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GANESH CHATURTHI CELEBRATIONS TODAY

SC no to Ganesh puja at Bengaluru Idgah ground, HC allows it in Hubballi

Top court directs status quo be maintained on Bengaluru land; Karnataka HC says 'facts different' in Hubballi case

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G & JOHNSON TA
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU,
AUGUST 30

IN TWO separate courtroom battles Tuesday, the Supreme Court said no to Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations at the Idgah grounds in Bengaluru while the Dharwad bench of the Karnataka High Court late at night declined to stay an order of the Hubballi Mayor allowing the celebrations at the Idgah ground in Hubballi.

In the Supreme Court, a three-judge bench of Justices Indira Banerjee, Abhay S Oka and M M Sundresh, which heard the matter for nearly two hours, directed that status quo "as of today" be maintained regarding



Security personnel at the Idgah ground in Bengaluru on Tuesday. PTI

the land at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru and said the parties should go back to the Karnataka High Court to agitate their issues.

Hours later in Dharwad, the single-judge bench of Justice Ashok Kinagi ruled that there

How Karnataka govt pushed for widening use of ground in Bengaluru

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A TIMELINE of the dispute surrounding Bengaluru's Chamarajpet Idgah shows how the state government pushed for expansion of the use of the Idgah land — from challenging the Karnataka High Court's order restricting the use of Idgah to inviting and allowing applications to use the premises for Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, all in just five days.

On August 25, the single-judge bench of Justice Hemant

Chandangoudar of the Karnataka High Court, in an interim order, restricted the use of the Idgah premises. The bench allowed the state to celebrate Independence Day and Republic Day on the premises, Muslim parties to hold prayers on Eid and Bakrid, and as a public playground.

On August 26, the state government sought a stay of the order. It cited the possible use of the land for "emergency purposes" such as containing the Covid pandemic. "The State Government, during the period of Covid-2019, has

SC closes 11 pleas relating to Gujarat riots, says they are now infructuous

Notes end of trial in 8 of 9 cases, says complete Naroda Gam proceedings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AHMEDABAD,
AUGUST 30

THE SUPREME Court Tuesday disposed of a batch of 11 pleas seeking its intervention in the post-Godhra riots cases in Gujarat, noting that they had become infructuous in view of subsequent developments in the matter. These pleas had been pending since 2002-2003.

A three-judge bench, headed by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, noted that the prayer in the main plea was to transfer the investigation to the CBI, which was denied by the High Court and that there was also a petition by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

The bench, also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat and J B Pardiwala, said that after considering these matters, the court had set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) which was entrusted with the task of investigating and prosecuting 9 major trials.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the SIT, pointed out that in 8 of these 9 cases, the trial has been con-

Babri: Contempt matter closed

THE SC closed contempt proceedings, arising out of the demolition of Babri Masjid in 1992, against the State of UP and others. The bench said the issue does not survive now and referred to the November 2019 verdict of a Constitution Bench. It said the matter ought to have come up for hearing earlier. REPORT, PAGE 7

cluded by trial courts.

Trial is pending only in the Naroda Gam case, and it is in the final stage of arguments, he said.

The bench noted that the counsel appearing for the petitioners/appellants "have also fairly accepted that the matters have now become infructuous" and that only in one matter where a prayer for restoration of protection to Mumbai-based activist Teesta Setalvad may perhaps require consideration.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



'GETTING CALLS FROM VERY UNEXPECTED QUARTERS'

GHULAM NABI AZAD
FORMER CONGRESS LEADER

Actor Kamaal Khan arrested for tweets in 2020 on film



Kamaal Khan at the Borivali Court in Mumbai. PTI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

ACTOR KAMAAL R Khan was arrested late on Monday night by the police in Mumbai's Malad for allegedly posting derogatory tweets in 2020 on the Hindi movie *Laxmi* starring Akshay Kumar.

Khan (52), whose real name is Mohammed Rashid Mohammed Iqbal Kamal, was detained at the Mumbai airport on his return from Dubai. He was later arrested and produced on Tuesday before a local court in Borivali, which remanded him in judicial custody for 14 days.

According to the police, a lookout circular was issued in the case against Khan on October 24, 2020, following the registration of an FIR at the Malad police station in the same month.

The arrest is based on a complaint filed by Rahul Kanal of the

INSIDE



ECONOMIST ABHIJIT SEN DIES AT 72

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KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

NO MORE proxies for women heading panchayats in Punjab.

That's the message from the state government after it was informed that male family members of several women sarpanches were attending official meetings on their behalf.

"I have been getting reports that most of the women sarpanches do not attend meetings that take place at the district headquarters. They do not even

Uniformity across all boards: Regulator for exam assessment

PARAKH to hold learning outcome tests, set standards for evaluation

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE UNION government plans to draw up a "benchmark framework" to assess students at the secondary and higher secondary level to bring about "uniformity" across state and central boards which currently follow different standards of evaluation, leading to wide disparities in scores.

Over the last few months, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has held a series of meetings with the representatives of state boards and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) to arrive at a common understanding to implement the plan, as part of which a new assessment regulator is being set up.

The proposed regulator, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for

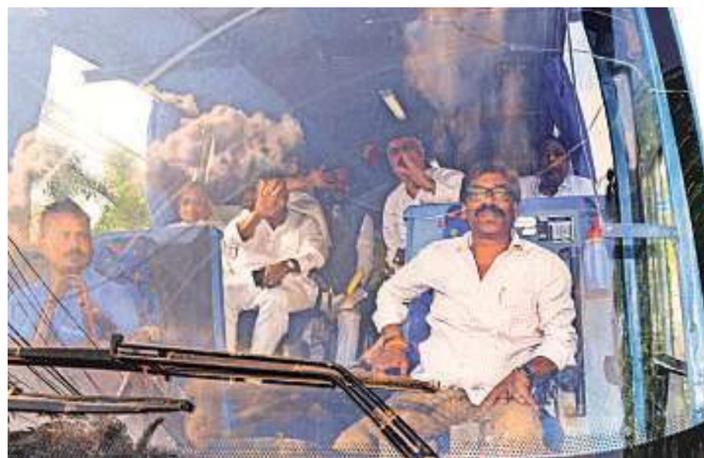
Holistic Development), which will act as a constituent unit of the NCERT, will also be tasked with holding periodic learning outcome tests like the National Achievement Survey (NAS) and State Achievement Surveys.

The benchmark assessment framework will seek to put an end to the emphasis on rote learning, as envisaged by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. PARAKH, the proposed implementing agency, is also part of the NEP proposal.

It is learnt that during the discussions, most states endorsed the NEP proposal to hold board exams twice a year, including one for helping students improve their scores. States are also on board regarding a proposal to offer two types of papers on mathematics — a standard exam, and another to test higher level competency.

"It will help reduce the fear of maths among students and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



SOREN SENDS MLAs TO RAIPUR

Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren with UPA MLAs in Ranchi on Tuesday. The MLAs were sent to Raipur, amid speculation of Soren's disqualification as an MLA. PTI REPORT, PAGE 6

EXPLAINED



NUCLEAR PLANT IN WAR ZONE PAGE 13

Punjab DGP: Accused in Moosewala murder detained in Azerbaijan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

A KEY accused in the murder of Punjabi singer Shubdeep Singh Sidhu Moosewala has been traced and detained in Azerbaijan, and efforts are being made to get him back to India, according to Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav. He identified the accused as Sachin Thapan alias Sachin Bishnoi.

Yadav said the police conducted "a scientific and systematic investigation to unravel the conspiracy in which Sachin Thapan figured".

ADGP Promod Ban, who also heads the state's Anti-Gangsters Task Force (AGTF), said Thapan was detained in Azerbaijan about a fortnight ago. He said Thapan had fled India on a fake passport and was found to have



Sidhu Moosewala was killed on May 29

first travelled to Dubai and onward to Azerbaijan.

"We are trying to get him deported as he used a fake passport. Simultaneously, we have also initiated extradition proceedings by taking up the matter with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs since he is wanted in a criminal case in Punjab," Ban said.

DGP Yadav said Thapan was in touch with the Canada-based "mastermind" in the case, Goldy Brar, and other associates in the state. Yadav said Thapan was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Hazare calls Kejriwal power drunk; he says Anna is being used

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS & AJAY KHAPE
PUNE, AUGUST 30

IN A letter to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, social activist Anna Hazare has criticised the AAP government's excise policy which was withdrawn recently. Accusing Kejriwal of "forgetting his own ideals" and being "drunk on power", Hazare said the new policy would encourage liquor sale and consumption, and increase corruption.

Responding to the letter, Kejriwal said others "were firing from Anna Hazare's shoulders". "Whenever they say something and the people don't listen to them, they bring someone forward. During the Punjab elections, they said Kejriwal is a terrorist. When people started laughing at them, they brought Kumar Vishwas forward and made him say it. Now they are saying there is a scam in the excise policy, the CBI has not found anything and has given an informal clean chit. The people are not listening to them, so they are



In letter to Kejriwal, Hazare slams Delhi excise policy. File

CITY

SISODIA LOCKER SEARCHED, HE SAYS NOTHING FOUND
PAGE 3

now firing from Anna Hazare's shoulder. This is politics," Kejriwal said, targeting the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Kejriwal, along with Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and former AAP members Yogendra Yadav, Prashant Bhushan and Kumar Vishwas, was part of the India Against Corruption (IAC)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Punjab bans sarpanch proxies: 'Male kin of women can't attend meetings'

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

NO MORE proxies for women heading panchayats in Punjab.

That's the message from the state government after it was informed that male family members of several women sarpanches were attending official meetings on their behalf.

"I have been getting reports that most of the women sarpanches do not attend meetings that take place at the district headquarters. They do not even

attend meetings at the block and village level. What is the purpose of reservation for women if this happens?" Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal told *The Indian Express*.

The AAP government has now directed Deputy Commissioners and other district officials to ensure that women sarpanches attend all official meetings personally. "Not just meetings, their male relatives also handle the work in villages. I have directed the officers today to ensure that the practice is stopped," Dhaliwal said.

According to the Minister, he had asked officials to ensure the presence of women sarpanches

at meetings earlier, too. "Now, I am passing written instructions. They have to ensure that male representatives are not even allowed inside meeting venues. This is the only way to ensure that elected representatives are empowered," he said.

The previous Congress government in Punjab had implemented 50 per cent reservation for women in Panchayati Raj institutions. When contacted, Congress leader and former Rural Development and Panchayats Minister Tripti Rajinder Singh Bajwa said, "We can keep enhancing reservations. But the situation does not change on the ground. More than 80 per cent of women



Welcome move, says Pallavi Thakur, sarpanch of Hara village in Pathankot. Thakur is seen with villagers. Express

sarpanches are proxy sarpanches even today."

There are a total of 13,276 panchayats in Punjab. And while the latest order has been endorsed by several women sarpanches *The Indian Express* spoke to, there were voices of dissent from the male family members of some others.

Seshandeep Kaur (26), the sarpanch of Manak Khana village in Bathinda, welcomed the government move. "The government will have to take such measures if it wants reservation for women to actually empower them. During training sessions, I have come across many women who did not want to be at the forefront. There were others

who were driven by male relatives. If they have to leave the work to their men, they should leave the seat for other deserving women," she said.

"In my block, 42 of 80 sarpanches are women...only 5-6 are actually sarpanches. The rest are all dummies," said Pallavi Thakur from Hara village in Pathankot, who had become the youngest sarpanch in the state at the age of 21 in the panchayat polls of December 2018. "I have argued with their husbands to allow them to work but they say their wives cannot travel," she said.

However, Harjinder Singh, whose wife Rachpal Kaur is the sarpanch of Chhanna village in

Malerkotla, said, "If they won't allow me, we will not attend any meeting. How do you expect a woman to travel around and attend meetings every day?"

The problem is not unique to Punjab.

Earlier this month, the Panchayat Raj department of Madhya Pradesh had issued an order directing district collectors to take action against officers who administered the oath of office to unelected people.

The order was issued after it came to light that husbands, brothers-in-law and fathers-in-law of elected women representatives were administered the official oath in at least three panchayats.

FROM PAGE ONE

Ganesh puja

was no title dispute over the Idgah maids in Hubballi unlike the Idgah maids in Bengaluru. The bench ruled that "facts are different" and in this case the Anjuman-i-Islam is not entitled to a benefit as passed by the Supreme Court in the Bengaluru matter.

The High Court observed that the Idgah maids in Hubballi belong to the Hubballi Dharwad Municipal Corporation and that the land has been leased for 999 years to the Anjuman-i-Islam. It said the HDMC, however, still has rights over the use of the land.

The Anjuman-i-Islam approached the HC bench following the SC order for a status quo in the Bengaluru Idgah maids case even as the Karnataka government sought to allow Ganesh festivities on the ground on August 31.

The Supreme Court, in its order in the Bengaluru matter, said, "The writ petition is pending before the Single Bench of High Court and has been fixed for hearing on 23.09.2022. All questions/issues may be agitated in the High Court. In the meanwhile, status quo, as of date, with regard to the land in question shall be maintained by both the parties."

"Why not have status quo? Hold puja somewhere else. Go back to HC," Justice Banerjee said after hearing the appellants, who challenged the Karnataka HC order allowing the state to take suitable decisions on petitions seeking permission to hold Ganesh puja on the ground, as well as the state.

Earlier in the day, the matter was heard by a bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia who referred it to a three-judge bench as the two judges could not concur. "There is a slight difference of opinion, we refer it to a three-judge bench," the two judges said while referring the matter.

During the hearing before the two-judge bench, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who represented the state government,

said the state had given permission to use the ground for Ganesh Utsav celebrations "temporarily" for August 31 and September 1. The state government also undertook to ensure that it would not result in any law and order problem.

Citing this, Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal and Dushyant Dave, representing the appellants, immediately took this up with Chief Justice of India U U Lalit and urged him to constitute a three-judge bench Tuesday itself.

To a specific query from the bench, Sibal responded that no such festival was allowed on the land for the past 200 years. He said the balance of convenience is in his favour as for 200 years they never held anything there. He said that a 1964 Supreme Court ruling was also in favour of the appellants.

He said records as far back as 1871 point to a graveyard on the ground and that in June 1965, the Mysore Waqf Board declared it to be Waqf property.

Sibal said the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) never challenged this position but later filed a suit for permanent injunction saying the land was mentioned in revenue records as government property.

He contended that the developments "reek of something".

Dave said the Waqf Act of 1995 overrides every other law and the state is denied of any authority to deal with waqf properties. If there is any property lying under any state agency, they are under obligation to give it to the board or mutawalli within six months of order of the tribunal, he said, adding it is completely outside the state's jurisdiction to touch these properties.

He said the Constitution "expressly gives minorities the right to administer their properties" and said "don't give this impression to the minorities that their rights can be trampled upon".

"I wonder if in any temple in the country, members of the minority community will be allowed to enter and offer prayers," he said, adding that the Places of Worship Act, 1991, bars the con-

version of religious character of a place of worship.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the state, responded that it was not a mosque but a piece of land.

To a query from the bench why should celebrations be allowed now when it is admitted that no such festivities were allowed there in the last 200 years, Rohatgi said that was not reason enough to say nothing should be held in the future.

He said the Waqf Board never had the title to the land. "For last 200 years, this land is used as a playground by children and all revenue entries are in favour of the state," he said, adding the Muslim parties were only given congregational rights to pray there two days in a year.

Karnataka govt

not only utilised various government and private hospitals but has also utilised various public land for establishing primary health centres, quarantine centres, step-down hospitals, etc. The interim order now completely bars the State Government to utilise the said area of 2 Acres 5 Guntas for any emergency purposes," the state's petition challenging the order stated.

The government also told the High Court that the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru had received five applications for using the ground on August 31 "for the purpose of holding religious and cultural activities" - as reported by The Indian Express Tuesday.

The case was listed on August 26 before a bench of Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice S Vishwajith Shetty which heard the appeal and modified the order the same day. The division bench allowed the use of the Idgah for "religious and cultural" purposes August 31 onward.

"The Indian society comprises religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. The Constitution of India itself fosters brotherhood amongst various sections of society. The principle of religious toleration is characteristic of Indian civilisation," the modified order stated. It also allowed the state to take a call on the applications seeking permission for use of the land.

On August 28, Karnataka Revenue Minister R Ashok spoke to the locals during a visit to the Idgah. The Idgah, in its petition before the Supreme Court, attached media reports of his statement that the state government had invited applications from the public for use of the Idgah and had received several applications to hold Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

During arguments before the two-judge bench of the Supreme Court Tuesday, lawyers appearing for the Karnataka government also said that the state had taken a call to allow Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations.

Gujarat riots

"Since all the matters have now become infructuous, this court is of the view that it need not entertain these petitions any longer. Disposed of as having become infructuous," the bench ordered.

It directed that trial in the Naroda Gam case be taken to completion in accordance with law and that the SIT may take appropriate steps for this.

Regarding the prayer for restoration of protection to Setalvad, the bench said that she is at liberty to make an appropri-

ate prayer to the authority concerned and that if such an application is received, the authority will deal with it in accordance with law.

The nine cases with the SIT were:

Sabarmati Express

101 were accused of setting the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express on fire near the Godhra railway station on February 27, 2002, which led to the death of 59 passengers, mostly kar sevaks, who were returning from Ayodhya. In March 2011, a sessions court in Panchmahals had sentenced 11 people to death and 23 others to life imprisonment. The Gujarat HC, while hearing the appeals, commuted the death sentences to life imprisonment, upheld the life sentence for the rest and confirmed the acquittal of 63 others.

Gulberg Society

Around 69 people were killed in the attack on the housing complex in Ahmedabad's Meghanagar area on February 28, 2002, including former Congress MP Ahsan Jafri. Of the 72 accused, including four juveniles tried separately, six died while the trial was on, 38 were acquitted and 24 sentenced in June 2016, including 11 who were handed life imprisonment. Four other accused remain absconding. All the 11 lifers are out on bail.

Naroda Patiya

96 people were killed by a riotous mob on February 28, 2002. In August 2012, a special court held 32 people guilty including former BJP minister Maya Kodnani - 31 were sentenced to life imprisonment. The Gujarat HC subsequently acquitted Kodnani. Two of those convicted died after the trial and the Gujarat HC upheld the conviction of 16.

Sardarpura

33 people were burnt alive on the night of March 1, 2002 at Sardarpura village in Mehsana, including 13 of one family. In 2011, a trial court sentenced 31 to life, while acquitting 42 others. The Gujarat HC upheld life terms for 17 while acquitting 14 others.

Dipda Darwaja

11 persons were killed in the massacre in Visnagar town of Mehsana on February 28, 2002, with the trial court convicting 22 in 2012 - 21 were sentenced to life, 61 others were acquitted.

2 incidents in Ode

In Ode town of Anand district, 24 people were charred to death at Pirawali Bhagol locality on March 1, 2002. A special trial court convicted 23 of the 46 accused in the case. All of them were sentenced to life imprisonment. The remaining 23 were acquitted by the court.

In the second incident, three persons were burnt to death by a violent mob near Malav Bhagol area on March 1, 2002. Of the 41 accused, 31 were acquitted while the remaining 10 were convicted by the trial court. Nine of the convicts were sentenced to life imprisonment while one was handed a prison term for 6 months.

Prantij

Four persons were killed on February 28, 2002, three of them British nationals, on the highway near Prantij town of Sabarkantha. All six accused in the case were acquitted by a trial court in 2015



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EXPRESS AUDIO

Noida Twin Towers demolition, 6 airbag rule, and India's first Judo title

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How authorities managed to demolish the Noida Twin Towers, why car manufacturers are pushing back on the 6 airbags rule, and India winning its first world Judo title

as the prime witnesses turned hostile.

Naroda Gam

A total of 86 people are accused, including former BJP minister Maya Kodnani along with Babu Bajrang and VHP leader Jaideep Patel, in the case related to the killing of 11 people in Naroda Gam. Of the 86 accused, 17 are dead. The trial is currently in the stage of the defence making its final arguments. 182 prosecution witnesses have been examined.

Exam regulator

encourage learning. We also used the meetings as a sounding board on the NEP proposals to have two sets of question papers for most subjects - one with MCQs (multiple choice questions), and the other descriptive. The response was encouraging," said a Ministry of Education official.

Earlier this month, the Centre invited bids to establish PARAKH, which it said, will be "setting norms, standards and guidelines for student assessment and evaluation for all recognised school boards of India, encouraging and helping school boards to shift their assessment patterns towards meeting the skill requirements of the 21st century".

The ministry official said PARAKH will help tackle the problem of students of some state boards being at a disadvantage during college admissions as compared to their peers in CBSE schools. It will develop and implement "technical standards for the design, conduct, analysis and reporting" of tests at all levels of school education.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) floated by the Centre also spells out that PARAKH will undertake the sample-based NAS, guide the State Achievement Surveys and monitor achievement of learning outcomes in the country. If the plans are on track, the NAS in 2024 will be conducted by PARAKH.

"Its (PARAKH) team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally. PARAKH will eventually become the national single-window source for all assessment related information and expertise, with a mandate to support learning assessment in all forms, both nationally and where applicable, internationally," states the EOI.

Kamaal Khan

Shiv Sena's youth wing in October 2020. Khan has been booked under IPC sections 500 and 501 (defamation), 505 (public mis-

chief), 294 (obscenity in public) and 153A (promoting enmity between two groups) - and under section 67A (transmitting obscene content in electronic form) of the IT Act.

Kanal, the complainant, said, "Kamaal Khan makes derogatory comments on social media and uses foul language. Such kind of behaviour is unacceptable in society. By arresting him, the Mumbai police have sent out a strong message against such people, and no one will repeat this in future with any citizen."

Khan's lawyer Ashok Saraogi said the court "denied the Malad police's plea for police custody". "My client's bail plea will be heard on September 2. Everyone has the right to express their views," he said.

Police sources said Khan owns a house in Dubai, and left India for the UAE in March 2020 for work. Other than earning revenue from social media, he is also engaged in a business related to garments and other work linked to the film industry, such as providing equipment for shoots.

Sources said Khan returned to Mumbai for work commitments and undergoing treatment for a heart ailment. On Tuesday, after being sent to judicial custody, he complained of illness and was taken to the Shatabdi hospital. He was later taken to the Malad police station.

Khan has acted in a few films, including the lead role in "Deshdrohi", which was released in 2008 and went on to flop at the box office. He has also participated in the reality TV show Bigg Boss. He is now a self-styled film critic with 5.1 million followers on Twitter and 1 million on YouTube.

Kanal had lodged another complaint against Khan for his social media posts following which a separate FIR was registered at the Bandra police station in May 2020. The complaint stated that Khan had allegedly posted derogatory comments on the late actor Rishi Kapoor, who was undergoing treatment at the time. Similarly, the complaint stated, Khan had allegedly posted abusive tweets against the late actor Irrfan Khan while he was in the hospital.

Apart from the two police cases, a defamation case was filed against Kamaal Khan by actor Salman Khan and a restraining order was passed against him by a local court asking him not to publish any derogatory comment against the Bollywood star.

Khan has also posted tweets targeting producer Karan Johar, and actors Anoushka Sharma and Alia Bhatt, among others. Recently, he had posted numer-

ous tweets on the ongoing cricket Asia Cup in the UAE, including one mocking ex-cricketer and commentator Sanjay Manjrekar for praising BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

Twitter user

were hurt after he saw the tweet," said a police source, adding that he does not appear to be affiliated to any political party.

Police sources said he shifted to Dwarka a few years ago and lives with his family. "He had deleted his discount on June 29 but it was back up by June 30 evening," said the source.

During Zubair's remand hearing in a Delhi court on June 28, Zubair's lawyer Vrinda Grover had opposed the police application, arguing that the Twitter account in question was an anonymous handle made to create mischief. She had argued that the account was made to target her client and that the user had to be investigated by the police.

Rebutting this argument, the Additional Public Prosecutor had submitted that this was "not an anonymous Twitter handle". "He is just a mere informer. He is not an anonymous complainant. His details are here. Without details, no one can get a Twitter account," the prosecutor had argued.

Later, a notice under Section 91 of CrPc was sent to Twitter India on June 29 in which the investigation officer informed the social media platform about the case. "We asked them to provide IP log details of the Twitter handle @balajikjain, registration details of the account, mobile number, connected email ID, and device used by the user," a police source said.

On July 20, Zubair was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court, which also disbanded the Special Investigation Team formed by UP to probe six separate cases against him, and underlined that there was no justification to keep him in continued custody.

Anna Hazare

movement with Anna Hazare in 2011. When the decision to form a party was made, Hazare was not on board.

In his letter, which was released to the press on Tuesday, Hazare referred to 'Swaraj', a book written by actor Salman Khan and a restraining order was passed against him by a local court asking him not to publish any derogatory comment against the Bollywood star.

"It seems to me that the

new policy will lead to increased consumption of liquor and rise in alcoholism, and liquor vends will come up in every lane. This will lead to an increase in corruption," said Hazare. "Like addiction of liquor, there is an addiction of power and it seems that you are drunk on it," he said. "AAP had talked about adopting the political path. But you forgot that forming a political party was not the aim of our movement," he said.

Citing the complete liquor ban in his village of Ralegan Siddhi in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district, Hazare said he had expected Kejriwal to implement a similar policy in the national capital as well. "But you didn't do that. People often get trapped in this vicious cycle of money to power, and power to money," he said.

Hazare's letter comes at a time when the CBI is probing alleged irregularities in the excise policy.

In the past, Hazare has often objected to the open sale of liquor. Earlier, he had opposed a decision by the then Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government in Maharashtra, which would have allowed retailing of wine in some supermarkets in the state. The BJP had supported Hazare. Faced with the threat of an agitation, the state government had rolled back the decision.

- WITH ENNS INPUTS, NEW DELHI

Moosewala case

traced with the "help of the Government of India". "We are committed to deliver justice in the Sidhu Moosewala case," he said.

Moosewala was shot dead near his house in Mansa district on May 29 by a group of assailants who waylaid his vehicle.

Later, Thapan had claimed to be one of the shooters involved and killed the popular singer with his "own hands" as part of an alleged inter-gang rivalry. He claimed that the killing was in response to the murder of Akali Dal youth leader Vicky Middukhara.

Days after Moosewala was gunned down, the Delhi Police Special Cell took remand of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and later made other arrests.

As many as 20 accused have been arrested in the case so far, while two others were killed in a police encounter in Amritsar. The Punjab Police have so far named 36 persons as accused in the case and filed a chargesheet against 24 of them.

Maharashtra: Metro line 3 trial run begins at Aarey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

THE TRIAL run of Mumbai's first underground Metro line 3 - also known as the Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ corridor - which has been under construction since 2016, was flagged off by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CM Samruddhi Mahamarg (Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway) between Shirdi and Nagpur will be inaugurated soon.

The trial run of the first prototype train was held inside a 3-km tunnel between Sariput Nagar and Marol Naka station.

Speaking at the event, Shinde said the government has at-

tempted to complete the much-delayed project by removing all obstacles. Listing various benefits of the project, like reducing the burden on suburban locals, cars on roads and bring down pollution, he said the Metro project has stopped "political pollution" as well.

He also announced that the first phase of Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi Mahamarg (Mumbai-Nagpur Expressway) between Shirdi and Nagpur will be inaugurated soon.

The trial run marks an important development in the realisation of the Metro track shrouded in controversy over the construction of its car shed.

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SLAUGHTERHOUSE CLOSURE FOR JAIN FEST 'Restrain yourself one or two days from eating...': Gujarat HC to petitioner

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 30

IN A petition challenging a decision by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to keep the civic body's sole slaughterhouse in the city closed during the Jain period of penance - 'Paryushan', the Gujarat High Court remarked to the petitioner, "...restrain yourself one or two days from eating..."

The petition by Kul Hind Jamiat-Al Quresh Action Committee Gujarat, represented by Danish Qureshi Razawala and another person, challenged an AMC standing committee resolution dated August 18 giving approval to keep the slaughterhouse closed during Paryushan between August 24 and 31, and associated festivities on September 5 and 9. The petition was filed on August 29 and was taken up before the court of Justice Sandeep Bhatt on Tuesday.

On the judge's remark, the

petitioner appearing as party-in-person, submitted, "...it is not about restraining, it's about fundamental rights and we cannot imagine our country with even one minute of restraining our fundamental rights".

The petitioner argued that the operation of slaughterhouses "will have no effect on any of the persons" and as per National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) guidelines, one must consume protein-rich foods. The petitioner further submitted that in December 2021, the HC in an oral remark, reminded the AMC to not control food habits of the people.

Coming down heavily on civic bodies in Gujarat that had ordered the removal of hand-carts selling non-vegetarian food items on streets, the HC had asked what problem the state government had with what people ate. The court ultimately disposed of the petition after the state denied there being any specific drive to remove the non-vegetarian handcarts.

1992-93 MUMBAI RIOTS Were legal heirs of 168 missing persons paid aid, SC asks Maharashtra govt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE SUPREME COURT on Tuesday asked the Maharashtra government whether compensation has been paid to the legal heirs of 168 people, who were stated to have gone missing during the 1992-93 communal riots in Mumbai.

The court also asked the state government whether these 168 people were among the around 900 identified victims of the riots.

A bench headed by Justice SK Kaul said it requires information on whether any compensation was paid for the loss of property, when was it paid and the time lag between the date of incident and payment of compensation.

"We would require information on: (a) Whether the figure of 168 persons, who are stated to be missing, was a part of the 900 number of victims identified. (b) Whether any compensation has been paid to the legal heirs of the persons who have been found

missing," said the bench, also comprising Justices A S Oka and Vikram Nath.

The top court, which reserved its verdict on a plea raising issues, including that of payment of compensation to the victims of the 1992-93 riots, asked the state government to file within two weeks an affidavit giving details of the information sought by the bench.

The bench told the counsel appearing for the state that broadly, three issues have been raised by the petitioner's advocate.

It said one of the issues argued before it is that the legal service authority or the legal service system must come to the aid of people who have borne the brunt of social incidents which are criminal in nature.

The court said the other two issues raised before it are - there must be adequate compensation taking into context the time period and in the matters where police officers are involved, every endeavour should be made to have an independent investigation.

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VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
30,305

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: **248**
OXYGEN SUPPORT **64**
VENTILATOR SUPPORT **15**

DELHI TOTAL
CASES
19,99,240

Total
HOSPITAL BEDS **9,405**
ICU BEDS **2,145**
Vacant
9,144
2,043

Aug 29 214 556 4 5,683
Aug 30 382 410 5 13,382
Total 2,226* 19,70,547 26,467 3,99,32,743
*Total active cases in Delhi

NOIDA		
	Aug 29	Aug 30
Cases	46	44
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	115	117
Deaths	0	0

Guard slapped at Gurgaon society speaks: 'Hum gareeb hain toh hamari izzat nahi hai?'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA
GURGAON, AUGUST 30

"HUM GAREEB hain to hamari koi izzat nahi hai kya? Naukri sirf pet paalne ke liye nahi, izzat ke liye bhi karte hain. (Don't we have respect just because we're poor? I work not just to feed my family, but also for respect)," Ashok Kumar, the security guard repeatedly slapped at a Gurgaon residential society, told *The Indian Express* Tuesday.

