# \*The Indian EXPRESS

**JOURNALISM OF COURAGE** 

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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8 IN TOP 10 | 71 IN TOP 100 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2021



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## **Foundation Course** NERAL STUDIES

PRELIMS cum MAINS 2023

20 SEP, 1 PM | 30 AUG, 9 AM | 19 AUG, 1 PM 5 AUG, 9 AM | 26 JULY, 1 PM | 17 JULY, 5 PM

**HYDERABAD: 8th Aug** AHMEDABAD: 22<sup>nd</sup> July

प्रारंभिक, मुख्य परीक्षा और निबंध के लिए महत्वपूर्ण सभी टॉपिक का विस्तृत कवरेज

DELHI: 15 सितंबर, 1 PM | 2 अगस्त, 9 AM | LUCKNOW: 7 जुलाई, 9 AM | JAIPUR: 16 अगस्त 4 PM

LUCKNOW: 25th Aug | 25th June

CHANDIGARH: 25th Aug | 21st June | PUNE: 20th June फाउंडेशन कोर्स सामान्य अध्ययन 2023

JAIPUR: 16th Aug | 30th July



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**GS-1 & GS-2 PAPER 27 AUGUST** 

**GS-3 & GS-4 28 AUGUST** 



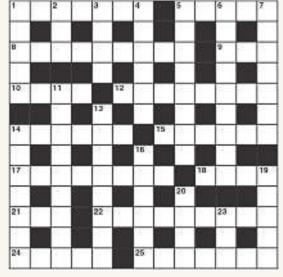
Register at: www.visionias.in/abhyaas

Ahmedabad | Aizawl | Bengaluru | Bhopal | Bhubaneswar | Chandigarh | Chennai | Coimbatore | Dehradun | Delhi | Ghaziabad Gorakhpur | Guwahati | Hyderabad | Imphal | Indore | Itanagar | Jabalpur | Jaipur | Jammu | Jodhpur | Kanpur | kochi | Kolkata Lucknow | Ludhiana | Mumbai | Nagpur | Noida | Patna | Prayagraj | Pune | Raipur | Ranchi | Rohtak | Shimla | Thiruvananthapuram Varanasi Vijayawada Visakhapatnam

DELHI: HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade Karol Bagh **CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066** 

JAIPUR GUWAHATI HYDERABAD AHMEDABAD LUCKNOW CHANDIGARH PUNE

### CROSSWORD 4826



DOWN

Knave withdrawn from the

Hold a strong position (4)

Doctor has evil disposition?

Many snakes are associated

13 Catches the sound of about ten

14 Objection seen as having little

being unusual for eating (6)

16 Understand about the inn

19 Profession many rush to get

20 Type of stone fruit (4)

23 Any stupid simpleton is

Member is slow to make a law

There must be the will to

pack?(5) Flying club(3)

Nonsense (6)

perhaps?(9)

with them (7)

cheers (8)

weight(7)

initially(3)

provide them (8)

Layman in the church

### ACROSS

- Censured about plot involving
- It's not widely found
- Understanding the crowd
- Not even out of the ordinary 10 After the salmon she gets food
- poisoning (4) 12 Give an account of French
- writer(8) 14 This ring is impressive (6)
- 15 She dabbled with TNT in decimal quantities (6)
- 17 Keep variety star in control
- 18 Man in hysterics (4)
- 21 It may be sweet to eat or not
- 22 How the heat can knock one
- out(9) 24 Levels up the odds (5)
- 25 Fancied one at the party we hear(7)

Solutions Crossword 4825: Across: 1 Pinafore, 5 Item, 9 Dowse, 10 Beheads, 11 Concert pitch, 13 Canopy, 14 Fiesta, 17 Wheelwrights, 20 Infused, 21 Agree, 22 Gone, 23 Bedstead. Down: 1 Pods, 2 New moon, 3 French polish, 4 Rebore, 6 Trait, 7 Masthead, 8 Shopping bags, 12 Scowling, 15 Set free, 16 Bridle, 18 Elfin, 19 Lead

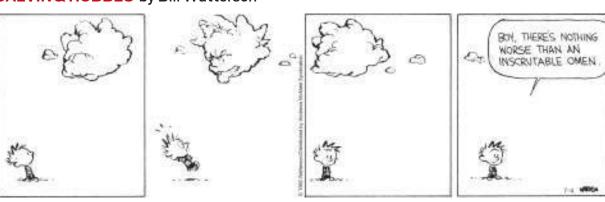
### **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis





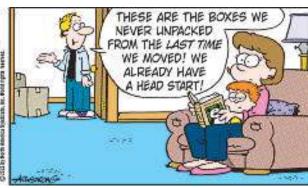


### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson



### **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong

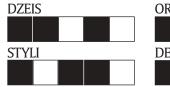




### JUMBLED WORDS

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

Always, however brutal an age may actually have been, its\_\_transmits its\_\_only -André Malraux (5,.,5)



JBN No.

15.09.2022.

UBN:-

PWD2223WSOB03845

PWD2223WLOB03847

(DIPR/C/10736/2022)

**ORRSCU** DELOMY

दिनांक:-16.08.202

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंत

सानिवि, सभाग-बीकाने

music only. - André Malraux yer brutal an age may actually have been, its **style** transmits its SOLUTION: SIZED, SILTY, CURSOR, MELODY

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग,

संभाग - बीकानेर

(DIPR/C/10226/2022) निविदा संशोधन

बिड-सूचना संख्या 04/2022-23 में आंशिक संशोधन

स कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1128 दिनांक 12.07.2022 के द्वारा राज्य मार्गो के 2 लेन चौड़ाईकरण हेतु जारी स्वीकृतिय 5 अन्तर्गत के अतंर्गत स्वीकत सडक कार्यों हेत जारी निविदा के क्रम संख्या 01 पर अंकित कार्य Chomu to

क जनमा के जाता विद्याप्त स्वार्थित के जाता हुए जाता मार्चित के क्या स्वया जिल्ला के जाता विद्याप्त Citoffu tur Churu-Kandala-Udaipurvati-Gudda Jhunjhnu (Bisau-Churu) SHW-37 Km: 0/0 to 5/500 (5.50 Mtr.) UBN NO. PWD2223WSOB03845 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से एतदुद्वारा – निरस्स

PWD2223WLOB03846

PWD2223WLOB03848

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER PHED CIRCLE

**NCR ALWAR** 

PHED CAMPUS, MANU MARG ALWAR (RAJ.) E-Mail- sencr.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 210-246/ 2022-23)

Bids for Works of construction of Sources PLJ of Rising Main &

Distribution Pipe Line with FHTC, Construction of Reservoir for

Various villages are invited from interested bidders upto 05:00 PM on Date

Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement porta

http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in , http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and

PHE2223WSOB05328, PHE2223WSOB05329, PHE2223WSOB05330,

PHE2223WSOB05334, PHE2223WSOB05335, PHE2223WSOB05336

PHE2223WSOB05337, PHE2223WSOB05338, PHE2223WSOB05339

PHE2223WSOB05340, PHE2223WSOB05341, PHE2223WSOB05342

PHE2223WSOB05343 PHE2223WSOB05344 PHE2223WSOB05345

PHE2223WSOB05345, PHE2223WSOB05344, PHE2223WSOB05348 PHE2223WSOB05346, PHE2223WSOB05347, PHE2223WSOB055348 PHE2223WSOB05349, PHE2223WSOB05350, PHE2223WSOB05351

PHE2223WSOB05352 PHE2223WSOB05353 PHE2223WSOB05354

PHE2223WSOB05358, PHE2223WSOB05359, PHE2223WSOB05360

PHE2223WSOB05361, PHE2223WSOB05362, PHE2223WSOB05363

https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.
NIB Code PHE2223A2636

#### Difficulty Level 4s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

49

SUDOKU

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 =

		9		2	6			
1			9		7			2
			4	3		5		
	П	6			5	2	7	9
	П					3	4	
3					8			

4	8	3	6	5	2	9	1	7
2	9	5	4	1	7	6	3	8
1	7	6	3	9	8	4	5	2
5	2	7	9	4	3	1	8	6
3	6	4	5	8	1	7	2	9
9	1	8	7	2	6	3	4	5
8	3	9	1	6	5	2	7	4
7	4	2	8	3	9	5	6	1
6	5	1	2	7	4	8	9	3

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4933

### **DAY TODAY**

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The current

passionate Mars-Pluto relationship is pushing you into battles of principle, probably at home rather than at work. However, relations may not wish to be the objects of your crusading zeal. You might do best to leave them alone to make up their own minds.

### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There's a fairly pronounced change in planetary energies this week, moving from pure excitement and drama to a situation which combines the need for adventure with sobriety and caution: a tall order. Your natural caution will come in extremely handy.

### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) There's little change

in the long-term cycle for the bulk of Geminians this week. However, the rapid movements of Venus and Mercury point to a series of

intriguing fluctuations in your personal relationships. Meanwhile Mars indicates rising tension, so keep the lid on wilder feelings.

#### CANCER (June 22 - July 23) It may be another twelve months

before your seeds which are sown now come to fruition. However, you should soon begin to see very beneficial results. You can look forward to the future with hope, but in the meantime you'd better pay close attention to

### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) The Moon arrives in a powerful region of your chart, bringing a remarkable

degree of emotional strength. Play your cards right and you will emerge as the dominant force at home and the victor in a family struggle. Friends may be falling out and you'll soon be called in to play the peacemaker.

### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)



tendencies that you would rather forget. But that doesn't mean that you should let people walk all over you. By doing the right thing you will attract loyalty and respect.

### BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23) Challenging planetary aspects may set you on

edge, but shouldn't disturb your genuine peace of mind. Perhaps you will find welcome stimulation in tense  $situations.\,A\,little\,extra\,stress$ might be all it takes to push into finally achieving a cherished goal.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) Certain partners



and desires. However, you might be wise to backtrack and make an attempt to be more amenable. If you have made a mistake at home, now's your chance to make amends.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22) You haven't always had a fair deal. but that should

soon change. The stirring impact of Mars, planet of energy, on intense Pluto, is arousing your righteous anger. You will fight for your rights, even if you're wrong. Make sure you don't pick on an inappropriate target, though.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)



right words to say what you want. The impact on your life may therefore be indirect, but no less impressive, explosive even, for all that. Look to close friends for support.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) A perfect planetary period for family gatherings and

home entertaining is now beginning. Hopefully, you will make the most of wonderful opportunities and now have your memories to look back on. But it may not be possible to keep impatient partners waiting for ever.

### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)



times when you don't see eye to eye with loved ones, but you must regard disagreement as an essential part of daily life. How boring it would be if everyone shared the same

indianexpress.com

### **SALUTE THE SOLDIER**



Nb Sub Dhura Ram Verma, SM (23 Jul 1952-22 Aug 1995) On this day we salute and pay homage to a gallant soldier who laid down his life for the Nation while protecting the Territorial Integrity of India, along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir in the finest traditions of the Indian Army. May your Soul attain Moksha.

Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3 GRENADIERS

### (e-Tender Notice for the selection of Service Provider for On-Screen evaluation)

Savitribai Phule Pune University invites E-tender for the selection of service provider for the on-screen evaluation of answer books from interested and qualified service providers for the competitive bidding process. For the detailed tender document, interested bidder should visit https://mahatenders.gov.in and www.unipune.ac.in

Advt. No. 29 Date: 22/08/2022 Dr. Prafulla Pawar Registrar



कार्यालय वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिविल) उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण निर्माण खण्ड-पंचम, ई.पी.आई.पी, शास्त्रीपुरम, आगरा ई-निविदा सूचना

तद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद मथुरा के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र कोसी कोटवन विस्तार–द्वितीय में Construction of Balance drain along Road No - 3 and Maintenance of Central Verge at I.A. Kosi Kotwan Extn.-II District-Mathura का कार्य लागत रू० 84.56 / - लाख, जिसके लिए सरकारी विभागों / सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों / निकायों / प्राधिकरणों / परिषदों एवं निकायों में 'ए' श्रेणी में पंजीकृत फर्मों / ठेकेदारों से ई–निविदायें आमन्त्रित की जाती है, जो दिनांक 23.08.2022 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे से दिनांक 12.09.2022 को सायं 5:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है, जिन्हें दिनांक 13.09.2022 को पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे खोला जायेगा। निविदादाताओं द्वारा शपथ पत्रों की मूल प्रतियाँ दिनांक 12.09.2022 को साय 5:00 बजे तक कार्यालय में जमा करना अनिवार्य है। निविदा सम्बन्धी विस्तत जानकारी प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट www.upsidc.com पर स्थित ई-लिंक एवं यूपीएलसी की website :https://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है ।

वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (सिविल) निर्माण खण्ड-पंचम, आगरा

Tender No

34/2022-23

35/2022-23

उ०प्र० राज्य औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण ई-निविदा सूचना

अनुरक्षण रख-रखाव के कार्यों हेतु सरकारी/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों/निगमों/प्राधिकरणों/ परिषदों/नग

कि	कार्या में पर्जीकृत फर्मी / ठेकंदारों से अल्पकालीन / पूर्ण कालीन ई—िनीवेदाये आमंत्रित की जाती है।								
न सं.	कार्य का नाम	निविदा का प्रकार	कार्य की लगत रू) (लास में)	ई-निविदा खोलने की तिथि व समय	श्रेणी				
	Construction of Roads, Drain, & Culvert at I.A. Loni road site-2 (Plot no. VL-3, VL-3/1 to VL-3/6,' Distt.:-Ghaziabad		12.46	दिनांक 30.08.2022 को 11.00 बजे या इसके पश्चात					
,	Maintenance of Roads, Drain and	पूर्णकालीन	45.54	दिनांक 13.09.2022	Class-A				

culverts at I.A. Bulandsahar Roads Site-I, Ghaziabad (Balance Work) गालोर की जा यकती है। निविद्यालाओं राग शा

0500 वर्ज तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदाताओं द्वारा श्राध्यपत्रों की मूल प्रतियों दिनांक 02.09.2022 के साथं 0500 वर्ज तक जपलोइत हो क्यांचे कर अविकार कर से कार्यावच में जमा की जा अवकारी है। <u>क्र्यांचे कि 02</u> पर उल्लिखित कार्य की निवदा दिनांक 22.08.2022 को 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 12.09.2022 को साथं 05:00 बजे तक अपलोड की जा सकती है। निविदाताओं द्वारा श्राध्यपत्रों की मूल प्रतियों दिनांक 15.09.2022 को साथं 05:00 वर्ज तक प्रणीकृत डाक / व्यवित्तरात रूप से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। निविदाता कर से कार्यालय में जमा की जा सकती है। निविदाता में समस्त कर एवं जीएएस0टी0 सहित वर्ष अकित करें। अतग से कोई कर देश नहीं होगा 2. निविदा सम्बन्धी विद्तुत जानकारी वेबसाइट www.upsidc.com पर स्थापित लिंक यूपीएलसी की website: http://etender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। ender.up.nic.in पर देखी जा सकती है। उप महाप्रबन्धक (सिविल), निर्माण खण्ड-प्रथम, उ०प्रवरावऔवविवप्राव, गाजियाबाद

## "IMPORTANT"

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NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)

'Khanij Bhavan', 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad -500028
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - L13100TG1958GO1001674 CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT E-Tender Notice (Open Tender Enquiry for Domestic Bidding)

Drain/DNM/2022/856, dated 22.08.2022 IMSTC Ref. No.: NMDC/HO/47/22-23/ET/3321 NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt, of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders

Tender Enquiry No: HO (Contracts)/Construction/Toe Wall & Garland

for the work of 'Construction of Toe wall and Garland Drain for TW-MP 1A and GD-MP-1A of back filling at MP-1A of DIOM'. The detailed NITs and Bid documents can be viewed and /or downloaded

from 22-08-2022 to 14-09-2022 from following website links; 1. NMDC website - http://tenders.nmdc.co.in/nmdctender 2. Central Public Procurement portal - http://www.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/

app and 3. MSTC portal - https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/ buyer\_login.isp

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidder has to register as 'New Vendor' at MSTC website link https://www.mstcecommerce.co.in/ eprochome/nmdc/buyer\_login.jsp and search Tender Event No. NMDC/ HO/47/22-23/ET/332. For further help refer to 'vendor guide'given in MSTC website. The bidders are requested to submit their bids online through MSTC Limited e-procurement website

For further clarification, the following can be contacted: Chief General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. 040-23534746, Tel No. 040- 23532800, email: contracts@nmdc.co.in

> For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd **Chief General Manager (Contracts)**

### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT, PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, JODHPUR Tel. 0291-2651700 E-mail: rj\_cejod@nic.in

Notice Inviting Bid (NIB No. 16/2022-23)

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## A mystery 'dwarfing' disease hits paddy crop in Punjab and Haryana

CBI action meant to

target me, not probe

corruption: Sisodia

### ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA & HARISH DAMODARAN LUDHIANA, AUGUST 21

EVEN AS overall acreage under rice has fallen by nearly 3.1 million hectares (mh) during this kharif cropping season over the last year — mostly in the monsoon-deficit states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal — there is a fresh source of worry. And it's emanating from the country's Green Revolution bowl of Punjab and

Over the past fortnight or more, many farmers in the two **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

MALLICA JOSHI & GAYATHRI MANI

NEW DELHI. AUGUST 21

TWO DAYS after the CBI con-

ducted searches at his residence,

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said on Sunday

that the intention was not to in-

vestigate corruption charges but

to target him. He also said that

the Union government would

not be able to stall the AAP gov-

ernment's ongoing work in Delhi

searches at 31 locations, includ-

ing Sisodia's residence, in con-

nection with a case it has regis-

tered against him and several

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

On Friday, the CBI conducted

"unless you kill us"



Samples of healthy and stunted paddy plants from a farmer's field at Rudrapur, **Uttarakhand.** Express

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

Not a Lockout Notice, they

## Convicts in Bilkis Bano case came out on frequent parole as witnesses cited threats

### **ADITI RAJA** & SOHINI GHOSH VADODARA, AHMEDABAD,

AUGUST 21

HOUSE-WARMING ceremony, son's wedding, and mother's knee-replacement surgery these were among the reasons cited by some of the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case who approached courts seeking parole or temporary bail even as prosecution witnesses wrote to gov-

DEA XCHANGE

"Every university

has a lunatic fringe...

left, right, centre...

But they cannot

define its identity

SANTISHREE

DHULIPUDI PANDIT

VICE CHANCELLOR

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PAGE 15



The convicts after their release on August 15. Express

## Cong's Anand Sharma quits Himachal election post: 'Continuing insults'

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

DAYS AFTER Ghulam Nabi Azad declined the leadership of the Congress's campaign committee in Jammu and Kashmir, senior leader Anand Sharma resigned as chairman of the party's steering committee for Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections on



Sunday. The decisions by the two

leaders of the G23 group come even as the Congress begins the CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### Car explosion kills daughter of Russian known as 'Putin's brain'

threats from the convicts who

their pleas for bail were rejected

as the courts made note of the

parole leaves they "enjoyed" — usually through applications

made to the district administra-

tion through the authorities at **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

**DILUTION OF RULE OF** 

LAW: SC EX-JUDGE P9

In some instances, however,

took "frequent parole".



The site of the car explosion outside Moscow. AP

#### JIM HEINTZ MOSCOW, AUGUST 21

THE DAUGHTER of an influential Russian political theorist often referred to as "Putin's brain" was killed in a car bombing on the outskirts of Moscow, authorities said Sunday.

The Moscow branch of the Russian Investigative Committee said preliminary information indicated that 29-year-old TV commentator Daria Dugina was killed by an explosive planted in the SUV she was driving Saturday night. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

### **BEATING COVID-19 JOLT**

## 19 states cross pre-Covid GSDP levels in FY22; Kerala, UP lag

Double-digit GSDP growth in 7 states; Andhra highest, Puducherry lowest

### HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

EMERGING FROM the shock of the Covid-19 pandemic, economies of 19 states and Union Territories exceeded their pre-Covid levels, with seven recording double-digit growth rates during 2021-22, shows an analysis of official data for 21 states and UTs. The growth rates of 11 states including Gujarat and Maharashtra were not available for 2021-22

The analysis shows that the size of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of the 19 states and UTs had contracted or recorded a negligible growth during 2020-21 — the year when

nationwide lockdown in view of the Covid-19 outbreak. Their economies bounced back in 2021-22 and exceeded their pre-Covid (2019-20) levels These 19 states and UTs are: Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Telangana, Delhi, Odisha,

the government had imposed a

Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Puducherry. As on August 1, 2022, the GSDP (at 2011-12 Constant Prices) figures are available for 21 states and UTs at the official

Madhya Pradesh, Haryana,

Karnataka, Tripura, Sikkim,

website of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Number of women scientists goes up; CSIR head says aiming at further push

**ESHAROY** 

THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW **CAN'T STOP US FROM** WORKING: DY CM P 5

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE APPOINTMENT earlier this month of Dr N Kalaiselvi as the first woman director general of India's largest research and development organisation, the 80vear-old Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), underA skew; some way to go still

WHILE OVERALL data show an upward trend, women researchers in engineering and tech are fewer than in natural sciences, health, agriculture.

**His Holiness** 

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Founder of Art of Living

lined a significant trend — official data show the participation of women in science research has been generally increasing over the past two decades in the country.

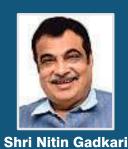
More than a quarter - 28% of participants in extramural R&D projects in 2018-19 were women, up from 13% in 2000-01 due to various initiatives taken **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 

### **HOW STATES FARED AFTER COVID**

Gross State Domestic Product at constant (2011-12) prices Figures in Rs '000 cr

■2019-20 ■2020-21 ■2021-22

### LIST OF EMINENT SPEAKERS



**Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport** & Highways, Government of India

























NAYARA









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## FROM PAGE ONE

**GSDP** levels

Implementation. Of these Kerala and Uttar Pradesh are the only exceptions: in 2021-22, their GSDP continued to be below the pre-Covid levels.

Of these 21 states and UTs, Andhra recorded the highest growth of 11.43 per cent, while Puducherry the lowest (3.31 per cent). Besides Andhra Pradesh, five other states and one UT -Rajasthan (11.04 per cent), Bihar (10.98 per cent), Telangana (10.88), Delhi (10.23 per cent), Odisha (10.19 per cent) and Madhya Pradesh (10.12 per cent) – reported double-digit growth rates in 2021-22. The growth rates of Haryana (9.80 per cent) and Karnataka (9.47 per cent) were close to double digits in the last financial year.

The economies of the remaining 11 states and UTs - Tripura, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh - grew in range of 4.24 per cent to 8.69 per cent during 2021-22. Among the big states, Uttar Pradesh registered the lowest growth rate of 4.24 per cent in 2021-22

While the sharp jump in the GSDP of some states is due to the base effect, the general trend mirrors the post-pandemic economic recovery. In 2021-22, India's GDP expanded at 8.7 per cent against a 6.6 per cent contraction in 2020-

In 2020-21, the GSDP of all states except Manipur (3.19 per cent), West Bengal (1.06 per cent), Tamil Nadu (0.14 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (0.08 per cent) had declined compared with the previous year

The GSDP figures of 2021-22 were not available for a dozen states and UTs - Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation compiles the GSDP figures as reported by the Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective state governments.

### Bilkis Bano case

the Godhra sub-jail, where they were lodged

In April this year, the Gujarat High Court rejected a petition by Radheshyam Shah, one of the 11 convicts, who sought a 28-day parole for his "house-warming ceremony". Rejecting his plea, Justice A S Supehia said, "Looking at the jail remarks as well as the cause for which the petition is filed, the same is rejected." The court also noted that Shah had already spent 60 days on parole – from January 29 to March 30 this year. Earlier, with his appeal against

onviction pending before the Bombay High Court, Shah had in 2011 applied for a three-month temporary bail for "his mother's knee-replacement surgery". In September 2011, a division bench of Justices V M Kanade and A M Thipsay of the Bombay HC rejected and dismissed his plea, noting that he was "released on furlough in December 2010 and is due to be released on furlough leave in December 2011".

It was Shah's petition in the Supreme Court that led to the court directing the Gujarat government in May to consider and grant remission to the 11 convicts based on a 1992 policy that allows for early release of life-term convicts. On August 15, the government of Gujarat, based on the "unanimous" recommendation of the Jail Advisory Committee (JAC) to grant them remission on grounds of "good behaviour', released all the 11 convicts who had in 2008 been sentenced to life im-

C lassifieds

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Aditya Mongra <del>dias</del>

prisonment in the 2002 case of Bilkis Bano's gang rape and murder of seven of her family members during the communal riots.

Earlier, in May 2019, co-convict Keshar Vohania's application, seeking parole for his son's marriage, had been rejected by Justice Umesh Trivedi of the Gujarat High

Vohania had by then already spent 90 days on parole in the six months between August 2018 and March 2019. Justice Trivedi made note of this as he rejected Vohania's parole plea, saying since "he has already enjoyed parole leave for 50 days from August 12, 2018 to September 30, 2018, and for 40 days from February 10, 2019 to March 23, 2019, this leave application cannot be entertained".

Between 2017 and 2020, witnesses and residents of Randhikpur village, to which belonged both the victims and convicts in the Bilkis Bano case, had submitted several memoranda and complaints to the district police as well as to then Gujarat minister of state for Home Pradeepsinh Jadeja, contending that the 11 convicts were "frequently out on parole" and "issuing threats" to the witnesses.

A letter written to Jadeja in February 2021 by Abdul Razzak Mansuri, a resident of Randhikpur, on behalf of the witnesses in the Bilkis Bano case, had said that the accused were "using their time out of jail to attend political events, continue with their businesses, build their bungalows and also threaten witnesses" and that the witnesses were living "in constant fear of the accused, (who) are technically serving their life imprison-

The five-page letter to Jadeja from Mansuri, who has been providing assistance to the witnesses and is among the riot-affected from Randhikpur who have been put up in a relief colony in Devgadh Baria taluka, had cited the case of Shailesh Bhatt — accused No. 4 in the 2002 case.

Mansuri alleged that Bhatt, while out on parole, "had attended an event of the Bharatiya Janata Party and shared the dais with elected representatives of the BIP from Dahod".

When asked about the letter, Jadeja said on Saturday, "I do not recollect receiving any such letter from them (witnesses in the Bilkis Bano case)... I also do not know if the convicts were part of any party event during their parole. The issue of their parole being sanctioned is the subject of the jail authorities and not the minister."

On June 23, 2020, Phiroz Ghanchi alias Pintu, a witness, had written to the Range IG of Panchmahal alleging that the accused had been "using false and pretentious" reasons to seek frequent parole and that they spend "more time in the village than in iail... and continue to threaten and harass victims in the riots cases, particularly the Bilkis Bano case"

Phiroz Ghanchi had also filed an RTI petition before the Godhra sub-jail, seeking details of the parole and furlough granted to the 11 convicts. On August 20, 2020, the iail's Public Information Officer said the subject of parole and furlough of the convicts was "third party information" and could not be shared "without consent" of the convicts.

In 2017, Adam Ghanchi and Imtiyaz Ghanchi, other witnesses in the case, submitted an application to the Superintendent of Police, Dahod, accusing the familv members of convicts Radhyesham Shah and Keshar Vohania of threatening to kill them. They said the convicts were "vengeful and repeatedly (issued) death threats stating that it would not matter if they killed us because they have already been convicted in the (Bilkis Bano) case... They

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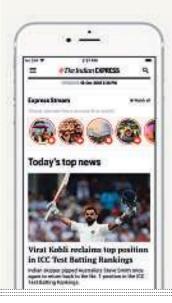
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## Number of women scientists goes up; CSIR head says aiming at further push

by successive governments, data compiled by the Department of Science and Technology show. The number of women principal investigators in R&D had risen more than four times from 232 in 2000-01 to 941 in 2016-17.

The percentage of women among researchers went from 13.9% in 2015 to 18.7% in 2018, the data show. There were fewer women researchers in engineering and technology (14.5%) compared with the natural sciences and agriculture (22.5% each), and health sciences (24.5%). The percentage of women researchers in the social sciences and humanities is, however, much higher at 36.4%.

'The increase in women's participation, especially in research, is due to a combination of government programmes and natural progression. Personally, I have never faced hiccups in my career. But I have seen that women tend to drop out when they get married or have children," Dr Kalaiselvi told The Indian Express.

However, "this was more in previous decades, as the infrastructure to do both (pursue research and family obligations simultaneously) simply did not exist", she added. "This is no longer the case. In numerous CSIR labs, women's participation has increased because there are creche facilities now in the residential colonies where the women scientists live. Parental attitudes towards girls pursuing science has also seen a shift, and girls are now encouraged more."

Dr Kalaiselvi said that as the head of CSIR's network of 38 laboratories and 4,500 scientists, her aim would be to push **WOMEN IN SCIENCE** 

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ENROLMENT



\*2020 data approximate, still being analysed

Year	Undergrad	PG	MPhil	PhD			
2011-12	13.2%	9.62%	17.58%	22.9%			
2012-13	13.2%	14.26%	28.39%	28.3%			
2013-14	14.1%	13.84%	27.22%	27.8%			
2014-15	15.4%	14.09%	27.9%	27.7%			
2015-16	16.2%	14.49%	27.6%	27.5%			
Source: Status of Women in Science (2016-17) by SSESS for Niti Aayog							

for a further increase in the participation of women within the organisation.

Dr S Chandrasekhar, secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), said: "With the increasing use of AI in the sciences, we anticipate that in the next 5-6 years, there will be an exponential growth in women's participation in S&T – with women using more sophisticated tools that allow remote working, such as something simple like access to online libraries. Even chemical sciences and the industry is getting smarter and cleaner, and I think the number of women employed will

Results of the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2019 showed a 53% and 55% participation of women in science education at the Bachelor's and Master's levels respectively, numbers that are comparable with many developed countries. But at doctoral level, women graduates (44%)

sion is interesting as it brings back

focus on the G23 group amid a si-

lence by the leadership on the

election process, the one-month

window for which began today.

Some of the leaders of the group

said Sharma's resignation and

Azad's decision to decline the

chairmanship of the campaign

committee were not "coinciden-

dental? They are straws in the

wind...precursor to a larger crisis

which is waiting to burst open,"

said a senior party leader. While

sources close to Sharma said he

was feeling "humiliated" by the

"continuing insults and deliberate

exclusions", a party leader said

everything was part of a cali-

brated strategy to rid the AICC" of

what he called the clutches of the

dent Sonia Gandhi, conveying his

decision to quit, Sharma is learnt

to have pointed out that he was

"neither informed nor invited" for

the meetings of the core group of

In his letter to Congress presi-

"Do you think they are coinci-

now increase.'

lagged behind men (56%).

'We have observed that participation (of women) is healthy till the postgraduate level. But there is a drop at the post-doctoral level, where most of the research takes place. Even though this too has increased, it is still far less than the 30% global average," Dr Akhilesh Gupta, senior adviser at the DST, and head of the team that drafted the Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policy, said. The ministry aims to raise

women's participation in S&T to 30% by 2030, Dr Gupta said. "We are already making a push for it...out of the 97 scientists in DST, 35 are women. In the past two years, the majority of the programme committees in the DST have had at least 20-25% women. But the big achievement is that 11 out of 18 divisions in the DST are now headed by women – that is 61%, probably the largest percentage of women in leadership in any government deHe said that the number of

science researchers in India has doubled from 30.000 in 2014 to over 60,000 now, Last year, the DST-supported Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions (GATI) project, based on the UK's Athena Swan Charter. was introduced. In the first phase of GATI, 30 educational and research institutes have been selected by DST, with a focus on women's participation in leadership roles, faculty, and the numbers of women students and researchers. "In the first phase, which

is now complete, we have selected a mix of institutes under S&T including institutes of national importance like IISc, the five IITs, BITS Pilani, research institutes like ICAR, and universities like Delhi University," Dr Nisha Mendiratta, who heads the GATI project, said. DST will study the participation of women in these institutes over the next few months, she said. According to preliminary

findings, the rate of women's participation is particularly low across the five IITs in Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Chennai, and Roorkee – ranging from 9% to

Women's participation is the highest in biotechnology (40%) and medicine (35%). Dr Mendiratta said ICAR has 29% women's participation, CDRI has 18%, NIPER Hyderabad 21%, and the Defence Bio-Engineering and Electro-Medical Lab (DEBEL) in Bangalore has 33%. Delhi University has 33% women's participation, while Tezpur University in Assam has 17%.

committee was neither informed

nor invited for any of these meet-

ings," Sharma is learnt to have

written. Arguing that the "contin-

uing insults and deliberate exclu-

matters of investigation now," he

Addressing the Centre, he said: "It is my challenge, you will not be able to stop us, unless you kill us."

