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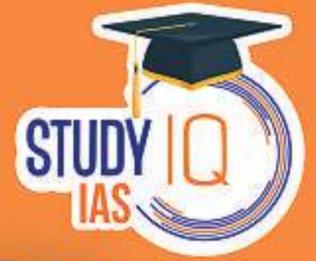
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Now open: The Indian Express 2nd Excellence in Governance Awards

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

2019. The biennial awards could not be held last year because of the pandemic. The Indian Express is launching its second edition this year and is calling for entries, the deadline for which is September 15. The jury will then evaluate DMs from 780 districts in the country for innovations implemented by them, which had a positive impact on the welfare of citizens and government efficiency.

WHAT IS policy if it isn't executed innovatively on the ground? What is change if governance doesn't translate to a difference in people's lives? The foot soldiers of governance are District Magistrates (DMs), who hold charge of the basic administrative unit of India and bring order, stability and often some very imaginative changes to those who live in their districts.

It is to honour the work of these DMs, who form the "steel frame" of bureaucracy, that The Indian Express started the Excellence in Governance Awards (EIGA) in

The first edition of the awards attracted entries from all corners of India; from officers who helped citizens clean rivers, raised success rates in school exams, introduced intelligent transit systems that made bus journeys smoother.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



KEJRIWAL AT RAJGHAT

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal with AAP MLAs at Rajghat on Thursday. While he accused the BJP of trying to topple his government, the BJP denied the charge. *Tashi Tobgyal* **PAGE 6**

ORDER SAYS 'AT LEAST' TWO, SUGGESTS WIDER AMBIT SC allows PMLA verdict review; flags burden of proof, sharing info

Govt opposes, says law part of international commitments

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

UNDERLINING ITS support for a law against money laundering, the Supreme Court Thursday agreed to reconsider its verdict upholding key provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2005. And flagged, for reconsideration, issues that have been criticised as possible violations of due



CJI N V Ramana at a farewell organised by the Delhi HC Bar Association. *Soft Ahsan* **P 6**

THE EDITORIAL PAGE
CHIEF AND JUSTICE
PAGE 12

process: reversal of the presumption of innocence and disclosure of information. "Having heard learned Senior counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner as also learned Solicitor General appearing on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

No evidence, Govt didn't cooperate: SC on Pegasus

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE SUPREME Court-appointed committee, which probed allegations of unauthorised use of Israeli NSO Group's Pegasus software for surveillance, found no conclusive evidence on use of the spyware in phones examined by it but noted that the Central Government "has

not cooperated" with the panel, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana said on Thursday.

"They (the panel) observed that the Government of India has not cooperated. Whatever stand you have taken here (in the court earlier), you have taken the same stand, it appears, before the committee also," the CJI, heading a three-judge bench that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



WORLD



IN A FIRST, INDIA VOTES AGAINST RUSSIA AT UNSC

PAGE 14

Nepal stalls recruitment of Gorkhas in Indian Army under Agnipath scheme

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE
KATHMANDU, AUGUST 25

DAYS BEFORE the scheduled arrival of Indian Army Chief, Gen Manoj Pande, to receive the 'Honorary General' rank of Nepal Army, Kathmandu has for now

stalled the recruitment of Gorkhas in the Indian Army under the 'Agnipath scheme', putting a question mark on the future of a practice that began 75 years ago.

The practice of Army chiefs of the two countries being the Honorary General of the other

side on reciprocal basis is as old as Gorkha recruitment in the Indian Army. Gen Pande's arrival on September 5 for this purpose coincides with the emerging uncertainty over recruitment of Nepal-domiciled Gorkhas into Indian Army as 'Agniveers'.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Disqualify Soren as MLA over mining lease, EC tells Gov

RITIKA CHOPRA & ABHISHEK ANGAD
NEW DELHI, RANCHI, AUGUST 25

IN A setback for the JMM-led Jharkhand regime, the Election Commission (EC) on Thursday recommended the disqualification of Chief Minister Hemant Soren as MLA under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The Indian Express has learnt.

Sources said the Commission, in its opinion shared with Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais, found Soren guilty of misusing his position to allot a stone mining lease to himself last year. The Chief Minister also heads the state's mining department.

The Governor, who had referred the matter to the EC after receiving a complaint from the Opposition BJP, is yet to officially communicate his order on the issue.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in Ranchi, Thursday. *PTI*

EXPLAINED
What next?

THE JMM is confident that Hemant Soren will remain the Chief Minister. The party is preparing for a phased response: appeal the order in court and, if unsuccessful, get Soren to contest the bypoll from the vacant seat.

NDTV DEAL

Sebi ban on Roys may not get in Adani's way

SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

CITING A November 27, 2020, SEBI order, NDTV Ltd told stock exchanges Thursday that Adani Group-owned Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Ltd (VCPL) will have to seek the market regulator's approval before it acquires 99.5 per cent stake in RRPR Holding Pvt Ltd, which in turn holds 29.18 per cent shares

in the television media company. Security law experts, however, said the SEBI order may not be an obstacle. "This transaction does not entail a fresh sale or purchase of securities. Further, it is simply an execution of the arrangement that VCPL and RRPR entered in 2009 and 2010," a source in the know of things told The Indian Express.

VCPL, an Adani Enterprises' step-down subsidiary now, had

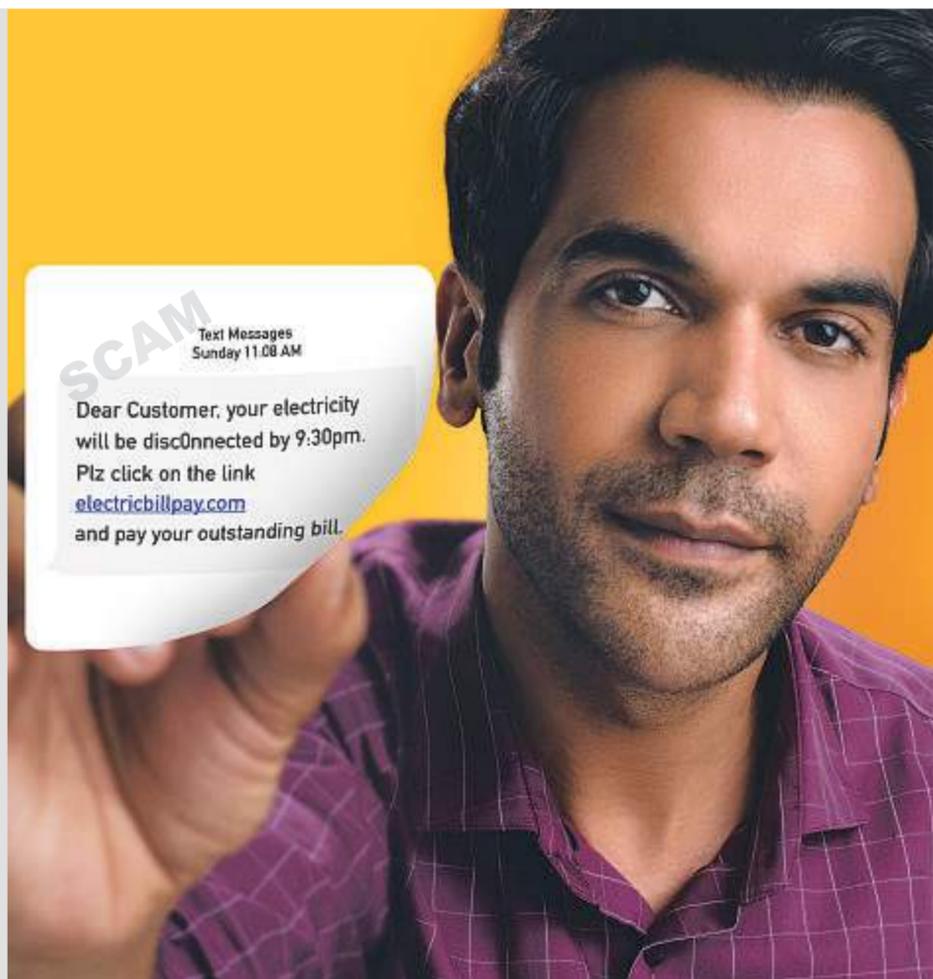
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AT SMART INDIA HACKATHON 2022

PM: Make research, innovation way of life

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the culture of innovation in India would grow on the back of social and institutional support, and emphasised that research and innovation must be turned into a "way of living".

Addressing the finale of the Smart India Hackathon 2022, Modi said innovators were the flag bearers of "Jai Anusandhan (research and innovation)", a slogan he put forth during his Independence Day speech.

"The recognition of innovation as a profession is growing in society. Research and innovation must be transformed from a way of working to a way of living," Modi said. Launched in 2017, Smart India Hackathon is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform to offer out-of-the-box ideas to solve problems in governance.

During the event, the Prime



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Minister interacted virtually with groups of students who made presentations on their projects that ranged from the translation of texts in ancient temples into devanagari to a mobile game that seeks to help in cognitive improvement of dementia patients.

Modi said the National Education Policy contains a roadmap for creating a strong foundation for innovation. "The country is working on big resolutions about how India will be in the 100th year of Independence. You are the innovators who are the flag-bearers of the slogan 'Jai Anusandhan' for the fulfillment of these resolutions," he said.

46 to get National teachers award from President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

PRESIDENT DROUPADI Murmu will confer National Awards to Teachers 2022 to 46 selected awardees on September 5 to honour their unique contribution to school education, officials said on Thursday. Among the selected teachers, three each are from Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra and Telangana.

Yudhveer, Virender Kumar and Amit Kumar (Himachal Pradesh); Harpreet Singh, Arun Kumar Garg and Vandana Shahi (Punjab); Shashikant Sambhajirao Kulthe, Somnath Waman Walke and Kavita Sanghvi (Maharashtra); Kandala

Ramaiah, TN Sridhar and Sunitha Rao (Telangana), are the awardees from these four states.

The Ministry of Education has been organising a function at Vigyan Bhawan on Teacher's Day on September 5 every year to confer the awards to the country's best teachers, selected through a rigorous and online three-stage selection process.

Pradeep Negi and Kaustubh Chandra Joshi (Uttarakhand), Sunita and Durga Ram Muwal (Rajasthan), Neeraj Saxena and Om Prakash Patidar (Madhya Pradesh), Saurabh Suman and Nishi Kumari (Bihar), G Ponsankari and Umesh TP (Karnataka), Mala Jigdal Dorjee and Sidharth Yonzone (Sikkim), are among the selected teachers.

SC decision today on UP govt's refusal to grant sanction to prosecute Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE SUPREME Court will on Friday deliver its judgment on a plea challenging a high court decision that upheld the Uttar Pradesh government's refusal to allow sanction to prosecute Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in a 2007 case of alleged inflammatory speech.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and Justices Hima Kohli and C T Ravikumar had reserved its order in the case on Wednesday.

The Uttar Pradesh government had on May 3, 2017, denied sanction to prosecute Adityanath in the case, a decision that was challenged in court by petitioner Parvez Parwaz. He contended that Adityanath had become Chief Minister by the time sanction for prosecution was denied and questioned whether, as executive head, he could have participated in the decision to deny sanction for his own prosecution.

Nambi making false claims about role at ISRO, say his ex-colleagues

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 25

A GROUP of former scientists of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have come out against ex-colleague Nambi Narayanan, who had been implicated in a false spy case of 1994 but was later exonerated by CBI.

The scientists said Narayanan has been making false claims about his role in ISRO, particularly regarding the development of cryogenics. This comes at a time when a biographical drama film based on his life, titled 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect', has hit the screens. Addressing the media Wednesday, the scientists led by the founder director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) at ISRO Dr A E Muthunayagam said Narayanan has been making false claims over the years. "We are forced to disclose certain things because Narayanan has insulted ISRO and the scientists by making false claims in the movie and before the media," he said.

FROM PAGE ONE

PMLA verdict

behalf of the respondent, prima facie, we are of the view that at least two of the issues raised in the instant petition requires consideration," said the order of a bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana. "At least two" suggests that the court's order may not restrict the review to just these two grounds.

"We are in full support of the prevention of black money. The intention is noble and the country cannot afford such offences. But when you read the judgment...we feel there are two aspects that require a relook," the bench observed during the hearing.

On July 27, a three-judge bench, comprising Justices A M Khanwilkar (who has since retired), Dinesh Maheshwari, and C T Ravikumar, had ruled on a batch of over 240 petitions challenging the special law against money laundering.

That bench had accepted the government's arguments on virtually every aspect that was challenged by the petitioners: from reversing the presumption of innocence while granting bail; retrospective operation of the law; to passing the amendments as a Money Bill under the Finance Act and defining the contours of the powers of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Crucially, apart from CJI Ramana -- who retires Friday -- the bench that allowed the review Thursday included Justices Maheshwari and Ravikumar who were part of the bench that delivered the verdict.

The bench said that "prima facie view can be taken" that the verdict's underlining that the ED is not mandated to share a copy of the Enforcement Case Information Report with the accused and the upholding of the stringent bail provisions that reverse the presumption of innocence of an accused need to be revisited.

"My brothers are not agreeable. That is why we are limiting this review to these two grounds," CJI Ramana observed when the petitioners cited other grounds for review. "After reading the judgment, two aspects prima facie...that is not providing ECIR and the reversal of burden of proof and presumption of innocence, require reconsideration."

Several petitioners, including Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, had sought a review of the verdict. On August 24, making a rare exception, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the review in open court.

Except in cases of death penalty, review petitions are heard through "circulation" by judges in their chambers, and not in open court. Lawyers make their case through written submissions and not oral arguments.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Centre, opposed the review and argued that questions on the legal validity of the PMLA could have international ramifications for India.

"This is not a standalone Act. This is part of India's international commitments. The review must be based on an error apparent on the face of record. It cannot be an appeal or another round of litigation," Mehta said.

The verdict in July upheld the vast powers of the ED to arrest individuals, search and seize and attach property. It also upheld the stringent provisions on bail that impose a twin condition: a reverse burden of proof on the accused and a requirement to prima facie satisfy the court that the accused is not guilty and unlikely to commit a similar offence when released.

The bench had also said an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) cannot be equated with an FIR. It said that supplying an ECIR in every case to the person concerned is not mandatory and "it is enough if ED, at the time of arrest, discloses the grounds of such arrest".

IE Awards

helped relieve farm distress, used technology to allow smart warnings for floods, turned garbage dumps into parks, gave a voice to school students, helped "reverse" the scourge of dowry and fought corruption through an app.

This year, the award has 14 categories: innovative education, healthcare, swachhata, gender and inclusion, social welfare, agriculture, e-governance, skill development, MSMEs, start-up and innovations, sustainability, water, energy, resource utilisation from central and state schemes. There is a special jury awards category this year for disaster management,

law and order, public amenities and jury special. Significantly, over the last two years, governance on the ground has faced the unprecedented challenge of Covid.

The award-winning works will be chosen by a distinguished jury of former Chief Justice of India R M Lodha; former chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities and first Chief Information Commissioner Wajahat Habibullah; former Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao; former Cabinet Secretary K M Chandrasekhar; and former Advisor to the PMO and Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Amarjeet Sinha.

All entries will be evaluated by a specialist knowledge partner after which the jury will shortlist the finalists. Then, field checks will also be carried out by *The Indian Express* correspondents.

Like the Excellence in Journalism Awards instituted by the Express group, the EIGA recognises and celebrates the best of the work ushering change in the country. To apply, click on eigawards.indianexpress.com.

Bilkis case

government released all the 11 convicts in the case, who had been sentenced to life imprisonment in 2008, citing a "unanimous" recommendation of the Jail Advisory Committee (JAC) to grant them remission on grounds of "good behaviour".

The court said the question is whether there was application of mind while considering the issue of remission and whether it was within the parameters of law. The bench was hearing a plea filed by CPI(M) leader Subhashini Ali, journalist Revati Lul and academician Roop Rekha Verma.

The counsel for the Gujarat government argued that the three women petitioners "are strangers" to the case and have no standing before the court. While the SC did not agree with this, Justice Rastogi asked the petitioners' lawyer, Kapil Sibal, why an exception must be made from granting remission in this case. "Day in and day out, remission is granted to convicts serving life sentences. What is the exception (in this case)," he asked.

As Sibal narrated the facts of the case, Justice Rastogi asked: "Merely because the act was horrific, is that sufficient to say remission must not be granted?" During the hearing, CJI Ramana also clarified that the SC did not "allow remission" of convicts.

In May, following a petition filed by one of the convicts, Radheshyam Shah, the SC bench of Justices Rastogi and Nath had ruled that although the trial in the Bilkis case took place in Maharashtra, the Gujarat government would be the appropriate authority to grant remission to the 11 convicts based on a 1992 policy that allows early release of life-term convicts.

In 2004, citing "exceptional circumstances", the SC had shifted the trial from Gujarat to Mumbai.

SC on Pegasus

perused the report by the committee, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Mehta replied, "I am not aware. I will not be able to respond." The CJI said, "We are also not aware. Let's examine the report."

Mehta urged the court to "kindly go through the report", saying the Government may have answered leading questions put to it on the issue. "That's right. That's why we do not want to make any comment without looking into the report," the CJI said.

The bench also said that the committee examined 29 phones but did not find any conclusive evidence of Pegasus being used in any of them. "...inconclusive evidence...In five phones they found some malware, but it doesn't mean it is malware of Pegasus. That's what the finding appears," the bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, said after perusing the report.

"Based on the above, it is concluded that 5 of the 29 phones may have had some infection due to a malware or due to poor cyber hygiene and data available is limited and hence inconclusive to determine...", the CJI said, citing the report.

In its order, the court stated: "...the Technical Committee and the Overseeing Judge have submitted their reports in sealed covers. The same are taken on record. The sealed covers were opened in the Court and we read out some portions of the said re-

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ports. Thereafter, the reports were re-sealed and kept in the safe custody of the Secretary General of this Court, who shall make it available as and when required by the Court".

It also directed that the matters be listed after four weeks for further hearing.

The three-member technical committee comprised Dr Naveen Kumar Chaudhary, Dean of National Forensic Sciences University in Gandhinagar; Dr Prabakaran P. Professor at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Kerala; and Dr Ashwin Anil Gumaste, Institute Chair Associate Professor at IIT-Bombay. The panel was supervised by former Supreme Court judge Justice R V Ravendra.

During the hearing of petitions seeking a probe into the issue, the Centre had "unequivocally" denied the allegations that it was involved in unauthorised use of the software. It had taken the stand that the matter involved issues of national security due to which it did not wish to put the details in an affidavit and make it a matter of public debate. It said it would divulge the details to a committee of experts who would examine the issue and urged the court to allow it to set up such a panel.

The court, however, turned down the request, stating that allowing the government to do so "would violate the settled judicial principle against bias, i.e., that justice must not only be done, but also be seen to be done". The court then appointed its own committee on October 27, 2021, and directed that Justice (retired) Ravendra would be assisted by two other experts -- former IPS officer Alok Joshi and cyber security expert Dr Sundeep Oberoi.

On Thursday, the bench, which opened the report in open court, pointed out that it was in three parts. The first part, it said, answered the court's queries, including "whether...Pegasus...was used on phones or other devices of the citizens of India to access stored data, eavesdrop on conversations, intercept information and/or for any other purposes not explicitly stated herein?".

The second part contained the committee's recommendations as sought for by the court to improve cyber security. And the third part contained the report of the supervising judge.

The CJI said the committee had stated that the report contained information about malware which can be exploited by criminals to get a lead over law enforcement agencies. It could also create new and more sophisticated malware, "information/ research material related to malware, attribution that might pose threat to the national security apparatus" and "material extracted from private mobile instruments which may contain private confidential information", the CJI said.

"So they have said it is not to be published, nor for public distribution..." said CJI Ramana, adding that it appears there is a request from the persons who have given their phones, not to make the information public. "It is better to look into it and what portions we can release," he said.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for one of the petitioners, said, "We understand there is some security, confidentiality, we don't want Your Lordships to give us those. But your Lordships can give us a redacted report which takes away those parts and the balance can be given to us. Many of us have given our phones and if they found malware, we are entitled to know..."

The CJI reiterated: "Let's see what portions we can (release)". He said, "You know that we are not experts in this. We have appointed these members after getting a lot of feedback and all that. To what extent they succeeded, what inputs they have

given...how to go ahead, we will look into it."

The court said there is nothing secretive about the report of Justice Ravendra, which will be uploaded on its official website.

A counsel appearing on the side of the petitioners urged that national security should not be such an overriding factor while the court examines the report. The CJI pointed out that even in the order that set up the committee, the court had said that while it's "a settled position of law that in matters pertaining to national security, the scope of judicial review is limited...this does not mean that the State gets a free pass every time the spectre of 'national security' is raised".

Agnipath

On Wednesday, Nepal's Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka informed India's ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, that recruitment of Gorkhas under Agnipath scheme does not conform with provisions of the tripartite agreement signed by Nepal, India and Britain on November 9, 1947. Khadka is learnt to have said that Kathmandu will take a final decision on the issue after wider consultation with political parties and all stakeholders.

Foreign Ministry sources said Khadka also told Srivastava that the 1947 agreement, on the basis of which Gorkhas are recruited in Indian Army, does not recognise India's new recruitment policy under Agnipath scheme, and thus Nepal will "require to assess the impact of the new arrangement".

As a result, the month-long recruitment process, which was to begin on Thursday and conclude on September 29 at different centres across Nepal, has been stalled indefinitely, sources said.

New Delhi had approached Kathmandu six weeks ago for cooperation and approval for the recruitment, taking place after a two-year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the meeting, sources said, the Nepal side made clear that the current recruitment scheme for a period of four years under Agnipath is not in conformity with the provisions of the 1947 agreement. There have been noticeable concerns in Nepal about the future of Gorkha recruits when they report after four years, and the impact of these out-of-job young men -- all in their twenties -- on society.

The state relations committee of the Nepal Parliament, which was scheduled to discuss different issues, including the Agnipath scheme and its impact on Gorkha recruitment, was adjourned due to a lack of quorum.

Minister Khadka said it is necessary to gather opinion of all sides, including that of major political parties and stakeholders. "This is not a final decision of the government. We will get back to India after a broader understanding is formed," a source in the ministry said.

Recruitment of Gorkhas from Nepal began in then British Indian army after the Treaty of Sagauli was signed in 1816 between the government of Nepal and the British East India Company. It became a tripartite arrangement in November 1947 after India became independent and Gorkhas in Nepal were given a choice to serve in the Indian Army or go to UK.

Sebi ban

given an interest-free loan of Rs 403.85 crore to RRPR Holding in 2009 and 2010, against which RRPR Holding had issued warrants to VCPL. The warrants entitled VCPL to convert them into a 99.9 per cent equity stake in RRPR. RRPR Holding owns 29.18 per cent in NDTV Ltd.

In the disclosure to the stock exchanges, NDTV said the SEBI order restrained the founder-promoters Pranroy

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EXPRESS AUDIO

IAF officers fired, a student cyber army, and lumpy skin disease

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

First, Indian Express' Man Aman Singh Chhina joins host Utsa Sarmin to talk about the Brahmos missile misfiring incident which led to the firing of three IAF officers.

Roy and Radhika Roy from accessing the securities market, and prohibited them from buying and selling securities, directly or indirectly for two years, which expires on November 26, 2022.

Another source close to the developments said that neither did SEBI's November 2020 order restrain RRPR from dealing in securities transactions nor did the NDTV disclosure Thursday explicitly mention RRPR cannot buy or sell securities. The source, however, acknowledged that material facts (VCPL ownership) had changed, and the deal eventually led to Adani acquiring 29.18 per cent stake in NDTV, a listed entity.

The Adani Group may await a clear SEBI nod or even wait for three months till November 26, 2022, when the ban on Roys will be lifted, so that the acquisition of RRPR and thereby its ownership of NDTV holding takes effect.

Legal experts contend that the conversion of warrants was a part of a decade-plus old transaction when a loan was given by the proposed acquirer -- VCPL -- and that this entity was now only exercising its rights to convert the warrants into equity.

"Ideally warrant conversion should not be an issue. The transaction here is by the entity and the restriction imposed by the regulator is on individuals, so both the issues are not connected. I don't see an issue here," said a top securities law expert.

"Regulatory approval is any ways required for transactions of this nature, as minority and other shareholder interests have to be also looked at and so there is nothing new to it. It is a proceeding and the regulator will see if all the rules and procedures have been followed," the expert said.

Soren

Soren was elected from Barhait and Dumka in the 2019 state elections. He later gave up the Dumka seat after which his brother Basant Soren got elected from the constituency in a by-poll.

The Letter of Intent for the mining lease in Ranchi's Argora area was issued on June 16, 2021. On April 8 this year, Jharkhand Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan told the Jharkhand High Court that the state government had committed "a mistake" and the lease had been surrendered.

The EC sent its opinion to the Governor earlier on Thursday following which the JMM put up a brave front, saying that the outcome, even if adverse, would not affect the state government.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior JMM minister said the government will approach the court, if needed. "There is no danger to the government immediately. However, there will be some ramifications...party leaders and workers may get disillusioned as the Opposition (BJP) continues to attack us," the minister said.

A senior JMM functionary told The Indian Express that Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato could buy Soren "some time" to challenge the order. If a legal challenge fails, he said, Soren "will fight the by-election from the seat on which he won earlier".

"If he wins from the same seat, it will be the public's mandate in his favour. The leadership is considering all possible scenarios. Everything will depend on the wording of the EC's recommendation. Many legal luminaries have told us that getting the lease does not attract disqualification. If the Chief Minister is disqualified, it will be interesting to read the EC's interpretation," said the functionary.

The EC had issued a notice to Soren in May this year, seeking his response to the complaint that the Chief Minister had, prima facie, violated Section 9A of the Representation of People's Act, which prohibits elected repre-

sentatives from entering into any contract with the government for "supply of goods" or "execution of any works undertaken" by it.

According to Section 9A, disqualification of an elected representative under this section will last as long as the contract is in force. Hence, if the Assembly Speaker declares Soren's seat vacant, he can resign as Chief Minister and technically be sworn in again since he has already surrendered the mining lease -- with the provision that he gets re-elected within six months.

An EC source told The Indian Express that the Commission recently concluded hearings in the reference received from Bais, and that its opinion "was dispatched by the morning flight".

Later, Soren went into a huddle with his advisors and Advocate General Ranjan. Soren also hit out at the BJP, which had submitted a plea before the Governor seeking his disqualification -- the petition had been forwarded by Bais to the EC.

"It apparently seems that BJP leaders, including a BJP MP and his puppet journalists, have themselves drafted the EC report, which is otherwise a sealed cover report. This blatant misuse of Constitutional authorities and public agencies and its complete takeover by BJP HQ in Deendayal Upadhyay Marg in this shameful manner is unseen in Indian democracy," the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) quoted Soren as saying in a statement.

Earlier, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey had retweeted excerpts of a report quoting him as saying: "All the journalists have told me that he (Jharkhand CM) has lost his membership. That had been recommended to the Governor by the EC. As a BJP worker, it's a matter of joy because it's the BJP that had complained to the Governor. It is the day to celebrate."

The CMO's statement said that the "Chief Minister is apprised of several media reports about the EC sending a report to Governor, Jharkhand, apparently recommending his disqualification as an MLA". It said, "No communication in this regard has been received by the CMO from either the EC or the Governor."

"You can buy Constitutional institutions, how will you buy public support," Soren said later in a tweet, sharing a photograph of a felicitation by members of the Jharkhand State Police Association.

Expressing confidence that Soren will remain Chief Minister till the next state elections in 2024, JMM general secretary Supriyo Bhattacharya said his party is "ready to accept any political challenge from the BJP".

"We taught them a lesson in the 2019 assembly polls and four by-elections in Jharkhand. Let them do all the conspiracy they want to... Public support is with us as the Hemant Soren government has fulfilled all its promises. There are better health conditions, jobs have been given, and police personnel are happy," Bhattacharya told reporters.

Asked about the party's strategy if Soren is disqualified, Bhattacharya said: "Hemant Soren is our only alternative... Our government is strong and fulfills all its commitments."

Earlier, speaking to reporters at the Ranchi airport after returning from a visit to Delhi, Bais said, "I was in AIIMS Delhi for two days. I will be in a position to talk about any such decision when I reach Raj Bhavan."

The BJP has also accused Soren of allocating a mining lease to his political advisor Pankaj Mishra and press advisor Abhishek Prasad. Mishra is in judicial custody after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested him following raids conducted to unearth alleged illegal mining in the state.

EXPRESS EDUCATION

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OPEN SESSION

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Now, upload pic of stray dog on MCD app to get it sterilised

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

TO CONTROL the stray dog population in the capital, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi has added a new facility under which photos of dogs, along with details of the locality, can be uploaded so that the corporation can sterilise the animal.



Details like date of a dog's surgery and release will be updated online. Archive

A senior MCD official said the corporation has launched a dog sterilisation module on its mobile app, MCD App 311, that will include updates on the entire process, along with photos. From the pickup of the dog and its arrival at the sterilisation centre to the date of surgery and its release, all details will be up-

complaints of stray dogs being picked up by our field teams from certain neighbourhoods but not being returned to the same locality after neutering... The MCD will monitor the sterilisation through this mobile application and will ensure that after surgery, the animals are released in the same locality that they were picked up from... Stray dogs have been a cause of concern for the authorities. In December 2021, a pack of dogs mauled a three-year-old girl to death in West Delhi's Moti Nagar. Dog bite data from the erstwhile municipal corporations showed that the city saw 90-plus cases on an average every day during 2021. Data from healthcare facilities of the municipal bodies shows that a total of 31,913 dog bite cases have been treated in municipal facilities, with a maximum of 16,007 cases in the erstwhile East MCD, 11,119 cases in the erstwhile South MCD and 4,787 dog bite cases in the erstwhile North MCD institutions last year.

Govt to chalk out winter pollution action plan

New Delhi: The Delhi government is in the process of preparing a winter action plan to mitigate air pollution.

burning of waste, industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, pollution at 'hotspots', real-time source apportionment study which will be done in winter, smog towers, firecrackers, increasing 'green areas', and 'dialogue with the Centre and neighbouring states.'

"The air pollution situation in previous years was assessed at the meeting... officials said reports during peak pollution time stated that around 31% of pollution is contributed by sources within the city, and 69% is contributed by the NCR," he said.

The plan will include 15 focus points, according to Environment Minister Gopal Rai who chaired a meeting Thursday with environment department officials, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, development department and forest department. A similar 10-point plan was in place last winter.

Rai said the 15 focus points include dust pollution, controlling stubble burning within Delhi,

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF BANKING & FINANCE (CIN : U9110MH1928GAP001391) Kohinor City, Commercial II, Tower - 1, 2nd Floor, Kirod Road, Kuria (West), Mumbai 400070. Tel: +91-22-68507000 Email: admin@iibf.org.in

NOTICE is hereby given that the 95th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Institute will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 3:00 PM IST through Two-Way Video Conferencing/ Other Audio Visual Mode ("VC/OAVM") ONLY to transact the Business, as set out in the Notice for the 95th AGM.

In compliance with the aforesaid circulars, the Annual Report of the Company for 2021-22 along with the Notice of the AGM has been dispatched by e-mail to all the members whose e-mail addresses are available and registered with the Institute on Tuesday, 23rd August, 2022.

Remote E-Voting and E-Voting at the AGM In compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Members are provided with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using electronic voting system (remote e-voting), provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and the business may be transacted through such voting. The details for the e-voting pursuant to the Act and the Rules are hereunder:

- The Ordinary Business and Special Business as set out in the AGM may be transacted through voting by electronic means. The Notice for AGM along with e-voting instructions is available along with the Annual Report on the website of the Institute at www.iibf.org.in. website of NSDL https://www.evoting.nsdl.com
Institutional members are required to send a scanned copy (PDF/JPG Format) of its Board or Governing Body Resolution / Authorization etc., authorizing its representative to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM on its behalf and to vote through remote e-voting. The said Resolution / Authorization shall be sent to the Scrutinizer by email through registered email address to scrutiniser@csdckamat.com with a copy marked to evoting@nsdl.co.in.

The Notes to the AGM Notice contain the detailed instructions for manner of attendance and e-voting at the AGM for all Voting and Non-voting members. Members are requested to refer to the same for attending the AGM.

Place: Mumbai Date: 25.08.2022 Biswa Ketan Das CEO DIN: 08067282

EXPRESS Careers

IRCON PB TOLL WAY LIMITED (A Wholly Owned Subsidiary of IRCON International Limited) Recruitment of Account Assistant on Contract Basis (Advt. No. IRCONPBTLC01/2022)

IRCONPBTLC, a Concessionaire Company, incorporated under Company Act 2013 invites application for the post of Account Assistant (No. of Post 01) on contract basis at a fixed salary of Rs. 51,000/- p.m. having passed B.com with four years experience in field of Accounting, Finance, Taxation, Audit in any firm of repute. Preference will be given to candidates with working experience in Railway PSU. For detailed advertisement, please visit corporate website of our holding company at www.ircon.org. Last date of receipt of advance application in Annexure I along with all relevant documents is 12th Sept 2022.

NATIONAL FERTILIZERS LIMITED (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING) Registered Office: Scope Complex, Core-III, 7, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 Website: www.nationalfertilizers.com, Email ID: investor@nfl.co.in. Telephone: 011-24560066, 24361252

NOTICE FOR ATTENTION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

Shareholders are hereby informed that the 48th Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio-Visual Means ("OAVM") without the physical presence of the members at a common venue on Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 02:30 P.M. IST, to transact the business contained in the notice calling the AGM, in compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder, read with General Circulars no. 20/2020 dated May 5, 2020, General Circular No.14/2020 dated April 8, 2020, General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 02/2021 dated January 13, 2021, General Circular No. 19/2021 dated December 08, 2021, General Circular No. 2/2022 dated May 05, 2022 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs [collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars"] and SEBI Circulars SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated May 12, 2020, SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated January 15, 2021 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated May 13, 2022 (collectively referred to as "SEBI Circulars").

