpa Tsering,Ngawang Sherab, Dickey Palmo, and in future my correct-name is Tenpa Tsering. 0040625078-1

I,Avni Gupta D/o Rishi Gupta and W/o Anuj Pethia R/o 25/66 Shakti Nagar, Malika Ganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Avni Gupta Pethia 0070797192-1

I,MONA SINGH W/O SHRI CHANCHAL R/O.11/143, TRILOK PURI DELHI-110091,have changed my minor-son name SHRESTH to SHRESTH SINGH,for all purposes. 0040625115-1

I,Devender S/o Rambir,R/o VPO.,Rattanthal,Tehsil Kosi,Rattar Thal (180),Rewari(Haryana)-123301, have changed my name to Devender Chauhan,for all Purposes. 0040625103-5

It is for general information that I,RAVINDER PAL SINGH,S/O J.S.WALIA R/O.H.NO.-N-49A, LAXMI-NAGAR,SHAKARPUR,EAST-DELHI,DELHI-110092,declare that name of my-wife has been wrongly-written as RAJINDER KAUR in my minor-daughter's ISHMEET KAUR aged-17 years in her Educational-Documents.The actual-name of my-wife is RAJENDER KAUR,which may be amended accordingly. 0040625115-10

It is for general information that Bindu Ahlawat D/o Shri J. S. Kadyan and Ex. W/o Shri Mohit Ahlawat residing at House No 9837,Sector-C,Pocket -9,Vasant Kunj,New Delhi -110070,declare that I got divorce from my husband vide court Decree No H.M.A. No 310/2001 dated 27-08-2001 Further I remarried with Mr. Mahesh Kumar Sharma vide Marriage Certificate Registration No-ADM (SW)/2001/51 dated 05/12/2001. Henceforth I have changed my name shall hereafter be Known as Bindu Kadyan. 0040625123-2

It is For General Information That I,Javed,S/o-Samsuddin,Residing At,B-144,Gali No.13/7,Sunehari-Masjid,Kanti Nagar,Extn.Krishna-Nagar,Delhi-110051,Declare That Name Of Mine Has Been Wrongly-Written As Mohd.Rahis In My Minor-Daughter Umulvra(14Years) School-Record. The Actual-Name Of Mine Is Javed,Which May Be Amended Accordingly. 0040625115-9

I,Pardeep Kumar,S/O Desh Raj,R/O-578, Rishi-Nagar,Ranibagh,Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Pradeep, for all Purposes. 0040625103-2

Kiran Yadav W/o Ajay Yadav R/o Flat no. 905 block A Charms Castle NH 58 Rajnagar extension 201017, have changed my name to Kirna Yadav. 0070797182-1

I,YASHODA W/O SURESH KUMAR, RESIDENT- 615/13,JANTA COLONY,NEAR-BALWIKASH SCHOOL,SONIPAT,HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO YASODHA. 0040625107-10

I,WANTO DEVI W/O CHANDER BHAN RESIDENT VILLAGE-TANDA,DIIST-SONIPAT-131023,HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BANTO DEVI. 0040625107-9

I,Vineet Chaubey S/o Tarkeshwar Chaubey R/o-Ward-No.10, Singahi, Rajmilan, Singrauli, MP-486886 have changed my name to Vineet Kumar Chaubey. 0040625126-3

I,Vijay Singh,S/o Hawa Singh,R/o.H.No. 57,Gali.No.-6,Near-Sheetla Gas Godown, Ashok-Vihar Phase-3,Gurgaon (Haryana),have changed my name to Vijay Singh Sheoran,for all Purposes. 0040625103-3

I,WANTO DEVI W/O CHANDER BHAN RESIDENT VILLAGE-TANDA,DIIST-SONIPAT-131023,HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BANTO DEVI. 0040625107-9

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I,MOHAMMAD MATEEN,S/O NASIMUDDIN R/O-182 Mimta,Nehtaur Bijnor,Uttar Pradesh-246733,have changed my name to Mateen,for all future purposes 0040625115-7

I,Mehak Aneja,D/o Rakesh Kumar Uppal R/O H.No.145A, CC-BLOCK,Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Mehak Uppal for all,purposes. 0040625126-2

I,Md Hasnul Hoda,S/O Mohd Abul Hashan,R/O,Near-Ram Mehar Colony,Gali No.1, Sector-49, Village,Barola,Noida UP-201301, have changed my name to Mohammad Hasnul Hoda 0040625126-6

I,MONA SINGH W/O SHRI CHANCHAL R/O 11/143,TRILOK PURI,DELHI -110091,have changed my minor-son name JYESTH TO JYESTH SINGH,for all purposes. 0040625115-2

I,MOHD YUNUS,S/O MOHD YUSUF,R/O C-103, GALLI-NO.1, KHASRA NO-80,CHAND BAGH,DELHI-110094,HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER'S NAME SOFI HASAN TO SOFIA HASAN. 0040625103-6

I,MOHD YUNUS,S/O MOHD YUSUF,R/O C-103 GALLI-NO.1, KHASRA NO-80, CHAND BAGH,DELHI-110094,HAVE CHANGED MY SON'S NAME MOHD YAFI TO MOHD YASIR. 0040625103-7

I,LAMAMTA W/O SH.PURSHOTAM LAL,R/O WZ-12A,GALI NO.6,KRISHNA PURI TILAK-NAGAR,WEST DELHI-110018,have changed my name bhawna to MAMTA,for all future Purposes. 0040625112-9

I,RAJEEV S/O ISHWAR DASS MADAN, R/O C-501, RAJASTHAN APPT PLOT-36,SEC-4, DWARKA, DELHI, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RAJEEV TO RAJEEV MADAN FOR ALL FUTURE OFFICIAL PURPOSES. ALSO IN MY 10TH CLASS CBSE CERTIFICATE (ROLL.No-03256) MY FATHER NAME HAS WRONGLY WRITTEN AS I D MADAN INSTEAD OF MY FATHER FULL NAME IS ISHWAR DASS MADAN. 0040625042-1

I,Sarita W/o Satish Bhati R/o Hari Nagar Village,Jaitpur Road,Badarpur,New Delhi-110044,have changed my name Sarita Bhati,for all purposes. 0040625107-1

I,SAURABH KUMAR,S/O UMESH BEHARI MATHUR,R/O.Flat-236,Sharon-Tower, Gaur Saundaryan,Greater-Noida-West-201306,G.B.Nagar(UP)have changed my name to SAURABH MATHUR. 0040625128-3

I,SAINULABDEEN SHAMSUDEEN,S/O SHAMSUDEEN(Late)R/O-PALLICKE HOUSE,THENKURISSI (Post),PALAKKAD (Dist),KERALA-678671,Have changed my name,from"SAINULABDEEN SHAMSUDEEN"TO"SAINULABDEEN S" VIDE-affidavit,dated-01Aug-22. 0040625112-8

I,Ruchir Kathuria,S/o Abhay Kathuria,R/O H-2/21 D L F Phase-1,Gurgaon Haryana 122002, Have Changed my name to Ruchier Kathuria, for all purposes. 0040625107-3

I,Rahul Goel R/O.A-1/39, S.F.Mianwall Nagar,New Delhi-110087, have changed my Son's name, from Adyam Goel to Bhuvik Goel. 0040625103-11

I,ROMILA SUNDARESAN,D/O-SH.SAMIT KUMAR MAJUMDAR,R/O-FLAT.No.302,TOWER-3,N.R.I RESIDENCY,NEXT TO PRATEEK STYLOME,SECTOR-45 NOIDA,DIIST-GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR,U.P-201303,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ROMILA SUNDARESAN,FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040625128-4

I,RITA DEVI/RITA RANI W/O VIDYADHAR SINGHAL R/O H.NO.125-126,2ND-FLOOR,PKT-B-6,SECTOR-3,ROHINI,DELHI-110085,CHANGED MY NAME TO REETA SINGHAL. 0040625128-2

I,RHEA D/O MANOJ SHARMA,R/O VPO-DOBRA DISTT-JHUNJHUNU RAJASTHAN-333031,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME,FROM RHEA TO RHEA SHARMA, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-01/08/2022,BEFORE NCT-DELHI. 0040625112-7

I,RAJEEV GUPTA,S/O RADHE SHAM GARG, RESIDENT-1159,SECTOR-15,SONIPAT,HARYANA,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJIV GUPTA. 0040625107-8

I,Promila Kumari W/o Jitender Kumar Sharma R/o Post-Office Holog5/12 Dhami Tehsil-Shimla(Bj)har have changed my name from Promila Sharma to Promila Kumari for all future purposes. 0040625014-2

I,PRATHIVIRAJ,S/O-MANIRAM KASANAR,O- NOIDA NEAR DPS INDIRAPURAM, MAHUIIDDINPUR KANAWANI GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR,UP-201307, CHANGED MY NAME TO PRITHVIRAJ KASANA. 0040625126-5

I,PRAHLEH KUMAR,S/O GOVIND RAM R/O Z-19, PHASE-5, AYA NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI 110047,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAHELAH KUMAR JAJLI. 0040625107-4

I,Nishant S/o Rajesh Sablania,R/o WZ-18, 3rd Floor,Hari Singh Park Multan Nagar Delhi-56,have changed my name to Nishant Sablania. 0040625126-4