Kumar (48), who works at The Close North Society in sector 50, was allegedly assaulted by a resident of the society after the latter got stuck in the society's lift on Monday morning. The incident was captured on CCTV.

Police had on Monday booked the accused, Varun Nath, under sections 323 and 506 of IPC. He was arrested and later released on bail. According to police, he has a transport business and is a resident in the society.

"I was just doing my job and tried to help. The machine (lift) can stop anytime. A technical glitch happens many times. That does not mean one can assault



Guard Ashok Kumar (48); CCTV footage of the incident



the security staff. What was my fault? *Gareeb aadmi ameer se nahi lad sakta* (A poor man can't fight the rich). Similar incidents have been happening in Noida and Agra. These people treat us like we are nothing; they put us down because of their money and status," he said.

Kumar, who hails from Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh, said he has been working as a security guard at societies in Gurgaon for over eight years, and while minor disagreements are not uncommon, this is the first time someone had raised a hand at him while on duty. "Often people pass comments and threaten to file a

complaint about guards not doing their job properly. But no one has slapped me before this. For three years, I have been stationed in the lobby of the same tower. I respect people and expect to be respected," he said.

For a night shift lasting 12 hours, Kumar gets Rs 15,000-16,000 a month, he said. He sends a part to his wife and three children, who are in UP. His family owns 1.2 acre farm land.

Recounting the incident, Kumar said he was in the lobby of tower 12 and his shift was about to end around 7:20 am when he got a call on the intercom. "A resident said he was stuck in the lift

on the ground floor. The lift door was not opening due to a technical fault. I assured him on the intercom that I am calling the lift operator for help. Within four minutes, the lift operator arrived and opened the door," he said.

"As the *sahab* (resident) came out, he started hurling abuses at me. He snapped and started slapping me. I don't know if he blamed me or what came over him. I kept pleading with him and asked him why he was beating me when I was not at fault, but he continued to slap me. He then slapped the lift operator and threatened us," he said.

"I was too shocked to react. In

our training, we are told to just listen to the *maalik* (residents)... even when they are abusing. I cannot imagine reacting in the same way... *naukri ka sawal hai* (It's a question of my job)," he said.

Kumar said that a few minutes after the incident, the resident tapped on his shoulder and apologised. "Later some people told me to withdraw the police complaint and even offered money. But I will not do so. Appropriate action should be taken. I want justice... I have been humiliated. Everyone has seen the CCTV video. I am getting calls from my village. I have been beaten up; will I get my respect back?," he said.

Kamal Singh, the lift operator, told *The Indian Express*, "I got a call that there had been a technical fault in the lift and was asked to report immediately to fix the issue. In a span of 3 minutes, I reached there and opened the door. The person who alighted from the lift started abusing and he beat up the security guard. When I objected to it, he slapped me once. I told him to back off and he did. I don't know why he was so enraged."

Shah pays visit to Delhi Police HQ

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

AFTER HOME Minister Amit Shah's visit to the Delhi Police Headquarters Tuesday afternoon, the Delhi Police has made it mandatory to conduct a forensic examination in all crimes involving punishment of more than six years, said officials.

The Delhi Police released a statement that the forensic examination will help to take the conviction rate higher and integrate the criminal justice system with forensic science investigation.

"The Delhi Police has already integrated the criminal justice system with forensic science investigation and has collaborated with National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), Gandhinagar to train and guide investigating officers to make watertight cases against accused," said police.

Hours after the home minister left the Police HQ, a standing order was released by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora about the forensic examination. The order states that each district in Delhi will have a forensic mobile van to assist investigating officers at crime spots.

The Ministry of Home Affairs said Shah also emphasised the importance of surveillance in preventing crimes and directed that the CCTVs at airports, railway stations, bus stands, markets, and RWAs, be integrated with the control room.

The security arrangements for the G-20 Summit were also discussed.

He further directed officers to create a safer environment for women, children and senior citizens.

Shah congratulated the police personnel and their families who recently won medals at the Commonwealth Games, World Police Fire Games, and other sporting events.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah holds a meeting with senior police officers at Delhi Police Headquarters, Tuesday

Fan falls on two girls at Delhi govt school

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

TWO GIRLS, aged 14 and 15, studying in a government school in Outer District were injured Saturday morning after a ceiling fan in their classroom fell on them, police said.

The students of the GGSS School in Nangloi were rushed to Sonia Hospital where they are undergoing treatment, police said.

The Delhi government said in a statement, "We have taken cognizance of the matter. This is a lapse at the hands of the school authorities, and appropriate action has been taken, including the termination of the estate manager. Legal proceedings have also been initiated for negligence.

The administration of every school was asked to report any maintenance-related issues in the recent past so we could get them fixed. We have issued the same direction again. We are in touch with the child's family, she is fine and medical help is being extended." The mother of the 14-year-old

said, "My daughter fell unconscious after a fan fell on her head. A guard took her to the hospital. She still has pain in the head."

The girl said, "I am feeling better now, the dizziness has gone. The doctor advised me not to talk too much or too loudly. The fan fell on me and the girl sitting next to me. She sustained a small injury." DCP (Outer) Sameer Sharma said case under IPC sections 287 and 337 had been registered.

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairman Priyanka Kanoongo tweeted, "The incident... is criminal negligence. Notice for action has been issued. In the past also, instructions were given to the Delhi government for safety audit of schools, which has not been done."

Director (education) Himanshu Gupta issued a circular, saying that fans and electric fittings in some schools have not been inspected for a while, and this might result in short circuits, fires and fans falling. An order was issued for those in charge of buildings older than 10 years.

HC asks for number of spas in the capital

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Tuesday directed Delhi government and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to file a response to its order seeking data on the total number of spas operating in Delhi and the number of licences issued by them.

During the hearing of a case challenging the Delhi government's guidelines banning cross-gender massages in Delhi, the single bench of Justice Yashwant Varma was informed that the order seeking a detailed disclosure regarding operation of spas has not been complied with yet.

Earlier, the court also had asked the MCD to disclose steps taken by them for ascertaining whether the establishments were found conducting their businesses in accordance with the law, and that no impermissible activities were being undertaken on their premises.

Ordering the Delhi government and MCD to file responses on the issues flagged in an order dated April 5, the court listed the matter for hearing on November 21. **ENS**

'Was just standing there' HC grants bail Jahangirpuri riots accused

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

GRANTING BAIL to an accused in the Jahangirpuri violence case, the Delhi High Court Tuesday said though the police has called him a leader of the mob, the CCTV footage shows he was standing there and not instigating the crowd.

In April, communal clashes broke out in Jahangirpuri during a Hanuman Jayanti procession.

"On further query, the learned APP on instructions submits one of the witness namely ASO Joginder has deposed he (accused) was allegedly leading the crowd. Though the State has taken various dates to bring on record various other CCTV footages to show this fact, they have not placed the same on record as yet," said Justice Yogesh Khanna in the order.

The court said accused Babuddin has been in custody since April 27, and he is no longer required for further investigation as a chargesheet has already been filed against him.

"He is admitted to bail on his executing a personal bond of Rs 20,000 with one surety of the like amount," the court said.

The trial court on May 25 denied bail to accused Babuddin, saying that he has been identified based on the CCTV footage and material investigation is still underway. In the bail application argued by advocate K C Mittal, it was submitted that Babuddin remained around his shop and home at the time of the incident: "Neither the shop/house of the applicant nor the camera, on which footage the prosecution relied upon, falls in the path of the said procession. Therefore, the whole story with respect to the applicant of the prosecution is concocted and false."

'ATTEMPT TO DIVERT ATTENTION' Probe claims of bid to 'buy' AAP MLAs: BJP MPs write to L-G

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

ALL SEVEN Delhi BJP MPs have written a letter to L-GV Saxena, requesting an inquiry into allegations made by Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Manish Sisodia regarding purported attempts by the party "to buy" AAP MLAs.

The letter, which has all seven MPs as signatories, read, "You may be aware of the malicious, false, misleading, and diversionary statements issued in the public domain by Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, and other AAP leaders to the effect that their MLAs got calls from the BJP that they were offered huge amounts of cash to transfer their allegiance to BJP."

"Sisodia also went to the extent of saying that he personally received a call asking him to join

the BJP in lieu of dropping criminal proceedings against him for charges of corruption," read the letter signed by North East Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari, New Delhi MP Meenakshi Lekhi, North West Delhi MP Hans Raj Hans, West Delhi MP Parvesh Verma, South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri, East Delhi's Gautam Gambhir and Chandni Chowk's Dr Harsh Vardhan. Since Gambhir and Vardhan are abroad, they did not sign but their formal consent was taken.

"This is an obvious attempt to divert the attention from their obvious involvement in the liquor and classroom scam among others. We, the MPs of BJP, are aggrieved at these grossly defamatory and unsubstantiated allegations. Accordingly, we request you to get a comprehensive inquiry conducted by a competent authority for the truth to come out for the people to see."

When contacted, Parvesh

Verma said the party only wants to make their work easier. "The L-G is the administrative head, so we want him to put pressure and ensure that the truth comes out. Police should ask who called them, what offer was made and the names should be made public," he said, adding, "Or Kejriwal should apologise for making false statements like he has done earlier against several leaders and later apologised." The AAP alleged on August 25 that 40 of its Delhi MLAs were targeted by BJP with an offer of Rs 20 crore each to switch sides. All AAP MLAs, led by Kejriwal, reached Raighat to "pray to Gandhi ji to save the country from BJP's Operation Lotus".

"Twelve AAP MLAs were contacted by BJP to switch sides. The MLAs, however, said they are with AAP. BJP was targeting 40 AAP MLAs with an offer of Rs 20 crore each," AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj had alleged.

Sisodia's locker searched, CM says CBI gave clean chit

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A TEAM of CBI officers opened Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's bank locker Tuesday, as part of the ongoing investigation into allegations of corruption in the implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22.

Sisodia's house was searched by CBI officials earlier this month.

The Deputy CM and his family used to live in Ghaziabad, Vasundhara before AAP came to power and the locker is in a bank in the NCR town. After the search, Sisodia, who was present at the bank, said the CBI did not find anything in the locker and he had been given a clean chit.

"I have been given a clean chit by the CBI, and PM Modi's CBI could not find anything at my house. It is the PM's clean chit to me... I welcomed CBI at my house and did not prevent them from checking whatever they wanted to. They asked me various questions," Sisodia said.

The Deputy CM said he has responded to every question posed by CBI, and BJP President J P Nadda should ask CBI about the answers he gave, instead of questioning his party.

Speaking in the Assembly, Sisodia also alleged that BJP is a "bacha chor" party while referring to the arrest of a BJP corporator in an alleged child kidnapping case.

"BJP has been asking us to respond to our questions and I am here for that... BJP has been doing "Khokha Khokha" so far but now it has started to steal children also. How can a "bacha chor" party point fingers at us," he said.

The Assembly session was adjourned for the day till 11 am Wednesday after Sisodia's speech. CM Arvind Kejriwal also stated that Sisodia had been given an informal "clean chit".

"When we are in public life,



Manish Sisodia at Delhi Assembly. Praveen Khanna

we must be ready for scrutiny. The CBI has completed its enquiry. They searched Sisodia's home for 14 hours; he was questioned for 6-7 hours. Satisfactory answers were given. They did not find anything. Today they searched his locker but did not find anything there either. They are under political pressure so we feel they will arrest him in a week or 10 days. But they have not found anything. They have said informally that they have not found anything. We said at the beginning that this is a politically motivated step," Kejriwal said.

Kejriwal was speaking after visiting the under-construction hospital in Sarita Vihar Tuesday. A 330-bed hospital will be ready at the site in another three months.

The AAP has been attacking L-G V K Saxena for the past two days, alleging his involvement in a scam to get demonetised currency notes worth Rs 1,400 crore exchanged during his term as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission chairman in 2016.

In the CBI case, two cashiers of Khadi Gram Bhavans were accused of exchanging currency notes worth Rs 22 lakh in Delhi.

According to officials, a chargesheet was filed on December 21, 2017. Charges have been framed, a trial is on. No role of any person other than the accused came out in the probe, officials said.

Stalin invites Kejriwal to Tamil Nadu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal will launch 26 schools of excellence and 15 model schools in Tamil Nadu along with his counterpart, M K Stalin, on September 5.

Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh met Kejriwal Tuesday at his residence and invited him to the launch of the DMK government's *Puthumai Penn Thittam* (innovative project for girls) and the inauguration of 26 schools of excellence and 15 model schools across the state.

The AAP supremo got the invitation days after he made a jibe at Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over which state's education system was better.

"I thank Thiru @mkstalin for inviting me to Tamil Nadu next week. I am elated to join the people of Tamil Nadu in their journey towards an education revolution. We will together be launching three crucial projects on September 5," tweeted Kejriwal.

Meanwhile, a release by the Delhi government said, "Tamil Nadu adopts Delhi Model of Education with open arms; CM Arvind Kejriwal to soon launch Schools of Excellence and Model Schools developed on the lines of Delhi in Tamil Nadu."

Under the *Puthumai Penn Thittam*, the Tamil Nadu government will pay Rs 1,000 per month to girl students as higher education aid, the AAP leader tweeted.

In April, Stalin visited Delhi government schools along with Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

GUITARS, PAAN & MOSQUITO NETS

After hours at the Assembly, an AAP-BJP protest

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE DELHI Assembly became the site of an overnight protest by the AAP and the BJP as both parties traded charges through the day - and decided to continue the face-off after hours.

Leaders of the Aam Aadmi Party were protesting against what they allege was "corruption" and "money laundering" by L-G Vinay Kumar Saxena during demonetisation. The party's MLAs have sought a CBI probe against Saxena, who has been at loggerheads with the Delhi government.

Gathered at the Mahatma

Gandhi statue a little before midnight, AAP MLAs including Atishi and Durgesh Pathak sang 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' as party leader Rohit Mehraulia strummed the guitar and Dilip Pandey played a drum.

"The face of the protest may change in the coming days but the protest will not stop until action and a CBI probe is started against the L-G... He has been accused and he himself headed and investigated the case. Such things don't happen anywhere, not even in Somalia, but it is happening here in India... They have levelled allegations against us - first liquor, now classrooms... They are asking



At the Delhi Assembly. Praveen Khanna

why have you constructed 8,000 classrooms, you should have constructed only 4,000... If constructing schools and classrooms are wrong, then arrest us now and put us behind bars, we are ready to go

to jail," Pathak told *The Indian Express*.

Atishi demanded that Saxena step down from his post.

At one point, AAP MLA Somnath Bharti got paan and

a carton of apples for those gathered, as many settled down for the night. Apart from mattresses, mosquito nets were set up in anticipation of a humid night.

Bharti also walked over to the protesting BJP MLAs and asked if they had water and fan arrangements. The BJP MLAs had gathered under the statue of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

The BJP has been on the offensive against the AAP on two fronts - the now-scrapped excise policy and an alleged scam in construction of classrooms. Deputy CM Manish Sisodia heads the excise and education portfolios.

BJP MLA OP Sharma, who

was also at the Assembly, told *The Indian Express*: "We will attend the session tomorrow straight from here at 11 am and they will marshal us out at 11:15 am." He called AAP leaders "deshdrohi and urban naxals" and said they did not want to engage in discussion despite having 62 of 70 MLAs.

His party colleague and Leader of Opposition in the House, Ramvir Bidhuri, said, "We are just 8, but brought the 62 down here at the Vidhan Sabha. When you have a world class policy, why can't you let us speak? Answer our query, discuss the matter, point out if we are wrong; why are you running away if you have a world-class policy?"

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L-G flags 'delay' in audit at govt varsities

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing tussle between the BJP and AAP, Lt Governor V K Saxena has opened a new front, flagging an alleged delay in audit of accounts of universities under the Delhi government.

He sought explanations from the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU)

within 15 days over "delaying Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit for five years along with details of officers responsible for this lapse".

Saxena is the chancellor of all state universities in Delhi. L-G house officials said, "Disposing of a file in his capacity as Chancellor for audit of accounts of DPSRU for five years between

2015-16 and 2020-21 by CAG, the L-G expressed serious concerns over undue delay in conduct of audit of the university." Officials said he has come across "serious and continuous procedural lapses" on part of state universities. The L-G office wrote to V-Cs to ensure that meetings of 'Court of University' are held at least twice a year. **ENS**

UNDER OLD EXCISE REGIME

300 booze shops to open by Sept 1, app to check location in the works

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE DELHI excise department is all set to re-launch the old excise regime from September 1, said officials, adding that the department is also going to roll out a public-friendly application, 'Aabkar', for the first time, for ease of doing business and for information about liquor shops.

A government official said, "This will be the excise department's first-of-its-kind app and is being launched along the lines of the Centre's Digital India initiative from September. The public can download the application from Google Play Store. The IOS



By the end of the first week, over 500 shops will become operational, officials said. *Archive*

version will also be available shortly." Through the app, consumers can identify the nearest liquor shops, availability of liquor,

dry days, list of retail vends and their timing. It will also have a bottle scanner tool to check the genuineness of liquor.

On bringing back the old excise regime, officials said the department is all set and the policy will come into effect from September 1. On the first day, more than 300 liquor vends will open across the city and by the end of the first week, more than 500 shops will become operational, including premium vends in malls and shopping complexes.

"About 250 Indian and 250 foreign liquor distributors have applied. Of these, more than 50 have been approved. Around 80 wholesalers/manufacturers have been approved and over 300 brands have been approved for selling liquor," the official added.

"The existing import pass fee, 1% VAT and 1% retail fee will go.

So, the MRP of liquor may slightly come down but it will not increase... The prices will be more or less the same as we have not allowed any supplier to increase prices of quarts... The registration of brands is also bound to increase," said the official.

"The current per day consumption of liquor on an average is 12-13 lakh bottles, so we have enough stocks for the first seven days... After that, stocks will keep coming. It will be assured that Delhi does not go dry under the old excise regime," said the official. The revenue department has collected Rs 135 crore even before the old policy came into effect and the opening of shops, said officials.

Police bust baby selling racket with arrest of doctor and Asha worker

JIGNASA SINHA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

TARGETING YOUNG women dealing with 'unwanted' pregnancies, a 40-year-old doctor and owner of a Delhi-based private hospital has been running a baby selling racket for years, said police Tuesday, adding that the accused would dissuade women from aborting and lure them into selling the child.

The Delhi Police busted the racket and arrested Dr Sanjay Malik who runs Sanjay Global Hospital in Jahangirpuri. The doctor, in connivance with Asha workers and auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM), was allegedly selling a 31-days-old baby when police caught him. Police said three women have also been arrested, including the mother of a newborn, who allegedly sold the baby for Rs 50,000 - Rs 60,000.

DCP (Rohini) Pranav Tayal and his team received a tip-off and sent a head constable (HC) to pose as a parent in need of a child.

"On Monday, a raiding team was sent to Rohini sector 3 where the head constable and informer met two women, aged 43 and 25, who said they will help him. They were then joined by the mother, who was carrying her girl. They negotiated a deal of Rs 1.1 lakh. After paying an initial amount of Rs 10,000, the deal was finalised. The accused had already sent the photo of the baby to the HC, who signalled to us and we caught all three women and rescued the baby," said DCP Tayal.

The mother revealed that she was unmarried and worked as a domestic worker. Her boyfriend left her after she got pregnant. She went to Dr Malik's hospital to get an abortion in her last trimester as she didn't want to reveal the pregnancy to her family. A source said, "The woman lives with her

parents, six sisters and a brother. She was worried that they will abandon her, so she went to the hospital to get an abortion. However, Dr Malik allegedly persuaded her to sell the baby. The doctor and his associates even let the woman stay with them for two months to hide the pregnancy from the family."

On July 27, the woman gave birth to a girl at the hospital. The women associates started looking for a family for her. "The women live in unauthorised colonies and target single women with unwanted pregnancies. The women and doctor lure women to sell the baby to families in need of a child," added the source.

DCP Tayal said this isn't the gang's first case as Dr Malik has confessed to selling 5-6 babies in and around Delhi. A team led by ACP Vipin Bhatia found the photos of newborn babies on Malik's phone and found the nexus is larger as the doctor works with

other Asha workers and ANMs to target more women. "The gang would search for women at nearby hospitals and pathology labs. One of the women has more contacts because she was working at a Jamia Nagar-based hospital for 5-6 years, and the other would help get customers in her area who are ready to pay for a child," added the DCP.

Police said Dr Malik is a history-sheeter and would forge birth documents to make the gang look 'legitimate'. In 2000, he was arrested for running a different hospital (with the same name) for conducting sex determination tests for couples.

Police said he was later released on bail but continued to do the same job. Police will write to the medical association and other authorities to look into the case. "He also has a case in Haryana's Ganaur. We are checking if he was involved in similar activities there," said an officer.

BRIEFLY

7 officials suspended by MCD

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has suspended seven officials from different departments of the civic body on grounds of dereliction of duties. Five of the officials suspended were working in Okhla and Ghazipur landfill sites, one was an upper division clerk while another was a lower division clerk. "These are all cases of dereliction of duties. The L-G has given standing instructions to ensure suspension in such cases," said a senior MCD official.

Two children drown in Yamuna

New Delhi: Two children drowned in the Yamuna in Northeast District, with their friend being rescued by police. Police said the incident occurred in low-lying pits near the Yamuna in New Usmanpura, after they had been turned into ponds by the overflowing river. Sanjay Sain, DCP (Northeast), said "Two boys were immediately taken out of water and shifted to JPC hospital, where a doctor declared them dead on arrival. Legal action has been initiated." **ENS**

186% rise in environment offences: NCRB data

New Delhi: Delhi recorded a 186 per cent rise in cases related to environment offences in 2021 as compared to the previous year, according to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data. A majority of these cases were registered under The Cigarette And Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003. In 2019, 14 cases were registered for environmental offences followed by 23 cases in 2020 and 66 cases in 2021, as per the data.

Idol immersion in Yamuna punishable, says DPCC

New Delhi: The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has asked district magistrates to ensure idols are not immersed in the Yamuna or any other water body in the national capital during this year's Ganeshotwa and Durga Puja. Violations are punishable with a fine of Rs 50,000 or a jail term of up to six years, it said in an order issued Monday. The DPCC has also asked urban local bodies to create artificial ponds in the proximity of residential areas for idol immersion. **PTI**

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी
अल्पकालीन पूर्णनिविदा संख्या- 01SBD/2022-23
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्धा निविदा
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

क्र.सं.	कार्यका नाम	प्रकल्पित राशि (लाख में)	अवधि की राशि (लाख में)	परिमाणु सिंचन का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में शुभवैय) (रु०)	वेददान को देय "बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी" (अप्रत्यक्षीय) (केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में शुभवैय) रु०	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि
1	पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमण्डल, सकरी के अंतर्गत सकरी शाखा नहर एवं उससे निरवृत्त वितरण प्रणालियों में खंडिका ब्लॉक जिला मधुबनी के अंतर्गत फिदल वेनल एवं Outlet के निर्माण कार्य हर खेत तक सिंचाई का पानी कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत।	354.13	7.09	10,000/-	5900/-	28.02.2023

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5. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान
6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय
8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान
9. निविदा वेधता की अवधि
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(परशुराम यादव)
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मोबाईल नं० 7463889751

PR. No. 7201 (WRD) 2022-23

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POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Punjab National Bank, Circle SASTRA Ara, 1st Floor, Mahuli Kothi, Near Peer Baba More, Ara-802301 under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated 01.07.2021 calling upon the Borrower M/s Satyam Ice Cream Factory, Sh. Chandrashekhar Singh (prop) S/o Rajkeshwar Singh, Smt. Rinku Devi W/o Sh. Chandrashekhar Singh to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.21,88,350.94 (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and Paise Ninety Four Only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 26th day of August, 2022.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Punjab National Bank of Rs. 22,60,390.94/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakh Sixty Thousand Three Hundred Ninety and Paise Ninety Four only) as on 31.07.2022 with further interest and charges from 01.08.2022 until payment in full.

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

Description of Immovable Property

1. All that part and parcel of the property situated at, Mauza- Sivan, Thana No. 443, PS-Bhabhua, Ward No. Old-2 (New Ward No. 13), Khata No. 452, Plot No. 23, Area 2 Decimal. **Sale Deed No. 991, Dated 17.02.2016. Owned by Smt. Rinku Devi**, Bounded By North:-Nij Rinku Devi, South:-Rasta, East:-Plot No. 23 Saler, West:-8 feet Rasta to Plot No. 23.

2. All that part and parcel of the property situated at, Mauza- Sivan, Thana No. 443, PS-Bhabhua, Old Ward No.-2 (New Ward No. 13), Khata No. 452, Plot No. 23, Area 1 Decimal. **Sale Deed No. 4871, Dated 25.07.2016. Owned by Smt. Rinku Devi**, Bounded By North:-Nij Rinku Devi, South:-Rasta, East:-Plot No. 23 Saler, West:-8 feet Rasta to Plot No. 23

Date : 26.08.2022 (Authorised Officer) Punjab National Bank
Place : Kaimur

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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, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/physical/ symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.

Lot. No.	Name of the Account, Borrower/ Guarantors Name, Name of the Branch	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged / Owner's Name (Mortgagers of Property(ies))	A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date u/s 13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 D) Nature of Possession Symbolic/Physical/ Constructive	A) Reserve Price B) EMD C) last date of deposit of EMD D) Bid Increase Amount	Date/ Time of E-Auction	Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors
1.	M/S SHREE GANESH ENTERPRISES Proprietor Shri Arvind Pratap Shahi, S/O- Shri Ramesh Prasad Singh Alias Ramesh Pratap Shahi A/C No- 6006008700000917, Bo: Chaugain (600600)	Land & Building Situated at: Mauza -Chaugain Thana- 318, Khata No- 1125, Plot No- 2851, Area- 1.00 Acre, Boundary- North- Nij Jawahir Prasad, South- Main Road Koran Sarai, East- NIZ, West- NIZ Mortgagor: Shri Ramesh Prasad Singh Alias Shri Ramesh Pratap Shahi	A) 16.06.2021 B) Rs 22,09,600.56 + Intt. Due from 01.04.2021 & Other Bank's Charges. C) 06.10.2021 D) Symbolic	A) 101.25Lakh B) 10.13Lakh C) 15/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	16/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
2.	SH. DINESH PRASAD KHARWAR S/O SH. KANHAIYA KHARWAR A/C No- 15144015003265 Bo: Dumraon (151410)	Land Situated at: Deed no. 46, dated. 04.01.2011, Mauza- Kumbhi, PS- Dumraon, Thana no. 201, Survey Khata no. 29, Survey Plot no. 34, Area- 1 Katha. Boundary: North- Shiv Ji Singh & other, South- No. Haza Me 4 Feet Rasta Mokir Ka, East- Niz no. Haza ke baki mokir ka, West- 4 Feet rasta after Ramashankar Singh Mortgagor: 1. Sh. Dinesh Prasad Singh S/o Sh. Kanhaiya Kharwar & 2. Smt. Sima Devi W/o Sh. Dinesh Prasad Kharwar	A) 25.06.2021 B) Rs 11,55,608.24 + (Intt. Due from 01.04.2021) & Other Charges. C) 06.10.2021 D) Symbolic	A) 8.05 Lakh B) 0.81 Lakh C) 15/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	16/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known
3.	MS MAHAVEER PLASTIC & FURNITURE HOUSE Proprietor Sh. Santosh Kumar Prasad S/O Sh. Bihari Prasad, A/C No- 15144015003265 Bo: Dumraon (151410)	Land Situated At: Near NH- 84, Deed no. 11819 dtd. 21.10.2000 Further Partition Deed No. -132 dtd. 13.12.2014, Mauza- Bhojpur Jadid, PS- Dumraon, Thana no.- 158, Khata no. 636, Plot no. 3270, Area- 450 Sq. feet, Boundary: As Per Deed: North- 10 ft. rasta, South- Badri sah & other, East- Manoj kumar, West- Manoj Kumar Mortgagor: Smt. Sharda Devi W/O Sh. Santosh Kumar Prasad	A) 25.06.2021 B) Rs 10,08,238.54 + (Intt. Due from 01.04.2021) & Other Charges. C) 06.10.2021 D) Symbolic	A) 4.78 Lakh B) 0.48 Lakh C) 15/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	16/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM	Not Known

1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions:
2. The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"
3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedule hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation.
4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website <https://www.mstcecommerce.com> on 16.09.2022 @ 10:30 AM
5. For detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer www.ibapi.in, www.tenders.gov.in, www.mstcecommerce.com, <https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app>

Date : 30.08.2022
Place : Arrah

Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank
Secured Creditor



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Women Entrepreneurship

Cultural Events

Sectoral Sessions

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ALL YOU NEED

"ALL YOU need is love, love; love is all you need" —referring to the iconic lyrics from a Beatles song, Justice D Y Chandrachud on Tuesday said that on gay rights, apart from love, structural and attitudinal changes are also needed. The judge spoke at a reception hosted by the British High Commission to mark the fourth anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court verdict that decriminalised homosexuality. Justice Chandrachud was part of the five-judge bench that gave the ruling.

HEAPING PRAISE

A DAY after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha heaped praises on Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a book launch function in the national capital, it was former Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's turn to laud the PM. Naqvi, who was in Bijnor to offer prayers at Dargah Najaf-e-Hind, was lavish with his praise for Modi. Terming the PM as a "saint of political purification", Naqvi said he was "destroying the termite of corruption, communalism and casteism" to make India great. According to Naqvi, who could not get a renomination to the Rajya Sabha, Modi has freed the country from the "disease of dynastic politics" by defeating "politics of circumambulation" with his "strength of asceticism and devotion for development".

UGC HIRING

THE MINISTRY of Education has appointed Prof Deepak Kumar Srivastava of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) as the new vice-chairperson of the University Grants Commission. Prof Srivastava who is D Phil from the University of Allahabad, teaches at the School of Management and Labour Studies of the TISS, Mumbai campus. The ministry had advertised the post in December 2021. A gazette notification was put out on Prof Srivastava's appointment on August 29.

COAL PILFERAGE CASE

ED again summons Abhishek, TMC calls it BJP's vendetta politics

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 30

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has again summoned TMC general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the alleged multi-crore coal pilferage case.

The Lok Sabha member, who is nephew of West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and considered No. 2 in the TMC, has been asked to appear at the agency's zonal office in Kolkata on September 2.