In accordance with the aforesaid Circulars, Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2021-22 are being sent only by electronic mode to those Members whose e-mail address are registered with the Registrar and transfer agent / Depositories. Notice and Annual Report will be made available on the Company's website viz. www.nationalfertilizers.com as well as on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) viz. www.evoting.nsdl.com and on the websites of Stock Exchanges i.e. National Stock Exchange of India Limited and BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com respectively.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

- (a) In case shares are held in physical mode please provide Form ISR-1 with Folio No., Name of shareholder, scanned copy of any one share certificate (front and back), PAN (self attested scanned copy of PAN card), Mobile number and email id (should be mentioned in form ISR-1) AADHAR (self-attested scanned copy of Aadhar Card) by email to investor@masserv.com or investor@nfl.co.in. Please also send original copy of ISR-1 with copy of PAN/AADHAR to RTA (i.e. MAS Services Limited, T-34 2nd Floor Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II New Delhi-110020).
(b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode and have not registered/updated their e-mail address, register/update it with the Depository Participant(s) with whom their demat account is maintained.

Manner of casting vote(s) through e-voting:

- (a) In compliance with the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014, as amended from time to time, Regulation 44 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 and applicable Circulars, the Company is pleased to provide e-voting (remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM) facility to all its Members enabling them to cast their vote electronically for all the resolutions as set in the AGM Notice.
(b) The facility for e-voting will be made available during the AGM to those members who could not cast their votes through remote e-voting. The detailed procedure for e-voting before as well as during the AGM is provided in the Notice of the AGM. Further members attending the meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum as per Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.
(c) The shareholders who hold the shares in physical form or who have not registered their e-mail address and wish to participate in the AGM are requested to refer the manner of registering/updating e-mail address as stated above.

Book Closure:

Notice is also hereby given under Section 91 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 10 of Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014 and Regulation 42 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 that the Register of the Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from 23.09.2022 to 29.09.2022 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of AGM.

Cut-off Date for Voting at the AGM:

The Company has fixed Thursday, 22.09.2022 as the cut-off date for voting at the AGM. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to their shares of the paid up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date.

Manner of registering mandate:

- Members are requested to register/ update their complete bank details (for receiving electronic payment of dividends, as and when declared by the Company):
(a) with their Depository Participant(s) with whom they maintain their demat accounts, if shares are held in dematerialised mode by submitting the requisite documents. Details in a form prescribed by their Depository Participant may also be required to be furnished, and
(b) with the M/s. MAS Services Limited (RTA) at T-34, 2nd Floor, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-II, New Delhi-110020, if shares are held in physical mode, by submitting (i) Form ISR-1 which shall contain member's name, folio number, bank details (Bank account number, Bank and Branch Name and address, IFSC, MICR details), (ii) self-attested copy of the PAN card and (iii) original cancelled cheque leaf with name printed on it.
Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or e-voting during the AGM.

For National Fertilizers Limited, (Ashok Jha) Company Secretary Place: New Delhi Date: 25.08.2022 @NFL_Kisan @nationalfertilizers National Fertilizers Limited

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED (A Govt. of India Undertaking) Website: www.ircon.org CIN: L45203DL1976GO008171 e-Procurement Notice (National Competitive Bidding) e-Tender No.: IRCON/ELECT/5037-5038/NCR/TC/JUMPER_FITTINGS/01/73 dated 24.08.2022

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) is a premier R&D organization of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), carrying out R&D in IT, Electronics and associated areas. Applications are invited for the post of Senior Project Engineer (Domain: Civil Engineering) on contract & on a consolidated salary.

CHANDIGARH HOUSING BOARD (A Chandigarh Administration Undertaking) CORRIGENDUM Detail of Parking in respect of Residential Properties (Free Hold Basis) of Sector 63, Chandigarh and extra charges in addition to bid amount.

Barhan Gopal Branch (Dist.-Siwan) Bank of Baroda DEMAND NOTICE (For Movable/ Immovable Property) Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 was issued on 26.07.2022 by Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor against the following Borrower of the Barhan Gopal Branch.

SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA STRESSED ASSETS RECOVERY BRANCH (SARB) 2nd Floor, Patna Main Branch Building, West Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001 Ph. No. (Office): 0612-2219043, 2219385, Fax No.: 0612-2219385, E-mail: sbi.05176@sbi.co.in SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2022.


**VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS**
31,675

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 381
OXYGEN SUPPORT 80
VENTILATOR SUPPORT 26
**DELHI TOTAL
CASES**
19,97,054
Total
HOSPITAL BEDS 9,405
ICU BEDS 2,144
2,020
Total active cases in Delhi

	Total	Vacant
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,405	9,024
ICU BEDS	2,144	2,020

	Aug 24	Aug 25
Noida		
Cases	118	90
Deaths	0	0
Gurgaon		
Cases	288	226
Deaths	1	1

BRIEFLY

**Girl chased,
shot at by 3
boys on a bike**

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl was shot at, allegedly by three boys on a motorcycle, while she was heading home from school on Thursday evening. Police said they received a PCR call regarding the incident in Sangam Vihar at 3.45 pm. They said the girl, a class 11 student, had been shifted to Batra Hospital with a gunshot wound to the shoulder and was out of danger. Police said the boys allegedly chased her and shot her in the back before fleeing. They added that she was in touch with one of them on social media.

**Cancel
Munawar's
show: VHP to
Delhi Police**

New Delhi: The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has written to the Delhi Police Commissioner to cancel the show of comedian Munawar Faruqui in the national capital, slated for August 28. VHP members said they will stage protests, along with the Bajrang Dal, if police fail to cancel the show. Police said they haven't received the complaint and are yet to take action in the matter. Faruqui's team is also not aware of the VHP notice or the show being cancelled.

**Ghanaian
national held
for swindling
women**

New Delhi: A Ghanaian national was arrested Wednesday for allegedly swindling women on the pretext of sending gifts after befriending them on social media while impersonating a UK-based doctor. Police said the accused, identified as Paul Ofori (36), allegedly started cheating people after he visited India for business purposes.

**Man creates
fake Twitter ID
in name of
President's
daughter, held**

Noida: A man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly creating a fake Twitter account in the name of the President of India's daughter and tweeting a complaint about his neighbour, Noida police said. The accused has been identified as Shailendra Shukla, a resident of Proview Technocity Apartments, Sector Chi-V, in Greater Noida. **ENS**

AAP MLAs GATHER AT CM RESIDENCE, FOLLOWED BY VISIT TO RAJGHAT

Real scam is 'Operation Lotus', says Kejriwal

SUKRITA BARUAH
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

WHILE THE CBI investigates a case it has registered against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over alleged corruption in the rollout of the excise policy, the Aam Aadmi Party Thursday conducted a show of strength at Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's house during an all-MLA meeting "to discuss offers being made to them by the BJP".

Kejriwal had called for the meeting at 11 am after four AAP MLAs — Somnath Bharti, Kuldeep Kumar, Sanjeev Jha and Ajay Dutt — claimed Wednesday that they were contacted by the BJP and had been offered Rs 20 crore each to join the party and Rs 25 crore to bring another MLA along with them. AAP had also claimed that the BJP was "targeting" 35 more MLAs. "They have kept aside Rs 800 crore to bring down the Delhi government — Rs 20 crore per MLA. The country wants to know, whose money is it and where is it kept? None of our MLAs will break. The government is stable. The good work in Delhi will continue," said Kejriwal after the meeting.

After this, all MLAs led by Kejriwal headed to Rajghat in another show of numbers to "pray to Gandhi ji to save the country from BJP's Operation Lotus".

"They sent a message to Sisodia, offering him the CM post



Kejriwal had called for the meeting at 11 am. Amit Mehra

and closure of all cases against him if he causes a split in the AAP and joins them. It is my fortune and luck that I've been blessed with a confidant and companion like Manish ji; they gave him an open offer of the CM post, but he kicked it away. Now they're trying to lure our MLAs, offering them Rs 20 crore in cash to side with them and topple the AAP government. They have no clarity or logic behind their allegations; some of them are claiming a Rs 1.5 lakh crore scam, some Rs 1,100 crore, some Rs 800 crore, some Rs 144 crore and some Rs 1 crore... the real scam is 'Operation Lotus'. At Rajghat, we prayed for the prevailing situation to get better and sought blessings for the country's peace and progress," he said.

According to AAP, 12 MLAs stated in the meeting that they have been contacted by someone from the BJP to break away from the party. Asked if the party would be providing proof of such contact, Greater Kailash MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "The testimony of an MLA is considered to be proof in the court of law; when the right time comes, we'll present such proof before the nation that will shake up the foundation of the BJP." The party has not named these 12 MLAs.

On Thursday evening, Kejriwal tweeted: "There is a serial killer, who has killed six people in the same pattern. The killer tried to kill another person using the same pattern. This time the killer failed. The victim is saying it is the same killer, I have seen

him. But the whole media is asking for proof. The eyewitness is here, the pattern is the same. The police will gather evidence but the killer must be arrested first."

Some tension

Around 45 minutes before the meeting, AAP sources said a few MLAs could not be reached. "We are making calls to all our MLAs but a few of them are not reachable. Efforts will be made to contact all 62 MLAs before 11 am," a source had told *The Indian Express*.

By 11 am, 36 MLAs, including the CM, were present at his residence. AAP has 62 out of 70 MLAs in the Delhi Assembly. Of these, 54 were expected to report to the meeting since cabinet minister Satyendar Jain is in judicial custody in an alleged money laundering case and seven MLAs — Manish Sisodia, Speaker Ram Niwas Goel, Gulab Singh, Dinesh Mohaniya, Mukesh Ahlawat, Shiv Charan Goel and Vinay Mishra — were out of Delhi on different assignments.

Bharadwaj stood outside Kejriwal's residence doing a headcount of MLAs as they arrived one by one. At 11.30 am, Rajinder Nagar MLA Durgesh Pathak arrived and was the 53rd MLA to join the meeting. Bharadwaj stated that Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan could not make it to the meeting due to traffic congestion but joined on a video call. Khan later joined the MLAs at Rajghat.

After AAP's Rajghat visit, BJP 'purifies' it with Ganga jal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

AFTER CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Aam Aadmi Party MLAs visited Rajghat to "pray for the failure of the BJP's Operation Lotus", BJP MP Parvesh Verma said they have "dirtied a pious place".

"Our party workers will go today and pour Ganga jal because our father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, always opposed alcohol. By going there today, they should have at least asked for forgiveness and tell (us) how many crores worth of corruption they have done," said the West Delhi MP earlier in the day.

On AAP's allegations that 12 of its MLAs have been contacted by leaders in the BJP to break away from it and help topple the Delhi government, Verma said: "The media has also asked us whether their MLAs are being bought, but we have decided to not respond to this. We have a simple question — why the commission on L1 licences was increased from 2% to 12%. This is the biggest corruption in their liquor policy and they have no reply."



BJP workers poured Ganga jal around Rajghat; MP Parvesh Verma

Later in the day, BJP workers went to Rajghat and poured Ganga jal around the place.

BJP yuva morcha leader Abhimanyu Tyagi said they did this because the "AAP is earning money through corruption in its liquor (policy) and then trying to save themselves by using *Bapu*. They should have realised that *Bapu* was against alcohol all his life".

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said Kejriwal is "using the same old

script". "You have to speak about the liquor policy, people want to know your reply. Due to your silence, people understand that you have got the money and are now busy diverting from the issue... You have turned into the descendant of (Nazi politician Joseph) Goebbels, who used to think that if you repeat your lies, it will come true. But now people have become conscious and have taken to the street in protest."

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta, at a protest in RK Ashram, said the AAP has no answer as it knows that their "deceit has been exposed".

DAY BEFORE RETIREMENT

CJI Ramana recalls Delhi HC stint: 'Launching pad, never faced any stressful event'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

TERMINING THE Delhi High Court as his "launching pad" and his short stint as its Chief Justice a training period, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana Thursday said he arrived in the capital with several "apprehensions" but never faced work-related stress here.

At a function organised by Delhi HC Bar Association to bid farewell to him, a day ahead of his superannuation as the country's senior-most judge, Justice Ramana said when he was transferred from Andhra Pradesh, he was told that he was going to a "very hard state" where he — as someone with "agriculture background" — should be very careful with every word he says, as the people in Delhi are very cultured, knowledgeable and "very sorry to say, aggressive".

"I used to say frequently that if somebody asks which is the best period in your judge's life, I proudly say these months (at Delhi HC) are the best period in my life. Because I was... almost 13 years as judge in Andhra Pradesh High Court and I faced a lot of tension moments, stress and other situations. Once I came here, surprisingly not even a single day... I never had any occasion for altercation or any sort of a stressful event or moment while working here," said the CJI.

Justice Ramana, who retires on August 26, said he never faced any strike or trouble from the lawyer community. "This is a big achievement because they first warned me that if you're going to



CJI Ramana with women judges of Supreme Court and Delhi High Court. Delhi HC Bar Association

Delhi, you must prepare for dharms and strikes; that never happened," he said. Stating that Delhi High Court has "peculiar features and specialities," Justice Ramana said the quantum of litigation and variety of issues it deals with cannot be compared with any other high court in the country.

Prior to his elevation to the apex court, he was Chief Justice at Delhi HC between September 2, 2013, and February 17, 2014.

"Administration of justice is a challenge for everyone, particularly judges who are going to become chief justice. I learnt about the administration of the registry, I learnt the listing of matters, preparing rosters, allotment of cases, everything, so it helped me a lot working as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. This (was) the launching pad or training period for me to be a successful Chief Justice of the SC of India," he said.

The CJI also thanked the Delhi HC Bar Association for supporting him in 2020. "I remember the days of the challenge, the days of turmoil and the instance which

(took) place two years back. (It was) an interesting time for me. Every member of the bar, particularly Delhi, stood by me. They unitedly expressed solidarity and they passed a resolution and supported me. You are my real wishers and I am extremely happy about having such strength and support from you," he said.

The Bar Association in October 2020 in a resolution had condemned the allegations by Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan Mohan Reddy against CJI Ramana. Jagan, in an October 6 letter to then Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, had alleged that Justice Ramana "has been influencing the sittings of the (Andhra Pradesh) High Court including the roster of few Honourable Judges".

While concluding his speech, Justice Ramana said, as the CJI, he particularly took up the issues of judicial infrastructure and appointment of judges: "Thanks to support from my brother and sister judges in the SC and Collegium, we successfully appointed 224 judges in High Courts."

Final checks on, Supertech towers to be razed on schedule: Noida Authority CEO

MALAVIKA PRASAD
 NOIDA, AUGUST 25

HOURS BEFORE the Supertech twin towers are set to come down on Sunday afternoon, Noida Authority CEO Ritu Maheshwari said around 7,000-8,000 residents and staff from nearby Emerald Court and ATS Village societies have been asked to evacuate their homes by morning.

"As per directions of the Supreme Court, the towers located in Noida Sector 93A will be demolished on August 28... Post blast and after the inspection of the site, residents will be given the green signal to return back to their flats," said Maheshwari after a spot visit and a meeting with all stakeholders at Emerald Court Clubhouse Thursday afternoon.

Addressing the press, she said, "I would like to state that all preparations for the demolition are nearly completed. Explosives which were to be loaded in both towers have been put in place. The blast is scheduled for August 28 at 2.30 pm and in 10-12 seconds, both towers will be demolished. Around 80,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste will be generated as a result of the demolition, out of which 50,000-55,000 tonnes will be used for filling at the site; the rest will be sent to a C&D waste plant for processing."

"The Noida-Greater Noida expressway will be shut between 2 pm and 3 pm. Medical teams at Yatharth hospital and Felix Hospital have been sensitised on any possible emergencies. A team from the National Disaster Response Force will also be in place for caution's sake. Repair and strengthening work in at least 50 out of 55 columns (at

Emerald Court) have been completed by Supertech. Crack gauges for monitoring cracks in the affected towers will be placed on August 27. Data collected pre- and post-demolition from the gauges will also be analysed," she said.

On dust control measures, she said: "Dust will be generated for a minimal time only; moreover, water tankers and smog machines will be provided by the authority to help settle the dust. Mechanical sweeping machines and sanitation staff will be provided by the authority as well. Devices for monitoring air quality will also be put in place."

Maheshwari said a team from Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) is stationed at the site and according to them, whatever repair work has been done is satisfactory. "If any changes take place, we have the buffer of seven days granted by Supreme Court. But for now, it does not seem like the blast will be delayed. All pending reports will be reviewed once today evening. After the demolition, a structural audit of towers in the critical zone at Emerald Court and ATS village will be carried out as well," she added.

According to Utkarsh Mehta, partner at Edifice Engineering — the firm overseeing the process — a 15-member team from CBRI, led by Chief Scientist Dr DP Kanungo, is present at the site to carry out a final round of checks along with the team from Edifice for the next two days.

DCP (headquarters) Rambadan Singh issued an order, passed under Section 144 of the CrP, stating that no private person/organisation will be allowed to operate drones from August 26-31 and a violation of this will be punishable under IPC section 188.

Stray dogs moved to temporary abode



The dogs will be brought back on August 29. Gajendra Yadav

MALAVIKA PRASAD
 NOIDA, AUGUST 25

AHEAD OF the Supertech demolition, stray dogs around the site, including those on the premises of Emerald Court and parks, were sent to a boarding house Thursday with the help of volunteers and Friendscoes, a registered animal welfare society.

For Saniya Varma, a resident of the neighbouring Parsvnath Srishti, who has been feeding stray dogs around the twin towers for the past two years, protecting strays is of utmost importance. "We sent 23 dogs to a boarding known as Veda house in sector 158. It was hard to catch them but animal ambulances and staff from Friendscoes helped us. They had sent three vans and around eight-nine catchers. The dogs will be at the boarding house for the next few days until things settle down, and will be brought back on August 29," Varma said she created an online group after ask-

ing fellow volunteers who would be willing to help. "I and 10-12 volunteers reached the spot at 8.00 am and started looking for dogs. We gathered 23 dogs," she said. Varma said the volunteers will continue to look for strays until the demolition takes place. The staff from Friendscoes arrived around 8.30 am and began looking for dogs. "We looked around the parks opposite Emerald Court and found around 18-20 dogs. We will be taking them to a boarding house," one of the catchers said. There were eight catchers with dog-catching equipment.

Geeta Sheshamani, vice-president of Friendscoes SECA, said, "We are connected on WhatsApp groups with feeders in Noida. When I came to know about this, I realised that this is a matter of urgency. Since Saniya is a known dog-feeder in the area, we connected with her and three ambulances were sent. We have removed 27 dogs and we are hoping to remove some more."

Extortion gone wrong behind murder of 2 men, gangster held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

DAYS AFTER two men were gunned down in a case of mistaken identity in Outer Delhi's Bakkarwala, police arrested gangster Ankesh Lakra in connection with the case. Police said Lakra, a member of the Gogi gang, was allegedly trying to extort money from a businessman in the locality and sent his men to threaten him, but they entered the wrong house and killed the victims, Joginder Kumar (41) and Mangal Ram (60), on Monday night.

Lakra was arrested last year after he allegedly helped gangster

Kuldeep Maan alias Fajja (28) escape from custody at GTB hospital and is lodged in Mandoli jail.

DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said during investigation, the businessman told police that he was receiving extortion calls. Police found the calls came from Mandoli jail and zeroed in on Lakra. "He was making calls to the businessman and threatening him... they had got into a fight two months back over a petty issue... Based on evidence, we arrested Lakra and court has given us one-day police custody to interrogate him," said the DCP.

As per initial probe, Lakra was trying to extort Rs 20,000- Rs 30,000 from the businessman

who refused to pay up. "To threaten the businessman, he had contacted his associates and asked them to fire at him. The plan was not to murder the man. However, the assailants went to Joginder's home and he tried to snatch their pistols. During the scuffle, the accused fired at all three men," said an officer.

The case has been transferred to the Special Cell. Sources said two more men were detained and are being questioned. Sources said they suspect the assailants are involved in another firing incident, in which a realtor was shot at. Police believe the gang targeted him over his alleged links with Gogi's rival, Tillu Tajpuriya.

Water supply hit in Gurgaon for 4th day in a row, several residents rely on tankers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 GURGAON, AUGUST 25

WATER SUPPLY in several parts of the city especially Old Gurgaon areas remained affected for the fourth consecutive day, with residents having to purchase water from private tanker suppliers. The Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority late Thursday evening said water supply had partially resumed in most areas and is likely to be normalised soon.

On August 18, GMDA had said water supply in sectors 4, 5, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 23A, Gurgaon village, Dayanand colony, Rajiv

EXPLAINED
Pipeline leak

SUPPLY WAS hit after leaks were detected during shifting of a 1,200 mm master supply pipeline from Basai water treatment plant and connecting a new pipeline. "We are increasing water pressure and monitoring flow in the pipeline..." said Rajesh Bansal, chief engineer, infra 2 division, GMDA.

Nagar, Sheetla colony, Dharam colony, Palam Vihar, Ashok Vihar

phase 1 and 2, Maruti Udyog, HSI-IDC, Chauma, Dundaheera, Mullaheera, Carterpuri and nearby areas, would be affected for 24 hours (8 am on August 22 to 8 am on August 23) due to shifting of 1,200 mm master supply pipeline from Basai water treatment plant, which was required for construction of an arterial Road from Umang Bhardwaj chowk to Northern Periphery road.

GMDA officials said after completion of work pertaining to shifting of the pipeline and in the process of connection of the newly laid pipeline, leakage was detected at 3 locations Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, due to which supply had to

be stalled to rectify the leakage. Residents claimed private suppliers were charging as much as Rs 1,200-2,000 for a tanker. Anup Bajaj, a resident of Palam Vihar, said, "We have been suffering for the past four days due to mismanagement of authorities... private water tankers, are charging extortionate prices."

Anant, a sector 21 resident, said, "The situation has become worse in the last two days. No tanker has been arranged by authorities despite several requests."

GMDA said the authority and MCG provided tankers to cater to the requests of people in Palam Vihar, Sector 23/23 A, Sector 12A, among others.

Man beaten to death, 5 held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

A 31-YEAR-OLD man was allegedly beaten to death in North Delhi last week, said police, adding that five men had been arrested in connection with the case within hours. A purported video of the incident from August 13 posted online shows a man being held down on the ground while two others beat him with heavy sticks.

Police said the victim, Sunil, a resident of Timarpur, wanted to take 'revenge' on the accused as they had beaten up his brother and had gone to pick a fight with them. Police said the accused have criminal records.

7 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



COME SEPTEMBER

AHEAD OF Sunday's Congress Working Committee meeting to finalise the date-wise schedule for election of the new Congress president, party leaders admitted that the outer window of September 20 to complete the process will be breached. The party was to elect a new president to replace Sonia Gandhi between August 21 and September 20. Congress general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal says the election is not being postponed, as is being speculated. He says the process may not be completed by September 20 but the schedule may at best go beyond by just a week or 10 days. Party leaders claim the delay is due to some technical issues, and it is not that the leadership is still trying to convince Rahul Gandhi to contest. Meanwhile, a theory also doing the rounds is that the party is rescheduling the election process to avoid an inauspicious period.

GOAL POSTED

AS THE government looks for ways to keep the celebrations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav going, an inter-ministry football tournament has been identified as one such opportunity. The event is to be held in October, and the government is seeking applications from ministries to enlist their teams. But there is a catch: uniformed personnel from the defence services, paramilitary forces and police will not be allowed to participate, presumably to maintain a level playing field. Similarly, daily wage workers employed by ministries will also not be allowed to be part of the teams. Employees of PSUs and similar autonomous bodies, even if they report to a Union ministry, have also been kept out of the scope. If any ministry's team is found to have included these personnel, the entire team will stand disqualified.

MESSAGE ON MEDIUM

PRINCIPALS AND faculty members of 378 Ekavya schools in the country, catering to approximately 1 lakh students from tribal communities, on Thursday received a crash course on social media, courtesy the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In a virtual workshop, teachers of these schools were taught how to use Twitter, among others, "to connect with the world" on topics and issues that are important to them. The staff was also encouraged to use social media platforms such as Facebook, to have better social outreach as well as global content, while at the same time being informed and warned about the hazards of social media.

Shocked, stunned: IIM-B faculty, staff write to CJI seeking justice for Bilkis

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

EXPRESSING "shock and anguish" over the remission granted to the Bilkis Bano gang rape convicts, as many as 54 faculty and staff members of IIM Bangalore Thursday wrote to Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, saying the Gujarat government's act "emboldens" perpetrators of such heinous crimes and "extinguishes" the hopes of millions of Indians on the judicial system.

In a letter to the CJI, the 54 signatories, including senior faculty members of the premier business school, said the remission is not only a denial of justice but "also presents a real and immediate danger to Bilkis Bano and her family".

"The sympathetic treatment these convicted men have received is shocking. What kind of a nation are we turning into if

Bilkis Bano is left to defend herself while her violators are given a hero's welcome... We appeal to you, Honourable Chief Justice, to enable us to continue to repose our trust in the Supreme Court," they wrote in the letter.

On Thursday, a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Ramana issued notice to the Centre and the Gujarat government on a plea challenging the release of the 11 convicts in the 2002 case. The matter has been posted for hearing after two weeks.

Expressing their solidarity with Bano, the IIM Bangalore functionaries said the crime committed against her were no ordinary crimes as the perpetrators were accused and convicted of gang rape and murders of the most depraved and inhuman kind.

"We are stunned and deeply anguished by this act of the Government of Gujarat... The horrors that Bano underwent should not be experienced by any woman anywhere," it said.

6 months before polls, Tripura BJP gets new chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AGARTALA, AUGUST 25

SIX MONTHS before Tripura goes to Assembly elections, the ruling BJP Thursday appointed Rajib Bhattacharjee as its state chief.

Bhattacharjee replaces Chief Minister Manik Saha, who was simultaneously holding the position for the last three months.

A party statement said BJP national general secretary JP Nadda has appointed Bhattacharjee as the state unit chief, effective immediately.

Before this, Bhattacharjee was BJP state vice president and had earlier served as general secretary when former CM Biplab Deb used to be state president. He joined the BJP in 1990.

Bhupendra Chaudhary, a Jat leader from western UP, is appointed state BJP chief

LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 25

ENDING DAYS of speculation, the BJP on Thursday appointed Bhupendra Singh Chaudhary as the new president of the party's Uttar Pradesh unit. Chaudhary, is the first person from the dominant Jat community to head the party in the state.

With Chaudhary's appointment, made with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the party would want to send out a message to the socially dominant and influential Jats, an OBC community in the state that spearheaded the year-long farmer protest. Sources said the appointment would also help

CONVOY BLOCKED BY PROTESTERS IN PUNJAB

PM security breach: Panel set up by SC says SSP failed to act

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

A COMMITTEE appointed by the Supreme Court has faulted the then Ferozpur Senior Superintendent of Police for the security breach during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Punjab in January.

The committee, headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Indu Malhotra, said SSP Harmandeep Singh Hans failed to augment security along the Prime Minister's route despite having time, sufficient forces and knowledge of protesting groups.

On January 5, Prime Minister Modi's convoy set out from Bathinda airport to Hussainiwala in Ferozpur, but ran into a blockade by protesters en route. The convoy was stranded on a flyover for 15-20 minutes. On January 8, Hans was posted as Commandant of the 3rd IRB battalion in Ludhiana.

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, heading a three-judge bench that also comprised



The PM's convoy was stuck for 15-20 minutes on Jan 5. ANI/File

Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, Thursday perused the report and read out from it.

"There was sufficient time of approximately two hours from 10.20 onwards when G Nageshwar Rao (Additional Director General of Police) informed (Hans) that the Prime Minister would be taking the contingency route and the route should be adequately strengthened. Despite clear instructions from G Nageshwar Rao, at least 2 hours before the Prime Minister entered district Ferozpur, the SSP Ferozpur failed to act upon the

instructions of G Nageshwar Rao," the CJ cited the report as saying.

He said the court would send the report to the government. "Let the government take action."

Reading from it, the CJ said: "(The SSP) failed to discharge his responsibilities to maintain law and order... or take any steps for deployment to strengthen the route in Ferozpur, even though he was fully aware that there were large hostile groups who have come to block the route... He failed to augment and strengthen the route in Ferozpur even though there were sufficient forces."

BJP: Cong govt played with PM's security

New Delhi: The BJP Thursday accused the previous Congress government in Punjab of playing with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's security, claiming that there was a "conspiracy" behind his convoy getting stranded due to protests on January 5.

At a press conference, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said both Charanjit Singh Channi, the former chief minister, and the then Director General of Police "were missing" during PM Modi's visit.

"Prime Minister Modi's convoy was stopped in the middle of a bridge, only 100 metres away from protesters... The Punjab Police remained a mute spectator and then chief minister Channi was taking instructions from his party bosses in Delhi," Thakur said. "Anything could have happened to the PM." ENS

REMARKS ON PROPHET

Days after bail, Suspended BJP MLA Raja Singh arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 25

SUSPENDED BJP MLA Raja Singh was arrested on Thursday under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act, two days after he secured bail in a case relating to making controversial remarks on the Prophet, PTI reported.

Police said PD Act was invoked against Singh, who was suspended by BJP following an uproar. Earlier in the day, Hyderabad Police issued two notices to Singh under CrP Section 41 (notice of appearance before police officer) over remarks he allegedly made in April this year against the Prophet. Singh had allegedly made the remarks at a Ramnavami event.

On Tuesday, Singh had sparked a row with alleged remarks against the Prophet in a video he had posted in response to stand-up comic Munnawar Faruqui's show.

Hyderabad Police arrested him but a court rejected its remand application citing a technical glitch. The police's Rapid Action Force conducted a flag march through parts of the old city Thursday.

Pegasus issue: Will Rahul, Congress say sorry for 'motivated campaign', asks BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

WITH THE Supreme Court-appointed panel probing the Pegasus issue finding no conclusive proof of the Israeli spyware in the phones it examined, the ruling BJP on Thursday sought an apology from opposition leaders for what it said was a "motivated

campaign" aimed at weakening Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media at the BJP headquarters, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Ravi Shankar Prasad accused the opposition parties, "so called intellectuals", some NGOs and a section of media of running a sustained campaign against the government over the Pegasus issue. The PM was accused of

"crushing democracy" and parliamentary proceedings were disrupted, Prasad said, accusing the opposition parties of taking the cover of PILs to move court after running "motivated" campaigns.

"Will Rahul Gandhi and the Congress apologise?" said Prasad, who also slammed the Congress campaign against the government over the Rafale issue and the Central Vista project.

Aircraft carrier Vikrant to be commissioned on September 2

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

INDIA'S FIRST indigenously-built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant will contribute in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean region, Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral S N Ghormade said Thursday, ahead of the warship's commissioning on September 2.

The Vice Admiral said the aircraft landing trials on board INS Vikrant will begin in November and will be completed in 2023.

At a media briefing, he also said the planned induction of a fleet of deck-based jets from either Boeing or the Dassault Aviation would be an "interim arrangement" before the Navy gets the indigenously-built Twin Engine Deck-Based Fighter.

INS Vikrant will be commissioned at a ceremony in Kochi which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ghormade said India now has an eco-system to build the next aircraft carrier and that deliberations for it are underway. The Navy has been pitching for three aircraft carriers to deal with China's growing influence. At present, India has one aircraft carrier — INS Vikramaditya — which is a Russian origin platform.

Section of media is 'concocting' my statements, says Gadkari

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

UNION MINISTER Nitin Gadkari Thursday shot off a number of tweets alleging a "nefarious and fabricated campaign" against him by a section of the media, which, he said, was "concocting" his statements. The senior BJP leader also warned of legal action.

Gadkari's attempt at clarification came amid reports that the BJP top brass and Sangh leaders were upset with him for "repeated" public statements that were seen as having embarrassed the government and the party.

These reports also suggested that Gadkari was dropped earlier this month from the BJP parliamentary board, the party's apex decision-making body, because his alleged jibes at the party and the Centre had annoyed the RSS leadership.

"Today, once again, efforts were being made to continue the nefarious & fabricated campaign against me for political mileage on my behalf by some section of mainstream media, social media and some persons in particular by concocting my statements... I will not hesitate to take them to the law in the larger interest of our Government, Party and millions of our hardworking Karyakartas," the minister posted, along with a video of his speech at the launch of a book in the national capital on Tuesday.

The minister's reaction was to some websites putting up a portion of his speech, which was interpreted as Gadkari's response to the party dropping him from the parliamentary board.

"Let it go... It does not matter to me if I lose my position. I am not after any post... I will see what happens. I am an ordinary person. I am someone who likes to eat from roadside stalls, watch movies on a third-class ticket and watch the drama from behind... I leave my Z-Plus security behind and walk on the footpath," Gadkari says in the clip.

However, in the original video, which the minister shared online, the minister said the media that the minister has Sangh backing and his comments indicate the so-called widening gap between the RSS and the BJP leadership. Whether it is with or without the support of the minister or his office is immaterial here because (the remarks) embarrass the government," said one BJP leader.

Sources said if the BJP decides to drop Gadkari from the government, the RSS is unlikely to object.

MAHARASHTRA MONSOON SESSION ENDS

CM says didn't betray Thackeray's ideology, Aaditya seeks polls to 'let people decide'

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

ATTACKING SHIV Sena president Uddhav Thackeray, Sena rebel and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday said that he was not the traitor but instead, he parted ways with those who betrayed the Hindutva ideology of party founder Balasaheb Thackeray.

Replying to the Opposition, which has been describing him and the other rebel MLAs as traitors, Shinde claimed that the people of Maharashtra have accepted his move. Speaking in the Assembly, the CM defended his revolt against the Sena leadership in June, which brought down the two-and-a-half-year-old Maha Vikas Aghadi government, and asserted his act was neither unconstitutional nor illegal.

Replying to the discussion on a resolution brought by the Opposition on various issues facing the state on the last day of the Monsoon Session, Shinde told the Sena MLAs from the Thackeray faction, "You call us traitors. But we have not betrayed the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray. He always told us that he would never ally with Congress and NCP."

The rivalry reached a new height on Thursday morning after Shinde camp MLAs displayed posters of Sena MLA Aaditya Thackeray and targeted him. The ruling side claimed that Aaditya had caused the Sena-BJP split in 2014 and has been concentrating on his personal gains instead of following Hindutva ideology.



Nitin Gadkari has warned of legal action

the remarks are part of an incident from 1996-97. He talks of a case of 2,500 children dying of alleged malnutrition in 1996-97, and how, amid brainstorming sessions over the lack of facilities, officials had expressed their helplessness about fixing the problem. According to Gadkari, he asked the then CM (Manohar Joshi) to leave the issue to him. "I told him I would do it. If possible, you stand with me. Even if you don't, I do not mind. I do not care about the position... If it goes away, let it go. I don't mind..." he says.