Asked about the functioning of the Delhi government, with Health Minister Satyendar Jain in custody and the likelihood of his arrest, Sisodia said: "One must ask how the government is going to function to those who are making these false allegations. What has happened to Modiji that all he thinks about is whose house to send the CBI and ED to in the Kejriwal government. Why is this all he can think about? There are issues of price rise, unemployment, education and health in this country. Modiji thinks his whole job is to decide which of Kejriwal's minister do they have to send the CBI and ED to next."

Sisodia said he was in touch with CBI officials, adding that his phone, computer and some official files had been seized.

In its FIR, the CBI has named 15 people, with Sisodia's name at the top of the list. The FIR states that the accused were "instrumental in recommending and taking decisions pertaining to excise policy for the year 2021-22 without approval of competent authority with an intention to extend undue favours to the licencees post ten-

The development comes less than a month after Delhi Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. putting Sisodia, in-charge of the excise department, directly in the line of fire. Following this, the Delhi government announced it was withdrawing the policy. The Lt Governor's recommen-

dation followed a report submitted by Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar on the matter.

### Paddy crop states - and even the neighbour-

ing high-yielding Terai plains of Uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh — have reported a mystery "dwarfing" disease of paddy that agricultural scientists are still to identify. The disease leads to stunting of paddy plants; the infected fields have these alongside plants with normal height and regular growth.

Rajinder Singh transplanted 'PR-121' and 'PR-113' paddy varieties on his 9-acre holding between June 22 and June 25. "In the first 30-35 days, there was uniform growth of all plants. But after that, some stopped while the others continued growing. About 40 per cent plants in my PR-113 fields (3.5 acres) haven't grown at all after 35 days, with this at 70 per cent for the PR-121 variety (5.5 acres)," said this 26-year-old from Darsopur village in Punjab's Pathankot district and tehsil.

Pritam Hanjra, a basmati paddy grower from Urlana Khurd village in Madlauda tehsil of Haryana's Panipat district, claims that he detected the problem first in a fellow farmer's 35-acre field on July 4. He, then, alerted scientists at the nearby Krishi Vigyan Kendra and also the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana.

"That person had done direct seeding of Pusa Basmati-1509 on May 20. His field had up to 10 per cent dwarfed plants when I saw it on July 4. The same thing happened to the Pusa Basmati-6 variety that I transplanted on June 20, where 7-8 per cent of the plants had stopped growing by July-end," he stated.

According to Hanjra, basmati paddy plants usually attain 70-75 cm height after 60 days of transplanting/direct sowing, while lower at 50-55 cm for non-basmativarieties: "The stunted plants in the infected fields have 33-60 per cent of what should be their normal height after one month".

Significantly, scientists don't have an answer to the mystery disease yet, "They initially attributed it to zinc deficiency. But if that was the cause, it would have affected all plants in the field having such deficiency. Here, stunting is limited only to some plants in the same field," Hanjra pointed out.

Rajinder Singh received a similar diagnosis of zinc deficiency from Punjab agriculture department officials: "They told me to spray 0.5 kg of zinc and 2.5 kg urea per acre after diluting with water. I did that and also applied plant growth regulators. But far from regrowing, the stunted plants have started turning pale. They cannot bear any baali (flower panicles) or daana (grain)".

Gurvinder Singh, director of agriculture in the Punjab government, admitted that dwarfing of paddy has been reported from many districts, including Pathankot. Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, Ropar, Fatehgarh Sahib, Mohali, Patiala and parts of Ludhiana, Moreover, almost all varieties have been affected, with varying degrees of intensity.

"It is visible more in fields

where paddy has been transplanted (in flooded conditions after raising in nurseries), as against directly seeded," he added. Also, the percentage of stunted plants seems higher in non-basmati than in basmati paddy fields. Nirmal Singh, who farms 50 acres of jointfamily land at Narmana village of Patiala district's Nabha tehsil, has reported 25 per cent stunted plants in his Pusa-44 non-basmati fields and 10 per cent for Pusa Basmati-1509.

Meanwhile, a team of scientists from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute has visited farmers' fields in Punjab and Haryana to study the severity of dwarfing and collect plant samples, "These have been sent for DNA sequencing and are being analysed for the presence of mycoplasma (bacteria having no cell wall), viruses or any other probable cause of the problem, including nutritional deficiency. We are awaiting the results," A.K. Singh, director of the premier New Delhibased institute who led the team, told The Indian Express.

PAU, too, has constituted a 10member committee of scientists to find out what the unknown disease is. "They have collected field samples and are checking for any match with the available molecular markers of known diseases." a top scientist at the varsity confirmed.

All this comes even as the total all-India area planted under rice during this kharif season was only 34.37 mh till August 18, down from 37.46 mh for the same period of last year. Given an average rice yield of 2.7 tonnes per hectare, it translates into almost 8.5 million tonnes of production decline. All eves are now on Puniab and Haryana, where non-basmati yields average 4-4.5 tonnes per hectare. The impact, if any, of the mysterious "dwarfing" disease is not known as yet.

### Car explosion There was no immediate

claim of responsibility. But the bloodshed gave rise to suspicions that the intended target was her father, Alexander Dugin, a nationalist philosopher and writer. Dugin is a prominent propo-

nent of the "Russian world" concept, a spiritual and political ideology that emphasises traditional values, restoration of Russia's power and the unity of all ethnic Russians throughout the world. He is also a vehement supporter of Russia's sending of troops into Ukraine.

The explosion took place as his daughter was returning from a cultural festival she had attended with him, Some Russian media reports cited witnesses as saying that the SUV belonged to Dugin and that he had decided at the last minute to travel in another vehi-

usual for Moscow, is likely to aggravate tensions between Russia and Ukraine.

Denis Pushilin, president of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic, the pro-Moscow region that is a focus of Russia's fighting in Ukraine, blamed it on "terrorists of the Ukrainian regime, trying to kill Alexander Dugin."

Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, denied Ukrainian involvement, saying, "We are not a criminal state, unlike Russia, and definitely not a terrorist state." Analyst Sergei Markov, a for-

mer Putin adviser, told the Russian state news agency RIA-Novosti that Dugin, not his daughter, was probably the intended target and said, "It's completely obvious that the most probable suspects are Ukrainian military intelligence and the Ukrainian Security Service.' While Dugin's exact ties to

Russian President Vladimir Putin are unclear, the Kremlin frequently echoes rhetoric from his writings and appearances on Russian state TV. He helped popularize the "Novorossiya," or New Russia, concept that Russia used to justify the 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea and its support of separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. He promotes Russia as a coun-

try of piety, traditional values and authoritarian leadership, and disdains Western liberal values.

His daughter expressed similar views and had appeared as a commentator on the nationalist TV channel Tsargrad, where Dugin had served as chief editor. Dugina herself was sanctioned

by the United States in March for her work as chief editor of United World International, a website that the U.S. described as a disinformation source. The sanctions announcement cited a United World article this year that contended Ukraine would "perish" if it were admitted to NATO.

Dugina, "like her father, has alwavs been at the forefront of confrontation with the West," Tsargrad said on Sunday.

have been out on parole often and

threatening everyone."

On June 23, 2018, 16 persons from Randikpur, including eight prosecution witnesses, submitted a memorandum to the Dahod Collector stating that the police officials of Randikpur police station had been pressuring them to "record statements in favour of the accused". The letter also sought protection for witnesses as per the directions of the Supreme Court, contending that the 24-hour security cover given to the relief colony had been removed without notice.

The Superintendents of Police of Dahod and Panchmahal, the latter a member of the Jail Advisory Committee that recommended the release of the accused, did not respond to calls and text messages.

When asked about the alleged threats to the witnesses, Ramesh Chandana, one of the convicts whom The Indian Express met in Randikpur in Dahod on August 17, two days after he walked out of jail, said, "We never threatened them. Our family members would come to court sometimes to see us. What can we do if they (witnesses) see that as a threat?"

Chandana was accused of raping and killing members of Bilkis's family. One of the cars in which the mob of 25-30 arrived at the time of the incident was registered in the name of Chandana's wife, who was then the village sarpanch.

The witnesses, however, alleged that none of their individual complaints were attended to. "We followed up for a few days but since no department was responding to our applications, we stopped pleading," said one of

### Anand Sharma' countdown for election of its next

The timing of Sharma's deci-

the Himachal Congress and senior leaders on election strategy and preparations held in Delhi and Shimla recently. "I have resigned with a heavy heart from the chairmanship of the steering committee of the Congress for the Himachal elections. Reiterating that I am a life-

long Congressman and remain firm on my convictions. Committed to Congress ideology that runs in my blood, let there be no doubts about this. However, given the continuing exclusion and insults, as a self-respecting person-I was left with no choice," Sharma tweeted.

Sharma was appointed head of the 10-member steering committee for Himachal Pradesh in April. His appointment was among the poll committees -- and a new state Congress president --

announced by the party then as part of the preparations for the Assembly elections scheduled to take place at the end of this year. The committee headed by

Sharma had former AICC incharge of Puniab Asha Kumari as convenor and included senior leaders like Kaul Singh Thakur, Ram Lal Thakur, Harshwardhan Chouhan and Dhani Ram Shandil as members. The PCC president. CLP leader and campaign committee chief were permanent invitees to the committee.

Since then, the party has appointed Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel as senior observer for Himachal Pradesh with Punjab Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa and Rajasthan leader Sachin Pilot as his observers assisting him. Baghel and the observers have held meetings in Delhi as well as Shimla but Sharma was not invited. "There was no clarity on his role from day one," said a party

"The multiplicity of committees and overlapping of functions required clarity for functional purposes. I had requested General Secretary (Organisation) K C Venugopal and AICC in-charge Rajiv Shukla to clarify the mandate of the steering committee to delineate the mandate and role of the steering committee," Sharma wrote in his letter to Sonia.

On June 20, meetings of the senior leaders including PCC president Pratibha Singh, CLP leader Mukesh Agnihotri, chairman of the campaign committee Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and heads of the other election-related committees were held to take stock of the preparations. On August 7 and 8, Shukla and the central observers visited Shimla and meetings of the core group were convened.

The chairman of the steering

sions" were not acceptable. Sharma is learnt to have told Sonia that "self-respect" was "non-negotiable" for him. While Sharma has posited his resignation in the context of the treatment meted out to him, party leaders said it was part of a larger churn in the party in the context

of the presidential elections. "There will be more such outbursts in the coming days," said a party leader. WITHENS, SHIMLA

### CBI action excise officers in the Capital over

alleged corruption in the rollout of a liquor policy recently withdrawn by the Delhi government. Speaking to The Indian Express

on Sunday, Sisodia said: "It is clear that their intention is not to fight or talk about corruption. Being Arvind Kejriwal's education minister, Manish Sisodia needs to be arrested. This is my crime and this is their intent. Look at the way the raid was conducted, the allegations that are being made. They are quoting figures like Rs 8,000 crore, Rs, 10,000 crore, Rs 1,000 crore. They are saying that one company transferred money to another company's bank account and that is proof of Manish Sisodia's corruption".

"Their intent is to jail all the people associated with Kejriwal. Good work was happening in the health sector, they jailed the health minister (Satvendar Jain). People

are praising the work done in education, so the same morning that the world was reading about the work the Delhi government has done in education in the New York Times, they raided my house. Let them investigate. These are all

51-100 Satisfactory 101-200 Moderate 201-300 Poor 301-400 Very Poor

**MAX: 35** 

THE

### **MIN: 27**

### **EXCISE POLICY UNDER SCANNER**

## 'You won't be able to stop us from working unless you kill us,' says Sisodia on CBI raid

MALLICA JOSHI & **GAYATHRI MANI** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

**DELHI DEPUTY Chief Minister** Manish Sisodia, whose house was raided by the CBI on Friday in connection with a case it has registered against him and several excise officers over alleged corruption in the rollout of a liquor policy, spoke to *The Indian* Express on Sunday and said the intent of the CBI's action was not to fight corruption but to target Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's ministers. Excerpts

The CBI enquiry has moved rapidly over the past month. Do you think the CBI is going to arrest you?

from the interview.

It is clear that their intention is not to fight or talk about corruption. Being the Arvind Kejriwal-led government's Education Minister, Manish Sisodia needs to be arrested. This



is my crime, and this is their intent. Look at the way the raid was conducted and the allegations that are being made. They are quoting figures like Rs 8,000 crore, Rs 10,000 crore and Rs 1,000 crore. They are saying that one company transferred money to another company's bank account and that is proof of Manish Sisodia's corruption.

What has your interaction with the CBI been so far?

I have had discussions with the officers. They have searched my house. They have taken my phone, my computer. I can't use WhatsApp, I can't use that num-

Deputy CM Sisodia. Prem Nath Pandey

ber. They have also taken some files that I had.

The CBI also mentions the role of Vijay Nair. In what capacity was he associated with the party?

It is not about Vijay Nair. Their intent is to jail all the people associated with Kejriwal. Good work was happening in the health sector, they jailed the

Health Minister (Satvendar Jain). People are praising the work done in education. The same morning that the world was reading about the work that the Delhi government has done in education in The New York Times, they raided my house that very morning. Let them investigate. These are all matters of investigation

You called the excise policy the best policy in the country, and that the government would have gained Rs 10,000 crore if the former L-G had not changed the decision on non-conforming areas two days before the implementation. Why did you not flag these issues

Who should we have raised it with? We flagged it to the then L-G. He formed a committee and we had hoped the committee would offer a solution but that did not happen. First, these people met the then L-G and made him add that change to the policv at the last minute. This is the crux. No one is questioning why that decision was changed. Under which influence did he do that? It seems no one is interested in this question. The decision to open shops in non-conforming areas was part of the policy passed in May. When this was always in the policy, why is no one asking why the change

Are you worried?

ing unless you kill us.

### No lookout circular issued against Sisodia, says CBI

New Delhi: The CBI Sunday opened lookout circulars against eight people in the Delhi liquor policy case in which Deputy CM Manish Sisodia is one of the 15 accused named in the FIR. Agency officials clarified that no LoC has been opened against Sisodia or any excise official named in FIR.

Sources said LoCs have been opened against Vijay Nair, CEO of event management company Only Much Louder; Amandeep

Dhal, Director of Brindco Sales Pvt Ltd; Sameer Mahendru, Managing Director of Indospirit Group; Amit Arora, Director of Buddy Retail Pvt Ltd; Dinesh Arora, associated with Radha Industries; Sunny Marwah; authorised signatory of Mahadev Liquors; Arun Ramchandra Pillay, a Karnataka resident accused of moving money; and

Arjun Pandey, an alleged mid-

dleman. ENS

## Why are you not asking this?

The Health Minister is in custody and you said there are high chances that you will be arrested. You have 18 departments under you. How will the government function if this happens?

was made at the last minute?

This is a question that must be asked of those making these false allegations. What has happened to Modi ji that all he thinks about is who to send the CBI and ED to next in the Kejriwal government? Why is this all he can think about? There are issues of price rise, unemployment, education and health in this country. Modi ji thinks the job of the Prime Minister is to decide which of Kejriwal's ministers they have to send the CBI and ED to next.

It is my challenge. You will not be able to stop us from work-

AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab are in jail on charges of

BJP hits out at Kejriwal, calls him 'kingpin of liquor policy scam' corruption... When the second

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

BJP LEADERS Sunday attacked Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal over the alleged excise policy scam and said he was the "kingpin".

"Roots of the excise policy 'scam' lead to the doorstep of corrupt Kejriwal. No one is above the law and no corrupt person will be spared," said BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta, meanwhile, demanded that the Delhi Health Minister, who is in jail in connection with an alleged money laundering case, and Deputy Chief Minister Manih Sisodia should be removed from the cabinet of min-

Bhatia also said the AAP's corruption is a bigger guarantee than the guarantee of ISI

"The health ministers of the

wave of the Covid pandemic arrived, the BJP under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ensured supply of medicines and improved healthcare infrastructure. Kejriwal should have paid attention to the need for medicines, beds and oxygen at that time, but his corrupt pen was busy signing the excise policy," Bhatia said.

AAP national spokesperson, Saurabh Bharadwaj, meanwhile, hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BIP.

"The Prime Minister's Office has become a laughing stock for the entire world. Poor people are extremely distressed. The Centre should work along with the state governments to bring the economy of the country back on track and think about how to provide jobs to the unemployed and how to control inflation. Instead, the Prime Minister is picking fights with every state government," he

### 8-year-old raped, murdered, body thrown in Yamuna; butcher held contacted nearby police stations the POCSO Act to the FIR. "Police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A 36-YEAR-OLD butcher has been arrested from Central range for allegedly kidnapping an eight-year-old girl from her house when she was sleeping, raping her, slitting her throat and then dumping her body in the Yamuna.

Following the post-mortem, doctors informed police that the accused also disfigured the victim's face using a sharp weapon to destroy her identity. When contacted, DCP (central district) Shweta Chauhan said, "We have detained the accused and fur-

dumped near the river side to hide evidence, police said

The deceased lived with her parents who work as labourers.

Police said the incident came to light on August 5 when the victim's mother approached them and said her daughter was missing. On the basis of her complaint, a case of kidnapping was registered and police started their investigation.

"We had uploaded the victim's picture on the zonal inte-

to get some leads. On August 18, The child's body was two women were cutting grass near Yamuna Khadar... and they spotted her body. They informed police who immediately rushed to the spot," a senior police officer said

> Forensic experts were called in to the spot to lift fingerprints and they found stab wounds on the child's throat.

"Her body was shifted to a mortuary. Doctors informed police that before killing her, the accused had raped... her. Police were also informed that the suspect disfigured her face... and slit her throat," an officer said.

Police later added sections of

family members... The victim has three siblings, who were asleep at the time at home," the officer said. "Forensic experts suggested to police that the way her throat

began questioning the victim's

was slit, prima facie, appears to be the work of a professional. Police then questioned locals and came to know of the involvement of the accused, a local muscleman of the area," po-

During questioning, police said he confessed to the crime and added that they have recovered crucial evidence from his possession. The child's body was dumped near the river side to



presents



## **HONOURING THE BANKS THAT** INDIA CAN BANK ON



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Nirmala Sitharaman

Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs

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New Delhi

### CUET clashing, some students in a fix asking for a change in my CUET **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** date but there hasn't been any Exam woes NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21 movement on their part on this.

WITH DATES for their Common University Entrance Test (CUET) and CBSE compartment papers overlapping, a section of students finds themselves in a tense situation. The compartment examina-

tions are an opportunity extended by the board for students who had not passed one or two subjects in their board examinations to give those once again, and clear the examinations in the same year if they pass. When the CBSE released its class X and XII board examination results in Iulv. it had announced that compartment examinations will be held from August 23. Earlier this month, the board also released the date sheet for these exams. The CUET was initially sup-



At a CUET centre in Delhi.

posed to conclude on August 10, but has extended well beyond, till the end of August as of now, because of exams being postponed due to technical issues and students not getting centres of their



Dates of CBSE compartment tests and

preference. Phase five of the CUET began Sunday, and will continue



THE Common University **Entrance Test was initially** supposed to conclude on August 10, but has extended well beyond, till the end of August as of now, because of exams being postponed due to technical issues and students not getting centres of their pref-

till August 23, when many candidates have their compartment exams scheduled.

Ketal Patel has both his compartment exam for Maths and a CUET Political Science paper on August 23: "I have written to the National Testing Agency (NTA)

CUET is important for me as I want to study at DU or Banaras Hindu University, but if there is no rescheduling, I will have to miss the paper. I obviously have to prioritise the compartment exam because if I don't pass class 12, what's the point of writing CUET."

Aman Yadav is writing the CUET to try for admissions at Galgotias University, IIMT Delhi and Abdul Kalam Technical University, but he also has his Maths compartment exam on the same day as four CUET papers - Physics, English, Chemistry and the General Abilities test.

"My CUET papers were scheduled for August 6 but were postponed to August 23. Both exams are important for me... I'm feeling very tense" he said.

www.dishapublication.com

### CBI probing govt's deal to buy, maintain DTC low-floor buses

New Delhi: CBI officials Sunday said the agency was probing the Delhi government's deal to purchase and maintain DTC's low-floor buses. Sources said a preliminary enquiry (PE) was initiated last year in the case and the matter is still being investigated.

The matter came to light after Delhi BJP leader Vijender Gupta Sunday posted a receipt of submissions of some documents related to the matter to CBI on Twitter. The document mentioned the PE having been initiated in the matter in 2021.

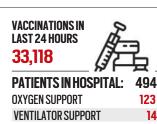
The PE, sources said was registered following a 2021 letter from MHA recommending a CBI enquiry into a DTC deal related to the purchase and AMC of 1,000 low-floor AC buses in which a committee formed by then L-G Anil Baijal had flagged various lapses. The letter was sent to the CBI in August, 2021, following which the agency initiated the PE.

"The matter is still being probed and the PE has not been converted into an FIR," a CBI official said. The Delhi government denied all allegations. ENS



# 6 THE CITY





**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

HUNDREDS GATHERED at Noida's Bhangel Sunday morning in support of Shrikant Tyagi,

arrested earlier this month for

allegedly abusing and pushing

a woman at an upscale residen-

tial society, and demanded ac-

tion against officials who acted

against Shrikant and his family.

ing after an FIR was registered

against him, in which sections of

the Gangster Act were added,

and was arrested by the UP

Police two weeks ago. Following

the incident, local BIP MP

Mahesh Sharma had met resi-

dents and assured them of strict

action against Tyagi. While the

BJP had been countering reports

that Tyagi is a leader with the

party, a 2018 letter confirmed his

affiliation. An FIR had also been

registered against 10 persons,

who allegedly support Tyagi, for

breaking into the society and ri-

oting. Six of them were arrested.

held from 10 am to 3 pm amid

high security in Sector 110. The

Tyagi community held a maha-

panchayat, marched on roads

with the Tricolour, and called

others to join them to show sol-

idarity with Shrikant. Some of

them raised slogans against lo-

cal BJP MP Mahesh Sharma and

Noida Police for allegedly target-

deployed more than 500 per-

sonnel to maintain law and or-

der. Major routes in the area were blocked temporarily, and

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

AHEAD OF a meeting by the

Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM)

at Iantar Mantar on Monday, the

Delhi Police said it has stepped

up security along the borders to

prevent any 'untoward' incident.

Farmers from Uttar Pradesh,

Punjab and Harvana will be

coming to Delhi to stage protests

demanding a law guaranteeing

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

Noida Police said they had

ing the Tyagis.

On Sunday, the protest was

Shrikant had been abscond-

CASES 19,93,823				Vacant	
			HOSPITAL BI	1 8,930	
			ICU BEDS	2,159	9 1,985
İ		Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
ı	Aug 20	1,109	1,687	9	9,874
İ	Aug 21	942	1,360	0	13,001
	<b>Total</b> *Total act	<b>5,141*</b> ive cases in E	<b>19,62,262</b> Delhi	26,420	3,98,13,22

DEI HI TOTAI

Vacant	NOIDA			
8,930		Aug 20	Aug 21	
1,985	Cases	N/A	91	
Tests	Deaths N/A 0			
9,874	GURGAO	N		
13,001	Cases	403	349	
3,98,13,227	Deaths	0	0	

### ACCUSED A LAWYER AT PVT FIRM

## Woman 'hurls abuses, assaults' guard at Noida society, arrested

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NOIDA, AUGUST 21

NOIDA POLICE arrested a woman on Sunday for allegedly misbehaving with security guards and assaulting one of them at the high-rise society in Sector 129 where she lives.

The woman, Bhaavya Roy, is a lawyer working with a prominent law firm in the capital. In a purported video clip, which went viral on social media, she can allegedly be seen shouting at a guard near the society's gates on Saturday, using abusive language and pushing him.

After the incident, the security guard, Anoop Kumar, filed a complaint at Sector 126 police station. Noida Police said in a statement: "A video went viral on social media in which a woman is seen behaving indecently with a security guard at Jaypee Greens Wishtown society which falls under Sector 126 police station. Noida Police has taken cognizance of the video and sector 126 police has regis-

**BRIEFLY** —

**MCD** attaches

3 properties

for defaulting

New Delhi: Taking stern

action against property

tax defaulters, the

Municipal Corporation of

Delhi(MCD) has attached

three commercial proper-

ties in the West zone. The

MCD's Property Tax

Department has taken ac-

tion after giving sufficient

opportunity to the defaulters to pay their out-

standing tax, said a senior official of the civic body

The property owners did

not heed the demand no-

tices and show-cause no-

tice for non-payment of

tax, added the official. ENS

JNU to set up

centre to study

Partition: V-C

New Delhi: Jawaharlal

Nehru University is plan-

ning to set up a centre to

study the 1947 partition in

depth to fill the historical

gaps, Vice-Chancellor

Santishree Dhulipudi

Pandit said Sunday. The

varsity will send a proposal

in this regard to the

Commission (UGC) and

the Ministry of Education

(MoE). The centre will

mainly focus on research

around the Partition so as

to highlight the stories of

common people who

were affected by it while

also highlighting the "hor-

rors" of the division, the V-

Grants

University

C said. PTI

on tax





The accused; Screen grab of visuals of the incident

tered a case against the woman (Bhaavya Roy) under IPC sections 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony), 323 (causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), 505(2)(statements encouraging enmity, animosity, or ill-will between classes) and 506 (criminal intimidation). The woman has been taken into police custody and

further investigation is under-

Police said Roy has been sent to 14-day judicial custody.

In his complaint, Kumar said the incident took place around 5.45 pm. The complainant stated that he was on duty when Roy arrived in her car. He alleged that she started abusing him as he got up to open the gate. "She assaulted me in front of everyone, humiliated me and threatened to kill me," the guard alleged in the complaint. "I and my fellow guards tried to stop her plenty of times, but she did not listen and went on insulting me and even cific community," he further alleged, as per the complaint.

Roy came in her own car to the police station. Visuals from her building show her driving the car and police constables sitting inside. "We had asked her to come in for questioning. She came in her car. Police accompanied her..." said a senior police of-

According to the Residents Welfare Association, Roy has been living in the building since May. Anshu Gupta, RWA treasurer, said, "We don't know much about the woman since she has been living here for three months....she is a tenant. As per our knowledge, there is an exit gate towards the Pavilion Court where all guards note down the registration numbers of cars. At the time of the incident, the guards were noting down a car's number while the woman was also trying to exit. There was a delay of a few seconds... the woman started honking and later hurled abuses... The guard was crying when we saw him tospent half of the day giving statements to police.'

At the society on Sunday, guards remained tight-lipped about the incident but said it took place near the exit gate of Pavillion 15. "We were told the woman was trying to exit the premises and there was a delay in opening the gate..," a guard from a nearby block claimed.

Another guard in the society said they are at the receiving end from all sides: "Guests often shout at us if we stop them at the gate... If we don't note down the numbers, then the supervisor shouts at us... We cannot afford any mistakes. The supervisor constantly keeps an eye on us and people in the society badmouth us for even small mistakes." "Most guards here are paid Rs 14,000 and get no holidays...," he added.

A resident, Pooja Malhotra, said she saw the video online: "Though quarrels between guards and residents are common. I have not seen something like this before."



## Cannot declare Jain as 'person with unsound mind': HC

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DELHI High Court has said that in the exercise of its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution, it cannot declare Delhi minister and AAP MLA Satyendar Kumar Jain, who is in judicial custody in an alleged money laundering case, as "a person with unsound mind" or disqualify him from the assem-

The division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad, in the judgment, said Jain is facing prosecution for various offences under the Indian Penal Code, Prevention of Corruption Act and Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"However, the fact remains that the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, is a complete code in itself which provides a mechanism in respect of investigation, inquiry and trial. The Code of Criminal Procedure caters to all contingencies, and it is for the prosecution/court to take appropriate steps in accordance with law," said the court in its order dated August 16.

The court on August 16 had heard the petition stating that Jain had told Enforcement Directorate officers during questioning that he lost his memory on account of Covid-19. "We will pass appropriate orders," the court had said then while reserving its order. The petition has now been dismissed.

In his plea, the petitioner, Ashish Kumar Srivastava, who said he is a social worker, had also prayed for setting up of a medical board to analyse Jain's medical condition, and for declaring all decisions he took since suffering from Covid-19 as null and void. One of the cabinet ministers

in Delhi government, Mr Satyendar Kumar Jain, also the Member of Legislative Assembly from Shakur Basti assembly constituency, himself declared that he lost his memory before the ofof Enforcement Directorate and the same has also been informed to the Special Judge Rouse Avenue district court, New Delhi, by the Additional Solicitor General. But unfortunately, he is still continuing (in) the important cabinet minister portfolio in Delhi government and still enjoying the post of Member of Legislative Assembly of Delhi Assembly," said the petition.

Citing Article 191 (1)(b) of the Constitution of India and stating that the provision provides for disqualification of a state lawmaker who is of unsound mind, the petition further said the news of Jain "losing the memory" has been covered by all media sources and his continuing "with so many important portfolios of the government is cheating the voters of Delhi".

In another petition seeking suspension of Jain, who has been in custody since May 30, from the state cabinet, the bench headed by the Chief Justice last month said it is for the Chief Minister to act in the best interest of the State and consider whether a person who has been charged with offences involving moral turpitude should be allowed to continue as



### **ENVELOPED**

The city witnessed a cloudy sky on Sunday. The maximum temperature was 35.1 degrees Celsius and the minimum stood at 26.6 degrees. Gajendra Yadav

## Thak thak gang targets Saudi prof, makes off with cash, documents

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

A 41-YEAR-OLD college professor, from Saudi Arabia, and his family were robbed by unknown persons of the 'thak thak' gang in South Delhi's Defence Colony. The complainant, Adil Zia, said he and his family were going to the IGI Airport at night when two-bike borne men robbed them.

Zia said he was going back to Saudi Arabia but lost all his documents and cash. On August 19 he was in an Innova cab when the accused signalled them to stop over a flat tyre, said the po-

When the driver stopped and stepped out to check the tyre, the accused allegedly ran

occupants and robbed a purse from Zia's wife. The complainant said he was accompanied by his wife and their two daughters aged 12 and 6.

Police said the incident took place around 11 pm when the family was going towards AIIMS and were near the Moolchand underpass.

"The age of the men could be around 20-22 years, and the rider was wearing a helmet. Everything happened so fast. I couldn't take down details of the bike," said Zia.

A case has been registered under sections of theft at Defence Colony police station. No arrests have been made yet, said police. Police said the complainant lost PAN cards, Aadhar cards and ATM cards along with some cash and other docu-

minimum support price (MSP) on their crops and the release of a group of farmers who were arrested last year in connection with farmers' agitation. Meanwhile, Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh

Tikait Sunday alleged that Delhi Police arrested him while he was on his way to the national capital for the meeting. "The Delhi Police is working at the behest of the government... They can't suppress the voice of the farmers. This arrest will bring a new revolution. This struggle will continue till our last breath...,'

alleged arrest. Police, however, said Tikait was detained and later released as per security arrangements in New Delhi. A police officer said he was stopped at Ghazipur and taken to the Madhu Vihar police

said Tikait in a tweet about his

Special CP (Law and Order) Dependra Pathak said: "Tikait



Police said security has been increased at the Tikri border. Abhinav Saha

was stopped from going to Jantar Mantar today. We requested him to return and he agreed. He has been escorted back.'