The ED had questioned Abhishek in Delhi in March this year. The central agency has so far questioned the alleged mastermind, Anup Majhi alias Lala, Abhishek's wife Rujira and his sister-in-law Maneka Gambhir.

Abhishek and his wife had approached the Supreme Court against the questioning in Delhi. The SC on May 17 said the ED can examine them in its Kolkata office by giving 24-hour advance notice.

The 2020 multi-crore coal pilferage scam is related to the Eastern Coalfields mines in West Bengal's Kunturia and Kajoria.



TMC MP
Abhishek
Banerjee

The ED filed a case under the sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) after CBI began its probe into the alleged pilferage of coal — worth crore of rupees — carried out in connivance with officials from government coalfields.

The fresh summons to Abhishek triggered a political row, with the TMC once again slamming the BJP for using central agencies against the Opposition.

The TMC claimed the move came following the ruling party's recent mega rally here, which it said had left BJP "ruffled".

"Our party supremo Mamata Banerjee had this apprehension that central agencies might send notices to party leaders, following the successful meeting of the Chitra Parishad (students' wing). Today, they have summoned Abhishek. This proves that BJP is pursuing vendetta politics," senior TMC leader Sougata Roy said.

Over the next six months, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, who is in charge of Rajasthan, will visit all 33 districts in the state to boost the morale of the workers. Later this week, between September 2 and 4, Singh will visit Jhunjhunu, Sikar and Jaipur to oversee the party's booth-level preparedness for the elections. Singh will then make a brief visit to Karnataka, after which he will be back in Rajasthan on September 9-10 for the national executive meet of the party's OBC Morcha that will also be attended by Home Minister Amit Shah and party chief JP Nadda.

But Rajee, who had forced the central leadership — with which

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

WITH NEITHER recognition from the central leadership nor appreciation from state leaders, senior BJP leader and former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Rajee seems to be fighting a desperate battle to retain her dominance in the state BJP and to emerge as the party's chief ministerial candidate for the 2023 Assembly elections.

On its part, the BJP's central leadership is treading cautiously, choosing not to address the elephant in the room and instead insisting that the party is focussing on "strengthening the organisation" ahead of the high-

stakes elections. she hasn't been on the best of terms and which is apparently not in favour of her style of functioning — to name her as CM candidate ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections, is not one to sit quietly and toe the line drawn by the national leadership, said party sources. Last week, posters with slogans "Kaho dil se, Vasundhara phir se" (say it from your heart, once more Vasundhara) had come up in parts of Rajasthan.

"Raje is a fighter... she will not give up. It does not matter who supports her," said a party leader familiar with developments in the state.

Party insiders say the leadership of the BJP has "too many apprehensions" about the way Rajee

'I have been receiving support calls from unexpected quarters'

AFTER HAVING given nearly five decades to the Congress party, veteran leader **GHULAM NABI AZAD** recently quit the grand old party. He spoke with **MANOJ CG** on a range of issues concerning the party, the factors that drove him to the "point of no return", Rahul Gandhi's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra', Congress's future, his own political plans, among others. Excerpts:

Several leaders formed parties after quitting the Congress but only a few succeeded. You are 73. What gives you the confidence that you will be successful?

Age has nothing to do with forming a party. The success stories that we know have been of old people only. Mahatma Gandhi was the oldest among the group. I know we are not even the dust of his shoes. Jayaprakash Narayan toppled Indira Gandhi, one of the most powerful persons in Indian politics at that time. He was retired and sitting at home. Farooq [Abdullah] saab is the tallest leader in J&K at the age of 84. Sharad Pawar is still called a strongman. Karunanidhi was above 90 when he was the chief ministerial candidate. So, age has nothing to do with it. Confidence, along with your track record, is what matters.

You had been in the CWC for nearly four decades... you never said a word about elections to the CWC and collective decision-making.

You put water in a kettle for boiling. You take the kettle out when the water starts overflowing... because it has overflowed. It is like that. It (the issues) started to overflow. I could not take it anymore. It became intolerable.

But you were beneficiary of



Gulam Nabi Azad at his residence in New Delhi. Anil Sharma

the same system which you are criticising now.

All that will come out in my memoir. I was a firebrand (leader)... the reforms I used to suggest in CWC meetings... they were lucky that I was calm in the recent meetings. And there is a reason behind that. I have great respect for Indira-ji and Rajiv-ji. I was very young but Indiraji would consult me on a number of things and they would be implemented. Rajiv-ji and I worked together in the Youth Congress.

Since Sonia Gandhi took over as Congress chief, the party has not seen elections to the CWC. Why didn't you raise this earlier?

There was no problem in the first six years. Mrs Gandhi would depend on seniors. Not just me... others also. She delegated powers and we delivered results. But slowly, she introduced a new leadership and consultations with the senior leaders became minimal, especially after January

2013 when Rahul was made vice-chief.

That is what. Did you ever raise these issues with Sonia?

I raised (these issues) 3-4 times with madam [Sonia] and nearly half-a-dozen times with Rahul Gandhi... I never had difficulties in meeting Sonia Gandhi... let's be fair to her. I had problems meeting the young man [Rahul]. Other people, too, were not able to meet. I brought to the notice of Sonia Gandhi that... nothing is happening and ultimately the culmination of all that was the G-23 letter. First, I wrote to Sonia Gandhi... raised the same points as in the G-23 letter. I waited for a month. Nothing happened.

The Congress is about to start a yatra... questions are being raised on the timing of your resignation?

You have no time for uniting the Congress and you have time to measure the road. I can imagine if you were to go village to vil-

lage... here for just another photo opportunity... marching through the main roads... what is the purpose? They [Gandhis] must spare time. Are they giving time for the party? The other day a spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill resigned. He was in team Rahul. He said he had not been able to meet Rahul for one-and-a-half years.

You have got tremendous support from J&K, but there is no news from anywhere else.

How do you know? I have been receiving calls from very unexpected quarters. They are not coming out openly because I have already said that there will be a national party and a state party. National party is not my priority at the moment. Because that needs a lot of consultations and other seniors have to be in the fold. When we announce a national party, people will definitely come.

The Congress is asking how are you able to continue living in the bungalow even one-and-a-half years after your retirement. They are seeing a BJP connection in that too.

Which leader in the Congress party has escaped militant attacks 26 times in Punjab and about 16 times in J&K. I was given Z-plus security not by Modi but by the previous government because of the threat perception. The government has allowed me to continue because of the threat perception. I pay rent, electricity and water charges.

What is your forecast for 2024 Lok Sabha election?

I can't say. I wish the Congress would improve. I wish the secular forces to improve their tally.

FULL INTERVIEW ON
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G-23 LEADERS MEET AZAD

Days after Ghulam Nabi Azad left the Congress launching a scathing attack on Rahul Gandhi, three of his former G-23 colleagues — Anand Sharma, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Prithviraj Chavan — met him in New Delhi on Tuesday. Azad is set to launch his own party soon. Chavan said they met Azad to understand what prompted him to quit. Anil Sharma

Home turf boost: J&K ex-dy CM, 63 others quit Cong in support of Azad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 30

FORMER J&K deputy chief minister Tara Chand and three ex-ministers were among 64 Congress members who quit the party Tuesday in support of veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Led by Chand, the 64 Congress members sent a joint resignation letter to party chief Sonia Gandhi.

"...All of us had a very long association with the party spanning over decades... but unfortunately we found that the treatment meted out to us was humiliating," the letter read, according to news agency PTI.

Chand and the three former ministers — Abdul Majid Wani, Dr Manohar Lal Sharma and Chowdhary Garhu Ram — had

met Azad in Delhi after he resigned Friday.

Since Azad's resignation, dozens of leaders have quit the Congress in his support including a former MP and ex-MLAs.

The 64 who quit Tuesday include, apart from office-bearers, councillors and urban local body corporators, the Congress J&K unit secretaries Narinder Sharma and Rehana Anjum, and former MLA Balwan Singh.

Attributing their move to a "leadership crisis in the party", Balwan Singh said Azad's decision to launch a national party from J&K will inspire "hope and new determination to set things right" in J&K.

Chand, however, ruled out an alliance with the BJP ahead of the Assembly polls in J&K and said the Azad-led party will instead unite secular parties for restoration of J&K's statehood.

Supreme Court closes contempt case against Bhushan, Tejpal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday closed the contempt of court case against Advocate Prashant Bhushan and former editor of Tehelka magazine Tarun Tejpal over an interview given by the former to the magazine in 2009.

A bench presided by Justice Indira Banerjee closed the proceedings initiated for allegedly casting aspersions on the judiciary in the interview, after senior advocate Kapil Sibal informed the bench an apology has been tendered. Taking note, the bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and M M Sundresh said, "In view of the apology tendered by the contemnors, we do not deem it necessary to proceed with the contempt. The contempt proceedings are dropped."

The top court had issued notice to the two in the matter in November 2009. Bhushan, however, explained he had used his words only in a wide-meaning sense and regrets if it caused hurt to anyone. He said he supports the institution of the judiciary and especially the SC of which he is a part, and had no intention to lower its prestige.

Ranchi to Raipur resort: UPA MLAs fly to 'safe haven' to thwart BJP's 'poaching bid'

ABHISHEK ANGAD & GARGI VERMA
RANCHI, RAIPUR, AUGUST 30

THIRTY-TWO MLAs of ruling UPA in Jharkhand were flown from Ranchi to Congress-governed Chhattisgarh, and eventually to Mayfair Lake Resort near state capital Raipur, amid fears of alleged poaching attempts by Opposition BJP to topple the Hemant Soren government.

An MLA who reached the resort said they have not been given any instructions on the next course of action but are expected to stay there until September 4. "Some more MLAs will come on Wednesday and the Cabinet ministers may fly to Ranchi on September 1 to attend a Cabinet meeting," the MLA said.

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, who stayed back in Ranchi, said they are "preparing a strategy" to handle the situation.

After seeing off the team of 41, including the 32 MLAs, Soren told reporters outside Ranchi airport: "We are ready to face every situation and we are preparing a strategy to tackle it. You have seen a glimpse of that strategy earlier and are witnessing it now as well. The ruling dispensation will give a solid reply to the conspirators in the state."



A bus takes the Jharkhand MLAs to the airport in Ranchi. PTI

Soren's Chhattisgarh counterpart, Bhupesh Baghel, met the Jharkhand MLAs at the resort late Tuesday evening, hours after they landed in Raipur at 5.40 pm.

While this is the third time in the last one-and-a-half years that legislators of Congress and its allies from multiple states have been shifted to Raipur amid suspicion of 'horse-trading', sources said an alternative location is also being scouted, in case the need arises.

"Initially, Chhattisgarh said they cannot handle all the MLAs, so we thought of going to Rajasthan. But we got confirmation from Raipur later," an MLA said.

A state cabinet meeting is scheduled for September 1 and ministers from the Congress such as Rameshwar Oraon,

Badal Patralekh may return to Ranchi to attend it. JMM leaders such as Basant Soren and Mithilesh Thakur, a minister, have stayed back in Jharkhand.

At Raipur airport, Chhattisgarh Congress leaders Girish Dewangan and Ramgopal Agarwal met the MLAs, who were thereafter taken to the resort, about 11 km away, in three buses.

While Chhattisgarh minister Ravindra Choubey said the state government is helping Jharkhand MLAs "save the idea of democracy", state BJP leader Gouri Shanker Shrivastava slammed the Baghel government. He tweeted, "The government has promised to ban alcohol. Now they are serving alcohol using government resources to MLAs

EXPLAINED
Maharashtra in mind, taking no chances

IN A House of 81 members (besides one nominated), reaching the magic figure of 42 may seem like a tall order for an Opposition party that has 26 MLAs, but Maharashtra fresh in mind, CM Hemant Soren is unwilling to take any chances. And amid murmurs of poaching in Ranchi, Soren appears to be waiting until the EC letter — on BJP's petition seeking his disqualification as MLA in an office of profit case — is public.

from Jharkhand."

Maintaining that the saffron party is out to topple non-BJP state governments, Choubey told the media: "The BJP has started a new trend of destroying elected governments. After Maharashtra, their next target is Jharkhand. To provide them (MLAs) safety, what's the harm if they are brought here? We will do everything it takes to safeguard democratic governments."

In his plea, Upadhyay has pointed out that Hindus have become a minority in many states and some UTs as per the 2011 Census and sought minority status for them in these places.

Appearing for Upadhyay, senior advocate Vikas Singh told the bench he found the Centre's stand a "little funny" and pointed out that the Act says minorities, for the purposes of the law, means minorities notified as such by the Centre.

"After TMA Pai (case), the Central government can't do it. So whatever deliberations they are doing under this Act cannot confirm minority status to anybody in a state..." the petitioner stated.

Justice Kaul said this is "not a straight-jacket formula" and granted more time to the Centre.

In a counter-affidavit filed on March 25, the government sought to put the onus of granting minority status to Hindus upon states, arguing "they, too, have concurrent powers to do so". With the stand drawing criticism, the government filed a new affidavit on May 9, which said "the power is vested with the Centre to notify minorities".

Hindu minority status: SC gives Centre 6 weeks to consult states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE SUPREME Court on Tuesday allowed the Centre's request for more time to hold consultations with states on the demand to grant minority status to Hindus in states where their numbers have gone below other communities.

A bench of Justices S K Kaul and Abhay S Oka granted the government six more weeks and fixed October 19 to hear it next.

The court is hearing a clutch of petitions that have challenged provisions of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, which gives the Centre power to notify minorities. The main petition by advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay has relied on SC's decision in the landmark 2002 TMA Pai case in which it was laid down that for the purposes of Article 30 — which deals with the rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions — religious and linguistic minorities will have to be identified at the state-level.

In his plea, Upadhyay has pointed out that Hindus have become a minority in many states and some UTs as per the 2011 Census and sought minority status for them in these places.

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Vasundhara Rajee. File

functions in the state and has "taken into consideration complaints of the state leadership against her".

Both central and state leaders have been at pains to emphasise that the BJP will fight the 2023 elections under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. Rajasthan BJP chief Satish Poonia's recent sug-

gestion — that the upper age-limit for BJP leaders to hold positions in the government and party should be 70 instead of the unofficial limit of 75 years — was seen as being aimed at Rajee. While Poonia is 57 years old, Rajee is 69 and will turn 70 in March 2023.

Rajee's rivals in the state unit argue that it was voters' disenchantment towards Rajee that cost the BJP the last Assembly election. They recalled the widespread slogans of "Modi tujhse bair nahi, Vasundhara teri khair nahi" (Nothing against Modi, won't spare Vasundhara) in the run-up to the 2018 Assembly polls.

In May this year, Poonia went to the extent of making a public announcement that the party

would not project a face in the elections. "Sometimes faces are projected, sometimes they are not. The BJP will fight the upcoming elections under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi. The 2017 election in Uttar Pradesh was not contested under Yogi Adityanath, yet we won," Poonia said during a strategy meeting in Jaipur.

Despite the state unit's snub, Nadda has ensured that Rajee is given high regard during the public events that he has attended in the state. On her part, Rajee, too, has adopted a visibly changed approach — she has been trying to shed her moderate image to adopt a pro-Hindutva image while taking on the Ashok Gehlot government.

Party insiders recalled that Rajee's efforts to please the Hindu hardliners were in line with what she had done ahead of the 2018 elections, too. "Raje is not a hard-liner or a Hindutva face. But some leaders close to her feel that her political stance emphasising on development may not be enough for her to muster the required support to pitch herself at a time when she does not have many supporters in the national BJP. All those who are likely to support her — be it Rajnath Singh or Nitin Gadkari — are not strong enough to stand up for her. So she needs to mobilise her support from the ground," said a BJP leader from Rajasthan.

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7 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

JAMMU & KASHMIR 3 LeT militants killed in gunfight

Srinagar: Three Lashkar-e-Taiba militants were killed in an encounter with security forces in Shopian district of Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday, police said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Nagbal area of Shopian following information about presence of terrorists there, a police official said. The official said the search operation turned into an encounter in which three ultras were gunned down. The slain terrorists were affiliated with proscribed terrorist outfit LeT, a police spokesman said, adding the search operation was in progress. **PTI**

NEW DELHI Teesta bail: SC hearing deferred

New Delhi: The Supreme Court deferred to Thursday the hearing on the bail plea of activist Teesta Setalvad, arrested for allegedly fabricating evidence to frame "innocent people" in the 2002 Gujarat riots cases. A bench comprising CJI U U Lalit and justices S Ravindra Bhat and Sudhanshu Dhulia, which was to take up the plea for hearing at 3.45 pm Tuesday, adjourned the matter to September 1 due to paucity of time. **PTI**

UTTAR PRADESH Woman, 5-yr-old killed in robbery

Meerut: A 25-year-old pregnant woman and her 5-year-old son were killed during a daylight robbery in Meerut's Hastinapur area on Monday, police said. The wife of a bank manager was at home with her son when unidentified robbers allegedly strangled them to death and fled with Rs 2.5 lakh cash and jewellery worth Rs 15 lakh, police added. Police suspect the robbers had entered the house in the afternoon. They said the husband, Sandeep Kumar, had left for work around 8 am. "We are hopeful of getting a breakthrough soon," Meerut SSP Rohit Singh Sajwan said. **ENS**

GUJARAT 4 of family killed as car rams truck

Bhuj: Four members of a family were killed and two others injured when their car rams a stationary truck in Kutch district, police said on Tuesday. While four occupants of the car died on the spot, a two-year-old girl and another family member sustained injuries, police said. The deceased were identified as Kasturben Goswami (53), Sangeetaben Goswami (25), Paresh Goswami (50) and Manbhar (3), police said. **PTI**

CJI-led bench to hear EWS quota, reservation for Muslims in Andhra

2nd Constitution bench to take up pleas on Muslim law

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A FIVE-JUDGE Constitution bench of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit will take up two pleas dealing with reservation from September 13.

Another Constitution bench headed by Justice Indira Banerjee, which also met on Tuesday, fixed the second week of October to take up for hearing petitions challenging constitutional validity of the practice of polygamy and nikah halala permitted by Muslim personal law.

A Constitution bench was last set up in September 2021 to hear a power purchase dispute, but the parties settled their differences out of court, but the parties settled it out of court. No other Constitution bench was set up during the previous CJI's term.

On Tuesday, the CJI bench

said it will hear the matter for two-and-a-half hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday (September 16-18) and try to complete hearing one case in a week's time.

While one of the petitions before the CJI bench challenges the constitutional validity of the 103rd Amendment Act, 2019, which introduced the provision for a 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), the other, pending since 2005, pertains to reservation given to Muslims in Andhra Pradesh as a Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) and raises questions of religion-based reservation.

"The unanimity among us is...1 (Muslims as SEBC) and 4 (EWS quota). Everybody is agreeable that these are perhaps interlinked matters. Therefore, (in) the kind of submissions, there may be a bit of overlap. So we will take up 1 and 4 together," CJI Lalit said after consulting the

other judges on the bench — Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, S Ravindra Bhat, Bela M Trivedi, and J B Pardiwala.

The bench initially planned to hear it starting September 6. But senior advocate Kapil Sibal said that these are "very contentious and complicated matters and speaking for myself, I have not applied my time, my mind fully", and sought more time.

The bench then agreed that it will list the matter for September 6 for directions. "Everyone of you will be aware as to how much and where he or she stands; then we can list the matter a week thereafter," the bench said.

Attorney General K K Venugopal said the EWS quota matter is "very important". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta then urged the court to consider taking it up first. The bench agreed to the request.

FULL REPORT ON
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SECURITY STEPPED UP AT BENGALURU'S IDGAH GROUND

Jamia Masjid hails SC order, Vishwa Sanatan Parishad targets Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 30

POLICE STEPPED up security at the Idgah ground in Bengaluru following the Supreme Court order to not allow Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations there.

More than 1,200 personnel were deputed in the usually buzzing ground, which is located in a sensitive area of the city, to prevent any untoward incident. All roads to the ground were barricaded as well. Rapid Action Force personnel also patrolled the area.

In his reactions to the SC order, Maulana Maqsood Imran, Imam of Bengaluru city Jamia Masjid, told *The Indian Express* that they will abide by the Supreme Court verdict but will continue to fight for land ownership.

"We welcome the order of the Supreme Court and will continue our fight for the ownership of the land. Besides offering prayers on Ramzan and Bakrid, let the ground be a public space for children to play or cows to graze. We are not with the opinion to allow other religious activity on the ground," he said.

Vishwa Sanatan Parishad president S Bhaskaran said they will abide by the court order but expressed disappointment over state government's "lack of interest".



Police personnel deployed at the disputed Idgah ground in Bengaluru, Tuesday. **PTI**

"I have taken information from the Wafk Board under the Right to Information (RTI) Act and it clearly says that the ground is not Wafk board property. An alternative land has also been given to Muslims. However, the BJP in Karnataka, ahead of the BBMP and Assembly elections, has not addressed the problem, and is en-

gaged in petty politics." Members of Vishwa Sanatan Parishad had held a protest and demanded that the state government celebrate Independence Day on the ground. For the first time, Independence Day was celebrated on the ground this year.

Bengaluru city Police Commissioner C H Pratap Reddy,

who had held a peace meeting, had informed them that both the parties — the Muslim and Hindu groups — needed to follow the court orders.

The Bengaluru urban district had received five applications to install Ganesh idols on the Idgah ground after it was announced as revenue department land.

who had held a peace meeting, had informed them that both the parties — the Muslim and Hindu groups — needed to follow the court orders.

The court did not agree to his request to replace the petitioner with an amicus curiae. The bench said it is unfortunate that the matter was not taken up earlier.

"We are making an endeavor to take up old matters. Some may survive, and some may not survive... Now, you have a full verdict delivered by a larger bench," it said.

The court noted in the order that the petitioner had passed away and that the central issue having been decided by a Constitution bench in 2019, the legal issue "does not survive for consideration".

La Niña years are infamous for frequent and intense hurricanes and cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. "La Niña favours a higher rate of cyclone formation in the Bay of Bengal," Koll said.

La Niña years are infamous for frequent and intense hurricanes and cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Bengal. "La Niña favours a higher rate of cyclone formation in the Bay of Bengal," Koll said.

Jaishankar: State of border will decide state of India-China ties

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar has said that the state of the border will determine the state of the India-China relationship. He also said that for ties to return to a positive trajectory and remain sustainable, they must be based on the three mutuals — mutual sensitivity, mutual respect, and mutual interest.

His comments came at the launch of the Asia Society Policy Institute on Monday, which was attended by former Australian PM Kevin Rudd.

In an oblique reference to China, "We can reasonably expect Asia to continue rising because the economic and demographic trends point in that direction. How divided it would be depends on how well or badly its fissures are managed. And this, in turn, would demand adherence to laws, norms and rules. For a start, sovereignty and territorial integrity will have to be respected. Initiatives that impact the region must be consultative, not unilateral."

"Connectivity, in particular, should be transparent, viable and market-based. Similarly, development agendas also need to be broad-based and reflect the global consensus, rather than just individual national objectives. Contributing to the well-being of the global commons and providing global goods can also make a big difference. And not least, agreements and judgements must be scrupulously adhered to, not regarded as matters of convenience," he said.

Jaishankar said that much of the future of Asia depends on how the relations between India and China develop in the foreseeable future.

"Their current status is, of course, well known to all of you. I can only reiterate that the state of



External Affairs Minister
S Jaishankar. **File**

the border will determine the state of the relationship," he said, as the border standoff between India and China has been ongoing for more than two years and three months.

"Asia's prospects and challenges are today very much dependent on developments in the Indo-Pacific. In fact, the concept itself is a reflection of divided Asia, as some have a vested interest in keeping the region less cohesive and interactive," Jaishankar said.

"That the global commons and the international community are better served by collaborative endeavours like the Quad apparently leaves them cold," he said.

Framing it in the context of the 'Asian century', he also said, "When we speak of a rising Asia, the term 'Asian century' naturally springs to mind. To the sensible and sober, that signifies a greater weight for Asia in the overall global calculus. To the polemical, however, it has overtones of triumphalism with which India at least should not be comfortable. But either way, the 'Asian century' requires an effective management of the contradictions of our continent. And that, in particular, means a modus vivendi among its key players. That is why 'rising but divided' is such a strong concern. It is said that the pre-requisite for an 'Asian century' is an India and China coming together. Conversely, their inability to do so will undermine it."

Supriyo, Sougata slam MP Sircar for 'rotten' remark against Trinamool

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 30

A DAY after Trinamool Congress' Rajya Sabha member Jawhar Sircar criticised the Mamata Banerjee-led party, saying a section of it was "completely rotten", West Bengal tourism minister Babul Supriyo and party's Lok Sabha MP Sougata Roy on Tuesday took on Sircar, with Roy saying that he was free to leave the party.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Kolkata, Supriyo said, "Sircar is a senior person and he understands a lot of things. He should be aware of the actions our party has taken following the recent developments (arrest of party leaders Partha Chatterjee and Anubrata Mondal). If he is deliberately making loose comments to put the party in a spot then there is no difference between BJP's Dilip Ghosh and an educated person like him."

Sircar had said on Monday that "a section of the TMC was completely rotten" and that the party could not fight the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls with such elements. Referring to the cash recovered from the apartments of Arpita Mukherjee, an associate of now arrested ex-minister Partha Chatterjee, Sircar, a former bureaucrat, had said, "I never encountered such a situation even when I was an IAS officer. My family asked me to quit politics. My friends called me up to ask how much I got. It was a very embarrassing moment for me."

Also, MP Roy said, "The TMC does not need a selfish person like him who is targeting the party in the time of a crisis. He should stop attaching too much importance to his views, and our party must immediately initiate disciplinary action against him. If he is so embarrassed by the recent developments, then why is he still holding his post? He should immediately resign as Rajya Sabha MP."

Significant increase in presence of ISIL-K in Afghanistan: India at UN

YOSHITA SINGH
UNITED NATIONS, AUGUST 30

INDIA HAS told the UN Security Council that there is a significant increase in ISIL-K presence in Afghanistan, as it warned that linkages between proscribed outfits such as Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and provocative statements by other terror groups pose a direct threat to the region's peace and stability.

"As we have repeatedly stated at the Security Council, India has direct stakes in ensuring the return of peace and stability, given our position as a contiguous neighbour and long-standing partner of Afghanistan, as well as our strong historical and civilisational linkages to the Afghan people," India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said.

Speaking at the UNSC briefing on Afghanistan Monday requested by Russia under the Chinese presidency of the Council, Kamboj underlined that on terrorism, the recent findings of the 1988 Sanctions Committee's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team Report indicate that the current authorities in Afghanistan need to take much stronger action to fulfil their anti-terrorism commitments.

"There is a significant increase in the presence of ISIL-K (The Islamic State - Khorasan Province) in the country and their capacity to carry out attacks. ISIL-K, with its base reportedly in Afghanistan, continues to issue threats of terrorist attacks on other countries," she said.

Kamboj told the Council that the series of attacks at religious places of the minority community, including the recent attacks at the Sikh Gurudwara on June 18 in Kabul and a bomb explosion on 27 July, is "hugely alarming. **PTI**

where there is no mosque, could be dangerous to the peace and amity in the village.

Following the registration of the FIR, a heavy police force was deployed in the village.

Leaders of parties like the AIMIM, Samajwadi Party and National Conference had condemned the police action.

After the FIR was withdrawn, the AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted, "Fair and timely decision. It is expected that the UP Police will stop registering illegal FIRs under the pressure of the mob. Hope people will now be able to offer namaz in their homes without any hassle."

Samajwadi Party MP ST Hassan had said he visited the village and found all were availing their rights legally and communal harmony existed in the village.

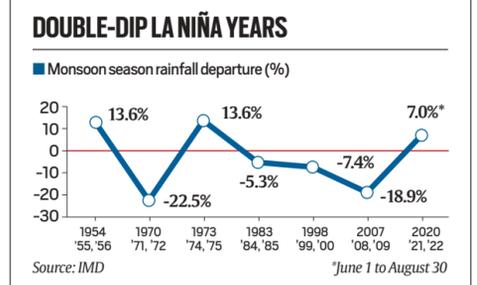
La Niña conditions enter 3rd year, 6th time since 1950

Experts credit good monsoon to phenomenon when sea surface temperature is colder than normal

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, AUGUST 30

IN WHAT may be termed as an uncommon phenomenon, La Niña conditions prevailing over the equatorial Pacific Ocean since September 2020 has entered the third year. There are only six instances of La Niña lasting for more than two years since 1950s (see box), data with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) show.

La Niña is when the sea surface temperatures (SSTs) along the central and equatorial Pacific Ocean are colder than normal, which, experts say, favour the Indian summer monsoon. However, La Niña years are also infamous for frequent and intense hurricanes and



cyclones in the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

This year, India has received 740.3mm rainfall which was quantitatively 7 per cent above the seasonal average till August 30. Out of the 36 states/Union

Territories, 30 have received rainfall categorised as 'normal' or 'excess' or 'large excess'.

The opposite is El Niño, that is, warmer SSTs prevail over these regions.

By mid-August, meteorolo-

gists at Australia's Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA, and India's Monsoon Mission Climate Forecast System (MMCFs) confirmed that the La Niña conditions are here to stay till the end of 2022.

This was in contrast to the forecasts issued by these multiple agencies in April this year that La Niña will dissipate by August. From remaining at the La Niña 'watch' status, two of BoM's latest Climate Driver bulletins issued this month upgraded it to La Niña 'alert' status. In June this year, the World Meteorological Organisation had termed the persisting La Niña conditions as 'stubborn'.

"The continuing La Niña is abnormal but a good sign for the

LAND GRAB
After SIT, Goa panel under HC ex-judge to probe cases

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, AUGUST 30

GOA CHIEF Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday announced that his government has decided to appoint a one-man commission under former Bombay High Court judge, Justice V K Jadhav, to probe cases of land-grabbing in Goa.

Stating that the government is "very serious" on the matter, Sawant said the commission, appointed under the Commission of Inquiries Act, 1952, will complete its inquiry in four months.

The Chief Minister said several illegal land-grabbing cases are being investigated by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the government in June — a first for the state — and it was found in some cases that the property concerned was in "no-man's land".

The Justice Jadhav commission is expected to make recommendations on the fate of such properties and suggest any tweaks in the law, if required.

Inspector General of Police Omvir Singh Bishnoi said 15 people have been arrested in cases of 93 properties allegedly grabbed illegally, involving nearly 1.5 lakh sq metre land.

"In some of these cases the property belongs to its real owners, but in some [other] cases we are yet to find the actual owners. What is to be done for that (these properties) is to be decided by the government," Bishnoi said. So far, the accused have executed 71 illegal sale deeds with forged documents, he said.