I,Nidhi W/o-Arun Uniyal,R/O,C-75,Street No.-6,Near-Banquet Hall,Village Wazirabad, Delhi,have changed my minor daughter name,from Jia to Jia Uniyal,for all Purposes. 0040625103-3

I,Mohammad Mateen,S/O Nasimuddin R/O-182 Mimta,Nehtaur Bijnor,Uttar Pradesh-246733,have changed my name to Mateen,for all future purposes 0040625115-7

I,Mehak Aneja,D/o Rakesh Kumar Uppal R/O H.No.145A, CC-BLOCK,Shalimar Bagh Delhi-110088,have changed my name to Mehak Uppal for all,purposes. 0040625126-2

I,Md Hasnul Hoda,S/O Mohd Abul Hashan,R/O,Near-Ram Mehar Colony,Gali No.1, Sector-49, Village,Barola,Noida UP-201301, have changed my name to Mohammad Hasnul Hoda 0040625126-6

I,MONA SINGH W/O SHRI CHANCHAL R/O 11/143,TRILOK PURI,DELHI -110091,have changed my minor-son name JYESTH TO JYESTH SINGH,for all purposes. 0040625115-2

I,MOHD YUNUS,S/O MOHD YUSUF,R/O C-103, GALLI-NO.1, KHASRA NO-80,CHAND BAGH,DELHI-110094,HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER'S NAME SOFI HASAN TO SOFIA HASAN. 0040625103-6

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I,Krishan Gopal,S/o-Late Laxman Dand,R/O-Shakti Khadas-2,Plot No-219B S, Floor,Indrapuram,Ghaziabad-201014,U.P.,have changed my name Krishan Gopal Dodeja for all purposes. 0040625123-1

I,Jitender Kumar Sharma S/o Satish Chander Sharma R/O Post-Office Holog5/12 Dhami Tehsil-Shimla Baijhar(27) Shimla(H.P) have changed my name from Jitender Sharma to Jitender Kumar Sharma for all future purposes 0040625014-4

Jatin Kumar Garg,S/o-Shyam Lal Garg R/O-31,Gurjanwala Town,Part-II,Delhi-110009, have changed my name to JATIN GARG,for all future purpose. 0040625107-2

I,Hitherto Known As Pinki,D/o Vir Bahadur Rai,Residing At,H.No.2731,Street No.6-A,Raghubarpara,No.2,Gandhinagar,Delhi-110031,Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Ahana Rai. 0040625115-8

I,Hira Lal S/o Late Mithu Lal R/o ATS-Greens-1, A-86, Flat No.C-102, Sector-50, Noida G.B.Nagar(U.P) have changed my name to Hira Lal Nayyar for all future purposes. 0040625014-1

I,Harsh W/o-Rajesh Kumar,R/O H.No.810-B,Pocket-2,Paschim-Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Harsh Bala,for all purposes. 0040625103-8

I,Harish R/o.B-190,Lok Vihar,Pitampura,Delhi-34,have changed my minor son's name From Rian Khanna to Riaan Khanna. 0040625103-9

I,Gagandeep Singh Khatter,S/O Mohinder Singh Khatter,R/O,J 13/67,Rajouri Garden,New Delhi-110027,Have changed our minor Son's Name,From Nirvaan Khatter to Nirvaan Singh Khatter. 0040625107-5

I,Deepa Sharma,W/o Vishal,R/O B-133, MIG-Flats,East of Loni Road,Delhi-110093, have changed my minor-son name,from Rudraksh aged 13-years to Rudraksh Sharma,for all purposes. 0040625126-7

I,Daksh Kumar,S/o Narender,R/O H.no.19,Kh.no.382/204,Saidulaj ab,Delhi-110030,have changed my name to Daksh Choudhary. 0040625107-7

I,Chandu Lal Kushwaha R/O-100/28 Rajapur Village, Delhi-110085, changed my minor son's name from Karan to Karan Kushwaha for all purposes. 0040625012-1

I,Ajai Singh Sengar R/O E-255, Sector-36, Noida(U.P) have changed my son's name from Aniket Singh to Aniket Sengar for all purposes 0040625014-3

I,Ahilya and Akhilya W/o Bindeshwar R/o.127,Village Rajapur, Sect-9,Rohini,Delhi-85,both names belong same person i.e myself. 0040625103-10

I,ANJU W/O RAJESH SACHDEVA R/O AH-7,SHALIMAR BAGH,DELHI-110088,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANJU SACHDEVA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040625126-1

I,ASHISH LOBIYAL, S/o-BALWANT LOBIYAL,ADDRESS-B-32,GALLI-NO.12,HARPHOOL VIHAR JAI VIHAR,NAJFARGARH,NEW-DELHI-110043,CHANGED MY NAME TO AASHISH LOBIYAL. 0040625107-6

I,hitherto known as LAXMI W/o Ghanshyam Sharma R/O WZ-1391, Nagay Rasta, South West Delhi-110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI SHARMA. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. 0040625008-1

I, YOGESH KUMAR S/O Sh. Babu Lal R/O 10819/17, Partap Nagar, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Yogesh Lalawat at for all future purposes- 0040624997-1

I, Virat Kumar S/o Krishna Mohan Singh, R/O,G-46, Sector-56, Noida, U.P., have changed my son's name from Advik Singh Virat to Advik Singh Virat for all future purposes. 0070797217-1

I,Pratima Singh W/o Anjani Kumar Singh R/O P-36, Main Palam Vihar Road, Bijwasan, Delhi-110061, have changed my minor daughter's name from Deepika aged 15 years to Jiya Singh forever 0070797230-1

I,Pragya Dixit, W/o Piyush Tripathi, R/O D-148, Delta 1, 3 Block Greater Noida 210038 have changed my name to Pragya Tripathi 0070797179-1

I,Pinkey Kumari W/o Ajay Kumar Prasad R/O B-38A, Shiv Park, Khanpur, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Pinki Devi, for all purposes. 0040624996-1

I,Noor Afsa, D/O IFTEKHAR AHMED R/O B-8/72 STREET NO 5 KABIR NAGAR, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Noor Afsa. 0070797175-1

I,Mukesh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Lala Ram R/O B-109, Gali no.2, Village-Gazipur, Delhi-110096 have changed my name to Mukesh Sharma for all future purposes. 0040625110-1

I,Sumit Yadav S/o Inder Yadav R/o Sorkha, Sec-115, District-G.B.Nagar UP-201301, Inform that my CBSE Board 10th-class marksheet (Roll number-5361911, year-2015) has actually been lost. 0070797209-1

My original-documents of Property.No.B-749,Budh-Nagar,J.Colony,Inderpuri, New-Delhi-110012,in the name of Late Sh.Panna Lal has been lost.Finder contact:Satish Kumar,S/o,Late.Panna Lal Mobile-No:7838175617. 0040625126-10

Mrs Punam Sethi w/o Sh Shyam Kumar Sethi R/O E-4/68, 3rd Floor Sector-16 Rohini New Delhi 110088.I have lost my original documents namely Provision Allotment letter dated 13.02.2012 qua my property bearing number KM-00011006 in Kossmos at Jaypee Kossmos at Jaypee Greens, Noida.E fir has already been taken for the same 0040625126-9

I, Chandra Mohan Arora,S/O (Late) Sh.Ganga Bishan,R/O C-49A,Mahendur Enclave, G.T. Karnal Road,Delhi-110033,PAN No.AAFP6397P, have lost 2400 Shares of M/s Sukhjit Starch & Chemicals Ltd.,Phagwara which were held in my name.Vide Foid No.11770 with the following Cert.No.10180-10183, Dist.No.545308-545507, Cert.No.16359-16360, Dist.No.709660-709759, Cert.No.41583-41588, Dist.No.1660633-1660932, Cert.No.73431, Dist.No.5981542-5982141 Cert.No. 76069 Dist.No.7604361-7695660.If found please inform at above address or Mob.No.9810081639. 0040625112-10

I, Jyoti Sharma D/o Mrs Sharda Sharma R/O 33B, 3rd Floor, Street No. 3, Old Arjun Nagar, Delhi have lost two certificates and marksheets of 10th & 12th also Degree and Marksheet of Graduation. 0040625002-1

Lost my Original Allotment cum Demand Letter, Bank Challan, Possession Letter, Possession Slip, Perpetual Lease Deed of Plot No.809,Block-C, Pocket-I, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi-42.Finder may Contact- Gursharan Kaur at 19D,Hambarn Road,Sukhdev Enclave, Ludhiana,Punjab 0040625085-1

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is for general information that I, Piyush Kumar Pandey S/o Sh. Hama Om Pandey R/O RZ-72/8, Flat No. 204, First Floor Block Side, Street No. 5, Sukhi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 hereby declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Piyush Pandey in the school record and birth certificate of my minor daughter Aarna Pandey aged 14 years. The actual name of mine is Piyush Kumar Pandey, which may be amended accordingly. 0040625126-10