At the Tikri border, where farmers protested last year against the three farm laws, police said they have increased security. DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said: "We received inputs about the mahapanchayat at Iantar Mantar. We have been told that SKM protesters and other groups will pass through the border to the protest site. As per inputs, adequate deployment of local police and outside forces will be made in the area of the Outer District i.e at the Tikri border, major intersections, rail-

DU to launch admission

This will be done to avoid any untoward incident. A fool-proof law and order arrangement has already been set up in the area."

Sources said police have placed cement barricades and blocked major roads at Tikri border while a group of farmers were not allowed to cross and sent back. BKU leaders also alleged they were stopped from entering the city to go to Bangla Sahib Gurdwara. Some protesters, meanwhile, arrived via train for the protest.

The Delhi Traffic Police released an order saving a gathering of 4,000-5,000 persons is expected at Jantar Mantar. "There will be heavy congestion on Toltsoy Marg, Sansad Marg, Ashoka Road, Pandit Pant Marg... Commuters have been asked to re-route their journey," said a traffic police officer

In Ĥaryana, police said they also increased deployment and are coordinating with Delhi Police to maintain law and order. Arvind Kumar, Bahadurgarh, said: "As per inputs regarding a call for a march/rally by some farmer unions at Jantar Mantar on Monday morning, police personnel from the local station in Jhajjar have been put on standby at Tikri border as a precaution-

ary measure for law and order.

The road is open to the public on

## Air Traffic Controller tests positive for psychoactive substance, aviation regulator removes him from duty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

AN AIR Traffic Controller at the Delhi Airport has tested positive for a psychoactive substance and has been removed from duty by the aviation regulator DGCA, sources said on Sunday.

This is the first instance in the country of an Air Traffic Controller (ATC) testing positive for a psychoactive substance after the rules for testing of flight crew and ATCs for psychoactive substances came into force in January 2022, they said.

The sources said that an ATC posted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) here was subjected to the drug

The person was found positive in the confirmatory test re-



This is the first instance in the country of an Air Traffic Controller (ATC) testing positive for a psychoactive substance after the rules for testing of flight crew and ATCs for psychoactive substances came into force. Archive

port received on August 18 and he has been removed from the ATC duty, the sources told PTI.

Requirement (CAR) detailing the procedure for examination of the aviation personnel for Aviation consumption of psychoactive

substances came into effect from January 31. The test is done for the flight crew and ATCs on a random basis.

Since the rules were implemented, three pilots of different airlines have been found positive after the confirmatory test and are being dealt as per the provisions of DGCA regulations, the sources said. As per the CAR, in case the

result of the confirmatory drug test is positive for the first time, then the personnel concerned will be referred to a de-addiction centre by the organisation concerned for a de-addiction and rehabilitation.

If the same personnel tests positive for the second time, then his or her licence will be suspended for a period of three years. And if the violation happens for the third time, then the particular personnel's licence will be cancelled.

In the introduction to the CAR, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has mentioned that the worldwide spread of use of psychoactive substances, their general availability and the ever-increasing number of addicted users is a serious concern to aviation

"Their use causes behavioural, cognitive and physiological changes. This manifests in dependence, major health related issues and negative effect on performance," it said.

Citing a study conducted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the report published in February 2019, the DGCA said that after alcohol, cannabis and opioids are the next commonly used psychoactive substances in

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

DELHI UNIVERSITY (DU) has announced that it will soon launch its admission process for undergraduate courses and has asked candidates to keep their certificates ready by August 31. DU's notice comes amid un-

certainties in the admission timeline because of repeated postponement of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) papers due to technical reasons. As of now, the last set of exams is to be conducted on August 30. According to the initial schedule, the exams were supposed to have been completed on August 10. The university has issued a list of documents and certificates that applicants will be required to submit and has asked the students to keep them ready by the



process for UG courses soon

uncertainties in admission timeline because of postponement of CUET

DU's notice comes amid

end of the month. Officials had initially stated that the plan had been to open the admission portal in mid-August.

"The University of Delhi will soon launch its application process for admissions to Under-Graduate programmes.

to the University of Delhi must ensure the following certificates/documents (as applicable) are in a ready format by August 31, 2022," states the notification issued by the dean (admissions). All students will be required to submit their Class 10 and Class

Candidates desirous of applying

12 certificates, it said. Students in various reserved or minority categories have also been asked to keep the necessary certificates ready. The income certificates of students applying under the OBC-Non Creamy Layer category and EWS certificates of students applying under the EWS category have to be issued after

"No undertaking, on behalf of incomplete/invalid/non-availability of the document/certificate will be accepted at the time of applying," states the notifica-

New Delhi

At Noida, hundreds demand 'justice' for Shrikant Tyagi

At the mahapanchayat in Noida on Sunday. Gajendra Yadav

personnel were deployed at every intersection, they said. The protesters said they are

angry and upset with the BJP and the UP Police for "blindly" taking action against Shrikant. Mukesh Tyagi and his friend Amrish from Shamli, UP, alleged, "We have always supported the BJP, but I will not tolerate this injustice. The sections in the FIR against Shrikant are unnecessary. His wife was tortured by police... A poor woman (Shrikant's wife) was questioned for hours, power supply at her house was cut off. Is this justice?'

Noida Police have called these allegations baseless. Manish Tyagi, a resident of

Saharanpur. added: "If they don't support us now, we will show them who we are in 2024. How can police take action against Shrikant without complete investigation? Shrikant Tyagi is not a gangster. He should be punished for what he did, but he

Farmers' meet at Jantar Mantar

doesn't deserve all the hatred and stringent punishment. The BJP needs to step up and help At a Ramleela ground, a few

religious persons set up a stage and gave speeches about Tyagi and his family. They said they won't stop protesting until the police remove 'strict sections' from the FIRs against Shrikant. Sunny Tyagi, a student from

Muzaffarnagar who came with his friends, said, "Our only aim is the removal of the Gangster Act from the FIR, and that Tyagi should be freed. His wife was humiliated, and his family is in fear because of the government. We want police to take back everything and conduct a clean investigation.'

His friend Naresh said, "We will keep protesting and won't stop. Our next step will be to conduct a mahapanchayat at Meerut and then Sansad Gherao. Shrikant Tyagi is innocent...'

## BJP gen secy begins groundwork for party from Braj and west UP

LALMANI VERMA

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

AFTER BEING appointed state BJP general secretary (organisation), Dharampal Singh on Sunday held a meeting of party leaders from Braj and West UP region in Ghaziabad, and told them that their "collective efforts" would make way for the party's win in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, who attended the meeting, meanwhile, tweeted "sanghathan sarkar se bada hai" (the party is greater than the government).

The meeting was attended by UP BJP chief Swatantra Dev Singh, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak and all the MPs, MLAs and presidents of 38 district units of Braj and Western UP.

As per the BJP leaders, it was Dharampal's first introductory meeting with state leaders after his appointment in the key position in the party. Dharampal replaced Sunil Bansal, who has been elevated as national general secretary.

Highlighting the importance of party organisation and its reach among the masses, Dharampal asked party leaders and workers to remain active on the ground. Diligence and devotion of party workers will be the basis for the BJP's victory in the next Lok Sabha



Dharampal Singh at the meeting in Ghaziabad, Sunday. Express

elections, he told them.

Addressing the meeting, Maurya said that in 2017 no one was expecting that BJP will form the government in UP but the party formed the government with a thumping majority because of the organization, strength of workers and leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Because of party workers' hard work, BJP won again in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections despite the alliance of SP and BSP, he said, adding that the party would once again come to power at the Centre in 2024 "with the strength of workers and the works that the government did in the interest of people".

Swatantra Dev Singh, who is likely to be replaced soon as state BJP chief as he is now a Cabinet minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, highlighted the RSS and ABVP background of Dharampal and assured him of every support from the party organisation.

Dharampal, who was earlier the BJP general secretary (organisation) of Jharkhand, hails from Bijnor district in West UP. During the 2017 Assembly elections, RSS deployed Dharampal in UP to run the ABVP's voter-centric campaign. In the recent Assembly polls held in March, Dharampal worked in the Kashi

region for almost five months.

The role of the general secretary (organisation) or sangathan mahamantri is considered crucial in BJP as they are RSS appointees in the party. If the BJP is in power in any state, the party general secretary (organisation) is supposed to play the key role of a communicator between the RSS and the government while being a part of the party and the government's core group.

AMID RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

## India faces challenge to ensure economic interests protected: Jaishankar in Brazil

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

INDIA FACES a challenge to ensure that its economic interests are well protected and consumers are shielded as much as possible from the enormous jump in oil prices in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said.

Addressing the Indian com-

munity in Brazil's Sao Paulo as he began the first leg of his threenation tour to Latin America. Jaishankar said on Saturday that what the Ukraine crisis has done in terms of impacting India's energy security is something of concern. "We have a challenge, which is we have to ensure through diplomacy, through dealings with various governments, that our economic interests are well protected and the Indian consumer is shielded to the extent possible from this enormous jump in oil prices," he said, defending India's move to buy discounted Russian oil.

The minister noted that the



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Sao Paulo. PTI

world is globalised that something happens in one corner of the world and everybody else is impacted by it. There has been a very strong level of commitment to ensure that India's national interests in regard to energy are somehow met, he added.

The US and European nations have imposed heavy sanctions on Russia since Moscow sent troops into Ukraine on February 24.

Speaking about China, Jaishankar said it has disregarded border pacts with India, and this has cast a shadow on bilateral ties between the two countries. A lasting relationship cannot be a one-way street and there has to be mutual respect.

# Malik: No MSP implementation because of PM's friend Adani On Sunday, reiterating tha

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA GURGAON, AUGUST 21

HITTING OUT at the government on the issue of implementation and legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for farmers' produce, Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik on Sunday said the country's farmers cannot be defeated and will continue to protest till their demands were met.

Speaking at a programme at a cow shelter in Kira village in Nuh, Malik said, "If MSP is not implemented and legal guarantee on MSP is not given, there will be another fight and this time it will be a fierce fight. You cannot defeat the farmer of this country. You cannot scare him... since you cannot send ED or Income-Tax officers, how will you scare the farmer?"

"The MSP is not being implemented because Prime Minister has a friend whose name is Adani, who at the moment has become Asia's richest person in five years," he said.

"At Guwahati airport, I met a woman holding a bouquet. When I asked her where she was from, she replied 'We have come on behalf of Adani'. I asked what does that mean. She said this airport has been handed over to Adani... Adani has been given



Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik

airports, ports, major schemes...aur ek tarah se desh ko bechne ki taiyari hai [and in a way, the preparation is to sell the country], but we will not let that happen," said Malik.

He said in Panipat, Adani has built a big warehouse and stocked it with wheat bought at cheap rates. "When there is inflation, he will sell that wheat... so these PM's friends will make profits and farmers will suffer. This will not be tolerated and there will be a fight against it," he said.

This is not the first time Malik has been critical of the government over the farmers' protest. On January 3 this year, speaking at a function at Dadri in Haryana, he had alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was arrogant when he met him to discuss the farmers' protest.

On Sunday, reiterating that he met the Prime Minister, Malik said, "I saw that farmers were sitting on Delhi's borders...I told the PM that each man among them was the head of 40 villages...700 farmers died. When a dog dies, a condolence message from Delhi is sent. No condolence message was sent for farmers..."

"I told him that it has been a year since they have been sitting, give them something and settle this. He told me that they will go and why was I concerned. He took it very lightly. I told him that you do not know them... Later, he understood and the laws were repealed and he apologised also."

He said that after completing his current tenure, he will "fully participate" in the fight for farmers' rights.

"I want to tell you all that there will be another protest by farmers and when that happens, leave aside differences of caste and fight together. Do not think this is a protest of Sikhs or Jats. No government can defeat you if you learn to fight together. This is a fight for every farmer, their farms, produce, the price of crops...the farmers are suffering, their produce is becoming cheaper and manure, irrigation is costlier," Malik said.



### **PERSONAL**

Ahmad Najar R/o Emaar The Enclave, Sector 66, Gurugram have changed my name to Paridhi Najar for all purposes.

I Paridhi Agarwal W/O, Vigar

0040628063-1

I,Shweta D/o-Rakesh Yadav R/o-K-1/57 Jaildar-enclave Mohan Garden Uttam Nagar New Delhi have changed my name to Shweta Yadav for,all purposes. 0040628068-1

I,Reshma,W/o- Vishal Mohammad Address-83, pocket-1, jasola vihar new friends colony,New Delhi-110025,changed my name to Reshma Khan. 0040628193-1

,Aasutosh Sharma,S/o KC Sharma R/o.Flat No.-C,Tower-24,Central Park Resorts,Sohna Road,Sector-48,South City-II,Gurgaon,Haryana-122018,have changed my minor daughter's name from Pariena Sharma to Pareinaa

Sharrma for all future purposes. 0040628193-2 I Sheela W/o Ramakant Yadav R/o-CN-28, Vishwnath Puri, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi-110042 have changed my name to

Badami Devi.

I, Yogesh Kumar son of late Shri Murari Lal R/0 47-A, Street No.16, New Gobind Pura, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051, declare that "YOGESH KUMAR" and "YOGESH KUMAR GUPTA" is one and same person.

0110031629-1

0070800468-

, Shubham Goyal S/O Anurag Goyal, R/o Vill-Pirwala Dankaur Gr Noida G B Nagar Uttar Pradesh-203201, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Shubham Goel. 0070800434-1

I, Rahul Singh S/O Bachchoo Singh, R/o 223 3rd Floor Near Mother Dairy, Tagore Park, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi-110009. Declare that Name of My Father has been wrongly written as Ram Singh Yadav in my Educational Documents, Pan Card No-CHBPS1937A And Driving Licence No- DL-0820110107516. The actual name of My Father is Bachchoo Singh, which may be amended accordingly.

I, Lalit Kumar Alias Lalit Kumar Gangwar S/O Tejbahadur, R/o Village Mankapur, Post Bihaaripur Heera, Thasil Bisalpur, Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh-262001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Lalit Patel 0070800431-

I, Barun Kumar Mandal S/O Gopi Nath Mondal, R/o Dubra, Nadia, West Bengal- 741223, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Barun kumar Mondal.

0708004

I Tanya Harnal W/O, Aditya Vikram Singh Chauhan R/o 23/205, Wazirpura, Agra -282003, Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Tanya Singh for all purposes.

I,Aasutosh Sharma,S/o KC
Sharma R/o.Flat No.-C,Tower24,Central Park Resorts,Sohna
Road,Sector-48,South CityII,Gurgaon, Haryana122018,have changed my
minor daughter's name from
Raadhya Sharma to Rradhhya
Sharma for all future
purposes. 0040628193-3

### **OTHERS**

SIT at home & get satisfaction on phone only within 11 hrs. Job, Business, Love Marriage, Love Clash, Procreation, Home Dispute, Second Wife Distress, Enemy Elimination, Hypnotism, Laxmibandhan -Miya Musaji 9719471084.

0070798364-2

### LOST & FOUND

I, Anjali Attri have lost my Original Mark Sheet of PGPM, GLIM Chennai year (2013-14) Roll no. 14311. If Found Please Contact: 9711857564

0050202897-1

### EDUCATIONAL

## FOR ADMISSION IN B.Ed (2022-24)

B.EQ (2022-24)
under 10% Management quota

CET-2022 qualified candidates visit College reception for Application form within 18 days at Guru Ram Dass College of Education (Affiliated to GGSIPU) West Jyoti Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-94, # 011-22819091, 22801081, (Mon-Fri, 10am-3pm)

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that I. Shri Raiiv

Bhatia, son of Late Shri D.F resident of C-39-A, Gangotr Enclave Alaknanda New Delhi 110019 have lost/misplaced the riginal documents issued by DDA (i.e. Allotment Letter-cum Demand Letter, Possession etter, Possession Slip and NOC or Water and Electricity) and greement to Sell and all Power f Attorney(s) in respect of operty No. C-39-A, Gangotri Enclave, Alaknanda, New Delhi-110019 allotted by DDA vide File No. F.52(123)82/ SF S. An FIR to his effect has been lodged in PS-Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No.705275/2022 dated 19/08/2022. Any person (s) laiming any right, interest over documents or found ir ossession of original documents may write/contact above named person at above address/phone no. 9810787564, within 15 days from the date of publication of this

ACHIN SHARMA (Advocate) Regd. No. D/5425/2021 Moblie No. 9650865007

PUBLIC NOTICE Unit No. DSM037, DLF To Shivaji Marg, New Delhi was allotted in the name of Mr. Kimti La Jain S/o Late Walaiti Ram Jain R/o B-3/5, Phase 2, Ashok Vihar elhi-110052 who has expired on 24-12-2021, leaving behind legal heirs as two sons Amit Jain and Rupal Jain. Accordingly, above legal heir Amit Jain relinguish his rights, in the captioned unit, in favour of Mr. Rupal Jain & the name Mr. Rupal Jain is being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned unit.If anybody has any objection to this, he or she ma approach M/s Kado DLF Home Developers Ltd.,DLF Centre Sansad Marg, N.D.-110001 or the undersigned within 21 days of publication of this notice failing which it shall be deemed that the are no claims against the said unit

Prashant Neal Advocate 14/16, Punjabi Bagh Extension, New Delhi-110026 Mobile: 9911959222



आयोजकः भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कृषि सहकारी विपणन संघ मर्यादित (नेफेड), नई दिल्ली

# 8 GOVT & POLITICS

## **Window for Cong chief** election opens with disquiet, uncertainty

MANOJCG

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IDEALLY, THE Congress should have been buzzing with excitement now. In a fortnight from now, the party will undertake its biggest ever mass contact programme since Independence – a four-month march across 12 states by Rahul Gandhi. But uncertainty and silence hang heavy.

The uncertainty is over the next Congress president, the onemonth window for the election of which kicked in Sunday. The party last year had announced that a  $new \, Congress \, president \, would \, be \,$ elected between August 21 and September 20. With Rahul Gandhi not keen to contest, there is a delay in the announcement of the date-wise schedule and little clarity among leaders on how things will pan out.

Leaders believe the schedule for the election of Congress president will be announced sometime next week or towards the end of August, With Rahul still reluctant, a section of the senior leaders believe that the "ideal scenario" would then be for interim president Sonia Gandhi to continue leading the party till the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. But Rahul is said to be of the view that no one from the family should head the party.

While leaders talk about various scenarios, the party is silent. Even Rahul's close confidantes

**Questions** candidates

SOME CONG leaders are still

holding out hope for Rahul to contest. Failing this, they are hoping to get Sonia to stay on as chief till the 2024 LS elections. The G23, meanwhile, seems to have its own plans afoot. The names of other leaders are also doing the rounds. Amid all this confusion, the leadership picture looks muddled.

say the situation is fluid.

"The next ten days are going to be crucial for the party. Efforts are still on to persuade Rahul to contest. If he remains resolute. then the next option is to persuade Sonia to continue. She can appoint a couple of vice presidents - a mix of young and old - for different regions to assist her. The party will remain united that way," a state Congress president told The Indian Express.

The big question is what if the family decides to tell the leadership that it would like to take a tactical retreat from presidentship? Some of the leaders believe the G23 group of leaders will put up a candidate if either Sonia or Rahul is not in the fray and a loyalist outside the family is fielded. "They



Union Home Minister Amit Shah with actor Junior NTR in Hyderabad on Sunday, PTI

## Shah targets KCR: Despite help from Centre, Telangana in debt

**SREENIVAS JANYALA** HYDERABAD, AUGUST 21

TELANGANA HAS plunged into a debt trap despite the Centre giving it more then Rs 2 lakh crore, Unionon Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday as he targeted the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led government in the state, calling it anti-farmer.

Addressing a public meeting at Munugode, about 85 km from here, where a by-poll is scheduled to be held later, Shah alleged that the TRS government is committing a sin by keeping the farmers away from the PM Fasal Bhima Yojana and assured that if the BJP is voted to power in the next Assembly elections, it will ensure that every grain of paddy will be procured from farmers.

"Despite over Rs 2 lakh crore help from Modi's government, Telangana has plunged into debt. I promise that if Raj Gopal Reddy wins and the BJP is voted to

**SANTOSH SINGH** 

PATNA, AUGUST 21

AS THE Nitish Kumar-led

Mahagathbandhan government

in Bihar draws fire from the princi-

tion of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)

MLC Kartik Kumar alias Kartikeya

Singh as the law minister, who has

been facing an arrest warrant in a

2014 kidnapping case, Deputy

Chief Minister and RJD leader

Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has said

that the government "would go by

what the court would say, not by

not the only minister of the new

Bihar government against

whom a criminal case has been

pending. A look at some of them

who have been facing serious

Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Dy CM

Prasad Yadav is an MLA from

Raghopur. He has declared in his

2020 Assembly election affidavit

11 cases pending against him. In

KHaat Purnia case (541/2020), he

faces charges under the Indian

Penal Code (IPC) sections 324

(causing hurt by dangerous

weapons), 302 (murder), 120B

Top RJD leader Tejashwi

Kartikeva Singh is, however

the media perception".

criminal charges.

Telangana will also be developed like any other state in the country," Shah said. He was referring to K Raj Gopal Reddy, who resigned as the Congress MLA from Munugode and the quit the party on August 2. On Sunday, he was formally inducted into the BIP by Shah at the public meeting.

The BJP turned the public meeting into a huge show of strength, a day after Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao held a public meeting at the same place.

Reacting to allegations made by the TRS, Shah said the Modi government had reduced prices of petrol twice but the Telangana government did not reduce VAT on petrol due to which the prices continue to remain high in the state.

He also accused the Chief Minister Rao of being afraid of the AIMIM. "TRS promised to celebrate Telangana Liberation Day in September but KCR did not fulfil this promise out of fear of AIMIM," he said. "Today, Raj

FROM MURDER AND CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY TO DOWRY

Gopal Reddy's joining the BJP is the beginning of the end of KCR." After the meeting, Shah drove to a top hotel where he

met several prominent people, including Tollywood actor Junior NTR, who starred in the latest blockbuster RRR. Incidentally, the actor is the grandson of TDP founder N T Rama Rao. He was invited by BJP leaders for a dinner meeting with Shah.

Junior NTR campaigned for the TDP during the 2009 general elections but has stayed away from active politics. Since 2009, he has not been seen in public with TDP leaders or leaders of other parties. While his father Nandamuri Harikrishna was a TDP Raiva Sabha member from 2008 to 2013, his uncle and actor Nandamuri Balakrishna is a TDP MLA from Andhra Pradesh, The TDP was earlier a BJP ally, but ahead of the 2019 Assembly and parliamentary elections the Chandrababu Naidu-led

party pulled out of the NDA. (WITH PTI INPUTS)



### **DELHI CONFIDENTIAL**



### **BUSY SCHEDULE**

LOK SABHA Speaker Om Birla, who is in Halifax, Canada for the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, has quite an extensive itinerary this time. Being an advocate for making Parliament accessible to the general public, Birla is going to speak on 'A People's Parliament, Accessibility Through Innovation' at the conference, From Canada, the Speaker will be flown to Mexico and then Suriname for bilateral meetings. In Mexico, he will be unveiling statues of Swami Vivekananda and Pandurang Khankhoje, a Maharashtra-born scientist who led a Green Revolution in wheat and maize crops in Mexico. Birla's visit is part of India's fresh attempts to honour the notso-known Indian-origin heroes outside India, sources said. In Suriname, Birla will have discussions with President Chandrikapersad Santokhi, also an Indian-origin leader.

### BATCH MATCH

IAS OFFICERS of the same 1987-batch are now secretaries to the President and Vice-President. While Rajesh Verma is Secretary to President Droupadi Murmu. Sunil Gupta is Secretary to Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankar, Verma, an Odisha cadre officer, had served as Principal Secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Gupta, a West Bengal cadre officer, had earlier worked with Dhankhar when he was the West Bengal Governor.

### TMC, BJP workers clash during civic ward bypolls in Bengal

*Kolkata:* Supporters of the TMC and BJP clashed in two wards of the Asansol and Bangaon municipalities in Paschim Bardhaman North 24 Paraganas districts of West Bengal where by elections were held on Sunday

Tension prevailed in Bongaon's Gandhi Colony locality after the BIP accused the TMC of bringing in "outsiders" for voting. BJP MLA Swapan Majumder alleged that he

was assaulted by TMC workers. In Asansol, one person was injured in a clash between the two parties.

TMC dismissed claims of any



### **Director of Mines Steel & mines Department Government of Odisha**

Email: <u>directormines1@orissaminerals.gov.in</u> Date: August 22, 2022

**Notice Inviting Tender** 'Inviting bids for grant of Mining Lease for Quartz & Quartzite"

In exercise of the power conferred by Section 15 of Mines and Mineral (Development & regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Odisha Minor Mineral Concession Rule, 2016 and Odisha Specified Minor Mineral Auction Rule, 2019 as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Odisha has identified 05 (five) Mineral Blocks as under for electronic auction and herby invites tender for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease.

a) 03 (three) mineral block of Quartz

b) 02 (two) mineral block of Quartzite

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligible condition, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in Tender Document. Detailed Tender Document along with the timeline, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

### (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/mmbod / index.jsp)

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of a tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is October 11, 2022, and the last date for submission of the bid is October 17, 2022, on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time). The Reserve price of all the 5 (five) Mineral Blocks is 5% (five percent).

Sr. No.	Name of Block	Mineral	Details of Area (in Ha.)	Estimated Mineral resource (in Metric Tonne)	Price of Tender Document		
			Forest land: 33.849				
	Bhatuabeda		Govt. land: 3.064		10,000		
1.	Quartz	Quartz	Private land: 14.947	34,383.67			
	Block		Total Concession				
			Area: 51.860				
	  Lumurajhala		Forest land: 0.875				
2.	(SE) Quartz Block	Quartz	Govt. land: 7.112	1,31,608.46	10,000		
			Total Concession	1,51,000.10	10,000		
			Area: 7.987				
	Mudrajodi- Pokharia Quartz Block	Quartz	Forest land: 14.558	6,759.27			
			Govt. land: 0.304		10,000		
3.			Private land: 2.504				
			Total Concession				
			Area: 17.366				
	Batigruha		Govt. land: 5.909				
4.	Quartzite	Quartzite	Private land: 1.771	1,33,087.25	10,000		
	Block		Total Concession				
			Area: 7.680				
			Forest land: 1.682				
_	Raruanguda	Quartzite	Govt. land: 10.636	25 50 004 02	50,000		
5.	Quartzite Block		Private land: 13.088	25,79,984.82			
	BIOCK		Total Concession Area: 25.406				
24/							

Director of Mines, Odisha OIPR-30004/11/0023/2223

### Angry over boy's death, Bihar villagers attack Nitish's security convoy

leader," one leader said.

cannot let the four-man cabal

run the AICC the way they are

running now," one G23 leader

not take over argue that the

party's decision to advance the

Bharat yatra from October 2 to

September 7 and hold a rally at

the Ramlila ground on September

4 is keeping in mind Rahul's re-

luctance. "Rahul not contesting

will spawn theories that he is a re-

luctant politician... guest artiste

and all. But then the answer will

be before everyone's eyes — he

will be on the ground leading the

padayatra walking 15-20 kilome-

tres everyday... taking on and at-

tacking the BJP," one leader said.

family does not contest and if the

schedule coincides with the yatra,

it also gives him an alibi to suggest

that he has no hand in the election

of the next president," one leader

said. What is interesting is that

even as the one-month window

kicked in, there was no consensus

candidate in sight with specula-

tion on routine names including

Ashok Gehlot, Mallikarjun Kharge,

Meira Kumar, Kamal Nath.

Ambika Soni and Mukul Wasnik.

"If Rahul or any member of the

Those who believe Rahul will

said. He did not elaborate.

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** PATNA, AUGUST 21

AT LEAST three vehicles that were part of a convoy of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's security personnel were damaged by protesting locals at Gourichak, near Patna, on Sunday. The CM was not part of the convov.

Gaya on Monday by helicopter, his security convoy, which had more than half-a-dozen vehicles, was on its way there to assess security arrangements.

At Gourichak, a group of Sohgi village residents blocked the road in protest after the body of a local boy, who had gone missing recently, was found in a drain. The protesters pelted stones at the convov and hit vehicles with wooden sticks. Some security personnel in the convoy suffered minor injuries and three vehicles were damaged. The convoy continued to proceed towards Gaya after half-an-hour.

Gourichak police station incharge Krishna Kumar said: "Sunni Kumar, a Sohgi village resident, had been missing since August 7. When villagers learnt that the boy's body was found in a sewage drain under Beur police station, they started protesting and targeting the security convoy that happened to pass through at that time...'



Tejashwi and Tej Pratap

(criminal conspiracy) and 341 (wrongful restraint) and also under provisions of the Arms Act.

The Purnia police had filed the FIR in October 2020 against Teiashwi, Tej Pratap Yadav and one more person on the complaint of Khushboo Devi, whose husband Shakti Malik, former RJD secretary, was shot dead. The victim's wife had accused the RJD leaders of having allegedly hired assailants to kill her husband. The RJD has called it a "po-

litical conspiracy". Tejashwi also faces a CBI case (RC 220/2017, CBI 55/2019) under the IPC sections of 420 (forgery). 120B (criminal conspiracy) and also under the Prevention of Corruption Act. He also faces another case (ECIR/08/HQ/2017) under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and three cases under the Benami

Transactions (Prevention) Act.

Tej Pratap Yadav, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Tej Pratap Yadav, Tejashwi's

elder brother, is an RJD MLA from davit, Tej Pratap mentioned five cases, including Purnia's K Haat police station case, pending against him. These include two cases under the Epidemic and Disaster Management Act. He also faces a matrimonial case (1208/2018) under provisions of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act as well as another case (149/2019, Mahila police station. Patna) under the Dowry Prohibition Act.

#### Surendra Prasad Yadav, **Cooperative Minister**

Surendra Prasad Yadav is an RJD MLA from Belaganj. He faces a POCSO Act case (140/2018, Magadh police station) in which he also faces IPC section 353 (deterring a government servant) among other sections. He faces another case (11/2008) of criminal intimidation and breach of peace. He also faces a case (MMCH 9/11) under the IPC sections of 307 (attempt to murder), 120B(criminal conspiracy) among other sec-

tions. Another case (138/2009, Parasi police station) under the

IPC sections of 307 (attempt to murder) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) have been pending RID minister against him too.

### Ramanand Vaday Mines and **Geology Minister**

Ramanand Yadav is an RJD MLA from Fatuha. In his 2020 poll affidavit, he mentions four pending cases against him including an Arms Act case of 1996.

#### Jitendra Kumar Ray, Art, Culture and Youth Affairs Minister

The RJD MLA from Marhaura Saran), Jitendra Kumar Rav faces two cases of criminal intimidation. according to his election affidavit.

Downplaying these cases against the party's ministers, the RID's national spokesperson Subodh Mehta told The Indian Express: "First, cases against anyone do not mean they are convicted. Some of them could be because of political vendetta and conspiracy of political opponents. Second, look at ADR report that shows how there are cases against leaders of all political parties. Broadly, let there be unanimity on electoral reforms and put in place a system where there is a fixed criteria to contest polls."

### targets another over corruption Patna: BJP leader Sushil Kumar

Sushil Modi

Modi on Sunday criticised the Bihar government, saying that the RJD's Sudhakar Singh has been made a minister despite him being accused of embezzling Rs 5.31 crore in the 2013 rice scam.

Sudhakar Singh is the second RJD minister after Kartikeya Singh to face heat from the Opposition over the cases they face.

"It is a 2013 case which is duly mentioned in the 2020 poll affidavit. The matter is pending before the Supreme Court. I will follow the court's verdict, not what the Opposition BIP says," Sudhakar

Singh rold The Indian Express. Sushil Modi said: "Sudhakar Singh is made minister because he is the son of RJD state president Jagdanand Singh. Sudharkar's two rice mills ... faced case of criminal breach of trust... As it pertains to alleged swindling of Rs 5.31 crore government fund, we request the state government to lodge a fresh case...'