According to Bishnoi, 40 cases are under SIT's probe in connection with the 93 properties — in 26 of these, the "real owners" were the complainants and police are yet to receive complaints from "authorised complainants" in the remaining 67 instances. Bishnoi said, "We have received over 230 petitions. We are in the process of identifying whether these are real owners or third parties."

Most cases under the SIT's scanner are in Anjuna, Assagao, Badem, Calangute, Mapusa, Nerul, Parra and Reis Magos areas of North Goa and some from Vasco and Margao in South Goa.

Higher rice procurement likely in kharif season: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE CENTRE expects the kharif crop rice procurement figure to reach at 518 lakh metric tonnes during the upcoming kharif marketing season (KMS) 2022-23, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution said on Tuesday.

The estimated quantity of rice procurement will be marginally higher than the actual procurement of 509.82 LMT during last KMS 2021-22 (Kharif crop).

The ministry announced the estimated procurement figure after a meeting of state Food Secretaries on Tuesday, which was chaired by the Union Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey. The meeting was also attended by officials of Food Corporation of India (FCI). The meeting was called to discuss the procurement arrangements for Kharif crop ensuing Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2022-23.

In a statement, the Food Ministry said, "The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary/Secretary (Food) or Representatives of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, UP, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The meeting was also attended by Chairman & Managing Director, FCI and other officers of FCI, Department of Food & Public Distribution, Indian Meteorological Department and Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare."

"A quantity of 518 LMT rice has been estimated for procurement during forthcoming KMS 2022-23 (Kharif crop) as against 509.82 LMT actually procured during last KMS 2021-22 (Kharif crop)."

Goa team in Haryana, CM indicates local police may probe case for now

Phogat murder: Team to examine Gurgaon flat, farmhouse

MAYURA JANWALKAR & VARINDER BHATIA
PANAJI, CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30



Sonali Phogat died on August 23. Her family has been demanding a CBI probe into her alleged murder

A DAY after he said that investigation into the murder of Haryana BJP leader and actor Sonali Phogat could be transferred to CBI if the Haryana government insists, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday said the probe has been "upgraded" and that he has "full faith" in Goa Police.

"A thorough probe is being carried out. Our (police) team left for Haryana today. Five people have been arrested so far and we will nab the very last person involved in the case," Sawant said.

Stating that a Deputy SP-level officer is leading the investigation, he said, "I have full faith in our police team; they will carry out a very good investigation."

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had spoken with Sawant two days ago after Phogat's family met him. On Tuesday, Sawant said that a confidential report of the investigation has been sent to Khattar and the Haryana DGP.

Goa Police sources said a team of two inspectors and a constable left for Haryana on Tuesday morning.

The police team was likely to

reach Gurgaon, Haryana, late Tuesday evening and inspect the flat where Phogat and her personal assistant, Sudhir Sangwan, had allegedly stayed before leaving for Goa. Sangwan and his aide, Sukhwinder Singh, have been arrested in connection with Phogat's murder. According to Goa Police, the two had parted with Phogat at the Curlies beach shack in Anjuna on August 22 night — she died the following day — and allegedly given her methamphetamine in a drink "forcefully".

Sangwan had purportedly told Goa Police that a Tata Safari vehicle was kept in the parking lot of the Gurgaon apartment complex

and the flat's keys were in the car. The Goa police team is also likely to visit Phogat's farmhouse in Hisar, as also Rhotak (Haryana), Adampur (Punjab) and Chandigarh as part of their investigation.

Phogat's brother, Rinku, on Tuesday told the media that Goa Police should open her Gurgaon flat in the presence of her family members. "We fear several pieces of evidence have already been destroyed by the accused and if the flat is opened in our absence, more evidence could be destroyed," Rinku claimed.

Besides Sangwan and Sukhwinder, three other people have been arrested by Goa Police in a separate offence under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act registered against them: Edwin Nunes, owner of Curlies, and alleged drug peddlers Dattaprasad Gaonkar and Rama Mandrekar.

On Tuesday, the Goa CM said, "We have seized Curlies and will take further legal action against it." If needed, he said, the shack will be shut down.

Phogat's family members have been demanding a CBI probe in this case. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij has also said that a CBI investigation should be conducted in the case to unveil the truth and arrest all the culprits involved in the case.

JHARKHAND INCIDENTS

Gov seeks report from DGP on help's abuse, eviction of Dalits

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 30



Governor Ramesh Bais

TAKING COGNISANCE of physical abuse of a domestic help in Ranchi and eviction of around 50 Dalit families out of their homes in Palamu district, Jharkhand Governor Ramesh Bais has asked the DGP to submit a report within two days, while rebuking the police for "inaction".

A press release issued by the Governor House stated: "Seema Patra, wife of a former IAS officer, physically abused her domestic help in Ashok Nagar in Ranchi and why the DGP has not acted against the accused. It is a grave problem... In Palamu district, under Pandu Police Station, a particular community drove 50 Dalits out of their homes. It is worrisome."

Seema, BJP's national executive member in Jharkhand and wife of a retired IAS officer, was booked after a video of the domestic help, Sunita, narrating her ordeal, went viral on social media. An FIR was registered against

Seema under SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, and under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 325 (grievous hurt), 346 (wrongful confinement), 374 (unlawful compulsory labour) at Argora police station.

According to the FIR, complainant Vivek Anand Baskey, a government employee, received a message from Seema's son Ayushman, detailing the physical violence going against the domestic help in the house. "Since she was a tribal and so am I, Ayushman thought I would be able to rescue her. His mother was planning to take Sunita, who was not in good health and had defecated and urinated in her dress, to Varanasi to leave her at some ashram," the FIR reads. Baskey knew the family from 2002.

The FIR stated that

Gas cylinder leaks at shop, 34 hospitalised in Uttarakhand

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
DEHRADUN, AUGUST 30

GAS LEAKAGE from a cylinder at a scrap shop on Tuesday has led to the hospitalisation of 34 people, including 12 administrative, police and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) officials, in Uttarakhand's Udham Singh Nagar district.

The incident took place in the Azad Nagar locality of Transit Camp Ward Number 4 in the district. Those hospitalised had trouble breathing, but are now stable. "The cylinder reached a scrap shop and around 6.40 am we were told about a possible gas leakage. Soon after the teams reached, the cylinder was moved to a forest area to ward off any bigger accident," said ADM Finance Lalit Narayan Mishra.

"By the time the NDRF team reached around 9 am, the cylinder was removed and properly disposed of," said Mishra.

Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Bays No. 67-70, Sector- 2, Panchkula-134154
(www.hssc.gov.in)

Result for the post of PGT Chemistry (ROH) For Education Department, Haryana against advt. no. 4/2015, Cat No. 02

In compliance of orders dated 09.05.2022 passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in SLP nos.25184-25214 of 2018-Haryana Staff Selection Commission Vs. Priyanka & ors. and on the basis of Written Examination, re-scrutiny of Documents and interview/Viva-Voce for the post of PGT Chemistry (ROH) of Education Department, Haryana against Advt. No. 04/2015, Category No.02, and further continuation of earlier notice dated 27.12.2018 and 20.10.2020 the Commission has Modified the result.

Advt. No. 04/2015, Cat. No.02, PGT Chemistry (ROH)
General (170 Posts - 01 OH Gen + 17 SBC Earlier = 186 Posts)
40200089 40200098 40200107 40200366 40201536 40201715
40202282 40202329 40203046 40203153

SC (170 Posts)
40200350 40203611
BCA (34 Posts - 01 OH BCB = 33 Posts)
40202088 40202700
BCB (17 Posts - 03 OH BCB = 14 Posts)
40200502 40201092 40201691 40202014

Final Cut off
General-136, SC-76, BCA-128, BCB-130, EBP GC-108, ESM- 111, OH-96

CRITERIA ADOPTED FOR SELECTION

- 1.) WRITTEN EXAMINATION.....160-MARKS
2.) VIVA-VOCE.....24-MARKS
3.) EXPERIENCE.....16-MARKS
Total:-200-MARKS

Note:- The result of Roll Nos. 40202129, 40203612, 40200915 etc. has been kept in sealed cover in compliance of Hon'ble High Court order passed in CWP No.13946/2019, 30451/2018, and 29785/2018 etc. This result is further subject to pending litigation before any court of law.

- 2. 01 post of General category has been with held in compliance of Hon'ble Punjab and Haryana High Court in CWP No.32107/2018
- 3. In view of the revision of result in pursuance of direction dated 09.05.2022 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court, the result dated 07.01.2022 is modified.
- 4. In view of the revision of result in pursuance of direction dated 09.05.2022 passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court, the result dated 07.01.2022 is modified. Roll number 40202189 and 40203142 are not included in this result being non petitioner candidates.
- 5. While every care has been taken in preparing and uploading the result, possibility of inadvertent/technical errors cannot be ruled out. The Commission reserves the right to rectify the same later on.

Sd/-
Secretary
Haryana Staff Selection Commission
Dated:-26.08.2022

12200/HRY

General Insurance Corporation of India
(A Government of India Company)
CIN: L67200MH1972GOI016133 IRDAI REG. NO. 112
Regd. Office: 'Suraksha', 170, J. Tata Road, Churchgate,
Mumbai - 400 020. Tel: +91-22-22867000 Fax: +91-22-22884010
E-mail: investors.gic@gicofindia.com Website: www.gicofindia.com

NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF
50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the 50th Annual General Meeting (50th AGM) of the members of General Insurance Corporation of India will be held on Monday, the 26th September 2022 at 3.00 p.m. (IST) through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual Means (OVAM) to transact business, as set out in the Notice of the 50th AGM being sent through email.

In compliance with applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules notified thereunder and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirement) Regulations, 2015, read with all applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs ("MCA") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI"), the Corporation has decided to convene its 50th AGM through VC/OVAM and members can participate through VC/OVAM.

The Notice of the 50th AGM alongwith the Annual Report for the financial year 2021-22 is being sent only by electronic mode to those members whose email addresses are registered with the Corporation/Depositories in accordance with the Circulars issued by MCA and SEBI. Members may note that the notice of the AGM and the Annual Report for the financial year 2021-22 will also be available on the Corporation website www.gicofindia.com, website of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively. Members can attend and participate in the AGM through Video Conferencing/Other Audio-Visual means (VC/OVAM) facility only. The instructions for joining of the AGM are provided in the Notice of the AGM. Members attending the AGM through VC/OVAM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under Section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013.

The Corporation is providing remote e-voting facility ('remote e-voting') to all its members to cast their votes on all the resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM. Additionally, the Corporation is providing the facility of voting through e-voting system during the AGM (e-voting). The Corporation has engaged the services of National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") for facilitating participation by the Members at the AGM through VC/OVAM including remote e-voting. Detailed procedure for 'remote e-voting'/e-voting is provided in the Notice of the AGM. Members who have not yet registered their email addresses are requested to register the same with their DPs in case the shares are held by them in electronic form and with M/S KFin Technologies Limited in case the shares are held by them in physical form. Members are requested to update their Permanent Account Number (PAN), KYC details and nomination with their DPs in case the shares are held by them in electronic form and with M/S KFin Technologies Limited in case the shares are held by them in physical form by sending duly filled in Form ISR-1 and other relevant forms available on the website of the Corporation at www.gicofindia.com

For General Insurance Corporation of India
Place: Mumbai Sd/-
Dated: 30.08.2022 (Satheesh Kumar)
Company Secretary

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(प्राय:वन्, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त परिषद्)
(An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India)
1110, 3110 - सू. भारती, देहरादून, उत्तरांचल प्रदेश (Uttarakhand)
P.O., New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand)

अल्प सूचना / SHORT NOTICE
वैज्ञानिक - "बी" के पद हेतु भर्ती-2022
Recruitment for the post of Scientist-B-2022
सं. 32-63/2022-ICFRE / No. 32-63/2022-ICFRE

भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद् के अंतर्गत 7 वें सीपीसी के अनुसार वेतनमान के लेवल 10 में विभिन्न विषयों में वैज्ञानिक 'बी' के 44 पदों की भर्ती हेतु मातृतीय नगरिकों से ऑनलाइन आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। इच्छुक अर्जियों 05.09.2022 से 15.10.2022 तक वैबसाईट <http://recruitment.icfre.gov.in> पर ऑनलाइन आवेदन कर सकते हैं।

आय सीमा, आरक्षण, आय में छूट, परीक्षा योजना, पाठ्यक्रम, शैक्षिक योग्यता और अन्य विवरण का विज्ञापन भी उपर्युक्त वैबसाईट पर उपलब्ध होगा। इच्छुक अर्जियों से अनुरोध है कि अपडेट के लिए इस वैबसाईट को नियमित रूप से देखते रहें।

विस्तृत विज्ञापन रोजगार समाचार में अंतिम रूप से सितंबर 2022 के प्रथम सप्ताह में प्रकाशित किया जाएगा और यह मा.वा.अ.शि.प. की वैबसाईट www.icfre.gov.in पर भी उपलब्ध होगा।

Online applications are invited from Indian nationals for recruitment to 44 posts of Scientist-B in various disciplines in the Level-10 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC in Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun. Interested candidates can apply online on the website <http://recruitment.icfre.gov.in> during 05.09.2022 to 15.10.2022.

The advertisement with age limit, reservation, age relaxation, examination plan, syllabus, educational qualification and other details will also be available on the aforementioned website. Interested applicants are requested to visit this website regularly for updates.

The detailed advertisement will be published in the Employment News tentatively in the 1st week of September 2022 and will also be available on ICFRE website www.icfre.gov.in.

सचिव, मा.वा.अ.शि.प./Secretary, ICFRE

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnem Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.
CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold ornaments pledged with under mentioned branches of the company for the period upto 30.09.2021 & MSGL, SPL-16, One plus, Guide Prepaid, Super value, ADGL and all other 6 months tenure Gold loans up to 31.12.2021 and MSGB, SME Suvarna & EMI due up to 30.06.2022 which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed so far in spite of repeated notices, will be auctioned on 09.09.2022 from 10 am onwards.

GURGAON DISTRICT - GURGAON-OLD RAILWAY ROAD: F15444, F15539, F16110, F16112, F17712, F17837, F17848, F17885, F17922, F18204, F19081, F19197, F19223, F19245, F19251, F19255, F19256, F19265, F19273, F19280, F19281, F19286, F19301, F19310, F19359, F19375, F19439, F19463, F19503, F4222, F5512, F5568, F8578, FARRUKH NAGAR-HARYANA: F12350, F12361, F12460, F12493, F12512, F12600, F12647, F12730, F12731, F4798, F4812, PATAUDI-HARYANA: F13954, F14720, F14722, F14734, F14736, F14751, F14767, F14769, F14789, F14792, F14793, F14796, F14798, F14808, F14821, F14871, F14875, F14876, F14890, F14912, F14914, F14919, F14926, F14954, F14959, F14999, F15032, F15049, F15257, F5639, GURGAON-DAYANAND COLONY: F13215, F13475, F13563, F13744, F13776, F14608, F14921, F15221, F15548, F15619, F15669, F15787, F15995, F16123, F16226, F16748, F16846, F16883, F16916, F16934, F16970, F17022, F17029, F17067, F17100, F17119, F17133, F17134, F17162, F17191, F17201, F17221, F17226, F17233, F17258, F17463, F17577, F4312, F4312, F4581, F4609, F4610, F5738, GURGAON SEC - 14: F10916, F10918, F10941, F10966, F10969, F11036, F11045, F11074, F11223, F11274, F11291, F14537, F4610, F4649, F4650, F9187, BADSHAHPUR - GURGAON: F155, F174, MAHENDERGARH DISTRICTS - NARNALU: F1558, F1559, F1561, F3990, F5600, F6500, F6502, F6518, F6519, F6525, F6527, F6536, F6548, F6557, F6558, F6576, F6579, F6595, F6603, F6604, F6606, F6622, F6632, F6634, F6649, F6650, F6666, PALWAL DISTRICTS - HASANPUR CHOWK - HODDAL: F147, F548, F549, F550, F572, F627, F643, F698, F714, REWARI DISTRICTS - REWARI: F12483, F12490, F12507, F12511, F12516, F12518, F12519, F12550, F12560, F12572, F12604, F12605, F12611, F12618, F12637, F12647, F12661, F12665, F12670, F12673, F12700, F12801, F12803, F3782, F5784, F8423, BAWAL: F206.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 21.09.2022 at 10.00 am at GURGAON DISTRICT: Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor, Sco 11 First Floor, Old Delhi Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001. MAHENDERGARH DISTRICT: Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor, Dewan Tower, Building 755/756 Narnaul, Mohindergarh, Haryana - 123001. PALWAL DISTRICT: Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Killa No-21/1, Upan Market, Hodal, Palwal, Haryana - 121106. REWARI DISTRICT: Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., Ground Floor, Brass Market Sco-30, Main Road, Near IDBI Bank, Rewari, Haryana - 123401. The bidders are requested to produce Photo Id card, Pan Card. The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.

MUTHOOT FINCORP LTD. | GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Regd. Office: Muthoot Centre, TC No 27/3022, Punnem Road, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India - 695001.
CIN : U65929KL1997PLC011518, Ph: +91 471 4911400, 2331427

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FARIDABAD SECT 15: F5518, F6513, F7788, F8006, F8018, F8028, F8029, F8045, F8049, F8055, FARIDABAD SECT 29: F15926, F20901, F21079, F21612, F21666, F21675, F21676, F21682, F21695, F21719, F21731, F21736, F21757, F21765, F21787, F21840, F21878, FARIDABAD SECT 3: F16671, F24314, F24356, F32933, F34135, F34146, F34150, F34168, F34176, F34179, F34190, F34203, F34217, F34218, F34257, F34301, F34324, F34341, F34367, F34386, F34400, F34408, F34417, F34428, F34441, F34524, F34529, F34567, F34572, F34581, F34584, F34597, F34601, F34643, F34645, F34652, F34660, F34692, F34693, F34701, F34703, F34706, F34709, F34723, F34726, F34750, F34769, F35191, FARIDABAD SECTOR-34: F15369, F20032, F20284, F24280, F24283, F24296, F24327, F24361, F24429, F24466, F24480, F24504, F24569, F24584, F24585, F24587, F24645, F24703, F24756, F24759, F24766, FARIDABAD-AJRONDA: F5158, F5279, F6635, F7851, F7873, F7943, F7967, F8161, F8466, F8469, F8481, F8482, F8489, F8491, F8498, F8504, F8505, F8517, F8550, F8590, F8591, F8593, F8600, F8619, F8637, F8638, F8653, F8661, F8664, F8666, F8676, F8683, F8709, F8828, F8904, FARIDABAD-CHAWLA COLONY: F12268, F12706, F14590, F14617, F14622, F14695, F14704, F14719, F14811, F14827, F14843, F14905, F14927, F14938, F15271, F9035, FARIDABAD-JAWAHAR COLONY: F12407, F22869, F23198, F24969, F24973, F24981, F24990, F25012, F25042, F25095, F25103, F25118, F25162, F25220, F25247, F25288, F25295, F25303, F25306, F25341, F25389, F25485, F25503, F25530, F8186, FARIDABAD-NEELAM BATA ROAD: F14398, F15329, F15421, F15423, F15448, F15495, F15532, F15534, F15584, F15587, F15599, F15614, F15669, F15679, F15740, F16018, F16063, F16069, FARIDABAD-NIT-4: F10842, F10848, F10862, F10879, F10897, F10902, F10942, F10952, F11018, F11022, F11026, F11045, F11048, F11066, F11110, F11150, F11156, F11160, F11169, F4855, F4864, F4894, F4914, F4935, F5013, F5037, F5101, F5105, F5129, F5188, F8870, F9353, FARIDABAD-SECTOR 55: F15245, F15885, F15886, F15893, F15910, F15914, F15915, F15966, F15969, F15986, F15993, F16047, F16179, F16186, F16193, F16209, F16262, F16272, F16279, NIT 2: F20806, F22551, F22574, F22594, F32883, F34556, F34557, F34559, F34560, F34580, F34593, F34596, F34639, F34688, F34694, F34698, F34750, F34771, F34772, F34773, F34779, F34794, F34797, F34833, F34837, F34854, F34917, F34918, F34928, F34940, F34951, F34959, F34987, F34988, F35066, F35072, F35112, F35118, F35148, F35149, F35167, F35178, F35185, PALWAL-HARYANA: F26997, F27039, F27086, F27117, F27122, F27125, F27151, F27198, F27202, F27225, F27238, F27260, F27281, F27314, F27314, F27345, F27363, F27473, F27510, F27511, F27512, F27516, F27576, F27628.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches. Please note if the auction does not get completed on the same day due to any reasons, the same will be conducted on 22.09.2022 at 10.00 am at Muthoot FinCorp Ltd., First Floor, P Block Nit 5P/29 Nit Faridabad, Main Market Nit 5, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001. The bidders are requested to produce Photo Id card, Pan Card. The successful bidder should transfer the money through RTGS. Muthoot FinCorp Ltd.

Recipient of the International Award for Institutional Excellence from Commonwealth of Learning twice
'Swachh Campus Ranking 2019' awarded by Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi

YASHWANTRAO CHAVAN MAHARASHTRA OPEN UNIVERSITY
(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade)

SEARCH COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) was established on 1st July 1989 by the Act No. XX (1989) of Maharashtra State Legislature. The headquarters of the University is located at Nashik. The University campus is aptly named as 'Dnyangangotri' (River of Knowledge). It is the



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

The Adani-Tata model

Rise and spread of Adani Group marks return of an older way of doing business — with a difference



HARISH DAMODARAN

THE SAME CALAMITY

Floods in Pakistan bear similarities to those in India. It's time for a collaborative mechanism to deal with extreme weather events

THERE ARE INDICATIONS that India will join the growing number of countries and international bodies that have responded to Pakistan's appeal for help to deal with the ravages of the worst floods to hit the country in more than a decade. According to a report in this newspaper, discussions are underway at the highest levels on extending assistance to the beleaguered nation. In the past, too, the humanitarian impulse to reach out to a neighbour in crisis has moved Delhi and Islamabad to keep their geopolitical rivalry in abeyance. Pakistan provided assistance after the Gujarat earthquake of 2001. India did likewise when large swathes of Pakistan were flooded in 2010. The cooperation between the two countries during the Kashmir earthquake of 2005 even precipitated conversations about a collaborative disaster relief mechanism. Unfortunately, however, there has been little headway on that count, though the two countries did put down the cudgels again during the Kashmir floods of 2014.

Pakistan has experienced an unusually wet monsoon this year. The season began in June, a month earlier than usual, after a nearly two-month-long drought. In August, the country received more than three times the normal rainfall. Though scientists can't yet affirm the extent to which the catastrophe has been aggravated because of climate change, there is near unanimity that the deluge bears the imprint of a global-warming-induced extreme weather event. Swollen rivers cause more havoc because drainage systems in cities have not received adequate attention from the country's planners. In several parts of Pakistan, embankments that have not been repaired for years have been swept away.

The similarities between the calamity confronting Pakistan today and India's recent experiences with weather vagaries are striking. This shouldn't be surprising. The two countries have shared colonial legacies in urban planning and flood management. The same southwest monsoon that brings the bulk of India's annual rainfall causes rain in Pakistan as well. The melting glaciers in the Himalayas do not respect borders. The ecological continuities in the Subcontinent make the case for regional cooperation on climate-related matters compelling. India and Pakistan do come together during negotiations at the UNFCCC fora — they are a part of an informal coalition that often asks for more financial action from developed countries to check climate change. But the outlook of South Asian governments towards forces of nature seems to be frozen in an era when the place of river and mountain systems in diplomacy is determined by economic and political considerations. The Subcontinent could learn from ASEAN's initiative to draft a State of Climate Report on the eve of COP-26 last year — it outlines opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in the region for combating climate challenges. Data sharing mechanisms on river flows, flood alert systems, even a common renewable energy-dominated electricity grid, could substantially reduce the climate vulnerability of people in South Asia.

DISTRESS OF VULNERABLE

MGNREGA, NCRB, insurance data point to unabated strain at middle and lower ends of income distribution

AFTER CONTRACTING IN 2020-21, the Indian economy rebounded sharply in 2021-22, ending the year 1.5 per cent above its pre-pandemic level. This year the Reserve Bank of India expects it to grow at 7.2 per cent, making India one of the fastest growing economies in the world during this period. But the recovery from the pandemic lows has been anything but even. Beyond the headline numbers, there are indicators of the unabated pain stemming from the pandemic and the continuing distress in parts of the economy.

One possible indication of the scale of the distress comes from data on households/individuals who have worked under MGNREGA. In 2019-20, the year prior to the pandemic, 7.88 crore individuals worked under the scheme. In 2020-21, the first year of the pandemic, this number rose to 11.19 crore. While in the subsequent year it dipped to 10.62 crore, the number of individuals working under the scheme remained considerably higher than in the pre-pandemic period. In fact, so far this year, 6.29 crore individuals have already worked under the scheme as compared to 6.21 crore in the entire year of 2014-15. This growing reliance on MGNREGA likely indicates that other more remunerative employment opportunities remain limited. Another pointer to the economic distress at the lower end of the income distribution scale comes from the National Crime Records Bureau report — there has been a rise in suicides by daily wage earners and in 2021, daily wage earners accounted for a fourth of suicides in the country. As this paper has also reported, in 2021-22 over 2.3 crore life insurance policies were surrendered way ahead of their maturity by policy holders — this was more than thrice the number of policies surrendered the previous year. Other indicators point to subdued household purchasing power. As per data from SIAM, in 2021-22, sales of two-wheelers were lower than their 2019-20 levels by almost a quarter. Similarly, as per CRISIL, sales of cars priced below Rs 10 lakh grew by a mere 7 per cent in 2021-22, while those priced above Rs 10 lakh (the premium segment) grew by 38 per cent.

The bigger picture that emerges is one of pain at the lower and middle levels of income distribution. As policymakers navigate the tumultuous global macroeconomic environment, they must be mindful of the highly uneven nature of the recovery, and take measures to address the distress of the most vulnerable.

CAMERA HAS TWO FACES

CCTVs, cellphone cameras show entitlement and boorishness in Gurgaon and Noida highrises. But the camera can also hide

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, Varun Nath was mildly inconvenienced for a few minutes. At around 7 am on August 30, Nath was stuck in a lift in his posh Gurgaon high-rise for 3-4 minutes. When the lift operator, accompanied by a security guard got him out, he proceeded to slap them both. The CCTV footage that caught him in the act does not have sound. But it appears from the video that while his victims were trying to speak, Nath's first response was the violence of the entitled. Earlier this month, Bhaavya Roy was caught on camera, with audio, abusing security guards at a Noida condominium. Unfortunately, both incidents are not infrequent. What has changed is that with the ubiquity of the camera — CCTVs, cellphones — the entitlement and casual violence that marks Indian society is now there for all to see.

Is the camera, then, so often seen as an instrument of "Big Brother", a way to bring to light daily injustices that are otherwise ignored? It is easy to imagine how — given the relative privilege and power of the residents of a high-rise vis-a-vis the staff — incidents like the ones involving Roy and Nath would be brushed under the carpet had it not been for the "viral videos". Yet, as with all era-defining technology, the assessment of mass surveillance and recording needs a nuanced approach.

It is easy to get swayed by the current of justifiable outrage at the reprehensible behaviour displayed in the videos. Yet, outrage alone is not enough to fix an unequal society and an ineffective criminal justice system. That requires an honest conversation about class, caste and the forms of violence used to police their boundaries. And the camera, as much as it is a tool for shining a light on dark places, can also be used to breach the boundaries of personal space and tell stories without context. The abusive behaviour in Gurgaon and Noida are instances of the former. But, the hidden camera — or the colony and office CCTV — can be used to great detriment too.

THE ADANI GROUP'S foray into media — through a 49 per cent acquisition in the business news platform BQ Prime and, now, a 29.18 per cent indirect stake in New Delhi Television Ltd — underlines the return of the old model of conglomerate diversification or "horizontal control" in India.

In this model, a business group leverages its entrepreneurial reputation to enter into as many industries, often quite unrelated, as it can. Adani's businesses span ports, airports, coal mining and trading, thermal power generation, electricity transmission and distribution, natural gas supply, renewable energy, solar photovoltaic devices manufacture, edible oils and foods, grain handling, fruit marketing, road and rail infrastructure, data centres and — more recently — cement, fertilisers and media.

Horizontal control is contrasted with what, in business literature, is called "vertical integration" — where firms remain focused on their existing businesses, while forging backward and forward linkages across the production value chain.

Vertical integration is best exemplified by Reliance Industries, which, under Dhirubhai Ambani, started by making polyester fabric under the "Vimal" brand. The first step in "backward" integration was to manufacture polyester filament yarn and staple fibre, and then their intermediates PTA (purified terephthalic acid) and MEG (mono ethylene glycol). Reliance went on to even produce the raw materials for PTA (paraxylene) and MEG (ethylene) from the basic feedstock (naphtha) supplied by petroleum refineries. The culmination was building its own refinery (the world's largest) and moving further "upstream" into oil and gas production-cum-exploration. Naphtha cracking and reforming also resulted in other petrochemical products — from plastics, synthetic rubber and linear alkyl benzene used in detergents, to advanced composite materials.

Reliance, no doubt, has diversified horizontally as well into telecom, retail and media. The first two — and its proposed green energy ventures — may even end up bigger than the original petrochemicals and oil and gas businesses. But the extent of its horizontal diversification isn't comparable to Adani's. The latter today is closer to the Tata Group, having interests in steel, auto, information technology, power, jewelry, retail, beverages, chemicals, telecom, airlines, hotels, home appliances and aerospace and defence, among other things.

The bulk of Indian corporate houses are,

however, focused and big in not more than 3-4 industries. Take Mahindra (auto, IT and finance), JSW (steel, power and cement), Vedanta (non-ferrous metals, iron ore and steel), Bharti (telecom and insurance), Bajaj (auto, finance and insurance), TVS (two-wheelers and auto components), Hero (two-wheelers), Murugappa (fertilisers, finance, sugar and engineering materials) or Infosys, HCL Technologies and Wipro (IT) and Sun Pharma, Aurobindo Pharma, Dr Reddy's Labs, Cipla and Lupin (pharmaceuticals). Even the much-diversified Aditya Birla Group has exited fertilisers, petroleum refining and palm oil, and almost done so in telecom. Its turnover now comes mostly from a few key businesses: Aluminium, cement, copper, financial services, viscose, branded apparel, caustic soda and carbon black.

The Adani case is interesting, both for the sheer breadth of industries it operates in and how fast this group — unlike the venerable "salt-to-software" Tata conglomerate — has grown. From setting up the Mundra Port at Gujarat that commenced operations in October 1998, to becoming the world's third richest man (<https://bit.ly/3pJmD5z>), Gautam Adani's rise is more spectacular than even that of Dhirubhai Ambani. The latter began with Vimal in the late 1960s and, by 1990, had turned Reliance into India's third biggest house after Tata and Birla. But Reliance, as already noted, isn't as diversified as Adani.