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that my clients Sh. Jaspinder Singh Mann S/o Late Santokh Singh and Smt. Puneet Mann W/o Jaspinder Singh Mann, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India, have severed all relations with my minor daughter Aarna Pandey aged 14 years. The actual name of mine is Piyush Kumar Pandey, which may be amended accordingly. 0040625126-9

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that my client Shri. Sh. Jata Shankar Mishra S/o Late Ram Newal Mishra No.2174, Kalyan Puri, Delhi, has severed his relations with my son namely Pawan Kumar vide Public Notice in Daily Newspaper in Delhi Edition but now my son is realized his mistake and is behaving in proper manner and under my control and hence I hereby revoked / canceled the previous public notice published against my son for his previous act and conduct and my client is not involved any illegal act. (S.K. Mishra) Patiala House Courts New Delhi-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that my client SHRI ANSAR SO MOHAMMAD ZAHULI, D/O MOHD NOOR, 1980, BLOCK-C, GALI NO. 1, SANGAM VIHAR, NEW DELHI-110062 (ADHAAR CARD No. 3289 5015 7973), has severed his relations with my son namely MOHD. ALI declared them from all his movable and immovable properties except if anybody declares with them will do so at his/her their own risk, cost and responsibility my client will not responsible for any claim act done by them with immovable effects. VIRENDER SINGH HOODA ADVOCATE D/1942014 CHAMBER NO. 486 SAKET COURTS COMPLEX, NEW DELHI-110017

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is for information to public at large that my client Sh. Anand S/O Sh. Lakmi Chand and Smt. Anju W/O Sh. Anand Both R/O WZ-269, Chhotilal, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have disowned/debarred their son Namely Nikhil Gupta and their daughter-in-law Smt. Arju, from all their movable and immovable properties whatsoever and severed all their relations with them insofar as they are out of control of my clients due to their intolerable behavior and habits. Anyone dealing with them my do so at his/her own risk and consequences. My clients and all other family members will have no concern for any such act/dealing. Sd/- DIGVIJAY SINGH ADVOCATE D-83, 2nd Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is for information to public at large that my client Sh. Anand S/O Sh. Lakmi Chand and Smt. Anju W/O Sh. Anand Both R/O WZ-269, Chhotilal, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have disowned/debarred their son Namely Nikhil Gupta and their daughter-in-law Smt. Arju, from all their movable and immovable properties whatsoever and severed all their relations with them insofar as they are out of control of my clients due to their intolerable behavior and habits. Anyone dealing with them my do so at his/her own risk and consequences. My clients and all other family members will have no concern for any such act/dealing. Sd/- DIGVIJAY SINGH ADVOCATE D-83, 2nd Floor, Vikas Puri, New Delhi-110018

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GOLD

₹51,947



RUPEE

79.02/USD



OIL

\$108.92



SILVER

₹58,731

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of July 29

SENSEX: 58,115.50 ▲ 545.25 (0.95%) NIFTY: 17,340.05 ▲ 181.80 (1.06%) NIKKEI: 27,993.35 ▲ 191.71 HANG SENG: 20,165.84 ▲ 9.33 FTSE: 7,467.37 ▲ 43.94 DAX: 13,565.18 ▲ 81.13

International market data till 1900 IST

FOCUS ON WIDENING REGIONAL RURAL BANKS' CREDIT BASE

Sustainability push: Govt asks RRBs to step up digitisation, lending to MSMEs

MIHIR MISHRA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AS PART of reforms to make regional rural banks (RRBs) financially sustainable, the Centre has asked them to move towards digitisation, including offering internet banking services to its customers, and expand their credit base further through higher lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector.

"The cost of operations of RRBs were much lower as compared to scheduled commercial banks but that has increased now and the government wants them to work towards increasing their earn-

ings," said an official source in the know adding that these are part of the government's plan to reform RRBs. This was discussed in a meeting convened by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in July and attended by heads of sponsor banks and RRBs.

A key reason for RRBs incurring losses is the fact that many of these branches do not have enough business as they focus mainly on offering government's schemes like direct benefit transfer in the rural areas of the country. The source added that almost all these rural banks are under core banking solutions (CBS) meaning their branches are connected with each other. "Offering internet

EXPLAINED
Current status

ONE OF the key reasons for RRBs incurring losses is the fact that many of these branches do not have enough business as they focus mainly on offering government's schemes like direct benefit transfer in the rural areas of the country.

services to customers is the next step for these banks," he said.

According to a government release post the meeting last month, the Finance Minister urged the sponsor banks "to formulate a clear roadmap in a time-bound manner to further strengthen the RRBs and support the post-pandemic economic recovery and also suggested to conduct a workshop of RRBs and share the best practices with each other."

This would not be the first time that the Centre is working to reform RRBs. After a set of reforms in the '90s, the government had, in 2005-06, initiated a consolidation programme that resulted in the number of RRBs declining from 196 in 2005 to 43 in FY21. The aim was to improve their op-

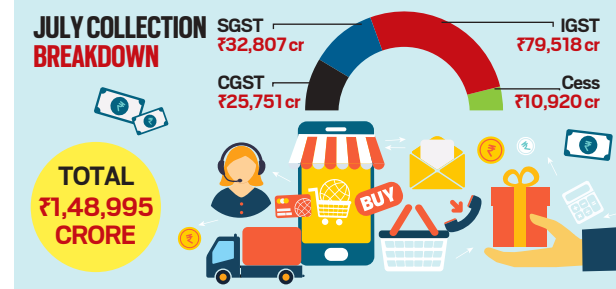
erational viability and to take advantage of economies of scale.

After two consecutive years of losses during the Covid period, RRBs posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 1,682 crore in FY21, and 30 of the 43 RRBs saw net profits.

The source, quoted above, said the plan included merging branches of these RRBs with sponsor banks once these branches reach a certain level of business. "The plan includes merging them with sponsor banks and that may happen once the sponsor bank sees advantage. Listing these RRBs on the bourses is a long-term plan that may or may not happen," the source added.

GROSS COLLECTIONS UP 28% YEAR-ON-YEAR TO ₹1,48,995 CRORE

'Recovery, better compliance': Jul GST mop-up 2nd best ever

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

GROSS GOODS and Services Tax (GST) collections surged by 28 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) to Rs 1,48,995 crore during July (for sales in June), the second highest level since the July 2017 roll-out of the indirect tax regime, data released by the Finance Ministry on Monday showed.

Buoyancy in consumption patterns triggered by economic recovery, a high inflation rate and increased enforcement action against anti-evasion activities, are seen as having contributed to a rise in GST mop-up. Prior to this, the collections had recorded the highest-ever level of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022 for year-end sales in March.

July is the sixth time that monthly GST collections have crossed the Rs 1.40 lakh crore mark since its inception, and the fifth month in a row since March this year. In July 2021, GST collections stood at Rs 1,16,393 crore. The first four months of 2022-23 have seen an average monthly gross GST mop-up of Rs 1.50 lakh crore, against Rs 1.12 lakh crore in the same period last fiscal.

The Finance Ministry, in its statement, said the 28 per cent increase in GST revenue displays a "very high buoyancy". "This is a clear impact of various measures taken by the Council in the past to ensure better compliance. Better reporting coupled with economic recovery has been

having a positive impact on GST revenues on a consistent basis."

Last month, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said that Rs 1.40 lakh crore is now the "rough bottom line" for monthly GST revenue collections.

"With the headline GST collection in July 2022 exceeding our monthly average forecast of Rs 1.45 trillion for this year, we foresee an upside of Rs 1.15 trillion relative to the FY 2023 for CGST collections," said Ica's chief economist Aditi Nayar.

After the end of the compensation regime for states in June, the higher GST revenue growth is expected to ease revenue concerns for some states. However, states with a heavy dependence on compensation may find FY23 to be a challenging year, with some even resorting to higher enforcement actions to shore up revenue, analysts said.

Under GST, as per the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017, states were guaranteed compensation at the compounded rate of 14 per cent from the base year 2015-16 for

losses arising due to implementation of the taxation regime, for five years since its rollout. This came to an end on June 30.

The GST Council meeting held in June did not take any decision to extend the compensation mechanism, despite at least a dozen states raising the demand. More enforcement-related measures are being taken by state authorities in the wake of the end of the compensation regime.

Of the gross GST revenue of Rs 1,48,995 crore, CGST — tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the Centre — was Rs 25,751 crore; and SGST — tax levied on intra-state supplies of goods and services by the states — was Rs 32,807 crore, the Ministry said. IGST — tax levied on all inter-state supplies of goods and services — was Rs 79,518 crore (including Rs 41,420 crore collected on import of goods), and cess was Rs 10,920 crore (including Rs 995 crore collected on import of goods).

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Rupee's journey: Sajjid Chinoy at Explained.Live

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

AS THE Indian economy looked set to charting out a recovery path in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic shock, the sharp depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar on account of the aggressive monetary tightening by the US Federal Reserve and the spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine conflict have thrown major challenges for policy makers in the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The domestic currency has depreciated over 7 per cent in 2022 and breached the 80 to a US dollar mark, before staging a partial recovery, largely due to the intervention of the central bank in the forex market.

The withdrawal of accommodative policies in India and other countries, amid concerns of global inflation and an overhang of recessionary fears, continue to weigh heavily on the broader sen-



Sajjid Chinoy File

timent.