Gadkari's office said there have been a number of instances since 2018 when the minister's words were allegedly twisted and misinterpreted. "Many of them were taken out of context to create a controversy. These were done by fringe elements in the media and social media and ended up creating confusion and dilemma among party leaders and workers," said a source close to him.

Between 2017 and 2018, ahead of the last Lok Sabha elections, Gadkari's name had been propped up by a section in the party as a prospective future prime ministerial candidate. "This was mischief. Neither the minister nor his office started this campaign," the source said.

But sources in the party said the minister's remarks have indeed been embarrassing both the BJP and the government. "There is an impression in the media that the minister has Sangh backing and his comments indicate the so-called widening gap between the RSS and the BJP leadership. Whether it is with or without the support of the minister or his office is immaterial here because (the remarks) embarrass the government," said one BJP leader.

Sources said if the BJP decides to drop Gadkari from the government, the RSS is unlikely to object.



Chief Minister Eknath Shinde; Shiv Sena leader Aaditya Thackeray. PTI

On Thursday, Aaditya claimed that he, too, was ready to resign if all the 40 MLAs of the Shinde camp quit and contest polls. Replying to the personal attack against him, Aaditya said, "We will not stop demanding resignation of gaddar (traitor) MLAs. The entire state, even the children, now know the meaning of '50 boxes'. And this has harmed them. Try how much you want but we will not stop exposing you."

"I, too, will resign if these 40 MLAs (from Shinde camp) resign and let the people decide our fate. The kind of personal attack they are indulging in shows how hurt they are because of our '50 boxes' attack," he added.

"Those who have not got Cabinet berths are attacking me in the hope that they will get portfolios in the next Cabinet expansion," he said, adding that the Shinde government has come to power unconstitutionally and that the CM has been appointed on a contractual basis.

Shinde said that had he and his MLAs committed betrayal, they would not have "received support from the people" during their tours across the state.

BRIEFLY

BIHAR
Mansuri temple visit: Court to hear petition

Patna: A complaint petition has been filed in a Muzaffarpur court against Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, IT Minister Mohammed Israil Mansuri and four others over their visit to Gaya Vishnupad temple on Monday. According to the complainant, Chandrakishore Parashar, the entry of Mansuri into the temple "hurt religious sentiments". The complainant's lawyer RK Singh added: "The chief judicial magistrate court has accepted our complaint and due process would be followed". The court is set to hear the matter on September 2. After the temple visit of the ministers, the BJP sharply reacted to it saying there was a notice at the temple saying non-Hindus are not allowed to enter and the party demanded an apology from CM Nitish Kumar. **ENS**

KARNATAKA
Nine killed in accident, 2 kids among them

Bengaluru: A truck collided with a passenger vehicle in Karnataka's Tumkur district on Thursday, killing nine people including two children. Most of the deceased people are labourers, police said. Thirteen people suffered injuries in the mishap that took place 200 km from Bengaluru. Police said the deceased people hailed from Raichur district. Most of them were asleep when the accident occurred. The cause is unclear. Around 24 people were travelling in the passenger vehicle. Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said he has instructed Tumkur officials to take action. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH
'Gang rape victim' dies by suicide, 4 held

Meerut: A 16-year-old gangrape victim died by hanging herself Wednesday at her home in Sambhal district, her mother said. Soon after the girl was found dead, police arrested all four accused persons on the charge of abetting suicide. The mother, who filed a police complaint on July 15, alleged that the girl had killed herself as police did not take any action. The woman, a cook in a village government school, also alleged that police pressured their family to withdraw the case. Police denied this. "We have arrested all the accused on the charge of abetting to suicide. Three of the four accused are brothers. The charges levelled by the mother against the police are baseless," said Chandausi Deputy SP Dinesh Kumar. **ENS**

3,000 KG HEROIN SEIZURE

Mundra drug haul: Delhi pub owner arrested**NIA arrests another Delhi resident, detains two others in Surat****EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday arrested the owner of a pub called the Playboy Club, located at Samrat Hotel in New Delhi, and one other person in connection with its investigation into the 3,000-kg heroin haul at Gujarat's Mundra port in September last year. Sources said two others were detained in Surat in connection with the case.

The NIA said it arrested two residents of New Delhi, identified as Harpreet Singh Talwar alias Kabir Talwar and Prince Sharma. According to sources, Talwar runs the Playboy Club.

"Based on investigations so far and incriminating evidence obtained during the searches, two key accused involved in smuggling of heroin through import consignments from Afghanistan using maritime route, have been arrested today," read an NIA statement regarding the arrest of Talwar and Sharma.

According to the agency, the two are part of an international network involved in the smuggling of large commercial quantities of heroin, originating from Afghanistan, into India. The agency said that the accused were allegedly supplying the narcotics across Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.

"Heroin was being concealed in import consignments of material such as semi-processed talc, bituminous coal etc. One

such consignment of about 3,000 kg of heroin was intercepted and seized at Mundra Port by DRI (the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence) on 13-09-2021. The accused persons were involved in import of narcotics through fake/shell import companies and further facilitated its transport to Delhi-based Afghan nationals..." the NIA statement said.

"Investigation continues to unravel the entire supply chain and network of money laundering, drug distribution and other players involved in this international drug network," the agency added.

Sources said Talwar had previously been arrested by the DRI in connection with the smuggling of cigarettes.

In March this year, in a chargesheet filed against 16 people in connection with the Mundra drug haul case, the NIA alleged that those involved in the racket have links with terror groups in Pakistan.

The agency had filed a chargesheet in an Ahmedabad court against the 16 accused — 11 of them are Afghan nationals, four are Indians and one an Iranian — in connection with its investigation into the smuggling of 2,988.21 kg of heroin worth Rs 21,000 crore on a ship in the guise of talc.

The NIA had said then that the proceeds of drugs trafficking were channelled back to foreign entities through hawala channels at the behest of Pak(istan)-based terror outfits for use in anti-India activities."

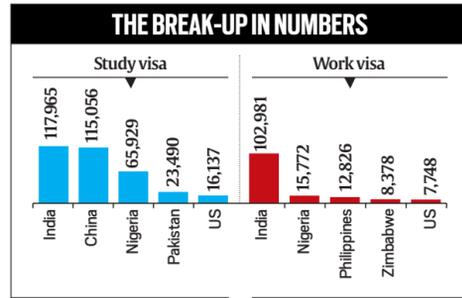
UK study visas: India surpasses China's share**DEEKSHA TERI**
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

INDIA NOW accounts for the largest share of study visas issued by the United Kingdom, overtaking China, according to the latest UK immigration statistics released on Thursday.

According to the statistics, which pertains to the period between July 2021 and June 2022, Indians also obtained the most visitor visas and skilled worker visas issued by the UK.

The overall number of visas, taking into account other countries as well, have overshoot pre-pandemic figures and shows more than just a recovery from a Covid-induced dip, according to the UK government.

In the year ending June 2022, the UK issued 4,86,868 spon-



sored study visas, of which Indian nationals accounted for 1,17,965 — an 89 per cent increase from the previous year. Chinese nationals, meanwhile, were granted 1,15,056 study visas.

Compared with 2019, the increase in the number of study visas granted to Indians amounts to 215

per cent, while those granted to Chinese students have dipped by 4 per cent. The report did not go into the reasons behind the rise and fall of the share of Indian and Chinese nationals in this category.

Students of Indian and Chinese nationality comprise 48 per cent of all sponsored study

EXPLAINED
Amid bid for reforms in India

THE RISE in the number of Indians picking the UK as a study destination comes when reforms envisaged in the National Education Policy, 2020 to retain talent are being rolled out. The Centre hopes to do this by inviting reputed global varsities to set up campuses in India, and also improving the standards of domestic educational institutions.

visas granted by the UK. British High Commissioner to India, Alex Ellis, said the numbers show that the UK is experiencing

Rushdie attack: Govt wishes him speedy recovery**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

INDIA THURSDAY condemned the stabbing of Salman Rushdie as "horrific", its first official reaction that comes nearly two weeks after the incident in New York.

"India has always stood against violence and extremism. We condemn the horrific attack on Salman Rushdie and we wish him a speedy recovery," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in response to questions at a weekly briefing.

While the attack on Rushdie sparked global outrage, India maintained a marked silence. India was among the first countries to ban his novel, *The Satanic Verses*, after Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa in 1989 calling for his death.

Rushdie, 75, was stabbed in New York on August 12. His assailant, 24-year-old Hadi Matar, has pleaded not guilty to charges.

21 YEARS SINCE QUAKE: MODI TO VISIT GUJARAT

The Veer Balak Smarak in Anjar in Gujarat will commemorate 185 children and 22 teachers who died as a 6.9 magnitude earthquake occurred on January 26, 2001. *Express*

PM to inaugurate China-inspired memorial for Kutch quake victims**RITU SHARMA & GOPAL KATESHIYA**
AHMEDABAD, RAJKOT, AUGUST 25

ON THE morning of January 26, 2001, schoolchildren from 18 government primary schools of Anjar town in Kutch district were marching with tricolours to celebrate the 52nd Republic Day when buildings came crashing on them as an earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale struck. As many as 185 children and 22 teachers died.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a memorial dedicated to them that is a project inspired by the memorial at Sichuan in China after the 2008 earthquake in which thousands were killed, including 1,000 students and teachers of Beichuan Middle School.

The memorial built in Anjar, called the *Veer Balak Smarak* or brave children's memorial, will be part of several projects that Modi will inaugurate in Kutch that includes the Smriti Van in Bhuj — a memorial to the 12,932 people killed in the epicentre of the earthquake in Kutch district, also inspired from Sichuan.

In 2004, Modi, then CM of Gujarat, announced the memorial that has now been built by the state roads and buildings department at a cost of Rs17.50 crore. After his China visit in 2012, then CM Modi had sent Kutch District Development Officer Harshad Patel to visit Sichuan province to study earthquake memorials, museums and craft villages built after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake.

Following the visit, Patel prepared a report by mobilising local teachers and social organisations who had contacted survivors and families of victims to document events and experiences that could be a part of the Smriti Van project. Recalling the presentation he gave to the CM in 2013, Patel, who is now Relief Commissioner, told *The Indian Express* that Modi went through it "keenly and patiently".

On the lines of Sichuan province earthquake, where relic sites were protected, the report also said building of an "earthquake village" and memorials, especially in Adhoi and Bhachau that suffered major devastation.

The Veer Balak Smarak, set up on the lines of the Relic Site of the school in Beichuan, has a memorial and a museum. An official release said 100 family members of the victims will be present when the PM will inaugurate the Veer Balak Smarak. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Agnipath scheme: Delhi HC gives Centre 4 weeks to file its response**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

THE DELHI High Court on Thursday granted the Centre four weeks time to respond to petitions challenging the government's Agnipath scheme and those seeking appointments in accordance with the previous advertisements in Army, Navy and Air Force.

The division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad listed the matter for hearing on October 19. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, representing the Centre, told the court that the government will file a consolidated reply to the petitions.

The Supreme Court on July 19 had transferred to Delhi High Court the petitions challenging the Agnipath scheme. The next day, the Delhi High Court had listed the matter for hearing on August 25, saying it was yet to receive the files from the Supreme Court and would have to give time to the petitioners of similar cases in other High Courts to exercise their options in accordance with the Supreme Court order.

During the resumed hearing on Thursday, the Division Bench



A recruitment rally in Ludhiana last week. *Gurmeet Singh*

said even if notice was not issued on July 20, "the understanding" was that the court will hear the matters. "You were required to file a reply," it said.

A counsel representing the Centre told the court that the Supreme Court had said that "all the matters should be transferred". However, he added, 7-8 matters are yet to come to the Delhi High Court. "Once everything comes, we will be filing a consolidated reply," the counsel submitted.

The court said there are different types of matters related to the scheme and previous recruitment processes. "The point is we cannot be endlessly dragging this matter," said Justice Prasad. ASG Bhati told the court that a

common reply has been prepared but it is yet to be vetted by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. However, the court said, "There are different categories of matters and there is a list before me. There are cases where the selection is over, where the selection is midway. There are slightly different types of cases. You file a reply. We will hear this matter finally."

While transferring three petitions to the Delhi HC, the Supreme Court in July said that the HCs of Kerala, Patna, Punjab & Haryana and Uttarakhand shall provide an option to the petitioners to either have their pleas transferred here or keep them pending there with a liberty to intervene in the pending proceedings before Delhi HC.

Awareness, raids, change: How Haryana discoms halved electricity line losses**GOVERNANCE**
AN EXPRESS SERIES
HARYANA**SUKHBIR SIWACH**
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 25

BUCKING THE national trend, Haryana's state-owned discoms have over the past six years seen a decrease in their aggregate technical and commercial (AT&C) losses — by 50 per cent. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Haryana Power Minister Ranjit Singh Chautala attributed

the fall in losses mainly to checks on electricity theft and recovery of pending power bills.

AT&C losses is considered a measure of performance of a power distribution system as it includes losses in terms of both energy and revenue.

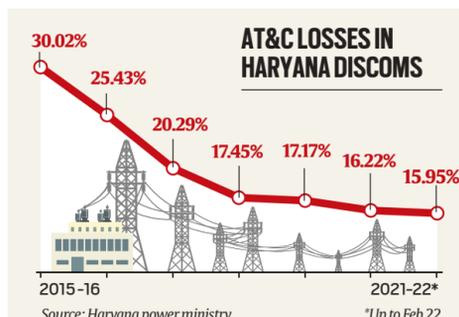
According to Haryana Additional Chief Secretary (Power) PK Das, the reduction in AT&C losses has resulted in a better financial situation for the discoms. "Our annual turnover is nearly Rs 28,000 crore," he said. "When AT&C losses are reduced by 1 per cent, our revenue increases at the rate of nearly Rs 280 crore (1 per cent of the turnover) annually."

Also, he added, it is due to this fall in losses that power tariff in

Haryana has not been increased in the past six years.

A recent report of the Union Ministry of Power — Tenth Annual Integrated Rating and Ranking of Power Distribution Utilities — pegged Haryana at number two among Indian states, second only after Gujarat. The ranking is based on an exercise that covers 41 state distribution utilities spread across 22 states.

Chautala said: "When BJP took over the power from Congress (in October 2014), our discoms were placed at 15 and 17th position among 41 discoms across the country. Now we are in the 5th (Dakshin Haryana Biji Vitran Nigam Limited or DHBVNL) and 6th (Uttar Haryana



Biji Vitran Nigam Limited or UHBVNL) rank among states. The top four state-owned companies are all from Gujarat. So,

in terms of position among states, we are number two in the country. This is a big achievement for Haryana."

Haryana's success in reducing AT&C losses is in stark contrast to the overall national trend. The Union Power Ministry report found that the national average AT&C losses have stagnated over the past few years.

"The financial deficit is primarily on account of poor operational performance of discoms... After falling by an average of 0.9 per cent over FY 16-FY 19 (from 23.7% to 21.1%), national average AT&C losses in the sector have stagnated over the last three years, at around 21%."

On the other hand, in Haryana, officials claim the detection of power theft cases has increased over the years. The official figures suggest the officials

of DHBVNL detected 48,729 cases of theft in 2020-21 in comparison to 26,369 cases during 2019-20. In 2020-21, the DHBVNL imposed a penalty of nearly Rs 163 crore on those found indulging in power theft while this figure was Rs 82 crore for the previous financial year.

Similarly, they recovered nearly Rs 83 crore in 2020-21 against the recovery of Rs 54 crore in 2019-20. The officials said they had registered a recovery of 101.46 per cent for the realisation of power bills which means they had recovered some previous dues too in 2020-21. This recovery rate was 99.23 per cent during 2019-20.

Balkar Singh, an IAS officer

an unprecedented demand for visas. "India first again. I'm delighted that Indian nationals were issued the largest number of UK study, work and visitor visas in the year ending June 2022. More strength to the unique living bridge that connects our people," he said in a statement.

The number of sponsored study visas granted in the year ending June 2022 is the highest on record since this time series began in 2005. Before 2022, the highest number of student visas granted was 3,07,394 in the year ending June 2010.

The data also show UK remains a popular holiday destination for Indians, who accounted for 28 per cent of visitor visas granted in the year ending June 2022, with over 2,58,000 Indians receiving visit visas — a 630% increase from the previous year.

KARNATAKA**HC stays civic body order that declared Idgah state property****EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**
BENGALURU, AUGUST 25

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Thursday stayed a Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) order declaring the 2.5-acre Idgah Maidan in south Bengaluru as property of the state revenue department.

The Waqf Board had challenged the order as "arbitrary and unlawful".

Issuing an interim stay, Justice Hemant Chandangoudar directed for a status quo saying the Idgah maidan at Chamrajpet shall be utilised "only for the purpose of play ground... and Muslim community is permitted to use (it) for prayers in Ramzan and on Bakrid respectively".

The ground, the order added, shall not be used for "offering prayers on any other day".

The August 6 order, issued by the BBMP joint commissioner, had come amid attempts by right wing groups to take forcible control of the ground.

Ahead of the Ganesh festival on August 31, some right wing groups have also threatened to hold festivities at the Idgah. This Independence Day, revenue department officials also hosted the Tricolour at the Idgah. It was the first time an I-Day function was held at this ground.

The Waqf board questioned the BBMP joint commissioner's order to mention the state as the owner of the ground in land records. It said the property had belonged to the Waqf for the last 50 years, since a notification was issued by the Mysore State Board of Waqf on June 7, 1965.

AUTOPSY FINDS 'MULTIPLE INJURIES DUE TO BLUNT FORCE' ON BODY**Goa cops book Phogat aides for her 'murder'****MAYURA JANWALKAR**
PANAJI, AUGUST 25

TWO DAYS after the death of actor and Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat, the Goa Police Thursday booked two of her associates for "murder" based on a complaint by her brother. An FIR was registered under Section 302 of the IPC against the two men who accompanied her to Goa on August 22, a senior police official said. This came on a day the post-mortem findings

showed "multiple blunt force injuries" on Phogat's body.

Inspector General of Police Omviri Singh Bishnoi said, "Based on the complaint filed by the brother of the deceased, an FIR under section 302 (murder) has been registered at the Anjuna police station."

The Goa Police have detained Sudhir Sangvan, who was Phogat's personal assistant, and his associate Sukhwinder Singh, Bishnoi said. The police had recorded their statements on Wednesday. Phogat's brother Rinku

**Haryana BJP leader Sonali Phogat**

Dhaka had named the duo in a complaint filed with the Anjuna police on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, a panel of experts conducted the autopsy on Phogat's body at the Goa Medical College (GMC) and Hospital.

Dr Sunil Chimbolkar and Dr Mandar Kantak of the Forensic

Science Department of GMC, in the "Final/Provisional Cause of Death Certificate", reserved the opinion on the cause of death. "The cause of death to the best of my knowledge and belief is reserved pending chemical analysis, histopathology and serological reports of the tissues preserved..." the report said. "However, there are multiple blunt force injuries over the body" it said.

Goa CM Pramod Sawant told reporters in Panaji on Thursday that state DGP Jaspal Singh was monitoring the investigation.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

IN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL

Contract ended, China firm claims damages, Rlys replies with counter

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

TWO YEARS after the Railways terminated a Rs 471-crore contract of the Chinese Railway's signalling and telecom arm for its works in Uttar Pradesh, the Chinese firm has locked Indian Railways in international dispute and claimed Rs 279 crore compensation. The company, China Railway Signalling and Communication (CRSC) Research and Design Institute, recently instituted arbitration under International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) rules in Singapore. Playing hardball, the Indian side — the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), under the Railways — has issued a counter-claim of Rs 71 crore on the Chinese major. The matter is headed for a showdown in the international tribunal, sources in the Railways said. In 2020, DFCCIL terminated CRSC's contract for installation signalling and telecom systems on the 417-km stretch between Kanpur and Mughalsarai (now

Deen Dayal Upadhyay) stations in UP for the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor. The contract was terminated at the peak of the border dispute between the neighbours in Ladakh. The DFCCIL had cited non-performance by the contractor as the reason behind the move. The Indian Express had first reported on the termination of the contract in 2020. The Chinese company had dragged the matter to Delhi High Court at the time, but to no avail. It has now raised claims regarding works it affirms to have executed under the contract but was not paid for; return of its forfeited bank guarantee; interest on various forfeited amounts; and claims for various overheads and contractual deployment. The Chinese company contends that termination of the contract was illegal, as the Indian side did not comply with the procedure set out for termination in the contract. In response, DFCCIL has raised a counter-claim on the basis of recovery of mobilisation advance; retention money and balance under the termination

clauses, apart from regularisation of forfeiture of the bank guarantee, officials told *The Indian Express*. Faced with claims and counter-claims, the international tribunal has called for various submissions, which are "in the process of being complied with by the parties as per procedural orders", a senior official said. One of the reasons why the contract was terminated was that the Chinese side was "reluctant to furnish technical documents such as logic design of electronic interlocking," this official said. The Railways has said that the Chinese company did not do any work, and even after four years made only around 20 per cent progress. Asked about the progress of the contract now, a DFCCIL official said that the balance work was re-tendered and is progressing under a different contractor. The DFCCIL had approached the World Bank, which is funding the project, in April this year informing them of their decision to terminate the contract.



TAKING STOCK: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday conducted an aerial survey of the flood-hit areas following heavy rainfall. Gehlot took stock of the situation in Bundi, Kota and Baran districts. PTI

US journalist deported from Delhi airport, says family

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR AMRITSAR, AUGUST 25

US CITIZEN and journalist Angad Singh was allegedly deported from Delhi airport Wednesday night, his family members in Punjab said on Thursday. They said no reason was given by the authorities. According to his family, Singh, who is associated with an US news and entertainment company, landed at Delhi airport

at 8.30 pm on Wednesday and was deported to the US within three hours. They claimed that Singh had come to India for a family reunion. Immigration officials were yet to respond to queries from *The Indian Express* on the matter. Singh's mother Gurmeet Kaur, a writer, said in a post on Facebook: "Today, my son, an American citizen who travelled 18 hours to Delhi to visit us in Punjab, was deported. He was put on the next flight back to New York. They

didn't give a reason. But we know it is his award-winning journalism that scares them. It is the stories he did and the stories he is capable of. It is the love for his motherland that they can't stand." "He is 6'5" tall. His back hurts after long flights in such small spaces. He must be wanting to lay down. I wish you Chardi Kala, my boy. It's not easy to be a Sikh, a Gursikh on top, a journalist, a warrior of truth and justice. Speaking the truth has a price. We must pay for it," she posted.

Delhi, Dhaka discuss sharing river water

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

INDIA AND Bangladesh have finalised the text of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on interim water sharing of Kushiara river, the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti said on Thursday. The text was finalised during the 38th meeting of the ministerial-level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) of India and Bangladesh, held in Delhi on Thursday, the ministry stated. The two sides were led by Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and his Bangladesh counterpart, Zaheed Farooque. In a statement, the ministry said, "Discussions...were held on a number of ongoing bilateral issues of mutual interest, including water-sharing of common rivers, sharing of flood data, addressing river pollution, conducting joint studies on sedimentation management, river bank protection works, etc." The ministry stated that the two sides "finalised the text of MoU on Interim Water Sharing of Kushiara river (and) welcomed finalisation of the design and location of water intake point on

Feni river to meet drinking water needs of Sabroom town in Tripura as per the October 2019 India-Bangladesh MoU." According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, the JRC meeting assumes significance since it was held after a "long gap" of 12 years, although technical interactions under the framework of JRC have continued in the interim. The ministry said India and Bangladesh share 54 rivers, of which seven have been identified earlier for developing the framework of water-sharing agreements on priority. During Thursday's meeting, the neighbours agreed to include eight more rivers for data exchange, it stated. In a statement, Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The JRC meeting, held in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, discussed the whole gamut of issues related to common rivers between the two countries, especially the Ganges, Teesta, Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gumti, Dharla, Dudhkumar and Kushiara. Apart from this, exchange of flood-related data and information, riverbank protection works, common basin management, and also Indian river interlinking project were discussed in detail."

PUNE POLICE UNEARTH MALPRACTICE IN 14 GOVT RECRUITMENT PROCESSES

Spy devices, hidden phones and earbuds used in fraud

SUSHANT KULKARNI PUNE, AUGUST 25

TAILOR-MADE T-SHIRTS to hide camera phones, cellular spy devices hidden in undergarments, camouflaged Bluetooth earbuds to receive answer keys and a dedicated team of racketeers remotely receiving questions and sending back answers: all these were part of several well-oiled systems recently busted by Pimpri-Chinchwad Police as part of its eight-month-long probe. The investigation has unearthed malpractices in 14 different government recruitment processes and led to 56 arrests till date. On Wednesday, Pimpri-Chinchwad Police made public for the first time the outcome of its probe, which started in the first week of January with the arrest of three persons during

the recruitment process of constables for the force. Till now, police have arrested 56 persons and booked 74 more for malpractices in multiple recruitment processes. Those arrested and booked include candidates, dummy candidates, middlemen, those who provided and facilitated use of hidden electronic devices, people who helped prepare answer keys for the candidates, suspects who looked after financial transactions, the main racketeers and masterminds. Many of these people, other than candidates, are those who have appeared for these exams in the past multiple times and have gained in-depth understanding of these mechanisms as well as their loopholes, said police. The investigation indicates that mainly two modus operandi were used by racketeers in these 14 processes: hidden electronic devices

and dummy candidates. Among the items seized by police during the probe are 76 cell phones and phone-based applications used for cheating, 66 GSM (global system of mobile communication) spy communication devices disguised as debit cards, nearly 100 skin-tone Bluetooth earbuds, 22 walkie-talkie sets used by the suspects to communicate with each other, some tailor-made clothing with inner pockets for camera phones and a number of undergarments used by the suspects to sneak in spy communication devices into exam halls. These seizures have been made from six different places in Maharashtra where the written examination for recruitment of Pimpri-Chinchwad Police constables was held at 450 exam centres, and a total of 82,000 candidates appeared for the exam. Police have busted six

interconnected modules operating from six places — Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, Nashik, Ahmednagar, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Solapur. Explaining how the electronic devices were used, a senior officer who is part of the investigation said, "In each of these modules, some designated candidates wore a T-shirt with a hidden slot on the chest, inside, to keep the cell phone. It also had a hole for the camera. As these candidates clicked images of the question papers, the photos were automatically sent to a designated mail address through an application. In a remote module, the racketeers then prepared answer keys. These answers were dictated to candidates who were wearing camouflaged earbuds connected to GSM spy communication devices hidden in their undergarments." FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Govt. of Bihar
Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department
 Vikas Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar
 Pin-800015, Mobile: 9473400605
 Website: <http://excise.bih.nic.in/> e-Mail: excise-bih@nic.in

Tender No: E-Lock/Excise/2022/02
Short e-Tender Notice

Proposal for "Selection of Vendor for Design, Development, Maintenance, and Deployment of E-Lock with GPS based tracking system to monitor the movement of excisable article" for the Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department, Government of Bihar

For further details bid documents with all timelines are available on the website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>. Last date of submission of bid is 10/09/2022 till 04:00 PM.

The important information about the Bid are as under:

- Any contract that may result from this Government procurement competition will be issued for provisional term of three years.
- The Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department / Government of Bihar reserves the right to extend the Term for a period of up to one year with a maximum of two years, such extension or extensions on the same terms and conditions, are subjected to the Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department's obligations at law.
- Proposals must be received not later than time, date and venue mentioned in the Fact Sheet. Proposals that are received late WILL NOT be considered in this procurement process.

Sl. No	Information	Details
1.	RFP No. and Date	E-lock/ Excise/2022/02
2.	Bid Submission End Date and Time	10/09/2022 till 04:00 PM
3.	Bid validity period	180 days from the bid submission date.
4.	Tender Processing Fee (TPF) (Non-Refundable)	INR 590 + Taxes (GST @ 18%) /- payable online through e-Procurement.
5.	Tender Fee / Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable)	INR. 5000/- only (Rupees Five thousand only) payable online through e-Procurement
6.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 5,00,000 only (Rupees Five lakhs only) paid through either e-Payment mode (i.e. NEFT / RTGS, Net Banking, Credit / Debit Card) or Manual mode (BG). In case of Manual Mode, EMD has to be submitted at Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department office before last date & time of tender submission. Note: Bank Guarantee issued by a Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, in fav or of Excise Commissioner Cum I.G. Registration, Account Number – 922020004238912, Branch Name – AXIS Bank Limited Raja Bazar, payable at Patna. Micro, small and start up agencies registered for are exempted from the payment of EMD, as per Government policy, subject to submission of valid registration certificate with the bid.
7.	Pre-Bid Meeting	29/08/2022 4:00 PM at Prohibition, Excise & Registration Dept., Vikas Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar-800015. (Bidder's queries should reach before the pre-bid conference at excise-bih@nic.in i.e. on or before 27/08/2022, 5:00 PM)
8.	Opening of Technical Bids	10/09/2022 04:30 PM
9.	Opening of Financial Bids	To be intimated
10.	Contact person for queries	Smt. Renu Kumari Sinha Assistant Commissioner, Excise email: excise-bih@nic.in

- The document should be purchased and submitted online via e-Proc portal (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) only.
- In the event of the date specified for receipt and opening of bid being declared as a holiday for Prohibition, Excise & Registration Department office the due date for submission of bids and opening of bids will be the following working day at the appointed times.
- Financial bids of only those bidders who qualify on the basis of evaluation of technical bids will be opened.
- The bidders are expected to examine all instructions, forms, terms, project requirements and other information mentioned in the RFP documents and Bid Response Checklist. Failure to furnish all information required as mentioned in the RFP documents or submission of a proposal not substantially responsive to the RFP documents in every respect will be at the Bidder's risk and may result in rejection of the proposal and forfeiture of the Bid Security (EMD).
- Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-procurement portal <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> before the date and time specified in the NIT.
- The department doesn't take the responsibility for the delay/non-submission of tender/non-reconciliation of online payment caused due to non-availability of internet connection, network traffic/holidays or any other reasons.
- All further notifications/Corrigendum/Addendum, if any shall be posted on e-Procurement Portal (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).
- For registration log in to <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.

Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571
 Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

PR- 7051 (Registration) 2022-23 (Assistant Commissioner, Excise)
 Bihar, Patna

नयी से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।

CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar-125004 (Haryana)
 (Established by Parliament Act 16 of 1970)
 Phone: 01662-284320, 255234, 9053068379, 9416482401

Short Term Tender Notice

Tender are invited for Display material/Infrastructure/Tentage for "Agro-Industrial Exhibition" at Krishi Mela (Rabi) to be organised by CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar (Haryana) dated 13-14 September, 2022. For detailed information, please visit University website: <https://www.hau.ac.in> or contact Director Extension Education, Gandhi Bhawan, CASHAU, Hisar-125004 (Haryana) on above mentioned numbers.

Last date of submitting tender is September 01, 2022 till 2.00 P.M.

Sd/-
Director Extension Education
 CASHAU, Hisar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, KHORDHA (R&B) CIRCLE, KHORDHA WORKS DEPARTMENT
Tender call Notice
 E-mail: rbcirclekhurda@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CCE-Khordha (R&B) Circle-12/2022-23
Memo No- 1645 Dt. 20.08.2022

The Chief Construction Engineer, Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as detailed in the table below:

1. Nature of work	: Building Work
2. No of Work	: 01 No
3. Tender Cost	: Rs. 10000.00 (On-Line)
4. Class of Contractor	: Special Class & Super Class
5. Available of Bid document in the Website	: From 10.00 AM of Dt. 26.08.2022 up to 05.00 PM of Dt. 08.09.2022 up to 5.00 PM
6. Date of opening of Bid	: Dt. 09.09.2022 at 11.30 AM

7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the Website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any Addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer,
Khordha (R&B) Circle, Khordha
 OIPR-34127/11/0020/2223

ODISHA ADARSHA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN
 N-1/9, Gajapati Nagar, PO: Sainik School, Bhubaneswar - 751005
 email: oavsbbsr.od@gov.in
Tender Call Notice
No. 5135 Date: 25.08.2022

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed food suppliers for celebration of Foundation Day of OAVS, 2022 to be held on 18.09.2022 & 19.09.2022.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Cost of Tender paper (Non-refundable) Rs.	EMD in shape of Declaration
1	Supply of catering service to OAVS during celebration of Foundation Day, 2022	2000.00	Bid declaration form to be submitted duly filled in & signed

(i) The tender paper will be available from 25.08.2022 to 14.09.2022.
 (ii) The last date and time of receipt of the tender documents upto 4:00 PM of 14.09.2022.
 (iii) Date & Time of Opening of Tender 15.09.2022 at 11:30 AM.
 For details of tender documents, terms and conditions please visit the OAVS website i.e. <https://www.oavs.edu.in>

Sd/-
State Project Director
 OIPR-27029/11/0010/2223

SECTION 1
Chief Engineer (MZ), HP.PWD., Mandi
(Name of Authority Inviting Bids)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPPWD., Mandi on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate/item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T/Railways/other State Govt./Central Govt. agencies. Non registered may submit the bids; however, successful bidder has to register in appropriate class with appropriate authority in HPPWD.

Sr. No.	District	Package No.	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion (in Days)	Bid Security (Rs. Lakh) (2% of Total Cost)	Eligible Class of Contractor/ Firm	
1	Mandi	HP-03-277	Balance work of Metalling and Tarring of Tapanai to Ghet road Km. 500 to 1800 (SPT- Metalling and Tarring, Road, Drain & other work) Package No.HP-03-277, under PMGSY Stage-II (Batch-I) for the year 2019-20 (OP Call)	228.11	103.54	323.25	365	6.47	B & A
2	Mandi	HP-03-463	Balance work of Metalling and Tarring on Khafara to Dider (Tikhar) road Km. 00 to 80 (L-02) under Regar PMGSY (Batch-I, 2017-18) Stage-I, Package No.HP-03-463 (OP Call)	347.88	32.76	309.44	365	6.01	B & A

The rates to be quoted by the bidder shall be inclusive of all taxes, royalties, duties and other levies that the Contractor will have to pay for the performance of this Contract but excluding GST and GST at pavement rate will be added to the value offered by the bidder separately.

- Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 26-08-2022.
- Cost of Bid Form:** Rs. 5000/- only (non-refundable) in form of Demand Draft in favour of the Executive Engineer, Seraj Division, HPPWD., Janjhli for Sr.No.1 & Sr. No.2 in favour of the Executive Engineer HPPWD Thalot Division.
- Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission:** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website: www.pmgstenders.gov.in" Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.
 * Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
- Submission of Original Documents:** The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Executive Engineer, Seraj Division, HPPWD., Janjhli/ Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, HPPWD Mandi up to or before the time and date of submission of bids. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.
- Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering: 02-09-2022 up-to 1030 Hours.**
- The site for the work is available.
- Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 1100 hours on 02-09-2022 by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.
- The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.
- Bidders may bid for any one or more of the works mentioned in the Table above. To qualify for a package of contracts made up of this and other contracts for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.
- Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.

The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.

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1st Circle, HP.PWD., Mandi,
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Embalmed, a king's Great Heart comes to Brazil on a 'state visit'

BENITA FERNANDO
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

IT WAS on September 7, 1822, that Pedro I, then a young regent and later Brazil's first emperor, issued the declaration of Brazilian independence from Portugal.

Now, 200 years later, his embalmed heart is part of bicentennial celebrations of the country's independence.

After the Portuguese government agreed to loan the heart to Brazil for three weeks, it arrived in Brasilia in an air force plane on Monday, and its stay is being treated as a "state visit".

Pedro I, 'The Liberator'

When Napoleon and his troops conquered Portugal in 1807, the royal family, including Pedro, fled to the country's flourishing colony, Brazil. Pedro stayed back as regent when his father, King John, returned to Portugal in 1821 due to a political revolution in Lisbon.

Brazil had a degree of political autonomy since 1808, but this was threatened when the Portuguese parliament wanted to reinstate its colonial status. Later, when the parliament demanded that Pedro return to Lisbon, he declared Brazil's independence. Within three months, he was crowned emperor, and within a couple of years, he had defeated all armies loyal to Portugal. He later abdicated the throne in 1831 and went back to Portugal, where he led an army in Porto in support of the constitutionalists fighting a bid to return the country to absolute monarchy. Portugal too celebrates him as a champion of representative rule.

The embalmed heart

Dom Pedro I died in Portugal in 1834 at the age of 35 because of tuberculosis.

Mosquitoes' fail-safe sense of smell gets them past repellents: study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

IF YOU have ever wondered how mosquitoes manage to sniff you out even when you are covered in bug repellent, scientists may have found the reason.

A recent study published in the journal *Cell* has revealed that mosquitoes have an evolved, unconventional sense of smell that provides them with a fail-safe method to find humans.

"The canonical view is that olfactory sensory neurons each express a single chemosensory receptor that defines its ligand selectivity," the study notes, adding that in the *Ae. Aegypti* mosquitoes that were studied, it was found that they had "many neurons co-expressing multiple chemosensory receptor genes".

Simply put, this specialised olfactory sense goes against the common olfactory understanding of 'one neuron, one receptor'. In humans, for example, whenever a smell hits the nose, it triggers a sensory receptor after which corresponding neurons



An urn carrying the embalmed heart of Dom Pedro I during a welcome ceremony in Brasilia, Brazil. Reuters

According to his dying wish, his heart was preserved and kept in the church of Our Lady of Lapa in Porto, Portugal.

In 1972, Brazil was given back the rest of his remains to commemorate 150 years of the country's independence. Those remains are kept at a museum in Sao Paulo.

The heart of Dom Pedro I is preserved in formaldehyde in an urn-shaped vase.

The 9-kg urn, *The Guardian* reported, will be on display for 17 days at the headquarters of Brazil's foreign ministry.

President Jair Bolsonaro, who is running for reelection, has been criticised for using Dom Pedro I's heart to play politics.

Embalmed for eternity

Embalming was used across civilisations, starting right with the mummification of ancient Egyptians. King Richard I (Richard the Lionheart) died in 1199 and his heart was sent to Rouen, where it was embalmed and entombed in a sarcophagus bearing his image in the Church of Notre Dame.

In 2015, five embalmed hearts were found in heart-shaped lead urns underneath the basement of a convent in France.

carry the message to the brain.

In mosquitoes, according to the study, different receptors can respond to different odours in the same neuron. So, even if one receptor family is impaired, it does not hamper the mosquito's ability to find and feast on human blood.

Mosquitoes are intensely attracted to body odour and carbon dioxide, and research in the past has found that eliminating entire receptors in mosquitoes that are used for decoding carbon dioxide does not stop them from finding their human prey.

The latest study points to the reason why this might be happening. The research team behind the study said that they did not expect to discover this when they embarked on the research project. But the development is key to fighting back against these persistent human foes.

Mosquitoes transmit diseases like malaria, West Nile virus, Zika virus, and dengue among others. The researchers said they hoped that better understanding of the insects' olfactory functions would help humans design repellents that work better in keeping them at bay.

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One year of Taliban 2.0

EXPLAINED DIPLOMACY, FOREIGN POLICY, STRATEGY

A year after the Taliban returned to power in Kabul, *The Indian Express* travelled to Afghanistan to report on what has changed on the ground since the time they were last in power, what's on their minds and that of the Afghan people, and where India and China stand in the country today — and for the foreseeable future

NIRUPAMA
SUBRAMANIAN

1 A year after taking over, how is it going for Taliban?

The first time the Taliban took Kabul, in 1996, Afghanistan was in ruins, much of its infrastructure destroyed by a raging civil war over the previous years. Over the last two decades, foreign powers including India helped rebuild roads, dams, government offices, hospitals, rural infrastructure, the economy, and education. In 2021, the Taliban took over a readymade country. But administering a nation of 32 million requires capacity and finances. And the Taliban are short on both.

Many wealthy people, and those of the middle class with means and education, including civil servants, have fled the country, not wishing to be part of the Taliban regime.

The international community has not yet recognised the regime formally, and sanctions, including travel bans on many Taliban, remain in place. Their access to international banking and finances are limited.

Still, the Taliban are striving to present the semblance of a functioning system. The regime's two top priorities are getting a grip on the economy and on security, say those who are familiar with its internal working.

ECONOMY: In May, the Taliban presented an annual budget based entirely on domestic revenue. It projected an expenditure of 231.4 bn Afghani (\$2.6 bn), and a revenue of 186.7 bn Afghani (\$2.1 bn). No details were given about spending, or how the gap with revenue would be bridged.

"We have created a budget that is solely reliant on the revenues generated by the Afghan government. There is no foreign aspect to our budget," foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi told *The Indian Express* in Kabul earlier this month.

Afghanistan is the heart of Asia, Balkhi said, and countries in the region that want to trade with each other have to go through Afghanistan. Most of Afghanistan's revenues are now being raised through customs duties. It is also exporting coal to Pakistan, he said.

"Our exports to all countries, including India, have doubled," Balkhi said. The regime is also leasing out small mines to local investors, which, the spokesman said, was generating jobs and helping the economy.

The regime has been paying employees, though salaries have been slashed. Municipal workers sweep the streets of Kabul every morning, sanitation workers clean out drains, the gardens department maintains the parks. Banks are functioning, except for international transfers. Schools and hospitals are open.

The UN's humanitarian response has helped Afghanistan keep its head above water. Until the Taliban banned high school education for girls, the UN was paying teachers' salaries. It was also ensuring that community doctors and other health workers were paid. The ICRC is financing the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital in Kabul. In the absence of international banking facilities, UN planes have flown in \$1bn in hard cash, including to fund money transfers to the needy through partner agencies, which has helped to increase the circulation of money in the economy. Some INGOs are even using *hawala*, euphemistically calling the middlemen "money transfer agents".

SECURITY: The regime claims to have re-



In Kabul earlier this month, a Taliban patrol in the street, and a group of women at one of several underground classes that have sprung up in an effort to beat the regime's ban on their studying beyond class 6. Nirupama Subramanian

stored peace, but it remains nervous about the Daesh or ISKP (Islamic State Khorasan province), which has carried out attacks in Kabul with frightening regularity. According to the UN, from mid-August 2021 to mid-June 2022, 2,106 people were killed or wounded — 700 were killed — in violence attributed to or claimed by ISKP.

The killing of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in a Kabul neighbourhood by the US has added to the Taliban's insecurity, and most top leaders of the regime immediately fled Kabul for Kandahar — where supreme leader Haibatullah Akhundzada is based — in confusion and panic. Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani, at whose house al-Zawahiri was reported to be staying, retreated to Khost, a Haqqani stronghold.

At a government function to mark the "liberation of Kabul" on August 15, the attendance of VIPs from the "caretaker government" was thin, with only Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, and Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub present.

2 How do the Afghan people view the Taliban regime?

There hasn't been much change in the Taliban's attitude towards civil society from the time they last ruled in Kabul. But unlike 20 years ago, outright brutalities, including public executions, have not been reported yet. A dress code has been prescribed for both men and women, but it is not strictly implemented.

The most draconian anti-people action by the Taliban so far has been to ban the education of girls beyond class 6 in school, and to make it difficult for women to work. In early August, a protest by women demanding "Education, Employment and Bread", was dispersed by guards who fired in the air.

Although the Taliban declared an amnesty after the departure of foreign forces, the UN has reported 160 extrajudicial killings, 178 arbitrary detentions, 23 instances of incommunicado detentions, and 56 instances of torture and ill-treatment of former government and military officials. Those of the previous regime who remain in the country live in hiding for fear of being tracked down and killed.

The regime has scrapped the constitution promulgated by the previous Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. But with nothing yet to replace it, no one is sure what the laws are. The minority communities that the Taliban have targeted, such as the Hazaras and Tajiks, feel more vulnerable than the majority Pashtun.

In Kabul, which has witnessed repeated changes of rulers, there is expectation that this regime will not last either. Reports of factionalism, and the reported dissonance between the Haqqanis and the Kandahar core of the Taliban have fuelled speculation about the possibility of a breakdown and another cycle of civil war. The killing of Al-Zawahiri

has led to fears about the presence of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, and the consequences. But those dealing with the regime say that whatever the differences within, the Taliban are determined not to fail this time.

3 Where does India stand in the current situation?

Afghanistan is possibly the only country in South Asia where people spontaneously declare, hand on heart, that they "love" India. But they ask: when will India begin giving visas to Afghans? They are hurt that India shut its doors on them last year when they most needed its help. But they hope the policy will change.

The reopening of the Indian Embassy in June has given that hope legs, even though there is no indication from New Delhi yet that it is going to restart consular work, despite repeated declarations that India's approach to Afghanistan is dictated by the people-to-people links between the countries, and a desire to assist Afghans in a dire humanitarian situation. India has been sending food aid and medicines to the country since December 2021.

India sees Afghanistan as vital for its strategic interests in the region, including access to Central Asia, and ensuring that Pakistan is not able to relocate India-focused terror groups to Afghanistan. From 2018 it found itself left out of regional discussions about the country as the Trump Administration and Taliban, brought to the table by Pakistan, finalised the US exit, and President Joe Biden took the plan to completion last August. The Taliban's proximity to Pakistan ensured that despite advice from its own diplomats, New Delhi was diffident about reaching out to the group. It shut the embassy in Kabul on August 17, two days after the takeover.

Within months, as Pakistan and China assumed leadership on discussions about how to engage with the Taliban, India was the only country in the region with no presence in Afghanistan. After months of unofficial contacts, and a couple of official meetings, the Indian Embassy reopened on June 23.

The Taliban have welcomed India's return, and have also expressed the hope that the embassy, which is now headed by a mid-ranking IFS officer, would be upgraded to ambassadorial level soon. Balkhi told *The Indian Express* that the Taliban want India to complete the infra projects that it had left unfinished in the country.

From 2002 to 2021, India spent \$4 bn in development assistance in Afghanistan, building high-visibility projects such as highways, hospitals, the parliament building, rural schools, and electricity transmission lines. These projects have created a vast and deep pool of goodwill for India of the kind that no other country can claim. One of the projects that was left incomplete was the Shahtoot Dam, to provide drinking water to 2 mn residents of Kabul.

What role India can play going forward

may depend on how much leverage Pakistan has with the Taliban. Sirajuddin Haqqani, the most powerful member of the government, is close to the ISI. The Taliban seem eager to retain some agency vis-à-vis Pakistan. One indication is the Afghan safe haven for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a group that has carried out deadly attacks against Pakistani military and civilian targets since its formation in 2007. In Kabul, word is that the Taliban want to retain the TTP card — in case they feel big-footed by Pakistan.

4 Where is China placed with the Taliban regime?

Beijing's primary concern is to ensure that Afghanistan does not become a launching pad for Uighur radicals in Xinjiang. To this end, it engaged discreetly with the Taliban for years.

A delegation led by Mullah Baradar, the chief Taliban negotiator in Doha, visited Beijing within weeks of the takeover, and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Kabul between stops in Islamabad and New Delhi. With the US out, and Russia, the other big player that was rooting for the Taliban preoccupied in Ukraine, China has been expanding its engagement with the regime.

Balkhi told *The Indian Express* the two sides are finalising mining operations in Aynak Logar, Afghanistan's largest copper reserve, for which China signed an agreement back in 2008. "The Chinese company has sent a new team for the practical work to begin," he said, adding that Beijing was also involved in other "mega projects" including gas and oil exploration, and building a power station. According to estimates made by the previous Afghan government, the country's mineral reserves are worth \$3 tn.

At Kabul airport, a huge hoarding for "ChinaTown", advertises services for Chinese businesses prospecting in Afghanistan. Located in an apartment complex of the same name, it has an Afghan and a Chinese promoter, with the ground floor stocked with China-made goods — from an electric three-wheeler and scooters to rubber footwear. *A Global Times* report in April said five Chinese companies operate in Afghanistan.

The promoters said that depending on demand, the goods will be either imported or manufactured at an upcoming 650-acre China-Afghanistan industrial park at Pul-e-Charkhi outside Kabul. During Wang Yi's visit, the two sides also discussed Afghanistan joining the China Pakistan Economic Corridor, even though the ambitious project, part of the Belt and Road Initiative, has been mired in financial and security difficulties.

● BEGINNING TODAY, A WEEKLY EXPLAINED ON INDIA'S POLICY & PLACE IN THE REGION — AND IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY

Surrendering a policy: When should you do it — and should you at all?



SANDEEP SINGH

AS THE pandemic hit lives, the economy, and livelihoods, 2021-22 witnessed a sharp spike in insurance policies being surrendered ahead of their maturity. Data show that more than 2.3 crore life insurance policies were surrendered during the year — more than three times the number of policies (69.78 lakh) surrendered in 2020-21. It is ironic that at a time when one is in desperate need of his/her money, while surrendering a traditional policy (endowment or money back), policyholders in the major-

ity of cases end up with a surrender value that is even lower than the premiums paid.

In case of unit-linked plans, it may result in lower returns on the capital investment. It is, therefore, very important to understand the pitfalls of surrendering, and to evaluate all options before you decide to do so.

What should you look for before surrendering your policy?

The first thing that one needs to check is the surrender value. "Often, people don't check the surrender value, and assume that the current value of the policy is what they will get if they surrender. It is only later that they realise that what they have received is much less than the current value. So one must check the surrender value before taking the decision," said Surya Bhatia, founder, AM Unicorn Professional.

Advisers say that policyholders must also evaluate the reason for surrendering the pol-

icy, and the various options they can explore with insurance companies. Individuals must look at the reason for surrender — whether they need the money or they think they can't make future premium payments — and accordingly make their decision.

If one is looking to surrender the policy because they believe they can't pay future premiums, the policyholder must reconsider.

"After you finish with the minimum period of paying premiums, you have the option to either surrender or stop paying further premiums. Very often this is referred to as paid-up status, where you stop paying the premium and the benefits of your policy reduce proportionately in line with the reduced payment period, Vishal Dhawan, founder, Plan Ahead Wealth Advisors, said. "So," he said, "if someone needs to control future cash flows, the individual must explore the paid-up option. Many a time, paid-up options are not looked at by peo-

ple, and they think that they can either continue or surrender."

If one is in need of money, one can consider taking a loan against the policy, if the requirement is for a temporary period.

In cases where one is looking to surrender the policy to avoid risk of asset class (volatility in equity markets) in case of Ulips, one has the option to move the money from equity underlying fund to something that is debt-oriented.

What are the impacts of surrendering a policy?

There are several pitfalls, including losing the insurance cover linked to the policy.

The biggest impact that premature surrendering has is on the return you get out of the policy, as surrender value is much less than what you can get on maturity.

There is no standard answer as to what a surrender value can be — it depends upon the

kind of policy (traditional or unit linked), years of premium paid, and term of the policy.

Financial experts say that in case of money-back, endowment, and whole life plans, individuals suffer big losses on account of surrendering the policy and can lose around 50 per cent of the premium paid.

In case of Ulips, since they can't be surrendered till the fifth year and can only be done at the end of the sixth year, experts say that there is not much loss. However, it does impact the return for the investors because of early termination of the policy.

Another impact is on the aspect of taxation. "People often miss the fact that while the policy is tax-free at maturity, if you surrender ahead of maturity, you miss out on that as it attracts tax at the marginal tax rate applicable to the individual policyholder," Bhatia said.

Should you surrender your policy at all?

As the drawbacks of surrendering are

many, financial advisers suggest that it should be one of the last options. It is advisable that when in need of money, investors should carefully look at their entire investment corpus — mutual funds, insurance policy, fixed deposits, bonds, etc. — and after understanding the implications of giving up each of them, they should figure out which one should go first, and which should be taken up last.

"When you explore all the options and take a measured approach, you will end up taking a better decision, Dhawan said. He added that "while one can still do it with investment policies, it is crucial that one doesn't do it with term policies".

Bhatia said that surrendering a policy should be the last resort. "Explore other options. Only in the case of Ulip plans, if the policy is not working according to the plan, you may look to surrender — but that too to reinvest in a better performing policy or other financial instrument," he said.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

August 25, in court

Introduction of strict timelines and a categorical assertion of intent will hopefully endure



GOPAL SANKARANARAYANAN

IT HAS FOR long been a lament of the academic community that India's Supreme Court has gradually dissolved into an ordinary appellate forum, a far cry from the high constitutional authority that it was envisaged to be. Lawyers have also added their voices to this concern, albeit in a muted manner, because it is after all the bread-and-butter of appellate practice that keeps them at work, rather than the involved perambulations of fundamental rights jurisprudence.

However, in a country which will shortly overtake China to sit at the top of the population tables, and one where the fomenting of litigation is now a diurnal pastime, it seems difficult to confine the apex court to mere issues of the Constitution. Bear in mind that Article 136 of the Constitution allows anybody to file a challenge to the Supreme Court against any order or judgment of any court. This explains why we have over 71,411 cases pending at the moment, of which a paltry batch of 53 are Constitution Bench cases (where at least five judges sit together to answer important questions on the Constitution). Many of these have been pending for several years, some for three decades like the one concerning the rent control laws of Bombay.

Since the turn of the century, it was customary that the convening of the five-judge benches (or larger combinations) would happen from time to time so that a balance was struck between marmalade and bread-and-butter. Nearly every two months, judgments would be pronounced which would have far-reaching implications, as every Constitution Bench ruling allows several pending petitions both before the Supreme Court and the various high courts to be disposed of following the final declaration of law.

Just over the last five years, such benches have delivered verdicts on Aadhaar, privacy, reservations, judicial appointments, temple

entry, gubernatorial powers and land acquisition. Of course, they are all important and most of them have been warmly welcomed, but equally, they have been prioritised for hearing over cases that have been languishing for decades to be considered.

The Court has been roundly criticised for its selective manner of listing, and this is rightly seen as an institutional failure. Thus, the developments over the past few days have come as a pleasant surprise. By a notice of August 24, the Supreme Court has announced a list of 25 out of the 53 Constitution Bench cases that will be taken up for hearing from August 29, which would be the first day of Justice U U Lalit presiding as Chief Justice of India. One of the rare direct appointees to the Supreme Court, Justice Lalit has previously been both a solicitor and a Senior Advocate of the Court, which has given him a clearer insight into the Court's functioning than many who have come from the high courts and tried to come to grips with the unique (and often, strange) workings of the top court. Although his tenure is a brief one of just over two months, the notice comes as a strong encouraging sign that the Court is serious about clearing up its massive legal backlog. Significantly, the notice solicits short submissions and time schedules from the lawyers, so that the serious matter of hearing can now start.

While there are other and more topical issues that emerge from this list of cases, what may have far-reaching implications is the case concerning the appointment of the Election Commissioners. Unlike most other entities like the Director CBI, the CVC and the judges who are appointed by broad-based committees or recommended by Collegia, the choice of Election Commissioners is left entirely to the government. Would the Court consider stepping in to balance the scales?

After the *Indira Sawhney* ruling of 1992,

which allowed OBC reservations in jobs and education but rejected the use of economic stratification for such quotas, the Constitution was amended in 2019 to bring in a maximum of 10 per cent for the economically weaker sections. The validity of this is part of the list and awakens interest, particularly as it leads to a different political direction for the age-old quota debate.

Among policy decisions, demonetisation has been by far one of the most controversial ones in India's recent history — its validity comes up for consideration as well, although, as with the Andhra Pradesh bifurcation, very little survives in the real world. The Supreme Court had directed that no petitions would be entertained by any high court, which led to all orders being solicited at Tilak Marg. Only those who have old notes which were not accepted for swapping may have something to expect here.

A swathe of cases dealing with minorities are also to occupy the Court in coming months — the freedom of religion, which has been at the heart of the Sabarimala case will find itself central to two others, the process of ex-communication among the Dawoodi Bohras and the practice of Nikah Halala. The Andhra Pradesh quota for Muslims as well as the right of Sikhs to minority status in Punjab are also in the fray and could well lead to a complete reset of political strategy in these states.

One can only hope that this is the new normal. It has been customary for practices to vary with each new Chief Justice, but the introduction of strict timelines and a categorical assertion of intent ought to abide well beyond Justice Lalit's tenure. This would be a worthy legacy for a nation well served.

The writer is senior advocate at the Supreme Court of India

CHIEF AND JUSTICE

CJI Ramana's legacy has high points for his successor to build on — and is also marked by what might have been

THURSDAY WAS AN unusually busy day in the Supreme Court, with outgoing Chief Justice of India NV Ramana-led benches hearing crucial matters — from a review petition on the PMLA judgment to public interest litigation in the Bilkis Bano case, and the Pegasus snooping matter. The flurry of cases, the stirring of processes of justice, is enormously welcome. But as CJI Ramana steps down from the highest court, it would surely be a matter of regret for him, and the institution, that his tenure seemed to quicken only at its very end. Having said that, the SC Thursday did well to take a first step, hopefully towards undoing justice in the Bilkis Bano case, by seeking the Gujarat government's response to the plea challenging the release of 11 convicts after remission of their sentences. It is heartening, again, that it has agreed to reconsider, in open court, two aspects of its own judgement on the PMLA — on the need to provide ECIR to the accused, and on reversing the presumption of innocence, two aspects key to due process. In July, the SC had upheld the law which gives unchecked powers to the ED for arrest, search, attachment and seizure in cases of money laundering. On the Pegasus matter, however, the SC appears to have dropped the ball — having set up a technical committee instead of pushing the government to respond to allegations that it used spyware to snoop on citizens, the court seems to have accepted, without demur, what the committee has to say on the government's refusal to cooperate.

Thursday was a crowded day but CJI Ramana's tenure has also been marked by what might have been. His rulings on sedition and, initially, even on Pegasus, were forthright — he presided over the SC's welcome decision to revisit the constitutionality of the widely misused colonial-era law, and it was under his leadership, too, that the court moved the needle on privacy, press freedom and the limits of national security as an alibi for governments. But in both, the court, having taken a step forward, did not push through. Other cases involving important constitutional questions and matters concerning citizens' freedoms and arbitrary use of power by the executive, from the abrogation of Article 370 to electoral bonds and the policy of demonetisation, have waited endlessly for their day in court. Now, under the new CJI, UU Lalit, the SC has taken an important step forward on some of these cases — starting next week, the court has picked 25 that will be heard by five-judge Constitution benches. But this show of alacrity has been a long time coming.

On judicial appointments, the SC collegium led by CJI Ramana has a far more bracing record — it made more than 250 recommendations for judges to the high court, bringing down vacancies to their lowest level since 2016. The same collegium also cleared, for the first time, names of three women judges for elevation to the top court, including one who could become the first woman CJI. In a mixed legacy, these are high points for CJI Ramana's successor, even in a short tenure, to carry forward and build on.

PRIVATE, PUBLIC

Finland PM's 'partygate' episode frames larger issues and blurred lines. It calls for sober conversation, not hasty virtue-signalling

THERE IS AN undeniable element of sexism and ageism to the opprobrium heaped on Finland's Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, after a video of her unthinkingly enjoying herself at a party surfaced earlier this month. At 36, Marin is one of the youngest heads of government in the world and since her tenure began in 2019, she has been a popular and also polarising figure in domestic politics. Take, for instance, the demands by Opposition leaders, and even from her political allies, that she take a "voluntary drug test" after the party video surfaced. Boris Johnson, who blatantly lied about flouting Covid-19 protocols at 10 Downing Street while the UK was under harsh pandemic restrictions, did not face any such questions. Marin has now apologised — she had also issued an apology for a visit to a club in December 2021 after being exposed to a Covid-positive person.

There is much that is problematic in the targeting of Marin for her alleged indiscretions but the defence that has been offered on her behalf — that this is just "what people her age do", or that the party was a private affair — only turns the spotlight on a larger question: For people in public life in the age of social media, where must the line be drawn between the public and private? On the one hand, young and tech-savvy politicians like Marin have used social media to their great benefit. For those from the generation that has grown up with the internet, this may seem perfectly natural. Yet it is also true that the public image of a political leader often needs to serve a broader constituency, including among other world leaders, and the notion that "this version of me is informal, apolitical and private" while the more rehearsed or choreographed moments are meant for the public at large, may not be as easy to define. There are also questions about security — and not just so-called propriety — that arise from the prime ministerial judgement, or lack of it, shown in letting down her guard among people who would then make images and videos of a private party public.

The rise of social media is changing politics, and also politicians. Not all sections of society have caught up with these transformations wrought by technology, and many of the old shibboleths around the public and private spheres need to be rethought and re-articulated. That debate needs sober conversation and deliberation, not the hurried virtue signalling of Partygate.

MINDING YOUR ACCENTS

What the software to erase accents of call centre employees for convenience of US and UK customers gets wrong

SILICON VALLEY start-up has created an AI-based solution for one of the lingering questions faced by the customer service industry: How do you make sure that your call centre employee, who is likely to be based in India or the Philippines or another non-English speaking country, is clearly understood by your customers in the US or UK? Sanas's real-time voice-altering technology converts a range of accents into a more "neutral" sounding one for smooth interactions between employees and customers. But is that really a problem that needs solving?

In a hierarchy-free world, a software that tones down or erases a person's accent to make it easier to understand might have been a great idea. As such a world is still a long way off, however, the software only ends up raising troubling questions about cultural and linguistic identities. For example, who decides what is a "neutral" accent? Just like two Indians from different parts of the country don't have the same accent, an American from, say, Boston and one from New Orleans would not sound the same. The creators of the software argue that it removes some of the burden currently placed on call centre employees who have to undergo months-long training and makes them less susceptible to the ire of customers. But the voice samples shared by the company online sound flat and robotic — perhaps an inadvertent admission that achieving the kind of "neutrality" envisioned by those who would erase differences rather than acknowledge and celebrate them, is not even humanly possible.

In a sense, the software is an extension of the syndrome represented by Apu Nahasapeemapetilon, the improbably-named Indian immigrant convenience store owner on the American animated series *The Simpsons*, whose manufactured accent (performed by a white actor) has long offended many in India. Is wiping out difference that much better than the mockery that was Apu's "Welcome to Kwik-e-Mart. Thank you, please come again"?

STEPPING UP TO THE WORLD

India's proximity to West, its ties with other powers, give it foreign policy advantage



RAJIV BHATIA

A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT of India's foreign policy during 1947–2022 should begin with the changing perceptions of this nation, internally and internationally. A young state with an uninterrupted 5,000-year-old civilisation, India began its political journey with ideals of equity stemming from its unique freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru's insistence that the country's independence would be incomplete without the liberation of Asia and Africa. The journey was also marked by the pain of Partition and the trauma of the war with Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir. From an economy that faced the challenge of feeding its population until the 1960s, India has emerged as the fifth largest economy.

India's ties with countries across regions — in the South Pacific, through Southeast and South Asia, in other parts of Asia, Europe, the Indian Ocean region, Africa, North America and Latin America — show it to be an aspiring, as well as a major player on the world stage. A leading member of the UN, an oft-invitee to the G7, a founding member of the BRICS, and a pivotal part of the G20 now ready to take over as its chair, India has become a major stakeholder in the comity of nations.

National interest drives foreign policy, but more is at stake here: It is realpolitik plus. The policy is anchored in a nuanced balancing of interests and values. National security remains the key driver. In addition to it is the belief that external relationships accelerate the country's economic progress. Other motivations include the desire to enhance the nation's standing externally and the impulse to do good for the world — India did not hesitate to share Covid medicines and vaccines with over 90 countries within a month of their launch.

In the past, South Block accorded the highest priority to India's immediate neighbours, given the history of conflicts with Pakistan and China, the liberation of Bangladesh and the military interventions in Sri Lanka and Maldives. In the post-Cold War period, India has moved more time and resources to carefully nurturing of relations with the major powers — the US, EU, especially France and Germany, the UK, Japan, Russia and China. Though the doors of permanent membership of the UN Security Council remain shut, India's enhanced GDP and its IT prowess have positioned it in parallel with the apex group of leaders. At the height of the Non-Aligned Movement and G77, India was the leader of the "have-nots". By enjoying proximity with the West and demonstrating the capability to cooperate and communicate with the "other" side — Russia, the time-tested partner, and China, the principal adversary but also a consequential neighbour — India now acts as a balancer and leader.

The neighbours have not been ignored. Equations with Bhutan, Bangladesh and Maldives are excellent. The tide that ran against India in its ties with Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka in recent years seems to have turned since the Covid-19 pandemic. A fine balancing act between the military government and its opponents in Myanmar is underway. More needs to be achieved in regional cooperation and integration. Having concluded that SAARC's shelf life is over, New Delhi accords priority to BIMSTEC, but this train runs too slow.

The Indo-Pacific has emerged as a principal theatre for Indian diplomacy. The increased emphasis on cooperation with Japan, Australia and the US has turned the Quad into

a strong forum. The combined impact of formations such as AUKUS (Australia, the UK and US), the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, Partners in the Blue Pacific and India's continuing focus on ASEAN, despite the setback of its exit from RCEP, is a determined push-back to China.

Across the Western shores, prospects have improved with the establishment of I2U2 (India, Israel, U.S. UAE) — this became possible due to the progress in India-UAE, India-Israel and UAE-Israel relations. The Indian Ocean region is witnessing an active US-China contestation and China-India competition. Positioning Africa's eastern and southern flanks as a part of the Indo-Pacific could enable India to craft a series of initiatives to strengthen cooperation in maritime activity, economic development, and the blue economy.

Among the 14 prime ministers, five have left a strong imprint on foreign policy: Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Narasimha Rao, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi. The Ministry of External Affairs has become a more professional machine. Foreign policy making is aided by academia, think tanks, civil society and media more than ever before.

The increasing engagement of the wider public — especially the youth and business community — with foreign policy issues reflects the maturity and sophistication of Indian democracy. These trends must deepen and India's G20 Presidency provides a perfect opportunity and beginning for the next anniversary era.

Rajiv Bhatia is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House and a former ambassador



AUGUST 26, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

ASSAM TALKS

TRIPARTITE TALKS ON the foreigners in Assam got off to a hopeful start with the unanimous acceptance of a formula for the detection of foreigners. The formula, which emerged from the two-hour joint meeting of the government, the opposition leaders and the Assam agitation leaders is that all foreigners shall be detected on the basis of the Constitution and the existing relevant laws, including the Foreigners Act, the Citizenship Act and the Passport Act. In the process of detection, due inquiries shall be conducted on the basis of a set of guidelines in the form of a questionnaire.

PM IN SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi pledged India's unstinted support to the struggle for the establishment of majority rule in South Africa. Speaking at a banquet held in her honour by the President of Mozambique Samoran Machel, she lashed out at the South African minority government for building "a structure of institutionalised terror against its own people, merely on the basis of colour and skin".

SANJAY VICHAR MANCH

TWO CONGRESS (I) MPs from UP, Ram Narain Tripathi of Kanpur and Kalapnath

Sonker from Basti have joined the Sanjay Vichar Manch, Maneka Gandhi announced. The PM's daughter-in-law disclosed that on October 15 she plans to form a new political party.

US-FRANCE TENSIONS

US PRESIDENT RONALD Reagan's administration made it clear that if France permits the shipment of US-licensed equipment to the Soviet Union in defiance of the President's pipeline embargo, sanctions will be enforced. John Hughes, the State Department's chief spokesman, said the declaration should not be seen as a "warning or threat".

Laddoo Gopal in Amrit Kaal

We are witnessing the infantilisation of democracy and its gods



MRINAL PANDE

IT IS ENTIRELY natural that in the Amrit Kaal old leaders' fancy should turn to thoughts of history. Last week, elaborate celebrations were mounted to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence and its heroes were chosen by those who had either stood with the British or just watched the long struggle without taking sides. Even the history of the creation of our national flag was altered to suit current thinking, ejecting from it the sizeable contribution of non-Hindu designers.

Anyway, it was decided to do away with khadi, and print as many tirangas as possible so each house could display one. We soon saw strings of tricolour balloons stretching from the sedate old ladies on Raisina Hill to that centurion sahib among Indian clubs, the Delhi Gymkhana. As though our Republic was not a 75-year-old democratic entity but a toddler celebrating his/her "budday".

Netas delivered thunderous speeches in praise of India today from the ramparts of old forts, gesticulating and entralling their loyal audiences like some latter-day Sohrab Modi, that old lion from Parsi theatre belting out classic dialogues penned by Agha Hashra Kashmiri: "Chal e hava, khoob zoron se chal! Ai baadal tiri shiddat se baras ki sub doob jaye!"