The only parallel one can draw for Adani is with Ramkrishna Dalmia. This near-forgotten industrialist's maiden venture was a sugar mill at Bihta (Bihar) in 1933. By the decade-end, he had taken over the Bharat Insurance Company and established five cement factories to take on the monopoly ACC combine, besides a paper and chemical plant. This was followed by forays into banking (Bharat Bank), coal mining, vanaspati and biscuit-making, and purchases of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway, three Andrew Yule jute mills and the motor vehicles firm Allen Berry from their British managing agencies.

The real big-ticket acquisitions — of Bennett, Coleman (publisher of *The Times of India*), Govan Brothers (owner of India's second largest aviation concern after Tata Airlines, the soda ash producer DCW and six other companies), Punjab National Bank, Lahore Electric Supply Company, the Sir Shapurji Broacha and Madhewji Dharamsi textile mills, and Delhi's Edward Keventer Dairy — happened after World War II. At the time of Independence, Dalmia was bigger than everybody, save Tata and Birla.

THE PODIUM FINISH

On the field, track, mat or in the ring, only merit, fitness and hard work matter



MC MARY KOM

SO MUCH HAS changed in India since Independence, and even from when I entered the world of sports. In athletics and sports like boxing, there has been tremendous growth. Our sportspersons are doing an excellent job. In this regard, the recent performance in the Commonwealth Games held in Birmingham, UK, has been particularly encouraging. I congratulate all the athletes who took part in it. This momentum should be built on — first for the more challenging upcoming competitions like the World Athletics Championship, the Asian Games and, of course, the Olympics and also keeping the longer term in mind.

In the next 25 years, I hope to see us shine even brighter on the field and in the ring. In sports, success is measurable — we must aim to get more and more medals. All our athletes are doing better but what is most heartening to me is how young women and girls are bringing glory to the country. In many instances, they are outshining the men!

Over the years, especially in the last decade or so, the kind of support and facilities available to Indian athletes has improved by leaps. Gone are the days when talented athletes were unable to get exposure or were forced to



A politician, businessman, doctor, engineer, any other professional — all these people can achieve a lot. But a sportsperson can achieve success — whether in an individual game or as part of a team — in the spirit of pure competition. On the field, track, mat or in the ring, the only thing that matters is merit, fitness and hard work.

train in facilities and with equipment that were not up to global standards. Now, there is both the budget and the support for athletes to do their best. Under the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) scheme, instituted by the current NDA government in 2014, for example, considerable funds were invested in nurturing athletes. In the run-up to the Tokyo Olympics, this provided them a boost.

Now, I see more and more youngsters and children getting passionate about sports. This passion can be turned into concrete results.

One way in which sports will get a big boost in the country in the years to come is if India is able to host the Olympic Games sooner rather than later. This will almost certainly lead to the creation of more sports infrastructure, provide a boost to the economy and perhaps most importantly, expand the events in which India can be a medal competitor. More athletes in diverse sports will get a chance at least at the qualifier level. And, if there is strategic focus, training and dedication, the number of medal hopefuls and winners will surely increase.

Finally, for India@100, there is a message I would like to give to all young people — particularly to the young women and girls of India.

There are many ways to find success and build an identity. But, if you have the talent and the dedication, there is something unique about achieving sporting success at the highest level.

A politician, businessman, doctor, engineer, any other professional — all these people can achieve a lot. But a sportsperson can achieve success in the spirit of pure competition. On the field, track, mat or in the ring, the only thing that matters is merit, fitness and hard work. No one can take your talent away from you. A sportsperson, when they achieve the highest honours, stands on a podium and holds the flag of India high for all the world to see. That is a feeling that is almost indescribable, as is the pride one feels at that moment.

By the time India turns 100, I want more and more young women, and men, from this country to have that amazing feeling.

The writer is a six-time winner at the World Boxing Championship and Olympic, Commonwealth Games and Asian Game medallist. This article is part of an ongoing series, which began on August 15, by women who have made a mark, across sectors

AUGUST 31, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

MINIMUM WAGE RISES

THE CENTRE ANNOUNCED an increase in the minimum wages of unskilled workers in agriculture, building and construction. According to a Union Labour Ministry notification, unskilled workers in these fields will now get a daily minimum wage between Rs 6.75 and Rs 10. The daily wages of an unskilled agricultural worker were between Rs 6 and Rs 8.75 for building and construction workers between Rs 5.25 to Rs 7.50.

SL'S FIRST ELECTION

EMERGENCY HAS BEEN lifted in Sri Lanka

which will have its first ever presidential election on October 20. The Election Commissioner's announcement of the date came within hours of the expiry of the month-long emergency. Junius Jayawardene, 76, incumbent President, has announced that he will seek a second term. This is the first time Sri Lanka will go to the polls to choose an individual since Ponnambalm Ramanathan was elected in 1911 to the legislative council.

FLOOD RELIEF

THE ARMY WAS pressed into service in Orissa and UP for rescue operations as the flood situ-

ation worsened in the two states. Cuttack was threatened by waters of the Mahanadi, Brahmini and Rushikulya. In UP, the army moved its task force into Banda, Hamirpur and Ballia to evacuate the marooned people.

ARAFAT BIDS ADIEU

VOWING TO "KEEP fighting against Israel until we win," the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, sailed from Beirut aboard a converted Greek ferry escorted by US warships to an undisclosed exile. Cannons fired a salute of 11 salvos and a crowd of Lebanese dignitaries, leftist leaders and former PMs came to see him off.



THE IDEAS PAGE

A cinematic demolition

We cheer the fall of a building but are unwilling to question the nature of the state in whose full sight it blossomed. It would be a tragedy if the spectacle in Noida comes to stand for how to tackle urban malaise



SANJAY SRIVASTAVA

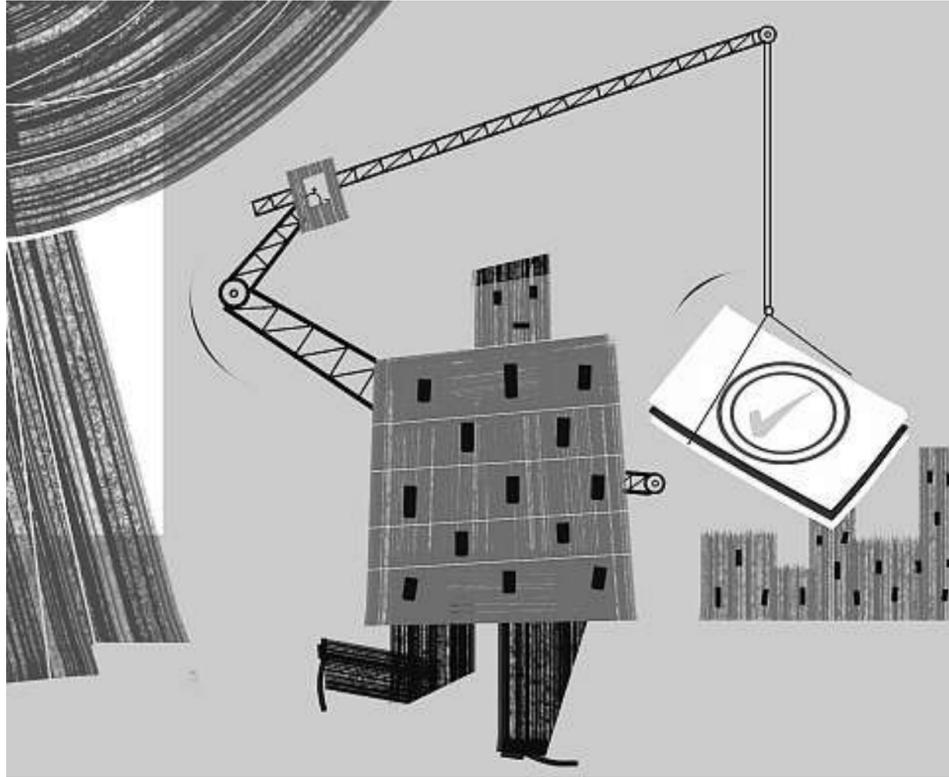
THE MASSIVE AND cinematic cloud of dust that enveloped the surroundings of the recently-demolished Supertech buildings in Noida is an apt metaphor of the new relations between land, private real estate players and the state. These, in turn, derive from changing aspirations on the part of different sections of the population that have fed the demand for individual dwellings across the country. As vast tracts of erstwhile rural lands are converted into gated communities promising a world of comforts, another cloistered world has also arisen. This is the largely opaque realm of kinship between the state and real estate companies. The August 28 dust-cloud in Noida neatly captures a relationship that is both opaque and also harmful to the political and social economies of a democracy. Beyond the illegality of a pair of buildings in Uttar Pradesh, lies the story of a national drama with origins in the early to mid-1980s.

In Delhi and the areas that surround it (the territory known as the National Capital Region), the market for land during the 20th century was spurred by the actions of the government. In the first half of the previous century, private developers were confronted by formidable barriers to entry. As land-holding bodies, the Delhi Improvements Trust (established 1937) and the Delhi Development Authority (1957) were effective land monopolists. Their actions led to massive inflation in land prices and locking out large sections from decent habitation infrastructure. They inhibited machinations by private players but did not, in fact, act in the public interest.

The government's actions as a land monopolist in the Delhi region (the story varies in different parts of India) led private players to look beyond its boundaries. Areas in Haryana and UP that bordered the city emerged as important nodes of urbanisation. From the mid-1980s, with the emergence of new sources of home loans, the expansion of the middle class and rise of overseas remittance, the private housing market took hold. However, notwithstanding the seemingly formal nature of the arrangements that surround land transactions — loan documents, title deeds, acts for land acquisition and regulation of the real estate sector — land transactions remain extraordinarily informal and stubbornly damaging of the public good. Quite curiously, or perhaps predictably, different levels of the state appear to like things this way.

Since the 1980s, the history of new urbanisation in India is one of the new relationships between government mechanisms and private players where the visibility of planning methods acts as a curtain for constant post-approval alterations. This usually happened as land values increase and it became profitable to "convince" government regulatory authorities to allow changes in the plans that were actually approved — plans for schools and charitable hospitals were frequently transformed into more lucrative alternatives.

It was (and is) just as common that land acquired for public purpose — a road, say —



C R Sasikumar

became the site of a private developed gated community. And further, a road that might be shown on the map as a straight line, turns out on inspection to be made up of a series of zig-zagging stretches because that proved to be of greatest benefit to all parties to the scheme. This, of course, involves collaboration between different levels of government, politicians, real estate companies, land surveyors and brokers of different kinds. In the newly urbanising rural-urban frontiers in particular, the multiplicity of land systems, units of measurement and the fact that planning procedures follow, rather than lead, actual construction makes it almost impossible to institute mechanisms of transparency. Technological fixes are easily subverted by kin-like relations that now exist between different stakeholders in land, the most important of which is the state.

The visual impact of the Noida demolition — video clips widely relayed across social media, complete with cheering and clapping on-lookers — appears to have been interpreted as a message to the powerful "builders lobby" on behalf of a hapless but indefatigable citizenry. However, this is to miss the processes that have become established over the past few decades whereby there isn't an easily identifiable builders lobby that acts against public interest. What we have, rather, is a state-real estate complex where it is increasingly difficult to work out where the state ends and private interests begin. This is the Indian version of the military-industrial complex. The corporatisation of the state — a process that, perhaps, those applauding the demolition might themselves approve of — that has accompanied the emergence of recent land markets makes it increasingly difficult to protect

The visual impact of the Noida demolition — video clips widely relayed across social media, complete with cheering and clapping on-lookers — appears to have been interpreted as a message to the powerful 'builders lobby' on behalf of a hapless but indefatigable citizenry. However, this is to miss the processes that have become established over the past few decades whereby there isn't an easily identifiable builders lobby that acts against public interest. What we have, rather, is a state-real estate complex where it is increasingly difficult to work out where the state ends and private interests begin. This is the Indian version of the military-industrial complex.

public welfare.

Keeping aside the legal aspects of the demolition, there is another danger in unequivocal celebration of the demolition for the ways in which we think of cities and urban life. For, it now becomes easier to say: "Demolish all that is illegal". In deeply unequal cities, this can only lead to attitudes of great callousness towards the most disenfranchised of urban dwellers. As arduous the task of those who fought the case for demolition was, it is also a reminder that justice is frequently a function of the capacity to achieve it. It would be a terrible tragedy if the spectacle of the Noida demolition comes to stand for how to tackle urban malaise. This requires a different approach.

For every Noida-type demolition, our cities are witness to several well-established patterns of illegalities that, in the fitness of time, become legalised. The several enclaves of the well-off and encroachments upon forest lands by powerful people are prominent examples. This denudes urban environments and also makes for incredibly unjust cities. It is easy to blow up illegal buildings here and there but more difficult to question the peculiar relations between the governments and land markets and our own participation in it. Demolitions are spectacular events but spectacles are not the best way to make better cities.

Our relation to spectacular events as proxies for interrogating social and political structures — we cheer the fall of a building but are unwilling to question the nature of the state in whose full sight it blossomed — can only suggest that while the dust in Noida may settle in a while, the clouds will remain.

The writer teaches at the SOAS University of London

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Pakistan's devastation is a grim reminder of what is at stake. The necessity of adaptation in these worst-hit parts of the world makes it all the more imperative that they are helped." — THE GUARDIAN

Spyware from nowhere

SC panel on Pegasus failed its mandate by not probing origin and nature of the malware. It meekly accepted government's non-cooperation



YASHOVARDHAN AZAD AND ANAND VENKATNARAYANAN

THE PEGASUS project was a collaborative effort embarked upon by 17 international media organisations, unearthing a list of 50,000-plus phone numbers worldwide that were said to have been targeted by the spyware. The spyware maker, NSO Group, claimed that Pegasus was sold only to law enforcement and intelligence services of nation states for combating terrorism and crime. While countries like France, Germany, Poland, and Hungary admitted to its purchase, the US denied buying the software after its demonstration to the FBI.

Out of the stack of 50,000, 300 phone numbers belonged to Indian subscribers including journalists, politicians, NGOs, etc. In October 2021, the Supreme Court ordered an inquiry on whether Pegasus was used by the government. The SC hearing on the report last week led to disbelief, acrimony and trading of charges between the Opposition and the ruling party.

If the report of the technical committee appointed by the SC to investigate the Pegasus affair were to be taken at face value, one may conclude that the spyware episode is a figment of the collective imagination of several hundred cyber-security researchers and technology companies like Apple, Google, Meta, Trend Micro, Proof Point etc., who have been misinforming to invest billions of dollars in hardening their systems to fix vulnerabilities that do not exist. It might also seem that some of these technology companies (Apple and Meta, for example) have committed perjury in the US courts, by publishing factually incorrect statements about the Zero-Click iMessage and WhatsApp vulnerabilities. Further, it might also seem that several foreign governments and their intelligence services were inveigled into believing the technical indicators published by the researchers and technology companies, which led to their conclusion that there was indeed a Pegasus infection on the devices examined by them.

There are hence only two ways to look at the report of the technical committee: It is either ground-breaking or completely wrong. We don't know which of these is true because it is kept under a sealed cover by the SC under the excuse that if put out in the public domain, it might result in the creation of more dangerous malware. As the methodology, process, and tools used by the committee to arrive at its conclusions are now deemed to be a state secret, we have to use analogies and other approaches to understand the report.

Consider, for a moment, the tests that are used for detecting Covid. Each test has two characteristics — false positive and false negative. False positive is when a test detects Covid when the infection is not present. False negative is when it does not detect an infection. As several test kits use different methodologies, every test kit must always indicate

the probability of false positives and false negatives.

Now imagine there is a test kit in the market, which when given a sample of tissue that every other kit detects as infected by Covid, says there is an infection but it is not conclusive whether it is Covid. Then, the first logical question to ask would be if the kit ever detected Covid. Is the false negative rate of the kit 100 per cent? The conclusion would naturally be that this kit is not a reliable indicator for testing Covid.

A similar reasoning process can be applied to the committee's report. The methodology it used is not known and the burden of proof that it is indeed reliable is with the committee, and not with the petitioners. The dispute between various approaches and their reliability usually either takes place in the scientific domain through the process of peer reviews or in the legal realm through the process of cross-examination by lawyers in the open court.

Neither of these has happened. While the Court-appointed committee demanded complete transparency from the petitioners including asking for a complete copy of their phone data and conducted a detailed examination of the witnesses appearing for them, it has not applied the same standards to itself. Further, by allowing the committee's report to be kept under sealed cover, the Court itself has denied scientific scrutiny of the report.

The committee meekly accepted the non-cooperation of the government in the probe. It did not invite public depositions from independent researchers, cyber-security experts from Apple, Google, Proof-Point, Meta and other organisations. Even if five phones are infected by some other spyware, it was the government's call to deny or accept the charge and not the committee's. The committee fell short of its real objective by not probing the origin and nature of this "some other malware".

The Court has also missed an opportunity in creating a precedent on how digital forensic evidence needs to be examined and the standards the evidence needs to be subjected to. In an era where data breaches, ransomware and other cyber-crimes have become increasingly common, widespread know-how on the examination of digital evidence is a key indicator if a nation-state is set to become a cyber power.

The recommendations made in the report will not make anyone wiser since the issues of privacy and surveillance reform have been debated for long but have not been translated into action. The Data Privacy Bill has been withdrawn, while both state and central governments are unwilling to change the current pattern of layers of the executive arm alone sanctioning and overseeing surveillance. The reluctance of political parties to subject surveillance to judicial oversight is the reason why the courts were expected to strike down surveillance methods as against the basic tenets of freedom of speech.

The Pegasus case, hence, was not just about protecting personal privacy of the petitioners but was also an opportunity for all arms of the state to understand their critical role in making India a responsible cyber power. That opportunity seems to have slipped away.

Azad served as Secretary Security and Venkatnarayanan is a cyber security and privacy researcher. Both are with Deepstrat, a Delhi-based think tank



HIMANSHU

Teacher at large

Abhijit Sen believed in power of policy to achieve growth, and alleviate poverty

PROFESSOR ABHIJIT Sen, economist and former faculty at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning (CESP) in Jawaharlal Nehru University passed away on August 29 due to a sudden heart attack. Primarily a teacher, he was also involved in policy-making in various roles for more than a decade — as a member of the Planning Commission (2004-14), the 14th finance commission and chairperson of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Price (CACP), among several other positions that he held during his almost two decades of involvement with policy making. But even during his leave of absence to advise the government on policy issues, he continued teaching and supervising research scholars at CESP throughout the three decades that he was associated with the centre. He remained a quintessential teacher-at-large for several students at JNU and elsewhere, bureaucrats, journalists, activists and anyone else who was willing to learn. It was not unusual for him to pick up a marker/chalk and start teaching in formal meetings or during informal get-togethers.

Sen was primarily an agricultural economist, starting from his seminal PhD thesis submitted at Cambridge University on the 'Agrarian Constraint to Economic Development'. His basic proposition that agricultural problems remain the primary constraint to growth, based on a careful analysis

of the post-Independence economic growth of the first three decades, remains relevant even today. His thesis argued that the root of the agrarian problem lies in the structure of Indian agriculture and increasing input intensity or institutional mechanisms such as sharecropping are unlikely to take care of the problems of surplus labour and poverty in agriculture. The nature of the agriculture problem is unlikely to be resolved without state intervention given the existing agrarian structure. For Sen, the resolution of the agrarian problem was not just key to overall growth but also necessary to take care of the problem of mass poverty.

Sen's understanding of Indian agricultural problems based on his subsequent work on agriculture only confirmed his belief in the necessity of state intervention, something that he tried during his stint at the CACP and later through the High-Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy, 2001. He argued for remunerative prices to farmers along with universalising the Public Distribution System (PDS), a belief he held and argued for during the debate on the National Food Security Act (2013). As a member of the Planning Commission, he argued for expanding the coverage of the PDS under the NFSA to make it near-universal, if not fully universal.

For him, the role of public policy was not just to achieve growth but also improve the

lives of the poor. This belief came not just from his analysis of poverty trends in India, a subject that he deeply engaged with, but also from his profound engagement with policy and the role of the state. Sen's contributions to the measurement of poverty and underlying data on consumption expenditure are recognised in India as well as globally. In particular, his contribution to the first 'Great Indian Poverty Debate' on some of the methodological issues not only forced the government to abandon the controversial estimates of poverty for 1999-2000 but also helped in further refinement of the methodology of data collection on consumption expenditure. He also contributed to the Tendulkar Committee report on poverty lines.

Sen's firmness on various issues in policy circles and academic debates was perceived differently from different ideological perspectives. But his belief and firmness also came from his ideological commitment to facts based on hard data. It was this belief in dispassionately engaging with data that earned him praise and respect from various ideological quarters, despite divergences in approach. He also did not have biases about the sources of data. For him, facts came in different forms. Despite his ease with large-scale data, he was equally comfortable with and willing to engage with primary data coming from village surveys or through his

interaction with activists. He was willing to let go of his own beliefs and ideas if the facts contradicted them and revise his opinion. It was this humility that endeared Sen to students as well as fellow policymakers and bureaucrats. His openness also helped him appreciate students, academics and activists from other disciplines.

The hunger to learn also meant that Sen published much less than he could have. It was not laziness but his quest for the complete story and understanding of all aspects of an issue which made him a less prolific writer than many of his contemporaries. He never wrote a book and published little but he would always encourage young researchers to publish and guided them with whatever knowledge, data and information he had. He had many more unfinished and unpublished papers than the ones he published. His desktop never shut down — even when he was unwell during the last two years, he continued working on his Excel files. He had much more to contribute, especially during the current period when his wisdom and knowledge are needed to make sense of what is happening to poverty, inequality, employment, state finance and many other issues on which he remained the authoritative voice for many.

The writer is Associate Professor, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, JNU

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

REVIEW POLICY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The return of nuclear weapons' (IE, August 30). India's nuclear policy is a contested issue among scholars. But considering events occurring in different parts of the world, it is prudent to review it. First, the Russian invasion of Ukraine stands to show the value of having a nuclear arsenal for deterrence. Second, aggressive Chinese nuclear posturing is a cause for concern, not just for India, but for larger nuclear-power states as well. Considering these factors, India's nuclear position of "No First Use" (NFU) needs deliberation. At the same time, the policy of "massive retaliation in case of first strike by the other side" also needs revision.

Dewang Ganesh Thosar, Raigad

CONGRESS WOES

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Speaking truth to party' (IE, August 30). A rapidly declining Congress may not be very affected by the exit of Ghulam Nabi Azad, but the tirade of the erstwhile Congress loyalists while leaving the party is bound to usher in some changes at the helm. The question is: Will these changes be cosmetic or structural? With his all-out attack on Rahul, Azad may force the Gandhi family towards a quiet retreat

and the emergence of a new face. But, without the Gandhi glue, will Congress not implode? The much-awaited elections of the Congress president will hopefully answer some questions.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

REMEDY NEEDED

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'First time, daily wagers suicides cross quarters of national total' (IE, August 30). It is because daily-wagers often fail to find reliable and sustainable employment. The Covid-19 outbreak was catastrophic for daily wagers. There is an urgent need to understand and resolve this crisis. State intervention should not be dismissed simply as a promotion of "revdi" culture.

Samiiul Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

WHAT NEXT?

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Inequality hurts us all' (IE, August 30). The piece documented the fact that ill-treatment of Dalits is still going on — not only in education but other walks of life. Moving forward, we need to explore certain questions: What is the magnitude of the discrimination in absolute numbers? What are the undiscovered causes of such incidents despite protective legislation?

YG Chouksey, Pune

PERSONAL

I, JAIKISHAN R/O C515 DAYA NAND GALI, NANAK CHAND BASTI, KOTLA MUBARAKPUR, NEW DELHI- 110003 have changed my name to **JAIKISHAN VERMA**
0070801786-1

I, JAG VIR SINGH, S/O MANGTU RAM, R/O- H.No-M.C.F 247, Ward No-34, Prem Nagar Yadav Colony, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana- 121004 have changed my name to **JAGBIR SINGH** for all purposes. 0070801788-1

I, INDU RATHI, W/O GAGAN DAHIYA, HOUSE, NO.256, STREET NO.1, K-BLOCK, DDA PARK, MAHIPALPUR, NEW DELHI-110037, changed my name to **INDU DAHIYA**.
0040629573-1

I, Arvinder Singh alias Arvinder Singh Gulati son of late Shri Teja Singh r/o C-6/54 B, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035 hereby declare that Arvinder Singh & Arvinder Singh Gulati is the same person and shall be known as Arvinder Singh for all future purposes.
0040629477-1

I, Anuradha Kumari, D/o Ram Dayal Prasad, W/O Veerbahadur Gupta, R/o Bibi Tola, Balaria, Ballia, Uttar Pradesh-277201, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Anuradha Gupta**.
0070801723-1

I, Ashirwad Kumar alias Ashirwad Kumar, S/o Mani Bhushan Gupta, R/O 196/7, Ground Floor, Gali No-09, Than Singh Nagar, Anand Prabhat, Central Delhi-110005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Anshu Gupta**.
0070801715-1

I, Dharmender S/o Sh. Dharam Singh R/O E-35, Malka Ganj, North Delhi, Delhi-110007 have changed my name to **Varun Pilwan** for all purposes.
0040629469-7

I, Anjali D/O, Rajesh Sablania R/O Wz-18, 3rd Floor, Hari Singh Park, Multan Nagar, Delhi-110056 have changed my name to **Anjali Sablania**.
0040629561-1

I, Akbar S/O Mohammad Rustam Khan R/O 465, Indira Gandhi Camp-2, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025 have changed my name to **Mohammad Akbar Khan** for all purposes.
0040629469-6

I, PARMENDRA SINGH, S/O UMED SINGH, H.No-FE-547, G/F KH.NO-232/141, GALI NO.14, PHASE.6, AYNA NAGAR EXT, SOUTH DELHI-110017, Changed my name to **PARMENDRA SINGH NEGI**. For all future Purposes. 0040629600-1

I, Manju Grover W/O Mohan Lal Grover R/O E-249, Tagore Garden, New Delhi 110027, have changed my name to **Manju**.
0040629600-4

I, MANOJ KUMAR, S/O MANGAT RAM BIRLA, ADD-C-85, FIRST-FLOOR, WEST SIDE HARI-NAGAR, WEST DELHI-110064, Changed my name to **MANOJ KUMAR BIRLA**. For all future Purposes. 0040629577-2

I, MANISH AGGARWAL, S/O VIPUL KUMAR, R/O J-6/115, 2ND-FLOOR, RAJOURI GARDEN, DELHI-110027, HAVE CHANGED MY CHILD NAME VSU AGGARWAL TO VASU AGGARWAL. 0040629581-2

I, Sneh W/O Charanjit Basra R/O-3253 Ranjit Nagar, New Delhi-110008, Have changed my name to **Sneh Basra** permanently.
0040629573-8

I, GIRRAJ PRASAD MEENA, S/O, SHANKAR LAL MEENA, ADD-FLAT-NO-08, TOWER-06, YAMUNA APARTMENTS D-06, VASANTKUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070, changed name of my Minor Son **MANAN MEENA** to **MANAN GIRRAJ PRASAD**, for all, future Purposes. 0040629588-8

I, Sunil Kumar S/O-Krishan Dutt R/O: RZ-669/12A, Gali.No-18C, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi-45 Have Changed My Name to **Sunil Kumar Vashisht**, for all Purposes. 0040629573-7

I, Raminder Kaur alias Raminder Kaur Gulati wife of Shri Arvinder Singh r/o C-6/54 B, Lawrence Road, Keshav Puram, Delhi-110035 hereby declare that **Raminder Kaur & Raminder Kaur Gulati** is the same person and shall be known as **Raminder Kaur** for all future purposes.
0040629477-2

I, Sahil Yadav S/O Sh. Anil Yadav, R/O: D-138, 1st Floor, Phase -1 Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110052, have changed my minor son's name from **Chittransh Yadav** to **Chittransh Rao** for all future purposes.
0050203328-1

Kusum D/o Late Jagdish Singh Rawat R/O Flat No A 1 Plot No 149 Sec 2A Vaishali Ghaziabad in my documents my father's name is corrected from **Jagdish Rawat** to **Jagdish Singh Rawat**
0050203397-1

It is for general information that I, Sandhya Yadav, D/o Shri. Shiv Shankar Yadav, R/O A-111, Raja Vihar, Badli- North West- Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as **Sandhya Kumari** in my-Educational Documents. The actual-name of mine is **Sandhya Yadav**, which may be amended accordingly. 0040629581-9

I, Yojana Gyan Prakash Shrivastava, W/O Gyan Prakash Shrivastava, R/O, Pocket-B, Villa-81, Anant Raj-Estate, Sector-63A, Golf Course-Extension-Road, Gurgaon 122101, have changed my name to **Yojana Prakash Shrivastava**.
0040629600-3

I, Vinayak Prasher, S/O Shri Bhupesh Parashar R/O A-23, Surya Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011, have changed my name to **Vinayak Parashar**.
0040629584-1

I, Seema Sharma, W/O Manmeet Sharma, R/O H.No.677, Niti Khand-III, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P.-201014, my Son name is **Lakshay Manmeet Sharma** that my name is **Seema Sharma** but I want to change my name is **Seema Rani Sharma** for all purposes. 0040629584-5

I, Ravil Kumar Kain, S/O C.L.Kain R/O-2309 Street No.5, G.B.Colony Shakhara, Delhi-110032, Have Changed My Name To **Ravi Kain**, For All Purposes. 0040629581-3

I, Radha thakur w/o-bharat bhushan 122/123, sudan park, shastri nagar, delhi (110031) changed my name to **Radha rani**. 0040629573-4

I, RIVAZ AHMED, S/O, MAQSOOD AHMAD, ADD-328, UPPER-GROUND FLOOR, PRAKASH MOHALLA, DELHI 110065, changed my name to **REYAZ AHMED**, for all future Purposes. 0040629577-3

I, RAJESH alias RAJESH SHARMA D/O KISHAN CHAND W/O ASHWANI KUMAR SHARMA R/O Kh.No.611, Near, Mini Stadium, Nehru-Enclave, Ali Pur Delhi-110036, have changed my name to **RAJESH SHARMA**.
0040629600-6

I, Premwati W/o Jethu Ram, R/O F-68, Lal Kuan, M.B.Road, New Delhi-110044, declare that **Padmavati** and **Premwati** are the name of one and same person. 0040629581-11

I, Naresh Kumar, S/O Kewal Krishan Luthra R/O BU-222, Pitampura, Delhi-110034, have changed my name from **Naresh Kumar** to **Naresh Luthra** for all future purposes. 0040629581-10

I, Nitu Singh W/O-Pankaj Kumar, R/O E-1738 Netaji-Nagar, New Delhi-110023, Have Changed My Name to **Bhavprita**. 0040629588-4

I, Nababuddin S/o-Karmuddin R/O, H.No.405, Gali, No.-1 Kardampuri-Extn., Delhi-110094 inform that name of my and my-father has been wrongly-mentioned as **Nababuddin kha** and **Karabuddin** in my passport documents. The correct-name is **Nababuddin** and father is **Karmuddin**. Which may be amended accordingly.