Capital outflows are likely to continue on account of rate hikes in the US amid high inflation concerns, with such a sharp depreciation over a short duration of time throwing up multiple challenges for the RBI and the Central government, as they grapple with the challenge of sustaining the growth rebound while nipping runaway inflation without taking recourse to multiple, sharp interest rate hikes that could impact the nascent recovery that is un-

Associate Partner

derway.

Forex reserves have fallen by over \$50 billion between September 2021 and now, primarily on account of the RBI's intervention, with the rupee's exchange rate against the dollar having fallen over 7 per cent this year. Experts expect the rupee to weaken further in the coming 3-4 months given the aggressive tightening of the monetary policy by the US Fed. A higher rupee translates into costlier imports, which,

in turn, could widen the trade deficit as well as the current account deficit, which, will likely put more pressure on the exchange rate.

As the cascading impact trickles down to the level of citizens — through multiple routes including higher fuel prices, a hike in the cost of education for students going abroad and more expensive consumer items — it is time to seek answers to some pertinent questions: What are the chal-

lenges and implications of rupee depreciation on the economy? Will a lower rupee mean costlier imports, and hence higher inflation? A depreciation does make Indian exports competitive, but does it add to growth and jobs? Should the RBI intervene, and use its forex reserves to sell dollars and stabilise the rupee further?

To understand the many facets of the rupee's journey, join *The Indian Express* for a delectable Explained session on August 2 at 6:30 PM with Sajjid Chinoy, JP Morgan's Chief India Economist, who is also a Part-Time Member in the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM). He will help us understand the spillover effect of the depreciation in the Indian currency, look ahead at its trajectory and better understand the response of policy making — both monetary and fiscal — in times of high inflation. The session will be moderated by P Vaidyanathan Iyer, Executive Editor, *The Indian Express*.

BRIEFLY

Factory PMI

New Delhi: India's manufacturing sector activity gained momentum in July, a monthly survey said.

Autosales

New Delhi: With semiconductor supply improving, automakers including Maruti Suzuki, Hyundai, Tata Motors and M&M saw robust growth in domestic passenger vehicles sales in July. Kia India, TKM, Honda Cars India, Skoda Auto India, too posted rise in domestic PV despatches.

World Bank

New Delhi: Ivorian Auguste Tano Kouame took charge as the World Bank Country Director for India.

ATF price cut

New Delhi: Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices saw a cut for the second time in two weeks — by ₹16,232.36, or 11.75%, to ₹1,21,915.5/kd. PTI

FY19-21 sees fall in fake ₹2,000 notes detected

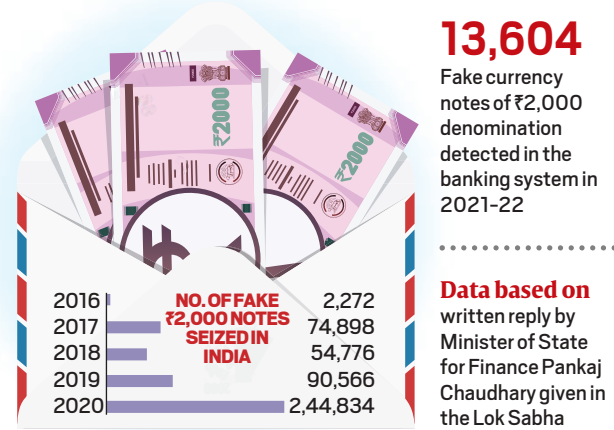
The number of fake currency notes of Rs 2,000 denomination detected in the banking system decreased from 2018-19 till 2020-21, according to government data tabled in Parliament

Reserve Bank of India issues instructions to banks on measures to safeguard against forged notes and conducts training programmes on detection of counterfeit notes for staff/officers of banks and other organisations

0.000635%

Share of fake notes detected within total number of banknotes of ₹2,000 denomination in circulation, as of 2021-22

Source: Government data



Goyal: Zomato to shift to multiple CEO structure

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

WITH FOUR companies in its kitty, food tech major Zomato is looking to have a multiple CEO structure for these businesses and may name the larger organisation, Eternal, for internal purposes.

"We are transitioning from a company where I was the CEO to

a place where we will have multiple CEOs running each of our businesses, all acting as peers to each other, and working as a super team with each other towards building a single large and seamless organisation," Deepinder Goyal, founder and CEO of Zomato, wrote on the company's Slack channel last week.

The post came after shareholders approved its acquisition of Blinkit. FE

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

MEHSANA ASSET

Engagement of retired ONGC executives as consultants in Production/Electrical discipline for Surface Team (ST), ONGC Mehsana

ONGC, Mehsana Asset seeks application from eligible retired ONGC executives (less than 65 years of age on 02.08.2022) for engagement as Junior consultants /Associate consultants for two years period for posting in Surface Team, ONGC Mehsana Asset.

Interested retired ONGC executive of production/ mechanical/ instrumentation/electrical discipline (retired at E1 to E6 level) with at least 05 years of inline experience in surface production process/electrical operation in ONGC may apply.

Last date of application is 17.08.2022.

For detailed advertisement and application form may please visit ongcindia.com; reports.ongc.co.in; bandhan.ongc.co.in.

MPC meet: Experts bet on third hike this fiscal

Mumbai: Days after the US Federal Reserve raised the interest rate, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may go in for its third consecutive policy rate hike by at least 35 basis points to check high retail inflation, experts said.

The central bank's rate-setting panel, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), will meet for three days from August 3 to announce its bi-monthly review on Friday. The RBI had raised the short-term borrowing rate (repo) twice so far this fiscal — by 40 basis points (bps) in May and 50 bps in June. "We now expect the RBI MPC to raise the policy repo rate by 35 bps on August 5 and change the stance to calibrated tightening," said Bank of America Global Research.

Radhika Rao, executive director and Senior economist, DBS Group Research, opined, "We now expect a 35 bps hike in



The RBI, Mumbai File

August, followed by three 25 bps for the terminal rate to level off at 6 per cent by end-FY23."

'Pause in October likely'

Meanwhile, according to UBS Securities, the RBI will deliver two more rate increases with the first of 25-30 bps later this week, and then pause in October for data-prints on domestic inflation and the US economy. PTI

डॉ. बाबासाहेब आंबेडकर तंत्रज्ञान विद्यापीठ, लोणेरे

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere

विद्यापीठ, लोणेरे-रायगड ४०२१०३ (महाराष्ट्र) VidyaVihar, Lonere - Raigad 402 103 (Maharashtra)

Web site : www.dbatu.ac.in, E-mail : registrar@dbatu.ac.in

SERVICES & POSTS FOR THE UNIVERSITY

DR. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere is a State Technical University established by Govt. of Maharashtra through Act 2014. The territory of the University is entire Maharashtra. Currently 300 plus Institutes are affiliated to the University.

Sr. No.	Details of Services & Posts
01	Statutory Auditors/ Internal Auditors.
02	Expression of interest (Eol) to design and support of B.Tech Cyber Security Course along with Design and Implementation Centre of Excellence-Cyber Security. The assignment will be for 5 years.
03	Empanelment of Architects, Structural Consultants Project Management Consultants, and MEP Consultants for 3 years.
04	Applications for the Post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Incubation Manager for DBATU FORUM of INNOVATION, INCUBATION AND ENTERPRISE (Section 8 Company)

Interested parties or individuals are requested to submit willingness for above services to the University. The detailed advertisement is available on www.dbatu.ac.in University web site. The last date for submitting the requisite documents in all respects is 26.08.2022.

(Dr. B.F. Jogi)
Registrar

Date : 01.08.2022

NORTHERN RAILWAY 1st -Corrigendum The tender notice no. 178-Sig/CW/32/100 dated: 28.07.2022 published on 30.07.2022 may be read with following corrections:

NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM NO.-1 to Tender No.WTA-530 Sub-Global e-Tender No:WTA-530 opening on 06/09/2022 for Procurement of 38000 nos. of Wheel disc of BOXN wagon and 12000 nos. of Wheel disc of 840 dia wheel of BLC wagon.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ T. Notice No: 230 -Elect/TRD/PRYJE-Tender Notice/2022/478 Date: 29.07.2022 E-Tender Notice Sr. Div. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N. C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India invite the following E- Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:

राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विद्यालयी शिक्षा संस्थान National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) (An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of Education (MoE), Department of School Education & Literacy, Govt of India)

किसान सहकारी चीनी मिल्स लि., (पुवायाँ शाहजहाँपुर) निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 01.08.2022 मिला समिति में सत्र -2022-23 हेतु निम्नलिखित टेंडरमिशन गियर मिल हाकस एवं एफएमजीओ गियर बॉक्स मिल हाकस को आपूर्ति हेतु अनुभवी मूल निर्माता पंजीकृत ई-टेंडर प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत निविदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ Notice No. 2022-July-03 Dated: 27.07.2022 AGRA DIVISION E-Tendering Tender Notice Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering), North Central Railway Agra for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line only (E-Tendering) for the following works.