The speeches over, the celebratory spirit was dampened somewhat by the release of 11 men convicted of raping a pregnant Muslim woman and killing her little daughter. To add salt to the hapless woman's wounds, the nation saw images of the 11 men being welcomed by their right-wing supporters with laddoos. But soon, TV channels undertook damage control. Bhajans started and screens were filled with images of the preparations for Janmashtami, baby Krishna's birthday. The debates on political controversies gave way to songs celebrating Krishna's birth and schoolgirls dancing as Radha and Krishna.

This year, the celebrations were spread over two days, we heard, due to some inauspicious star formations. So, the colourful spectacles were repeated. Sweet shops were full. No one saw it fit to question a sudden two-rupee per litre rise in the price of milk, on the eve of the birthday of Krishna, the lover of milk, butter and cream! On the streets, billboards came up overnight with greetings to all Hindus. They were put up by mohalla leaders whose photos graced the boards, along with their mobile numbers. They promised elaborate puja rituals, free meals, ice cream *bhandaras* and *chhappan bhog pujas* and *maha aartis*. Shops did brisk business too, selling plastic, metal or china icons of a plump baby Krishna on all fours holding a laddoo.

The present-day image of the mischievous baby Krishna emerged from the Puranas. In the 14th century, which was also a time of great political turmoil and displacements within India, it got a big boost. Medieval kingdoms had created localised systems capable of defending their hegemony but incapable of satisfying the people and raising strong defences to meet big chal-



CR Sasikumar

lenges. Suddenly, as Hinduism faced the Islamic challenges, city after city began collapsing. Communities already divided by caste stopped being of much use to the city-states. It was at this fearful, melancholic hour that the Bhakti movement came from the South. The people, defeated and hurting, were happy to be swept into kirtans and poetry that asked their gods to save their souls.

In the 15th century, mystic Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, believed to have been the avatar of both Radha and Krishna, led the Bhakti movement into Bengali homes and the concept then travelled with him to Brijbhumi. Soon, the North Indian plains were ringing with "Hare Krishna, Hare Radhe, Hare Hare". Interestingly, they chose a Krishna frolicking on the banks of the Yamuna and stealing butter, teasing and flirting with gopikas at Brijbhumi.

Why were they — as we are now — largely in denial about the Krishna of the Mahabharata? Our ancestors had probably lost hope. But we who have lived in a democratic republic for 75 years still avert our eyes from Krishna of Dwarka, a great statesman and the builder of some of our earliest republics. The Shanti Parva in the Mahabharata answers this. It introduces us to Krishna as a democrat with a long and painful history of playing the pacifist and being bullied, badgered and even cursed by those he wished to guide. Like Gandhi, Krishna the rajanya (kingmaker) in Dwarka, is a sad and somewhat disillusioned hero surrounded by squabbling and greedy power-seekers with petty minds.

On the eve of the great Mahabharata war, Krishna confides in sage Narada that his hefty brother Balaram has only bal (physical strength), prince Gada is too young and son Pradyumna is a playboy in love with himself. The chiefs of the Andhaka and Vrishni groups are powerful, but too preoccupied with avenging their honour and grabbing more power. With the exception of Dwarka, I have become, says Krishna, like the mother of two gamblers — she wants one to win, but not at the cost of the other one.

Narada tells Krishna, for better or worse you are the head of the coalition. Thou shalt not destroy the basic principles of democracy. So throw out the troublemakers and lead from the front as king. But a true demo-

crat, Krishna shrugs off kingship and allows his chosen man, Akru, to continue as the head. Thus, Krishna's Dwarka remains the only republic in the coalition whose leaders, he ordered, must fight with their armies on the side of Duryodhana. But Krishna himself, as per his promise, would be an unarmed charioteer for his friend Arjuna. Krishna disregarded Narada's advice to dethrone petty squabblers, and remained a peacenik through the war only to be cursed by Gandhari whose sons he had allowed to use his armies.

Once again, the air is thick with man-made pollution, both environmental and emitted by a war that all of us, directly or indirectly, are being sucked into. What should we do with leaders who are straight out of The Wizard of Oz? Do we lift the curtain and recoil in horror? Or do we let that be and understand properly our own actual needs and locate a leader who is a builder, not destroyer of coalitions? Who does not see urbanisation and industrialisation as the keys to being a modern global guru? This hellish circle of creating a mirage of modernisation followed by the rapturous songs of evangelical Bhakti can be broken only by one who will shape and execute the right deeds along with the right thoughts, and not lecture people about five pledges from a high podium and then leave them to fight a decisive battle while he enjoys the power and the glory of being supreme.

Like Gandhi, Krishna was the builder of an almost impossible democratic coalition. And both paid for their uncompromising stand. Gandhi was killed by a Hindu fanatic who shot him for not being a majoritarian. Krishna was, according to lore, killed by the arrow of a hunter who thought his soft red feet were a deer's belly while the younger generations in his republic fought each other to extinction. The war has to be fought anew by each generation, for peace and coexistence, against the law of the jungle. Those of us who just watched from the sidelines as the tragedy unfurled slowly before our eyes have also sinned. Time will not judge us kindly: *Samar shesh hai, nahin paap ka bhagi keval vyadh/ Jo tatast hain, samay likhega unka bhi itihās.*

The writer is former chairperson, Prasar Bharati

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Pakistan has been affected by a record-breaking monsoon, flooding and the attendant human misery. The political circus can wait. The immediate focus should be on helping those living under an open sky." — DAWN, PAKISTAN

The wrong kind of clean-up

Undoing the rot in India's sports governance requires work at the bottom of the pyramid



NANDAN KAMATH

MUCH OF THE recent action in Indian sports has been in the courts instead of on the courts. The judicial push for reforms in various sporting bodies — football, hockey, table tennis and the Indian Olympic Association — has understandably received mixed reactions. There has been hope and optimism on one hand, and confusion, disruption, and a FIFA suspension on the other. The battle is not new and the judiciary is not the ideal arbiter of sports governance standards. But here we are and, frankly, if you leave the goal scoring to the goalkeepers you shouldn't complain about the quality of your finish.

At the heart of the controversy are differing conceptions of what "democratic" decision-making in federations looks like, the challenge of overly entrenched interest groups in governance structures, and the belief that athletes must be given a powerful voice in sports administration. These issues converge on the questions of who should be members of sports federations and have the right to vote in and stand for elections in these bodies.

The autonomy of international and national sports federations is a vital pillar of the sports movement. This status enables sports bodies to act independently through their own democratic structures, free from governmental and external influence. Without this protection, their decision-making might be subjected to political and other considerations and this would make it challenging for them to give sporting interests the primacy that is essential.

That said, autonomy is not the antithesis of public accountability. The latter becomes vital when federations acting as monopolies and monopolies are carrying out what are "public functions". This has led to various national legal systems bringing regulations to enforce their notion of good governance. The Indian version is the National Sports Development Code, 2011, fondly known as the Sports Code.

The Sports Code assembles dozens of government notifications issued over a few decades, and interpreting its provisions is not a task for the fainthearted. Its contents have been recognised by courts as administrative directions that are binding on federations. It provides the minimum standards that a sports body must comply with to retain the sports ministry's annual recognition. Such recognition enables it to continue to enjoy the privileges that come with this designation, including fielding national teams, using national symbols, and receiving government funding.

The most controversial aspect of the judicially driven proposal at the AIF, also incorporated into the IOA judgment in a similar form, is the nomination of 36 "eminent" former players as members of the general body alongside the 36 representatives of the state football associations. In addition, the proposal was to have former athletes populate at least 25 per cent of the elected executive committee seats. These outcomes are not per se in violation of either the Sports

Code or the Olympic Charter. However, the way in which these athletes are to be chosen (and in the case of the AIF, the fact that they were identified according to criteria specified by the committee of administrators), and the sheer proportion of athletes that would populate the general bodies of these organisations lead to questions being asked, and not just from those enforcing the FIFA Statutes. Unless there is a change in course, scrutiny of the International Olympic Committee regarding compliance with the Olympic Charter is inevitable.

Placing a large number of athletes directly into the general bodies and boards of federations was an approach that the courts and their committees of administrators jumped on. With elections to be held, the underlying premise was that athletes were not adequately represented in the electoral colleges and that only such a radical reform would ensure representation of their voice. As the saying goes, if you aren't at the table, you are probably on the menu. It is a different matter that these athletes have been alienated from administration since the days of their youth and have little experience in sports governance.

The Olympic Charter has a provision for the election of athlete representatives as members of the National Olympic Committee and their boards. This involves the creation of federation-recognised athlete membership bodies that include both active and recently-retired athletes with the right to vote their representatives into membership and federation posts. It sets a minimum of two athletes as members and one as an executive committee member of the National Olympic Committee (that is, the IOA) but has no upper limit for either.

Athletes might end up as effective sports administrators. There is an equal chance that they will not. Their eminence on the playing field does not increase the odds of them being in either bucket. While "correcting" the rot in Indian sports governance, "quick fix" solutions might further muddy the waters. Work is needed from the bottom of the pyramid — to reconstitute district and state bodies that feed into the national sports governance pyramid. The focus of reform efforts must be on training sports governors and administrators, both athletes and non-athletes. Every district, state and national sports body must have athlete commissions and athlete representation of such bodies embedded in decision-making in reasonable numbers. It is attractive to start with reforms at the top. However, as we have seen repeatedly, the quality at the top of the sports pyramid, be it of athletes or administrators, depends entirely on what emerges from the bottom. With the IOA judgment holding that the Sports Code provisions are applicable right down the sports pyramid, the wind is certainly blowing in this direction.

These sports cases have reached our constitutional courts after years of governance lapses at the federations. More than the imperfect solutions that the judges have come up with to reorder these bodies, the inaction of the international federations and the governmental bodies along the way should be cause for greater concern. When the institutional checks and balances of sports governance are not working, not even the most brilliant eminent-athlete-administrator can be expected to turn the tide

The writer is a lawyer based in Bengaluru

Revidi debate, bitter after-taste

Centre's stranglehold over states is leading to a breakdown of trust between the two



JOHN BRITTAS

ONE MAY CALL it much ado about a candy that half the country hasn't even heard about, but the acrimony about "revidi culture" has only helped rev up the debate on the existential crisis looming over the cooperative federalism envisaged by our founding fathers. The Supreme Court should, in all its earnestness, turn its attention to the plaque of opaqueness that has accumulated over Centre-state relations instead of so-called freebies. It's time the country and its opinion makers understood the Centre's stranglehold over states on almost all fronts, which is leading to a breakdown of trust between the two "partners".

The framers of our Constitution were aware of the apprehensions raised when India embraced a federal structure with strong unitary features. But they would have never dreamt of a situation where trumpeting unilateralism is hailed as some kind of a good governance model.

It's interesting to recall how Jawaharlal Nehru defended the unitary slant of our polity. "It would be injurious to the interests of the country to provide for a weak central authority which would be incapable of ensuring peace, of coordinating vital matters of common concern and of speaking effectively for the whole country in the international sphere." But B R Ambedkar assured the Constituent Assembly: "The Constitution is a federal Constitution... The Union is not a league of states... nor are the states the agencies of the Union, deriving powers from it. Both the Union and the states are created by the Constitution, both derive their respective authority from the Constitution."

I will restrict this article to fiscal federalism since "revidi culture" is the focal point of the debate although the process of centralisation is now all-pervasive. Over the years, the very nature of fiscal transfer has become thoroughly centralised. For a long time, the Planning Commission and Finance Commission were the cardinal pillars of Centre-state relations on the fiscal front. But the ushering in of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the scrapping of the Planning Commission and non-adherence to Finance Commission recommendations have led to an asymmetrical framework.

The GST that was once hailed as a milestone for cooperative federalism is now touted as a manifestation of the growing dependence of the states on the Centre. When the Planning Commission was disbanded to make way for the Niti Aayog, all the powers of allocation of resources to states were passed on to the Ministry of Finance. Consequently, even the pretence of an objective allocation of resources to states has disappeared, and all decisions were rendered ad-hoc. Under the Planning Commission, the Gadgil formula was used to allocate funds to states. However, after 2015, transfers to states are determined based not on any formula but purely political exigencies.

Consequently, the federal foundations of the Indian polity were also enormously weakened. The National Development Council (NDC), where the prime minister used to regularly meet the chief ministers, has long been abolished. Instead, CMs were made members of the governing council of the Niti Aayog. This was neither a substitute for the discussions

between the planning bodies of state governments and the Planning Commission, nor the discussions in the NDC. Even the occasional visits of Niti Aayog members to states have been reduced to a formality: No serious policy discussion, leave alone decision-making, takes place during these visits.

The concerns of CMs over the dwindling state revenues raised in the recently held Niti Aayog meeting presided over by the PM needs to be taken in its right perspective. It's the states that deal with the broad range of aspirations of the people on the ground. As per the 15th Finance Commission, states bear more than 62 per cent of expenditure responsibilities but are given only 37 per cent of revenue raising power, while the Union government owns 63 per cent of revenue raising power to spend on 38 per cent of its expenditure responsibilities.

The share of cesses and surcharges, as percentage of gross tax revenue, has more than doubled: From 6.26 per cent in 2010-11 to almost 20 per cent in 2021-22. Moreover, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pulled up the Centre as it failed to transfer a substantial portion of the money collected from cesses and surcharges to the designated funds which ensures that they are used for the intended purpose. The very idea of a cess is being turned on its head.

Interestingly, whenever confronted with this stark reality Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman goes on the offensive saying that the Centre distributes these to states via central schemes. She doesn't realise the fact that states are not merely implement-

ing agencies of central schemes. The Constitution empowers the states to conceive schemes to provide sustenance and relief to people. And every study proves that state government schemes are more innovative and appropriate to the targeted groups.

Non-adherence to the recommendations of its own finance commissions is the tipping point in the chaotic Centre-state relations. Despite the last two successive Finance Commissions pegging the share of states in gross taxes to over 40 per cent, the actual transfer never reached this prescribed level. The peak was 36.6 per cent in FY 19 and it fell to a meagre 29 per cent subsequently. In effect, the actual share of states has only shrunk.

The Centre invited rebuke when it turned a recent all-party meeting convened to discuss the Sri Lankan issue into a podium to "discipline" states on the fiscal front. Ironically, the Centre's debt burden has shot up from Rs 53 lakh crore to Rs 136 lakh crore since 2015 but it considers states imprudent in fiscal management. The Centre's record is even worse on the fiscal deficit front and off-budget borrowing, but the propensity to find faults with states has become a permanent feature.

India is at a crossroads today and the need of the hour is cohesion and not confusion. We need unity and not uniformity, assimilation not extinction. The Narendra Modi government has to find a new narrative instead of usurping the powers of the states and crying foul at the same time.

John Brittas is a Rajya Sabha Member from CPI(M)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A JUST DEMOCRACY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The question in America' (IE, August 25). In the history of American democracy, it was during the Trump era that white Christian nationalism surged to its peak and damaged the edifice of democracy. Christian nationalism supports Trump and his rhetoric of resentment, giving rise to the entrenchment of anti-democratic impulses. When people in power realise their opponents are growing stronger, they resort to polarisation. Back home, is there any parallel, to the situation in the US or Brazil?

Dev Athawale, Amravati

CRISIS OF FAITH

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Stepping back from justice' (IE, August 25). When the state enacts unconstitutional laws, it is the duty of the judiciary to protect the rights of citizens. Recently, Indian courts have passed disturbing judgments, damaged judiciary's image. Such precedents impede the pursuit of justice. The arrests by the Enforcement Directorate with an intention to hurt the Opposition damage democracy. It is now high time that the judiciary step in and provide legal remedy and solace to the embattled constitutional values.

Ajay Corriea, Vasai

SIMPLY CAPTIVATING

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The power of voice' (IE, August 24). The passing away of iconic ghazal singer Nayyara Noor is a severe blow to the world of Urdu poetry and music. Despite not being formally trained, she succeeded in making her mark, entralling her listeners with her renditions of the revolutionary poet, Faiz Ahmed Faiz. A gifted singer, her performances before a TV camera in simple attire only enhanced the appeal of her voice. Likewise, she shunned flaunting her expertise in music before her audience. Hers was a style that appealed to one and all throughout the 40 years she sang. She will be missed.

Samiul Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

NATIONAL DISGRACE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Going with the low' (IE, August 25). The war of words seemed to be continuing between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and Kannur University VC and Professor Irfan Habib. Khan stirred communal sensitivities at the Indian History Congress at Kannur in December 2019, which he failed to acknowledge. His actions reflect his priorities — pleasing his political bosses. It is disgraceful that someone holding such a high office attacks a VC using unparliamentary language.

SS Paul, Nadia



SNIPPET

STEM CELLS CREATES SYNTHETIC MOUSE EMBRYOS

Scientists have created "synthetic" mouse embryos from stem cells without a dad's sperm or a mom's egg or womb. The lab-created embryos mirror a natural mouse embryo up to 8 days after fertilisation, containing the same structures, including one like a beating heart. The feat could also lay the foundation for creating synthetic human embryos for research in the future

TOP OF THE WORLD



National Police Agency Chief Itaru Nakamura

JAPAN

Police chief to resign over Abe shooting death

Tokyo: Japan's national police chief said on Thursday he will resign to take responsibility over shortfalls in security that an investigation by his own agency showed did not adequately safeguard former Japanese PM Shinzo Abe from a fatal shooting of a campaign speech last month. National Police Agency Chief Itaru Nakamura's announcement came as his agency released a report blaming flaws in police protection that led to Abe's assassination July 8 in Nara in western Japan. Nakamura said he took the death seriously and that he submitted his resignation to the National Public Safety Commission earlier Thursday. **AP**

MYANMAR

Former British ambassador held

MYANMAR'S MILITARY regime has arrested a former British ambassador and her Burmese husband, charging them both with violating immigration law, according to two people with knowledge of their situation. The former ambassador, Vicky Bowman, 56, and her husband, the artist Ko Htein Lin, 55, were arrested on Wednesday at their house in Yangon and taken to Insein Prison, said the two people. They face up to five years in prison. **NYT**

UK

Sewage flows into English Channel

Paris: EU lawmakers have a new, post-Brexit reason to be annoyed with Britain: British sewage overflows seeping into the English Channel and North Sea. Heavy rainfall after weeks of dry weather overwhelmed parts of Britain's sewage system causing untreated wastewater to be discharged into rivers and seas. The regulators are investigating possible permit violations by six major water companies. **AP**

USA

Senator arrives in Taiwan

Taipei: A US lawmaker on the Senate Commerce and Armed Services committees arrived in Taiwan on Thursday on the third visit by a US dignitary this month, defying pressure from Beijing to halt trips. Senator Marsha Blackburn arrived in Taipei on board a US military aircraft, live television footage from the downtown Songshan airport showed. **REUTERS**

GERMANY

World's 1st fleet of H2 trains roll out

Berlin: German officials launched what they say is the world's first fleet of hydrogen-powered passenger trains Wednesday, replacing 15 diesel trains that previously operated on non-electrified tracks in the state of Lower Saxony. The 14 trains use hydrogen fuel cells to generate electricity that powers the engines. **AP**

A first: India votes against Russia in UNSC during proceedings on Ukraine

Our independence is your security, Zelenskyy tells UNSC

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 25

INDIA FOR the first time on Wednesday voted against Russia during a "procedural vote" at the United Nations Security Council on Ukraine, as the 15-member powerful UN body invited Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to address a meeting through a video tele-conference.

This is for the first time that India has voted against Russia on the issue of Ukraine, after the Russian military action began in February. So far, New Delhi has abstained at the UN Security Council on Ukraine, much to the annoyance of the Western powers led by the United States.

India has not criticised Russia for its aggression against Ukraine. New Delhi has repeatedly called upon the Russian and Ukrainian sides to return to the path of diplomacy and dialogue, and also expressed its support for all diplomatic efforts to end the conflict between the two countries.

India currently is a non-permanent member for a two-year term, which ends in December. On Wednesday, the UNSC held a meeting to take stock of the now six-month-old conflict on the 31st anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

As the meeting began, Russian Ambassador to the UN Vasily A Nebenzia requested a procedural vote concerning

Russian Malka artillery systems fire from an undisclosed location in Ukraine. **AP**

Ukrainian President's virtual participation in the meeting. Following statements by him and Ferit Hoxha of Albania, the Council extended an invitation to Zelenskyy to participate.

Nebenzia insisted that Russia does not oppose Zelenskyy's participation, but such participation must be in-person. In a procedural vote on this matter, India and 12 other countries did not agree and supported Zelenskyy.

Zelenskyy in his remarks called for the Russian Federation to be held accountable for its crimes of aggression against Ukraine. "If Moscow is not stopped now, then all these Russian murderers will in-

evitably end up in other countries," he said. "It is on the territory of Ukraine that the world's future will be decided," he added. "Our independence is your security," he told the UNSC. Zelenskyy alleged that Russia has placed the world on the brink of nuclear catastrophe by turning the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant into a war zone.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres also expressed grave concern over the situation around the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, underscoring that "warning lights are flashing". Any actions that might endanger physical integrity, safety of the plant are unacceptable, he said. **PTI**

Russia's I-Day rail station strike kills 25 civilians in Kyiv

AGENCIES
KYIV, AUGUST 25

RUSSIA'S DEFENCE Ministry said on Thursday its forces had struck a railway station in eastern Ukraine, confirming an attack which Kyiv says also hit a residential area and killed 25 civilians as the nation marked its Independence Day.

In its daily briefing, the ministry said an Iskander missile had hit a military train on Wednesday at the station of Chaplyne that had been set to deliver arms to Ukrainian forces on the frontline in the eastern Donbas region.

Ukrainian presidential aide Kyrylo Tymoshenko said 21 people were killed when the strike hit the railway station and set five train carriages ablaze, while a boy died when a missile hit his home in the vicinity. The toll rose to 25 on Thursday after three more bodies were retrieved, he said.

Meanwhile, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant was temporarily cut off from the electrical grid Thursday because of fire damage, causing a blackout in the region and heightening fears of a catastrophe. The plant was cut off from the grid for the first time.

PUTIN SIGNS DECREE TO UP MILITARY SIZE

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered the Russian military to increase its number of soldiers by 137,000 to a total of 1.15 million servicemen. Putin's decree, which takes effect on Jan. 1, will boost the overall number of military personnel to 2,039,758, including 1,150,628 servicemen. A previous order put the force's numbers at 1,902,758 and 1,013,628 respectively at the start of 2018. **AP**

S KOREA SIGNS \$2.25 BN DEAL WITH RUSSIA FIRM

Seoul: South Korea landed a 3 trillion won (\$2.25 billion) contract with a Russian state-run nuclear energy company to provide components and construct a turbine building for Egypt's first nuclear power plant, officials said Thursday. The South Koreans hailed the deal as a triumph for their nuclear power industry. **AP**

Sunak attacks Covid lockdown response: It was always wrong

REUTERS & PTI
LONDON, AUGUST 25

FORMER FINANCE minister Rishi Sunak, one of two candidates vying to be Britain's next premier, criticised the way outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson handled the Covid-19 pandemic, saying it had been a mistake to "empower" scientists and that the downsides of lockdowns were suppressed.

Conservative Party members are voting to select either Sunak or Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, who will take over next month.

Sunak said the government had been "wrong to scare people" about coronavirus. He said he was banned by officials in Johnson's office from discussing the "trade-offs" of imposing coronavirus-related restrictions. "The script was not to ever acknowledge them," he told the *Spectator* magazine. "The script was: 'oh there's no

trade-off, because doing this for health is good for the economy."

Sunak said scientists on the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, the group that helped respond to the outbreak, were given too much influence by ministers on decision making such as closing schools and nurseries. Asked why opinion polls showed that the public was eager for the country to be in a lockdown, Sunak said: "We helped shape that: with the fear messaging".

The 42-year-old former minister said. "In every brief, we tried to say: let's stop the 'fear' narrative. It was always wrong from the beginning. I constantly said it was wrong," he told the news magazine's editor. Sunak was also critical of the public health posters plastered around the country at the time showing Covid patients on ventilators because "it was wrong to scare people like that".

Taliban: Haven't found al-Zawahiri's body

REUTERS
KABUL, AUGUST 25

THE TALIBAN have not found the body of Ayman al-Zawahiri and are continuing investigations, group spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said on Thursday, after the United States said they killed

the al Qaeda leader in an airstrike in Kabul last month.

The United States killed Zawahiri with a missile fired from a drone while he stood on a balcony at his hideout in July, US officials said, in the biggest blow to al Qaeda since US Navy SEALs shot dead Osama bin Laden more than a decade ago.



FIVE YEARS OF ROHINGYA IN BANGLADESH

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees on Thursday marked the fifth anniversary of their exodus from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Bangladesh is hosting more than 1 million Rohingya refugees, who fled from Myanmar over decades. Hundreds of them gathered at a Kutupalong Rohingya camp at Ukhiya in Cox's Bazar district to mark the occasion on Thursday. **Reuters**

Kobe Bryant widow awarded \$16mn in trial over crash photos

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES, AUGUST 25

KOBE BRYANT'S widow was awarded \$16 million as part of a \$31 million jury verdict Wednesday against Los Angeles County for deputies and firefighters sharing grisly photos of the NBA star, his 13-year-old daughter and other victims killed in a 2020 helicopter crash.

The nine jurors unanimously agreed with Vanessa Bryant and her attorneys that the photos invaded her privacy and caused emotional distress. She cried quietly as it was read.

The jury deliberated 4 1/2 hours before reaching the verdict on Kobe Bryant Day, which is celebrated in LA on Aug. 24 because it represents his jersey numbers—8 and 24—and is the day after his birthday. He would

have turned 44 on Tuesday.

After the verdict, Vanessa Bryant posted a photo on Instagram of herself with her husband and daughter. "All for you!" the caption read. "I love you! JUSTICE for Kobe and Gigi!"

An attorney for the county declined comment on the verdict outside the courtroom.

The pictures were shared mostly between employees of the LA County sheriff's and fire

departments including by some who were playing video games and attending an awards banquet. They were also seen by some of their spouses and in one case by a bartender at a bar where a deputy was drinking.

Vanessa Bryant tearfully testified during the 11-day trial that news of the photos compounded her still-raw grief a month after losing her husband and daughter.

Uvalde school shooting: Police chief fired

ASSOCIATED PRESS
UVALDE, AUGUST 25

THE UVALDE school district has fired police chief Pete Arredondo under mounting pressure in the grieving Texas town to punish officers for hesitating for over an hour to storm a classroom and take down the gunman who killed 19 children and two teachers.

In a unanimous vote Wednesday evening, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District's board of trustees fired Arredondo during a meeting also attended by parents and survivors of the May 24 massacre. Arredondo, who was not present, is the first officer to lose his job following one of the deadliest classroom shootings in US history.

His ouster came three months to the day after the tragedy and less than two weeks before students return to school in Uvalde, where some children are still too scared or scarred to go back inside a classroom. The board faced withering criticism, with one young girl approaching a microphone to ask why law enforcement hadn't protected her friends and teachers. "Turn in your badge," she demanded.

The crowd cheered following the vote, and some parents walked away in tears. Outside, several Uvalde residents called for other officers to be held accountable. "Coward!" some in the audience yelled as the meeting got underway.

EXPERTS FOUND TEACHING PEOPLE HOW TO SPOT MISINFORMATION MADE PEOPLE SKEPTICAL OF IT

Google finds 'inoculating' people against false info helps blunt its power

NICO GRANT & TIFFANY HSU
AUGUST 25

IN THE fight against online misinformation, falsehoods have key advantages: They crop up fast and spread at the speed of electrons, and there is a lag period before fact checkers can debunk them.

So researchers at Google, the University of Cambridge and the University of Bristol tested a different approach that tries to undermine misinformation before people see it. They call it "pre-bunking." The researchers found that psychologically "inoculating" internet users against lies and

conspiracy theories — by preemptively showing them videos about the tactics behind misinformation — made people more skeptical of falsehoods afterward, according to an academic paper published in the journal *Science Advances* on Wednesday. But effective educational tools still may not be enough to reach people with hardened political beliefs, the researchers found.

Since Russia spread disinformation on Facebook during the 2016 election, major technology companies have struggled to balance concerns about censorship with fighting online lies and conspiracy theories. Despite an array of attempts by the compa-

Google to roll out anti-disinformation campaign in some EU countries. **Reuters**

nies to address the problem, it is still largely up to users to differentiate between fact and fiction. The strategies and tools be-

ing deployed during the midterm vote in the US this year by Facebook, TikTok and other companies often resemble tac-

tics developed to deal with misinformation in past elections: partnerships with fact-checking groups, warning labels, portals with vetted explainers as well as post removal and user bans.

Social media platforms have made attempts to pre-bunk before, though those efforts have done little to slow the spread of false information. Most have also not been as detailed — or as entertaining — as the videos used in the studies by the researchers.

Twitter said this month that it would try to "enable healthy civic conversation" during the midterm elections in part by reviving pop-up warnings, which it used during the 2020 election.

The new paper details seven experiments with almost 30,000 total participants. The researchers bought YouTube ad space to show users in the US 90-second animated videos aiming to teach them about propaganda tropes and manipulation techniques. The users were taught about tactics such as scapegoating and deliberate incoherence, or the use of conflicting explanations to assert that something is true, so that they could spot lies. Researchers tested some participants within 24 hours of seeing a pre-bunk video and found a 5 percent increase in their ability to recognise misinformation techniques. **NYT**

EXPLAINED
A campaign soon in EU nations

GOOGLE'S JCSAW will launch a campaign next week to tackle disinformation in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic about Ukrainian refugees based on research by psychologists at two British universities. The universities of Cambridge and Bristol have produced 90-second clips designed to 'inoculate' people against harmful content online.

15 ECONOMY

GOLD	RUPEE	OIL	SILVER
₹52,297	₹79.88/USD	\$99.43	₹56,191

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of August 24

SENSEX: 58,774.72 ▼ 310.71 (-0.53%) NIFTY: 17,522.45 ▼ 82.50 (-0.47%) NIKKEI: 28,479.01 ▲ 165.54 HANG SENG: 19,968.38 ▲ 699.64 FTSE: 7,493.38 ▲ 21.87 DAX: 13,276.94 ▲ 56.88

International market data till 1900 IST

ADDRESS AT NATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE

Flexible workspaces, hours: PM for more women in labourforce

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

STRESSING ON the need for flexible workspaces and flexible work hours, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said such systems could provide opportunities for female labourforce participation. There is a need to think in the "direction of what can be done for women in the newly emerging sectors in the country", he added.

Modi, while giving a virtual address at the two-day National Labour Conference of the labour ministers and secretaries of all states/UTs and the Centre being held at Tirupati, also urged states to make use of the unutilised cess amount of Rs 38,000 crore for building and construction workers. "I have been told that out of this cess, about Rs 38,000 crore has still not been utilised by the states," he said.

Reiterating the need for increasing female labourforce participation, he said, "Future needs — flexible work places, work from home ecosystem. Future needs — flexi work hours. We can use systems like flexible work places as opportunities for women labour force participation. On 15th August, from the Red Fort, I called for full participation of the nation's women power. By making the right use of women power, India can achieve its goals faster. We also have to think in this direction, what we can do for women in the newly emerging sectors in the country."

On the proposed four labour codes, the Prime Minister said in the last eight years his government has taken the initiative to abolish various laws dating back to the colonial era, which also reflected the 'slave mentality'.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his virtual address at the National Labour Conference on Thursday. PTI

EXPLAINED Driving factors for women

SETTING UP work-from-home ecosystems, providing flexible working hours and flexible work-places were the factors which the Prime Minister said would draw more women into the country's workforce by creating wider opportunities for them.

"The country is now changing, reforming, simplifying such labour laws...with this in mind, 29 labour laws have been converted into 4 simple labour codes," he said, adding that this will ensure empowerment of workers via minimum wages, job security, social security, and health security. The National Labour Conference will discuss a range of issues on the rollout of the labour

codes, including a possibility of staggered implementation of the codes along with discussions on migrant workers' data and Vision-2047 for workforce.

The Code on Social Security and The Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, may come in later.

In his address, Modi stressed on the need for taking quick decisions and implementing them at a brisk pace, so as to take advantage of the ongoing fourth Industrial Revolution. "India lagged behind in deriving benefits of the first three Industrial Revolutions but we need to change in tune with the changes in the nature of jobs."

The Prime Minister said India's success in the 21st century depended on making good use of its demographic dividend. "We can take advantage of global opportunities by creating a high-quality skilled workforce," he further said.

Modi said India was signing migration and mobility partnership agreements with many nations and asked states to take advantage of these opportunities. "We have to increase our efforts, learn from each other," he added.

The Prime Minister also said the e-Shram portal was one of the key initiatives aimed at bringing the workforce, particularly the unorganised sector, into the ambit of social security. In the one year since its launch, about 28 crore workers from nearly 400 fields have been registered on the portal, he said, asking all states to integrate their respective portals with e-Shram.

40 yrs after its first 800, small cars still keep Maruti Suzuki on overdrive

PRANAV MUKUL & ANIL SASI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 25

IF RENAULT 18 — a mid-sized sedan that was the initial front-runner to be the launch car for the newly-formed, state-owned Maruti Udyog Ltd — had made the final cut, the fate of India's largest carmaker, and perhaps the trajectory of the country's automobile industry, might have been an entirely different story. Market surveys commissioned by a core group of bureaucrats and technocrats that the Centre had entrusted to evaluate international partnership options for the government auto company revealed that Indians wanted a low-cost and fuel-efficient car.

The French sedan, which failed on both counts, was subsequently dropped and the search for a partner continued, eventually ending with Suzuki Motor Corporation — the Hamamatsu, Japan-based kei (ultramini) car specialist — being roped in as a junior partner. And that 40-year-old consumer survey endures even to this day, testified by the eventual success found by Maruti Udyog's first car that the company didn't even bother to badge — the 800 hatchback — which, in turn, set off a rare, and enduring, Indian manufacturing success story.

Maruti's imprint is palpably evident in the industrial boom sparked by India's automobile sector, which now contributes an estimated 49 per cent to India's manufacturing output, accounts for over 7 per cent to the overall GDP and has generated more than 30 million jobs.

The secret for success? According to RC Bhargava, a member of the core team that went through a partner selection process (which included France's Groupe Renault, Italy's Fiat Auto SpA, Germany's Volkswagen Group, and Japan's Fuji Heavy Industries and the



The 800 at a Maruti Suzuki showroom in Shillong. File

other Japanese kei car specialist Daihatsu Motor to finally zero in on the Osamu Suzuki-led Suzuki Motor), the factor that really worked in favour of the new venture was the access to Japanese technology and managerial style insights, with incremental changes done to suit the Indian working environment. "India is a small car market despite all this hype about SUVs (sports utility vehicles) and customers moving towards bigger cars and all that," 88-year-old Bhargava, who is now the non-executive chairman of Maruti Suzuki, told *The Indian Express*.