I, NIKHIL MANOJ PATTERSON, S/O MANOJ PATTERSON, R/O, Flat.No.1403, Star Court-5, Jaypee Greens, Greater Noida, (UP) have changed my name to **NIKHIL MANOJ**. 0040629573-9

I, NEERAJ KUMAR, S/O JOGINDER SINGH R/O HNO.1824, SECTOR-12, PART-3, SONIPAT-131001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **NEERAJ ROHELLA**.
0040629588-3

I, NARENDER KUMAR S/O LATE. SHRI RAM SARAN BHATIA R/O 2ND-FLOOR, GALI.NO.8, WAZIRABAD EXTN., NORTH DELHI-110084, have changed my name to **NARENDRA BHATIA**.
0040629573-6

I, Mukesh Kumar Kalkhanday, S/o Sh. Baljor Singh, R/O E-352/A, Upper Floor, Anand Marg, Ramayan-Chowk, Chhajipur, Shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as **Mukesh Kumar Kalkhanday** in my 10th-class marksheet and certificate. The actual-name of mine is **Mukesh Kumar Kalkhanday**, which may be amended accordingly. 0040629588-10

I, Monika, spouse of, Hari Singh, resident of, Vill- Jagasari Chhoti, PO- Mundri Bara, Teh- Bhadra, Distt- Hanumangarh, State- Rajasthan, PIN- 335502, have changed my name, from **Monika** to **Monika Benival**, wife- Affidavit, dated, 30-Aug-22, before Notary- Delhi. 0040629581-8

I, Monika W/O-Subham Sinha, R/O B-164 Mavi Mohalla Tekhand, Okhla Phase-1, New Delhi-110020, have changed my name to **Monika Gupta**, for all purposes. 0040629588-1

I, Mohinder suri, s/o krishan lal suri, Add-s-30, 1st-floor greater-Kailash-1, new delhi-110048, changed my name to **mohinder Kumar suri**.
0040629573-12

I, Mohinder suri, s/o krishan lal suri, Add-s-30, 1st-floor greater-Kailash-1, new delhi-110048, changed my name to **mohinder Kumar suri**.
0040629573-12

I, MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA, S/O DAYA SHANKAR SHARMA, R/O 320, KALKAJI DEPO, BAL MUKUND KHAND GIRI-NAGAR, KALKAJI, DELHI-110019, CHANGED MY NAME TO **MUKESH SHARMA**.
0040629581-1

I, Khushboo D/O Sh Pappu Rai R/O A-356/1 Amarpuri, Nabi Karim, New Delhi 110055 have changed my name to **Khushboo Rai**
0050203391-1

I, MUKESH KUMAR AGARWAL (M K AGARWAL) S/O DHANSIRAM, E-56 SHIVAJIROAD, ADARSHNAGAR, DELHI-33, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MUKESH KUMAR PERMANENTLY 0040629573-2

I, MADHU W/O MOHINDER KUMAR SURI R/O S-30 1ST-FLOOR GREATER KAILASH-1, NEW DELHI-110048, changed my name to **MADHU SURI**.
0040629573-11

I, Lalit Kumar Sharma, R/o H.No.6702, Block-9, Gali No.-8, Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005, inform that in my Son's polioey No.-118519157 & his name & Date of birth has wrongly mentioned as **Abhigyan Sharma** 13.08.2017, instead of **Yug Sharma** 12.10.2017.
0040629584-2

I, Kiran Bala W/O Raj Kumar Saini, R/O, K-17, Budh Vihar Phase-1, Delhi-110086 have changed my name to **Kiran**.
0040629577-8

I, Karamvir Yadav, S/o-Sh. Ram Kumar, R/O-148, Kamruddin Nagar, Nangloi, West Delhi-110041, have changed my name to **Karam Vir**, for all purposes. 0040629588-2

I, Kamlesh Drall W/o Jagbir Singh Drall R/o H.No.46, Village Neelwal, PO-Tikki Kalan, New Delhi-110041, Presently residing at F.No-1129, GH-14 Paschim Vihar, New Delhi-110087, have changed my name **Kamlesh Kumari** for all Purposes. 0040629588-6

I, Hina Khan, D/o Shri. Akhlaq Ahmad, R/O F-150/A, Second-Floor, Shaheen Bagh, Abul-Fazal Enclave-2, Jamia- Nagar, Okhla, New Delhi-110025, have changed my name, from **Hina Khan** to **Hina Akhlaq**, for all, future purposes.
0040629588-5

I, Harikesh Lamba S/o Balwan Singh, R/O C-250, Shahabad Dairy, Delhi-110042, have changed my name, from **Hari Kesh** to **Harikesh Lamba**, for all purposes. 0040629577-6

I, Gyan Prakash Ramswoorop Shrivastava S/O-Ramswoorop Komalprasad Shrivastava, R/O Pocket-B, Villa-81, Anant Raj Estate, Sector-63A, Golf Course Extension-Road, Gurgaon-122101, have changed my name to **Gyan Prakash Shrivastava**.
0040629600-2

I, GIRRAJ PRASAD MEENA, S/O, SHANKAR LAL MEENA, ADD-FLAT-NO-08, TOWER-06 YAMUNA APARTMENTS D-06, VASANT-KUNJ, NEW DELHI-110070, Changed name of my Minor-Son **ANANAY MEENA** to **ANANAY PRASAD**, for all, future Purposes. 0040629588-7

I, ELIYAS NAG S/O FRANCIS NAG, R/O. H.NO.A-68, PHASE-5, AYNA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-47, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ELIAS NAG, FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES. 0040629577-1

I, DINESH KUMAR YADAV, S/O SH.DHANI RAM, R/O-Flat.no-37 Manav-Vihar, Appartment, Sector-15, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have Changed my name to **DINESH YADAV**, for all, future purposes. 0040629573-3

I, DARSHANI RANA, W/O AMHAPAL SINGH R/O E-78, SECTOR-1, LAVANTIKA, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **DARSHANI NEGI**. 0040629577-4

I, Bharat Bhushan S/O Ved Parkash Kaushik, R/O C-17, 2ND, Sector-7, Rohini Delhi-110085, have changed my name to **Bharat Bhushan Kaushik**
0040629573-6

I, Babita Bachkheti alias Babita Rani D/o Ramesh Chandra W/O Naveen Bachkheti R/o Plot.No.18 UGF-4 Shakti, Khand-2 Indirapuram, Ghaziabad Uttar-Pradesh-201014, have changed my name to **Babita Bachkheti**. 0040629600-5

I, Amit Kumar Aggarwal, s/o Ashok Kumar Aggarwal address, P-79, South-Extension part-2, New Delhi-110049, changed My minor-Son name **Anmol Kumar Aggarwal** to **Anmol Aggarwal**.
0040629480-1

I, ARUN KUMAR PARASHAR, S/O RAGHUBIR PRASAD, R/O C-42, SEWAK PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO **ARUN KUMAR** 0040629577-9

I, ANAMIKA W/O-TANWEER AHMED ANSARI, R/O A-11, Chandra Mahal Colony, Chini Ki Buri, Jaipur-302002, Rajasthan, have changed my name to **Zaira Ahmad** permanently.
0040629577-5

I, Vishal, S/O Suresh Vasdev, R/O C53, 4th Floor, Mayfield Garden, Sector 50, Gurugram, Haryana 122018, have changed my name to **Vishal Vasdev** for all future purposes. 0070801770-1

I, Jasvirinder Kumar S/o Chamba Ram, R/O A-3/78, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to **Jasvirinder Kumar**, for all purposes. 0040629577-7

I, Vipin Nevpane S/O Sher Bahadur Neupane R/O-I-1603, VVIP Homes, Gaur City-2, GB Nagar have changed my name to Vipin Neupane.
0070801778-1

I, Krishna Chhabra alias Krishna Devi, W/o Mohinder Kumar Chhabra, R/O H.No.-554/7, Subhash Nagar, Near Ram Lila Ground, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my name to **KRISHNA DEVI CHHABRA** for all future purposes. 0070801775-1

I, Shikha Abrol W/o Rakesh Abrol R/O.-Amaatra Homes, B-1702, 17th Floor, Sector-10, Near ATS Homekraft, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP-201308 have changed my name to **SHIKHA KAPOOR** for all future purposes. 0070801789-1

I, Shalini Purohit D/o Gajendra Singh R/O L-428, Jalvayu Vihar, P-4, Builders Area, Greater Noida, U.P. have changed my name to **Shalini Singh for all future purposes. 0070801792-1**

I, Sangeeta, W/o Mangal Chand Saini, Kopariya ka Kuwa, Post Narhar, Chirawa, Jhunjhuni, Rajasthan 333026, has changed my name to **Sangeeta Saini** for all future purposes. 0070801713-1

I, Saneha Saundhi, D/o Rajesh Saundhi, R/O 324/B-3, Shiv Shakti Colony, Pinjore, Kalka, Panchkula, Haryana-134102, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Sania**. 0070801718-1

I, Rupanter Aggarwal s/o late Shri Ashok Masoom R/O CA/3C Hari Nagar Janta Flats New Delhi 110064 Delhi have changed my name from **Rupanter Aggarwal** for all future purposes. 0040629557-1

I, Rinku Sharma, D/o Budh Ram, R/O 514, Ward 8, Bada Panam, Khor (84), Gurgaon, Haryana-122414, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as **Raisa Sharma**. 0070801717-1

I, Rakesh Kumar, S/o Hazari Lal, R/O A 702, Dev Tranquil, Koteswar, Gandhinagar, Gujarat-380005, I have changed the name of my minor Daughter **Sarika**, aged about 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as **Sarika Mahawar**.
0070801725-1

I, Praveen Kumar Pappu R/O A-504, Shyam Apartment, Plot No.5D, Sector-11, Dwarika, New Delhi-110075, have changed my name to **Praveen Kumar Singh** for all future purposes. 0040629584-3

I, Piyush Sonkar S/O Virender Kumar Sonkar R/O B-305, 2nd Floor, Sudershan Park, Model Nagar, New Delhi-110015, that name of my father has been wrongly written as **Virendra Sonkar** in my Educational Documents of High School Certificate cum Marks Sheet, Senior Secondary School Certificate & Marksheet and Bachelor of Arts Records. The actual name of my father is **Virender Kumar Sonkar**
0070801781-1

I, Parth Kumar, S/O Sushil Kumar, R/O E-33/2, Madhobadi, Near Ramayan Mandir, Model Town, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh-243001, declare that Name of My Mother has been wrongly written as **Neelu Kumar** in my 10th Class Certificate and 12th Class Certificate. The actual name of My Mother is **Rekha Kumar**, which may be amended accordingly. 0070801720-1

I, Om Prakash, S/O Ganga Ram, R/O H.No.DH-380, New Colony, Near Gandhi Park, Palwal, Haryana-121102 have changed my name to **OM PRAKASH SARDANA** for all future purposes. 0070801774-1

I, Nitin Garg S/o Shri Rajendra Prasad Garg R/O Block-C-2/102, First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, Delhi-85 have changed my Minor Daughter Name **Shriya Garg** to **Arvita Agarwal** for all Purposes. 0040629470-1

I, Mohammad Ajir S/o Abdul Mannan R/O B 18, Govind Puram, Delhi-110076, have changed my name to **Mohd Wazeer** for all future purposes. 0040629511-1

I, Madhu Bala, D/o Late Mohinder Kumar Chhabra, R/O H.No-1766, Sector-45, Near Euro International School, Gurgaon, Haryana-122003, declares that name of my father has been wrongly written as **MAHENDER KUMAR** in my passport. The actual name of my father was **MOHINDER KUMAR CHHABRA**.
0070801773-1

I, Kanwal Jit Singh Bhalla, S/o Avtar Singh, R/O H.No.7/39, Upper-Ground Floor, South-Patel Nagar, Central, Delhi-110008, have changed my name to **Kanwal Jit Singh**
0040629480-1

I, Jyoti Rani W/o Vikas Goel R/O E-2, 1st Floor, Guru Nanak Road, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi-110033, have changed my name to **Jyoti Goel** for all future purposes. 0070801785-1

I, Jamaluddin Ansari s/o Md Sahid Ansari r/o Village-Jhonkhi Pur, Saraiya, Bhojpur, Bihar-202313 have changed my name to **Md Jamaluddin Ansari**.
0040629360-1

I, Mayank Kumar Garg S/o Gyan Prakash Garg, R/O H.No.573/8, Street No.3, Vijay Park, Moujpur Delhi-110053 have changed my name to **MAYANK GARG** for all future purposes. 0040629417-1

I, KHARU NISHA D/o BHURE KHAN R/O C-226 WELCOM SEELAMPUR DELHI 110053 have changed my name to **KHERU NISHA** permanently. 0040629417-3

I, FOR an behalf of my client I, Tarun Kochhar S/O Kalyan Das Kochhar and Sabina Kochhar both R/O K-1494, 1st Floor, K-BLOCK, Anshul Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana)-122017, by this Public Notice proclaim and declare that my clients are the sole and absolute owner of the property bearing no. B-31, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110029. The said property was leased to Akash Singh Kochhar and Praveen Kochhar S/O Anju Kochhar, previously R/o 16, Bank Enclave, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi - 110092 (office at M/s Guru Kripa Creations, IX/467, Main Subhash Road, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi -110031) for a limited period from 31.07.2022, however, eviction proceedings have been initiated against the said persons. My clients so far have not been requested the property in their name nor sold it to them nor intend to do so. I, through this Public Notice warn the general public to beware of any such or other rumors. I also intend to clarify that my clients have no acquaintance or relationship with said Akash and Praveen or their family and my clients' identities must not be confused with that of the illegal occupants by virtue of similar surnames. Sd/- Sarthak Maggon (Advocate) Off. 754-B, Basement, Jungpura B, New Delhi-110014

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0070795180-2

I, Pramod Kumar S/o Uttam Chandra Jain R/O-2015 Eternia Tower, Mahagun Mezzaria, Sec-78, Noida, UP have lost my possession certificate, share certificate. No-052 dated-12/05/1996 for house with address flat-56, Urja Ville, Sec-51, Noida-201301. If, Found Contact:- 9717677899.
0070801783-1

Lost original marksheet of National Trade Certificate (Trade: Machinist Grinder) favoring Vishal. Finder contact- Vishal Chauhan S/O Vijay Kumar, R/O H-28, Karampura, New Delhi-110015. 0040629577-10

LOST & FOUND
I, Govind Singh S/o Mr. Sardar Singh, R/O Dev Nandini Hospital, Gah Road, Hapur, my flat no. M-801, which is located in Mohindipur Kanwani, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) Housing Plot No. GH-12 of "SPS HEIGHTS", (Kharu No. 519M) is located on the first floor in Block-M, the allotment and possession letters have been lost somewhere. Contact us at 9358400452.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Smt. Baby @ Babes W/o Sh. Surender Gupta R/O B-258, Balbir Vihar, Karim Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have ended/severed all relationship with her daughter namely **Sushama** and her husband namely **Sh. Anand** who are disowned/debarred/dousted them from all movable and immovable properties to their unwanted behaviours and her malafide intention, if any one of my client or any family members shall not be responsible for any illegal activities in future. Sd/- N.K. JAULI (Advocate) Ch. No. P-19/A, Tri Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public at large that Mr. Riyasat Din M/s. Mohd. Ali R/o. H.No-B-128 Gali No-6 Mustafabad Babu Nagar, Delhi-110094, is the owner of House No. A-62, Street No.2, area 41.80 sq. mtrs. part of Kharia no. 48/20, Regn. No. 774, Colony Mahalaxmi, Karim Nagar, New Delhi-110085. "said property" by virtue of Government Deed dated 08.12.2001 executed by PWD in his favour dated 16.03.2001 (Vol. No. 5330, Pages 90-96, SRO U/ Settlement Whereas a Certified Copy in the name of Mr. Ram Babu Kharia no. 48/20, (i) Original Notarized G.A. ATS, Vol. Receipt and Affidavit dated 16.03.2001 executed by Mr. Ram Babu in favour of Mr. Purnam Sharma & Rajender Sharma, (ii) Original G.P.A. ATS, Vol. Receipt, Possession Letter & Affidavit dated 29.07.2018 executed by Purnam Sharma and Rajender Sharma in favour of Mr. Riyasat Din and Original Mutation Letter issued by the DDA in favour of Riyasat Din in respect of said property have been lost and the same is reported vide LR No:743172022 dated 28.08.2022. Funder hereby declares that LR (STSL-) is intending to create a registered/legitimate mortgage over the said property. In case of any person or any other entity have any objection/contingent or vested interest over the said property, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days of this publication of this notice. Funder hereby client shall conclude the sale and any claim and Or objection if any shall be considered as waived and abandoned and shall not be binding upon my client. MUDIIT 8000 (ADVOCATE) 9810247246

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that Sachin Sharma S/O Late Suresh Sharma R/O Flat No. 296, First Floor, DDA LIG Flats, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-59 has lost



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

THIS WORD MEANS

INDIAN NAVY'S ENSIGN

On September 2, the Indian Navy will get a new flag. The present flag has St George's Cross of the colonial era

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 30

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi will unveil the new Naval Ensign (flag) for the Indian Navy in Kochi on September 2 on the sidelines of the commissioning of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* at Cochin Shipyard Limited.

A colonial-era Ensign

The new Naval Ensign which the PM will unveil in Kochi will replace the present Ensign which carries the Saint George's Cross with the Tricolour in the canton (top left corner of flag). The design of the new Ensign has not yet been made public.

The current Ensign is a successor to the pre-Independence Ensign of the Indian Navy which had the Red George's Cross on a white background with the Union Jack of the United Kingdom in the top left corner.

After Independence, the Indian defence forces continued with colonial-era flags and badges; it was only on January 26, 1950 that the Navy crest and flag were changed. But the only change made to the flag was that the Union Jack was replaced with the Tricolour; the George's Cross was retained.

Changes in 2001 and later

A change in the Naval Ensign was made in 2001 when the George's Cross was replaced with the naval crest in the middle of the white flag, while the Tricolour retained its place in the top left corner.

However, in 2004, the Ensign was changed back to the Red George's Cross following complaints that the blue of the Navy crest merged with that of the skies and the sea. A change was made in the flag, and the Red George's Cross now had the state emblem derived from the Lion capital of Ashoka in the middle.

In 2014, yet another change was made when the words '*Satyamev Jayate*' were included in the flag below the Ashoka emblem in the Devanagiri script.



The Naval Ensign on an Indian Navy vessel. *Twitter@indiannavy, 2017*

George's Cross, flag of crusade

The red cross on a white background is known as the Saint George's Cross and is named after a Christian warrior saint who is believed to have been a crusader during the third Crusade. The flag was adopted by England and the city of London in 1190 to identify English ships entering the Mediterranean. The Royal Navy adopted the George's Cross to fly on their ships in various shapes and forms. The present pattern of the British White Ensign, as it is known, was adopted around 1707.

Commonwealth ensigns

Most Commonwealth countries retained the Red George's Cross at the time of their independence, but several have done away with it on their respective Naval Ensigns over the years. Prominent among them are Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

Cancer-fighting viruses can boost body's immune response: study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

CAN A virus help the body fight back against cancer and boost the immune system to tackle the disease better? A new study published in the journal *Cancer Cell* suggests that the body's immune capacity against cancer — to recognise and destroy cancer cells — can be boosted by using oncolytic viruses. Oncolytic viruses (OVs) are viruses that selectively target and kill cancer cells while sparing normal ones. The study notes that these viruses also enhance the immune system's ability to recognise and terminate cancer cells.

Although long theorised, the research into oncolytic virotherapy picked up only in the 1960s. Of late, there have been several trials looking at different viruses for cancer treatment.

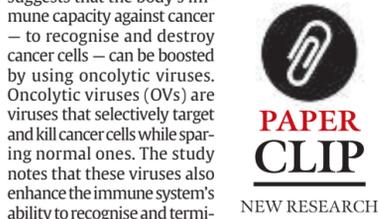
The latest study focused on the virus known as myxoma and it found that T-cells infected with myxoma virus can lead to a type of cancer cell death not previously observed.

The research claims to "uncover an unexpected synergy between T-cells and MYXV (myxoma virus) to bolster solid tumor cell autolysis that reinforces tumor clearance".

Autolysis is a form of cell destruction that is useful against solid tumors, which are seen as treatment-resistant.

Myxoma can target and kill cancer cells directly, but using myxoma-equipped T-cells works well as cancerous cells in the vicinity of those targeted are also destroyed. This process is called bystander killing.

The study makes the case that immunotherapy combined with virotherapy holds potential to seek and destroy 'cold tumors' that fly under the immune system's radar.

EXPLAINED SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT
Nuclear plant in war zone

Fighting is raging around Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine, the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. This poses extraordinary risks — the reactors may be sturdy, but a disaster can take place in other ways



AMITABH SINHA

FOR MOST of this month, the global attention on the war in Ukraine has remained nervously focused on Zaporizhzhia, an important town in the country's southeast that houses the largest nuclear power plant in Europe. The Zaporizhzhia nuclear power station has been under Russian control since early March, but an escalation of the conflict in the town this month, including shelling and mortar attacks, some of which damaged parts of the nuclear station, has raised the spectre of nuclear disaster.

Russia and Ukraine have been accusing each other of attempting to damage the nuclear plant in 'false flag' operations. The plant continues to be operated by its Ukrainian staff, with Russian soldiers standing guard. On Tuesday, a team of officials from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Ukraine to assess the condition of the plant, after Russia agreed to their visit.

Dangerous situation

Ukraine has four nuclear power stations comprising 15 reactors. The plant at Zaporizhzhia has six reactors, which can together produce about 5,700 MW of electricity. Nuclear energy caters to about half of Ukraine's power demand. Russian forces attacked the plant on the night of March 3, early in the invasion, and took control of it relatively easily.

While sporadic fighting continued over the following months, the situation escalated dangerously in August with increased shelling, which the Russians and Ukrainians blamed on each other. Buildings inside the nuclear complex were hit, though no significant damage has been reported. Radiation levels around the site have been stable, meaning there has been no leakage.

However, the situation is extremely volatile. This is the first time that a nuclear installation has been caught in a military conflict, that too one that is in operation. In mid-August, the last remaining external power supply line to the complex was disrupted due to the fighting, and the station had to fall back on emergency generators. Nuclear plants have to depend on external electricity for a variety of needs, including the operation of water pumping systems to



A team of experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was in Kyiv (above) on Tuesday, en route to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's biggest (top), which is now in a war zone. *Reuters, The New York Times*

keep the reactors cool. That line was restored, but for a few hours, it brought the world on the brink of a major nuclear disaster. As the fighting continues, the possibility of something going horribly wrong remains open.

If reactors are hit

Modern nuclear reactors are built to withstand considerable shock and impact. They have several layers of reinforced steel and concrete, and also elaborate fire security systems. Most of these reactors can survive earthquakes of magnitude 8 or higher. They are also designed to shut down automatically when they sense major natural hazards.

The Zaporizhzhia reactors, built in the 1980s and 1990s, are said to be quite safe. Gunfire or even shelling is unlikely to cause much harm or result in a nuclear accident. However, it is unclear how the reactors would face up to powerful bombs or missile attacks. It is expected that neither of the parties would be so reckless so as to directly bomb the reactor to trigger a nuclear explosion.

But the possibility of a major accident is still very real. Buildings and water pools used for storing used and unused nuclear fuel are not as sturdily built as the reactor itself, and can suffer significant damage in heavy fighting.

Loss of electricity

A more realistic danger has already visited the Zaporizhzhia station briefly. Cooling systems are extremely crucial to the safe operations of nuclear reactors, which have to handle temperatures in the range of thousands of degrees Celsius. To keep water pumping through the reactors, an external power supply is needed. Nuclear stations have elaborate back-up generators as well, in case of disruption of power.

But these generators can supply electricity only for a limited time. And nuclear reactors, even if they are shut down, can take days, sometimes weeks, to cool down. A non-functional cooling system can lead to the reactor melting, or exploding, under tremendous heat, resulting in uncontrolled release of nuclear radiation.

This is what had happened in the Fukushima disaster of 2011. The reactors were not damaged by the massive earthquake and tsunami. In fact, they automatically shut down their operations, as designed. But the regular power supply, as well as the backup generators, had failed due to rain, storm and flooding, rendering the cooling system non-functional.

The Fukushima disaster had prompted a discussion on installing 'passive' systems that

would not be dependent on power supply, not just for cooling but also for other crucial safety features. An example, in the case of cooling systems, could be a water pumping facility relying on gravity.

The Zaporizhzhia station is reported to have some of these 'passive' systems as well, but it is not clear how effective they might be in case of a prolonged power outage.

Human error; rogue action

There is also the possibility of inadvertent, potentially disastrous errors by overworked and stressed out engineers. The station is being operated by a skeletal staff, with the Russians having reportedly ordered all non-essential and non-operational employees to stay at home. Nuclear stations usually allow for some redundancy in their staffing to account for the stressful nature of the job, and to ensure very high safety standards. The Chernobyl disaster of 1986, the worst nuclear accident till now, is understood to have been triggered by a human error.

There are other threats as well. Rogue elements could try to utilise the war situation to steal nuclear material from the site. Ukraine is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state. Each of its nuclear facilities is under IAEA safeguards. That means every bit of nuclear material and fuel, every kilogram of uranium and every gram of plutonium, has to be accounted for and reported.

But the region is in chaos, and rogue elements can try to use nuclear material to make dirty bombs, or to sell it in the illegal international nuclear market.

● BEGINNING TODAY, A WEEKLY EXPLAINED ON QUESTIONS OF SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Phogat death: how meth can trigger heart attack

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

GOA POLICE have said BJP leader Sonali Phogat was given the recreational drug methamphetamine on the eve of her death on August 23. She died after a heart attack that was initially thought to have been triggered by blunt injuries, but which is now understood to have been brought on by an overdose of the drug.

The stimulant drug

The United States National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) says methamphetamine — meth for short — is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system, and is used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and narcolepsy, a sleep disorder.

Crystal methamphetamine or crystal meth is a form of the drug that looks like glass fragments or shiny, bluish-white rocks. Meth

can be smoked, swallowed in the form of a pill, snorted, and injected after dissolving the powder in water or alcohol. Police have said the accused in the Phogat case "intentionally gave the victim an obnoxious chemical substance in a liquid" hours before she died.

"Methamphetamine can lead to myocardial infarction (heart attack); it can cause stroke. The drug can affect the heart, brain, and kidneys. It can result in blood pressure shooting up suddenly. It is a very dangerous drug if there is an overdose," Dr Rommel Tickoo, director of internal medicine at Max Super Speciality Hospital, said.

However, Dr Tickoo said, "nobody knows how much can lead to overdose — that will depend on not just the quantity, but how the drug is taken, and how the individual processes it".

Effect on the brain

According to NIDA, the ability of the drug to rapidly release high levels of the natural chemical dopamine in reward areas of the brain

strongly reinforces drug-taking behaviour, making the user want to repeat the experience. Even small amounts of meth can result in increased wakefulness and physical activity; decreased appetite; faster breathing; rapid and/or irregular heartbeat; and increased blood pressure and body temperature.

Role in heart attack

The authors of a study on how meth hurts the heart published last year in *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, the journal of the American Heart Association, called "urgent attention to this insidious yet rapidly growing form of severe heart failure — methamphetamine-related heart failure, which is taking the lives of young people...".

"The problem has been made drastically worse in recent years by the increase in purer, more potent methamphetamine," they said. "[It] is an addictive stimulant that can affect the cardiovascular system by triggering blood vessel spasms and life-threatening spikes in

blood pressure. It can also increase plaque in the arteries and rewire the heart's electrical system. Prolonged methamphetamine use has been associated with a severe form of dilated cardiomyopathy, a condition in which the weakened heart muscle becomes enlarged and cannot pump adequate blood."

A 2005 technical report of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre at the University of New South Wales-Australia concluded that in higher doses — the threshold of this "toxic" dosage is unclear — the drug may lead to narrowing and spasms in the blood vessels, rapid heart rate (tachycardia), high blood pressure, and death of cardiac muscles. In the long run, it can result in early development of coronary artery disease (blockage of arteries to the heart), formation of fibrous tissue in the heart, and enlargement of the heart muscles, making it difficult to pump blood to all parts of the body (dilated cardiomyopathy).

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Bengaluru's Idgah maidan and the legal battle over the use of Wakf land

APURVA VISHWANATH &
KIRAN PARASHAR
NEW DELHI, BENGALURU, AUGUST 30

REFUSING TO allow Ganesh Utsav at the Bengaluru Idgah, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the Karnataka government to maintain *status quo* on the issue. After a two-judge Bench delivered a split verdict earlier in the day, Chief Justice of India U U Lalit constituted a fresh three-judge Bench that heard the case again.

What is the case about?

At the heart of the issue is the Karnataka government attempt to use 2 acres and 5 *guntas* of land at Bengaluru's Chamarajpet Idgah.

In June, the assistant revenue officer issued a show cause notice to the Wakf Board to produce documents to prove its title after news reports surfaced that the Idgah land was a playground, and belongs to

Brihat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the city's municipal corporation.

The Wakf Board moved the Karnataka High Court, and on August 25, a single-judge Bench passed an order restricting the use of the Idgah only to Independence Day and Republic Day celebrations by the government, Ramzan and Bakrid prayers for the Muslim community, and a playground for children on other occasions.

The state government challenged the order before a two-judge Bench the next day. The HC then modified the order to allow "religious and cultural activities" from August 31.

"The Indian society comprises religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. The Constitution... fosters brotherhood amongst various sections of society. The principle of religious toleration is characteristic of Indian civilisation," the HC said.

"We, therefore, at this stage, in the peculiar facts of the case, modify the interim order dated 25.08.2022 and permit the state



Police at the Idgah maidan after the Supreme Court order on Tuesday *PTI*

government to consider and pass appropriate orders on applications received by the deputy commissioner seeking use of the land in question for holding religious and cultural activities for a limited period from 31.08.2022 onwards," the HC said.

With Ganesh Chaturthi falling on August 31, the government allowed the use of the Idgah for the festival.

The Idgah then moved the Supreme Court challenging the government's order.

What is a Wakf property?

The Wakf Act defines Wakf as a permanent dedication by a person professing Islam, of any movable or immovable property for any purpose recognised by Muslim law as pious, religious or charitable.

When did the controversy begin?