SANTOSH SINGH

### Akhilesh to meet jailed Ramakant amid Yadav base fears Assembly polls, even as the saffron trict jail to meet over a dozen

**LALMANI VERMA** LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

TWO MONTHS after the Samajwadi Party (SP) lost its strongholds of Azamgarh and Rampur to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Uttar Pradesh Lok Sabha bypolls, the party president, Akhilesh Yadav, is all set to visit Azamgarh on August 23 to meet the jailed "bahubali" and local party MLA, Ramakant Yadav.

SP sources said that Akhilesh is concerned about a possible dent in the party's Yadav vote base in the Azamgarh region after his cousin and party candidate Dharmendra Yadav was defeated from the constituency by the BIP's nominee Dinesh Lal Yadav, the Bhojpuri actor-singer popularly known as "Nirahua", in a close contest. It was Akhilesh's own seat that he va-



Akhilesh Yadav with Ramakant **Yadav.** File

cated after getting elected to the Assembly earlier this year. The SP chief's Azamgarh visit

is aimed at ensuring that the party's core Yadav vote bank remains intact in the Azamgarh belt, party sources said. Akhilesh was elected from the Azamgarh seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, when he had defeated Nirahua.

The SP's Azamgarh district president Hawaldar Yadav said Akhilesh will meet Ramakant in the Azamgarh district jail on August 23, even as he claimed that the meeting would not have any connection with the bypoll loss. Ramakant, who is currently

an SP MLA from Phoolpur Pawai in Azamgarh district, had surrendered to a local court a few weeks ago in a 24-year-old case of attempted murder. Adding to his woes, the court had sent him to the judicial custody in connection with a spurious liquor case registered in February this year.

According to police, Ramakant, a five-term MLA from Phoolpur Pawai and a four-time MP from Azamgarh, has around two dozen cases against him. Though his son Arun Kumar Yadav was the incumbent BJP MLA from Phoolpur Pawai, the SP fielded Ramakant from the seat in the 2022

party denied ticket to Arun. The SP's move to cash in on his grip on the constituency paid off.

The SP has defended Ramakant and accused the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government of "harassing" him. "If Akhilesh meets Ramakant in the jail that will send a positive message to Yadav voters and the party workers, who are demoralised after losing Lok Sabha bypolls to the BJP. Ramakant belongs to a strong political family that has influence over Azamgarh and adjoining districts of eastern UP. His eldest brother Lallan Prasad is a seventime pradhan of Sarwa village in Azamgarh while his second brother Umakant Yadav is the former MP of Machalisahar in Jaunpur district, Showing solidarity with him, is important for the

party's vote base", said a SP leader. In May this year, Akhilesh had visited the Azamgarh dis-

New Delhi

party workers who were lodged in connection with various cases related to the Assembly elections. He had gone to meet them after drawing criticism from the camp of senior party leader Azam Khan for not meeting him and helping him come out of jail.

Since then, Akhilesh has not visited Azamgarh so far, not even during the bypoll. In fact, among the principal reasons listed by local SP leaders for the party's humiliating losses were included his curious decision to stay away from the campaigning in both Azamgarh and Rampur, Azam's home turf. The SP chief had then not stepped out for campaigning even as party leaders from Azamgarh and Rampur urged him to address at least one public meeting in each constituency.

Of around 18 lakh voters in the Azamgarh parliamentary seat, there are about three lakh Yadav voters, a majority of whom are believed to be the SP's supporters. Due to the sizeable voters belonging to the Dalit, Muslim and Yaday communities in the Azamgarh belt, both the SP and the BSP have won four times each from the constituency in the last 10 elections. The BJP had first won from the seat in 2009 when Ramakant Yadav was its candidate.

On Friday, Akhilesh's estranged uncle Shivpal Singh Yadav had written an open letter to all 'Yaduvanshis", saying that every time a Kans humiliates and dethrones his father to occupy his position, Lord Krishna takes incarnation to punish him and restore dharma. He also attributed his move to found his breakaway outfit, Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohia), to destiny. Shivpal had contested the Assembly poll on the SP ticket and won but again parted ways with Akhilesh after the polls.

# EXPRESS NETWORK

### **BRIEFLY**

### **KARNATAKA**

### Spy cam: Man arrested for blackmail

Bengaluru: The city police have arrested a 30-yearold man who allegedly blackmailed his female friend into a physical relationship after capturing her private videos with a spy camera, officials said Sunday. M Mahesh, an engineering graduate, had allegedly stayed at the woman's house last month and left a spy cam in her bedroom. After leaving, he sent her messages from fake social media accounts, threatening to leak the videos unless she got into a physical relationship with him, police said. In her police complaint, the woman said she initially ignored the messages but was "shocked when the person sent me a short video of mine."

### **UTTAR PRADESH** Family of 5 killed in road accident

Meerut: A pregnant woman, her husband and their three minor children were killed in a road mishap near the toll booth on the Meerut-Baghpat highway on Sunday night. According to police, the bike in which they were travelling hit a stationary truck on the highway. The family was from Daula village in Baghpat.

### **MAHARASHTRA** Home guards to

### get Rs 50 lakh insurance cover

Mumbai: The 50,000 personnel attached with the Maharashtra Home Guards will soon have a safety net of Rs 50 lakh insurance cover in case of death and a Rs 20 lakh cover for serious injuries. The insurance cover has been extended following a decision taken to open accounts for all person-

### **RAJASTHAN** Over 80 held for gambling after raids at resort

Jaipur: Police on Sunday arrested 84 people, including 13 women, for illegal gambling at a resort in Jaisinghpura khor area in Jaipur, officials said. Those arrested also include an inspector of Karnataka Police and Tehsildar posted in Bengaluru. "14 luxury cars... Rs 23.78 lakh in cash were also recovered," officials said. PTI

### **BILKIS BANO CASE**

## **Dilution of rule of law: Former** SC judge on release of convicts

**APURVA VISHWANATH** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FORMER SUPREME Court Judge Sujata Manohar, who was a member of the National Human Rights Commission when the body intervened in 2003 on behalf of Bilkis Bano, termed the government's decision to release 11 convicts in the gangrape and murder case from the 2002 Gujarat riots a "dilution of rule of law."

"Especially in a case like this, the decision to release the convicts cannot be made arbitrarily. When a court has convicted and sentenced them, releasing them ar-



Former SC Manohar

bitrarily dilutes the rule of law," the former judge told the Indian

On 15 August, 11 convicts walked out of prison after the Gujarat government panel remitted their life sentences awarded to them. Bilkis Bano, pregnant at the time, was gangraped and her three-year-old daughter Saleha

was among 14 killed by a mob on March 3, 2002, in Dahod during violence that broke out across the state after the Sabarmati Express was attacked in Godhra and 59 passengers, mainly kar sewaks, Significantly, in 2003, it was

that ensured legal assistance for Bano to approach the Supreme Court after the Gujarat police had closed the case. The human rights body, under

the NHRC's crucial intervention

former Chief Justice of India J S Verma, had met her when he visited a relief camp in Godhra in March 2002. Justice Manohar was a member of the Commission then, that had appointed senior advocate and former Solicitor General Harish Salve to represent her before the Supreme Court.

Salve argued for a fresh probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation and, subsequently, for a transfer of the trial from Gujarat to Bombay. Bano's case was the only Gujarat riots-related case that was investigated afresh

"It is very sad to see the case take this turn. We want women to be empowered but we do not ensure adequate safety for them. The remission does not send a proper message on the protection of women," Justice Manohar said.

into nude photoshoot **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

more time to join probe

Ranveer Singh seeks

MUMBAI, AUGUST 21



Faces FIR for

RANVEER SINGH, against whom an FIR was registered by the Chembur police station for alleged "obscenity in public" and "insulting modesty of women" informed police that he will not be able to visit the police station on Monday

and has requested further time. A team of Mumbai Police visited Singh's house last Tuesday and served him summons in connection with an FIR registered lodged a complaint. against him. The actor accepted the summons and agreed to appear before them. However, he

has now asked for more time through his lawyer. An officer said, "He has asked for more time. He did not give us

'obscenity

any reason for the delay. He has, however, given us a date when he will be appearing before us . We will be recording his statement in connection with the FIR."

On July 26, Mumbai Police registered an FIR against him for allegedly posting photographs from his nude photoshoot. The action came after a city-based NGO

He was booked under Sections 292 (sale of obscene books), 293 (sale of obscene objects to young persons) and 509 (act intending to outrage modesty of women), along with Section 67A of the IT Act.

### **CM SEEKS REPORT**

### First-year student found hanging at Saifai Medical College hostel

Lucknow: A first-year medical student was found hanging from a ceiling fan in his hostel room at Saifai Medical College in Etawah on Saturday. Police said they have not found any suicide note.

Senior SP (Etawah) Jai Prakash Singh said the autopsy report has concluded that the cause of death is hanging.

Himanshu Gupta (21), who hails from Gorakhpur, joined the  $medical\,college\,in\,February.$ 

CM Yogi Adityanath has asked the DM and Senior SP to submit a report within 24 hours. Sources said that the investi-

gators have found some messages saved on his phone and forensic experts are examining them. Sources said Himanshu's fam-

ily has sought a fair inquiry. ENS

### **BARABANKI GIRL WENT MISSING ON AUG 18**

## Teen who was pursuing her rape case found dead

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** LUCKNOW, AUGUST 21

THE BODY of a teenage rape victim, who had gone missing on August 18, was recovered from a canal in Barabanki district on Saturday.

The 17-year-old, who lives in neighbouring Sitapur district, reportedly left home on August 18 telling her parents that she was going to meet her lawyer to discuss the rape case, which she had filed against a local youth in January this year.

Sitapur police said they suspect the girl died by suicide after jumping into the canal that passes through Barabanki district. The highly discomposed body has been sent for an autopsy.

"Things will be clear after the postmortem report come. We have come to know that the girl was scolded by her parents, a day before she went missing," said an officer of Sitapur police.

On the basis of a complaint lodged by the girl's father, an FIR has been registered in Sitapur

**AMITSHARMA** 

Saturday

MEERUT, AUGUST 21

NEARLY A week after a minor girl

was allegedly raped, the body of

her 20-year-old brother was

found hanging from a tree in a vil-

lage in Bulandshahr district on

that the family of the rape accused

killed him and hanged his body.

They also alleged that the kin of

the rape accused were putting

pressure on the boy to withdraw

fused to hand over his body to po-

lice for postmortem and de-

manded the killers be arrested. It

was only after the intervention of

senior police officers that the fam-

Initially, the youth's family re-

The girl's family has alleged

against the youth, booked in the rape case, for kidnapping and criminal intimidation.

In January, the girl registered an FIR in Sitapur against a youth of a neighbouring village for allegedly raping her on the pretext of marriage. The youth was arrested and sent to jail. In June this year, the accused was released on bail, said a local police officer.

"We are verifying the information collected so far. The statements of the girl's neighbours are also being recorded," the police officer added. According to Barabanki police,

a group of people visited a local police station and informed them about a body in the canal bank. The group identified themselves as residents of Sitapur.

"One of them identified the body as that of his daughter through clothes. I contacted Sitapur police and they informed me that a man had filed a case of kidnapping of his daughter," said an police officer.

Police suspect that body floated to Barabanki from Sitapur. No one has been arrested vet.

ily and villagers allowed police to

take the body for postmortem.

the basis of a complaint filed by

the family. They alleged that those

involved in the girl's rape and their

kins have killed their son. No one

has been arrested so far," the local

prehended two persons who al-

legedly tried to rape his sister on

August 14, the girl had gone out of

the house when two persons,

forcibly took her to a field. While

one raped her, the other stood

guard. The brother heard her

screams, he rushed to the field and

caught one of them and handed

 $him\, over \, to \, police. The \, accomplice$ 

managed to escape, police said.

Police said the youth had ap-

As per the FIR registered on

police station in-charge said.

August 14.

"We have registered an FIR on

Bulandshahr: Brother of

rape victim found dead

## Heavy rain in Himachal: Five more bodies found, toll at 27 members of the deceased were

An earthmover clears landslide debris at Chambi near Dharamshala on Sunday AP

**AMIL BHATNAGAR** SHIMLA, AUGUST 21

FIVE MORE bodies were found in Himachal Pradesh as the death toll due to heavy rain rose to 27 on Sunday. As many as 96 roads have also been blocked due to landslides and rolling boulders. Round-the-clock work is under-

The heaviest rainfall occurred on Saturday, claiming 21 lives. In Chamba district, three people died instantly after a house collapsed in a landslide early on Saturday morning. The family

given Rs 30,000 as an immediate relief fund. Another person died in a road accident in Shimla. Two motorbike riders also

lost their lives after a loose rock

hit their bike in Mandi's Jawalpur on Saturday evening. The rainfall on Sunday was intermittent and there were fewer incidents of landslides and

rolling boulders, officials said Many roads were made functional again as the rain stopped for a few hours. More than 65 water supply

schemes have been disrupted, while 358 distribution transformers have been damaged in a period of 24 hours. As of Sunday evening, six people remained missing.

An unidentified body was found in Mandi district's Dharampur.

In the Monsoon season so far, there have been 244 deaths due rain-related incidents. Accidents claimed 115 lives, while 33 people died due to rolling boul-Noida residents were killed and the highway was blocked after a

boulder fell on their car. The Met department has issued an advisory that there would be a persistent flash flood risk until Monday.

### **UTTARAKHAND CLOUDBURST**

## 3 bodies found, 5 missing as rescue operations continue

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** DEHRADUN, AUGUST 21

THREE BODIES were recovered from two different places and at least five people were reported missing as rescue operations, which began on Saturday following heavy rainfall and incidents of cloudbursts in several Uttarakhand districts, continued on Sunday.

According to the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), two bodies were recovered from Gwad village in Tehri Garhwal district, while another body was recovered from Raipur in Dehradun.

"On Saturday late night, a head constable reached with an SDRF team in Gwad village where we were informed that about 7 persons were stuck after a cloudburst. The locals had recovered two bodies and the SDRF team started a search operation to find the other five. The operation stopped at the night due to dark and resumed in the morning," the SDRF said.

"Meanwhile, in Soda Saroli area of Raipur, a search operation started Sunday morning. A deep diving team was sent to the spot the Badasi bridge," it said.

Another rescue operation was underway at Aranyam Resort in Pauri Garhwal, where some tourists from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Punjab, were stranded. "A family informed on Sunday that



NDRF personnel rescue tourists stranded in Maldevta.PTI

they were stuck in the resort. The resort is very close to a hill and the nearby water level is continuously increasing. This has created a possibility of a landslide. All contact routes are destroyed and the team is facing danger," SDRF said.

In Dehradun's Maldevta, where at least seven houses were washed away following heavy rain Saturday, 24 tourists were rescued from a resort Sunday. affected districts in the current spell of heavy rain.

An early morning cloudburst near Tapkeshwar Mahadev temple triggered a flash flood. Another incident of cloudburst was reported in Raipur.

## Odisha: Low-lying areas evacuated

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 21

A MASSIVE evacuation drive was launched in the low-lying areas of Balasore Mayurbhanj districts, officials said on Sunday, as water in Subarnarekha and Baitarani – the two major rivers flowing through the region - breached the danger

mark at many places. Around 58 rescue teams com-

prising personnel of NDRF, ODRAF and Fire Service were deployed in Special Relief districts, Commissioner Pradeep K Jena said. "Involve functionaries of the Panchayati Raj System, women self-help groups and others concerned in evacuating people," Jena said in a message to the district collectors of Balasore and

Mayurbhanj.

The water level in all the rivers of north Odisha are in spate due to heavy rains caused by a deep depression over Bay of Bengal, and subsequent flood water release from Jharkhand.On Sunday, CM Naveen Patnaik delegated powers of a special relief commissioner to Balasore district collector so that the local administration could be more effective



Police conduct rescue operations after several people were washed away by a flooded Mahanadi river in Kendrapara. PTI

## In Nandurbar, teachers step back as students help each other catch up

**PALLAVISMART** MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

AS CLASS 5 students Bhavana and Kiran struggled to read words and solve basic addition and subtraction, their classmates stepped in and came up with different tools to help the two -creating word games, playing with letter cards, and making use of pebbles or leaves to learn mathematics. Within days, Bhavana and Kiran -- students of Anudanit Prathmik Ashramshala in Nandurbar --

As part of a pilot project, the Ashramshalas, residential schools covered under the Tribal Development Project Office, in Nandurbar taluka Maharashtra, have been experimenting with a unique way to learn. Here, teachers are facilitators, who, instead of following the fixed pattern of facing the

class and conducting lessons, set

challenges for students and en-

courage them to learn their cur-

ricula by developing innovative methods on their own, in the form of group activities.

The pilot, called 'Vedh Project', is based on the novel concept of heutagogy, a studentcentred instructional strategy. Launched last year for Class 5 students in all 60 residential schools in this tribal district, educators say the project has helped to bridge the gap in learning outcomes after two years of the pandemic kept children out of schools.

The Tribal Development Project Office in Nandurbar has now decided to extend the project to include classes 2 to 7.

Saying the initiative was born out of the need to plug foundational learning gaps, Minal Karnwal, Development Officer at the Nandurbar Project, who is the brain behind this initiative, told The Indian Express, "A baseline assessment conducted with help from the NGO Pratham revealed a huge learning loss. Along with the pandemic, general laxity had contributed to



poor Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) among students. Class 5 students did not know how to solve division sums, or read full sentences, which is part of the learning outcome expected at that level."

Karanwal says it all began with helping teachers identify where their class stood. "With the baseline assessment report at hand, teachers knew that their class had students with different learning levels and that they couldn't teach everybody in the same manner," she says.

This was followed by a breaking up of the traditional seating arrangements, with teachers forming smaller groups. For instance, Shital Hande, a teacher at a school in Kochara in the district's Shahada taluk, had divided



Students with their teacher Anita Patil. Pallavi Smart

her class into three groups to cater to students at different learning levels: those who could identify letters, words, and sentences. "The groups were then presented with challenges to help bridge the learning gaps revealed in the baseline tests," says Karanwal, adding that the goal of the project was to create a student peer group and then handhold them as they interact with each other as part of their learning process.

Besides the baseline test, the evaluation process involved a 'mid-level progress' and an 'endline progress' that teachers conducted. The latter two evaluations were deliberately called "progress" and not "tests" to avoid pressure on teachers that would have possibly led to fudging of data.

While for baseline and midlevel evaluations, teachers from the same 60 schools were shuffled, for the end-line assessments, teachers from nearby Zilla Parishad schools were in-

A teacher at the Vadfali Ashramshala, Dinesh More, explains, "After the baseline test reports, which showed where each student stood in terms of expected learning outcomes, days were dedicated to implementing remedial teaching based on peer challenges in a class. After the mid-level progress, teachers had more clarity on the learning levels of their students. At this stage, teachers, too, are encouraged to

learn from each other by way of sharing experiences or solving one another's problems. And this led to another round of remedial teaching in classrooms, where students were motivated to help each other learn. Finally, the endline progress was conducted and that showed tremendous progress in the pilot project."

According to data provided by the Tribal Development Project Office, while the baseline test showed that only 20 per cent of Class 5 students in the district's Ashramshalas could read an entire story and 14 per cent were still at beginner level, with no ability to identify letters, at the end of 55 days of the project, 41 per cent students could read an entire story, with no one left at the beginner level.

Talking of instances when children helped each other, Karanwal says, "Teachers developed challenges based on the skills of students. For example, a child who was good at multiplication was given a challenge to make it simpler for those in class

New Delhi

who were struggling with it. This completely changes the way a class traditionally runs." Anita Patil, who teaches Class

6 at the Nandurbar Prathmik Ashramshala, says the project has worked wonders for her. "It has just been a couple of months since school started but students in my class have almost finished learning the entire Marathi language curriculum, completely on their own. And we will soon give them tasks to strengthen their concepts, especially grammar lessons.' Karnwal says that at a time

when schools are given fancy kits and encouraged to start smartclasses, the Nandurbar teachers devised their own teaching learning material (TLM) using sand, pebbles, electrical wires, ropes and handmade cards.

"We only gave them a framework to apply to their classrooms,' says Karanwal, adding that the initiative will now be scaled up to include all classes from 2 to 7 in all 60 schools covered under the Nandurbar Project.

#ExpressExplained

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

## What are cloudburst incidents and are they rising across India?

AMITABH SINHA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

OVER 20 people have been killed in destruction caused by cloudbursts and flash floods in different parts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the last three days. Isolated areas in these two states have reported heavy rainfall during this time, triggering landslides and flash floods that have disrupted rail and road traffic, and resulted in house and wall collapses.

### What are cloudbursts?

A cloudburst is a localised but intense rainfall activity. Short spells of very heavy rainfall over a small geographical area can cause widespread destruction, especially in hilly regions where this phenomenon is the most common.

Not all instances of very heavy rainfall, however, are cloudbursts. A cloudburst has a very specific definition: Rainfall of 10 cm or more in an hour over a roughly 10 km x 10km area is classified as a cloudburst event. By this definition, 5 cm of rainfall in a halfhour period over the same area would also be categorized as a cloudburst.

To put this in perspective, in a normal year, India, as a whole, receives about 116 cm of rainfall over the entire year. This means if the entire rainfall everywhere in India during a year was spread evenly over its area, the total accumulated water would be 116 cm high. There are, of course, huge geographical variations in rainfall within the country, and some areas receive over 10 times more than that amount in a year. But on average, any place in India can be expected to receive about 116 cm of rain in a year.

During a cloudburst event, a place receives about 10% of this annual rainfall within an hour. It is a worse situation than what Mumbai had experienced on July 26, 2005, which is one of the most extreme instances of rainfall in India in recent years. At that time, Mumbai had received 94 cm of rain over a 24-hour period, resulting in deaths of over 400 people and more than USD 1 billion in economic losses.

### How common are cloudbursts?

Cloudbursts are not uncommon events, particularly during the monsoon months. Most of these happen in the Himalayan states where the local topology, wind systems, and temperature gradients between



A man salvages his belongings near a swollen river after a series of cloudbursts hit parts of Uttarakhand on Saturday. PTI

the lower and upper atmosphere facilitate the occurrence of such events.

However, not every event that is described as a cloudburst is actually, by definition, a cloudburst. That is because these

**ANIL SASI** 

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE US GDP fell 1.6% on an annualised basis

in the first quarter of 2022 (calendar year),

followed by a 0.9% fall in the second quarter.

Two consecutive quarters of economic con-

traction or declining real GDP - that's the

when they start worrying about their job. Every US recession since World War II has

been characterised by a slide in the GDP -

or measure of economic output - simulta-

neously with a spike in unemployment. But

created in the US at the rate of nearly half a

million a month. There is no historical prece-

dent for a recessionary economy to produce

528,000 jobs in a month — as the US econ-

omy did in July — and at 3.5%, the unemploy-

A recession is generally understood to fol-

low an increase of interest rates by the US

Federal Reserve. Rising rates typically signal

a danger of uncovering imbalances or sys-

tematic risks in the financial system, apart

from dampening consumption and demand.

There is also the continuing oil price shock

(even though prices have eased over the last

few weeks), a possible downturn in Europe

if Russian natural gas supplies wind down,

the economic crisis in China, and the threat

Economic contraction and unemploy-

ment typically move in tandem because they

feed on each other: when there is a down-

turn, businesses lay off workers. As a result,

people spend less money, which, in turn,

dampens demand and lowers profits for

businesses. So they lay off more workers,

which further dents demand, and this ends

Economic output in the US is contracting

in line with the Fed's rate-tightening. But

companies are still hiring in droves, and

many jobs, especially in the pandemic-hit

service sector, remain unfilled. US Bureau of

Labor Statistics data released on August 5

show non-farm payroll employment rose by

528,000 in July, and unemployment was

The Labor Statistics news release pres-

ents data from two monthly surveys: the

household survey that measures labour force

status, including unemployment, by demo-

graphic characteristics, and the establish-

up becoming cyclical.

down to 3.5%.

Labour market paradox

from new strains of the coronavirus.

Over the past six months, jobs have been

For most people though, a recession is

general rule to identify a recession.

this time, it is completely different.

ment rate is the lowest since 1970

**Impending US recession** 

events are highly localized. They take place in very small areas which are often devoid of rainfall measuring instruments. The consequences of these events, however, are not confined to the small areas. Because of the nature of terrain, the heavy rainfall events often trigger landslides and flash floods, causing extensive destruction downstream. This is the reason why every sudden downpour that leads to destruction of life and property in the hilly areas gets described as a "cloudburst", irrespective of whether the amount of rainfall meets the defining criteria. At the same time, it is also possible that actual cloudburst events in remote locations aren't

### Can cloudbursts be forecast?

The India Meteorological Department forecasts rainfall events well in advance, but it does not predict the quantum of rainfall in fact, no meteorological agency does. The forecasts can be about light, heavy, or very heavy rainfall, but weather scientists do not have the capability to predict exactly how

much rain is likely to fall at any given place. Additionally, the forecasts are for a relatively large geographical area, usually a region, a state, a meteorological sub-division, or at best a district. As they zoom in over smaller areas, the forecasts get more and more uncertain. Theoretically, it is not impossible to forecast rainfall over a very small area as well, but it requires a very dense network of weather instruments, and computing capabilities that seem unfeasible with current technologies

As a result, specific cloudburst events cannot be forecast. No forecast ever mentions a possibility of a cloudburst. But there are warnings for heavy to very heavy rainfall events, and these are routinely forecast four to five days in advance. Possibility of extremely heavy rainfall, which could result in cloudburst kind of situations, are forecast six to 12 hours in advance.

### Are cloudburst incidents increasing?

There is no long-term trend that suggests that cloudbursts, as defined by the IMD, are rising. What is well established, however, is that incidents of extreme rainfall, as also other extreme weather events, are increasing not just in India but across the world. While the overall amount of rainfall in India has not changed substantially, an increasing proportion of rainfall is happening in a short span of time. That means that the wet spells are very wet, and are interspersed with prolonged dry spells even in the rainy season.

This kind of pattern, attributed to climate change, does suggest that cloudburst events might also be on the rise.





Dugin, 60, so-called 'Putin's brain', and his daughter Daria, 29. Reuters

## Who is Alexander Dugin, the prominent Putin backer whose daughter was killed in a blast?

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

THE DAUGHTER of a Russian nationalist ideologue and a prominent backer of President Vladimir Putin was killed in car bomb blast on the outskirts of Moscow on Sunday.

Daria Dugina, a 29-year-old TV commentator and daughter of Alexander Dugin, was in an SUV when the bomb went off. According to Russian media reports, the

vehicle belonged to her father, who decided at the last minute to travel in another car.

### Dugin: 'Putin's brain'

Sixty-year-old Dugin is an influential writer and political philosopher who is said to have an ideological influence on Putin. The Moscow-born author of more than 30 books is sometimes referred to as "Putin's philosopher" or "Putin's brain". However, while some Russia-watchers support the idea of his significant sway over the President, others are sceptical.

Dugin, according to a report in The Washington Post, rose to national prominence in the 1990s while writing for the Den, a far-right newspaper.

He was also the former chief editor at Tsargrad TV, a network backing Putin and the Russian Orthodox Church.

### Dugin's political views

Known for his ultra-nationalist, anti-

powerful and aggressive Russia, Dugin has

'The Great War of the Continents', laid out his vision of Russia as an 'eternal Rome' facing off against an individualistic, materialistic West," The Post wrote in May.

for a broad section of Russian hardliners".

NATO...The plan was simple: first put the Dugin, and then use clever alliance diplocontinent," the Foreign Policy article noted.

### Backer of Putin's Ukraine war

A proponent of the idea of Novorossiya Ukraine strategy.

Dugin has termed an independent Ukraine a "huge danger to all of Eurasia", and called for total military and political control

long advocated the unification of ethnic Russian territories in a vast new empire. "A 1991 manifesto serialized in Den,

Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia, is considered an influential work, which Foreign Policy magazine called "a pole star

over the whole north coast of the Black Sea.

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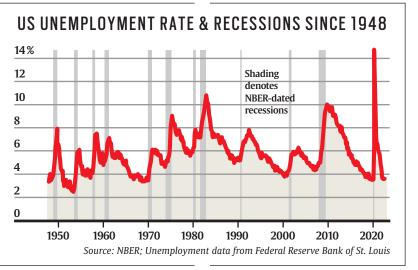
West views along with a vision of a more

Dugin's 1997 book, Foundations of

"Dugin's main argument in Foundations

me straight from (Karl) Haushofer's pages: the need to thwart the conspiracy of 'Atlanticism' led by the US and Soviet Union back together, counselled macy focused on partnerships with Japan, Iran, and Germany to eject the United States and its Atlanticist minions from the

(New Russia), Dugin is also considered the ideological author of President Putin's



SIMPLY PUT

US jobs-recession paradox

The US economy is creating jobs even as the Fed is hiking rates. Can the Fed bring down inflation without triggering an unemployment surge? What is the impact of the paradox on emerging market economies?

> ment survey that measures non-farm employment, hours, and earnings by industry. Besides lower unemployment rates, the labour market is also showing record high ratios of new job openings to potential applicants—which points to the fact that companies are still reporting open job postings.

> There are two main takeaways from the July data. One, the number of working Americans has topped the pre-pandemic number, as the economy added jobs at a threemonth moving average of 437,000. Two, the unemployment rate dropping to 3.5% means it is back to its pre-pandemic low, which marks the lowest unemployment rate in half a century. Also, the total number of unemployed workers (5.67 million) was lower in July than it was in February 2020 (5.72 million).

### Fed's rate-tightening

There is a view that the strength of the labour market increases the headroom for the Fed's rate tightening action. The other view is that given the Fed's target to "achieve maximum employment and inflation at the rate of 2% over the longer run", the central bank could be forced to go more aggressive in its monetary-policy tightening path to tame inflation, leading to a hard landing.

"As I see it, given the Fed's dual mandate, the strength of the labour market only implies that it can remain more decisive in rate hikes to bring inflation down on a durable basis. This Fed tightening cycle has a long way to go with many more rate hikes due, and an economic recession in the US should thus still remain the base case for a 12-month horizon," Viral V. Acharya, CV Starr Professor of Economics at NYU Stern School of Business and a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, told The Indian Express.

### Jobs trend not conclusive Fund manager Cathie Wood, in an inter-

view with Bloomberg TV in August, said she and her team at Florida-based ARK Invest believe that the US has entered a recession, and that there are signals — including household employment metrics — that the economy is very weak. "Beyond the non-farm payrolls, if one looks at household employment seen as a much broader base to survey of employment — it has been flat to down for the last four months," Wood said. She linked this more to a "massive inventory glut".

In June, Walmart, the world's largest retailer, said it was working on controlling what it could to reduce inventory through sales and price rollbacks, while Target, another big box retailer, took a major sales hit in its May earnings call, and announced on June 7 that it would be taking steps "to downsize inventory through additional markdowns".

### Other factors at play

There are other indicators that are looking up or staging a substantial recovery, quite out of sync with the Fed's aggressive moves to slow the economy down, American shares, which had a torrid six months from January-June this year — the worst such period in more than five decades, with the S&P500 diving over 20% and the NASDAQ over 30% are on a sharp rebound. Since the middle of June, the NASDAQ is up more than 20% from its low, officially entering a bull rally, while the S&P500 is up by more than 15%.

While the Fed interest rate hike is a key factor, according to Daniel Bachman, Senior Manager, Deloitte Services LP in charge of US economic forecasting, this is only part of the story. "Just because recession occurs after the tightening cycle has started does not mean

that the tightening caused the recession. Recessions occur because of shocks in the economy," Bachman said in a June forecast. Lisa Shalett, Chief Investment Officer, Wealth Management at Morgan Stanley, noted in June that while the chances of a recession ticked higher by the Federal Reserve's latest rate hikes and hawkish forward guidance, "a recession today is likely to be shallower and less damaging to corporate earnings than recent downturns".

Prior to the pandemic-induced 2020 recession, other recent recessions have been credit-driven, including the financial crisis of 2007-08, and the dotcom bust of 2000-01. In those cases, debt-related excesses built up in housing and Internet infrastructure, and it took nearly a decade for the economy to absorb them. By contrast, excess liquidity, not debt, is the most likely catalyst for a recession today, Shalet noted in her Global Investment Committee Weekly report of June 27.