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of Odisha Undertaking) Regd. Office: Jajpur, Bhubaneswar-751022

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) CORRIGENDUM-VI Subject: E-Tender No. TM-2201 for procurement of Self Propelled Ultrasonic Rail Testing Car "SPURT CAR" to be opened on 26.08.2022

ODISHA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD Plot No.1800/P, Baramunda, Post-Khandagiri, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump Bhubaneswar Ph. No. 0674-2351311, Fax: 0674-2351316, Email: osambod99@yahoo.com, Website: www.osamboard.org

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004 e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED (Raj. Power Corporation Ltd.) (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking) Expression of Interest are invited by RVUN for Replacement, Repairing, Capital Overhauling, Refurbishment, Retrofitting with Operation and Maintenance of Various Mini, Micro Hydel Power Stations of RVUN situated at IGNP.

DIRECTOR EXTENSION EDUCATION DIRECTORATE OF EXTENSION EDUCATION CCS HARYANA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY HISAR-125004 (HARYANA) (Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person namely: Unknown, S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : 30-40 years, Height : 5'6", Built : Strong, Face : Round, Hair : Long and beard (like Sikh) Wearing : Black Colour Banyan with Red Colour Stripe & Black Colour Pant and Green Colour Belt has been found dead at

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP/AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) AMOUNT/TEND (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (WW)-II DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF N.C.T.DELHI FLAT NO.- E1, TYPE-IV, STAFF QTRS. JHANDEWALAN, DELHI-110005 E-mail:- eeplantww.djb01@gmail.com/acewwp2@gmail.com

verka THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-86 www.verka.coop

NOTICE INVITING TENDER e Tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items - Sr. No. Name of the Work Contract Period/ Quantity Consigner/ Place of Tender Opening Tender Cost (Rs.) E.M.D. (Rs.) Date & Time for Sale/ downloading of e-tenders Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tenders Date & Time for opening of e-tenders

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) File No-C-IIM-IFB-06/2019 No. 29471 Dtd. 30.07.2022 1st Corrigendum Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-10/2022-23

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR (E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:- 0680-2404287) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Bid Identification No. Online Tender/ 30-2022-23/BPR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA "e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 240 for 2022-23. Letter No. 2752/ Date: 23.07.2022

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA "e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 240 for 2022-23. Letter No. 2752/ Date: 23.07.2022

Office of the Superintending Engineer Central Equipment & Stores Procurement Circle-II, Irrigation Department, U.P., Ganga Sinchal Bhawan, Telibagh, Lucknow-226025 TENDER NOTICE NO. TE-970/2022-23 On behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh online e-bids in three parts namely (i) Earnest Money Bid (ii) Technical bid and (iii) Price bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned only from ISO: 9001-2015 certified original manufacturers, registered with Director of Industries of the State (N.S.I.C) Ministry of Industries, Government of India as original manufacturers for ISI Marked uPVC Pipe 160mm & 200mm nominal diameter, 2.5 kg/cm² working pressure, on variable price up to 17.00 Hours on 31.08.2022.

BANGALORE URBAN, BANGALORE RURAL AND RAMANAGARA DIST. CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED Dr. M.H. MARIGOWDA ROAD, BANGALORE-560029. www.bamulnandini.coop IFT No: KMF/BAMUL/MPT19/2022-23/CALL-2 Date: 28.07.2022

Meet the Uzbek Boa who squeezes his opponents

SANDIP G
CHENNAI, AUGUST 1

WHEN NODIRBEK Abdusattorov was just nine years old, he was invited to play Grandmasters at the Tashkent Open with a child prodigy reputation. The tournament was considered nothing more than an exposure opportunity for Abdusattorov, who started playing chess watching his elder brother and sister who played recreationally in a suburb of Tashkent.

Little then the organisers knew they were about to behold the launch of a new world-beating prodigy. He went on to clinically beat two seasoned Grandmasters, Andrey Zhigalko of Belarus and Rustam Khushnudinov of Kazakhstan. The victories had caught the attention of the legendary Uzbekistan coach Dmitry Kayumov, who died last year.

He began to closely follow the youngster, first with a touch of suspicion and then with eyes of admiration. Convinced of his potential, he took him under his wings, played games with him and made him play against the seniors. He was smitten by his talent. "During 40 years of coaching in different countries, I brought up many international Grandmasters, but I must admit that I have never met such a talent as Nodirbek. The boy is very athletic, hard-working, has an excellent memory, memorises game positions well and, what is most important and a rare quality, is not afraid of an opponent," he had told ut.uz, an Uzbekistan news website.

It was not like a chess starved nation suddenly stumbled onto a chess sensation. The country has a rich history in the game—having churned out 22 grandmasters after it tore off from the Soviet Union.

Kayumov was convinced that he would break the then world record of Sergei Karjakin as the youngest Grandmaster. Abdusattorov missed it by six months, more due to the sloppiness of his home federation, bizarrely diverted to the world schools under-13 at Sochi. But Kayumov said prophetically: "He will be a future world champion, the youngest one. Mark my words." He, though, did not say which format.

Four years later, riding a sensational streak, he defeated a string of established names such as Fabiano Caruana, Ian Nepomniachtchi, and the biggest of them all, Magnus Carlsen in the title decider to claim the World Rapid Championship. And he was the youngest to do so, in any format, at 17 years and three months, surpassing Ruslan Ponomarev at 18 in the Fide version of the then disputed classical crown in 2001 and Carlsen, also at 18, in the 2009 World Blitz.

His game had the world rolling their

eyes in disbelief, not at his speed but at the strength of his moves. "One of the hallmarks of Abdusattorov's game is his playing style, as he's not the sort of tactical beast you come to expect from a young player. Instead, he has a more mature playing style, specialising in slowly squeezing his opponents, which is reminiscent of the legendary Anatoly Karpov," wrote American chess author John B Henderson.

Nepomniachtchi praised his singular ability to punish the slightest of mistakes. As he did when beating Caruana in the Chess Olympiad. Caruana, playing with the white pieces made an avry move and the Uzbek latched onto the chance to create an impregnable position. It was not quite a David-slays-Goliath story, as Abdusattorov has a rating of 2677. Fuelled by him, Uzbekistan could be the tournament dark horse.

Back to his world championship triumph, he did not know the scale of his achievement until he returned home to a hero's welcome. A multitude of masses awaited him at the airport. After he got out, he was taken for a table-top bus ride, before the president honoured him with a cash prize of around €20,300, and the Mard Uglon ("Brave Son") medal, besides the keys to a two-bedroom apartment at the heart of the city. "Of course it was great to beat the big stars, but I never thought it was a big achievement until I stepped out of the airport," he had then said.

But he is not someone to be too carried by early success, as he told chess.com: "It's just the start of my career, there is a long way to go before I myself become a great player, or something close to that. But that's where I want to be, among the elites." There was a fierce streak of ambition in voice, and the hammering of Caruana was another example that he could be punishing in the classical format as well.



Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan in action. *Twitter/FIDE*

CHESS OLYMPIAD

The hero without a halo

Chennai masses adore Pragganandhaa like India once did a young Tendulkar

SANDIP G
CHENNAI, AUGUST 1

WHEN THE giant screen at the grassy centre courtyard of the venue began to stream R Pragganandhaa's game, the scattered crowd turned their collective gaze towards the screen. For the next five-odd minutes their eyes remain fixed on the screen. It did not matter what moves he made, how clear his lines were, or what the scope of his openings were, whether you are a chess geek or knew nothing about the game. They were content just seeing him, his neck craning onto the board so much so that a deep exhaling of breath could blow the pieces.

The feed stopped; their gaze scattered. Inside the hall, a few spectators were stretching their heads to spot him—India B team's board is the closest to the spectators' enclosure. From their awkward perch, they could almost see his head, but they could neither cheer nor shout. They can't resist yelling out, but their passes would be struck out. Perhaps, someone someday would.

His big round eyes twitching over the board, Pragganandhaa is immune to the frenzy around him, or those outside just praying for his victory. He is in a cerebral tussle with his Italian rival Lorenzo Lodici, fresh from stalling Norway's progress on Sunday. The Indian had endured a difficult Sunday, trailing for most of the match and winning on his opponent's sloppy time management. But none of this was to affect him, or force him to the ultra-defensive. As is often the case, he began with a dynamic opening, the semi-slav, a tactical and aggressive opening. The early exchanges gave him the command, and a pawn sacrifice gave an indication that he could venture early for the kill.

But Lodici slowed the game down, and what followed was a cramming of the central lines, both their pieces almost structured like a pyramid. Pragganandhaa repositioned his knight, tempting him to counterattack. But Lodici just kept fortifying his king, weaving an elaborate labyrinth that his adversary could not breach. The Indian tried to decongest the central channels but Lodici refused to make inroads. He sensed the dangers as Pragganandhaa had favourable pieces for a sideways launch. He shut shop.

The middle-game laboured on endlessly and without a clear conclusion. The bishop G2 on the 36th turn was perhaps his dice Pragganandhaa threw at opening up his opponent's wall. But Lodici refused to shed his doubt defence, and after 42 moves, with no clear result in the prospect, they shook hands for a draw. A case could be made that the Indian



R Pragganandhaa drew with Lorenzo Lodici at the Chess Olympiad. *Twitter/FIDE*

could have been more aggressive in the middle-game, but again, against his deep defensive lines, it would have been difficult to wreak havoc. Besides, there had been times in the past where his ultra-aggressive approach when strangled had resulted in defeats. So, he too played along, and a draw against a tough opponent was not a bad result.