Back in 1965, the Mysore state government promulgated a notification bearing number NBF 19 (1) 64, entry 137 of which said the Idgah maidan Chamarajpet was formally gazetted as a Wakf property pursuant to a survey conducted by a government survey commissioner.

In 1982, for the first time, communal violence over the maidan took place during

the Ganesh festival.

Of late, Karnataka has seen a series of communally polarising incidents, including the *hijab* controversy in schools and colleges, and the banning of Muslims at temple fairs. With Hindu right-wing groups demanding that the government take over the Idgah land and declare it a public ground, the BJP has been seeking to leverage the controversy to consolidate Hindu votes.

So what has the SC ruled?

The case was initially heard by a two-judge Bench comprising Justices Hemant Gupta and Sudhanshu Dhulia. But they did not agree, and the case had to be heard by a three-judge Bench. Given the urgency, CJI Lalit set up a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Indira Banerjee and also comprising Justices A S Oka and M M Sundresh.

Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi who appeared for the state government agreed that the Idgah land has not been used for any

other religious purpose except by the Muslims for over 200 years. However, he argued that the state owns the land, and can use it for any purpose it deems fit.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the Idgah, argued that the state had not challenged the title of the Idgah when the land was declared a Wakf as per law. He also cited a 1964 judgment of the SC which had confirmed earlier rulings of the Mysore High Court that not all graveyards in the city were owned by the municipality. The ruling also said that the municipality was not in possession of the Idgah on the mere count that children played there.

What happens to the case now?

After the SC ruling, the Ganesh Utsav cannot be celebrated on the Idgah premises this year. But the larger question of the use of the land remains. The single-judge Bench of the Karnataka High Court will continue to hear the case on the title of the Idgah.



UK

NOT EASY TO FORGIVE: MEGHAN ON ROYAL FAMILY

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, says that "just by existing," she and her husband Prince Harry "upset the dynamic of the hierarchy" when they were in the UK. In an interview with US magazine, *The Cut*, she said it's not easy to "forgive" when asked if there was room for forgiveness between her, Britain's royal family and her own family.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Ariel Koren, NYT

USA

Google staff behind protest of contract with Israel quits

A GOOGLE employee who became the most visible opponent of a company contract with the Israeli military said on Tuesday that she would resign after claiming Google had tried to retaliate against her for her activism. The employee, Ariel Koren, a marketing manager for Google's educational products arm who has worked for the company for seven years, wrote a memo to colleagues announcing her plan to leave Google at the end of the week. She spent more than a year organising against Project Nimbus, a \$1.2 billion agreement for Google and Amazon to supply Israel and its military with AI tools and other computing services. Koren, 28, helped circulate petitions and lobby executives all in an effort to get Google to reconsider the deal. NYT

UK

Teenagers from Kerala drown in Ireland

LONDON: Two 16-year-old UK-based Indian boys, who had gone to a lake in Northern Ireland for a swim have died in what the local police believe is a "tragic drowning incident". Joseph Sebastian and Reuben Simon, both from Kerala, were among a group of friends who went to the Enagh Lough in Derry/Londonderry on Monday. PTI

TAIWAN

Island fires warning shots at China drone

PENGHU: Taiwan fired warning shots at a Chinese drone, which buzzed an offshore islet on Tuesday shortly after President Tsai Ing-wen said she had ordered Taiwan's military to take "strong countermeasures" against "Chinese provocations". It was the first time warning shots have been fired in such an incident amid tension with China. Drone headed back to China after shots were fired. REUTERS

PAKISTAN

Contempt case: Imran offers to take back remarks

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's ousted PM Imran Khan has showed willingness to withdraw his remarks against a woman judge but stopped short of tendering an apology. In a response sent to IHC, Khan claimed of not being aware at the time of passing the remarks that she was a judicial officer. "The respondent submits that if the words he uttered is regarded as inappropriate, he is willing to take them back," Khan said. PTI

Nawaz makes 1st TV address despite ban

LAHORE: Pakistan's former PM Nawaz Sharif has held his first televised address in three years despite a ban on his speeches after being named as a proclaimed absconder, a media report said on Tuesday. The three-time PM on Sunday delivered a short speech to make an appeal for aid and urged people to help those in need. PTI

PRESIDENT PROPOSES TO FORM UNITY GOVT

Join us to stop Lanka from being used as interference tool, Ranil tells parties

Presents interim budget, says IMF talks in final stage

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA COLOMBO, AUGUST 30

SRI LANKAN President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Tuesday appealed to all parties to join the unity government to tackle the nation's worst economic crisis and prevent "strong economies" from using it as a "tool of interference," days after India and China verbally clashed over the docking of a high-tech Chinese ship at a port in the country.

His remarks came as he presented the revised budget for



Anti-government protesters in Colombo on Tuesday. AP

2022 in his capacity as the minister of finance. "We can no longer be a nation dependent on loan assistance. We can also no longer be used as a tool of interference by other countries with strong

economies," Wickremesinghe said. However, his remarks came days after China and India verbally clashed over the docking of 'Yuan Wang 5' at Hambantota port. "All this can be achieved, only

if we work together in unity with common consent. I reiterate the invitation to all the parties represented in this Parliament to join an all-party government. Since this unprecedented situation is the responsibility of us all, and, therefore, need to prioritise the necessities of the country".

The President told the Parliament that the negotiation with the IMF on a bailout package has reached the final stage.

He added that the interim budget will lay the foundation for changing the economic design which existed in the country so far. "Discussions on debt restructuring will be held with the main countries that provide loan assistance to our country. The UN in collaboration with leading international organisa-

tions, is launching a programme to ensure food security," he said. In his address, Wickremesinghe said several people are still unaware of how serious the financial crisis is and added that it is imperative to use this opportunity to correct past mistakes. The interim budget has introduced a number of tax reforms pertaining to Income Tax, VAT, Telecommunication Levy and Betting and Gaming Levy.

Wickremesinghe announced that the VAT rate will be increased from current 12 per cent to 15 per cent with effect from September 1, 2022. The implementation of these proposals will help increase the revenue and gradually reduce the printing of money for government expenditure, he said.



Homes submerged in Sohbat Pur city in Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province. AP

Pak, UN appeal for \$160 mn flood aid, US assures support

PTI & REUTERS ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 30

PAKISTAN AND the United Nations on Tuesday jointly issued a flash appeal for \$160 million to help the country deal with the catastrophic floods that have killed over 1,100 people. The US will provide \$30 million in support for Pakistan following, the US embassy in Islamabad said on Tuesday.

"Pakistan is awash in suffering," UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a video message. "The Pakistani people are facing a monsoon on steroids - the relentless impact of epochal levels of rain and flooding." He said funds will provide 5.2 million people with food, water, sanitation, emergency education, protection and health support.

The '2022 Pakistan Floods Response Plan (FRP)' was jointly launched by the Government of Pakistan and the UN.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari urged the global community to extend support to Pakistan and said the devastation witnessed showed that the country had become "ground zero" of global warming, the "biggest existential threat" of this century,

according to Foreign Office.

He said the government had earmarked \$173 million to help people through direct cash transfers, while Rs5 billion had been allocated to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for relief activities.

"The government is also providing Rs 1 million in ex gratia compensation to the next of kin of each deceased; Rs250,000 for injuries and partially damaged houses; and Rs500,000 for destroyed houses," he said.

The government has decided to set up a special body to deal with the disastrous floods. The decision to form such a body was taken at a meeting of the ruling alliance on Monday. The National Flood Response and Coordination Centre would comprise federal ministers, representatives of armed forces, CMs to provide institutional response to the calamity.

Imran raises Rs 5 bn

FORMER PM Imran Khan has raised Rs 5 billion through an international telethon for the people affected by floods, as per media report. Khan said during the telethon held on Monday that the objective was to raise funds as no government alone could deal with such a catastrophe.



Sadr's Peace Brigades fighters during clashes with the Iraqi security forces near the Green Zone, Tuesday. Reuters

Iraqis heed cleric's plea to leave streets after clashes

ASSOCIATED PRESS BAGHDAD, AUGUST 30

ARMED SUPPORTERS of a powerful Iraqi cleric who clashed with security forces in the capital began to withdraw from the streets Tuesday, restoring a measure of calm after a serious escalation of the nation's political crisis.

Following two days of deadly unrest that sparked fears instability might spread throughout the country and even the region, cleric Muqtada al-Sadr told his supporters to leave the govern-

ment quarter where they had rallied. Within minutes, some could be seen heeding the call, dismantling their tents and walking out of the area known as the Green Zone.

Iraq's military also announced the lifting of a nationwide curfew, further raising hopes that the immediate crisis was ebbing, though larger political problems remain.

The chaos began when al-Sadr announced he would resign from politics. Many dismissed the move as a ploy to gain greater leverage, and his supporters

stormed the Green Zone, once the stronghold of the US military and now home to Iraqi government offices and foreign embassies. On Tuesday, his followers could be seen on live television firing both machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades into the heavily-fortified Green Zone.

At least 30 people were killed, officials said, before al-Sadr urged those loyal to him to go home, following pleas for restraint. "This is not a revolution," the cleric said in a televised address.

EXPLAINED

Reason behind Sadr appeal

AL-SADR derives much of his appeal through his family legacy. His father Mohammed Sadeq al-Sadr was assassinated in 1999 for his stance against Saddam Hussein. Many of his followers say they are devoted to him because they were once devotees of his father.

'Israel carried countless ops against Iran's nuclear plan'

HARINDER MISHRA JERUSALEM, AUGUST 30

ISRAELI ESPIONAGE agency's former chief Yossi Cohen has claimed that Mossad has carried out "countless operations" under his leadership, including in the "heartland" of Iran, to foil the Islamic Republic's ambitious nuclear programme.

Speaking at an event in Switzerland to mark 125 years since the First Zionist Congress of 1897, Cohen also hit out at the

emerging nuclear accord between Iran and world powers, the *Times of Israel* newspaper reported. "During my term as Mossad director, countless operations were conducted against Iran's nuclear programme," he said on Monday.

"Without going into details, I can tell you Mossad had many successes in fight against Iran's nuclear programme," Cohen said. Touching upon the operation to snatch the nuclear files Cohen said it showed "clear evidence" that Tehran lied about the military dimensions of its atomic plan. PTI

Podcast leads to conviction of man 40 yrs after wife's murder

ASSOCIATED PRESS SYDNEY, AUGUST 30

AN AUSTRALIAN man was convicted on Tuesday of murdering his wife 40 years ago after a renewed police probe that was triggered by a popular podcast.

Christopher Dawson, 74, faces a possible life sentence. He opted for a trial by judge instead of a jury in the New South Wales state Supreme Court due to his notoriety from "The Teacher's



Chris Dawson arrives at the Supreme Court in NSW. AP

Pet" podcast, which 60 million people have listened to since 2018. The podcast set out a cir-

cumstantial case that Dawson had murdered his wife, Lynette. Justice Ian Harrison found that Dawson killed his wife in 1982. At the time, Dawson was a high school teacher who was in a relationship with a former student and babysitter for his daughters, identified in court as JC.

The judge found the husband killed his wife because he feared losing his lover. Harrison rejected the possibility that the wife abandoned her husband and children to vanish without a trace.

KNOWN AS 'MAN OF THE HOLE,' LAST MEMBER OF AN INDIGENOUS GROUP WAS FOUND DEAD THIS MONTH

One man dies, and an entire uncontacted tribe vanishes in Brazil

FLÁVIA MILHORANCE & ANDRÉ SPIGARIOL RIO DE JANEIRO, AUGUST 30

WHEN OFFICIALS from Brazil's Indigenous protection agency approached the hut in the middle of the Amazon rainforest, their fears were confirmed: They were witnessing the first recorded disappearance of an uncontacted tribe in the country's history.

The man lying in the hammock, the last member of his tribe, had died, and with him an entire culture and answers to a thousand questions. Even his name was a mystery. He was known only as "the Man of the

Hole" because of the dozens of holes he had dug over the years in his territory. His age, too, could only be guessed at. He appeared to be about 60, officials said.

It was a sad milestone for a country that in recent years has seen protections for Indigenous groups weakened and undermined by an administration that has prioritised development of the Amazon over conservation.

Officials from Brazil's Indigenous protection agency, Funai, found the man's body on August 23 during a patrol in the Tanaru Indigenous Territory, in the state of Rondonia, bordering Bolivia. The death was most likely the result of natural causes,



A file photo of the last man of the tribe in Rondonia, western Brazil. AP

Funai said in a statement released Saturday. They agency brought in criminal experts to

examine the site and then sent the body to the capital, Brasilia, for an autopsy.

A Funai official said the agency would also run DNA tests and then return the body to the forest to be buried. The man's body was covered in feathers, according to Marcelo dos Santos, an Indigenous expert, who saw a photo of the remains.

"Was he waiting for his death?" Santos said. "Who knows. There was never communication, not even with another ethnic group, to know more about him. So we can't be sure of the reason."

Uncontacted tribes are groups that live without sustained contact with the outside world. While this is the first recorded disappearance of an uncontacted

tribe, experts say others have most likely gone extinct without ever being documented.

Funai has reported evidence of at least 114 isolated groups in Brazil, but the existence of only 28 has been confirmed. As a result, the remaining 86 tribes do not benefit from any government protections. The agency is responsible for monitoring Indigenous activity and protecting the inhabited lands from development. However, Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, has championed industries driving the destruction of the Amazon, which has led to record levels of deforestation.

The Brazilian leader has both loosened regulations to expand

logging, ranching and mining in the Amazon and scaled back protections for Indigenous groups and conservation lands. He has also slashed federal funds and staffing, weakening the agencies that enforce Indigenous and environmental laws.

"Many of these ethnic groups become extinct without even the state or society being aware of their extinction, which is very serious," said Guilherme Martins, an Indigenous expert at Funai.

"So long as the Funai management does not officially confirm them, it will not protect their land, it will not establish a base, and it will not demarcate their land," Martins said. NYT



GOLD

₹51,469



RUPEE

79.52/\$



OIL

\$99.60



SILVER

₹55,550

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of August 26

SENSEX: 59,537.07 ▲ 1,564.45 (2.70%) NIFTY: 17,759.30 ▲ 446.40 (2.58%) NIKKEI: 28,195.58 ▲ 316.62 HANG SENG: 19,949.03 ▼ 74.19 FTSE: 7,437.68 ▲ 10.37 DAX: 13,139.64 ▲ 246.65

International market data till 1900 IST

MANY PROPOSALS ON COLLECTING, MONETISING DATA REVOKED BY CENTRE

Data gathering by public agencies picks up even as law hangs fire

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

THE CUSTOMS department mandating airlines to share personal details of international flyers, the Civil Aviation Ministry's facial recognition system DigiYatra, the MeitY's proposal to share non-personal data collected by the government with start-ups and researchers, CERT-In's mandate asking virtual private network (VPN) service providers to store data of their users: these are among a rising number of moves made by the Central government and its agencies to collect and process citizens' data — all in the absence of a data protection law.

Experts have raised concerns over this trend, questioning the government's efforts of data collection and monetisation in the absence of a basic data protection regime. Earlier this month, the Centre withdrew the Data Protection Bill, 2021, saying that it will soon come out with a "comprehensive legal framework" for the online ecosystem.

The Bill, more than four years in the works, had gone through multiple iterations, including a review by a Joint Parliamentary Committee. While it had significant exemptions for the Centre



A DigiYatra kiosk at Delhi Airport. DigiYatra is one of the data collection systems rolled out in recent months. File

and its agencies, it laid down a framework for consent-related mechanisms before gathering data, how personal data was supposed to be handled by various entities, and provided for a recourse mechanism in case a person's data was compromised.

In the backdrop of the Bill's withdrawal, so far this year, a number of Central government institutions and its related entities — ranging from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the Civil Aviation Ministry, cybersecurity regulator CERT-In, and the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) among others — have all either introduced new types of

data collection or monetisation plans. While some of them eventually relented under criticism and withdrew their proposals, the initial efforts and the underlying idea of monetisation are undeniable, experts contend.

Last month, IRCTC released a tender detailing its plans to monetise its bank of passenger data for doing business with government and private entities. However, last Friday, it withdrew the tender given the absence of a data protection law in the country. In February, the MeitY had floated a draft India Data Accessibility and Use Policy which proposed that data collected by the Centre that has "undergone value addition" can be sold in the open market for an "appropriate price". This draft

was withdrawn after it faced severe criticism over its proposal to monetise government data and the MeitY has now come out with a draft data governance framework which looks to leverage non-personal, that is data that can not identify individuals, instead.

Experts believe that there is a fundamental issue in treating citizens' data as a "wealth resource". "There is a fundamental issue with our approach of trying to treat data as a 'sovereign wealth resource' which then creates incentives for attempts to accumulate, and subsequently monetise large volumes of data. Until this lens persists, we can expect more efforts to monetise citizens' data even without any additional safeguards," said Prateek Waghe, policy director at digital rights group Internet Freedom Foundation.

Within the Centre, there are past precedents of scrapping an active policy that monetised citizens data, over privacy concerns.

The Ministry of Road Transport, in 2020, had scrapped its Bulk Data Sharing Policy, under which the ministry used to sell vehicle registration data (Vahan) and driving licence data (Sarathi) to private and public entities. The policy was scrapped over potential misuse of personal information and privacy issues.

Aside from monetisation, the Centre has also upped the ante on mandating entities to collect new types of citizen data and, in some cases, share it with the government. With its new Passenger Name Record Information Regulations, 2022, issued earlier this month, the CBIC has asked airlines to mandatorily share PNR details of all international passengers with the National Customs Targeting Centre-Passenger, 24 hours prior to departure of flights.

Under the Civil Aviation Ministry's DigiYatra initiative, facial recognition technology and scanners will be used at various airport checkpoints to ascertain identity of passengers. Earlier this month, the Delhi Airport software launched the initiative, rolling out the app's beta version on Android.

In April, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) issued cybersecurity norms mandating VPNs, cloud service providers and data centres to store user information. These are data points that could potentially be accessed by the agency if an entity faces a cybersecurity incident. Queries sent to IRCTC, MeitY, CBIC, CERT-In, Civil Aviation Ministry, and DoT did not elicit a response until press time.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

SENSEX GAINS 2.7%, NIFTY 2.58%

Markets bounce back strong: Banking leads over 2.5% rise

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

EQUITIES GAINED 2.5 percent on Tuesday, recouping all the losses it made a day earlier, on the back of strong buying from overseas investors. The Sensex rose 1,564 points, or 2.7 per cent, to settle at 59,537 and the Nifty by 446 points, or 2.58 per cent, at 17,759.

The gains were led by index heavyweights such as ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries. Volumes on the NSE were the highest in over a week and the advance decline ratio was sharply positive at 2.96:1.

Market watchers attributed the sharp rally to concentrated buying from FPIs, especially in banking and financial services firms. FPIs bought shares worth over Rs 4,000 crore net on Tuesday, provisional figures show, taking the month to date buying to Rs 51,000 crore or \$6.4 billion. Investor wealth soared by

EXPLAINED
Better recovery than peers

TUESDAY'S REBOUND indicates that India's economy is resilient in comparison to many global peers. Even as markets are currently at premium valuations, continued support from foreign investors aided stocks.

Rs 568 trillion by the smart recovery in the equity market.

Shrikant Chouhan, head of equity research—retail, Kotak Securities, said, "The rebound in local benchmark indices came on the back of recovery in Asian and European indices. The focus seemed to have shifted from the hawkish Fed stance to expectations of strong Q1 GDP numbers. Despite volatility and uncertain

global macro environment, the rally shows that India would remain a good long-term bet."

Meanwhile, as per a PTI report, the rupee rebounded by 39 paise to close at a nearly two-week high of 79.52 against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by foreign fund inflows and a correction in crude oil prices.

Oil prices fell, according to a Reuters report, by more than \$6 a barrel on Tuesday, the steepest decline in about a month, on fears that an inflation-induced weakening of global economies would soften fuel demand and as unrest in Iraq had no effect on the OPEC nation's crude exports. Inflation is near double-digit territory in many of the world's biggest economies.

Brent crude futures for October settlement were down \$5.84, or 5.6 per cent, at \$99.25 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate declined \$5.24, or 5.4 per cent, to \$91.77 as of 1735 GMT. WITH FE, PTI & REUTERS

Need 8-8.5% growth to be higher income nation by 2047: Debroy

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

A 7-7.5 per cent real economic growth can make India an upper-middle income country by 2047, but the growth rate needs to accelerate to 8-8.5 per cent to make the country a higher income nation, Bibek Debroy, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), said on Tuesday.

"Even if you have relatively conservative real rates of growth of 7-7.5 per cent, we will get to a per capita income of about \$10,000 by 2047," he said, at the release of 'The Competitiveness Roadmap for India@100'.

"The question to ask is what does one need to do to get from the \$10,000 per capita income to

\$12,000, which will make India a higher income country. What does one need to do to get from the rate of growth of 7-7.5 per cent to something like 8-8.5 per cent? There are different ways to slice this, some of which have been attempted in this report."

Following the growth of recent years, India is now a lower-middle income country with average prosperity levels at \$2,000 (\$7,150 at purchasing power parity). The report, jointly published by the EAC-PM and the Institute for Competitiveness, suggests essential areas of action, including improving labour productivity and enhancing labour mobilisation, boosting the creation of competitive job opportunities, and improving policy implementation through greater coordination. FE

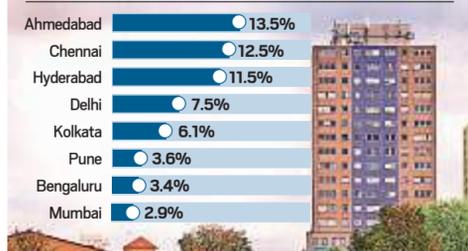
'India one of most important countries'

New Delhi: India is one of the most important countries in the world and it has a lot of strength and energy, Harvard Business School professor Michael E Porter said. Participating via video conferencing in an event organised by the EAC-PM, Porter said Indians want to be successful and they also want to be prosperous. PTI

Housing prices rise in 42 cities in Q1 of FY23

Housing prices rose in 42 cities in the first quarter of 2022-23, while the rates of residential units fell in five cities and remained stable in three cities, as per NHB's Residex

Eight major metros that recorded a rise in Residex, the price index released by National Housing Board (NHB), on an annual basis



1.7% Expansion in the 50-city Residex registered in April-June, against 2.6% in the previous quarter, the index is showing an increasing trend on a quarter-on-quarter basis since June 2021

Annual variation in HPI at Market Price ranged from an increase of 28.6% (Bhubaneswar) to a contraction of 13.2% (Indore)

Annual change in HPI (housing price index) at Assessment Price varied widely across the cities — ranging from an increase of 16.1% (Coimbatore) to a decline of 5.1% (Navi Mumbai)

The HPI tracks the movement in prices of residential properties in select 50 cities on a quarterly basis

Source: National Housing Board/PTI

AoA amended: AGM clears splitting Tata Sons, trusts top posts

RAJESH KURUP
MUMBAI, AUGUST 30

TATA SONS' shareholders approved a resolution that prevents a person who is the chairman of either of its two trusts from being eligible to head the company's board. The shareholders' approval means that the trusts Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust — the two controlling shareholders of the company — and Tata Sons (the holding company of all Tata Group firms) will have separate individuals as chairman. The shareholders cleared the

motion at the company's annual general meeting held Tuesday. Earlier in its annual report, Tata Sons said it had received a request from Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and Sir Ratan Tata Trust to make an amendment in its Articles of Association (AoA). The shareholders have asked to insert a clause that "a person who is the chairman of either of the trusts or of both will not concurrently be eligible to be the chairman of the company's board".

"Now this has become legally binding, and the trusts and Tata Sons will continue to be chaired by two different individuals," a source in the know said. FE

BRIEFLY

NDTV open offer

New Delhi: Adani Group will launch its open offer on October 17 to additional 26% extra stake, or 1.67 crore equity shares, in NDTV for which a price of ₹294 per share has been fixed. It will tentatively close on November 1, said an advertisement by JM Financial.

World Bank

New Delhi: India adopted a whole-of-government approach to stimulate local production that helped cut unit prices and dependency on global supplies during Covid even as no compromises were made on quality, said a World Bank paper. PTI

Anti-abuse

Sydney: Australian regulator e-Safety Commissioner sent letters to Meta, Apple and Microsoft demanding they share strategies to stamp out child abuse material on their platforms or face fine of \$383,000 a day. REUTERS

IAA summit

New Delhi: The India Chapter of International Advertising Association (IAA) will host a global summit on Nations As Brands on September 5-6 at the Taj Palace Convention Centre New Delhi.

Page Hall of Fame

New Delhi: Madan Bahal, co-founder & MD of public relations firm Adfactors PR, will be inducted into the Page Hall of Fame at the Page Annual Conference on September 18 in Chicago. ENS

Advocate of MSP, PDS: Agri economist Abhijit Sen no more

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 30

RENOWNED AGRICULTURE economist and former member of the Planning Commission under the UPA government, Abhijit Sen, passed away on Monday.

The 72-year-old, who led the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) as chairman during the first Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, authored the report of the High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy submitted in July 2000. The landmark report recommended that the CACP be made an empowered statutory body and its fixation of minimum support price, or MSP, (which the Centre was bound to accept) be based on the 'C2' cost of production. This recommendation — to include all paid-out cultivation expenses in cash and in kind, plus the imputed value of unpaid family labour and rent/interest forgone on owned land and fixed capital assets — paved the way for the 'Swamina-

ABHIJIT SEN
1950-2022

than formula' that captured the imagination of farmer groups.

The MS Swaminathan-headed National Commission on Farmers, that gave its final report in April 2006, recommended that MSPs of crops be at least 50 per cent more than the 'C2' costs.

The Abhijit Sen-committee had, however, proposed that comprehensive 'C2' costs of only the efficient producing regions be considered. It also favoured a universal public distribution system (PDS) with uniform central issue prices for rice and wheat, while doing away with 'below

poverty line' and 'above poverty line' categories. This went on to be incorporated in the UPA government's National Food Security Act of 2013, which now provides wheat and rice to over a quarter of India's population at a uniform Rs 2 and Rs 3 a kg price.

Apart from policymaking, Sen had a distinguished academic career with a PhD in Economics at the University of Cambridge in 1981. The topic of his thesis was 'The agrarian constraint to economic development: The case of India'. He joined the Centre for Economics and Planning at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1985. This centre, which had other well-known scholars like Prabhat and Utsa Patnaik, Krishna Bharadwaj, Amit Bhaduri, Deepak Nayyar, CP Chandrasekhar and Jayati Ghosh (Sen's wife) — earned a reputation for critical economic thinking with a strong Left-liberal orientation that was backed by quantitative research.

Sen is survived by his wife Jayati and daughter Jahnvi, who is a deputy editor at *The Wire*.

Post whistleblower claims, Musk seeks to defer Twitter trial to Nov

REUTERS
BENGALURU, AUGUST 30

ELON MUSK sought to delay the Twitter trial by about a month to November, as to a court filing, as a whistleblower provided him with fresh ammunition to back out of a \$44 billion deal to buy the social media company. On Tuesday, he also filed a

ELON MUSK
CEO, Tesla Reuters file

motion to amend his complaint in a sealed court filing, after recent claims from whistleblower Peiter Zatkoff, Twitter's former security head. Last week, Zatkoff said in a complaint to regulators that Twitter prioritized user growth over reducing spam.

Musk and Twitter have sued each other in Delaware state court and a five-day trial is scheduled to start October 17.

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited
(A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise) 4, Meera Marg, Udaipur - 313001, Phone: (0294) 2427177, 2428763-67, Fax: (0294) 2428762, 2428735, Email: contractscs@rsmmlrajasthan.gov.in

Notice Inviting e-Tender Date: 30/08/2022

NIT No. & Date	Description of Work
e-Tender no. Cont-10/2022-23 dated 29.08.2022	Construction of Cement Concrete road from Peepli Tiraha to S-Curve and Repairing of Various BT Roads at Jhamarkotra Mines, Distt. Udaipur (Rajasthan) Contract value Rs. 390.00 Lacs.
UBN No. MML2223WSOB00073	Lacs, EMD 7.80 Lacs by DD, Tender Fees Rs. 4720/-

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit our website www.rsmml.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or contact GGM (Contract) on above address.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/7032 DGM (Admin.)

राजस्थान - सरकार
कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य राजकीय आरुविज्ञान महाविद्यालय एवं निबंधक सलमन विकिसालय समूह कोटा

वेब: www.education.rajasthan.gov.in/gmckota, e-mail: principalcmck@gmail.com, Tel: 0744-2470674
क्रमांक: प. ()/नी.एस.ए.पी.जी. अप्रैल/2022-23/25 दिनांक 19.08.2022

ऑन लाइन बोली सूचना
संख्या - 22/2022-23 (E-Tender)
विकिसालय महाविद्यालय कोटा कोटा के लिए PG Upgradation योजनागत विभिन्न उपकरण क्रय किये जाने के लिए पंजीकृत संस्थाओं/अधिकृत संस्थाओं/राजकीय संस्थानों आदि से ई-रूपांतर प्रक्रिया दिनांक 26.08.2022 प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 14.09.2022 सां. 05.00 बजे तक बोली आमंत्रित की जाती है। बोली से सम्बन्धित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट www.diproc.rajasthan.gov.in या वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in कार्यालय वेबसाइट www.medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in/gmckota एवं स्टेट पोर्टल www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।
UBN: CMK2223GSOB00145 to 174

हस्ता./ (डॉ विजय सदान) प्रधानाचार्य एवं निबंधक
DIPR/c/11066/2022

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK ('e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

B-526
Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc (R&B) 9/2022-23

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below.

2. No. of work	- 1 No.
3. Nature of work	- Road work
4. Class of Contractor	- 'A' and Special Class
5. Tender paper cost	- Rs. 10000/- (online)
6. Available of bid documents in the web site.	- From 05.09.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 19.09.2022
7. Date of opening of bid	- Dt. 20.09.2022 at 11.00 Hours
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.	