### Fed hikes' impact elsewhere

A sharper-than-expected hike in rates in the US is bad news for emerging markets and could have a three-pronged impact. When the Fed raises its policy rates, the difference between the interest rates of the two countries narrows, thus making countries such as India less attractive for the currency carry trade. A high rate signal by the Fed would also mean a lower impetus to growth in the US, which could be yet negative news for global growth, especially when China is reeling under a real estate crisis. Higher returns in the US debt markets could also trigger a churn in emerging market equities, tempering foreign investor enthusiasm. There is also a potential impact on currency markets, stemming from outflows of funds.

According to Neelkanth Mishra, Co-head of Asia Pacific Strategy, India Equity Strategist with Credit Suisse and part-time member of the PM's Economic Advisory Council, as economies have opened up, supply is responding but demand has gone up well in advance. That created inflation exacerbated by what is referred to as supply chain bullwhips.

"Everyone is building an inventory. In the US in particular, this became really bad because it didn't have the manufacturing capacity to meet the additional demand, but it had triggered that demand by handing over cash to people through a stimulus. The demand went over to China, Japan, India, Bangladesh and when the goods started hitting the US ports, they realised these didn't have the capacity. This triggered a wage-price spiral in the US, which is the most dangerous form of inflation where people start demanding wage hikes and prices go up".

## 'Forever chemicals', the risk they pose and a new way to destroy them

**SETHU PRADEEP** THALASSERY, AUGUST 21

A TEAM of scientists has finally found a cheap and affordable way to degrade hardy environmental pollutants known as perand polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS. They are also called "forever chemicals" for their ability to stick around in the atmosphere, in rainwater and soil, for decades.

While the practical application of the breakthrough method, described in a study published in the journal Science on August 18, is yet to be tested, it holds out promise, scientists say. The development comes soon after another study published this month in Environmental Science and Technology reported that rainwater from many places across the globe is contaminated with PFAS.

### What are PFAS?

According to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), PFAS are man-made chemicals used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing. stain-resistant fabrics, cosmetics, firefighting foams, and many other products that resist grease, water, and oil. They are also found in dental floss thread, and in food wrappers used in restaurants.

PFAS can contaminate soil, water, and air during their production and use. Since most PFAS do not break down, they remain in the environment for long periods of lead author Ian Cousins, who communi-

Factories that use them in manufacturing release them in the air, while others dump them in a way that they find their way into rivers and groundwater.

Some of these PFAS also build up inside people and animals if they are repeatedly exposed to these chemicals. As per the recent study, PFAS were found

in raindrops falling even in remote places

like Tibet and Antarctica. While this research did not include studies of samples collected in India, the nature of PFAS and the wide geographical breadth of samples means that the results

can be extrapolated to India, according to

cated with The Indian Express over email.

### Harm they cause

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists a variety of health risks that are attributed to PFAS exposure, including decreased fertility, developmental effects in children, interference with body hormones, increased cholesterol levels and increased risk of some kinds of cancers.

Recent research has also revealed that long-term, low-level exposure to certain PFAS can make it difficult for humans to build antibodies after being vaccinated against various diseases.

### **Getting rid of PFAS**

There is no known method that can extract and remove PFAS from the atmosphere itself, but there are many effective. albeit expensive, methods to remove them from rainwater that has been collected through various rainwater harvesting

One way to do this would be to use a filtration system with activated carbon. The activated carbon will need to be removed and replaced regularly. Also, the old contaminated material must be destroyed. One way is to burn concentrated PFAS, but that comes with the risk of releasing into the air the PFAS that survive the incineration.

New Delhi

### New method

In the new method reported in the journal Science, researchers found that a "common ingredient in soap, mixed with water and an organic solvent, readily degrades PFAS". The team first placed a PFA compound in a solvent called DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide). They then mixed it with sodium hydroxide (lve) in water. The scientists found that when this mixture was heated up to boiling temperature, the PFA compound began to degrade. However, this method doesn't work for all PFAS, and only for certain PFAS subsets. The scientists, The New York Times reported, are now looking at ways to scale up their technique to include different types and large amounts of PFAS.

# Mizoram CM issues apology after daughter assaults doctor: 'Nothing to say in defence...' VC of Kannur varsity assaults doctor: 'Nothing to say in defence...'

**TORA AGARWALA** GUWAHATI, AUGUST 21

AFTER A video of his daughter assaulting a doctor in an Aizawl clinic went viral on social media, Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga on Saturday issued a public apology, saying that the family was "wholly in the wrong".

video clip, Zoramthanga's daughter, Milari Chhangte, is purportedly seen hitting Aizawl-based dermatologist Dr Zonunasanga when the latter refused her consultation without a prior appointment. Zonundermacare, run by Dr Zonunasanga, is one of Aizawl's most popular private skin clinics.

A statement, written in Mizo, on the Chief Minister's official Instagram account, said: "We Milari Chhangte's family and parents have absolutely nothing to say in defence of her behaviour towards the doctor.

**RECRUITMENT EXAM** 

suspends mobile

net in 24 districts

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI, AUGUST 21** 

THE ASSAM government sus-

pended mobile internet connectivity in 24 out of the state's 35 dis-

tricts for a total of four hours on Sunday in the interest of holding "free, fair and transparent" recruit-

ment exams for government jobs.

and Political Department invoked

Section 5 (2) of the Indian

Telegraph Act, 1885, with the

Temporary Suspension of

Telecom Service (Public

Emergency or Public Safety) Rule,

2017, to suspend mobile internet

services from 10 am to 12 noon

and 2 pm to 4 pm on August 21

and 28. According to the order,

broadband-based services would

to take the exam, for recruitment

to 30,000 Grade III and Grade IV

state government posts, on

August 21, 28 and September 11.

conference with officials. Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

described the recruitment exams

as the "biggest" of its kind for

can induct 30,000 completely on

merit, then the face of the govern-

ment will change," the CM said,

adding that he "apologised to the

public" for the "inconvenience".

ternet connectivity was sus-

pended were Kamrup (Metro),

which includes the state capital

Guwahati, as well as Bajali,

Biswanath, Cachar, Charaideo,

Chirang, Darrang, Dhemaji,

Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Golaghat,

Jorhat, Kamrup, Karbi Anglong,

Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli,

Nalbari, Sivasgar, Sonitpur,

Tamulpur, Tinsukia, Udalguri and

West Karbi Anglong districts. On

August 28, the list will include

**BJP SEEKS APOLOGY** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

RAJASTHAN MINISTER Govind

Ram Meghwal has stirred a con-

troversy by saying that it is unfortunate that women in India still

see the moon through a sieve and

pray for their husband's long life

on 'Karwa Chauth' while those in

developed countries live in the

His remark on Saturday drew sharp criticism from the BJP,

JAIPUR, AUGUST 21

world of science.

www.indianexpress.com

**FULL REPORT ON** 

Rajasthan minister's

remark over Karwa

Chauth triggers row

Baksa district too.

The districts where mobile in-

"This is not just an exam. If we

Grade III and Grade IV posts.

Earlier this week, in a virtual

Over 14 lakh candidates are set

remain functional.

An order issued by the Home

Assam briefly



A video clip of the CM's daughter Milari Chhangte hitting a doctor when refused a consultation without appointment

We are wholly in the wrong and apologise to the doctor and the public."

The statement said the Chief Minister and his wife had visited the doctor three times to apologise. "The doctor and his family were very kind and understand-

ing to the point that it was embarrassing for us. We think they are very mature and we really appreciate them," Zoramthanga said in the statement.

On Saturday, around 700 doctors of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) Mizoram state

Mizoram CM Zoramthanga

branch protested the incident,

and wore black badges to their workplaces.

"Even if more stringent action was taken [by the IMA], it would not have not been out of line and wholly warranted. However, they have taken only this step and have been mature. and we really respect the maturity they have shown. We also want to say that we will do whatever we can so that something like this does not happen again," Zoramthanga said.

The incident, which took place on Wednesday, led to outrage on social media in Mizoram. Chhangte's elder brother Ramthansiama also apologised on social media, saying that his acted out of "mental stress".

The Indian Express reached out to Dr Zonunasanga but he was unavailable for comment.

A member of the IMA, Mizoram, who did not wish to be named, told The Indian Express that the dermatologist was "initially taken aback" by the incident, but has now accepted the Chief Minister's "heartfelt apology".

"He understands that sometimes patients act out...he is not taking any calls from the media because it has suddenly become such a high-profile case," said the member

He said it was probably the first time such an incident had taken place in Mizoram. "Unfortunately, it involved the CM's daughter," he said. "We do not have anything against her or the CM, we are protesting violence against doctors...we would have protested in solidarity regardless of who the assaulter was.

# a criminal: Kerala Gov

Says he planned attack; CPM terms comment deplorable

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM AUGUST 21

KERALA GOVERNOR Arif Mohammad Khan on Sunday called the Vice Chancellor of Kannur University, Dr Gopinath Ravindran, a criminal. The Governor also alleged that Ravindran was party to a conspiracy to physically assault him.

Addressing the media in New Delhi, Khan said, "This man (Ravindran) is sitting as VC because of political reasons. This man has been ruining Kannur University. He had made several illegal appointments." Khan added that Ravindran was behaving not like a vice chancellor but more like he was part of a political cadre.

On his allegation regarding a conspiracy to physically hurt him, Khan said, "I was attacked in Kannur. Later I received a report from higher quarters that this conspiracy was hatched in Delhi."The Governor said the VC was part of that conspiracy.



Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan

He was referring to the alleged heckling he faced when he went to inaugurate the Indian History Congress hosted by Kannur University in December 2019. As the Governor was about to deliver his address, most of the delegates assembled for the event rose, voicing their protest against his stand on the Citizenship Amendment Act,

which was a burning issue then. The Governor said that according to the programme of the event approved by Raj Bhavan and agreed upon by the VC, there was not to be any departure from the timings and schedules.

"It was supposed to be 60

minutes. But the VC allowed historian Irfan Habib and others to make speeches for over one-anda-half hours, criticising severely, addressing every question to me. When I stood up to answer the questions, within five minutes, a physical attack attempt was made on me," he said, adding, 'The shirt of my ADC, Manoj Yadav, was torn and twice they made attempts on me. It was only because of the security that they could not reach me."

Kerala's ruling CPI(M) said the Governor's comments were deplorable. "The Governor should reveal what criminal activity the VC had committed. The VC had expressed his disagreement with the Governor as per the procedure and legally. Instead of responding to the VC legally and respectfully, the Governor should examine whether it is befitting to respond in a way that does not suit his position," the CPI(M) secretariat said in a statement.

Interventions by the Governor, instead of pointing out mistakes, had crossed all limits, the CPI(M) said.

## Haryana: CBI arrests Lt Colonel, 3 others in Rs 22-lakh bribery case

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 21

THE CENTRAL Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested a Lt Colonel and a Subedar Major along with two private contactors in a bribery case related to awarding tenders at Ambala Cantonment.

The accused have been identified as Lt Col Rahul Pawar, Senior Barracks Store Officer, Military Engineer Services (MES) and Subedar Major Pardeep Kumar, Ambala Cantt. They both have been taken into custody and two contractors - Dinesh Kumar of Kurukshetra and Pritpal of Ambala – have been arrested,

CBI officials said. A team of Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of CBI, Chandigarh, had laid a trap and caught all four red-handed during the bribe transaction of Rs 22.48 lakh. During searches, the agency recovered Rs 32.5 lakh and incrimlakh was also recovered from the possession of the two contractors, it said. CBI officials said that a case

premises of the Lt Col, and Rs 16

was registered against the two Army officials for demanding bribe. "They had allegedly taken the bribe against the assurance that most of tenders/orders from the Ambala Cantonment would be awarded to the two private contractors," the CBI said in a statement.

A senior CBI officer said that the Army officers and the two contractors were arrested folwing a tip-off.

"They were all apprehended in Ambala late on Saturday and were arrested on Sunday. Raids are going on at their residents in Ambala and Kurukshetra, They will be produced in the Special CBI court, Panchkula, on Monday. We have already intimated Army authorities about the arrests," he said, adding that a case against the four accused has been registered at CBI Zonal headquarters Chandigarh.

### **JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

inating documents from the

## Infiltration bid foiled, injured militant nabbed

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAMMU. AUGUST 21

**SECURITY FORCES on Sunday** morning foiled an infiltration bid from across the Line of Control in the border Rajouri district of Iammu and Kashmir and captured an injured militant who was repatriated to Pakistan six years ago after having undergone 26 months imprisonment here.

Police said that security forces in Sher Makri area on noticing suspicious movement along the LoC challenged the suspect, but he started running. The security forces opened fire, injuring the intruder. He was later apprehended and taken to the Army hospital.

Identifying him as Tabarak Husain, Defence PRO Lt Colonel Devender Anand said he appeared to have crossed the LoC

on a suicide mission.

Tabarak, son of Mistri Malik resident of Sabzkot in Kotli district of Pakistan occupied Kashmir. and his younger brother Haroon Ali were earlier apprehended by security forces in Jhangar area of Nowshera sector on April 25, 2016 as well. The former was then 26 and the latter 15.

Tabarak was trained by Pakistan Army, and possibly ISI, and he worked for the Intelligence Unit for approximately two years, a statement issued by Lt Colonel Anand said.

During this period he was trained to acquire enemy information and establishing cover story in case the individual is ever apprehended, the statement said, adding that in addition, he underwent six weeks training as a guide at a Lashare-Toiba camp across the LoC at Bhimber.

### Border talks between Assam and Meghalaya: Phase 2 begins

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** GUWAHATI, AUGUST 21

THE SECOND phase of border talks between Meghalaya and Assam commenced on Sunday with the two states deciding to form three regional committees to resolve the remaining disputed areas.

The announcement came after Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa met in Guwahati on Sunday.

Over the years, the 884-km border between the two states has witnessed frequent flare-ups in 12 disputed sites. In March this year, the chief ministers of the two states signed a pact in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah resolving differences in a 36.79 sq km area comprising six out of 12 sites -Tarabari, Gizang, Hahim, Boklapara, Khanapara-

Pilangkata and Ratacherra. Following the meeting on Sunday, Sangma told reporters the committees would be notified within 15 days, and that the issue would be resolved within a "reasonable time" for the next six locations. He said that the Survey of India and the two state governments were currently delineating the new border (for the resolved areas) based on the signed Memorandum of Understanding. Sarma added that the process had been delayed because of floods, and

"We left out six areas in the initial resolution plan because we decided to begin with less complicated sites," said Sarma.

work would now progress.

In 1951, when Meghalaya was still part of Assam, Blocks I and II of Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya) were transferred to the Mikir Hill (Karbi Anglong) district of Assam as per recommendations of a government committee. The second phase includes villages in these areas, which are larger and are said to be more complex to resolve.

Sangma said that following the formation of committees, public consultations with stakeholders would commence. The panels will be headed by Cabinet Ministers of each state along with members from Karbi **Anglong Autonomous Council** in Assam.

Navi Mumbai NRI Coastal Police question a fisherman following a red alert issued on Sunday. Narendra Vaskar

**'26/11-LIKE ATTACK'** 

## 7 persons whose numbers came up in threat messages being questioned: Mumbai Police

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

OFFICERS FROM the Mumbai Crime Branch have said they were questioning the seven people whose numbers were mentioned in the threat messages received by Mumbai Police in which the anonymous sender had threatened another terrorist attack in the city like the 26/11attacks in 2008. The officers added that they have not ruled out the possibility of the threat being a hoax to test the preparedness of the security agencies in the city to thwart such

Speaking to The Indian Express on Sunday, a crime branch officer said the mobile numbers of the seven persons

helpline number of Mumbai Traffic Police. The seven numbers also include those of officers of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of Uttar Pradesh police. Sources added that a person questioning but officers on Sunday confirmed that he was not arrested but being questioned. Asked if the person had made a hoax call in the past as well, an officer said they were looking into it.

The unidentified accused is believed to have hacked the WhatsApp account of a Pakistani national and used his WhatsApp account to send the threat messages. The police are now trying to trace the IP address of the WhatsApp account to find out the location from where the

The unidentified person behind the messages claimed he was from Pakistan and a few Indians were helping him carry out an attack similar to 26/11. An FIR has also been registered by the Worli police against

from Virar was detained for an unknown person under IPC Section 506(2)(criminal intimidation). Speaking to mediapersons earlier, Mumbai Police Commissioner Vivek Phansalkar had said, "Last night, around 11.35 pm, some terror-related messages were received on the phone number of one of Mumbai's traffic police control rooms. Prima facie, the number seems to be from Pakistan. The messages mention a terror threat to Mumbai. Some of the numbers mentioned in the messages are being probed.'

agencies, including Mumbai Police, its crime branch

and the Maharashtra ATS are investigating the case. We are verifying the numbers in the messages," he added.

Phansalkar further said, "We want to assure people that the Mumbai Police does not take any such calls lightly. We are taking it very seriously and working to ensure no harm is caused to anyone. There was a mention of Ajmal Kasab, one of the terrorists behind the 26/11 attacks and (deceased) Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in the mes-

On the fact that the messages were in Hindi and not in Urdu and if there was an attempt to create a fake IP address so that the messages would appear to have come from a Pakistan number, he said, "We cannot rule out any possibility without an inves-

## TMC MLA's supporters attack family over land dispute, pregnant woman critical

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, AUGSUST 21

SUPPORTERS OF Trinamool Congress' Beleghata MLA Paresh Pal and a party councillor on Sunday allegedly assaulted an eight-month pregnant woman in the Narkeldanga locality of Kolkata city over a land dispute between her family and a builder.

The woman, who has been admitted to the Calcutta Medical College, is in critical condition, it is learnt. The MLA and councillor Swapan Samadda, however, denied all the allegations.

Shivshankar Das and his son Deepak Das alleged the MLA and the councillor on Saturday called them for a meeting to discuss the matter concerning the land. But when the father and son

did not agree to meet them, two of the MLA's supporters came and beat up Deepak and the two went to the Narkeldanga police station, they claimed.

But instead of admitting their complaint, the police arrested both of them. Deepak alleged that the MLA's supporters came to their house on Sunday and kicked his eight-month pregnant wife in the abdomen.

TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER PROMOTES HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

## I exercise when I have time...Have been asked many times if my son and I are brothers: Stalin

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CM Stalin was taking part in the Happy Streets initiative or-

Corporation, along with others, with the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle and the use of roads for walking, jogging and

The 69-year-old also played basketball and badminton during a visit to Elliot's Beach. He said people tend to ask

him if his son and him were brothers, particularly during his visits abroad. "I am not boasting. People do pose such questions to me on many occasions particularly when I undertake overseas

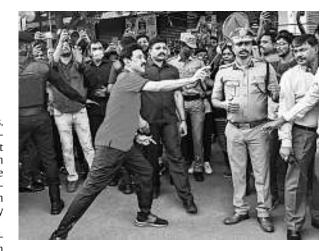
visits. Why I am saying this is I take care of my body whenever I find time, considering the nature of my job," the Chief

He said he exercises for an hour and also practises yoga. "In the evenings, I walk for 5 km. I do not do these physical activities every day on account of the job that I have, but I ensure I do it

Stalin, who had recently tested positive for Covd-19, said he did not suffer any major diffi-

culties on account of the illness. "Doctors told me that it was because of my good health. I did not undergo major difficulties soon after I tested positive for the coronavirus. Therefore, it is necessary to take care of your health to safeguard ourselves from any kind of disease." he said.

Since the DMK assumed office in 2021, Stalin has been seen cycling on the scenic East Coast Road in Chennai and has shared on social media images and a video of his ride.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin plays badminton in Chennai on Sunday as part of a programme to create awareness about physical activities. PTI

New Delhi

### it may do so. I was talking about the importance of scientific tem-Slamming the minister, BJP perament," he said

which demanded an apology from him and asked Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to take action against his colleague. 'Women in China and the US are living in the world of science, but it is unfortunate that even today, women here see the moon on

Karwa Chauth through a sieve talk about the long life of their husband. But a husband never sees a sieve for their long life," the minister for disaster management and relief said at an event in Jaipur where the CM was also present.

Govind Meghwal

state spokesperson and MLA Ramlal Sharma said that he should be aware that astronaut Kalpana Chawla had been to space and many Indian women were serving as pilots. "He has insulted crores of

women of the country. He should apologise and withdraw the statement. The CM should take action against him." he said. The BJP leader said Indian

women are known for following

the traditions and they know how

to strike a balance between their personal and professional life. However, Meghwal later told reporters that he was only promoting scientific temper and education. "I am not against Karwa Chauth. Whoever wants to follow CHENNAI, AUGUST 21

TALKING ABOUT his exercise regimen, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said he took care of his body whenever he got the time and that several people had asked him whether his son Udhayanidhi Stalin and him were brothers.

ganised by the Greater Chennai

Minister said.

whenever I get the time," he said.

## THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE GREAT AIM OF EDUCATION IS NOT KNOWLEDGE BUT ACTION.

— HERBERT SPENCER

## The Indian **EXPRESS**

∞ FOUNDED By ∞ RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## CURRENT CRISIS

While political parties debate if free electricity is a freebie, discom finances slip and threaten to disrupt the power sector

 $ASTWEEK, POWER\,System\,Operation\,(POSOCO), the\,national\,grid$ operator, asked three power exchanges to restrict the buying and selling of electricity by 27 power distribution companies (discoms) from 12 states and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir because of their dues towards power generating companies (gencos). The action was reportedly taken under the Electricity (late payment surcharge and related matters) Rules 2022, which were notified recently. While several of these states have reportedly cleared their dues since, this incident is yet another reminder of the precarious financial position of discoms.

Distribution companies are the weakest link in the power chain. Rising losses at the distribution level mean that discom dues to gencos continue to go up, who in turn delay payments to coal mining companies, thereby adversely impacting the stability of the entire power sector. While there have been various attempts to turnaround the financial and operational performance of state discoms, the results have been well short of expectations. Each time the size of the bailout has only risen. In the early 2000s, the scheme for repayment of state electricity board dues amounted to roughly Rs 41,500 crore; the financial restructuring plan of 2012 involved an outlay of around Rs 1.2 lakh crore; while under the Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) in 2015, the bailout was in excess of Rs 2 lakh crore. Yet discom losses have continued to rise, as have their obligations/debt burden. In 2020, Power Finance Corporation and Rural Electrification Corporation sanctioned Rs 1.35 lakh crore of loans to discoms to help clear their dues to gencos. Another package was announced in 2022. The RBI recently estimated that if another bailout is to be structured along the lines of UDAY, then along with the cash infusion that will be needed to pay off their power purchase dues, it would cost state governments Rs 4.32 lakh crore. To put this in perspective — this is more than what the central government spends on health, education or rural development.

Improving the financial position of discoms will require timely and adequate tariff revisions and bringing down the aggregate technical and commercial losses, among other measures. However, political parties are not only reluctant to raise power tariffs, they often try to sway the electorate with the promise of free electricity. But, now, the issue of whether subsidised/free power is a "freebie", or whether such fiscally imprudent decisions need to be regulated, are being contested with the Prime Minister targeting what he calls the culture of "revdi". While that debate has now shifted to the Supreme Court, a business-as-usual scenario is unsustainable for the power sector.

## **CUET** CHALLENGES

Snags that have riddled the test must be quickly corrected. Government must pay attention to concerns over format

HE CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES Entrance Test (CUET) was envisaged as a corrective to a system based on high marks and cut-offs. It promised to end the anxiety that many students graduating from schools to colleges and universities inevitably suffer. However, technical glitches have meant that instead of serving its stated purpose of simplifying the admission process to undergraduate courses, the new examinations have added to the stress of the youngsters. Server failures, admission cards being issued at the last minute and lack of clarity over examination centres have thrown unflattering light on the lack of preparedness of the National Testing Agency, the authority that conducts the CUET. Cancellations and rescheduling of the tests mean that the CUET will not be over before the last week of this month. Consequently, the admission procedure to the universities will stretch into September. This will, no doubt, have a spiralling effect on undergraduate timetables. The pandemic had upset academic schedules in the past two years. But the NTA must take much of the blame for this year's delay.

With an aspirant being allowed to appear in up to nine papers, resulting in more than 50,000 subject combinations, the CUET — conducted in more than 550 cities in the country and 13 foreign centres — is a much bigger exercise than the entry tests to the IITs or medical institutions. Over 1.4 million students have registered for admissions to undergraduate courses in 44 central universities, 12 state universities, 11 deemed, and 19 private universities. A lot of preparation should have gone into conducting an operation of this scale. For instance, the pivot to online education during the pandemic had shown up the country's digital deficits. The experiences of the past two years had given enough indications of the challenges the country's IT architecture would face in conducting the CUET. It's now apparent that the smooth conduct of the CUET will require an upgrade in the IT systems of at least the network of centres where the examinations are held. No time must be lost in making such improvements.

The CUET for post-graduate courses is scheduled to be held in the second week of September. Several academicians have questioned the MCQ format of these examinations. In an Idea Exchange with this paper, the Vice Chancellor of JNU, Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit, underlined that admission tests to masters-level programmes should assess the critical capacities of an aspirant and requested the government to rethink the format. The education ministry should take note of concerns such as hers. The CUET is a work in progress: The learnings from this year's experiences must not be lost on the NTA and other educational authorities.

Freeze Frame

E P Unny



## Dexterity of Nitish Kumar



His decision to ally with the RJD in Bihar has breathed new life into Indian politics

Subrata Mitra

THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF Indian politics has turned again. What does the regime change in Bihar, brought about by the "knight's move" of Nitish Kumar, signify for the country as a whole? The knight on a chess board has a unique skill. Unlike the other pieces whose movements can only be linear, the knight can both shoot-and-scoot, move forward and backward, and crab-line, step sidewise. In the hands of a grandmaster, the knight can wreak havoc, simultaneously check-mating the opponent's King while holding one of his major minions in the line of fire. The King, targeted, might escape by moving away if there is still some room to manoeuvre, but only by sacrificing the subordinate. The knight-errant from Bihar has done exactly that, and scored a local victory while still aiming at the jackpot in Delhi,

By all counts, it is a risky move. Despite the smooth regime change and re-allocation of portfolios without any visible squabbling, it is not clear if the resurgent RJD, the single largest party in Bihar assembly with a new elan in its gait, will continue to concede the same room to manoeuvre to Nitish as his previous partner. Under the leadership of young Tejashwi Yadav, the ambitious chairperson of the Mahagathbandhan, the RJD exudes the aura of a deeply entrenched regional party. It deftly combines the residual legacy of the IP movement with its M-Y network, still intact after the inter-regnum. In contrast, the BJP of Bihar, constrained by its extra-regional allegiance to Delhi and lacking a credible regional leader, cannot match it.

What, then, lies ahead? These are still early days, with two long years to go till the next general election and three years for the next assembly elections in Bihar. Nitish might have shown his hand too early. The Indian chess board might still spring a dark horse in the run-up to the next hurdle. It is not clear if the Congress party and Sonia Gandhi will give their nod for Rahul to step aside, and make room for Nitish, or for that

Risk and personal accountability are the essential ingredients of dynamism in life. This is as true for the market as in politics. Risk-taking politicians and entrepreneurs churn the field, edge out the nonperforming firms and nonfunctioning leaders, and generate new landscapes that are leaner and more efficient.

matter, concede national leadership to Tejashwi with the backing of a new model Mahagathbandhan. Besides, the BJP — as one could clearly see in the Independence Day speech of Prime Minister Modi — is a quick learner and an assiduous player. Nor can one not discount the national ambitions of Arvind Kejriwal or Mamata Banerjee. In the end, Nitish's risky gambit might fetch him the coveted top job in Indian politics as the next Prime Minister or might lead to the political wilderness.

Be that as it may, the risky manoeuvre of Nitish Kumar has certainly breathed new life into the structure of Indian politics. Risk and personal accountability are the essential ingredients of dynamism in life. This is as true for the market as in politics. Risktaking politicians and entrepreneurs churn the field, edge out the non-performing firms and non-functioning leaders, and generate new landscapes that are leaner and more efficient. Looking back to the 1960s, one can see how the risky manoeuvres of Charan Singh had unleashed the momentum that eventually led to the unravelling of the Congress system. It is not too far-fetched to anticipate a comparable polarisation, coming together of disparate constituencies, and the creation of the kind of anti-system coalition, that had brought down Indira Gandhi

The prospect might appear calamitous to those who prefer stability at any cost to the painful and risky polarisation of political forces. However, structural implications for Indian politics loom larger over and above the gloom and doom, and euphoria, at the "betrayal" of Nitish. A dose of real competition, at the level of ideas and appropriate policies, is indispensable at the current juncture for the economy, and institutionalisation of the political process. In a democracy, office, or at least a real prospect of gaining office, are the only effective antidotes against the petulance of an ineffectual Opposition whose current

politics consists mostly of sloganeering, obstructionism and working at cross-purposes. A realistic chance of gaining office might induce the fractious Opposition to move beyond the shibboleth of old slogans of "secularism" and social justice and spell out their collective visions in the areas of citizenship, completing territorial integration of the country, the role of the market in generating employment rather than additions to the state as the fountainhead of all bounties, and take a clear position on structural reform of agriculture.

The simultaneous presence of mass unemployment and inflation is a lethal mix for any party in power. The BJP cannot ignore the electoral threat of this huge potential of resentment, should it be deftly mobilised by a Nitish-Tejashwi-led Opposition. However, the likelihood of the new political constellation, causing the NDA coalition to lose some seats, as we learn from the latest opinion polls, need not necessarily be a catastrophe for the BJP. The temptation to become the new one-dominant party like the Congress in the old days, has added some slack to the sharp edges of its clear vision. A simple majority-based minimal-winning coalition, with the Opposition a whisker away from toppling it, can be therapeutic for the party. In structural terms, it might generate the kind of stable competition and political alternation between competing ideologies, championing different visions of the future, and strategies to enhance social cohesion, which is indispensable for a healthy and robust democracy.

In the long run, somebody has to bake the cake so that others can cut it up into equitable shares. How to combine this painful truth with the need to win hearts and minds, and votes, is the message that parties in the government and Opposition need to take on board as a matter of urgency.

The writer is Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Heidelberg University



## THE DAY JUSTICE DIED

Remissions in Bilkis Bano case come in the absence of remorse, reconciliation

Zakia Soman

IN A SHOCKING development, the 11 convicts sentenced to life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape and murder case were set free on our 75th Independence Day. They walked out of the Godhra jail following approval of their release by the Gujarat government under its remission policy. A senior official announced that the state government allowed for their release as they had already served 14 years in jail and keeping factors such as "age, nature of the crime, behaviour in prison" in mind. Was this a reward, or a demonstration of the state's compassion — or of its complete absence?

Justice died a thousand deaths as rapists and murderers of 14 innocent persons including a three-year-old girl were set free. Ironically, this happened as the Prime Minister gave a call for upholding Nari Shakti and the dignity of women from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the same day. Alas, it seems his words were not heard in his own state.

Gujarat was engulfed in communal violence following the burning of the Sabarmati Express on February 27, 2002. Bilkis, five months pregnant, and her family fled when an armed mob attacked their neighbourhood. They were hiding in a field when 30-40 men carrying swords, sticks and sickles attacked them. Seven of her family members were killed on the spot. The key accused smashed her infant daughter with a rock. Bilkis was gang-raped and given up for dead. She survived and reached the police station with the help of some villagers. For over a year, the police tried to cover up the matter. Following public uproar, the culprits were arrested in 2004. In 2008, the special CBI court gave life

Remission might fall well within the legal entitlements of a prisoner but can it be viewed sans any sign of the realisation of the wrongdoing, leave alone guilt or remorse? What is the message that goes out to the survivors of sexual assault and communal violence?

imprisonment to some of the accused while acquitting some for lack of evidence. In 2018. the Bombay High Court upheld the conviction and set aside the acquittal of others.