The result seemed inconsequential for his supporters—that is most of the crowd that had assembled here. They still waited for him at the entrance, for an autograph, a selfie or that innocence-sparking smile of his.

For, there is a deeper emotional connection at play that reduces a draw or a win or a loss to an academic non significance. No matter how they mourn his defeat or celebrate his victories, they don't judge him by his results. For, the predominant emotion is love. It's unique, for as much as the city loves chess, celebrates the chess heroes, brags and revels in their exploits, they have never loved someone as much as they have Pragganandhaa.

In him, they see their own son, their younger brother, their friend—he has burst the cultural and social barriers attached with the game, even de-intellectualised the perception of a chess hero. He talks the language that all grandmasters do, but he strikes a deeper chord that differentiates a hero and an idol.

To use a Tamil refrain, he is one of the makkal (common man), or namma payyan (our boy) loveable and relatable, one of the masses, one everyone can aspire to, the every-

man's role model. One you could touch and feel that he is so human. The halo around him is that he has no halo.

Simply, he showed that anyone could be a Grandmaster. The background does not matter—his parents have hardly played chess, even now their understanding of the game is fundamental, his background was privileged but a common middle-class family. It also helps that he is naturally charming—the smile disarms, the eyes still radiate a boyish mischief, the manners are mild and there is something ineffably endearing about him.

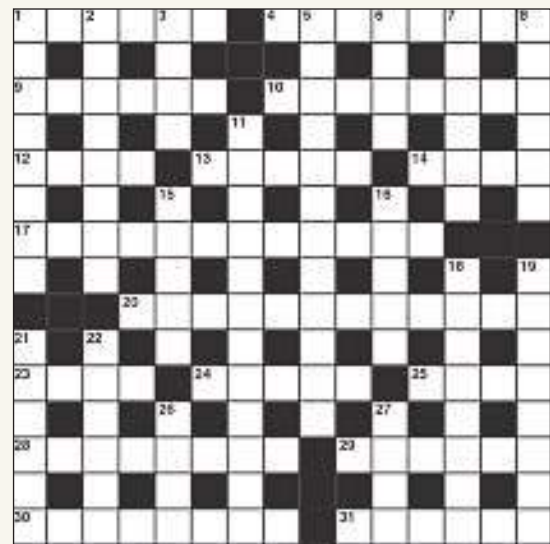
The city is watching his talent unfold and fame soar as the country once did Sachin Tendulkar. He brings the caged sport into the galleries; he fuels a mélange of emotions, from joy and love to dejection and reverence. Half the people sprawled into the centre courtyard can't fathom moves or decode chess notation. But they follow him blindly, rejoice in his victories and mourn in his miseries, as though the experience is deeply personal, as though they are experiencing the same emotions as he is.

RESULTS OF INDIA'S GAMES

MEN: India 'A' drew with France 2-2; India 'B' beat Italy 3-1; India 'C' lost to Spain 1.5-2.5

WOMEN: India 'A' beat Hungary 2.5-1.5; India 'B' beat Estonia 2.5-1.5; India 'C' lost to Georgia 1-3

CROSSWORD 4809



- ACROSS**
- 1 Choose not to be involved with pot? (3,3)
 - 4 Work on some other material (8)
 - 9 Make a mistake and get the message (6)
 - 10 Pedestrian way of choosing candidates (8)
 - 12 Boring makers of laws (4)
 - 13 A growing source of opium (5)
 - 14 List of options for fellows at university (4)
 - 17 They have an interest in conversion schemes (12)
 - 20 Motorists and golfers must do so to begin with (5,2,5)
 - 23 Turns slap into mountains (4)
 - 24 Be inclined to choke with love inside (5)
 - 25 It's made to last (4)
 - 28 Morning revolution? (8)
 - 29 New haunts off the French coast (6)
 - 30 Careless example of hit and run (8)
 - 31 Everyone's included in wicked song (6)
- DOWN**
- 1 With which to welcome honest members (4,4)
 - 2 Sits reel out though unwearied (8)
 - 3 Is paid pots say (4)
 - 5 Drops from hard work (12)
 - 6 No idea where you are? Behold the way! (4)
 - 7 Tremble holding weapons (6)
 - 8 It may hold what is laid on the table (6)
 - 11 Gain monopoly in rocks important in building (12)
 - 15 Fresh ideas for personal assistants (5)
 - 16 Prompt about fixing day (5)
 - 18 Strong drink may lead to a smash (8)
 - 19 An exploit indeed to be beaten (8)
 - 21 Shrubs for the French underground (6)
 - 22 City boom precedes tax cut (6)
 - 26 We object to journalist being employed (4)
 - 27 Like one with a large area of land (4)

Solutions Crossword 4808: Across: 1 Thief, 4 Garland, 8 Mat, 9 Roadworks, 10 Economy, 11 Essay, 13 Thumbs, 15 Slides, 18 Skein, 19 Eardrum, 21 Topiarist, 23 Ago, 24 Premium, 25 Rests. Down: 1 Tempest, 2 Introduce, 3 Fargo, 4 Gladys, 5 Raw deal, 6 Air, 7 Dishy, 12 Side roads, 14 Bengali, 16 Summons, 17 Medium, 18 Set up, 20 Rotor, 22 Pie.

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.

Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start. - Nido Qubein (2,.,5)

GHPAR

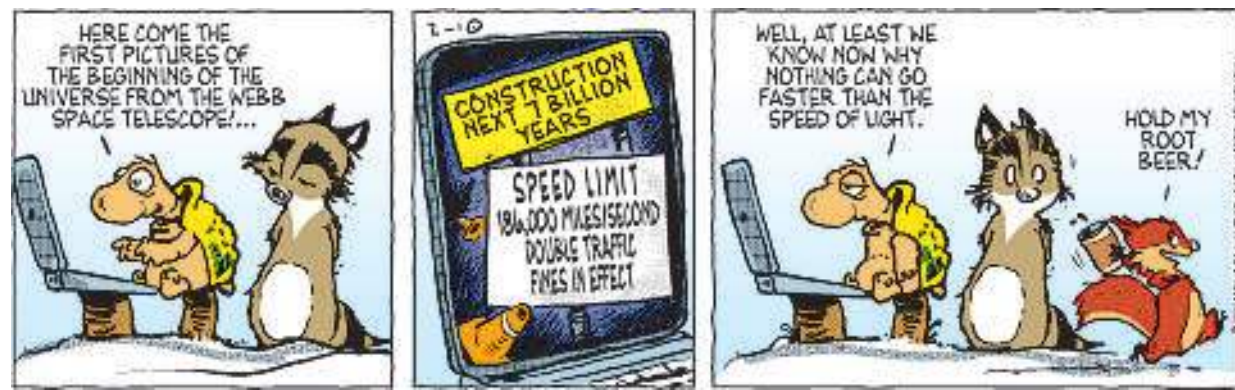
AELTTT

COWLS

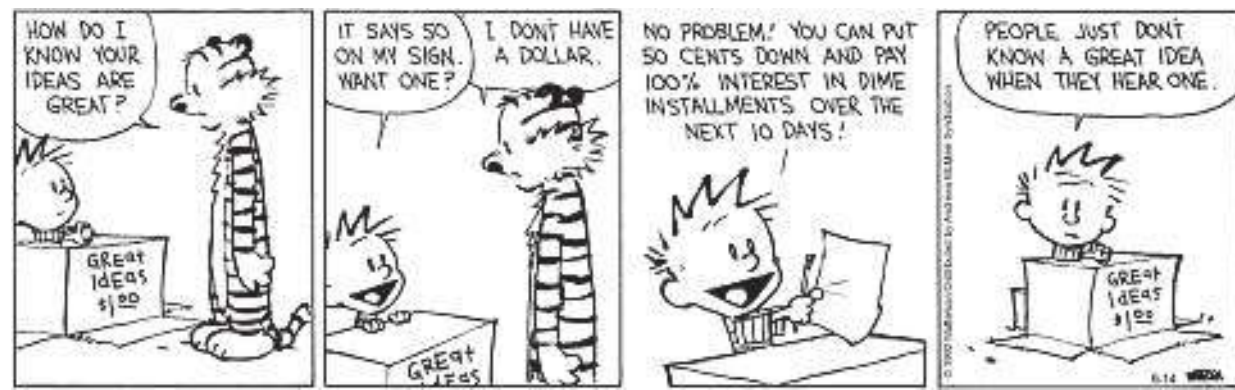
ILTUYG

SOLUTION: GHPAR, SCOWL, TATTLE, GUILTY. Answer: Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start. - Nido Qubein

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4914

Difficulty Level 5s
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 4913



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You can now begin to feel a great deal more confident as far as joint financial arrangements are concerned. All may not be sweetness and light, but at least there will be a willingness to reach agreement. And that, it has to be said, is an excellent start.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Contrary to your sign's supposedly conventional nature, you have some quite individual and unusual aspirations. Today, you must strike out on your own, forging a unique path to the future. In fact, that's advice I'd give you most days over the present remarkable time.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