The Maruti-Suzuki partnership is now a 40-year-old one, and what really played to the advantage of the venture is that it stuck to the initial market survey results, which have endured to this day. In a sector that has been a holy grail for many marquee brands — General Motors, Ford Motor, Harley Davidson, Volkswagen Group company MAN among many that have quit production in India — Maruti Suzuki has only intensified its focus on the small car market and keeps its lead in this high-volume, low-margin segment. Most others who launched with larger cars as their

Suzuki battery unit: PM to lay foundation

Ahmedabad: During his two-day visit to Gujarat beginning on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for a Rs 7,300-crore electric vehicle battery manufacturing unit of Suzuki Motor Gujarat at Hansalpur on August 28. He will also lay the foundation stone for a Rs 11,000-crore vehicle manufacturing unit in Kharkhoda, Haryana, the same day. At Hansalpur, Suzuki Motor Corporation is already manufacturing lithium batteries in a joint venture with Denso and Toshiba Corporation. ENS

maiden product have largely struggled in the Indian car market — Ford with its Escort three box sedan, Mitsubishi with the Lancer and GM with its Opel Astra, among others. "The fact is that the majority of customers are small car users and will remain small car

users for a long time to come. All these people who came to India, what did they come to India with? Mostly big cars. Who succeeded in India first? Daewoo got success because they had a small car, Hyundai was successful because they had a small car. Tata got successful because they had the Indica," Bhargava added. In July this year, passenger cars in the mini and compact segments — up to 4,000 mm in length — saw 1,33,442 units sold out in the domestic market out of the total 1,43,522 passenger vehicles sold during the month. Maruti Suzuki sold 1,05,151 units in the mini and compact passenger vehicle segment.

"No country in the world has 200 million plus scooter owners. A scooter owner doesn't use a scooter out of choice. He uses it out of compulsion because he can't afford a car, but his aspiration is to buy a four-wheeler. So what will these 200 million people upgrade to? Has to be low-cost cars. This feeling that India will become a large car market doesn't recognise the reality of our situation. Lot of people are making this mistake," he added.

BRIEFLY

Airtel, Singtel

New Delhi: Bharti Telecom, the promoter firm of Bharti Airtel, said it will buy a 3.33% stake in the company from Singapore's Singtel for ₹12,895 crore (\$1.61 billion). Singtel's effective stake in Airtel will drop to 29.7%.

Adani, S&P

Mumbai: Indian banks and global investors are considering caps for their exposure to the Adani Group amidst the conglomerate's aggressive growth push, which is riding on acquisitions, S&P Global Ratings said. FE

IMF India ED

New Delhi: Former Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian was on Thursday named Executive Director (India) at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a Personnel Ministry order said. PTI

'India poised to become next global SaaS capital'

India's IT sector continues to charge ahead on its trajectory of growth and transformation, with SaaS setting the stage for the next wave of disruption, as per a study by EY and CII

>100 Unicorns across different segments in India, which is seeing accelerated pace of entrepreneurship and rapidly emerging as a hub for SaaS (software as a service) start-ups, as per the report 'India: The next global SaaS capital'. Source: EY & CII/PTI

RIGHT OF WAY RULES

Telcos may set up infra on pvt property sans nods

New Delhi: Telecom operators will no longer be required to seek approval from authorities for laying cables, installing mobile towers, or poles over private properties, according to amendments to the Right of Way Rules notified by the Ministry of Communications. According to industry executives, the changes will help telcos set up telecom infrastructure at institutions like hospitals and airports in a much shorter time frame.

As per the amendments, notified on August 17 and made public by Union Communications Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday, for the "establishment of overground telegraph infrastructure over any private property, the licensee (telecom company) shall not require any permission from the appropriate authority". ENS Full report on www.indianexpress.com

FM chief guest at FE Best Banks Awards

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman will be the chief guest at the FE Best Banks Awards to be held in Mumbai on Friday. She will preside over the function to be attended by stalwarts from the corporate and financial sectors.

With the economy having bounced back after a couple of difficult years, the mood in India Inc is upbeat. The FM's views on the next course of action would be keenly awaited. Sitharaman rolled out quite a few measures during Covid to jump-start the economy and these didn't just help smaller units survive the disruption but also ensured that stress in the financial system is contained. Indeed, the financial sector ap-



pears to have weathered the storm; most balance sheets are well-capitalised and lenders are now looking forward to a revival in the demand for credit. The FE Best Banks Awards will honour standout performances across banks, NBFCs, SFBs and fintechs under challenging circumstances. The awards will also celebrate the success of indi-

viduals who have showed that they are a cut above the rest and can take on any challenge. Keki Mistry, vice-chairman & CEO, HDFC, has won the Lifetime Achievement Award for his stellar contribution to mortgage finance. While Padmaja Chunduru, former MD & CEO, Indian Bank, has won the Banker of the Year award for 2019-20, the winner for 2020-21 is Sandeep Bakshi, MD & CEO, ICICI Bank. Both exhibited exemplary leadership skills in difficult situations.

All winners have been picked by an independent jury, chaired by SRamadorai, former vice-chairman, TCS, and comprising R Shankar Raman, director, L&T; Amit Chandra, chairman, Bain Capital; Biswamohan Mahapatra, former ED, RBI and chairman, NPCCI; Sharad Sharma, founder, iSPIRT; and Amit Tandon, MD, IIA, FE.

OFFICE OF THE ADD. CHIEF ENGINEER (ELECT.) P.W.D. RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR

File No. 777 Date: 17.08.2022
NIT 01/2022-23
Bids for One Electric work are invited from interested bidder upto 6.00 PM Time, Date 15.09.2022. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <https://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and Public work Department website. The approximate value of the Procurement is Rs. 395.00 Lacs. UBN No. 1. PWD2223WSOB05965
Sd/- (Birdhi Chand Add. Chief Engineer (Electric), PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipur
DIPR/C/10808/2022

Office of the Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Sri Ganganagar

Email: sesgnr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
No.1112 Date: 17/08/22
NOTICE INVITING BID No. -1/2022-23 (NIB No. - PWD2223A1621, PWD2223A1627, PWD2223A1628)
Bids for 16 Nos. packages of road works in Sri Ganganagar Distt. are invited from interested bidders from dated 22.08.2022 to 12.09.2022 upto 06.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in department website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 964.96 lacs.
PWD2223WSOB05996 PWD2223WSOB06008 PWD2223WSOB05968
PWD2223WSOB05969 PWD2223WSOB05985 PWD2223WSOB05966
PWD2223WSOB05976 PWD2223WSOB05993 PWD2223WSOB05967
PWD2223WSOB05991 PWD2223WSOB05970 PWD2223WSOB05973
PWD2223WSOB06013 PWD2223WSOB05971
PWD2223WSOB05992 PWD2223WSOB05972
Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD Circle Sri Ganganagar
DIPR/C/10848/2022

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

BUILDING ORGANIZATION OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.W.D., BUILDINGS (CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE, SALEM - 7. PRE-QUALIFICATION APPLICATION AND PRICE TENDER - FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM (TWO COVER SYSTEM) TENDER NOTICE No.6/ 2022-23/SE/B(C&M)/CISLM, Dated: 23.08.2022
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Salem - 7 invites tender for the following work, at his office upto 3.00P.M. on 07.10.2022 in two sealed covers containing (i) Qualification details and EMD in a separate inner cover and (ii) Price Tender Schedule in another sealed cover and put into one common sealed cover from the experienced and competent contractors / firms as detailed below. The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the Govt. designated website (<http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in>). The tender schedule will also be available in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem-7, from 01.09.2022 to 06.10.2022 upto 5.45 pm. The tenders received will be opened at 3.30 P.M. on 07.10.2022, in the presence of the tenderers or their representatives who choose to be present at that time.
Sl. No. Name of Work Approximate value of work including G.S.T. (Rs. in Lakhs) Amount of Earnest Money Deposit in Rupees Period of Completion
1. Construction of 2 multi storeyed buildings for accommodating 16 numbers of court halls in the combined court building campus at Salem in Salem District. 5410.00 27,15,000 18 Months
Contractor class : Old Registration : Registered in Class I in State level / This Circle level (Rs.75.00 lakhs and above)
New Registration : Registered in Class IA in State level / This Circle level (Rs.25.00 crore and above)
EMD to be credited : The Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Division, Salem
Cost of tender schedule : Document cost : Rs.15000/- (+) G.S.T. 12%; Rs.2700/-
Tender documents are available in the following website and can also be downloaded at free of cost. www.tenders.tn.gov.in. Any other details can be had from the Office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Salem - 636 007, during working hours. Any changes in tender condition will also be published in website www.tenders.tn.gov.in.
DIPR/3899/TENDER/2022 Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Salem - 7.
"சென்னை மாவட்டப் பொதுப்பணித் துறை, ப.வ.உ. கட்டுமானப் பிரிவு, கட்டிடப் பணிகளின் கட்டுமானப் பகுதி"

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.

Corrigendum-1
Refer our Tender Notice No. 04/2022-2023 for (a) Construction of Cement Concrete Road (b) Renovation of Kitchen Platforms (c) Construction of cement concrete wall. Due dates are extended as under:
Downloading of Tender Upto : 05.09.2022, upto 18.00 hrs.
Due date for Submission of Tender Upto : 12.09.2022, upto 18.00 hrs.
Date for Opening of Techno Commercial Bid (Part I). (If sufficient bids are received). 13.09.2022 at 14.30 hrs. to 15.30 hrs.
For details visit: <http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra/public-tenders-1>

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, JAIPUR REGION- I, JAIPUR

Jyoti Nagar, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur- 302005
Phone: 0141-2740170(o) e-mail: ace1.jr.phed@rajasthan.gov.in
No: F./ACE/PHED/Ar. Dausa/Rajpura/NIT-41/2022-23/7143-64 Date: 22.8.22 (e-NIT No. 41/2022-23)
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan NIT No. 41/2022-23 online tender is hereby invited from eligible bidders for "Conversion of Existing HP Scheme into Piped Rural Water Supply Scheme Rajpura-Maharajpura at block Lalot including 1 year Defect liability period under JJM under jurisdiction of PHED, Sub Division Lalot Estt. Cost of Rs. 265.31 Lacs" as per criteria mentioned in the detailed NIT/tender document available on websites: <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. Tenders are to be submitted online in electronic format on website <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> as per prescribed schedule.
NIB No. PHE2223 A2808 UBN No. PHE 2223 WSOB 05721
SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFEM
Sd/- Addl. Chief Engineer PHED, Jaipur Region-I, Jaipur
DIPR/C/10917/2022

Government of Rajasthan Commissionerate of Agriculture Pant Krishi Bhawan, Janpath, Jaipur-302005

Email: jdagr.atc.agri@rajasthan.gov.in
Phone No. 0141-2276777, 9414363024, 9414257584
No. F.8(5)ATC/GEF/Procure./2022-23/328-32 Dated: 22.08.2022
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Procurement of Tablets in State Agriculture Department (estimated cost Rs. 4.50 lakh) in GEF funded Green-Ag roject are invited from interested bidder upto 01.09.2022 by 12.30 PM. For other particulars of the bid, visit on procurement portal <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> or from departmental website <http://agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in>. UBN AGR 2223GSOB00185
Sd/- Commissioner Agriculture
DIPR/C/11006/2022

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Parveen, S/o Krishan Kumar Anjana, R/o. 154, Near-Balaji Mandir, Khandsa (104), Gurgaon (Haryana)- 122004, have changed my name to POOJA GOYAL, for all, future purposes. 0040628863-5

I, Parmatma Shara Chauhan, S/o Shish Pal, R/o. 13, Karhera-1, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad, have changed my name to Parmatma Sharan. 0040628850-2

I, POOJA RANI JAIN, W/O- DEEPAK GOYAL, R/O, House, No- 14/A, Basant Nagar, Vasant Vihar, South West Delhi- 110057, have changed my name to POOJA GOYAL, for all, future purpose. 0040628835-1

I, PARVESH GOELS/O-GAYAN CHAND GOEL, R/O-S-449, A-2ND-FLOOR GREATER KAILASH PART-1, DELHI-110048, changed my name to PARVESH GOYAL. 0040628835-2

I, Mohit Chopra, S/o Ved Parkash Chopra R/o.H.No.172, Block-4, Second-Floor, Subhash Nagar, New Delhi, have changed my minor son's name, from Aastrav to Aastrav Chopra. 0040628835-3

I, Manoj Kumar, S/o Rajendra Prasad R/O-E-37, Jeewan Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi- 110059, have changed my name to Manoj Kumar Sahu. 0040628850-5

I, Luvnish Dugal S/o Mickey Singh, R/O-D-53-54, Saraswati Garden, N.Delhi-110027, have changed my name to Luvnish Singh. 0040628863-3

I, Lakshmi Saravanan, W/o Saravanan Muthu, R/o.H.No.-98, Block-22, Trilokpur, Delhi-110091, have changed the name of my minor son Aneket S age about-13-years and he shall hereafter be known as Aneket Saravanan. 0040628775-10

I, Jc 731188N Sub Bhim Narayan Yadav, S/o Ram Bilash Yadav, R/o Kamal Tola, post and Dist-Sahibganj, Jharkhand 816109, Have Changed my son Name, From Navin Kumar Yadav to Naveen Kumar and DOB, From 03.Mar.2013 to 20.July.2015, for all purpose. 0040628850-4

I, Jaskirat Singh, R/O-D-6/6092-8, Santushi Apartment, Vasant Kunj New Delhi- 110070, have changed my-Minor Son name from Harjeev Anhad Singh to Harjeev Singh. 0040628863-4

I, Dharmendra Kumar, S/O Hajiari Lal R/O, B-3/387, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110015, have changed my name to Dhramender Kumar. 0040628775-7

I, Sonu Sandhu D/O Bharpur Singh, W/O Gurvinder Singh R/O-D-071, The Crest, Df Phase 5, Gurgaon Sector-54, Haryana- 122011, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sonu Saandhu 0070801030-1

I, Sreevidya V.K w/o P.S. Easwaran R/O Flat No-11-D, Neethi Apartments, Plot No. 84, I.P. Extension, Patparganj, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Sree Vidya Easwaran for all future purposes. 0040628768-1

I, Subhash Kohli, S/O Late Krishan Lal Kohli, R/O House Number-204, Ram Vihar, Anand Vihar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Subhash Chand Kohli for all future purposes. 0040628778-1

I, Sunil Prajapati, S/o Ram Avtar, R/O E 150, Chhipiyana Khurd Tigan, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201301, I have changed the name of my minor Son Himanshu Kumar aged about 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Himanshu Kumar Pandit. 0070800982-1

I, Vipin Kumar, S/o Chatar Singh, R/O 388/22, Roop Nagar, Sonapat, Haryana-131001, declare that name of Mine and My Wife has been wrongly written as Vipin and Sunita in my minor Son Nishant, aged about 15 years, in His Birth Certificate MCDOLR06246854. The actual name of Mine and My Wife are Vipin Kumar and Sunita Devi, which may be amended accordingly. 0070800991-1

I, Ashish S/O-Anil Kumar Sharma, R/O F.No.103, Swaroop Garden, Near Police Station, Gurgaon (Haryana)- 122001, have changed my name to Ashish Sharma, for all Purposes. 0040628863-7

I, Amrendra Kumar Shukla, S/o Shri Munuwa Shukla, R/o.H-11, Palika Niwas, Lodhi Colony, Lodhi-Road, New Delhi-110003, Have changed my name to Amrendra Shukla permanently. 0040628863-10

I, Ashneet Singh S/o Navneet Singh R/O-H.No-1894-P Sector-23, Cartarpuri Alias, Daulatpur Nasirabad (63), Gurgaon Haryana- 122017, have changed my name from Ashneet Singh to Ashneet Singh Chandhok, for all future purposes 0040628774-2

I, BRAJ BHUSHAN TIWARI, S/o SIDHNATH TIWARI, R/o Panchsheel Greens 2, Tower-A3, Apartment Number- 1802, GH01A SECTOR 16, GREATER NOIDA WEST, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201308, have changed my name to BRIJ BHUSHAN TEWARI for all purposes. 0070801026-1

I, KRISHNA WANTI, W/O, AMAR NATH SACHDEVA, ADD-D-229, DEFENCE COLONY, SOUTH DELHI-110024, Changed my name to KRISHNAWANTI SACHDEVA, for all, future Purposes. 0040628775-2

I, Jitender S/o-Dharam Singh, R/O H.No.50, Krishan-Nagar, Basai-Road, Near Raghu Gas Godam, Gurgaon, (Haryana)-122001, have changed my minor Daughter's name, from Kamakshi to Kamakshi Yadav. 0040628863-6

I, AMAR NATH, S/O, RAMJI DASS SACHDEVA, ADD-D-229, DEFENCE COLONY, SOUTH DELHI-110024, changed my name to AMAR NATH SACHDEVA, for all, future Purposes. 0040628775-3

I, Rajesh Rastogi R/o 9c Neelkanth Apartments, 46 Ij Extension, Patparganj, Delhi 110092 have changed my minor son's name from Dhruv to Dhruv Rastogi for all purposes. 0040628819-1

I, GAJNA W/O-Ram Pal Rawat, permanent, resident of WPO Manpur, Tehsil-Hathin, Distt. Palwal, Haryana-121105, have changed my name, from GAJNA to GUDDI RAWAT, vide affidavit dated-25. Aug.2022, before notary-Delhi. 0040628850-9

I, is for general information that I, NANCY AHLAWAT daughter of JAGDISH AHLAWAT residing at-Plot.No-13, Krishna-Apartment, Sector-9, Dwarka, South-West Delhi, Delhi-110075, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as NANCY in my Educational-Documents. The actual name of mine is NANCY AHLAWAT, which may be amended accordingly. 0040628774-1

I, prakash kumar, S/o dev Karan R/O-75-B,F,F, LIG-Flat, madipur rohtak-road paschim-vihar delhi-110063, Have change my name, from prakash chawda to prakash kumar, for future purpose. 0040628850-10

I, Yeshu Verma, S/o Rakesh Chandra Verma, R/O, B-44, Block-B, S/F/F, Side, Mansa Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my-Minor Daughter's name, from Soumya Verma to DHAANVI VERMA. 0040628863-9

I, Sohan Lal, S/o Goruram R/o-423, First-Floor, Kashmir-Bagh, Kishanganj, Delhi-110007, have changed my name to Sohan Lal Choudhary. 0050203020-1

I, pratikash kumar, S/o dev Karan R/O-75-B,F,F, LIG-Flat, madipur rohtak-road paschim-vihar delhi-110063, Have change my name, from prakash chawda to prakash kumar, for future purpose. 0040628850-10

I, Yeshu Verma, S/o Rakesh Chandra Verma, R/O, B-44, Block-B, S/F/F, Side, Mansa Ram Park, Uttam-Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to SHIKHA MAURYA, for all Purposes. 0040628863-8

I, Sandeep Tomar, S/o Shri. Muni Ram Tomar, R/o House.No.92, Fatepur Beri, Chhattarpur, New Delhi-110074, do hereby solemnly inform that I, have changed my minor daughter's name, from Siddhi Tomar to Deep Kawa Tomar, for all, future purposes. 0040628835-10

I, SURESH CHANDRA, S/O GHASITE LAL R/O-R-181, MANGOL PURI, DELHI-110083, have changed my name to SURESH CHANDER, for all, future purpose. 0040628775-5

I, Vishal S/O Harish Kumar R/O, H.No-1/49, 1st-Floor, Nirankari Colony Delhi-110009, have changed my name to Vishal Vig. 0040628775-6

I, SUBHASH CHANDRA GUPTA, S/O-SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA, R/O C2-907, SUPRETECH ECO VILLAGE-II, GH.01, SEC.16B, GREATER NOIDA-WEST, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR, U.P. 201310, changed my name to SUBHASH CHANDRA GUPTA. 0040628775-1

I, Ramsil W/o No.1270682N Ex GNR Late Rajeshwar Dayal Sharma R/o, R-15A, Gali.No.-1 Durgapark, Nasirpur Palam Delhi-45, have changed my name to Ramsil shri vide affidavit 24.8.22, before Delhi. 0040628850-1

I, ROOPESH KUMAR, S/O, AMRIT BAHADUR K C, ADD-A182, SANJAY-COLONY BHATMINES SOUTH DELHI-110074, changed my name to RUPESH KUMAR, for all, future Purposes. 0040628835-5

I, RAJNEESH BABU, S/O MUNSHI LAL, R/O FLAT, NO.305, TOWER-06, PANCHSHEEL PRAM ROSE, OPP GOVINDPURAM, MAIN HAPUR ROAD, GHAZIABAD, UP. 201002, changed my name to RAJNEESH VERMA. 0040628863-1

I, Poonam, W/O-Late Shri Vikram Sethi Residing at 43-B, IA-Block, Ashok Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Poonam Sethi. 0040628775-3

I, JC-343084L NB, Sub-Sunil Kumar Yadav, S/o-Shri Babulal Yadav, R/o-Village & Post-Joanicha Khurd, Tehsil-Behror, District-Alwar, (Rajasthan), PIN- 301706, in fact that my son's name is wrongly mentioned as Dipesh instead of Dipesh Yadav in my service record and also in his school records. 0040628775-3

I, Diya Kandra D/o Sachin Kandra R/O House No-96, Phase-1, Mangla Puri, Palam, Delhi-110045, that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Rekha Kandra in my Secondary School Marks Statement Cum Certificate and Senior School Marks Statement Cum Certificate. The actual name of my mother is Rekha. 0070801059-1

I, BIR SINGH, S/O, JAS RAM, ADD-BAMNOLA JOGI(230) PALWAL HARYANA-121103, Changed my name to BEER SINGH, for all, future Purposes. 0040628835-4

I, Daxya Paridwal, S/o Sh. Manoj kumar R/O.C-151, Kusumj-pahari, vasant vihar-delhi-110057, have changed my name, from DAXYA PARIDWAL to DAKSH PARIDWAL, for all, future purposes. 0040628775-4

I, JC-342612X NB, Sub-Krishnandan Kumar, R/o-VIII+Post-Hathiyawan, Dist-Sheikhpura, Bihar-811105., inform that in my service record my son's name is wrongly-mentioned as Kushal Kaushik instead of Kushal Kashyap. 0040628775-9

I, GOVIND SINGH, PRESENTLY, RESIDING AT, HOUSE, NO.12-A MASHIGARH, PO-JAMIA NAGAR NEW DELHI-110025, HAVE CHANGED MY DAUGHTER'S NAME, FROM NIHARIKA SINGH TO NIHARIKA, VIDE-AFFIDAVIT DATED-24/8/22. 0040628850-3

I, Gurmeet Kaur w/o Davinder Singh Janua, R/O 1083, Sector-6, Bahadurgarh, Haryana-124507 have changed my name to Gurmeet Kaur Janua, permanently 0040628794-1

I, Ishika Kapur D/o Manish Kapur R/O S-1/10, Old Mahavir Nagar, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Ishika Kapoor. 0040628844-1

I, Samar Bahadur S/O Kedar Bahadur born on 12-Jun-1995 residing at C-1B 266 Anna Nagar, Tilak Bridge , New Delhi 110002, have changed my name to Samar Bahadur Bhujel vide affidavit dated 22-AUG-2022 at Delhi 0050203149-1

I, SWETA SHARMA W/o AKASH SHARMA, R/O- 1180, 2nd Floor, Sector-46 Jharsa, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003 have changed my name to SHWETA SHARMA for all purposes. 0070801025-1

I, Raj Kumar S/o Mohan Lal Born On 2-2-1994 R/O B-11 3rd Extn. Jai Vihar Delhi 110043, have changed my surname to Raj Malhotra without changing my religion vide affidavit dated 03-08-2022 at Delhi for all future purposes. 0050203020-1

I, Latoori Prashad Sharma S/O Om Prakash R/o House No.D-19, Gali No.9, West Vinod Nagar, Delhi-110092 have changed my name to Latoori Prashed for all purposes. 0040628769-1

I, Jitendra Kumar Malakar S/O S. L. Malakar R/O Flat No-B-1602, Amrapali Empire, Crossing Rajendra, Ghaziabad, UP-201016 have changed my son's name from Tanishq Patel Malakar to Tanihsq Malakar. 0040628766-1

I, Jagat Singh alias Swami Anand Simiran, S/O Madan Singh Rawat, R/O 58/1, Vaidhraj Inida Laxmi Gate, Near Khatri Baba Mandir, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh-284002, have changed my name to Jagat Singh Rawat. 0070801066-1

I, Dinesh Kumar S/O Mohan Lal Born on 20-1-2001 R/O B-11 3rd Extn. Jai Vihar Delhi 110043, have changed my surname to Dinesh Malhotra without changing my religion vide affidavit dated 4-8-2022 at Delhi for all future purposes. 0050203009-1

I, Dhriti Vaswani W/o Jai Kumar Vaswani R/o A-236 Derwar Nagar Delhi-9 have changed my name to Poonam Vaswani for all future purposes 0050203146-1

I, Dharmender Mavi S/O Lt. Bishamder Mavi R/O-B-1, Mavi Mohalla, Village-Tekhand, Okhla Industrial Area, Delhi-20 have changed my name to Dharmender for all purposes. 0070801035-1

I, Devender Kr Khatri S/o Gyasi Ram R/o H.No.797, Pana Udhyan, Narela, Delhi-110040, have changed my name to Devender Kumar, for all future purposes. 0040628779-1

I, Dalip Chawla S/O Bansilal Chawla R/O 54/1, Jeet Sweets Wali Gali, Ram Nagar, Karnal(Rural), Part-1, Haryana-132001, that name of my father has been wrongly written as Harbans Lal in my 10th Class Certificate Cum Marksheet and Driving Licence No 8921. The actual name of my father is Bansilal Chawla 0070801054-1

I, SAMAT KUMARI YADAV, spouse of Rajesh Kumar Yadav, resident of WPO Mandola, Distt. Rewari, Haryana-123103, have changed my Name, from SAMAT KUMARI YADAV to SAMAT YADAV vide Affidavit dated. 25. Aug. 2022, at New-Delhi. 0040628850-8

I, Aadharika Verma, D/o Sanjay Verma, R/O A-102, Rishi Nagar, Rani Bagh, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi-110034, have changed my name to Ananya Verma. 0070801053-1

I, Sudhir Kumar S/o Krishan R/O 840 Mahipal pur New Delhi 37 do hereby declare that my son name mentioned as Dev Bhargav in LIC policy 118055006. My son's correct name is Deva and DOB is 25.02.2012. I affirm that Deva and Dev Bhargav are belongs to my son name only. 0040628868-1

I, hitherto known as MEENU daughter of Brahm Prakash, residing at 792-29, Gali No.1, Dev Nagar, Sonapat, Haryana-131001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KHUSHI AHLAWAT. 0040628772-1

I, Sarita Devi W/o Satish Kumar R/O A-648, Raghubir Nagar, Tagore Garden, Delhi-110027 undertakes in my full senses that I, my real name is Sarita Devi. I was born on 14.07.1987. 0040628767-5

I, Sanju D/o Mahipal Singh and W/o Mahesh Kumar R/O Haliaki (13), Gurgaon, Haryana-123035, have changed my name to Payal Yadav 0070801057-1

I, Noor Jahan W/o Sajid Khan D/O Anwar Khan R/O 3770, Gali Masjid, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Noor Jahan Khan for all purposes. 0040628767-9

I, Neelam Firdose Shakir D/o Late Mohd Salahuddin Shakir W/o Mr. Mashhood Ul Haq R/O 5296, Kucha Rehman, Chandni Chowk, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Neelam Firdaus Shakir for all purposes. 0040628767-6

I, Mohammad Irfan Ghayas Siddiqi S/o Late Mohammad Ghayassuddin Siddiqi R/O 2750/2, Chhoti Baradari, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son from Fasihuddin to Fasihuddin Siddiqi for all purposes. 0040628767-8

I, Mohammad Irfan Ghayas Siddiqi S/o Late Mohammad Ghayassuddin Siddiqi R/O 2750/2, Chhoti Baradari, Ballimaran, Delhi-110006 have changed the name of my minor son from Abdullah to Abdullah Siddiqi for all purposes. 0040628767-7

I, Mohammad Furqan S/O Abdul Hafiz R/O 453, Gali Shah Tara, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Mohammed Furqan Rehmani for all purposes. 0040628767-10

I, Sunil Datt Sharma, S/O Shri Ravi Datt Sharma, R/O-B-24, Sawan Park, Ashok Vihar, Phase-3, Delhi-110052, have changed my name to Sunil Datt Sharma. 0040628845-1

I, Deepanshu S/O Subhash Chand R/O B-4/68 Aya Nagar, New Delhi have changed my name to Deepanshu Chand for all purposes. 0040628659-1

I, Dhani Ram R/O H. No.G-803 Prateek Stylome sec. 45 Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar 201303 have changed my minor Daughter's Name from Kajal Arya to Heena for future purpose. 0040628083-10

PUBLIC NOTICE: SARIKA GARG wife of Sh. Ravinder Singh, resident of House No.273, Deepali, Pitampura, Delhi, had purchased the Property No.822, land measuring 32 sq. mtrs., in Block & Pocket C-2, Sector-28, Rohini, Delhi. The original Agreement to Sell, original General Power of Attorney, Will etc. duly registered dated 08.02.2011 with the office of sub Registrar, Sub-Dist.No.VI-B, Delhi pertaining to the said property have been lost/misplaced and not traceable till date against which I have lodged the Complaint with Police Department, vide LR No.70346/2022 on 18.08.2022, if any body found, the same may be submitted to contact to me. SARIKA GARG Mob.: #981844374

PUBLIC NOTICE: Know all men by these present that my clients Mrs. MAKKHAN KAUR (M. No. 851095925) W/O LATE JEET SINGH R/O C-2-C, TILAK NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110016, have severed all her relations with her son HARNAM SINGH and daughter-in-law RAJINDER KAUR. My client hereby declares, disbar and disinherit both of them from all her movable and immovable properties. In future, anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility. My client shall not be responsible for their any act and deed. PRAVEEN RASTOGI (Adv.) Res. Cgm Office: RZ-97, Khushi Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059

PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it known to all that my client Sushma Rani wife Subhash Chandar R/o H.No.3049, Gali No.37, Beadon Park, Kirti Bagh, New Delhi-110005, have divorced/debarred her daughter Ms. Beena, residing at above said address from her all movable & immovable assets & properties located at anywhere and also severed all relations with her. Any persons dealing with her, shall be at his/her/their own risk/st. Parvish K. Tyagi (Advocate), WZ-97A, Village Budhola, Vikaspur, New Delhi-110018.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Public at large is informed that my client Smt. Munni Jain W/o Shri Suresh Jain, R/O B-74, Dabri East Extn, South West Delhi, New Delhi-110045, divorced and debarred her son Mr. Rohit Jain from his all movable & immovable properties and have also severed all his social relations from him due to his disobedient attitude and misbehavior and cruel behaviour and he is out of the control of my client. If anybody deals with Mr. Rohit Jain So Smt. Munni Devi in any respect, he/she is responsible for their own acts and deed. The same and my client and his other family members shall not be responsible for the same in any manner, whatsoever. Sd/- AMIT SINGH Advocate Ch. No. D-9912000 C-138, 3rd Floor, Har Nihar, New Delhi-110064

PUBLIC NOTICE: My client Sunita Sethi W/o Late Sh. Krishan Kumar Sethi R/o P 337 7th Floor Jalvayu Vihar Sector 21 Noida has disown her son Rajhu Sethi & daughter in law Pooja Gupta from her movable and immovable properties and sever all relations with them due to their misdeeds and ill behaviour. My client and her family members shall not be responsible for their acts. Sd/- (Deepak Bhardwal) Advocate Ch. No. E-410 Lawyers Chamber Karkardooma Court, Delhi-32

PUBLIC NOTICE: TO WHosoever it may concern that My Client Sh. C. R. Jindal S/o Late Sh. Deshraj Jindal, R/o F-216, Prashant Vihar, Sector 14 Rohini, Delhi-110085 has severed his relationship with his son and daughter-in-law, namely Sh. Hitesh Jindal S/o Sh. C. R. Jindal and Shwanya (D/o) W/o Sh. Hitesh Jindal, due to their behavior towards my client. My Client will have no relation with his son and daughter-in-law as mentioned above and my client will not be responsible for any act done by them. Anybody dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk and costs. RAHUL CHAUDHARY ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 253-254, PATIALA HOUSE COURT, DELHI-110001

PUBLIC NOTICE: Original lease deed, original mutation letter and other relevant original documents with respect to Property No. 19, Block No. 48 situated at Diplomatic Enclave (30. S.P. Marg), New Delhi belonging to Ms. Mukut Rajya Lakshmi have been lost. If found please contact Mr. Chaitanya Raj Singh at +919899197601, or submit it to your nearest police station. Complaint has been lodged regarding the same on the Delhi Police Lost Article Report Portal with LR Number 275332/2022.