Bilkis Bano became the symbol of hope for survivors of the Gujarat violence. The verdict in her case gave hope for justice to all survivors of brutal sexual assaults, countrywide. Bilkis fought courageously in the face of tremendous hardships including hostilities and threats from perpetrators and their political supporters. In 2019, the Supreme Court directed the government of Gujarat to pay Bilkis a compensation of Rs 50 lakh.

Remission might fall well within the legal entitlements of a prisoner but can it be viewed sans any sign of the realisation of the wrong-doing, leave alone guilt or remorse? What is the message that goes out to the survivors of sexual assault and communal violence?

Remission may not qualify as a legal precedent but it may end up influencing the mindset of those involved in judicial machinery. It may give a message that those guilty of gang rape and murder can be free after serving a 14-year jail term. It may give a message that dastardly crimes can be washed off by merely serving a jail sentence. Meanwhile, the victim suffers the irreparable loss of the lives of loved ones.

Let us remember that more than a thousand lives were lost and many more were injured in the communal violence in Gujarat in 2002. The National Human Rights Commission noted in its report that thousands of homes were burnt down and lakhs of innocent citizens were forced to flee and take

shelter in relief camps across the state. Mob attacks and killings continued even as villages and cities remained under curfew for almost 10 months. There was a shortage of food, rations and medicines for those in the relief camps. The survivors had to run from pillar to post for registering complaints and filing FIRs. The humanitarian crisis failed to move the state machinery into action. Ultimately, the efforts to provide relief and succour to the displaced were led by civil society organisations, voluntary groups and activists. There were no efforts or any talk of harmony or healing touch from those in the government.

Apart from the need to respect women, the PM also talked about the need to shed the evils of divisiveness in his Independence Day speech. It is not too late even now for the state government to heed the PM. The wrongs done to innocents who suffered in 2002 must at least be acknowledged. Remission for the accused in one of the most gruesome incidents of sexual violence against a woman and an innocent family is like rubbing salt into the wounds of the survivors.

As the nation celebrates Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a daughter who underwent unspeakable brutalities and suffering is looking on helplessly as those who badgered her walk out of prison. Several more like her who await justice could lose hope. I can only hope that those sitting at the top of the Gujarat government listen and act on the PM's call to respect the dignity of women.

The writer is a women's rights activist and founding member of Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan



### August 22, 1982, Forty Years Ago

### Press Lathi-charged

OVER 30 JOURNALISTS were seriously injured, many of them sustaining bleeding wounds on their head and limbs, when a riot squad of the CRPF brutally lathi-charged a peaceful, silent procession on its way to Raj Bhawan to present a memorandum against the press curbs bill. The operation was directed by the city police superintendent, US Dutta.

### BOEING HIJACKING

THE EXACT CIRCUMSTANCES of the killing of the IA Boeing hijacker, Manjit Singh, alias Museebat Singh, at Amritsar airport, remain cloaked in mystery, partly because of a Union government ban on the disclosure of any information pertaining to the hijacker's death. Questioned at length, four crew members of the hijacked plane narrated all the events leading to the shooting, except the shooting itself.

PLO EVACUATION

BEIRUT RESOUNDED TO the roar of thousands of guns as the besieged west sideof the city bade farewell to Palestinian fighters. The traditional tribute of firing rifles into the air reached a crescendo as the first commandos sailed to Cyprus. Over the next two weeks, about 15,000 Palestinian guerrillas and Syrian troops are due to be dispersed among eight Arab countries.

### AFGHANISTAN TALKS

VITAL TALKS UNDER the UN auspices are likely to take place in New York next month for finding a peaceful settlement of the 32month-old Afghanistan problem. This follows the first round of indirect talks Diego Cordovez, the UN Secretary-General's, had in Geneva last June with Pakistan Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan, Afghanistan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammed Dost, and the Iranian ambassador Jafar Mahallati.

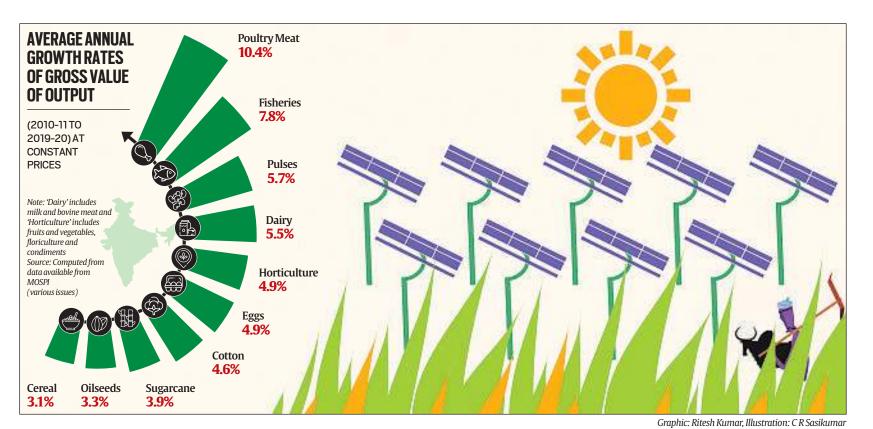
THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

## THE IDEAS PAGE

### WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"If the Indian state is serious about upholding justice, then the convicted criminals who assaulted Bilkis Bano should be sent back to jail."

– DAWN, PAKISTAN



## For Amrit Kaal in agriculture

By making solar energy the 'third crop', promoting this innovation on a mission mode, the government can double farmers' income



BY ASHOK GULATI

AS WE CELEBRATE 75 years of Independence

and enter the Amrit Kaal toward 2047, it is time to salute our freedom fighters, soldiers, farmers, scientists, and all those who have contributed to the development of this country. The famous slogan of late Lal Bahadur Shastri, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," was extended by Atal Bihari Vajpayee to include "Jai Vigyan". Now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended it to, "Jai Anusandhan".

Let us focus on Indian agriculture and see what our farmers and agri-scientists have achieved in the last 75 years, and what more innovations (anusandhan) need to be made in the agri-food space by 2047 to have a well-fed India, with zero hunger, almost no malnutrition, climate resilience, and high incomes for

When India became independent in 1947, its population was roughly 340 million, which has gone up by a little more than four times now, and is likely to surpass China by 2023. By 2050, the country's population is likely to be 1.66 billion, as per the latest UN Population reports. So, the biggest challenge will be feeding a country whose per capita income still hovers around \$2,300. The per capita income is likely to grow between 5 to 6 per cent per annum, under normal conditions. As they rise from low-income levels, people are likely to demand not just more food but safe and nutritious food. So, the first challenge would be to align our agri-policies and strategies to the emerging demand pattern. A clue of this can be had by looking at the last 10 years or so at how the different components of agriculture

The infographic clearly shows that poul-

try and fisheries have the fastest growth, while it has been the slowest in cereal production. Government intervention is the most in cereals through the massive procurement of rice and wheat. While those sub-sectors that rely on market forces, no matter how imperfect, still perform better. The policy implication is very clear: Promote and get the markets right, which will help unleash revolutionary growth in agriculture.

But in the next 25 years, we need to go beyond just increasing production. We need to focus on the food system as a composite entity. It has five dimensions - production, marketing, and consumption are the traditional part of the food system, but two more must be added now. The environmental sustainability of our food systems and their nutritional outcomes are of utmost importance. And at the centre of this five-dimensional food system is the issue of farmers' income.

We know from past experience that in our efforts to boost production and convert the country's food situation from "ship to mouth" in the mid-1960s to emerging as the largest exporter of rice in the world (21 mmt in FY22), we have neglected the environmental consequences that have ensued. It is time to wake up now and promote climate-resilient agriculture. We need to arrest the dramatic decline in our groundwater table, particularly in the northwest, rejuvenate our soils, and improve the air quality by stopping/reducing stubble burning and methane emissions. We need to develop carbon markets so that farmers can be incentivised to change existing farming practices that are not compatible with environmental sustainability. This requires innovations in policies, technologies related to precision farming as well as institutional engineering to include millions of smallholders - as we did in the case of the white (milk) revolution.

The digitisation of agriculture can help in this. We need to become a nation of innovators in agriculture like Israel, Holland, and

However, making the agri-food system vibrant and competitive requires significantly

augmenting farmers' incomes. Against the

holding size from 2.3 hectares in 1970-71 to just 1.08 hectares in 2015-16, cereals can not give high incomes to farmers even when their productivity is increased. Diversification toward high-value crops is a must as we move forward. It will require building efficient value chains by the private sector. Policies need to create an ecosystem to promote this form of high-value agriculture and reduce the risks attached to it. But a few out-of-the-box innovations can

backdrop of continuously declining average

almost double farmers' incomes quickly. And one such innovation is to have "solar as a third crop" on fields. On one acre of cultivated land, which grows two crops a year, one can have more than 400 solar panels (trees) of 10 to 12 feet in height, with due spacing for regular cultivation to continue. Solar energy generated from 400 panels will be the "third crop" that can be bought by the power companies and incorporated into the grid for distribution. A pilot programme in the Najafgarh KVK area revealed that farmers could earn additional income of up to Rs one lakh/acre, when the capital cost is being incurred by another entrepreneur. This concept needs wider validation in different states with good sunshine. This is the "inclusive growth, green growth" model that needs to supplement the solar parks model being developed by big entrepreneurs.

In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a clarion call to double farmers' incomes by 2022-23. That can be done through a single innovation, provided he makes it a campaign and mobilises investors, farmers. renewable power companies, and discoms in that direction.

Can PM Modi use his social capital and powers of mobilisation, as witnessed recently in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, for a "Har Khet Main Saur Urja" (solar power in every farmer's field) project? If he does so, we can have clean energy in rural areas, and double and stabilise farmers' incomes. Only then can we say PM Modi's slogan of "Jai Anusandhan" has come true.

Gulati is Distinguished Professor at ICRIER.

# in Court

Too many balls

The promise that Supreme Court's insistence of players as administrators would transform sporting bodies is belied



SANDEEP DWIVEDI

PEACOCKS WERE NOT the only ones strutting around the Supreme Court lawns that day. In front of a gaggle of cameras, proud petitioners, and their lawyers were weaving words like "historic" and "monumental" in sentences that would end with "this is the dawn of an era in Indian cricket".

July 18, 2016, was the much-awaited judgement day. It came close to three years after the IPL spot-fixing case had reached the Supreme Court. The country's highest seat of justice had passed its final order that agreed to the wholescale changes that the Justice R M Lodha committee had recommended to the BCCI constitution. It had the necessary trappings for the men in black robes to give it the halo of "landmark ruling".

The order was the outcome of an extensive drafting process and long-drawn, epic courtroom drama. Several chief justices, part of changing benches, had heard arguments from "Rs 25-lakh-per-hearing" rockstar lawyers. The solicitor general too appeared in the case where the BCCI reportedly spent Rs 350 crore on legal fees.

The best legal minds in the country had worked towards what seemed like a final closure. There was a sense of relief among the cricket reporters covering court proceedings that day. More used to working in the din of sprawling cricket stadiums, the crammed corner of the court's visiting gallery was too restrictive. The surroundings were way too formal.

There were other peeves of the "outsiders" who had made a habit of trooping into the SC. Why, like in the post-match press conferences, can't they place their dictaphone on the judge's table? The legal beat regulars would roll their eyes. They would train the newbies to crane their necks, place the ear strategically and be diligent about taking notes. This came with a warning about the dire consequences of misquoting their Lordships.

But the hope that cricket battles would henceforth be confined in stadiums proved to be wishful thinking. July 18, 2016 didn't live up to its promise, in many ways.

The BCCI would cherry-pick clauses from the new SC-approved constitution and return to court to plead to rewrite the rewrite. It's been six years, the SC order hasn't been fully implemented. The sports reporters' court visits haven't stopped; they have become more regular.

To the horror of those who signed up to make the sporting arenas their place of work, now even the national bodies for Olympic, football, hockey and few others are in court. The classic sports body reforms playbook is out again. Like in cricket, the SC-handpicked Committee Administrators (CoA) are in-charge of all major sports in the country.

Unsurprisingly, the veteran administrators have gone out kicking and shouting, some trying their best to call the shots through proxies. The churning has been ugly, it has thrown up ugly consequences -- threats of international bans and administrative uncertainty. Each of these national federations isn't a shining example in

sporting governance. They have been the fiefdoms of a handful. But what about the track record of the courts in handling these situations? Have their intentions matched the implementation?

In a court of law, a precedent is a vital tool used to carve out justice. It's a doctrine, a binding principle of jurisprudence that ensures consistency and fairness. Post 2016, the changes that cricket went through can give clues on the fate that awaits football and others. But the findings aren't too encouraging for those wanting to witness a 'new era' in football. Despite being under judicial scrutiny for the longest time, the BCCI continues to be governed like it was. The initial SC order of 2016 hasn't been implemented either in letter or spirit.

Cricket's constitutional ambiguity continues since the BCCI's plea, pointing to practical difficulties in implementing the Lodha reforms, is still pending. They have objected to the "cooling off" clause and that has resulted in the president Sourav Ganguly and secretary Jay Shah staying on despite their tenure getting over. The power coterie has further shrunk and the promised player empowerment has remained in the legal documents. The cricket case breeds cynicism and questions the purpose of the time-consuming, expensive exercise.

The football revamp to some extent follows the cricket template. The courts and the committees they appoint have unflinching faith in the credibility of former players. They are firm believers that bringing former players into the system would ensure good governance.

The CoA in-charge of football is of the view that the 50 per cent of the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) executive committee should comprise "eminent players" as co-opted members. It's ironic that around the time India was reserving the players' seats in the executive, the celebrated French footballer Michel Platini was being handed a jail sentence for a financial fraud he committed as FIFA vice president.

When the CoA left the BCCI, Ganguly, the charismatic former Indian captain, became the president. The optics were outstanding, the courts had snatched the powers from the fuddy duddy administrators and put in charge a proven leader of cricketers on field. Ganguly's stint at Cricket Centre has been anything but sparkling. As BCCI president he has continued his commercial associations that have repeatedly raised conflict of interest questions. His very public difference with India's No.1 cricketer Virat Kohli too didn't give the impression that the house was in order and it is only the players who understand players. It's an open secret in cricket circles that it is secretary Shah who holds the real

power in the BCCI. Despite their aura as national stars and the push from the courts, the players haven't been able to assert themselves. They remain vulnerable to temptations and lack conviction in taking on the old guard. In a nutshell, they remain human. Perhaps, football will be a different story, the courts might have learnt their lesson.

Till the end game, sports reporters will continue to drag their feet to the courts, crane their necks and take notes diligently. From the corner of the courts, they will watch if the courts just crack the whip or this time they are even able to bell cats.

sandeep.dwivedi@expressindia.com



## Broken pitchers, 100 years apart

On one acre of cultivated

a year, one can have more

due spacing for regular

land, which grows two crops

than 400 solar panels (trees)

of 10 to 12 feet in height, with

cultivation to continue. Solar

energy generated from 400

that can be bought by the

incorporated into the grid

power companies and

for distribution.

panels will be the 'third crop'

Jagjivan Ram was lucky not to get killed as a child. Indra Meghwal wasn't

Anshul Avijit

IN 1922, IN Ara Town School in Bihar, two pitchers of water were kept in the courtyard one, for upper-caste, "savarna" Hindus, pure and noble, the other for the so-called "untouchables", victims of the greatest social betrayal in human history. My grandfather, Babu Jagjivan Ram, an ace student of the school, one day smashed the prohibited pitcher and told the principal to keep only one for all students. There was outrage, blows, and boycott, but the young Jagjivan Ram was insistent. He somehow survived the rebellion — my mother, Meira Kumar, says that it was a "miracle" that he didn't end up dead — and went on to fight many more such battles throughout his political life. They can never be enough.

A hundred years later — after freedom, democracy, and a million pledges to equity -Indra Meghwal, a nine-year-old boy from Jalore, Rajasthan, got killed, allegedly for that very reason. Witnesses say he was also viciously abused as he was being beaten, as his ears were being torn and his eyes crushed. Death wasn't immediate, it made him linger for 14 days more. Indra had dared to drink from the pitcher of Chail Singh, the uppercaste principal of the school, a man so driven by caste entitlement and hatred that it was only death, a hate-filled sacrifice, that could keep the tradition alive. To give a Dalit boy access to education, the historical preserve of the "dwija" or the "twice-born", was bad enough; to have him break the boundaries of food and drink was a cardinal transgression. The principal has been arrested, and FIRs lodged under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act but like my grandfather used to say, "You can legislate laws, but how do you

legislate on mindsets?" In the early days of Babu Jagjivan Ram, the Dalits had to carry a spittoon around their neck so that the streets were not soiled by their indiscretion, and a broom tied on their back to automatically sweep the polluted pathway as they walked. Their shadow was a curse, not just in terms of a demonic presence, but like something truly repugnant. My grandfather was banished from his hostel at Banares Hindu University and was told to cook food separately; ultimately he had to move out, not only from the hostel, but from the city itself, completing his graduation from Calcutta. But many years later, in 1978, when he returned to Banares as the Deputy Prime Minister to garland the statue of former UP CM Sampurnanand, it appeared that little had changed. The statue was later purified with gangaial by angry, abusive students, calling out the audacity of breaching the cast trenches.

There has been improvement in the past 75 years since Independence with constitutional rights and laws, social reform, capitalism and political confidence. But one can also argue that despite the empowerment, the "mindset" has not changed. Meira Kumar argues that the caste system is about "voice", since "the system filters those whose voices should be heard and those who should remain voiceless. At the moment, the Dalit voices are too feeble to be heard, too mild to be registered." So political power may not necessarily lead to social emancipation. For example, there is the story of a Dalit MLA from Madhya Pradesh, some years back, who carried his own steel glass to avoid soiling utensils in uppercaste homes, a habit that won him much approval from the latter. Meira Kumar also remembers a woman MLA from a northern state who lost the support of upper castes the moment she decided to take independent, sovereign decisions on appointments and funds distribution. And then there are the pitiful stories of many other Dalit lawmakers who routinely touch the feet of upper-caste men and women, young and old, to reassure their fragile self-image that caste still thrives at the heart of Indian modernity. Even here, actual physical contact is avoided, the gestural buckling of the Dalit to the greater social order is enough. Caste longevity could have survived due

to a system of Karmic psycho-tyranny, where historically, many Dalits become complicit in their own subjugation. Karma insists on a foreshadowing of fate, where reward and punishment in the next life, or placement in the caste hierarchy, are determined by "good behaviour" in this life. In other words, Dalits are told to embrace their doom, stick to the rules and never break them. Jagjivan Ram's book, Caste Challenge in India, details this metaphysical perversity. In my own experience, I remember a member of our staff, a middle-aged Dalit woman from Bihar, who thought poorly of a Brahmin guest because he had accepted water and food from her "impure" hands.

This vulnerability of caste, as an immutable social space, can be explained through the logic of pure-impure, arguably the central axis of the caste structure. By this logic, the customary privileges of upper castes, their purity and social purpose, can only be legitimised and maintained by their very denial at its opposite end. A suvarna can only exist if an avarna does. One wonders as we read about more and more instances of such atrocities if the old order is not fighting back, empowering itself through the sacrifice of those who are karmically condemned. How many more nine-year-olds have to be killed before the 'mindset changes"? This is the caste system, India's grisly offering to humanity.

The writer is National Spokesperson, Indian National Congress

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### FRACTURED PARTY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Battle for AIADMK'. The HC order has no doubt boosted the morale of the O Panneerselvam group. But it will not last long. His rival Edappadi K Palaniswami wields enormous power through the rank and file of the party workers. The AIADMK has been factionridden since J Jayalalithaa died. It has and continues to damage the party. So long as the question of leadership remains unsolved, the party is unlikely to be a serious challenge to the Stalin-led DMK state government. It will, thus, fail to perform its duty as an alert Opposition.

Samiul Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

### HISTORY LESSON

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Raising the dead', (IE, August 20). Our obsession with the past and our simultaneous disenchantment with the lessons it offers is surprising. Instead of spending \$15 million on a single species, we can improve the condition of the biodiversity at present by finding a viable alternative to plastic, cleaning the oceans, and reducing poverty. Corporations must

understand - the follies of humanity lie in past lessons and we must pay heed

Abhishek Kumar Anshu. Patna

### STEP BACKWARD

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'CUET is not KBC' (IE, August 20). Social sciences are all about critical thinking, which MCQs cannot examine. MCQ-type examinations would kill students' imagination. The "ratta maar" technique a week before the examination is a common practice in India. This needs to change, not be enabled further. CUET is a step backward.

Ranjit Shinde, via email

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'CUET is not KBC' (IE, August 20). The author raises some pertinent issues regarding CUET. Introduction of MCQ-based entrance tests is fit for screening purposes in order to trim the number of applicants. But it is not a viable method to ascertain the cognitive and analytical faculties of students. The analytical scope required for social sciences would be left untested. MCQ-type exams also diminish the writing capacity of students.

Pinki Mahawar Awasthi , Lucknow

# 14 THE WORLD



JAPAN PM

## KISHIDA TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID

Fumio Kishida, who has just returned from a week-long vacation, will work from his residence from Monday and will join the Tokyo International Conference on African Development online.

Polio in US, UK and

TOPOFTHE \_ WORLD



**Ex-PM Imran Khan** 

### **PAKISTAN** Khan booked on anti-terrorism charges

**OUSTED PM Imran Khan** has been booked under the Anti-Terrorism Act over his Islamabad rally a day ago, it emerged on Sunday. The case surfaced hours after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday said that the government was mulling to file a case against Khan. The FIR reads that Khan in his speech had "terrorised and threatened top police officials and a respected female additional sessions judge" with the aim to make them abstain from pursuing any action against any member of his party.

### **GERMANY** 2/3 of Germans not happy with Scholz: survey

AROUND TWO thirds of Germans are unhappy with the work of German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and his fractious coalition, according to a survey published Sunday. Only 25 % of Germans believe the Social Democrat is doing his job well, down from 46% in March, according to the poll by Insa for "Bild am Sonntag" weekly. By contrast 62 % of Germans think Scholz is doing his job badly, a record number compared to 39% in March. Critics have been accusing teh Chancellor of not showing sufficient lead-**REUTERS** 

### Gota can return, but must be tried: Opp party

SRI LANKA'S former Gotabaya President Rajapaksa has the right to return to the country, but he must be tried for allegations of misuse of funds since he does not enjoy legal immunity, main Opposition party Samagi Jana Balawegaya has said. "Gotabaya Rajapaksa is a citizen of this country and he has the right to return to his motherland... However, he should be tried for the allegations of misuse of funds," Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) CEO Ajith P Perera was quoted as saying by the Daily Mirror newspaper. Gotabaya feld the country and resigned last month after coming under fire over a growing economic

### FRESH SHELLING NEAR NUCLEAR PLANT

# Zelenskyy warns of 'ugly, vicious' attack by Russia before Ukraine's I-Day events

Says Ukrainians must not allow Moscow to spread fear

**REUTERS** AUGUST 21

south and east.

**PRESIDENT** VOLODYMYR Zelenskyy urged vigilance ahead of Wednesday's celebrations of 31 years of Ukraine's independence from Soviet rule, as shells rained down near Europe's biggest nuclear plant and Russian forces struck in the

Ukrainians must not allow Moscow to "spread despondency and fear" ahead of the August 24 events, which also mark six months since Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address on Saturday.

"We must all be aware that this week Russia could try to do something particularly ugly, something particularly vicious,"

The nightly curfew in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, regularly hit by Russian shelling, will be extended for the entire day on Wednesday, re-



Ukraine's Independence Day on August 24 will also mark six months since Russia began its full-scale invasion of the country. Reuters

gional Governor Oleh Synehub told residents on the Telegram messaging app

The city of Nikopol, which lies across the Dnipro river from Zaporizhzhia, Europe's biggest nuclear plant, was shelled on five different occasions overnight, regional governor Valentyn Reznichenko wrote on Telegram. He said 25 artillery shells hit the city, causing a fire at an industrial

premises and cutting power to 3,000 residents.

The fighting near the Russian-controlled plant and Saturday's missile strike at the southern Ukrainian town of Voznesensk, not far from the country's second-largest nuclear plant, has revived fears of a nuclear accident.

The attack on Voznesensk was "another act of Russian nuclear terrorism", state-run Energoatom, which manages Ukraine's four nuclear energy generators, said in a statement.

Russia did not immediately respond to the accusation. There were no reports of damage to the power plant.

Moscow and Ukraine continue to trade accusations of shelling

### Moscow used hypersonic missile three times so far

Moscow: Russia has deployed hypersonic Kinzhal (Dagger) missiles three times in Ukraine so far, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Sunday.

The Kinzhal missiles are part of an array of new hypersonic weapons President Vladimir Putin presented in 2018 in a bellicose speech in which he said they could hit almost any point in the world and evade a USbuilt missile shield.

Shoigu, speaking on state television, said the missiles had proved effective in hitting highvalue targets on all three occasions, hailing them as without compare and as almost impossible to take down when in flight.

"We have deployed it three times during the special military operation," Shoigu told Rossiya 1. "And three times it showed brilliant characteristics.'

Russia first used the Kinzhal system in Ukraine about a month after sending tens of thousands of troops into its neighbour's territory, striking a large weapons depot in Ivano-Frankivsk region. REUTERS

## Israel reveals rare risk of oral vaccine

**MARIA CHENG** LONDON, AUGUST 21

FOR YEARS, global health officials have used billions of drops of an oral vaccine in a remarkably effective campaign aimed at wiping out polio in its last remaining strongholds - typically, poor, politically unstable corners of the world.

Now, in a surprising twist in the decades-long effort to eradicate the virus, authorities in Jerusalem, New York and London have discovered evidence that polio is spreading there.

The original source of the virus? The oral vaccine itself.

Scientists have long known about this extremely rare phenomenon. That is why some countries have switched to other polio vaccines. But these incidental infections from the oral formula are becoming more glaring as the number of polio cases caused by the wild, or naturally circulating, virus plum-

Since 2017, there have been 396 cases of polio caused by the wild virus, versus more than 2.600 linked to the oral vaccine according to figures from the WHO and its partners.

"We are basically replacing the wild virus with the virus in the vaccine, which is now leading to new outbreaks," said Scott Barrett, a Columbia University professor

**Exploiting** 

disruptions

FORCED TO retreat from

Shabab is slowly making a

comeback, taking advan-

tage of rifts among Somali

between the government seat in Mogadishu and

security personnel as

regional states.

well as disagreements

Mogadishu in 2011, al-



Since 2017, there have been 2,600 cases of polio linked to the oral vaccine. File

who has studied polio eradication. Earlier this year, officials in Israel detected polio in an unvaccinated 3-year-old, who suffered paralysis. In June, British authorities reported finding evidence in sewage that the virus was spreading, though no infections in people were identified. In the US, an unvaccinated

young adult suffered paralysis after being infected with polio, New York officials revealed last month. The virus has also shown up in New York sewers, suggesting it is spreading. Genetic analyses showed

that the viruses in the three countries were all mutated versions of a virus that originated in the oral vaccine.

The oral vaccine at issue, used since 1988, can can also cause polio in about two to four children per 2 million doses. In extremely rare cases, the weakened virus can also sometimes mutate into a more dangerous form and spark outbreaks. AP

### **AMID CHINA TENSIONS**

## Japan looks to deploy its long-range missiles

**REUTERS** TOKYO, AUGUST 21

Sunday.

JAPAN IS considering the deployment of 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to boost its counterattack capability against China, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on

The missiles would be existing arms modified to extend their range from 100 km to 1,000 km, the daily said, citing government sources

The arms, launched by ships or aircraft, would be stationed mainly around the southern Nansei islands and capable of reaching the coastal areas of North Korea and China, the Yomiuri said.

Representatives from Japan's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report. Japan, which interprets its

war-renouncing postwar constitution to mean it may use its military only for self-defense, has refrom deploying frained long-range missiles, among its limits on weapons that can strike targets on foreign soil.

Regional tensions ratcheted up this month after a visit by Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the US House of Representatives, to Taiwan.

China, which claims democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory despite the Taipei government's strong obiections, has been carrying out military exercises and drills near Taiwan since Pelosi made a two-day visit to the country earlier this month.

**OMAR FARUK** MOGADISHU, AUGUST 21

SOMALI AUTHORITIES on Sunday ended a deadly attack in which 21 people were killed and dozens more wounded when gunmen stormed a hotel in the capital. It took Somali forces more

than 30 hours to contain the fighters who had stormed Mogadishu's Hayat Hotel on Friday evening.

The siege ended around midnight, police commissioner Abdi Hassan Hijar told reporters. "During the attack, the security forces rescued many civilians trapped in the hotel, including women and children," he said. Health Minister Dr. Ali Haii

Adam reported 21 deaths and 117 people wounded, with at least 15 in critical condition.



Al-Shabab siege on Somalia hotel ends;

21 killed, 117 wounded, hostages rescued

Outside the hotel in Mogadishu on Sunday. Reuters

tailed explanation of the attack. Ismail Abdi, the hotel's manager, said early Sunday that security forces were still working to clear the area. No more gunfire could be heard after 9 a.m.

The Islamic extremist group sive against the group, with the al-Shabab, which has ties with al-Qaida, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Somalia's new leader, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, has said his government will take the offen-

Singapore to repeal law on sex

between consenting men: PM

backing of returning US forces. Al-Shabab charged via its

Andalus radio station that the attack was a response his assertion that he would eliminate the group from Somalia.

## **UAE** envoy to return to Tehran after six years

ASSOCIATED PRESS DUBAI, AUGUST 21

THE UAE plans to reinstate its ambassador to Iran for the first time in six years, the Emirati Foreign Ministry announced Sunday, as the Gulf Arab federation accelerates efforts to improve ties with the nation it has long viewed as a regional threat.

Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi will return to Tehran in the coming days to "continue pushing bilateral relations forward to achieve the common interests of the two neighbors and the region." the UAE's state-run WAM

news agency reported. The move comes as American and Iranian diplomats now seek to end 16 months of negotiations over the revival of Tehran's landmark nuclear deal

with world powers. Last week, Kuwait appointed

a new ambassador to Tehran for the first time since 2016. Ties between the Gulf Arab

sheikhdoms and Iran deteriorated after Iranian crowds stormed two Saudi diplomatic missions in Tehran to protest against the kingdom's execution of a prominent Shiite cleric, In 2016, the UAE summoned home its ambassador in Tehran, Relations between the countries soured further as the UAE backed former President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal and so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic.

But Abu Dhabi sought to reconsider after Iran was blamed for a series of attacks on oil tankers off the coast of the UAE and on Saudi oil facilities in 2019.

## Dozens killed in flash flooding in Afghanistan, Pakistan, say officials

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 21

HEAVY FLOODING from seasonal rains in eastern Afghanistan and neighboring parts of Pakistan left dozens of people dead overnight, according to local officials on Sunday.

Abdullah Mufaker, head of the natural disaster response authority in Logar province, said it was still unknown how many were killed and injured by the rising waters but that there were at least nine fatalities.

"The people have gone to remove the dead bodies," he said.



Damaged homes in Khushi district, Logar province. AP

In Pakistan, flooding killed at least 36 people, including 11 dead in areas bordering

Afghanistan. Last week, heavy rains set off flash floods that

### RICHARD C PADDOCK AUGUST 21

SINGAPORE'S PRIME Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, said on Sunday that the government would repeal the country's colonial-era law criminalizing sex between men, a step long sought by gay rights advocates, but that same-sex marriage would continue to be illegal.

Reversing his long-held opposition to decriminalising gay sex, Lee said he believed that the conservative nation was willing to accept the idea of sex between consenting men and revoke the law, known as Section 377A. Gay

rights advocates had sought to overturn it, arguing that it stigmatizes gay men and promotes discrimination. The law, enacted in 1938 during British rule, does not apply to women.

The government will repeal Section 377A and decriminalize sex between men," Lee said in his televised National Day Rally speech, an annual policy address. Delivering versions of his

speech in Malay, Mandarin and English, the Prime Minister said he would propose a constitutional amendment to protect Singapore's definition of marriage, which provides for marriage only between one man and

"Let me reassure everyone that in handling the issue, the government will continue to uphold families as the basic building blocks of society," he said. "We will keep our policies on family and marriage unchanged and maintain the prevailing norms and social values of our society.'