After today, romantic arrangements may begin to come unstuck, perhaps because friends start standing up for themselves. In some cases, this may be a relief, while in others you will be offered plenty of opportunities to correct any misunderstandings.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

There is much to be gained from taking a creative approach, developing your individual talents, rejecting pointless social constraints and letting your special form of spontaneity flow. You're also hitting an adventurous phase, by the way, so you'll soon be considering options and alternatives that you never thought were for you.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

What can you do when the stars indicate that you're still in a costly phase? Probably no more than pay up when the bills come rolling in. You should have taken steps by now to boost your earnings. Also, if a relationship still seems like an uphill struggle, then give it a few more weeks before you decide to get fed up.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

You can now afford to look forward to a rest, even though there'll be moments when you feel as if you are still rushing at breakneck speed, sweeping all lesser mortals and beings aside. However, it seems to be the case that much of your energy actually comes from other people, and perhaps from a new partnership.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon will cheer you up, especially when it forms some very helpful celestial relationships to parts of your chart which stimulate your vivid imagination. If all goes according to plan, this could be the time when you hear some welcome and overdue news.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

You may leave more stressful issues until tomorrow and concentrate on home and family arrangements. It's an ideal moment for discussing plans and finalising agreements, especially if money is on your mind, and particularly if you're prepared for the unknown.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Events that take place at the end of the week should clear away a lot of the debris, emotional and otherwise, at home. Until then, press ahead with whatever ambitious professional projects are in the pipeline, and make sure that everyone who needs to know what you're up to, does know.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Pull every string you can if you want to sustain your position at work or in the community. You may, though, be obliged to put certain important matters on the back-burner for the next fortnight. But your judgment will have to be impeccable, nothing less will do.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Although there have been times when you have felt isolated and excluded from what seems to be going on all around you, other people should now be in a position to reassure you. Listen closely to what partners are really trying to say, especially if cash considerations are looming.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your long-term financial plans may now have to be reconsidered. The reason is not clear, and may be no more than that you have decided on one sort of investment suiting your purposes much better than another. But an additional factor is that a team enterprise could add to your funds.



PANGHAL MAKES LIGHT WORK OF OPPONENT

Birmingham: Indian boxer Amit Panghal began his campaign at the Commonwealth Games with a facile win as he stormed into the men's flyweight (51kg) quarterfinals here on Monday. Panghal, a world championship silver medalist, out-punched Namri Berri of Vanuatu via an unanimous verdict. PTI

INDIA WRAP

Prakash's campaign comes to an end

Ace Indian swimmer Sajan Prakash's campaign ended at the Commonwealth Games as he exited in the semifinals of the men's 100m butterfly event here on Monday. The seasoned Prakash clocked 54.24 seconds to finish eighth in his semifinal, finishing last among the 16 swimmers who progressed to the semifinals. He had failed to make the finals of his other two events — 50m and 200m butterfly as well.

Ghosal enters semis, Joshna exits

India's leading squash player Saurav Ghosal progressed to the men's singles semifinals, but it was curtains for Joshna Chinappa as she suffered a loss to Canada's Hollie Naughton in the women's singles quarterfinals.

Pranati finishes fifth in vault

India's Pranati Nayak finished fifth in women's vault final of artistic gymnastics event at the Commonwealth Games here on Monday. The 27-year-old from West Bengal, who has won bronze medals at the 2019 and 2022 Asian Championships, scored 13.633 in her first vault attempt and 11.766 in her second go for an average of 12.699 at the Arena Birmingham. Pranati, who scored 13.275 in the qualification, was handed a penalty of 0.1 and 0.3 in her two attempts.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MEDAL'S TALLY

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Australia	26	18	20	64
2.	England	18	18	10	47
3.	New Zealand	12	7	4	23
4.	South Africa	5	1	3	9
5.	Canada	4	9	14	27
6.	India	3	3	2	8

*As of 11:30pm, August 1

SCHEDULE

LAWN BOWLS (WOMEN'S FOURS - GOLD MEDAL MATCH)

INDIA VS SA (4.15 pm)

India Lawn Bowls women's four team created history on Monday when they defeated New Zealand 16-13 in the semifinals and booked their place in the final. Having assured themselves at least a silver, they will now face South Africa in the ultimate clash to secure the gold medal

HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

INDIA VS ENGLAND (6.30 pm)

ATHLETICS

LONG JUMP QUALIFICATION (M) (2:30 PM - SREESHANKAR, ANEES)
HIGH JUMP QUALIFICATION (M) (12 AM 3RD - TEJASWINI)
DISCUS FINAL (W) (12:52 AM 3RD - NAVJEET, SEEMA)

WEIGHTLIFTING

Punam Yadav 76 kg	(2 PM)
Vikas Thakur 96 kg	(6.30 PM)
Usha Kumara 87 kg	(11 PM)

Undeterred by a troublesome foot, judoka Shushila fights bravely but has to settle for 48kg silver



EXPRESS IN BIRMINGHAM

SHIVANI NAIK
BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 1

THE TOP of her foot - or what's called the dorsum - had two neat double-laned white tapings, which hid nastily torn skin, patched up with three stitches, and dressed to look tidy, so as not to give away an advantage. Beneath that exterior, judoka Shushila Devi Likmabam felt intense discomfort and a very real dread of the stitches coming undone should she even respond to an itch. Plus, disturbing that covering on the bare foot was an open invitation to opponents to go for the weakness, which in judo can mean a definitive throw ending in a gold-ending ippon.

So, Shushila put up with the pain for a whole 10 days till she reached the 48kg final, ensuring she never drew attention to a walking wound. "I couldn't walk properly till today," she would say at the Coventry Arena.

By Monday, facing Geronay Michaela Whitebooi - a particularly hyper-active, restless soul given to constant attacking - poking, gripping like a boa, feinting and then pouncing - Shushila lasted the first round with both pointless, and the bout got dragged into golden score - extra time.

But you know the tale of Achilles. Not quite the ankle, but the dorsal caught up with the brave, resilient woman eventually. About 25 seconds after some heroic defending where she managed a brave attack on her opponent but couldn't get a pin, where she didn't concede points on that hurting leg, Shushila watched Michaela pounce in one fell swoop, and enforce a split-second throw turning her on the back. Caught in being cautious and defending that right leg, hassled and harried by the younger South African, the continental champion, Shushila, ended with a silver - her second after the Glasgow Games of 2014.

"Bilkul achha nahi lag raha hai. Socha gold lungi... gold hi chahiye tha. Dil toot gayaa (Not feeling good at all. Thought will win gold, gold is what I wanted. I'm heartbroken)," she said later.

For someone who keeps herself peppy and perked up during months of solitude and training at the Inspire Institute in Vijayangar, listening to Kishore Kumar songs, the next few days would have 'dukhi mann mere suam Mera

Wounded hero



Shushila Devi Likmabam (whites) put up with the foot pain for a whole 10 days till she reached the 48kg final. AP

kehna' the next few days. "Achha nahi gaati. Bas gaati hoon (I don't sing well, but sing nevertheless)" she would say, still downcast ahead of the medal ceremony.

A consistent medalist for the country, Shushila was aware that only a gold could catapult her and judo into a space where boxing found itself after Mary Kom or weightlifting after Mirabai Chanu. "Mujhe sab support milaa last kuchh years mein. Magar dukh hota hai main kuchh nahi kar paaya (I had all the support the last few years, but feel sad that I couldn't do anything)" she would say, unaware of the value of a silver - where she topped her pool and stayed on an even keel in the final till the sudden blitz from her opponent.

Respect from peers

An inspiring figure for the whole judo fraternity, her opponent Michaela paid her the best tribute saying, "her skill is excellent. I just kept prodding, but it was tough to break through her." In the end, it was the fear of the injured leg, that snapped with a wild gash in training two days before coming to Birmingham, and the fear of being attacked, that led to the momentary lapse in defence.

Attempting to get points of her own, and a tad frustrated at not being able to pin the South African, Shushila was beginning to get desperate when the African champ made her ambush.

Michaela, a two-time African champion, is known for her hassling style, but had escaped the prepping dossier made by the Indians who were waiting for an English opponent to make the final. As such, the South African from Port Elizabeth took them by surprise. Herself prone to blanking out on the mat, and falling to nerves, she had worked with mental trainers to develop a mindset for just this kind of a situation.

"It was a struggle to beat her, I really had to wait, wait, and not give her a point. Tough opponent," she would say.

She had been encouraged to become extroverted - indulge her fashion instincts, grow a personality that she could assert on the mat. "Fashion, plus eating and sleeping, that's what I like," she would grin later

Shushila, on the other hand, has always preferred old Hindi songs, and a quieter life, though she uploads a few songs in Manipuri and Hindi on her social media. The pandemic had seen the largely introverted Shushila endure more loneliness, as she trained with a mask on, and fewer sparring opportunities. "It was difficult then, but I at least got a job after the Olympics. But CWG was where I wanted a medal," she reiterated.

"I don't want to give the stitches as an excuse. I just know I didn't win gold. So, no one will remember silver," she said, still cross with herself. A hamstring injury after the last Asian

Games had pushed her into extended rehab, and she came into the CWG a little undercooked in judo sharpness, having to deal with the foot tear.