PUBLIC NOTICE (LOST AND FOUND): It is informed that the original title document(s) of Property which was deposited with State Bank, Shastri Bhawan, Branch vide Housing Loan Ac No. 55113417746 in original, which was subsequently migrated to State Bank of India (RACPD, Naraina, New Delhi, is/are not traceable within the Bank Premises. The Bank hereby informed/declare these property documents as misplaced/Not traceable and did not find it in spite of all sincere efforts. The details of misplaced Original title documents are as under: (1) Original Allotment Letter, (2) Possession Slip (3) Perpetual Lease Deed dated 12.09.1968, & (4). Conveyance Deed dated 28.12.2001 executed by DDA, (Delhi Development Authority) in favor of Sh. Krishan Lal Tanaja S/o Late Sh. T.C. Tanaja in respect of property at: Plot No. 45, Block-D, Vivek Vihar Phase-1, New Delhi, title document Conveyance Deed duly registered vide Regd. No. 19260, Book No.1, Vol. No. 695, Pages 135-136, dated 28.12.2001, is/are not traceable in original and informed as missing. The above said original documents is/are misplaced/Not traceable by the Bank and did not find it in spite of all sincere efforts. An online missing complaint / NCR / LR is registered with Delhi Police, PS Crime Branch, Vide LR No. 719992/2022, dated 24.08.2022. If anybody found the above mentioned all or any documents please immediately inform/return it to the undersigned on the above mentioned address. Any misuse of the any or all said document will liable to be prosecuted under the extant provisions of law. ASST. GENERAL MANAGER State Bank of India Branch: RACPD, Ground Floor, C-59, Community Centre, Naraina Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi-110028 Email id: sbi.50792@sbi.co.in

PUBLIC NOTICE: PUBLIC is hereby informed that House No. C-17 Old Gupta Colony Delhi 110099 is an undivided inherited joint-property of blood/close relations namely Mrs. Saroj Anora alias Saroj Kumar, Ashwani Kumar, Nitin Kumar Sethra and Krishan Kumar Anora. My client Mr. Nitin Kumar Sethra s/o Mr. Gashrith Kumar, an NRI (USA) the joint-owner, for being away from India apprehends that the co-owner or someone may fraudulently indulge in creating a third-party interest / possession of the said joint property by impersonation etc. Therefore, PUBLIC is hereby cautioned that any person(s) dealing with anybody for conveyance / transfer / sale / purchase / mortgage/mutation gift lease/ lien/ relinquishment / possession etc. of any portion/ share of the above said property without the written express consent and NOC from my client would amount to criminal trespassing and criminal offence liable for prosecution at their risk and cost. 25/August 2022 Omanakuttan K K New Delhi (Advocate) 9999767221

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is informed to the general public that my clients Sh. Gulshan Sethi S/O K.C. Sethra and Smt. Preetima Sethi, W/o Gulshan Sethi R/o 1679 A-3, Govindpuri Ext. Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019 have severed all ties by debarring their son Harsh Sethi, currently residing at 1679 A-3, Govindpuri Ext. Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, from all movable/immovable properties including but not limited to their properties situated at 1679 A-3, Govindpuri Ext. Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 and 886/1, Gali No. 8, Govindpuri, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019 as well as all movable bank accounts and/or any other valuable security whatsoever due to his unwanted/mischievous activities. My clients herewith/hereby have no concern with him and anyone dealing with him shall be doing so on his/her own sole accord. Sd/- Shantaram Awasthi W-31, LIG GREATER KAILASH - 1, NEW DELHI - 110048

PUBLIC NOTICE: It is hereby informed that my client, Mr. Naresh Kumar S/o Sh. Anant Ram, has lost / misplaced original documents of Residential property bearing address - B-37/6, 3rd Floor, D.S, Ramesh Nagar, N.D-15 in the year 2015. He has lodged a complaint in this regard with Crime Branch, Delhi Police on 03.06.2015 vide LR No. 635681/2015. If anybody finds the said documents, please inform him at the said address / Mob. 910555475. If any other claimant claims any right in the said property, he may give due notice to my client directly within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice-falling which my client shall conclude sale and any claim and / or objections if any shall be considered waived / abandoned and the same shall not be binding upon my client. Rajiv Kr. Choudhary Adv. D/8412006

मध्यप्रदेश शासन
खाद्य, नागरिक आपूर्ति एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण विभाग
मंत्रालय, वल्लभ भवन, भोपाल
क्रमांक FCS/6/0001/2022/29-1 भोपाल, दिनांक 24 अगस्त, 2021
मध्यप्रदेश राज्य खाद्य आयोग में सदस्य पद पर नियुक्ति
राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम, 2013 की धारा 16(2) के प्रावधान अनुसार आयोग के नियमितित पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु अर्थाथिचों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं -
पद का नाम एवं संख्या पदों आरक्षण आवेदन प्रस्तुत करने का स्थान
1 2 3
सदस्य- मध्यप्रदेश राज्य अनारक्षित-2 कार्यालय- संचालक, खाद्य, नागरिक आपूर्ति खाद्य आयोग अनुपचित जाति- 1 (उक्त में से) एवं उपभोक्ता संरक्षण संचालनालय प्रथम तल कूल पद- 3 अिकसी 01 पद की पूर्ति महिला खाद्य- 'घ', विन्ध्यचल भवन, भोपाल- आवेदक से की जाएगी। 46X2004
2/आयोग के सदस्यों के चयन हेतु आवश्यक अर्हताएं, नियुक्ति की प्रक्रिया, आवश्यक दस्तावेजों, अन्य शर्तों के संबंध में विवरण वेबसाइट https://rationmitra.nic.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। सदस्य के पदों पर नियुक्ति मध्यप्रदेश खाद्य सुरक्षा निवम, 2017 में विहित प्रक्रिया के अनुसार की जाएगी।
3/आवेदन निर्धारित प्रारूप, जो खाद्य विभाग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है, में पूर्ण कर समस्त आवश्यक दस्तावेजों की स्व-प्रामाणित प्रतियों के सहित दिनांक 09 सितम्बर, 2022 को सांय 5:00 बजे तक उक्त साणी के कॉलम 3 में दर्शित पते पर रजिस्टर्ड डाक/स्पेड पोस्ट/कॉरियर अथवा विशेष वाहक द्वारा अथवा ई-मेल addfoodcom@gmail.com पर प्रस्तुत किए जा सकेंगे।
हस्ता/- (बी.के. चन्देल) उप सचिव
G-15839/22 Dated 25-08-2022
कोरोना से बचने की तीन बातें बहुत जरूरी, टीका लगावना, मास्क पहनना और अपना नो गज दूरी।

Notice Inviting Proposal (NIP) for Selection of Agencies for Property Survey & Updation of GIS Base Map for 42 Towns of Bihar
Urban Development and Housing Department
1 Floor, Vikas Bhawan, New Secretariat, Patna-800015
(Tel: 0612- 2215580, Fax: 2217059 Email: urbansec-bih@nic.in)
..08 Na vi GIS Base Propertysurvey-16/2022..4087
Notice Inviting Proposal
Interested bidders may download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) Document, from tender section on the website or eproc2.bihar.gov.in
3.The RFP Document Fee of Rs.7500.00/- (Seven Thousand Five hundred) has to be submitted online by Internet Payment Gateway (IPG) or Challan through eproc 2.0. Bid Security fee offline in the form of EMD (BG) or online by Internet Payment Gateway (IPG) through eproc 2.0 of Rs. 1,00,000/- (One Lakh) per town of group. On submission of EMD(BG) of Rs. 10,00,000/- (Ten Lakh) a bidder may submit the proposal for all groups but will be awarded the work for maximum 3 Groups as mentioned in the RFP. No proposal will be accepted without cost of RFP document.
4.Pre-proposual Queries/Suggestions and request for VC link shall be submitted by prospective bidders till the date 05.09.2022 upto 03.00 PM to email id: tcpobihar@gmail.com and

NOTICE BOARD CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, HONOURS



CELEBRATION- CWC
On the occasion of the 76th Independence Day, MD, CWC, A K Shrivastava hoisted the 100 feet high National Flag at Corporate Office, in the august presence of colleague directors, AK Singh, (M&CP) A Kumar (Finance) & staff.



MoU- PNB
PNB has inked a MoU with the Indian Coast Guard, to deliver specially designed banking products to the military personnel through the bank's flagship scheme PNB Rakshak Plus. This scheme covers Personal Accidental Insurance.



INAUGURATION- NDMC
LG, VK Saxena inaugurated a three day Food Festival "Swad Maati Ka" organised by NDMC at Charkha Park near Charkha Museum, Connaught Place. This food fest is organized for preserving our culinary heritage.



MOU- NHPC
NHPC Renewable Energy Limited has signed MOU with Govt. of Rajasthan recently. MOU was signed by B A Sawant, Principal Secy, Energy Deptt., Govt. of Rajasthan & B Basu, Chairman, NHPC REL in presence of CM of Rajasthan,



MEETING- RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY
Dy PM & Minister of Industry & Trade, D Manturov met with Advisor to the Indian PM Ajit Dault. Manturov participated in the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Russian part of Russian-Indian Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological, & Cultural Cooperation.



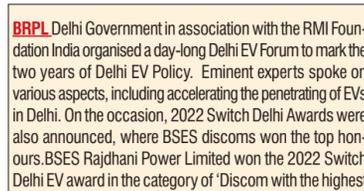
MoU - PFC
PFC signed a MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Technology Limited recently in Mumbai. The MOU inter-alia envisaged financial assistance of Rs 6750 crore (approx.) to various solar power projects.



MoU- IREDA
IREDA signed a MoU with BOI for co-lending, co-origination, & loan syndication for Renewable Energy projects. MoU was signed at the BOI headquarters in Mumbai in the distinguished presence of PK Das, CMD, IREDA & AK Das, MD & CEO, Bol.



INAUGURATION- VIT-AP UNIVERSITY
VIT-AP University, Amaravati, inaugurated the student branch of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) recently. Mohd A Basha, President of ASHRAE Deccan Chapter graced the occasion.



BRPL Delhi Government in association with the RMI Foundation India organised a day-long Delhi EV Forum to mark the two years of Delhi EV Policy. Eminent experts spoke on various aspects, including accelerating the penetrating of EVs in Delhi. On the occasion, 2022 Switch Delhi Awards were also announced, where BSES discoms won the top honours. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited won the 2022 Switch Delhi EV award in the category of 'Discom with the highest number of charging points installed in Delhi'.



NAFED has been playing a pivotal role in procurement and marketing of farmers' produce for over 6 decades. During the last 8 years, NAFED has procured and handled around 146 lakh MT of pulses and 61 lakh MT of oilseeds providing benefit of Minimum Support Price to about 1 cr 15 lakh farmers. NAFED also undertakes procurement of wheat and paddy as a State Agency on behalf of Food Corporation of India and State Governments under De-centralized Procurement Scheme. During the last 5 yrs, NAFED procured 15,321 MT of paddy valuing Rs. 2786 Crs & 5547 MT of wheat valuing Rs. 1048 Crs benefitting lakhs of farmers.



NATIONAL LOK ADALAT - BOB
National Lok Adalat was organized in many regions of India recently, under which BoB, North Delhi Region participated in Tis Hazari District Court. On this occasion, Dy Regional Head, North Delhi Region, A Chitransh was present.



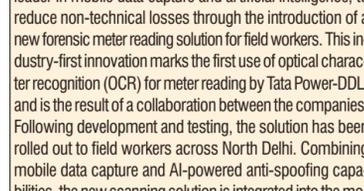
LAUNCHED- PNB
PNB introduces its Pre-Qualified credit card. With this, PNB reinstates its mission to offer quality financial services by leveraging technology with an Instant credit card facility that will enable seamless onboarding in a few clicks.



APPOINTMENTS
BHEL On his appointment as Director on the Board of BHEL, Jai Prakash Srivastava, 57, has assumed charge as Director (Engineering, Research & Development) of the Public Sector Engineering and Manufacturing Enterprise. Prior to this, Srivastava was heading BHEL's Industry Sector business segment as ED. He is a Mechanical Engineering graduate from IIT Roorkee with a post graduate degree in Business Administration. Srivastava started his career with BHEL as an Engineer Trainee in the company's Insulator Plant, Jagdishpur, in 1985.



SRM UNIVERSITY Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi addressed the students of SRM University-AP in an event organised on "Compassionate Youth Leadership: Key to Building a Better Future" on Monday, August 22, 2022. VC Prof VS Rao, Registrar Dr R Premkumar, and other university dignitaries graced the occasion. Satyarthi highlighted the significance of freedom and education in every child's life and urged students to use their privilege of education to make this world a better place. Kailash Satyarthi further called for the larger society of India to be the voice of several thousand children who have become the victims of child exploitation. The compassionate youth can work towards eliminating child slavery & make India a safe haven for every child.



TPDDL announced a partnership with Anyline, a global leader in mobile data capture and artificial intelligence, to reduce non-technical losses through the introduction of a new forensic meter reading solution for field workers. This industry-first innovation marks the first use of optical character recognition (OCR) for meter reading by Tata Power-DDL, and is the result of a collaboration between the companies. Following development and testing, the solution has been rolled out to field workers across North Delhi. Combining mobile data capture and AI-powered anti-spoofing capabilities, the new scanning solution is integrated into the mobile devices of field workers to gather meter readings.



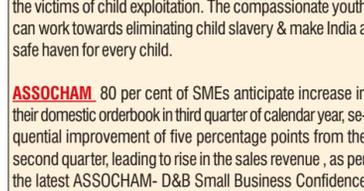
AGREEMENT- PUNJABI UNIVERSITY
Punjab University has signed a collaborative research agreement with Blue Aves E-Health Private Ltd., to prepare a plagiarism detection tool for all Indian & foreign languages. The university is currently using "Original", a tool provided by the UGC.



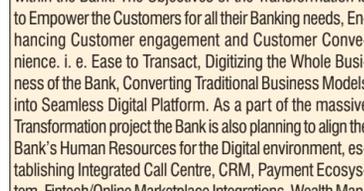
FELICITATION- WEAVER STORY
On the national handloom day of India, WeaverStory organised a felicitation ceremony to honour & celebrate Mohd. H Ansari, Chhapur, Varanasi. He has been bestowed with the National award for his exceptional contribution to Indian handloom industry.



GAIL Ayush Gupta assumed charge as Director (Human Resources) of GAIL (India) Ltd. Prior to this, he was working as Chief General Manager (Human Resource Development) in the organisation. An Electrical Engineer of the 1992 batch from IIT Roorkee and MBA in Operations Management, he has over 30 years of varied and rich experience in the fields of Training and Human Resource Development, Talent Acquisition, Leadership Development, Performance Management, HRD Initiatives, Project Management & Operations & Maintenance. He is currently also on the Board of Directors of GAIL Gas Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of GAIL.



ASSOCHAM 80 per cent of SMEs anticipate increase in their domestic orderbook in third quarter of calendar year, sequential improvement of five percentage points from the second quarter, leading to rise in the sales revenue, as per the latest ASSOCHAM- D&B Small Business Confidence Index. Riding on improved confidence, small businesses participating in the survey intend to raise their capacity utilisation to 60% in Q3 of calendar year of 2022, up from 55% in Q2 2022. "SMEs anticipate their average capacity utilisation rate to increase" Optimism with regard to fresh investment remained more or less intact with 75% of SME anticipating an increase in their fixed capital investment.



Central Bank of India recently associated with a reputed Consultant firm to mark its foray into the Digital Transformation by evaluating the various options for a "Digital Bank" within the Bank. The Objectives of the Transformation is to Empower the Customers for all their Banking needs, Enhancing Customer engagement and Customer Convenience. i. e. Ease to Transact, Digitizing the Whole Business of the Bank, Converting Traditional Business Models into Seamless Digital Platform. As a part of the massive Transformation project the Bank is also planning to align the Bank's Human Resources for the Digital environment, establishing Integrated Call Centre, CRM, Payment Ecosystem, Fintech/Online Marketplace Integrations, Wealth Management, Collections Management, Adopting cutting edge technologies and creating a highly Secure & Data driven Digital Bank.

EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, LAUNCHES, CSR INITIATIVES, APPOINTMENTS, MOVEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS

Mumbai Port Authority
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Mumbai Port Authority invites open bids for Grant of License for Deployment of a total of 6 Nos. Floating Dry Dock at various locations of Mumbai Port, viz. within Port limits off Darukhna, Coal Bunder, Hay Bunder, Kasara Basin, Ferry Wharf and Mazgaon for a period of 5 years. Proposal submission start date and end date are 26/08/2022 from 13.00 hrs. and 26/09/2022 till 15.00 hrs. respectively. Details of Tender are available on <https://www.mumbaiport.gov.in> and <https://eprocure.gov.in> Contact No. 022 66566515 (O), +91 8987527827 (Mob.).
Chief Mechanical Engineer

कार्यालय- वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, रॉरी वन प्रमण्डल, रॉरी
वन भवन, डोरण्डा, रॉरी- 834002 (झारखण्ड)
E-mail : dfo-ranchi@gov.in Ph. No. 0651-2480265 (O), FAX 0651- 2482386
शुद्धि पत्र
इस कार्यालय के द्वारा आमंत्रित RFP (Request for Proposal) संख्या 01/2022-23 जिसका PR No.-276119 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes (2022-23) D है, में RFP No.- 01/2022-23 के स्थान पर RFP No.- 02/2022-23 पढ़ा जाय। अन्य शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगे।
वन प्रमण्डल पदाधिकारी, रॉरी वन प्रमण्डल, रॉरी।
PR.No.276408 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes(22-23):D

NETARHAT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL
NETARHAT P.O- NETARHAT, DISTRICT- LATEHAR (An Autonomous Institution under the Ministry of School Education & Literacy Deptt. Govt. of Jharkhand)
VERY SHORT RE-TENDER NOTICE
Tender No- 1331 Dated-25.08.2022
Sealed tenders are invited from a reputed vendor/ firms having relevant experience under two bid system i.e. Technical Bid & Financial Bid for Supply, Uploading, Installation & maintenance of educational Digital Contents from Class VI to XII as per the Syllabus Prescribed by the CBSE.

Sr. No.	Name of the Tender	Supply, Uploading, Installation & maintenance of educational Digital Contents from Class VI to XII at Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand.
1.	Name of the Tender	Supply, Uploading, Installation & maintenance of educational Digital Contents from Class VI to XII at Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand.
2.	Scope of Work	Supply, Uploading, Installation & maintenance of educational Digital Contents from Class VI to XII at Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat-835218, District- Latehar, Jharkhand.
3.	Name and Address of the Office Inviting Tender	Principal, Netarhat Residential School, Netarhat, P.O- Netarhat, District- Latehar 25.08.2022 at 2:30 PM
4.	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	25.08.2022 at 2:30 PM
5.	Last Date and Time for receipt of Bids	02.09.2022 at 2:30 PM
6.	Date of Opening of the Tender	03.09.2022 at 3:30 PM (Technical Bid) 05.09.2022 at 11 AM (Financial bid of only those firms who are found eligible in technical bids)
7.	Contact Persons with Details	1. Mr. Santosh Kumar Singh (Principal) Contact No-6201750198 Email id- principal.netarhat@gmail.com

Complete details could be seen in our school's website www.netarhatvidyalaya.com
Sd/- (Santosh Kumar Singh) Principal
Netarhat Residential School Netarhat. PR276412 (Human Resource Development)22-23'D

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513
2623043, FAX: 0177-262320 Website: www.hpsedc.in
No.: SEDC/PCB/RET/CAQMS/3K22-8272 Date: 25-08-2022
S-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Operation & Maintenance Services of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in Shimla under State Contract agreement and will be valid for two years. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 06/09/2022 (11:30AM) through Video Conferencing.
Last date for online e-bid submission is 23/09/2022 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 24/09/2022 at 2:30PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and <https://hptenders.gov.in>.
0408/HP General Manager (Technical)

DELHI JAL BOARD GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XI
KILOKARI SPJS, JAL VIHAR, LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024
Mob-9810488511 Email: eesdw11@gmail.com
Press N.I.T. No. 8 (2022-23)
S. No. Name of work (EMD) in INR Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1. Repairing of Pump Set No-03 of 16 MGD at Andrews Ganj SPS. 87500 Tender ID:- 2022_DJB_228177_1 Date:- 24.08.2022 07.09.2022 at 10:00 AM
NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (K.S. Rai) Advt. No. J.S.V. 305 (2022-23) Executive Engineer (SDW) XI
STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

DELHI JAL BOARD : GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (M)-9
COMMAND TANK NO. 4, SEC-20, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110075.
Press N.I.T. No. 40 (2022-23)/EE (T) M-9
S. N. Name of work Amount Put to Tender EMD (Rs.) Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution Last date / time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1. Improvement of water supply by PL and replacement of 100mm dia water line by PL 110 mm dia OD HDPE pipe in Durga Park Gali No. 5 to 8 in Durga Park in Dabri Ward (30-S) in Dwarka AC-33 under AEE(M)-33. (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_228177_1) Rs. 42,50,899/- Rs. 85,100/- 24.08.2022 08.09.2022
2. Improvement of water supply by PL 200 mm dia HDPE pipe (PE100 PN-6 conforming to IS:4984) for Raghu Nagar and Syndicate Enclave in Dabri ward in Dwarka AC-33 under AEE(M)-33. (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_228177_2) Rs. 65,14,216/- Rs. 1,30,300/- 24.08.2022 08.09.2022
3. Improvement of water supply by replacing of old damaged AC/PVC water pipe line and PL/J 110mm OD HDPE water pipe line in left out portion of Gallopur Village in Maliala Constituency under EE(M)-34 (Tender I.D. No. 2022_DJB_228177_3) Rs. 38,78,951/- Rs. 77,600/- 24.08.2022 08.09.2022
NIT along with all the terms & conditions is available on DJB Web Site <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.
ISSUED BY PRO (WATER) Sd/- (Satish Kumar) Advt. No. J.S.V. 300 (2022-23) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (TM)-9
STOP CORONA "Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

verka
THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD.
SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812-66 www.verka.coop
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
A Tender is hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following item -
Sr. No. Name of the Work Contract Period/ Quantity Consigner/ Place of Tender Opening Tender Cost (Rs.) E. M. D. (Rs.) Date & Time for Sale/ downloading of e-tender Last Date & Time for Submission of e-tender Date & Time for opening of e-tender
1. Fire Wood Hill Yearly Rate Contract (Tentative Quantity- 1000MT) Verka Palliala Dairy Ph. 0175-2383595, 94787-45414, 94170-29281, 94170-29018 100/- 2,00,000/- 30.08.2022 up to 12:00 Noon 20.09.2022 at 12:00 Noon
Bidders shall have to pay required Tender Processing fee through online mode only i.e. through debit/credit card for getting registered for e-tendering system. EMD should be made only through online mode i.e. Credit/Debit card, NEFT/RTGS, Internet Banking. For participating in the above e-tender, the parties shall have to get themselves registered with our e-Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in and get USER ID and Password well in time. For downloading tender through e-tendering, process flow, please contact e-Procurement help desk on given Nos. 0172-2970263, 2970264 immediately so that process of timely registration and downloading the tender is completed in time by the date of tender opening. For additional details regarding e-tendering please visit website eproc.punjab.gov.in. Tender processing Fee is Non-Refundable Incharge (Purchase)

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
1st & Ground Floor, I.T. Bhawan, Mehli, Shimla-171013
Tel. No. 0177-2623259, 2623513, 2626320, 2623513
2623043, FAX: 0177-262320 Website: www.hpsedc.in
No.: HPSEDC/PCB/PTF/2K22-8271 Date: 25-08-2022
e-TENDER NOTICE
e-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for procurement of Plastic Testing Facility, Sunder Nagar, Himachal Pradesh. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on 07/09/2022 (11:30AM) through Video Conferencing.
Last date for online e-bid submission is 23/09/2022 (upto 02:30 PM) and shall be opened on 24/09/2022 at 2:30PM. Detailed Tender Document containing Technical Specifications and Terms & Conditions are available on HPSEDC website www.hpsedc.in and <https://hptenders.gov.in>.
0408/HP General Manager (Technical)

HIMACHAL PRADESH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
RITZ ANNEXE, SHIMLA - 171004
Tel. No. (0177) 2652794 Fax: (0177) 2632206
website: www.hpdtcd.in
No. DGM/JM/11/2022-TDC
e-Procurement Short NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The General Manager, HPTDC Ritz Annexe, Shimla on behalf of Managing Director, HPTDC invites item rate bid through electronic tendering system for designing, printing & supplying of accommodation tariff cards from the vendors registered under G.S.T. Act, 2017 :-
Sr No Name of work EMD (Rs.) Time allowed for completion of supply Tender cost inclusive of GST
1. Designing, Printing & Supplying of HPTDC Accommodation Tariff card at its various properties. 20000.00 20 days 1000.00
Other Terms & Conditions can be downloaded from the website: <https://hptenders.gov.in> or www.hpdtcd.in
GENERAL MANAGER

Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Ltd
CIN: U75302PN2017SGC171439
Registered Office: Auto Cluster Development and Research Institute, 2nd Floor, C-181, Chinchwad, Pune- 411019
e-mail: smartcity@pcmcindia.gov.in

Extension Notice To Tender No.04/22-23
Selection of Concessionaire for providing end to end services for monetization of PCSC city network infrastructure on Revenue Sharing Model

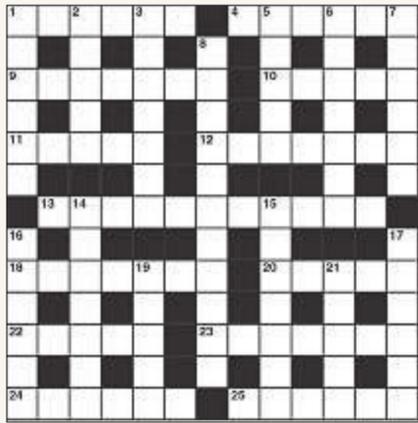
Attention of prospective bidders is invited to the Tender Notice No.04/22-23 dated 04.08.2022 published in the newspapers i.e. The Times of India, The Indian Express, The Nava Bharat Times, Daily Sakal, The Maharashtra Times and on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
The last date of submission bids is hereby extended as follows:
Sr.No. RFP Clause Existing Content Revised Content
1. Volume 1 Clause 1.2 Datasheet Bid Submission last Date & Time 25/08/2022 till 15:00 hrs 25/08/2022 till 15:00 hrs
Sd/-
Joint Chief Executive Officer
Pimpri Chinchwad Smart City Ltd
Chinchwad 411019

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE
SR. No. NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE TIME AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1 DISTRICT PROJECT COORDINATOR SAMAGRA SHIKSHA IN CAMPUS GSSSS JHAJJAR NEAR BIKANER DISTT JHAJJAR CONSTRUCTION OF CHEMISTRY LAB & BIOLOGY AT GSSS PELLAJAR BLOCK JHAJJAR DISTT. JHAJJAR 29.08.2022 07.09.2022 19.86 LACS www.hsspp.in 9416579377 ssajr@gmail.com
12998.HRY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.tenders.hry.nic.in

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDERING NOTICE
Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), North Eastern Railway, Varanasi for and on behalf of President of India, invites Online (E-Tendering) "open tender" for the following work: S.No.-1, Tender reference no: E-Tender- L10-22-23, Name of work: Electrical work connection to (i) Improvement of DPM office (Accounts, Personnel, Mechanical, Electrical, Control and First floor above Hindi section) at BSB (ii) Provision of Train Passing Office Building at BCY station (iii) BSB Div-Improvement of lighting at Railway stations having average footfall more than 2000 per day at selected station (iv) Upgradation of sick line and repair of service Building of Coaching Depot Chhapra., Approx. Cost (in Rs.):- ₹ 4066042.55. Earnest money (in Rs.):- ₹ 81,300.00, Completion period:- 180 Days, Date & time of Closing Tender:- 08.09.2022 15:00 Hrs. Date & time of Opening Tender :- 08.09.2022 15:30 Hrs., S.No.-2, Tender reference no: E-Tender-L-11-22-23, Name of work:- Provision of 750 v Local power supply of maintenance of HOG complaint rakes in washing / sick line of maintenance depot at Chhapra., Approx. Cost (in Rs.):- ₹ 9128419.33. Earnest money (in Rs.):- ₹ 182600.00, Completion period:- 180 Days, Date & time of Closing Tender:- 08.09.2022 15:00 Hrs. Date & time of Opening Tender :- 08.09.2022 15:30 Hrs., S.No.-3, Tender reference no: E-Tender-L-12-22-23, Name of work:- Provision of 750 v Local power supply system and allied work for maintenance of HOG rake at Mau Depot., Approx. Cost (in Rs.):- ₹ 8207618.18, Earnest money (in Rs.):- ₹ 164200.00, Completion period:- 180 Days, Date & time of Closing Tender:- 08.09.2022 15:00 Hrs. Date & time of Opening Tender:- 08.09.2022 15:30 Hrs. For Full details of above E-Tender work and to participate in tender please visit Indian Railway Website www.irps.gov.in.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ General CPRO/EL-70 Varanasi
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

CROSSWORD 4830



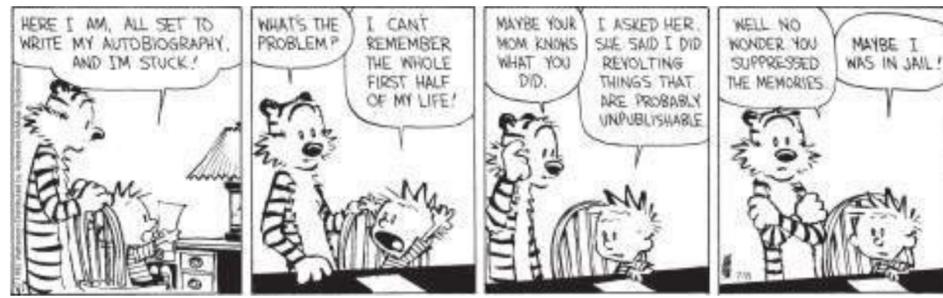
- ACROSS**
- Santa's vehicle breaks his leg (6)
 - Artless politician caught in web of lies (6)
 - Fine food with party thrown in for a star (7)
 - The listener gets two points and wins (5)
 - Terminal heart trouble (5)
 - I'll bequeath things with hostility (3,4)
 - Split up the business and go separate ways (4,7)
 - Adage showing preference for a word of action (7)
 - Priest in church demonstrates holy memento (5)
 - One who stayed in bed (5)
 - Mean to assert one's seniority (7)
 - Has the wrong case (6)
 - Assist in stoppage (6)
- DOWN**
- Get me confused with Saul in the Bible (6)
 - Duck down (5)
 - It's the firing that makes weapons heated (7)
 - Having no flaws though I have a lot (5)
 - Some haven to which no-one returns (7)
 - Say lie may be found out without difficulty (6)
 - French non-runner (7,4)
 - It avoids controversy yet gets badly annoyed (7)
 - Flawless finish (7)
 - Is careless while filling lighters (6)
 - Tightens up on prison staff (6)
 - One flies right away out of remorse (5)
 - Charges youngsters nothing to go in (5)

Solutions Crossword 4829: Across: 1 Schmeer, 5 Aimed, 8 No great shakes, 9 Sweat, 10 Rosette, 11 Cotton, 12 Resist, 15 Halmet, 17 Argus, 19 Budding author, 20 Tense, 21 Dreamed. Down: 1 Sands, 2 Highest bidder, 3 Maestro, 4 Rotary, 5 Aphis, 6 Make things hum, 7 Descant, 11 Cohabit, 13 Erasure, 14 Staged, 16 Naive, 18 Shred.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLER WORDS

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

Only things that ___ make live on. They are the eternal conquerors. - Herbert Kaufman (8)

EPTEE **ENOPRS**

CFNAR **ILLYDM**

SOLUTION: TEPEE, FRANK, PERSON, MILDLY. Answer: Only things that dreamers make live on. They are the eternal conquerors. - Herbert Kaufman

MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4938

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

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4937

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

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

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./Date/Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/EMD	Start of sale/Last date
3634/23.08.2022 (RIS222GLOB00051)	RFP for Supply, Installation and Maintenance Services of Computer Hardware and Peripherals for English Language Lab at different colleges of Rajasthan	1.14 Crore 2.28 Lacs	24.08.2022 15.09.2022

Details can be seen on the websites <http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://spp.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://doicr.rajasthan.gov.in>. Bids are to be submitted through <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/6823 (Additional Director)

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking

(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for the supply of following items

- Supply of 16/20MVA, ONAN/ONAF, 33kV/11-6.6kV Power Transformers equipped with Nitrogen Injection Fire Protection System along with their Accessories & Spares.

Re-invited e-tender

- 73746, (3) 73748 (Corrigendum), (4) 74352, (5) 74381

Note: For more details, log on to website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
PRO/AAM(M)/83/2022 GENERAL MANAGER

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO- SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020
E-mail address- serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online - RWCCESNG -19 of 2022-23 Letter No. 2329/Dtd. 23.08.2022
e-Procurement NOTICE

- Type of the Work** : Bridge (BSY)
- Class of Contractor** : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
- Time of Completion** : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
- Detail Projects** : As per Annexure attached
- Estimated Cost** : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
- Other details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender	Date & Time of opening of tender	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-19 of 2022-23	02.09.2022 11.00 AM To 23.09.2022 5.00 PM	22.09.2022 5.00 PM	26.09.2022 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately	

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh
OIPR- 25133/11/0025/2223

ANDHRA PRADESH CENTRAL POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED

Invitation to Tender

Tender notification No: CPWPT-18 & 19/2022-23 of APCDCL/GM/JP/MML/2022-23. APCDCL invites online bids under e-procurement for (A) CPWPT-18/2022-23, Procurement of 11kV & 33kV AB Switch Spares (B) CPWPT-19/2022-23: Procurement of 30x25+25sqmm LT XLPE AB Cable - 6470KM. Tenderers can have further details and download the tender schedules from e-Procurement marketplace from 20-08-2022 i.e., <https://tenders.apcdcl.com> (Published by APCDCL). Ph: 0866 2965456 & Email: cgmpmm.codd@apcdcl.in

Chief General Manager /P&M, APCDCL, Andhra Pradesh

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड

CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

(भारत सरकार का उपकरण) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
K-Block, NSIC New MDPI Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110020

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online open e-tender in Single bid system is invited for the supply, installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 no. of 100 MT type Electronic Weighing capacity of 100 MT, platform size 18'3 Meters, 02 nos. 3 MT capacity Electronic Weighing Scale & 02 nos. 20KG capacity Electronic Weighing Scale at MMLP-Dahaj with three years AMC.

Tender No. : CON/AL/WB/MMLP-Dahaj/2022

Name of Supply	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 01 no. of 100 MT type Electronic Weigh Bridge capacity of 100MT, platform size 18'3 meters, 02 nos. 3 MT capacity Electronic Weighing Scale & 02 nos. 20KG capacity Electronic Weighing Scale at MMLP-Dahaj with three years AMC.
Estimated Cost	Rs. 23.81,240/- (Inclusive of GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 47,625/- (Inclusive of GST)
Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 1000/- Inclusive of GST through e-payment
Tender processing Fee	Rs. 1405/- Inclusive of GST through e-payment.
Date of sale of Tender (online)	From 26.08.2022 after 12.00 hrs. to 15.09.2022 up to 16.00hrs.
Last Date & time of tender submission of bid	On or before 15.09.2022 upto 18.00 hrs.
Date & time of opening of bid	On 16.09.2022 at 12.00 hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience etc. please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderindia.com/CCIL only. Further, Corrigendum/Addendum to this Tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.com, www.tenderindia.com/CCIL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.
Group General Manager/Technical Area-II Phone no.: 011-4122530.

DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICE, REWARI

जिला निर्वाचन कार्यालय, रेवाड़ी

दूरभाष:- 01274-222779 ई-मेल elt_rwr@yahoo.in

क्र.निर्वाचन-2022/618 दिनांक 23.08.2022

मतदाता सूची से संबंधित फार्म व वोटर किट छपवाने हेतु जिला प्रशासन, रेवाड़ी में स्थानीय पंचीकृत तथा अनुभवी संस्थाओं/फर्मों से मतदाता सूची से संबंधित फार्म (75000) व वोटर किट (10000) छपवाए जाने हैं। जिसके लिए ई- टेंडर की प्रक्रिया अपनाई जाएगी। इच्छुक फर्म दिनांक 26.08.2022 को दोपहर 1.00 बजे से दिनांक 01.09.2022 को दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक <https://etenders.hry.nic.in> वेबसाईट पर अपना टेंडर अपलोड करना सुनिश्चित करें। इसके बाद निविदा स्वीकृत नहीं की जाएगी।

हस्ता/-
उपायुक्त एवं जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी,
रेवाड़ी।

12103/HRV

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, KALAHANDI RWS&S DIVISION, BHAWANIPATNA

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e-TENDERING
Bid Identification No- 44/SE/RWSS/2022-23/
Bpt Date: 23.08.2022

01. Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only.		Date of opening (Technical Bid)
		From	To	
1	2	3	4	5
Superintending Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna	44/SE/RWSS/2022-23/Bpt	02.09.2022 10.00 AM	29.09.2022 05.30 PM	30.09.2022 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper to be made online payment system.
Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>
The original documents should be scanned and uploaded.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer,
Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhawanipatna
OIPR-25005/11/0007/2223

Rural Works Department

(बिहार ग्रामीण पथ अनुसंधान नीति, 2018)

Notice Inviting Tender-RWD/MR-3054/ET/01/2022-23

Notice Inviting Tender for Rural Roads Maintenance based on Output and performance based Contract through e-procurement mode on Model Bidding Document (MBD).

- Designation and Address of the Advertiser : Executive Engineer, Rural Works Department, Works Division, Harnaut
- Date of issue of Notice Inviting Tender : 18.08.2022 Letter
- Downloading of Bidding Documents : From 12.09.2022, (09:00) to 19.09.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. From website-<http://pmsgytenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting : Date 15.09.2022 time 15:00 hrs. Place O/o Concerned Superintending Engineer
- Last date & time for uploading tender Document by bidder : Date 19.09.2022 up to 15:00 hrs. <http://pmsgytenderbih.gov.in>
- Date, time for online opening of Technical bid : 19.09.2022 up, Time: 15:30 hrs.
- Last date, time and place for submission of Original instrument of EMD, Cost of BOQ And Affidavit regarding correctness of Information provided with bid document : Till 15:00 hrs on 19.09.2022 Place- O/o concerned (i) Executive Engineer Or (ii) Superintending Engineer Or (iii) Chief Engineer-1

8. The Executive Engineer, Rural Works Department on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites bids from the eligible bidders for the works detailed below.

9. Details of Works:-

S. no.	Block	Name of the Bridge/Road	Length (in Km)	Cost (in Lakh) including five year maintenance	EMD (in lakh)	Cost of BOQ (in Rs.)	Amount Payable to	Payable At
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Harnaut	Bidhipar Sorodih Road To Telmar Devi Sthan Road	0.130	6.00	0.12000	1250	E.E. RWD (W) Division. Harnaut	Biharsharif
2.	Harnaut	L021 Jalgobind Path To Village Serpur	0.567	28.85	0.57700	5000	E.E. RWD (W) Division. Harnaut	Biharsharif
2.	Harnaut	Gosaimath Sagarpar PMGSY Path Ke Missing Link Path	0.305	17.24	0.34480	5000	E.E. RWD (W) Division. Harnaut	Biharsharif

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

Executive Engineer
RWD, Works Division, Harnaut

PR- 6858 (R W D) 2022-23 नरो से बनाओ दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।

UJVN LTD.

HO "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Letter No. 565 Tender Notice Dated : 25.08.2022

Office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Dakpathar Barrage, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below.
Tender No 04/EE(E&M)/DKP BRG/2022-23 & Tender No 05/EE(E&M)/DKP BRG/2022-23

Name of work: (1) Fabrication of tin shed near Head regulator gates along with minor repairing works at Pump house of Dakpathar barrage.
(2) Annual contract for caulking the leakage of under sluice and barrage way gates at Dakpathar Barrage.
Estimated cost (In Lakh): Rs.2.77 (GST extra) & Rs. 5.01(GST extra) respectively.

Date of availability of bid Document on website : 26.08.2022, 10:00 hrs
Last date for submission of tender : 15.09.2022, 16:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender document can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com".
Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Procurement Tender Notice No.: 22/58 Date: 23.08.2022

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj (An ISO 9001:2015 certified unit) invites the following E-Procurement Tenders.

S.N.	Tender No.	Short Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date
1	40223144	CORONA RESISTANT ROUND ENAMELED WINDING WIRE	175 Kgs.	08.09.2022
2	40223264	500A 750V Inter Vehicular (IV) coupler	40 Nos.	19.09.2022
3	20223489	SET OF LABYRINTH AND BEARING CAP	299 SET	12.09.2022
4	20223482 E	Metallized Carbon Strips Suitable for High Reach Pantograph	301 Nos.	12.09.2022
5	30221580 D	BOGIE CENTRE PIVOT TOP	5862 Nos.	20.09.2022
6	30222623 B	YOKE	1528 Nos.	21.09.2022
7	90221032 B	M.S. FLAT 50 X 12 MM	49900 Kgs.	12.09.2022
8	30222757 B (e-RA)	DOOR ARRANGEMENT FOR BOBRN WAGON	3957 Nos.	26.09.2022

Note: The complete information of above tenders can be seen and downloaded from IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 1107/22 (P)

North central railway www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in @nctrcentralrailway @CPRONCR

WESTERN RAILWAY

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE NO.S/28/2022
DATE 25.08.2022

Short Description of Items	Quantity	T.O.D.
470 High Reach Pantograph	74 Nos.	09-Sep-22
471 Center Adjustment Device	345 Nos.	12-Sep-22
472 Anti Roll Bar Fork	1077 Nos.	12-Sep-22
473 Metallized Carbon Strip For AC Pantograph Type AM-12	1212 Nos.	12-Sep-22
474 Bushing Traction Rod	1005 Nos.	12-Sep-22
475 Vertical Damper For Secondary Air Spring Suspension Arrangement to Capacity 300 Kgs.	1044 Nos.	15-Sep-22
476 3-Phase Traction Motor	12 Nos.	15-Sep-22
477 IOH Replacement Kit For Single Bottle VCB	30 Set	16-Sep-22
478 Aluminium Sheet	6800 Kg.	19-Sep-22
479 Buffer Plunger	609 Nos.	19-Sep-22
480 Flap Door Arrangement	518 Nos.	19-Sep-22
481 (HYTREL) Lower Washer	4562 Nos.	20-Sep-22
482 Face Plate For Buffer Plunger	2855 Nos.	21-Sep-22
483 1578 KVA Traction Transformer Complete	2 Nos.	23-Sep-22
484 Stainless Steel Wire Rope For Three Pulley Type	1801 Nos.	26-Sep-22
485 Inhibited Mineral Insulating Oil	92260 Ltr.	26-Sep-22

Reverse Auction

Lot No.	Description	Quantity	Date
20	6V,120AH Capacity VRA Cells	902 Set	14-Sep-22

Regarding detailed notice EMD, Purchase restrictions and detailed tender conditions, please visit website www.ireps.gov.in and www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

India's Yuki Bhambri advanced to the men's singles second round after a hard-fought win over Moldovan Radu Albot in the US Open qualifiers. However, the country's highest-ranked men's singles player, Ramkumar Ramanathan, and Sumit Nagal made early exits after losing their respective qualifying matches in straight sets.

BRIEFLY

Lewandowski, Haaland to face former teams

London: Two of Europe's leading strikers will take on their former teams as Manchester City's Erling Haaland faces Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona's Robert Lewandowski meets Bayern Munich after the Champions League group-stage draw was made on Thursday. Holders Real Madrid, who captured a record-extending 14th European crown when they beat Liverpool in last season's final, will play RB Leipzig, Shakhtar Donetsk and Celtic in Group F. But while Carlo Ancelotti's side should have few problems in making the round of 16, at least on paper, their Spanish rivals and five-times champions Barca face a tough test against Bayern, Inter Milan and Viktoria Plzen in Group C. **REUTERS**

Djokovic to skip US Open

London: Novak Djokovic will not play in the US Open, as expected, because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 and thus is not allowed to travel to the United States. Djokovic announced his withdrawal from the year's last Grand Slam tournament on Twitter on Thursday, hours before the draw for the event was revealed. "Sadly, I will not be able to travel to NY this time for US Open," Djokovic wrote, wishing luck to his fellow players, and said he would "keep in good shape and positive spirit and wait for an opportunity to compete again." Djokovic is a 35-year-old from Serbia who owns 21 major championships, one behind Rafael Nadal for the men's record. **AP**

Serena to play World No.80 Kovinic

New York: Serena Williams' first opponent at what is expected to be the last tournament of her career, the US Open, will be Danka Kovinic. Win that, and Williams could face No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit of Estonia in the second round. The brackets for the women's and men's singles events were released Thursday by the U.S. Tennis Association. Play begins Monday; first-round matches will be held that day and Tuesday. There was no immediate word on when Williams will compete. **AP**

Erigaisi clinches Abu Dhabi Masters title

London: Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi clinched the 28th Abu Dhabi Masters chess tournament, beating Spain's David Anton Guijarro here on Thursday. The 18-year-old emerged victorious over the Spaniard in the ninth and final round with 7.5 points. Arjun also remained unbeaten through all the nine rounds and finished half a point ahead of Uzbekistan's Javokhir Sindarov. Sindarov, on the other hand, beat Iran's M Amin Tabatabaee to claim the second position. The Warangal lad, who is currently India's number three in live ratings list, has been impressive in recent times, having gained 35 Elo rating points after three recently-concluded Chess Olympiad in India. **PTI**

Prannoy is class in an all-Indian classic

Fights back after losing first game to beat Lakshya Sen for second big win at Worlds; faces China's Zhao in quarterfinals today

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 25

THE JARRING happened at 2-5 in the second set for Lakshya Sen. You could say it changed the course of the match in which Indians HS Prannoy and Sen played such immense-quality badminton that the lament of this being just the pre-quarterfinal deserved a mournful encore. Some eye-popping defensive retrieves - too close to the body and at full-stretch alike - and a quality of attack that the two accomplished Indians defined this last-16 clash, and Prannoy not narrowly got out of this one after his brave shotmaking got fortune's nod as he won a 75-minute classic 17-21, 21-16, 21-17. But something within the young Sen had snapped at 2-5 and the body language thereafter didn't reflect a cool, calculated mind.

Banking on in-rally acceleration, like a sudden ambush, Sen had pulled away in the opener at 9-8. He would hop to the net for the explosive kill. He would infuse a sudden blitz in a rally like a spark plug and he would take the first 21-17, even as Prannoy relied on steep body attack. Sen isn't excellent in swivelling his torso to parry away body smashes, but Prannoy was somehow striking them closer to his feet. Yet, the momentum was with the younger Indian.

Playing from a slightly better side in Set 2, Prannoy turned things around after an opener where it wasn't all going to plan. Maybe it was the early lead he took, or Sen wanted a reassuring net kill, but his racquet tipped over just slightly in a lean beyond the net line, and it got called a fault in the follow through. The umpire's call agitated the youngster, and in uncharacteristic fashion, he argued a tad. Thereafter, as Prannoy built on his lead, with a pinpoint attack, and some unbelievable reflex defenses that turned to winners on the line, Sen's shoulders began to slump.

Mind you, last edition's bronze medallist was still playing very high quality badminton, even when Prannoy was whipping his cross-courts at bespoke angles to frustrate Sen who actually had the mid game 11-10 lead. But when he ballooned one long with Prannoy unrelenting at the net corners with his movements smooth as skating on ice, Sen knew the 21-16 margin was a turning of the tide.

As smooth as he looked, Prannoy carried a storm in his heart. "The second game was mentally tough," he would tell *The Indian Express* later of what wasn't past demons or history of losses, but in-the-moment worries like the daunting prospect of having to also win the third. "I had to blank out my head of plenty of things. In these slow conditions, you have to win the second and the anxiety keeps building about having to do it all over again in the third game. I had to focus on the moment."

Pressure in the decider alters game personalities, and the second set resistance pegged the usually combative Sen back. It is tradition that in all-India faceoffs, no coaches sit behind players, and though Sen did well to think through the next many minutes, he couldn't find that inspiration to shut Prannoy out. One smash went into the net at 11-12, another cross hit sailed just wide, and the gap opened like a shark's jaws. Very fine margins went against Sen, but Prannoy was going strong at the net and with his smash, assured in his gameplan and relaxed in his rallies.

Physically, this was a very high quality contest, and Prannoy for once was upto the mark - or even a tad better as his improved fitness, aided the smooth defense as rallies got longer and more intense. "Things change drastically in the third with pressure, even if it's same op-

ponent, same conditions. I was calculative in the risks I took at the net. But I just had the belief I can win it. I was playing well and if I stayed focussed I'd get this," he said.

Leading 11-8, Prannoy just stepped up the gear and Sen starved of openings, faltered. A backhand push to Sen's body gave Prannoy match point. And the final point saw Sen sending one long. The duo hugged it out in the end, though Sen was disappointed and looking like he had taken this hard.

Onto the next one

Two big wins against Kento Momota and Sen make for dazzling headlines, but the business end of the tournament for Prannoy starts now. His career might well be defined by how he plays in the next three days than how he scalped two upsets in the last three. "Everyone will root for him because we all want him to go on and get that medal. He's been there all the time, knocking at the door," says national coach Pullela Gopichand.

"He showed excellent resilience after dropping the first game," says former big-smashing Olympian Anup Sridhar, who complimented the man labelled 'Beast' for his attack, for matching the smash-whip despite not being as tall. That Prannoy is getting some canny angles on his attack has been apparent all season. But the steep smash is coming from the ace jump, a sign of excellent fitness.

Prannoy needs to beat Chinese Zhao Jun Peng on Friday to ensure a World Championship medal. And hopes are high because Peng's game style leaves the door open. The young Chinese like the fast paced attacking styles, but Zhao isn't massively aggressive. There are openings at the net that Prannoy can exploit.

Prannoy's own attack wears a chiselled look. It's not blind whacking. "He's circumspect in strategy. Knows when to go for the kill and his body language doesn't let on when he's lost a few points. The earlier self doubts are gone," Sridhar says. Even in defense, physical fitness has helped him jump out, and then return to centre ready for the next shot. The superior fitness has added another layer of confidence to his mental strength, knowing he will last a match, won't run out of fuel. "Sorting out his physical issues was a starting point of improving mental strength," he adds.

It's why Sridhar is hoping Prannoy gets up feeling fresh, and recovered. Travelling with his strength and conditioning coach and physio, Prannoy, 29, himself will hope he feels upto it for the third straight day against a Chinese eager to make a mark. The giantkiller understands his body much better, and has frankly shed the tag of someone who takes out the big name, then fades away, pushing further and further in tournaments this whole year. Yet, the proof in the pudding is yet to show up.

Prannoy is a serious threat to any opponent at this Worlds, but he will need the whole jigsaw to click into place with physical pieces of the game. With him, it's not like a matrix barcode that works one day and doesn't the next. A bunch of things need to tack into place - how the body feels, how his mind is calmed despite expectations as the lone Indian left, and how far can the fight sustain. It's a medal Prannoy deserves, but it'll test him the most against a Chinese whose anonymity and unknown game took out the top Malaysian Lee Zii Jia, and who will have nothing to lose this early in his career.

All this season, Prannoy has believed in impossibilities, like India winning Thomas Cup. It's the possible looking win against Zhou Jun Peng now that he needs to nail down.



HS Prannoy beat Lakshya Sen 17-21, 21-16, 21-17 in a 75-minute match.

Two doubles pairs raise medal hopes

SHIVANI NAIK
AUGUST 25

SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY and Chirag Shetty like keeping the best for the last. They brought up the rear of Indian success at the India Open to start the year. Last month at Commonwealth Games, their last gold helped India nose ahead of New Zealand in medals tally. Working quietly through the week after getting the job done in Birmingham, the duo would love to tie up some unfinished business of Tokyo from a year ago when they play the World Championships quarterfinals at Tokyo Gymnasium.

After two clinical wins, the Indians ranked 7th, run into Japanese second seeds Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi. It's 1-1 in history, as the Indians had beaten the Japanese at the 2018 All England and lost in three at Hong Kong in 2019. Both pairings have firmed up and risen from the promising batter, like an orange-almond tea cake in the oven, remaining evenly matched though the home pairing will hold the edge. Only just.

Satwik-Chirag won 2 out of 3 in the Tokyo Olympics group stage including against eventual champions, but went out, pipped by the Minions. Back in the city for the World Championships a year later, they face a sturdy pair, but are armed with bouncebackability that gives them the extra gear in tight situations, while Mathias Boe works out the drawing boards.

Though raising the decibel on their attack might seem the obvious thing to do, Boe will be around to temper aggression and unleash it in micro-doses in tough conditions where smashes get scoffed at and mocked by the sapping, lulling conditions.



The two Indian men's doubles pairs of Dhruv Kapila-MR Arjun and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty also moved into the quarters.

What might push Satwik Chirag further - and which is excellent for Indian badminton - is the presence of Dhruv Kapila and MR Arjun as the second Indian pairing in the quarters. One good pairing can be happenstance, two hold the potential of kicking off a revolution as both combines push the limits gunning for India's first men's doubles medal.

Dhruv-Arjun are up against the Daddies Hendra Setiawan and Mohammad Ahsan, and coach Gopichand backs both the Indian pairs to push through even if these are 50/50 matches. In a fast court, the Indonesian Daddies can be unstoppable. In slow, drawing conditions, Indians will sense an opening.

"The slow shuttle can open up the game for us a little more and if help move the bigger Daddy (Setiawan) a little more to hit through him," he reckons. Hendra is 38, and sat out the Thomas Cup key clash, but remains a legend of the sport for his ability to win no matter what. So you underestimate the Daddies at your own peril, and India's

second pair will need to convert half chances and rub their energetic bearing, on Daddies' faces, while staying vigilant in defense, because Setiawan-Ahsan find the wickedest angles while keeping the calmest wisened visage.

The Indonesian legends have quelled young pairings from all around the world, and the Indians on a high with three excellent wins including against the top Danes, will have a fight on their hands, without knowing when the gears turned.

On Thursday, the Arjun-Dhruv duo did well to quieten Singaporean Terry-Loh, in a come from behind 18-21, 21-15, 21-16 victory. It was a familiar sight with Arjun bobbing around holding his end of the bargain, and Dhruv adding his explosive bursts from the backcourt.

The Singaporeans, surprise prequarterfinalists themselves, plunged into errors after taking the opener, and Indians gladly pounced on the opportunity to sidle in a counter. They led 13-11 in the decider just as the Singaporeans were regrouping, when Dhruv needed a medical timeout and some spray around his hamstring. Loh would proceed to pound him on that right flank promptly, but the Indians showed remarkable sturdiness to beat back the offensive and hold on to their lead, with precise placing of the shuttle.

A straight shooting arrow smash bang in the middle of the court from Dhruv finally gave Indians the happy win, bringing glad tidings from doubles where for the first time two of the eight quarterfinalists will be Indians. A wave effect is expected to be triggered back home where many more pairings train and will look up to the twin Indian combines to bring home the first doubles medal for men from the World's.

Man who filed 21 conflict complaints withdraws all, one about Ambani his last

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

FIFTEEN DAYS after Mumbai Indians owner Nita Ambani was asked to file a written response over an alleged 'conflict of interest' complaint filed by him, Sanjeev Gupta has requested BCCI's Ethics Officer Vineet Saran to withdraw all 21 pending cases filed by him as a complainant.

In his complaint, Gupta, former member of Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, had written that Ambani is "hit by an instance of Conflict of Interest", according to BCCI rules, since "she is owner of BCCI IPL Franchisee of Mumbai Indians Team & also RIL-Owned / Subsidiary Viacom 18 won the IPL Media rights thus Viacom 18 entered into contractual arrangement with BCCI for IPL media rights".

Saran had asked for a written response from Nita Ambani by September 2. However, on August 21, Gupta emailed the chief Justices of the Supreme Court, marking copies to the BCCI ethics officer and ombudsman, and to the media, that he wishes to withdraw all his pending complaints, and that this would be his last mail to them.

In his email, he cited an incident on August 20 that pushed him into taking this action to "safeguard my health and life".

"Unforeseen ugly incidence [sic] occurred on 20 Aug 2022, which deteriorated my



Sanjeev Gupta filed conflict of interest complaints against Mumbai Indians owner Nita Ambani, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly and Virat Kohli.

health issues drastically, thus said unforeseen ugly incidence have compelled me to leave at once my 6 & 1/2 years selfless pure intent for letter & spirit compliance of The Law of the Land, the Supreme Court of India verdicts, Lodha Reforms, BCCI Constitution, to safeguard my health & life," Gupta wrote, a copy of which is with *The Indian Express*. "... In compulsion, I withdrew my long pending 21 factual / precise complaints."

He described the episode thus: "unlimited barbaric perpetual act of insult, threat, humiliations, harassments, atrocities done with me to stop me from said noble cause/intent of Compliance of Supreme Court verdicts".

A text message was sent to BCCI's Ethics Officer Vineet Saran seeking his views on whether the BCCI has accepted his complaints. There is no clarity yet whether Ambani's case will be heard. When con-

"Unforeseen ugly incidence [sic] occurred on 20 Aug 2022, which deteriorated my health issues drastically, thus said unforeseen ugly incidence have compelled me to leave at once my 6 & 1/2 years selfless pure intent for letter & spirit compliance of The Law of the Land..."

SANJEEV GUPTA

tacted, a top BCCI official declined to comment on anything related to Gupta's email. Gupta's pending 21 Complaints, filed from July 2020, ranged from 'conflict of interest' to 'breach in BCCI's constitution. They were against Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni, four complaints on Sourav Ganguly, the BCCI president, two on the treasurer Arun Dhumal, one on BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla, and the one on Nita Ambani.

In 2016 the Supreme Court had wanted an overhaul of the BCCI's constitution and also appointed a Committee of Administrators. It was then that Gupta started to inform the COA about those allegedly violating the board constitution. Based on his complaint, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid and V V S Laxman were found to be in breach of the conflict-of-interest clause, which was introduced in BCCI's new constitution post-Lodha reforms.

AIFF polls: Striker Bhutia vs goalie Chaubey

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, AUGUST 25

FOR 34 years, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) was ruled by two politicians, Priya Ranjan Dasgupta and Praful Patel. Now, the race to elect the new AIFF president is turning into a two-way fight between former footballers, the legendary Bhaichung Bhutia and ex-India goalkeeper Kalyan Chaubey. On Thursday, the two 45-year-olds, born a day apart in December 1976, filed their nominations for the elections, which were due more than two years ago but will finally take place on September 2. Bhutia's decision, however, has added a last-minute twist to an already dramatic saga.

Following a meeting of the state associations - whose representatives will vote in the elections - in New Delhi on Wednesday, Chaubey had emerged as an unanimous choice to become Patel's successor. The BJP politician from Kolkata, it is learnt, had blessings of the party higher-ups as well.

However, Rajasthan Football Association president Manvendra Singh, a Congress politician and a former Lok Sabha MP, did not back Chaubey's candidature. Instead, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh supported Bhutia, who had filed his nomination earlier as well under the eminent player umbrella but it became invalid after the Supreme Court ruled that only state association representatives can be on the voters' list.

While they have both been footballers, Bhutia and Chaubey are now active politi-



Bhaichung Bhutia and Kalyan Chaubey.

cians themselves. Chaubey, who has played for Kolkata giants East Bengal and Mohun Bagan in the 1990s as well as the national team, joined the BJP in 2015 after briefly dabbling into football administration.

Bhutia has been involved in multiple roles in football administration post-retirement - from owning a club to becoming the president of the players' association and even being on the AIFF's technical committee - apart from diving into politics by joining Trinamool Congress in 2014 before launching his own party, Hamro Sikkim, in 2018.

"Kalyan is a sweet guy, a nice person. But I will be a better president. I will be able to do much more justice to the game than him," Bhutia told *The Indian Express*. "I run a football club, I have been in state association in Sikkim for the last six years, I have had the exposure of playing in England, I am in constant touch with some of the world's top footballers, I started Indian football players association - only football has a players association with proper rules in place (in India)."

When approached, Chaubey did not wish to comment on his candidature.

Bhutia, meanwhile, added his priority will be to empower players and state associations, which he said did not happen under the previous administration led by Patel. "I don't want India to only host the Under-17 World Cup... Until and unless we produce players, we can't move forward. And players will be produced by states. Today, states are struggling to organise leagues and grassroots tournaments. They were not given proper guidance or support. I will make sure states and players are given top priority," he said.

The election process is underway even as the AIFF waits for FIFA to lift the suspension imposed on August 15 for violating its statutes. FIFA had suspended the AIFF after alleging 'undue influence' from third parties - referring to the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators - in the functioning of the federation. It set two main conditions to lift the suspension - repealing the CoA's mandate and ensuring the AIFF administration was once again fully in charge of its daily affairs. The Supreme Court, following an application filed by the government, passed a judgment in which both these conditions were met.

The AIFF elections next Friday will be now held just for two posts - president and treasurer, for which Arunachal Pradesh's Kipa Ajay and Andhra Pradesh's Gopalakrishna Kosaraju will contest. The other candidates for the executive committee have been chosen unanimously by the states as well as for Vice President, where Congress politician NA Haris is the only candidate. Football Delhi president and Shaji Prabhakaran's name has been proposed for the post of secretary-general.

Bairstow leads England's recovery

REUTERS
AUGUST 25

JONNY BAIRSTOW led England to within 40 runs of South Africa's first innings total, with seven wickets in hand, on the first day of the second test at Old Trafford on Thursday.

England were 111 for three at the close of play with Bairstow on 38 not out and opener Zak Crawley playing a crucial supporting role on 17 from 77 balls.

The fourth wicket partnership of 68 put England in a promising position after they had struggled early on, left at 43-3 after Joe Root was dismissed for nine.

South Africa had been bowled out for 151 after losing five wickets before lunch, with England's James Anderson and Stuart Broad picking up three wickets apiece.

After such a low total, the tourists, who led the three test series 1-0, knew they needed to deliver with the ball and they enjoyed some early success when Alex Lees edged Lungi Ngidi to keeper Kyle Verreynne.

Anrich Nortje's pace was too much for Ollie Pope who was clean bowled by a delivery which nipped back off the seam.

Kagiso Rabada then claimed the prize scalp of Root, who was caught by Sarel Erwee at the fourth attempt after juggling the ball at first slip.

BRIEF SCORES: South Africa 151 all out in 53.2 overs (Rabada 36; J Anderson 3-32, S Broad 3-37) vs England 111/3 in 28 overs (Bairstow 38*)



England's James Anderson (right) celebrates after dismissing South Africa's Keshav Maharaj. AP

Boon and curse of being Qadir's son

Usman's father, the legendary Pakistani leg-spinner Qadir Khan, often said the 'system' wouldn't be kind to his sons

SRIRAM VEERA
AUGUST 25

WITH A kufi cap on his head, the salwar kameez fluttering in the wind, the young boy, a haafiz-Quran (one who could recite the Quran), would return from madrassa with a cricket ball. That's the first memory for Suleiman of his younger brother Usman bowling serious leg breaks. Their papa Abdul Qadir would eagerly await their arrival.

It was the late 90's, early 2000's. The papa of leg spin, Bau to Pakistani fans, wizard to the rest of the world, and perhaps best captured once by Michael Holding with a silent shrug of head to signify the mystery and respect his West Indies team had for the "true legend", would get down to teach his youngest son the art of leg spin.

"Even his action was worked on by papa," Suleiman says, describing how Qadir would stretch the limbs of the son, whir it into indecipherable arcs, pat him on the back to get the full body leaping into the pre-release position. Usman, 29, is now in Pakistan's Asia Cup squad.

It's the 80's. Bowlers are revered for what they did after release, but Abdul Qadir mesmerised even before the ball fled his hand. The whirling arms, the quixotic hops, the beard and moustache that kept shape-shifting over his career, the wavy hair - he had both the school kids and adults transfixed.

Perhaps, no other Pakistani bowler's action has been copied by as many Indians. A decade and half later, Mushtaq Ahmed would emerge with a successful resemblance. Now, at the Asia Cup, a mimic from Qadir's blood would be seen.

In some ways, Usman's story was foretold by his father who had warned that the system won't be kind on any of his sons' desire to take up cricket professionally. Usman is now 29, and disappointment seeps through Suleiman's voice when he mentions that his brother could have played 200 games by now.

"What are you looking for in a spinner? That he should spin the ball, right? Have deception to deceive the batsmen? Who spins the ball more than my Usman? Definitely not Shadab (Pakistan leg-spinner Shadab Khan), who I have nothing against even



(Left) Usman Qadir received the PCB Hall of Fame token on behalf of his father, Pakistan legend Abdul Qadir; (Top) Usman with his father and brother Suleiman (right). Twitter/Qadircricketer

though your readers would say it's my bias, but his numbers should have been my brother's." A sigh escapes. "Papa ney bola hi tha.. (Papa had foretold)".

"Usman is also a very emotional person. With happiness and anger as well!"

Has he shown that anger to you? "Maar khayega kya?!" (Does he want to get hit?!), "the elder brother laughs. "Very kind hearted bachcha (kid). If some friend says 'you are wearing a good watch yaar', he would take it off and give it to him. I have

seen him do it!" Suddenly, Suleiman pipes up. "I think the expectations from the world have become too much for us, sons. Expectations and comparisons shouldn't be done. Usman has faced that. Give him a series of matches, then you will understand his potential. You give him one match, the next chance comes after many games. How can he develop? Last game he played was 5 months back. This shouldn't be the way," Suleiman says.

"When Usman was playing well at the U-16 level, I remember one day papa's

Habib Bank colleagues had called him to say that they saw the Qadir of the '70's. He was so happy."

Legends love dad

Salman Butt is about to travel to Australia to face Shane Warne. He hit the terrace of Qadir's house to face the tiny boy Usman's leg-spin with a taped ball for days. "I remember Salman saying, just as he was about to travel, 'Yaar, I can't tell you how well prepared I feel. Your brother was too good. I now can hit Warne over midwicket if he bowls a leg break.' We laughed. Then, on the first ball he faced from Warne, a leg-break, Salman hit him to the midwicket boundary! Usman was very proud and happy!" Suleiman says.

Qadir's shadow keeps encroaching the chat. It's impossible to tear away from the legend. Suleiman talks about how papa would scold Usman if the lengths or lines went awry. "Off-stump, off-stump. Udhar daalna hai. Then the googlies become effective," a point that Usman has also shared before.

Qadir would talk about three frames of action that spinners have to master. Suleiman, who runs an academy and is a mentor for Naseem Shah, the pacer, and his own brother Usman, said his papa shared

with him the secret of his art. "Papa was something else. I was there when Shane Warne came to meet him. I remember Warne talking breathlessly how he idolised papa, how he has watched endless videos to pick up the nuances. Then they went too deep into the art, technically and tactically, for me to understand as a kid," Suleiman says.

The respect for Qadir and his art was universal. Recently when the West Indian great Viv Richards was in Pakistan, Suleiman got a chance to meet him.

"The respect the cricket greats have for papa was something else. Like Viv Richards, the only cricketer I have ever asked an autograph. When he was here for PSL, I was a bit shy but the umpire told Richards. And when he learnt I was Abdul Qadir's son, he took me aside to a nice place, and said, 'take as many photos as you want. You are the great Qadir's son.'"

There is also a Qadir tale about the Indian great Anil Kumble. "Think it was [Mohammad] Azharuddin bhai but I seem

to remember Sachin [Tendulkar] Sir was also there, telling papa that Kumble sir wants to have a chat with him. You know what, even before Kumble could say anything, papa told him, "I know what you want to ask. Can I tell you?" And said, "You want to ask me whether you can spin the ball with your style, right?" Then they went into a huddle for a long time."

If Qadir could spend so much time with outsiders, how much he would have sweated on Usman. "I could see papa was very proud and happy with the way Usman learnt. Those three motions you asked about, Usman instinctively understood it, papa would say."

With the ball, Suleiman says, even if "Usman can do 20 percent of what papa did, it would be a great achievement".

"And unlike even papa, Usman can really bat well. He can hit the ball long and hard. Bahut lambi maarta hai. Unfortunately, he hasn't got many chances for him to get out of the pressure of trying to hold a spot and show what he can do with the bat." Five months ago, the Australians caught a glimpse when Usman whacked the pacers around. "That was just one six, na," the elder brother snorts. "He can hit so many more. Potential hai."

Carrying on the legacy

The elder brother's mind springs back to the past. He cues up a scene from when Usman was three years old. "My friend was leaving the house after playing cricket when suddenly Usman started to go 'ba ba ba!'. He was signalling me towards my friend's shirt. Repeatedly. I ask my friend, 'kya chakkar hai? And then I saw that he had the ball inside his shirt! The love for the ball has been from that age! ... All our talks in our home in Papa's time revolved around cricket. Usman must have learned so much just by listening."

Was there a wicket or a Usman performance that made the elder brother really happy? "To be frank, more than a wicket or a shot, what gives me the greatest pleasure is when I hear commentators say, 'son of the great Abdul Qadir'."

"That makes me really happy. I want to hear more from international commentators now.

At 29, a spinner's peak starts, they say. If Usman can carry forward papa's legacy, then there is nothing more that I or any of my family can ask for," Suleiman says. "My son is 6, and is bowling leg-spin. I hope he also carries forward papa's legacy. What else would we sons want?"



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