Lee said that he was handling the issue carefully, and he portrayed his proposal as a compromise between competing interests. "Every group must accept that it cannot get everything it wants because it is simply not

## AWARDED THE TITLE 'NIGHTINGALE OF PAKISTAN' IN 2006

## Nayyara Noor, whose voice mesmerised millions in Pak and India, dies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI, AUGUST 21

CELEBRATED PAKISTANI singer Nayyara Noor, adored by millions from both sides of the border for her soulful melodies. passed away after a brief illness, her family said on Sunday, bringing the curtains down on the life of one of the last musical icons to represent the shared culture of India and Pakistan.

Noor was 71, and had been under treatment for quite some time in Karachi, media reports

"It is with heavy heart that I announce the passing of my beloved aunt (tayi) Nayyara Noor. May her soul R.I.P.." her nephew Raza Zaidi tweeted.

Noor leaves behind an enviable legacy and a treasure trove of mellifluous renditions.

Born in Guwahati, India, in 1950, Noor's father was an active member of the All-India Muslim League and hosted Pakistan's founding father Muhammad Ali innah during his trip to Pakistan before the Partition in 1947.

Sometime in 1958, her family migrated to Lahore in Pakistan's Punjab province.

"Education was the be-all and end-all of our existence but music was the main source of entertainment," the Dawn newspaper quoted her as saying.

While regaling her friends and teachers during a musical function at her alma mater - National College of Arts in Lahore — Professor Asrar Ahmad of Islamia College spotted her burgeoning talent. Soon, Noor found herself singing for the university's Radio Pakistan programmes.

In 1971, she made her playback singing debut in Pakistani television serials and then seamlessly transitioned to films like



The mehfil singer enjoyed a cult-like following among ghazal lovers in both countries. YouTube

She won the Nigar Award for the best female playback singer for Gharana Noor will be best known for

her ghazals. She performed at mehfils, enjoying a cult-like following among ghazal lovers in Pakistan and India.

Her famous ghazal rendition was Ae Jazba-e-Dil Ghar Main Chahoon, written by Behzad Lucknavi, a renowned Urdu poet.

Noor also sang ghazals penned by poets like Ghalib, Faiz Ahmed Faiz and also performed with the likes of Mehdi Hassan.

Barkha barse chat per, a rare Hindi poem by Faiz, which she rendered with her husband Sheharyar Zaidi in 1976 on his birthday was perhaps her most celebrated work. At the peak of her career,

Noor decided to marry Zaidi, and with time became finicky about doing live performances. "Music has been a passion

with me but never been my top priority. I was a student and a daughter first and a singer later. After my marriage my primary roles have been those of a wife and a mother," she had told the Dawn newspaper.

Noor was honoured with the "Bulbul-e-Pakistan' (Nightingale of Pakistan) in 2006. In 2006, she was honoured with the "Pride of Performance

Award," and by 2012, she bid adieu to her professional singing career. Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, while expressing grief

over Noor's demise, said her death is "an irreparable damage" to the music world. 'Be it a ghazal or a song,

whatever Nayyara Noor sang, she sang it with perfection. The void created by Nayyara Noor's death will never be filled," he tweeted.

# 15 IDEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

I'm also nominated by the present government, they cannot call me tukdetukde. We have to change the image. It's more about communication and a consistent dialogue with all. I always tell my students and faculty, we are in it together

### SUKRITA BARUAH: Would you like to begin with a few opening remarks?

Jawaharlal Nehru University, by all ratings, both government and private, is India's number one institution. It represents what I call the D-five: Democracy. Development, Difference, Dissent and Diversity. I would also say that I'm very concerned, being a JNU-ite myself, that the real image of JNU has to be represented by the people who have made it the number one university rather than by the lunatic fringe. We represent tradition with modernity, realm with region and change with continuity — we are the only university that is all India. We still have fees at Rs 10 rupees and Rs 20 - no other institute of higher learning can match us on this. So, if any government talks about inclusion, with equity and excellence, Jawaharlal Nehru University is the best example of sabke saath, sabka vikas.

#### SUKRITA BARUAH: When you took charge, the first statement issued by your office said that the focus would be on 'constructing Indo-centric narratives.' Could you explain what you meant by that?

I think all universities have to be open to all narratives. I'm not against any narrative as long as everybody has a space. That's why I said I'm for dissent, difference and diversity. I'm not saying that this is good, or that is bad. There has to be an acceptance of multiple narratives. You can't have hegemony of only one narrative. Unfortunately, in JNU, there is no space for others. So, I say ignorance cannot be the starting point. Let us widen our areas, bring in new perspectives, each from their own regions, or even from different ideologies. Truth may be one but there are several paths to it is our motto – ekam sat vipraha ĥadhuda vandanti. I'm just saying open up all the paths.

### SUKRITA BARUAH: In the last threefour years, we've seen a lot of animosity between the JNU administration, students, student representatives, and even teacher representatives. Is that something that you think needs to be addressed urgently?

When I had joined, the atmosphere was very suspicious of anybody being appointed by the government. But after they ferent people. My office is open to any faculty or student any time of the day. I visit hostels, I have food with them. I think there is always a way of resolution. We can agree to disagree, there is no harm in it, but there may not be any animosity. I think that has worked. Let me also give credit to both the faculty and the students. I've told them I don't see people through ideological lenses. Everybody is a JNU-ite, first and last. As long as you're a part of this community, we are an epistemic community. That is how JNU should be. This is a space that has to be more liberating as well as invigorating, intellectually and otherwise.

### RITIKA CHOPRA: You spoke of the hegemony of one narrative and a lunatic fringe which seems to be influencing the image of the university. Could you elaborate on that?

The Left has been dominant in JNU and they've done very good work. But the problem comes when they say other narratives cannot exist. There has been systematic discrimination on those who differ. Indian history is only Romila Thapar and Bipan Chandra. But there is RC Majumdar, Jadunath Sarkar, Nilakanta Sastri — all of them have been thrown out. This type of exclusion creates problems not only for them, for the other side also. I don't want to do reverse discrimination. I am asking for coexistence of all. All of us have multiple identities, and I can project any identity just by context and circumstances. Every university has a lunatic fringe. There are troublemakers, they can be left, right, centre, anything. But they cannot define the identity of the university.

See JNU was made to look anti-national, urban Naxal, tukde-tukde gang Please give me a break. There are three ministers in the present cabinet who are alumni of JNU. Seventy per cent of the bureaucracy is from the University, and, even in academia, I think 50 per cent. When we are contributing to the nation, how are we anti-national? I would not say the lunatic fringe is from any ideology, It is those who believe in creating disturbance and violence for the sake of violence. JNU cannot be penalised because of that group. You would have seen recently in Parliament, all other top universities in the top 10 or top 20 got eminence grants of Rs 1,000 crore. Their budget has increased three times. The least increase was for JNU. Why are we not given as much? We are the best not only by outside ratings but by the government's ratings, too. When you give us ratings, give us

### WHY SANTISHREE DHULIPUDI PANDIT

In February this year, **Professor Santishree** Dhulipudi Pandit took over as the 13th Vice Chancellor of New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University from Professor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, now the University Grants Commission chairperson.

Professor Dhulipudi is the first woman to hold the post in the history of the

University. An alumna of JNU, from where she completed her M.Phil and PhD in International Relations, she took over at a time when the University has been mired in controversies, especially under the previous administration. Before this, Dhulipudi was a professor of political science at Savitribai Phule University in Pune



I would never invite police on to the campus because that is a clear indication that I have failed in my leadership. The minute a case becomes a legal issue, the university has very little to do. It's determined by the politics...

## 'Every university has a lunatic fringe... left, right, centre... But they cannot define its identity'

INU VC Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit on why she is agonised by its anti-national image, the problems of standardising the admission process and what makes INU India's premier academic institution. The session was moderated by Sukrita Baruah, senior correspondent



Jawaharlal Nehru University Vice Chancellor Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit in conversation with Sukrita Baruah, senior correspondent, The Indian Express Abhinav Saha

money as well. Today, we are running at Rs 130 crore deficit. You can't do this to an institution you rate as number one. One of the goals of NEP is critical thinking. JNU, being the best, can do it better.

#### RITIKA CHOPRA: Do you feel that that image influenced the government?

must place it properly. It's been seven months since I've come. The government is very receptive. I was able to get Rs 56 crore, thanks to Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, who's a former student of INU and my senior, and the minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, We didn't even apply for the eminence. How will the government even consider us?

#### RITIKA CHOPRA: You did not apply for the eminence status?

I'm going to do it, earlier we didn't. See it is my job to represent the university in a positive light - I'm also a product of JNU. So, if I'm (called) anti national, I feel very hurt because this university has given me what I am today. I think earlier administrations should have done it. I wouldn't blame the government. Most of our faculty are doing wonderful work and they're as nationalistic as anybody else in this country.

### VANDITA MISHRA: Many senior people in government have actually propagated this tukde-tukde or antinational image. How do you then go to the same government for funds?

I'm also nominated by the present government, so they cannot call me tukdetukde. We have to change the image. It's more about communication and a consistent dialogue with all. I always tell my students and faculty, we are in it together, you are also part of the solution as much as the problem. So, don't see me on the other side.

JNU is unlike other central universities. Thanks to Mrs Indira Gandhi, we have a separate Act of Parliament, and we are the only university that can affiliate anywhere in India. I have recommendations for institutions to go to JNU because a degree from JNU will give you international recognition. This is a huge change. I come from the social sciences and I think we perform better with a humane approach. I have a daughter who's an engineer. She thinks why is the world unfair. Every time she asks me, I tell her that is the reality. But she says no. She writes an algorithm in cyber security and she thinks the result has to come out. But we are dealing with human beings, everybody is different. We have to be considerate, empathetic. Human beings are complex and every human being is different. Technology is an instrument in the hands of superior minds and we can see how Prime Minister Modi's vision and mission makes the difference not the reverse.

HARISH DAMODARAN: There's been this huge trend of children going

### abroad to study, including undergrads. What explains this? Like you said, JNU has an international reputation. So why are people leaving this publicsector education system? And within India, going towards the Ashokas and Azim Premjis (private universities)?

It's an important question. First, we still pend only 3 or 3.2 per cent of our CDP on education, which is very low. If we want to implement the NEP 2020 as visualised, you'd need to go to at least 6 per cent. So, we are not making our existing educational institutions attractive. The problem is we can admit only 10,000 students and there is one to one lakh (applications). Where will

the others go? We haven't thought of that. Other than merit, we look at every other identity. That is a reality, we have to accept it — it is part of electoral politics, part of everything. I won't mind economic backwardness as a reservation, but then identity politics sometimes can go overboard. This is a problem where you have very good people who, when they don't get (in), have the wherewithal to go abroad and they would like to go. If we want to compete, we will have to increase the number of public institutions like JNU, especially for the poor. Ashoka, Jindal and others is where you pay

in lakhs, which I don't think everybody can. You would have seen the recent global gender gap report of 2022, which says that the labour market is still a boys' club. Can you believe, in a university like JNU, I'm the first woman vice chancellor and the first one from the social sciences? You'll see the domination of science and technology, which also is not very good. If you want holistic education, you have to have all disciplines.

I would say (that) like South Korea or the Southeast Asian countries, 15 per cent of GDP must be invested in education and health. Unless you do that, we are not going to make any real progress where we can compete with the best, especially the West.

HARISH DAMODARAN: With all the inadequacies you pointed out, the fact

### is JNU was contributing some of the best minds to bureaucracy, media, etc. Do you still see INU as producing the best minds in various disciplines?

I think JNU still has the best. In my five years, I have over 350 appointments in my hand. There is no interference from any governmental or other agency so far. I've made it very clear, academic merit is first So, these 350, we will try to get the best.

We can assure you that even in ranking, we are still on top. The only thing is we need much more funds to come into JNU. We are looking to other places, but we are also appealing to the government. You know Adnan Sami's song, Mujh ko bhi toh lift kara de? You've given to so many people, give us also. The highest they're giving is Rs 1,300 crore, an admission by the Minister of State in Parliament. JNU gets just Rs 470 crore and we beat them hollow in ranking. I'm not saying stop giving them — mujh ko bhi lift kara do, mujhe bhi 1,300 crore de do, 1,000 crore de do. I have to pay my contractual workers. JNU will live up to its expectations, at least in the five years I'm there because I'm a product of this university. I love the place.

**AAKASH JOSHI: You touched on less** autonomy or more standardisation in admission processes across universities. Do you think that is going to be a problem, particularly for postgraduate courses where there is a degree of specialisation or, at least, a degree of interest that, under normal circumstances, faculty and administration would have been able

The Pied Piper will call the tune. 100 per cent of our budget comes from the central government. So we are under the CCS rules whether we like it or not. I would agree partially with you, at least in Master's you cannot have admission on MCQs alone because we don't even know whether the student can write anything. For PhD, we have been able to convince the government that everything cannot be MCQs (multiple

JNU creates two everything is free. Two, that any action has no consequence. Please understand that the choices you make have consequences

choice questions). So, 70 per cent will be there, there will be a 30 per cent interview, and INU will do it. This is in keeping with the vision of NEP 2020 about holistic, inclusive education with critical thinking.

### RITIKA CHOPRA: You said you have urged the government to change the didn't. Would JNU want to continue taking in students through CUET-PG?

We have no option. We are a central government university and our funding comes from the central government. This acceptance to join it was done by the previous administration. I support the concept of a national test. Many of our teachers have opposed this MCQ format, especially in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages. A very major criticism has come from our faculty and, in the Indic tradition, the guru is respected and his/her views taken seriously.

### RAJ KAMAL JHA: You said you weren't there when the previous administration accepted the MCQs. If you would have been there, would you have opposed, put your foot down?

If I was there, I would put these concerns in writing because it's very important that we tell the government. It is important that as a teacher and as stakeholders within the system, we have to make the government understand that these are the difficulties that we have in reality. We are not opposing the system perse, but the implementation can be disastrous if we are going to have this type of uniformity. Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages get the bulk of the students. The whole debate on fact versus value, the limitations of the quantitative testing has been accepted in the '70s and '80s in the West India is very diverse, we can't have this uniformity. I'm against one identity being imposed on any part of the country because this will kill creativity and innovation. This also goes against the values of the Indian knowledge systems that celebrate cultural diversity and intellectual excellence.

### UNNI RAJEN SHANKER: You spoke about five years and 350 appointments, you will get the best talent. Have you looked at the last six years' appointments? Are you happy?

I don't think I can make a public statement as I was not there. We will maintain the highest traditions of excellence and brilliance. I don't think we will discriminate against anyone to the best of our abilities. That's why I've opened up all the reserved category backlogs. We are opening up other positions which have not been filled.

VANDITA MISHRA: As you make appointments going forward, along with merit, there may also be political pressure for accommodating people who feel that they were left out of

New Delhi

### these spaces earlier. How do you propose to tackle that?

Let me compliment the Minister Shri Dharmanendra Pradhan and his ministry, there has been no interference. The Minister respects autonomy of higher education institutions. In my hierarchy of priorities, the first would be academic merit. If the person is qualified then other thing can be considered. But when the person is not at all qualified, there's no question of ideology. The government is also smart. They know whom they can push around and whom they cannot. So far, let me give credit to the government, I have got no instructions. My benchmark would be research and academic excellence. If the person is really good, there's nothing else that I would look at, I think the government also will endorse it. When you want to become a vishwaguru (world teacher), you can't exclude people. I think the government will and is practising sab ka saath, sabka vikas, sab ka prayas and sab ka vishwas.

### RITIKA CHOPRA: You had earlier suggested that when you joined as JNU VC you faced challenges that were carried over from the previous administration. Your predecessor (M Jagadesh Kumar) now heads the University Grants Commissiom (UGC) which oversees the university system in the country. As JNU V-C, how has your working relationship been with him?

The UGC comes under the Ministry of Education. It doesn't even have the powers now to give positions. Grants and the rest come from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Education. I don't think we have had any major differences so far. UGC chairman has also not interfered with JNU. It'd be wrong for me to be judgemental.

#### VAIDYANATHAN IYER: One of your own students, Umar Khalid, has been in jail for almost two years. How do you look at this issue? Would you have handled it differently? Do you see a red line that will keep the police out of the campus?

I would resist inviting police onto the campus because that is a clear indication that I have failed in my leadership. The minute a case becomes a legal issue, the university has very little to do. It is determined by the politics or the ways the state is run. INU creates two delusions. One is that everything is free. Two, that any action has no consequence. Please understand the choices you make have consequences. So when you're making a choice, you should know what are the consequences. One thing I keep telling students, freedom brings responsibility. So if you want to do it, think 10 times about the consequences. Authority seldom gets into much trouble, but it is you, young people, who do.



delusions — one is that

### M-CAP OF 5 OF TOP-10 COS FALLS

New Delhi: Five of the top-10 valued firms together lost Rs 30,737.51 crore in market capitalisation (m-cap) last week, with the valuation of Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit, declining by Rs 12,883.7 crore to Rs 17,68,144.77 crore. **PTI** 

### CLARIFICATION AFTER RBI PAPER ON MERCHANT DISCOUNT RATE REVIVAL

## FinMin allays worries on UPI charges, says providers may seek 'other means'

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

AFTER THE Reserve Bank of India (RBI) came out with a discussion payment systems, the Finance Ministry on Sunday clarified that there is no consideration in the government to levy any charges for Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services.

In a discussion paper released on Wednesday, the RBI had asked stakeholders if the merchant discount rate (MDR), a fee paid by merchants to acquiring banks, should be brought back for UPI transactions. MDR on UPI transactions has been a long-standing demand of the payments industry.

Most other modes of digital retail payments attract a charge on transactions. Currently, the government has mandated a "zero-charge framework" for UPI transactions, with effect from January 1, 2020. This translates into charges on UPI for users as well as merchants being nil.

The RBI paper, seeking feed-

PROJECTS FACING LONGEST DELAYS:

Fast Breeder Reactor

being constructed by

Bharatiya Nabhikiya

(BHAVINI), delayed by

Vidyut Nigam Ltd

300outof825:

Road transport

and highways

168 months

■ 500-MW Prototype ■ PARBATI-II hydro

Most delayed projects in road

number of delayed projects at 300, followed by railways at

119 and petroleum sector at 90, as per a government report

transport & highways sector

The road transport & highways sector has the highest

electric project

SECTORS WITH MOST DELAYED PROJECTS AS OF JUNE:

119 out of 173:

(4X200 MW) of

NHPC, delayed by 162

### SUPPORT FOR PAYMENT ECOSYSTEM

**FINANCE MINISTER** Nirmala Sitharaman, in her Budget speech for 2022-23 earlier this year, had said that the financial support for digital payment ecosystem announced in the previous Budget will continue in the current fiscal



covery have to be met through

other means. "UPI is a digital

public good with immense con-

venience for the public & pro-

ductivity gains for the economy.

There is no consideration in Govt

to levy any charges for UPI serv-

ices. The concerns of the service

providers for cost recovery have

It further said that the gov-

ernment had provided financial

support for digital payment

ecosystem last year and has an-

nounced the same this year as

well to "encourage further adop-

tion of #DigitalPayments and

₹5,37,163.29 cr: Anticipated cost

of the 825 projects in road

₹4,90,792.42 crore when

sanctioned; implying cost overrun

**₹3,21,084.28 cr.** Expenditure

June 2022, i.e. 59.8% of their

incurred on these 825 projects till

**76,12,578.9 cr.** Increased cost of

the 173 railways projects, which

originally was at ₹3,72,761.45 cr;

showing cost overrun of 64.3%

**₹3,29,682.13cr:** Expenditure

incurred on these 173 projects till

June - 53.8% of anticipated cost

**₹3,93,008.38 cr.** Increased cost

of the 142 petroleum projects.

which cost ₹3.73.333.65 crore

**₹1,33,493.59 cr.** Expenditure

originally; a cost overrun of 5.3%

incurred on these 142 projects till

June, i.e. 34% of anticipated cost

Three proxy advisory firms —

Stakeholders Empowerment

Services (SES), Institutional

Investor Advisory Services India

(IiAS) and InGovern Research

Services — had asked the share-

holders to vote against Sharma's

Sharma's remuneration as 94.48

per cent of the votes in favour of

the resolution. However, institu-

tional shareholders were largely

not in favour as 75.60 per cent of

their votes went against the res-

is fixed for the next three years

"His (Sharma) remuneration

Shareholders also cleared

Source: MoSPI/PTI

whose original cost of

implementation was

anticipated cost

transport & highways sector,

to be met through other means.'

the ministry said in a tweet.

back on the fee structure for a range of digital payment services through a set of 40 questions, is open for comments till October 3. The feedback received would be used to guide policies and intervention strategies, it said.

However, the central bank had said that at this stage, it is "reiterated that RBI has neither taken any view nor has any specific opinion on the issues raised

Terming UPI services as a digital public good", the Finance Ministry stepped in on Sunday to clarify that the concerns for the service providers for cost re-

■ Subansiri Lower

(8X250 MW) of

90 out of 142:

Petroleum

Report details: The Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division (IPMD), which comes under

the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), is mandated to monitor

provided on the Online Computerised Monitoring System by project implementing agencies

central sector infrastructure projects costing ₹150 crore and above based on information

MUMBAI. AUGUST 21

SHAREHOLDERS OF One97

Communications, the parent

company of Paytm, have voted

to reappoint Vijay Shekhar

Sharma as the managing direc-

tor of the company. Of the total

votes polled, 99.67 per cent were

in favour of the resolution to

reappoint Sharma, according to

the scrutiniser report filed by the

supported the resolution with

94.69 per cent of their votes cast.

Institutional investors also

firm on Sunday.

hydro electric project

NHPC, delayed by 155

forms that are economical and user-friendly". The RBI, while releasing the

discussion paper, had stated that in "any economic activity, including payment systems", there does not seem to be any justification for a free service, "unless there is an element of public good and dedication of the infrastructure for the welfare of the nation". "But who should bear the cost of setting up and operating such an infrastructure is a moot point," the banking regulator had said in the paper.

In its discussion paper, the Reserve Bank has approximated that with an average value of Rs 800 for a merchant transaction, various stakeholders enabling the UPI transaction, including the payer and beneficiary banks, the third-party app, and the NPCI, incur a cost of Rs 2.

According to official data from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), in July, there were 628.84 crore UPI transactions representing a value of Rs 10.63 lakh crore. It has 338 banks live on the platform. Recently, the RBI allowed UPI on credit cards as well starting with NPCI's RuPay cards.

**PRANAV MUKUL** 

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FOOD TECH platform Zomato is

recalibrating its loyalty pro-

grams, and has closed new sign

ups and renewals for its flagship

program Zomato Pro, The Indian

Express has learnt. The company

had already shut down the more

premium iteration Zomato Pro

Plus earlier, and revised the

terms of its co-branded credit

The Gurgaon-based com-

pany launched Zomato Pro in

2020 and Zomato Pro Plus in

2021. The Zomato Pro program

replaced the Zomato Gold mem-

bership offering. Pro members

get discounts while ordering

food online from or dining out at

to renew their expired Pro mem-

bership, Zomato says: "Thank

you for being a part of the

Zomato Pro program. The mem-

bership is unavailable for re-

newal as we are working on a

new and better experience for

you. We request you to check the

Zomato app to stay updated on

in response to queries sent by

The Indian Express, a Zomato

spokesperson said: "While

Zomato Pro and Pro Plus have

been loved tremendously by our

customers and merchants, we

want it to be even more benefi-

cial, especially for the most en-

gaged customers and merchant

working closely with our cus-

tomers and restaurant partners

to craft a new program.

Meanwhile, we are not onboard-

ing new members and merchant

partners to Zomato Pro and

Zomato Pro Plus. While active

members can continue to get

their benefits as promised, they

will not be able to extend/renew

their memberships once their

membership tenure expires,"

"We are taking feedback and

Confirming the development

In a message to users trying

card with RBL Bank.

partner restaurants.

the latest offerings.'

partners.'

In her Budget speech for 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said, "The financial support for digital payment ecosystem announced in the previous Budget will continue in 2022-23. This will encourage further adoption of digital payments. There will also be a focus to promote use of payment platforms that are economical and user friendly".

The government allocated Rs 200 crore for reimbursement of charges towards RuPay debit card and UPI transactions. In 2021-22, it had budgeted Rs 1.500 crore towards this.

The RBI discussion paper covers all aspects relating to charges in payments systems such as Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) system, Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system and UPI, and various payment instruments such as debit cards, credit cards and prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), etc.

## MPC's Goyal: Freebies never free; parties must tell trade-offs to voters

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

FREEBIES ARE never 'free' and when political parties offer such schemes, they must be required to make the financing and tradeoffs clear to voters, RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Member Ashima Goyal said on Sunday, adding this would reduce the temptation towards "competitive populism".

Goyal further said a cost is imposed somewhere when governments provide freebies, but this is worth incurring for public goods and services that build capacity. "Freebies are never free... specially harmful are subsidies that distort prices," she

told PTI in an interview. Noting that this hu duction and resource allocation and imposes large indirect costs, such as the water table falling in Punjab due to free electricity, Goyal said such freebies come at the cost of low quality health, education, air and water that hurt

poor the most. "When parties offer schemes

without any annual increment,

unlike the policy/practice appli-

cable to all other employees of

the company," Paytm said in a

dated April 6, 2022, Sharma had

said his ESOPs will vest only

when the market cap of Paytm

crosses the IPO level on a sus-

tained basis. The Paytm stock

closed Friday's trading session at

Rs 771 apiece against the IPO

the company on Saturday, all the

seven resolutions mooted by the

According to an update by

price of Rs 2,150 per share.

company were passed.

In a letter to shareholders

statement.



ASHIMA GOYAL Member, RBI MPC File

they must be required to make the financing and such trade-offs clear to voters. This would reduce the temptation towards competitive populism," the eminent economist argued.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has in recent days hit out at the competitive populism of extending 'rewaris' (freebies) which are not just wastage of taxpayers' money but also an economic disaster that could hamper India's drive to become atmanirbhar (self-reliant).

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had suggested setting up a specialised body to examine "irrational freebies" offered to voters during elections.

Shareholders reappoint Sharma as Paytm MD The company held its annual

general meeting (AGM) last

(OCL) had sought shareholders'

approvals to reappoint Sharma

as the managing director (desig-

nated as managing director and

CEO) for five years from

December 19, 2022, and salary

payment as 'minimum remu-

neration' for three years from

Sharma's reappointment and re-

muneration, citing "dual posi-

tion of CMD and excessive remu-

had red-flagged

One97 Communications

last year.

Between October 2021 till June 2022, they sold a massive Rs 2.46 lakh crore in the Indian

(retail), Kotak Securities. PTI

### Eye on newer use

Zomato takes Pro off menu

IN LINE WITH STRATEGY TO LOOK BEYOND LOYALTY PROGRAMS

No renewals or new patrons:

THE DECISION to pause onboarding of new members as well as to renew the membership of existing ones on Zomato Pro comes amid the company's strategy of introducing newer use cases, focused more on dining out. These plans are unfolding as Zomato attempts to further narrow its losses



the spokesperson added.

In a separate message to the users of Zomato's co-branded credit card, RBL Bank and the food tech platform said that September 20 onwards, it was capping the cashback from orders placed on the app using the co-branded credit card to 500 Edition Cash a day (1 Edition Cash is redeemable as Re 1 for subsequent Zomato orders).

Zomato offers 5 per cent cash back on spends done on its app. Under the new conditions, the company has also added spends done on the Blinkit app to the cashback scheme. Zomato recently acquired quick-commerce platform Blinkit, formerly known as Grofers.

These recent decisions are in line with Zomato's new strategy of looking beyond loyalty programs to drive customer frequency. In its earnings call for the April-June quarter earlier this month, Zomato's chief financial officer Akshant Goyal said, "I think if you have to go from where we are today and meaningfully increase customer frequency, we will have to look beyond these loyalty programs and look at introducing newer use cases, which perhaps leads to a lot of the current offline spend on restaurant food moving on to

The company reported a consolidated net loss of Rs 186 crore for the three-month period ended June, compared with Rs 359.70 crore in the March quarter and Rs 360.70 crore in the quarter ended June 30, 2021. This, even as its topline grew to Rs 1,413.90 crore in April-June this year, against Rs 844.40 crore in the same period last year. The company said food deliv-

ery business grew 15 per cent sequentially and saw a break-even in adjusted EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation) - a measure of its operating margins. Zomato's chief rival in the

food tech space Swiggy too runs its loyalty program Swiggy One, which was launched in November last year. Swiggy operates this pro-

gram as a common membership for the bouquet of services it provides, including food delivery, quick-commerce and local doorto-door package delivery.

The Swiggy One program offers the app's users unlimited free deliveries from select restaurants and unlimited free delivery from Instamart on orders greater than Rs 99 in value, in addition to other discounts

## FPIs pump in ₹44,500 cr into equities so far in Aug

New Delhi: After turning net buyers last month, foreign investors have shown tremendous enthusiasm for Indian equities and have infused close to Rs 44,500 crore in August so far amid softening of inflation in US and falling dollar index.

This was way higher than a net investment of nearly Rs 5,000 crore by Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) in entire July, data with depositories showed.

FPIs had turned net buyers for the first time in July after nine straight months of massive outflows, which started in October

equity markets.

In the coming months, FPI flows are to remain volatile. However, with fading concerns of rising inflation, tightening of monetary policy and performance of first quarter earnings, inflows are likely to improve in emerging markets, said Shrikant Chouhan, Head—equity research

## LIC sees 20% fall in death claims in Q1 as Covid impact ebbs



The Life Insurance Corporation of India office, Mumbai. File

previous year." Kumar said. New Delhi: Insurance behemoth The claim rates had been Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) saw a near 20 per cent fall in death claims in the first guarter this fiscal with the Covid

re-2020 levels, officials said. In the June quarter of the previous fiscal, settlement of death claims was to the tune of Rs 7,111 crore, which for O1 of this year was Rs 5.743 crore. LIC Chairman M R Kumar said in a post-earnings call with analysts. "So there is quite a decrease, and it's quite obvious that whatever decrease was there based on COVID... go-

ing away now, Q1 to Q1 of the

impact seen to be ebbing, thou-

gh the amount is still higher than

very stable before the pandemic, said Dinesh Pant, Executive

Director and Appointed Actuary, LIC. He added that there was a spike in claims in the last two years due to Covid. "Now, from the current quarter(ending September 30, 2022),

we see it settling down towards more normal. It is still not back to pre-2020 figures because we would appreciate that the effects will take some time and there will be some IBNR (incurred but not reported) cases which will get reported late also," he said. PTI

### APEX BODIES REGULATING THESE PROFESSIONALS SAY ACTION INITIATED ON ABOUT 400 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

neration". **FE** 

Friday.

### Chinese cos: CAs, company secretaries, cost accountants under radar nary actions would be taken companies, its directors and also

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

SCORES OF chartered accountants, company secretaries and cost accountants are currently under the regulatory scanner for alleged violations of the companies law with respect to setting up of certain Chinese companies and their subsidiaries in India, according to officials.

The apex bodies of chartered accountants and company secretaries, ICAI and ICSI, together received about 400 complaints on the issue and necessary ac-

tions have been initiated. The Institute of Cost Accountants of India has also initiated action against some of their members in the matter.

The process started after communications were sent out to the institutes from the corporate affairs ministry, which is implementing the companies law. The ministry provided the institutes with the details of their respective members who are alleged to have committed violations, the officials said. The Centre is looking at whether the Chinese companies and their subsidiaries have complied with all the regulations to come and do business in India, ICAI presi-

dent Debashis Mitra said. Showcause notices have

■Scores of chartered accountants, company secretaries and cost

■Showcause notices have been issued to some members by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, respectively. The Institute of Cost Accountants of India has also issued some notices

the members violated the com-

leged violations of companies law with respect to incorporation of various Chinese companies and their subsidiaries. "The ministry had asked the institute to start disciplinary pro-

against them, the officials said.

asked to explain about the al-

The members have been

ceedings. It is not much to do with audit. It is more to do with formation of the companies concerned and aspects such as whether the registered addresses were checked properly or not, those kind of things," the ICAI president told PTI.