"I never take holidays. Just room to practice, practice to room. Some Kishore songs and dance. But then the gold didn't come despite that. I could do nothing. Kuchh nahi kar paayaa," she would say.

For an athlete who delivers at the Games, she wishes the struggle was more for winning an Olympic medal, than merely qualifying for it. "I hope I get a chance again," she ended.

Welder's son, forged in bronze

Vikas Yadav recalls his two brothers, two sisters and mother being able to eat meals on some days, only after his father, a welder at Varanasi's Tarna village returned home from work bringing the day's rations. "It's been a lot of tough days, but now I have judo," he says, after winning bronze at the CWG.

Having accompanied his friends into judo coaching, he quickly got good at it, with a wicked right grip, but reckons he's not progressed as quickly as he should have. "Bronze is not great, but it's a medal," he would say later. Now he trains at the Bhopal centre, but remains thankful to his father for ensuring he never slept hungry. "We would wait for him to bring food, but he never let us sleep hungry," he says.

In draw with England, India go from excellent to average

MIHIR VASAVDA
AUGUST 1

THE 60 minutes against England on Monday showed how scintillating and silly Indian hockey can be.

In the first 30, Olympic bronze medalists could not put a foot wrong against England. They pressed high, ran into spaces, played cheeky through balls, mesmerised with their 3D skills, and scored goals. India were flying. In the next 30, they played like a different team. They defended deep, were second to most balls, could not find a decent pass, the skills vanished, and conceded goals. India crash landed.

The high-entertaining Pool B tie at Birmingham's University Hockey ground ended in a 4-4 draw. But for India, it'll feel like a defeat, having allowed England to come back after they led 3-0 at half-time.

It would have been interesting to be a fly

on the wall in the Indian dressing room post-match. For, India repeated the same mistakes that Graham Reid, often polite to a fault, has been underlining for quite some time, especially post-Tokyo - their tendency to drop energy, impatience, the lack of discipline and consequent pressure on the defence, leading to conceding goals.

They weren't like this when the match began. Both teams were eager to win this tie to avoid playing Australia - who have won every CWG gold medal - but it was India that came flying out of the blocks. Reid would've been happy with that, given that he's admitted more than once during the FIH Pro League that he hoped his team would 'start a match well'.

India were all over England and had raced to a healthy 3-0 lead, with Lalit Upadhyay opening the scoring by latching on to a rebound from a penalty corner. Mandeep Singh then scored a brace, his first coming from a powerful tomahawk and the second



Mandeep Singh scored a brace for India against England on Monday. HI

with a little bit of fortune after he received a delightful through ball, tried to play it square towards the goal mouth but instead it was deflected past the goalkeeper by an English player.

At that stage, India looked firmly in control. It wasn't just the goals, the manner in which they played gave an impression that this team had elevated itself to a different level, especially with the high-press play and the fluency and speed of the counterattacks.

After the half-time break, however, something snapped. From being adventurous and aggressive, India went into a conservative mode but that didn't harm them as much as the indiscipline.

The players needlessly got involved in verbal, and slightly physical, duels with their opponents. England thus managed to get under the skin of Indian players and started to take advantage of that.

India got three yellow cards - Varun Kumar was sent to the sin bin twice, once in the 19th minute for five minutes and then again in the 43rd for 10 minutes, and Gurjant was sent off in the 51st, resulting in India finishing the match with 10 men.

The timing of the cards, and their conse-

Kenny calls for better safety measures after cycling crash

REUTERS
AUGUST 1

FIVE-TIMES Olympic champion Laura Kenny urged organisers to install bigger barriers at velodromes after a crash involving England's Matt Walls at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

Tokyo Games gold medalist Walls and two other cyclists were taken to hospital after a crash during the second heat of the men's scratch race at Lee Valley VeloPark on Sunday. Spectators were also hurt after Walls and his bike came over the top of the barriers on the high banking at a corner of the track.

Walls received treatment from paramedics for 40 minutes before leaving in an ambulance but escaped without serious injury. "I think the crashes are getting worse and it's because the speeds are getting higher, the positions are getting more extreme," said Kenny after finishing 13th in the points race.

"At some point the UCI (International Cycling Union) are going to have to put a cap on these positions. Maybe there should be screens because Matt should not have been able to go over the top and into the crowd - that's pretty damn dangerous."

The 30-year-old added that the crash had left her unsure whether she should compete in her event. "I was playing on my mind earlier, I messaged Jason (her husband) and said: 'I'm not sure I even want to do this.' It just puts everything into perspective when something like that happens." The crash was the second major incident in cycling at the Games after England's Joe Truman suffered a broken collarbone.



At some point the UCI are going to have to put a cap on these positions. Maybe there should be screens because Matt should not have been able to go over the top and into the crowd - that's pretty damn dangerous."

LAURA KENNY
FIVE-TIMES OLYMPIC CHAMPION CYCLIST

Sheuli's tale of grit: From training at makeshift gym to winning gold

SAYAK DUTTA & SANTANU CHOWDHURY
DEULPUR (WEST BENGAL), AUGUST 1

A DILAPIDATED brick structure stands out amidst the wild bushes and overgrown trees. There's a lone cow inside a shed on the right. And a giant Tricolour hangs on the wall at the porch, where five young women and men are pumping iron. The "platform" on which they stand is uneven, the barbells and metal plates are rusty and stained, torn clothes are tied to the roof to shield them.

There's nothing really to give an impression that champions can be produced at this unassuming facility in Deulpur, roughly an hour from Kolkata. But this is where Achinta Sheuli began his journey. Today, the 20-year-old is a junior world championship medalist, national record holder and winner of India's third gold at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham on Sunday with a Games Record of 313kg (143kg in snatch, 170kg in clean and jerk).

"When I first saw Achinta, he was very thin and did not have the appearance of a weightlifter at all," says Achinta's childhood

coach Astam Das, who lives in this makeshift gym. "But he had speed, which is very important for an athlete in any game."

Achinta walked into this facility for the first time exactly a decade ago, following the footsteps of his elder brother Alok. "We were preparing for the Nationals when, in 2013, our father passed away and our financial condition deteriorated," Alok says. "I was in the second year of college. But the responsibility of being the breadwinner of the family fell on my shoulders, so I had to leave college."

His mother Purnima Sheuli, 43, became zari worker (embroidery) after the demise of her husband. The family could not afford a chicken meal for Achintya as they faced severe financial hardship.

'Couldn't afford chicken'

"When he was young, he had asked for a chicken meal. But we could not afford it. He cried a lot that day. But afterwards he understood our financial conditions and never asked for such a meal again. He relied on starchy rice with coconuts. After he won the gold medal yesterday, he has demanded that I must prepare his favourite starchy rice when he arrives home,"



The gym from where Achinta Sheuli, 73kg gold winner, got his start. Sayak Dutta/PTI

Purnima, who earned Rs 700 per week to support her family, told the newspaper.

The Sheulis live not very far from Das' home gym. It's a modest house with bright green interiors in a cramped lane. Achinta hasn't spent much time here in the last five-six years. "Less than 30 days in the last few years," Alok says, as he points to the room



where the champion lifter has spent his life. "Everything he has achieved, and become, started from here," says his mother Purnima. It started, in fact, with Alok watching a bodybuilding competition, getting fascinated, and "wanting to do something along those lines". So, Purnima took her elder son to a gym that Das ran. A couple of years later,

Achinta joined his brother.

"He was the one who took Achinta and me under his wings," Alok says, referring to Das, a former national-level weightlifter who retired prematurely due to a back injury. "He used to train us for free. He is so dedicated to his craft, he even left a BSF job for it."

After leaving BSF, Das never took up a full-time job, fearing it would eat into his coaching time. Achinta, he says, was frail and underweight when he first came to him. "(But) one of the things that made him stand out was his hunger for the game. He would not give up easily," Das says.

The turnaround

With the family limited by lack of resources, Das supported Achinta with lifting gear as well as nutritious food. "Due to their financial condition, it was hard for him to maintain a proper diet. I used to tell him to slow down and have proper food or else he would fall sick. Then he went to the Army institute and got the necessary support," Das says.

The move to Army Sports Institute, in 2014, was the turning point.

It came after Achinta gave a glimpse into his abilities at the 2013 junior national cham-

pionships in Guwahati.

This was the beginning of a road paved with medals - Junior Youth Nationals, Junior Asian Championships, Junior World Championships, Senior Nationals, Commonwealth Championships and finally, the Commonwealth Games.

The consistent results across age groups, which make Achinta one of the most exciting young prospects in Indian weightlifting, barely surprise Alok, who witnessed first-hand how a casual interest turned into an obsession.

To meet financial needs after his father's death, the entire family got involved in a small embroidery business.

Alok is a contractual employee in the fire brigade and still harbours the dream of making it big on the weightlifting stage. But right now, he is happy to live that dream through his younger brother.

Since Sunday night, the celebration has not stopped in Deulpur. "It is a proud moment for all of us. Before today, no one knew the name of this place. Now the entire country is aware of his native place. This will bring the focus on young talents who are now dreaming to following in Achintya's footsteps," said Sanjib Sheuli - a local resident.