The institute has received details for about 200 cases.

"We started getting complaints from the RoC's offices in the month of January 2022, then some in June and then some in August...." with respect to the

Chinese companies, Mitra said.

"Chinese companies in the sense that they have Chinese directors, promoters... the government is looking at whether they have complied with all the regu-

lations to come and do business in India," he said. ICSI president Devendra V Deshpande said in the recent past, the enforcement agencies have noticed some wrongdoing by few companies and accord-

gence carried out by the professionals during the process of incorporation. The professionals usually carry proper due diligence in incorporating companies especially where the promoters are from outside India. The Institute has a robust mechanism for dealing with any kind of complaints filed against its members,

to the professionals, who were

engaged in incorporation of

these companies. "ICSI has also

received around 200 complaints

raising questions on the due dili-

where there is lack of due diligence by the member," Deshpande told PTI.

### petitive practices in the digital space, the panel's chairman Jayant Sinha said. PTI

pose before a parliamentary panel looking into anti-com-

the Indian arms of Apple, Google, Amazon, Netflix and Microsoft will Tuesday de-

## **ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**

### **DICGC** payment

**BRIEFLY** —

New Delhi: The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI, will make payments to eligible depositors of 17 cooperative banks, including eight from Maharashtra and four from Uttar Pradesh. in October. Meanwhile, sources said that Central Bank of India, the only public sector lender under the RBI's prompt corrective action (PCA) framework, mav see an exit from curbs soon.

### **IKEA outlets**

New Delhi: Swedish furniture retailer IKEA plans to open small city outlets along with its mega format stores in India supported by online channel, tweaking its strategy in the wake of changing consumer behaviour, as per IKEA India CEO Susanne Pulverer. So far IKEA has set up three mega format stores in Hyderabad. Navi Mumbai and Bengaluru and two city centres in Mumbai

### House panel

New Delhi: Top executives of

### **SHOWCAUSE NOTICES ISSUED**

accountants are under the scanner for alleged violations of the companies law over setting up of certain Chinese companies and their arms in

been issued to the members of Cost Accountants of India has concerned by the Institute of also issued show cause notices Chartered Accountants of India to some of its members. After ascertaining whether (ICAI) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India

(ICSI), respectively. The Institute

panies law, appropriate discipli-

New Delhi

ingly, the corporate affairs ministry has issued notices to the

World Championships, 5.30am, Live on Sports 18

Zimbabwe vs India, 3rd ODI, 12.45pm, Live on Sony

EPL: Man United vs Liverpool, 12.30am Live on Star Sports

## Govt proposes to end CoA mandate in SC application

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**NEW DELHI, AUGUST 21

IN A DESPERATE move to get the FIFA ban on AIFF revoked, the central government on Sunday moved an application in the Supreme Court, seeking an end to the "mandate" of the Committee of Administrators (CoA), as de-

manded by the world governing body.

The sports ministry's move, a day before a crucial hearing of the top court, can be seen as an attempt to salvage the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled to be held in October.

The world body had on August 15 imposed a ban on All India Football Federation (AIFF) due to "third party interference" and said that the women's age-group showpiece "cannot currently be held in India as planned".

The government in its application has virtually accepted all the demands made by the FIFA, including ending the tenure of the SC-appointed CoA as well as not allowing individual members in the electoral college.

It, however, said that the ousted Praful Patel-led dispensation should be excluded from the AIFF

"...this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to ... direct that day-to-day management of AIFF shall be looked after by the AIFF administration led by the acting Secretary General to the exclusion of the earlier elected body and the CoA will have no role in the administration of AIFF from 22.08.2022," the application read.

"... to require the CoA to submit the final draft constitution to this Hon'ble Court by the end of 23.08.2022, and that the mandate of the COA be declared to be over in full from 23.08.2022." In its statement while suspending AIFF, the FIFA had said the lifting of the suspension on AIFF will be subject to repealing of CoA's mandate in full. FIFA also said that it wants the AIFF administration to "be fully in charge of the AIFF's daily affairs".

The world body had said that it wants an "independent electoral committee to be elected by the AIFF general assembly to run the elections of a new executive committee".

It had also said that the AIFF must hold its elections based on the pre-existing membership of the AIFF" (i.e state associations only without individual members).

After the SC approved the holding of AIFF elections on August 28, the process of filing nomination papers was completed on Saturday.

Seven candidates, including the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia, have filed nomination papers for the president's post, though the returning officer on Sunday rejected two of them after the proposer and seconder said they have not signed any nomination paper of any candidate.

One of the government plea, that of not allowing eminent players as individual members in the electoral college, if accepted by the SC may put Bhutia's candidature under a cloud as he has been proposed and seconded by an eminent player each.

"Because of the suggested changes in the electoral college, the process of election may be required to be started 'de novo' since the change in the voters list may affect the validity of some of the nomination forms which may have been proposed/seconded by the player members who are now prayed for being excluded from the voters' list," the government plea read.

The government also proposed that the Executive Committee of the AIFF may consist of 23 members, including six eminent players.

of 23 members, including six eminent players.

"The 17 members (inclusive of the president, a treasurer, and one vice president) will be elected by the above electoral college.

## The world is at the Championships

Momota, Shi Yuqi, Lee Zii Jia and Axelsen in peak shape makes this one of the toughest men's field ever

**SHIVANI NAIK** 

MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE LULL after the storm is upon Indian badminton. And this World Championships starting Monday, might be the first indication of the fading out of a sporting success story of the last decade where an Indian medalled at either the Olympics or World Championships every year since 2011.

In its most dire forebodings, India is staring at possibly its first no-medal finish at Tokyo 2022 World's in many years. And on Lakshya Sen's massively taped shoulders the trapezius and deltoids, rest the flickering hopes of keeping that streak alive, should he reach the semifinals to assure a medal, and then some more. Any other unexpected surprises will merit raucous jubilation such are the draw-dependent projections.

Tokyo, a year after the Olympics, is also unsurprisingly when the entire gamut of international stars have returned to the field. And it is in their hungry appetites for the biggest title, rather than the bleak projections for Indians, that this World Championship needs to be viewed. Any of the three Indians - Sen, Kidambi Srikanth or HS Prannoy - who can beat Kento Momota, can preen away like a peacock, and strut towards snatching a medal or help a compatriot at the least. But it's one tournament too many to expect the two-time World Champion from Japan, to falter and fall away, though Prannoy loves those hack jobs immensely.

On the eve of the World's, Momota told the press that he was still uneasy during matches, though he felt swell in practice. Adding that he was slowly building his confidence, the 27-year-old southpaw stated he was keen to "play in front of Japanese fans, feel their support and enjoy playing in front of them." A wee hours car accident on the way to the airport, beginning of 2020 that killed the driver in Malaysia and left Momota with a shaken eye socket was the start of his woes. His home Olympics ended in an early exit, and he tested positive for Covid at the airport, headed to last year's World's in December.

First round exits have been common on the circuit as his confidence plunged, and his once-compact game, frayed at every edge. It merits mentioning that no Indian has actually managed to beat him in this aftermath, despite his string of horrors, though Sen nicked a set off him at Indonesia. But Indians aside, Momota has to negotiate Lee Zii Jia or Loh Kean Yew / Kunlavut



On the eve of the Worlds, Kento Momota told the press that he was still uneasy during matches, though he felt swell in practice. Reuters

Vitidsarn before he battles title favourite Viktor Axelsen for his third crown.

Axelsen has rebooted his coaching staff, and arrived in Tokyo where he won the Olympic title, pretty confident. A quarterfinal against the wild, rebellious Chinese Shi Yuqi, wanting to prove a bunch of points, while nursing his pretty game through a federation suspension, might be Axelsen's first challenge. Though he would do well to not take the likes of Kanta Tsuneyama Malaysian Ng Tze Yong easy. The 2021 World's was all about a generational shift, and the young guns like the Malaysian would be keen on forcing the trend. Anthony Ginting and Chou Tien Chen have never won the World title, and will always prove a handful, should Axelsen slip up.

Lu Guang Zu and Zho Junpeng are the dangerous floaters, as China attempts to reclaim a title they haven't won since 2015. Chinese shuttlers - mostly Lin Dan - won 8 times from 2006, but Momota, Axelsen and Loh have kept them at bay ever since. A world title for Kidambi Srikanth will be as precious to India, as one for Lee Zii Jia with Malaysia searching for its own first.

### **Return of Marin**

Carolina Marin, who has three world championship titles, might not be able to match Zhan Nang, the twice Olympic champion till 2024 fetches up. But she has a good chance to leave the Chinese behind, if she can turn back the years and pick her 4th at Tokyo. Marin missed the Olympics after a horrific ACL in the May before Tokyo Games, and has paced her comeback suitably quietly, to merit a mention among favourites. She even skipped her hometown World's in 2021, not willing to risk a sub-par undercooked performance.

She brings curiosity to the table, more than anticipation based on her blistering game, this time. And a wistful realisation that the game might well have passed her by, with the emergence of An Se Young and Wang Zhi Yi. But noone brings the big occasion swag to the court, like Marin does. And though she has He Bing Jiao and Akane Yamaguchi waiting to trip her up, the Spaniard will be the most looked forward to comebacks to the global stage at Tokyo.

Another returning contender is Olympic champion Chen Yufei, who surprisingly has never won the World title, thanks in part to PV Sindhu, who will rue missing the chance to go past Zhan Nang's five World's medals, after her injury. But Yufei who trained to clockwork simulation in winning Olympic gold at Tokyo, would love a crack at the title - that the Japanese Okuhara and Yamaguchi, plus Sindhu and Marin have denied her all these years.

Standing in Yufei's way is the other sur-

## FIRE IN THE BELLY, EYE ON TITLE

Kento Momota: He missed out on a good show at the Home Olympics and is badgered by poor form on the circuit. This is shot at redemption, with a 3rd world title. Carolina Marin: She missed Tokyo

Games from a late injury and even skipped the World's at hometown Huelva. Fitness permitting, the fight is always on for the Spaniard. Shi Yuqi: He rebelled pointing a foot blister at the cameras after an effective loss in a team event, and the Chinese higher-ups were very unhappy. He never stopped training during the ban. Now he's back for a

title he craves.

Tai Tzu Ying: She had never really gone anyplace, but she's not won a World title yet, and that's gobsmackingly shocking in the badminton universe. The one to stop the Taiwanese this time might be Chinese nemesis, Chen Yufei, herself searching for her first.

Kidambi Srikanth: He won silver last time. Only gold will make him happy. He returns to Tokyo, after an

Olympic non-qualification, his generation's finest shuttler without a World title. Yet.

prise non-winner, Tai Tzu Ying, who just can't seem to catch a break at the World

Championships. She came close last year,

but Yamaguchi delivered a masterclass in

neutralising deception in the finals.

The other player with a suspect big occasion temperament is Korean sensation An Se Young. When she's on song, she seems unbeatable. But there have been more than one of quarter/semis botch-ups to question if the teenager can go the distance. She has the persistent Chinese Wang Zhi Yi to counter early, and Yamaguchi (5-7 win loss) and Marin thereafter. As things go, this isn't a bad draw for

her, some might even call it swell.

But women's singles is forever teeming with smouldering ambitions of talented women. Two former World champions are missing - Sindhu and Nozomi Okuhara, and there's still six genuine contenders for the title. Six. A staggering six bonafide can-beatanyone warriors.

### — RRIFFI

## Pragg loses to Duda in FTX Crypto Cup

Miami: Teenaged Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa went down to Poland's Jan-Krzystof Duda via the tiebreak in the sixth round of the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, here on Sunday. It was the second loss for the 17-year old GM after he went down to Ouang Liem Le in the previous round. He, however, remained in second spot with 13 match points behind world No.1 Magnus Carlsen (15 match points). Duda drew first blood when he won the opening game. After two draws, Praggnanandhaa won the fourth game to level the match. The Polish player then showed his class to win both the tie-break games for a 4-2 victory. PTI

### Durand Cup: Army Green beat NEUFC

Guwahati: Skipper PC Lallawmkima scored a brace as Army Green made a winning start to its Durand Cup campaign by inflicting a 3-1 defeat on NorthEast United FC (NEUFC) here on Sunday. Lallawmkima's twin strikes were accompanied by Somesh Kothari's goal as the Army team dominated NEUFC. Dipu Mirdha got a consolation for NEUFC. PTI

### Singh wins Rifle Prone T5 title

New Delhi: Seasoned shooter Chain Singh on Sunday won the Men's 50m Rifle Prone T5 title while Olympic medallist Vijay Kumar finished third in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol T5 at the National Shooting Selection Trials. Singh scored 623.6 in a 60-shot event to beat Indian Navy's Niraj Kumar who came second with a score of 622.5. PTI

### Tsitsipas downs Medvedev in SF

Cincinnati: Fourth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas edged world number one Daniil Medvedev 7-6(6) 3-66-3 in an absorbing semi-final at the Cincinnati Open on Saturday to set up a summit clash with Borna Coric after the Croatian's 6-36-4 win over Cameron Norrie. **REUTERS** 

## Electrical engineer from Kerala is UAE's new T20 captain

NARAYANANS

CP RIZWAN'S cricket career didn't really take off and the electrical engineer from Kerala, like many from his state, migrated to the gulf after landing a job in Sharjah. Eight years later, the 34-year-old has made it big - on the field. On Friday the Emirates Cricket Board named Rizwan the skipper for the Asia Cup qualifiers. If Rizwan's UAE wins the qualifiers, they will be in the same group as heavyweights India and Pakistan.

"It will definitely be special if we qualify and get to play against India. But we just want to focus on one step at a time," Rizwan told The Indian Express. The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Hong Kong and Singapore will be fighting for the one spot available in the group stage.

From not being able to get a game for his state in the Ranji Trophy to leading a national team, Rizwan's cricketing fortunes have



UAE captain CP Rizwan made a name for himself in age-group cricket and represented Kerala in the under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy and was a part of the under-23 team.

changed for the better.

Rizwan, leg-spinner turned batsman, hails from Thalassery, a cricket hub with a history that dates back to the British raj. Rizwan made a name for himself in agegroup cricket and represented Kerala in the Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy and was a part of the Under-23 team. Rizwan also toured South Africa with the Kerala team, a squad that included Sanju Samson. But he couldn't progress further because he took a break from the sport to complete his engineering degree. He tried to make a comeback after completing his studies but could not replicate his agegroup success at the senior level. He was named in the Ranji Trophy squad but was on the bench.

Migrating to UAE for a job also gave his cricket career a new lease of life. His international career has now reached new heights. On Sunday, Rizwan walked out to lead the side against Kuwait.

Last year, Rizwan scored his first international century (109) in a One-Day International against Ireland when the team was under pressure at 51 for 3. Rizwan and Muhammad Usman added 184 runs for the fourth wicket.

The two centurions helped UAE chase down 270 with six wickets in hand and an over to spare.

"I am happy and honoured to lead the UAE national team. We have been doing well in T20 tournaments. Our players play a lot of T20 games here in the domestic circuit also. But having said that, we have to execute the skills in the right way on the given day," Rizwan said.

In former India all-rounder Robin Singh, UAE have an experienced coach to guide their newly-appointed skipper.

"We have been working really hard under coach Robin Singh. He is a person with a great work ethic and that quality has rubbed on to the players also. We have been training well and hopefully, everything will fall into place," Rizwan, who has played 29 ODIs and seven T20Is for UAE, said.

The electrical engineer who graduated from the Cochin University of Science and Technology had an opportunity to return home when he got a job with the postal de-

'Research needed to help women

athletes during menstrual cycles'

partment but he decided against moving. His performances in the domestic matches

in UAE for teams like Yogi Group, Bukhatir XI and Interface, eventually opened the doors to the UAE national team.

After fulfilling the requirement of residing

in the UAE for four years, Rizwan made his debut for his adopted country in an ODI against Nepal in January 2019. "Yes, it could be said that my decision (to

"Yes, it could be said that my decision (to stay in the UAE) has been vindicated. I just want to say thanks to all the coaches, friends, family and relatives and the almighty who helped me in this journey," said Rizwan.

Biju George, the former India women's fielding coach, has seen Rizwan from his under-23 days for Kerala. "Rizwan is a fully dedicated player. He is a confident and street-smart player, I think, he can be an asset to the UAE team as their captain," George said.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has opted for split captaincy and Ahmed Raza leads the ODI team.

# Usyk beats Joshua on split decision, retains world heavyweight belts

REUTERS
AUGUST 21

OLEKSANDR USYK turned his sights on rival heavyweight world champion Tyson Fury on Sunday after beating Britain's Anthony Joshua on a split points decision to retain his WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts in Jeddah.

The "Rage on the Red Sea" in Saudi Arabia was a rematch of a fight in London in September, which the Ukrainian won on a unanimous decision to take Joshua's belts, but with more intensity and emotion.

The pressure was on both former Olympic champions, with Usyk this time representing a country fighting for its existence after a Russian invasion while Joshua was battling for his boxing future.

Usyk appeared comfortably ahead as the final bell rang at the King Abdullah Sports City Arena but the American judge surprisingly awarded the fight 115-113 to Joshua.

The British and Ukrainian judges decided 115-113 and 116-112 to Usyk.

The victory took the 35-year-old's professional record to 20 fights undefeated while Joshua, 32, suffered a third defeat in



Anthony Joshua (right) takes a blow from Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk during their world heavyweight title fight in Jeddah on Sunday. AP

what could prove a watershed in his career. Joshua, who had held aloft the Ukrainian flag with Usyk as they waited for the decision in what seemed an acceptance of defeat, then had an uncharacteristic meltdown

He took two of the belts, dropping them as he left the ring and headed for the dressing room before turning around and stepping back between the ropes to take the microphone and address the crowd.

"Usyk is one hell of a fighter. That's just emotion," declared the Briton.

"For this guy to beat me tonight, maybe I could have done better but it shows the levels of hard work he must have put in, so please give him a round of applause as our heavyweight champion of the world.

"I was studying Ukraine and all the champions from your amazing country. I've never been there. What's happening there, I don't know but it's not nice ... under those circumstances he's managed to become champion."

### Joshua fights back tears

An emotional Joshua fought back tears as he reflected on his second straight loss to Usyk in Jeddah on Saturday, saying he was deeply "upset" with his performance against the Ukrainian heavyweight champion.

"It's really, really hard for me to say I'm proud of myself. I'm upset, really, deep down in my heart," Joshua told reporters. "I tried a different style ... in the last fight I wanted to compete as a boxer, but it wasn't good enough, and tonight wasn't good enough."

### **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** AUGUST 21

who is set to retire after a ODI at Lord's on September 24, has said more scientific research is needed to understand the effects of women's menstrual cycles on an athlete, particularly in cricket where a player has to be on field for six hours. "When I was young, I couldn't even discuss this topic. I would just keep it to myself, not tell coaches, quietly fighting through it. People should research properly, lots of science is there, and if we can find a way to adjust during those menstrual cycles during competition," Jhulan Goswami told former India coach WV Raman on his Wednesdays with WV show

INDIA'S FAST bowling legend Jhulan Goswami,

"That's the biggest challenging part for a woman athlete. If it (periods) came during competition time, it was a huge challenge to concentrate on your job – you have to be mentally very strong. At that time, it can happen that you aren't able to concentrate more, deliver more – and people don't realise that and start talking 'arre yaar, isko kya ho gaya? But people don't know the background story. This



Jhulan Goswami says she couldn't discuss the topic witch coaches when she was young. File

is the lot of all women athletes around the world and that's why they are special," Goswami told Raman.

According to a 2021 study on women footballers, found that fluctuations in reproductive hormones can influence tissues such as muscles, tendons and ligaments. The muscle and tendon injury were 88 percent greater during the late follicular period of the menstruation cycle, the time when the brain sends signals to

New Delhi

the ovaries to prepare an egg that will be re-

Jhulan Goswami explained how it takes great courage to go through hormonal changes and compete. "It's one thing going through the aches and pains of the body but going through that kind of pain and changes in the body is challenging. During match days it's tough, it takes a lot of courage to come out of that situation and play for 6 hours on a cricket field is a huge task. You have to give a lot of credit to all the girls going through those challenges. You want to be in a room, getting rest but we can't do that. We can't be in bed. It's an important match, we have to be out there for 6 hours. We can't giv excuses and sit.It's normal - we accept that, and we prepare that way. You can't give excuses for that and that's the beauty for our women athletes," Ihulan said.

When Raman asked her if more research is needed to push the system to help mitigate the challenges for women athletes, something he had prescribed during his term as women's team coach, Jhulan agreed. "Research is required to see what changes challenges go through and how to mitigate them. Everybody wants to be fresh during competing time. I am happy to see that people are thinking that."

Vol XC-243 Regd.No. DL-21046/03-05 R.N.I. No.506/57. Printed and Published by R.C.Malhotra on behalf of The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited Press, A-8, Sector-7, Noida -201301 and D B Corp Ltd, Dainik Bhaskar Village Unan Tola, Near Danapur Cantt, Shivylya Road, Post Khagaul, Shahpur, Patna (Bihar) and Published at The Indian Express (P) Limited, Mezzanine Floor, Express Building, 9&10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002. Phone: 0120-6651500. Advertising office: The Indian Express (P) Limited, B1/B, Sector-10, Noida-201301. Phone: 0120-6651291. Chairman of the Board: Viveck Goenka, Chief Editor: Raj Kamal Jha, Editor: Unni Rajen Shanker, Editor (Delhi): Rakesh Sinha \*\* \*\* Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. Copyright: The Indian Express (P) Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited. The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed and Printed and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed and Printed and Printed at The Indian Express (P) Limited and Printed and

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### THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2022

### **Duleep Trophy** teams to be picked by zonal panels

**DEVENDRA PANDEY** MUMBAI, AUGUST 21

THE BOARD of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has written to all state units about the appointment of zonal selection committees that will pick teams for the Duleep Trophy. The new constitution of the BCCI doesn't allow its national selectors to pick zonal teams and that task has been handed to zonal panels.

The Indian board has decided to stage the Duleep Trophy from September 8 to 25 this year. As per a BCCI circular, the tournament will be played on a knockout basis and state associations will be divided zonally.

"All respective zones are requested to appoint a Zonal Selection Committee comprising one selector from each state. This Zonal Selection Committee will pick a 15- member squad for the tournament, Further, all zones are also requested to nominate a Zonal Convener who will oversee proceedings and report to the Board," Abey Kuruvilla, Game Development Manager of the BCCI, informed all state units

The Zonal Conveners will also nominate their support staff including coach, physio, trainer, performance analyst, masseur and manager. "All Zonal Conveners are requested to conduct their respective selection committee meetings and submit the squad, including players and support staff, as per above guidelines on or before Friday, 26th August 2022."

The Duleep Trophy will be held in Tamil Nadu this year with new venues in Coimbatore, Salem and Chennai as hosts.

### Rahane likely to lead West Zone

India middle-order batsman Ajinkya Rahane is likely to lead West Zone in the Duleep Trophy, with the team likely to be picked in Mumbai on August 26. Rahane tore his hamstring during the Indian Premier League this season while playing for Kolkata Knight Riders. Rahane later underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru. He resumed batting a few weeks ago and is expected to be match-fit.

Meanwhile, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has announced a 47-player list for its senior off-season camp, and it doesn't include Aditya Tare.

Chairman of the selection committee Salil Ankola informed that the selectors had already spoken to Tare and informed him of their intention of trying out youngsters.

We have told him what we are thinking and what our plan is. I had spoken to him during the Ranji Trophy knockout stage and informed him that we wanted to groom youngsters in white-ball cricket." Ankola said.

However, the chief selector said Tare's exclusion from the off-season camp pertained only to white-ball cricket.

## Missing their ace of spades

Using pacers Bumrah, Afridi sparingly will help in reducing workload stress

**TUSHAR BHADURI** AUGUST 21

BOWLING FAST is the most physically-taxing pursuit in cricket, which makes quality practitioners of the art rare gems. It is terribly tempting for captains to put them into service frequently, as they are often the sharpest weapons at their disposal. But the pressure it puts on various parts of the human anatomy al-

ways makes fast bowlers susceptible to in-

Jasprit Bumrah and Shaheen Shah Afridi are two of the best speedsters in the current game, but neither will take the field when India and Pakistan clash in the Asia Cup next Sunday. While the leader of the Indian attack is out with a back injury, the latter is nursing a right knee ligament injury. While the batsmen in the two teams may breathe a sigh of relief, it takes some star power from the marquee clash. It also emphasises the load fast bowlers have to bear if they play all three formats of the game.

While the Asia Cup is a significant tournament in its own right, the T20 World Cup in Australia is the big prize two months down the line and the two sets of selectors would do everything to ensure that their most potent tools are ready to fire on the major stage.

While Bumrah is known to turn any match India's way in the space of a few deliveries, Afridi's impact can be gauged from his performance when these two teams met last - in last year's T20 World Cup. The left-armer dismissed Rohit Sharma in the first over of the match with a ball that curved into the batsman's pads at pace. In his next over, Afridi castled KL Rahul with another in-ducker. Later in the innings, he returned to dismiss Virat Kohli to prevent India from putting up a sizeable total, as Pakistan secured a 10-wicket victory.

Both of them have been pressed into service at key times in all three formats, but it begs the question whether such prize assets should be used more sparingly. One sees the impact James Anderson still has with the red ball, even after turning 40, since he gave up white-ball cricket. South Africa were keen to get Kagiso Rabada fully fit for the recent Lord's Test, and he responded with a Player-of-the-Match performance. Pat Cummins is the Australian Test captain, but he is given frequent breaks from white-ball games, and Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood are also kept as fresh as possible.

This is to guard against what has happened recently in the cases of Ben Stokes and Trent Boult, who found the relentless cricket schedule a bit too overwhelming and made their own decisions.

### Stepping into big shoes

It won't be unfair to say that it will be Pakistan who are more likely to feel the ab-

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India's Jasprit Bumrah is out due to a back injury while Pakistan's Shaheen Afridi is nursing a right knee ligament injury.

sence of their star performer. In addition to the psychological aspect - Afridi was instrumental in their first win over the neighbours in a World Cup match of any format – the likes of Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah are yet to compile a significant body of work in international cricket, Also, Afridi has been ruled out with less than 10 days to go for the Asia Cup, so there's no clarity about who will take the new ball against

The 22-year-old left-arm pacer last played in the Test series in Sri Lanka, and didn't get into the XI in the games in the Netherlands, even though he was included in the squad. It prompted some to question the wisdom in fielding Pakistan's premier fast bowler in such a low-key series, even after he experienced some discomfort in Galle.

After being advised "four-six weeks rest". Afridi will also miss the seven-match home T20I series against England next month. He features in most of Pakistan's international fixtures in recent times, but it's the first serious iniury setback of his career. So, the selectors will be doing everything in their power to ensure he is part of their T20 World Cup plans. They hope to have him for the T20 tri-series in New Zealand, also involving Bangladesh, in the lead up to the main event.

Bumrah's unavailability was known to the selectors for longer, so they had time to plan around it. He last played for India in the ODI series in England, where he missed the decider after experiencing back spasms. The Indian



Premier League also takes a toll on the fast bowlers' bodies However, the selectors have resisted including the likes of Mohammed Shami Mohammed Sirai and Shardul Thakur who have been stel-

lar performers in Test cricket, for the Asia Cup. They have reposed faith in a rejuvenated Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who seems to be back to somewhere near his best, especially with the white ball.

Newcomers Avesh Khan and Arshdeep Singh get a chance to make a name for themselves, while there's hope that Hardik Pandya will make an impact whenever called upon with the ball. With Ravichandran Ashwin Ravindra Jadeja, Ravi Bishnoi and Yuzvendra Chahal in the squad, it's obvious which part of the bowling attack is likely to be more relied

It's dangerous to reduce the Asia Cup to an India-Pakistan face-off, even though it will be the most talked-about fixture of the tournament because of the emotions it generates on either side and the rarity of these occasions. Sri Lanka have been improving in recent times, while Bangladesh and Afghanistan are capable of upsets. But the two stars who won't be there will dictate the narrative of the contest, till the first ball is bowled.

## Man City fight back to earn 3-3 draw against Newcastle

**REUTERS** 

QUICKFIRE GOALS by Erling Haaland and Bernardo Silva helped Manchester City recover from two goals down to draw 3-3 with Newcastle United in a rip-roaring Premier League clash at St James' Park on Sunday.

Neither side had conceded a goal in the league this season but Ilkay Gundogan opened the scoring for champions City in the fifth minute, ghosting in and catching the Newcastle defence flat-footed before finishing from close range.

The home side levelled through Miguel Almiron in the 28th minute as he bundled a pinpoint cross from Allan Saint-Maximin into the net before enduring a VAR check that allowed the goal to stand. Newcastle looked set to pull off a huge upset when they went a goal up through Callum Wilson before halftime, and a brilliant free kick by Kieran Trippier nine minutes after the break put them 3-1 ahead.

That sparked City into life, however, with Haaland hitting a post before pulling a goal back on the hour mark and Silva converted a glorious pass from Kevin De Bruyne to make it 3-3. City dominated possession in the final stages but had to settle for a draw that left them second in the table on seven points, two behind leaders Arsenal.

### Chelsea falter at Elland Road

Meanwhile, Leeds United produced a relentless display to earn a 3-0 Premier League victory over Chelsea as they continued to impress under American coach Jesse Marsch.

In a raucous Flland Road atmosphere two goals in five first-half minutes saw the hosts race into a 2-0 lead with Chelsea, who finished with 10 men, unable to cope with the intensity. The opener came after a monumental error from away goalkeeper Edouard Mendy, allowing American Brenden Aaronson in to score his first Premier League goal on 33 minutes, before Rodrigo headed in his fourth of the season to make it two. There was no letting up from Leeds as they put the game to bed with a 69th-minute third through Jack Harrison, before Chelsea's close-season signing Kalidou Koulibaly was sent off late on.

A second victory from three at the start of the new campaign came at a canter from there on in, helping Leeds climb up to second in the standings with seven points, while Chelsea's first loss leaves them down in 12th with four.

"We scored an own goal and conceded from a set piece," Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel said. "The defeat is nothing to do with pressing, nothing to do with running less kilometres and nothing to do with the style of Leeds.

"We were able to be the better team. But then it was 2-0 and our body language was not like it was in the last match. I don't see the connection that we lost to the style of Leeds. We

New Delhi



Manchester City players celebrate after Bernardo Silva scored their third goal. AP

knew it was coming.'

Looking to get back to winning ways after a fiery draw with Tottenham Hotspur last time out, Chelsea flew out of the traps, with close season signing Raheem Sterling flashing a strike wide after just 36 seconds.

Tackles were flying in in the West Yorkshire sunshine as the intensity levels remained high. Harrison also went close early on, while Sterling had the ball in the net 15 minutes in, but was correctly ruled offside. Mason Mount was next to go close, bringing a fine save out of goalkeeper Illan Meslier, only for Mendy to gift the hosts the lead. The Senegal international made a mess of collecting a back pass from Thiago Silva, he was then dispossessed by Aaronson, who was free to walk the ball home.

The home fans enjoyed the opener against traditionally one of their fiercest rivals -- animosity that stretches back to the 1970s -- with the roof almost coming off Elland Road after in-form Brazilian forward Rodrigo headed home the second from Harrison's free kick.

Tuchel rang the changes in the second half, but the visitors, other than Reece James' drilled effort that was tipped wide by Meslier, never ooked like getting into the match.

Harrison's close-range finish was no more than the home side deserved, ensuring they could stroll to a second successive home league win -- a feat they did not achieve all last season. A second yellow card for an innocuous foul from Koulibaly left the home fans heading for the exits with a beaming smile. "It was the best performance since I have been here." Marsch said. "You are starting to see a bunch of players who understand their role, some in the form of