Sd/- P.K. Pradhan
Chief Construction Engineer
Cuttack (R&B) Circle
OIPR-34012/11/0012/2223

KMML - The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.
(A Govt. Of Kerala Undertaking)

(An ISO 9001, ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 & SA 8000 Certified Company)
Sankaramangalam, Chavara - 691583, Kollam, Kerala, India
Phone: +91-476-2651215 to 2651217, Fax: +91-0476-2680101, 2686721
E-mail: contact@kmmll.com, URL www.kmmll.com

Competitive Tender are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmmll.com

No	Tender Id	Items
1	2022_KMML_505973_1	Global tender for Design, Engineering, Manufacturing, Supply at site, supervision during erection commissioning & performance testing of two (2) Nos of compact & energy efficient Tackle pre-heaters at KMML, Sankaramangalam, Chavara, Kollam, Kerala, India

Chavara 30.08.2022 sdt/HOU(TP) For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge, Rutile, Zircon & Silimanite

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)

Corporate Identity No.: U40109UP2001SC025857
Victoria Cross Vija Gopal Singh Uga Bhawan, Kanwal Road, Dehradun-248001
E-mail: cpmpcl@yahoo.com, Website: www.upcl.org, Telephone: (0135) 2762444, Fax: (0135) 2763339

Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited invites e-tenders (www.mstccommerce.com) for purchase of 350 MW RTCU (Delivery Point shall be Interconnection Point of Central Transmission Utility (CTU) with Uttarakhand STU network) for the period from Oct-2022 to Mar-2024 under medium term as per Ministry of Power, Government of India guidelines dated 10-02-2014 and its amendment from time to time against Tender Specification No. 05/CE(COMM)/UPCL-05/MTTPP/2022-23. The timelines for short term procurement/bid process and activities thereafter are as under:-

S.No.	Event	Date & Time
1.	Date and time of Start of e-Tender Stage	31.08.2022 at 11:00 Hrs
2.	Last date and time for receiving queries on RFQ and RFP	02.09.2022 at 17:00 Hrs
3.	Utility response to queries latest by	06.09.2022 at 17:00 Hrs
4.	Last date and time of submission of Application and Bids & EMD	13.09.2022 at 17:00 Hrs
5.	Opening of Application	14.09.2022 at 13:00 Hrs
6.	Intimation to Qualified Bidders for opening of their Bids	19.09.2022
7.	Opening of Bids of those Qualified Bidders	19.09.2022
8.	Start of e-Reverse Auction	20.09.2022
9.	Close of e-Reverse Auction	20.09.2022
10.	L-1 Matching	20.09.2022
11.	Letter of Award (LOA)	After the approval of UERC
12.	Validity of Bids	120 days from Bid Due Date
13.	Signing of APP	Within 10 days of issue of LOA

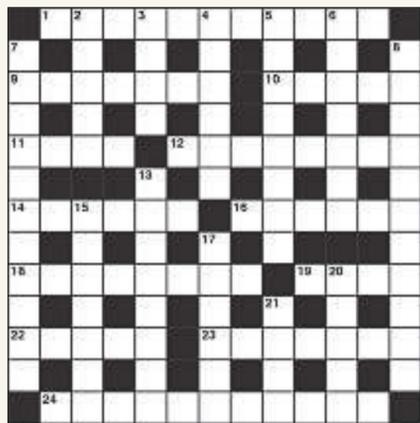
Hard Copy of B.G/ proof of EMD should reach UPCL by 13.09.2022 at 17:00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions shall remain as per bid document of Tender No. 05/CE(COMM)/UPCL-05/MTTPP/2022. UPCL reserve the right to unilaterally reject the bid at any stage of the processing of the tender if any declaration submitted by the bidder is found false/incomplete/misrepresenting. The documents will be issued to the bidders only through e-tender i.e. (www.mstccommerce.com). E-tenders will be received and opened on the dates as mentioned above. In case the above date is holiday, the tenders will be received & opened on the next working day at same time. The undersigned reserves the right to refuse to issue the tender documents to any applicant and also to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof and no claim on this account shall be acceptable. The tenders received after the date & time mentioned above shall not be considered. Bid will be submitted on (www.mstccommerce.com) only and hard copy of technical bid will also be submitted to the office of SE (Commercial), UPCL. All other details and terms & conditions are available in tender document. For any assistance on E-tendering, please contact on telephone number 011-23217850.

Superintending Engineer
No.344/EE(CM)/UPCL/A-2 Date: 30.08.2022 (Commercial)

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS" Use LED Bulb to Save Electricity, (Toll Free No. 1912) "Pay Electricity bill online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" For Information on Electricity Theft, informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/ Fax No. 0135-2760911

CROSSWORD 4834



- ACROSS**
- Strive to cheat as many as possible (2,3,3,3)
 - A policeman when not on duty is unconventional (7)
 - Spent about a pound for cloth (5)
 - Top deck on old ship is lacking lights (4)
 - Steps around the pub to see the boats (8)
 - Team appears one by one (6)
 - Excuse the French gentleman (3,3)
 - Embarrassed-looking Marxist confronted (3-5)
 - Either way it was of some worth in India (4)
 - Enter the lists? (5)
 - Form of ciphers (7)
 - Alan's note is startling in a way (11)
- DOWN**
- Bid with lots of fervour (5)
 - Willingly have a new life (4)
 - Get the boat in somehow (6)
 - Retired writer gets points and costs (8)
 - Foreign capital used by Napoleon from a very early age (7)
 - Frozen to the core? (4-7)
 - Final date in the Julian calendar? (4,2,5)
 - Rats fled US at variance (8)
 - Approve of or object to a wild rose (7)
 - Domestic service (3,3)
 - Standard article for a girl (5)
 - Be quiet, give two rings and drive away (4)

Solutions Crossword 4833: Across: 1 Job lot, 4 Chapter, 9 No dice, 10 Egg spoon, 12 Yank, 13 Dover, 14 Ring, 17 Right-hand man, 20 Stenographer, 23 Anti, 24 Amber, 25 Beam, 28 Apostles, 29 Hoodoo, 30 Amethyst, 31 League. Down: 1 Junkyard, 2 Badinage, 3 Ouch, 5 Higher degree, 6 Pass, 7 Rookie, 8 Nonage, 11 Roman numbers, 15 State, 16 Papal, 18 Sheepdog, 19 Primrose, 21 Canada, 22 Strobe, 26 Etch, 27 Love.

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 quip.

RTAEE **ERYHMU**

IWLRT **ACLNBH**

SOLUTION: EATER, TWIRL, REHEAR, BLANCH

SUDOKU 4943

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4942

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

कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक, मुंगेली, छ.ग.

Email: dhmungeli@gmail.com
क्र./स्टोर/निविदा/22-23/2866 मुंगेली, दिनांक 26.08.22

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा कार्य	जिला चिकित्सालय मुंगेली छ.ग. में वर्ष 2022-23 हेतु सी.जी.एम.एस.सी. से आपूर्ति नहीं होने वाले औषधि, कनस्यूमेबल लेब केमिकल्स, चिकित्सकीय उपकरण-सामग्री कार्यालयीन सामग्री इत्यादि क्रय हेतु वार्षिक दर अनुबंध किये जाने हेतु निर्माता कंपनी/अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से खुलू निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा की अवधि एवं वर्ष (निविदा अनुमोदित होने की दिनांक से एक वर्ष के लिए) रहेगी। (अनुमानित लागत राशि रुपये बीस से तीस लाख है आवश्यकतानुसार वृद्धि संभव)
निविदा प्रपत्र मूल्य	₹. 2000/- (रु.दो हजार मात्र) नगद देव एवं वापसी योग्य नहीं
निविदा फार्म, नियम शर्तों को प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	दिनांक 13.09.2022 तक कार्यालयीन दिवस में सायंकाल 4 बजे तक
निविदा फार्म जमा करने हेतु निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 30.09.2022 दोपहर 03 बजे तक
निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 30.09.2022 शाम 04 बजे
निविदा घोषण राशि	रुपये 50000/- अक्षरी राशि रुपये पचास हजार मात्र का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट (सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक, जिला चिकित्सालय मुंगेली के नाम से देव)
निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने एवं जमा करने हेतु निर्धारित स्थान	कार्यालय सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक, जिला चिकित्सालय मुंगेली (छ.ग.)
नोट- निविदा रजिस्टर्ड डाक, स्पीड पोस्ट अथवा कोरियर द्वारा ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे।	

स्वा/-
सिविल सर्जन सह मुख्य अस्पताल अधीक्षक
जिला चिकित्सालय मुंगेली (छ.ग.)
93743

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 74-W/CP/TN/22-23/05 Dated: 25.08.2022
CONCRETE SLEEPER PLANT, PRAYAGRAJ
Open E-Tender Notice

Dy. Chief Engineer/Concrete Sleeper Plant, North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites **e-TENDERS** for the following work up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening. The details of the Tenders are as under:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. cost of work (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Completion Period
1	74-W-CP-22-23-05	Fabrication & supply of different type wider and heavier sleeper moulds for production of sleepers as per details given in tender schedule at CSP/ SFG/PRJ.	61.57 lacs	123200/-	Nil	04 Month

Date of opening of tender: 30.09.2022
Special note- 1. Minimum Technical Eligibility Criteria: As per IRSGCC April 2022 of para 10.1
2. SIMILAR WORK: Any structural steel fabrication work.
3. Financial Eligibility Criteria: As per IRSGCC April 2022 of para 10.2

Note: 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tender will be uploaded and shall be available up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening on Website www.irops.gov.in. 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 4. Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. The tenderers are required to submit/upload certificate mandatory in form of Annexure-V, uploaded on website as documents. 5. This tender notice has been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. For detailed information, please refer the tender document uploaded on website www.irops.gov.in. 6. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security & Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of e-tendering shall be accepted through net banking or e-payment gateway only. 7. In case of any difficulty/helpdesk on the website of IREPS may be approached. 8. Tender can be submitted online up to 15.00 hrs. on the due date of tender opening and will be opened after 15.00 hours. 9. Suppliers of Goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act, and Rules as applicable from time to time. 10. The Railway reserves the right to amend/postpone/cancel any tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

1141/22(K)
@northcentralrailway North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR

HIMACHAL PRADESH UNIVERSITY NAAC ACCREDITED "A" GRADE UNIVERSITY GYAN PATH, SUMMER HILL, SHIMLA-171005

E-TENDER NOTICE

The Store Purchase Officer on behalf of Vice Chancellor Himachal Pradesh University Shimla-5 invites e-tender for "PRINTING OF ANSWER BOOKS FOR THE YEAR 2022-23" w.e.f. 31-08-2022 to 21-09-2022 up to 05:00 PM and will be opened on 22-09-2022 at 11:30 AM. For more details of e-tender, interested bidders should visit official website i.e. www.hpuni.ac.in and <http://hptenders.gov.in>. Extension, corrigendum or change in schedule if any, will not be published in newspapers & it will be published only on the website i.e. <http://hptenders.gov.in>.

Store Purchase Officer

UJVN LIMITED

H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866

"e" Procurement tender Notice

RD No. 580 Date: 29.08.2022
Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Vaysi Project, Dakpathar, UJVN Ltd. Invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. 09/EE(E&M-I)/VP/2022-23
Name of Supply: Supply of Electrical Items.
Estimated Cost: Rs 17,14,735/- (GST Extra).
Date of availability of bid document on website: 31-08-2022 16:00 Hrs
Last Date for submission of bids on website: 21-09-2022 up to 17:00Hrs
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://ukenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer (E&M-I), Vaysi Project
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No: AGC-ELGSU-T-03-2022-23
E-TENDERING NOTICE
Dy.CEE/GS/Agra for & on behalf of the president of India invites "Open Tender" through online only (e-tendering) for the following work.

S. N.	Tender No.	Name of work	Approximate cost	Earnest money
1.	AGC-ELGSU-T-03-2022-23	OHE work in connection with provision of additional loop line in KBP station yard and expansion of Kuberpur goods shed with additional goods siding.	19145832.81	245700.00

Period of completion:- 12 months.
1. For full details & submission of the bid please see the Indian Railway website www.irops.gov.in. 2. Tender can only be submitted through webportal up to 15.00 Hrs on date 21.09.2022. 1142/22 (D)
@ North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Open tender through E-tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanalampura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on website www.irops.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs. on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Name of work	Approx. Cost.	Earnest Money	Completion Period	Validity Period	Cost of Tender Form
Disconnection of locomotives and dismantling & cleaning of bogie frame and it components of WAG-7 Electric locomotive during major schedule for a period of three years.	Rs. 10,37,645.65/-	Rs. 20,800/-	03 Years	45 days	'Free of Cost'

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders. 2. Tenderer are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions. 3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule. 4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.irops.gov.in
E-Tender Notice No. ELS_SRE_T-24RT Dtd.: 30/08/2022 2222/22
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

झारखण्ड सरकार

ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी रोड, राँची

ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई-अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा संख्या:- 142/RI/2022-23/RWD/SAHEBGANJ दिनांक :- 30.08.2022
मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, झारखण्ड, राँची द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0 सं0	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की तिथि	टेण्डर कॉल नं0
1.	RWD/SAHEBGANJ/11/2021-22	उधवा कचहरी घाट उच्च स्तरीय पुल से पियारपुर बाजार उच्च स्तरीय पुल तक पथ निर्माण कार्य (लं - 4.200 कि0मी0)	3,79,68,194.00		तीन करोड़ उनसी लाख अड़सठ हजार एक सौ चौरानवे रू0 मात्र	18 माह द्वितीय

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि:- 05.09.2022
3. ई-निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 14.09.2022 अपराह्न 5.00 बजे।
4. (क) मुख्य अभियंता कार्यालय, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी, राँची अथवा (ख) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, राँची अथवा (ग) जिला नियंत्रण कक्ष, साहेबगंज में से किसी भी कार्यालय में निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय:- 15.09.2022 अपराह्न 3.30 बजे तक।
5. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय:- 16.09.2022 पूर्वाह्न 11.30 बजे।
6. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता:- मुख्य अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, 102, द्वितीय तल्ला, अभियंत्रण भवन, कचहरी चौक, राँची, झारखण्ड, पिन- 834001
7. ई-निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं0- 0651-2207818
8. निविदा शुल्क झारखण्ड राज्य में अवस्थित भारतीय स्टेट बैंक / अन्य राष्ट्रीय बैंक द्वारा निविदाकार के नाम / अकाउंट से ही निरत बैंक ड्राफ्ट के रूप में कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, साहेबगंज के पक्ष में एवं साहेबगंज में भुगतान होगा जो लौटाया नहीं जायेगा।
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।
नोडल पदाधिकारी
ई-प्रोक्युमेंट सेल
PR 276794 Rural Work Department-(22-23)D

Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited

(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001702)
Regd. Office:- Engineering Building, HEC, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.
fax : 0651-2400483 e-mail : cesp.jseb@rediffmail.com

Notice inviting tender for Rate Contract-Cum-Empanelment

JBVNL invites online e-tender from reputed, technically experienced and financially sound manufacturers only for supply of following Material through rate contract :-

Sr	NT/Tender notice No. and description of item	Tender fee	Date of publication of tender on website	Document download start date & time	Bid Submission start date	Bid Submission end date	Last date of physical submission of tender fee and EMD	Technical bid opening date and time
1	56/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 DPC Al. Wd. Wire & Strips of assorted size	Rs 10000/- + GST	31/08/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	31/08/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	31/08/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	21/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	22/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	22/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.
2	57/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 ISI Marked ACSR Rabbit, Dog & Wolf Conductor	Rs 10000/- + GST	31/08/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	31/08/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	31/08/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	21/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	22/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	22/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.
3	58/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 110.433 KV, BIS level-I, 63KVA, 100KVA & 200KVA Al. Wd. CRGO CORE, Distribution Transformer with CSP	Rs 10000/- + GST	02/09/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	23/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	26/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	26/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.
4	59/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 33/11 KV 5 MVA & 10 MVA Copper Wound CRGO core Power Transformer	Rs 10000/- + GST	02/09/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	23/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	26/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	26/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.
5	60/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 ISI Marked LT XLPE AB Cable sizes 3Cx120+1x70+1x16, 3Cx95+1x70+1x16 3Cx50+1x35+1x16	Rs 10000/- + GST	02/09/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	02/09/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	23/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	26/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	26/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.
6	61/PR/JBVNL/2022-23 33 KV & 11 KV, 1250 Amp outdoor type VCB with CT, PT & CRP	Rs 10000/- + GST	05/09/2022 from 13:00 Hrs.	05/09/2022 from 13:10 Hrs.	05/09/2022 from 13:20 Hrs.	26/09/2022 upto 18:00 Hrs.	27/09/2022 upto 16:30 Hrs.	27/09/2022 2 at 18:00 Hrs.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431135523/9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178
(ii) Tender fees must be paid in the form of DD (original copy) or through online mode. The details for the online transaction is mentioned in the tender document.
(iii) Tender fee is non-refundable.
Sd/-
ESE (Purchase)
स्वस्थ एवं राष्ट्र हित में कर्मा बचावे। कृपया अपनी शिकायतों को टॉल फ्री नं0 1800 345 6670 पर दर्ज करावे।
PR 276734 Jharkhand Bijlee Vitran Nigam Ltd (22-23)_D

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Tender notice no. BCT/22-23/93 dtd.22.08.2022. The date of opening of tender has been postponed & may be read as under. Earlier date of opening 27.09.2022. Postponed & tender will opened on 04.10.2022. The other terms and conditions will remain unchanged. 0390
Like us on [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS CORRIGENDUM

No. P.CMM/CLW/DKAE/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/17 Dated: 26.08.2022. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender's is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.irops.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl: [17]. Tender Notice No: Sl. No 369 of PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/22-23/77 Dated: 06/08/2022. Tender No.:23225126. Description of Stores: Description of Stores is to be read as "Water Cooled Power Cable For Gadi Furnace as per Drawing No.4D/SFE/23 ALT-I HSN CODE:- 8544 Make:- Manna, Gadi Megatherm, L.D. BHATTAR." instead of existing entry.
PR4/214 PCMM/CLW/DKAE
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT TENDER NOTICE

Sr.DSTE/CO/Kota acting for and on behalf of President of Union of India invites e-tenders against Tender No. KOTA /S&T/TELE/2022/01R2 date to open on 26-09-2022 at 15:00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Tender No. - KOTA / S&T / TELE / 2022 / 01R2. Name of work- KOTA DIVN : Up gradation of LAN environment and provision of hardware for HMIS implementation in Health establishments. Approx. cost of the work - Rs. 5093572.97. Cost of Tender Form - Nil, Earnest Money- 1,01,900/-, Completion Period of the Work - 06 Month, Last Date & Time of submission and opening of tender- 15:00 Hrs. on Date 26.09.22. The Tenders can be viewed at website www.irops.gov.in. The tenderer / bidders must have class III Digital signature certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-tendering. Also should have valid GSTIN.
Sr. DSTE/SIGNAL & WORKS
कोरोना को है हराना, तो टीकाकरण जरूर करना

PLAYING TODAY

TENNIS

US Open, 8.30pm, Live on Sony Sports Network

CRICKET

Asia Cup, India vs Hong Kong 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports

FOOTBALL

Premier League, 11.50pm, Live on Star Sports

BRIEFLY

Ravi, Vinesh in World C'ships squad

New Delhi: Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat were among a host of star Indian wrestlers named for the World Senior Championships to be held in Belgrade, Serbia from September 10-18. The Indian team was picked after selection trials at SAI Training Centres in Lucknow and Sonapat on Monday and Tuesday. Tokyo Olympian Vinesh, who completed a hat-trick of gold medals at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games earlier this month, will lead the women's team while the men's freestyle squad will have Olympic medallists Bajrang and Ravi Dahiya, and 2019 World Championships silver winner Deepak Punia. Bajrang (65kg), Ravi Dahiya (57kg) and Deepak Punia (86kg), who won gold medals at the Birmingham CWG, were granted exemptions from the trials. **PTI**

Durand Cup: Hyd FC enter quarter-finals

Imphal: Reigning Indian Super League (ISL) champions Hyderabad FC qualified for the quarter-finals of the Durand Cup football tournament, blowing away Neroca FC 3-0 at the Orange Brigade's home turf in Imphal on Tuesday. Their striker Bartholomew Ogbecbe (17th and 82nd minute) scored his second brace of the tournament to climb on top of the scorer's chart with four goals now against his name. In Kolkata, FC Goa bowed out of the tournament on a high after their young side held a Sunil Chhetri-led Bengaluru FC to an entertaining 2-2 draw in a Group A match. The Gaurs ended their Durand Cup campaign with four points while Bengaluru have seven points from three games. Bengaluru will play Mohammedan Sporting on September 2 to decide Group A winners. **PTI**

Kamal opts out of World C'ships

New Delhi: India's triple gold medallist at the recent Commonwealth Games, Sharath Kamal, has opted out of next month's World Table Tennis Championships in China, citing personal reasons. The event will be played in Chengdu from September 30 to October 9. The 40-year-old Sharath had won the men's singles, mixed doubles and team title in the Birmingham Games. G Sathyan, the top-ranked Indian in the world at No. 37, will spearhead the country's challenge in the men's section while world No. 44 Manika Batra will lead the women's team. **PTI**

Man United set to sign Antony from Ajax

Manchester: Brazil winger Antony looks set to complete a move to Manchester United for \$95 million, joining Lisandro Martinez in making a big-money switch from Dutch club Ajax to the English giant in the transfer window. The clubs said on Tuesday they have reached agreement on Antony's transfer, subject to a medical examination, his contract being finalized, and international clearance. The 22-year-old Antony, a skilful and quick left-footed attacker, has spent just two full seasons at Ajax but appears to have done enough to convince United to make him its second most expensive signing after Paul Pogba in 2016. **AP**



EXPRESS IN UAE

SANDIP G
DUBAI, AUGUST 30

AS KL RAHUL strode into the practice nets at the ICC Academy — the evening sun slanting into his silhouette — an Indian support staff barked out caution to a couple of robust guards standing on either side of the sight-screen to move away. "Watch out for the ball, he will hit in your direction." They studiously moved away and hid behind the sight-screen, but would occasionally emerge from their hiding to get a glimpse of his batting.

All their eyes met were wary leaves. The net bowler — most of India's frontline bowlers had chosen to abstain from the optional practice session, as did Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli — would just bang the ball short outside the off-stump. A slightly frustrated Rahul would then walk up to him and instruct him to bowl straighter and probe the in-between length that has confounded him. Like against Naseem Shah, when he was unsure whether to defend or leave and did neither to a good-length ball. The belated half-defensive stroke kissed the inside edge of his bat on its way to the stumps. This was a characteristic Rahul dismissal early on in a tour or when he is returning from a lengthy lay-off, when his judgement, instincts and foot movement have not yet synchronised. "It like beginning all over again," he had said rather ruefully a few days ago.

Understandably, he wanted to re-groove and began the nets as though he were preparing for a red-ball game, leaving balls outside the off-stump and on bounce, strid-



KL Rahul wanted to re-groove and began the nets as though he were preparing for a red-ball game, leaving balls outside the off-stump. *Twitter/BCCI*

ing his front foot out to defend the good-length balls and shelving all the expansive pulls and drives. He was keener on getting his head position right, would ask his colleagues standing beside the nets whether his chin was in line with the elbow and front foot, if the bat-swing was coming down straight, those minute but significant facets of the game, as though he was a man determined to rediscover his best touch.

Then from nowhere, the net bowler, with a whipper action and heavy landing made the ball jag back from short of a length. Rahul,

India vs Hong Kong

Time to regain touch of class

India's top three would look to get their mojo back against HK as they attempt a more robust approach to T20 cricket

injected some excitement with lusty blows either side of the practice wicket. Reverse scoops, falling sweeps, shovels and slaps, Pant produced a trailer of what he is capable of if he is recalled into the game against Hong Kong on Wednesday, a game that would, for all practical purposes, be an extended warm-up session. Runs against them would always accompany a rider — after all, the opponents were Hong Kong. But it could just be the timely gulp from a magic potion to lift morale.

The guards now were scampering for cover, hiding their faces with their hands every time he hit a ball. A couple of his leg-side swipes induced panic among the Sri Lankan cricketers practising in the adjoining nets.

Pant's carnage woke up Rahul and as the light got dimmer and the breeze picked up, he threw caution to the wind, gliding down the track and smearing Yuzvendra Chahal over his head and into the hockey ground beyond the fence. A different avatar of Rahul emerged, the one when he is in peak T20 form, and the one he would look to recreate against Hong Kong.

Travails of Rohit and Kohli

Not just Rahul, all of India's top three would look to cash in, put their indifferent times behind and dispel doubts that their batting is too sedate by T20 standards. Sharma and Kohli, too, are plodding through a tricky, at times intriguing, phase. Both were rusty against Pakistan. Kohli, returning to competitive cricket after 42 days, was on agro mode from the start. But the body would not obey his mind. He attempted a lavish drive outside off-stump, the second ball of his innings. Feet creased, hands thrusting at the ball, body a mile away from the ball. He ended up outside-edging the ball to second slip, a straightforward chance the fielder grassed. The storied susceptibility outside off-stump that has resurfaced in recent times, manifested again. Followed a throwback pull, but soon after he was hurried into a pull that he safely

top-edged. There were glimpses of the old Kohli, but there was ample evidence of his recent struggles.

Though he would make a conscious effort to lift the tempo of scoring, timing did not quite ally with him, as it had been this entire year. For much of his century-less months, Kohli had not looked particularly out of touch, but this year has been a struggle, especially with his timing.

Like the way he perished against Mohammad Nawaz, Kohli did most things right — the choice of stroke could not be faulted as the ball was nicely floated in and pleading to be despatched over the ropes, he was right to the pitch of the ball, hit with the turn. But the timing went awry. Often when he takes the aerial route, the trajectory is flat but this time there was elevation but not the distance, the ball taking off the upper half of his bat.

Sharma's travails had been different. He seemed to have put a scratchy IPL behind in the West Indies. There was an urgency to accelerate the pace of scoring — the criticism that the top three are sedate by modern-day T20 yardstick still lingers and he has put in a deliberate effort to infuse impetus at the top. In his last eight innings, he has managed a 145-plus strike rate on five instances. But against Pakistan, he was ponderous, much like he was in the IPL, his innings replete with uncertain stabs, gropes, plays-and-misses, and feeble drives straight to the fielders. He tried to grind his way out of the torment, but even that did not work chiefly because he is not a natural rotator of strike. The gift of Kohli is that even if he is in poor touch, he can tap the singles and chug along. But Sharma, unless he gets his sumptuous strokes going, could get stuck at one end.

There is little doubt the three have the game, motivation and the wherewithal to rediscover their best form and emerge as a devastating trio in time for the business end of the Asia Cup and later the T20 World Cup. The Hong Kong encounter could be the perfect base-point for their ascent to batting peak.

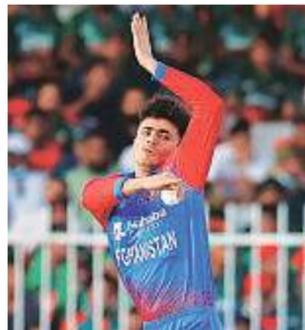
Mujeeb carrom-flicks Bangladesh into misery

SANDIP G
AUGUST 30

MUJEEB-UR-RAHMAN IS classified as an off-spinner. He corrects the assumption in self-introductions. "Mujeeb-ur-Rahman, mystery spinner from Khost, Afghanistan," was how he described in an intro video for his previous Big Bash League team. In another interview, with the Sunrisers Hyderabad channel, he wonders why he is categorised as an off-spinner and asserts himself: "Call me a carrom-ball spinner."

It's an apt description, for he primarily bowls carrom ball and purchases most of his wickets with this finger-flicker. There is no more a compulsive carrom-ball practitioner than Mujeeb either; there are few better exponents of the ball either. Most bowlers employ it as a variation, or a change-up or novelty ball. But Mujeeb uses this all the time — not because that's the only ball he bowls but also because that's the best he has. Just like a googly-bowler — as his teammate Rashid Khan is often referred to — or like an off-spinner or a leg-spinner, why not term him carrom-ball bowler?

Even his run-up is so different from the norm. It's a walk of a man wriggling past vehicles in an Indian traffic signal. But it's what comes out of his right hand that confounds the batsmen.



Mujeeb-ur-Rahman claimed figures of 3/16 against Bangladesh. *Twitter*

The first was the left-handed opener Mohammad Nasim, who perhaps, assumed that he was indeed an off-spinner pushed at the ball from the crease. But to his utter horror, he saw the ball gliding (than spinning) and sneaking through the wide gulf between his bat and pad.

You could pin the dismissal, notwithstanding the clumsy technique, to poor homework. For, against left-handed batsmen, he mostly bowls just the carrom ball. Bangladesh bats-

men know it more than most because he has often been their nemesis. Any reel of Mujeeb's best balls would feature a carrom ball that flummoxed Shakib-al-Hasan. Naim can't be fully blamed, for even Shakib himself did not learn from the old mistakes as he was yet again terminated by his carrom-ball in an identical manner. Pushing at the ball and bowled through the gaping gate.

Not that he is just about carrom-ball. He has a deceptive wrong'un too, but that's mostly reserved for the right-handed batsmen. Like how he flummoxed Anamul Haque, who was expecting a carrom ball but was nipped off by the wrong'un that spun back into him. More luminous right-handed victims include Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers.

In short, Mujeeb works on the inverse logic that batsmen are troubled by the balls that come back into them and not leave them.

What confounds the batsman most is that he has a similar grip for both carrom ball and wrong'un. He holds the ball between the index finger and the thumb, with the middle finger under the ball like a cushion, before it propels the ball in anti-clockwise direction. The fundamentals are the same for the wrong'un, only that the release is from the back of the hand. There are other minute clues too. The wrong'un tends to be floatier, and hence turns more prodigiously than the carrom ball. He also bends more and the release point is a fraction lower too. But most

batsmen watch his grip for clues and they find nothing.

There are more variations that he sparingly uses like the under-cutter, a reverse under-cutter, and an in-swinging yorker that he bowls with an angled seam and a slightly quicker action. On how he has developed all these variations he once explained in a Brisbane Heats video: "My first coach is Youtube. I learnt the carrom ball by watching Ashwin, Narine and Mendis bowling it. Then I would try those a thousand times at home or when playing with my friends. Then I began to experiment with different grips and different releases, and automatically mastered the variations," he says.

Little wonder then that his quest for experiments is matched only by his accuracy. He rarely bowls short or full, or even on the leg-side; rather he always looks to land the ball on off-stump or just outside it. That the Bangladesh batsmen could not punish him for a single boundary captures the precision of his bowling. This is a deadly blend — accuracy, aggression and variations. The irony is that the only delivery he — an off-spinner — does not bowl is an off-break. Call him then a carrom-ball spinner.

BRIEF SCORES: Bangladesh 127/7 in 20 overs (Mosaddek Hossain 48*); Mujeeb Ur Rahman 3/16, Rashid Khan 3/22; lost to Afghanistan 131/3 in 18.3 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 42*, Najibullah Zadran 43*)

Lahiri first Indian to join Saudi-backed LIV golf

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
AUGUST 30

THE GRIND in the life of a full-time professional golfer on the bigger tours seems to have taken a toll on Anirban Lahiri, who has joined the Greg Norman-fronted LIV Golf Series, a rebel venture that has acquired some of the most prominent names in the game.

The 35-year-old Indian, who finished second behind Australian Cameron Smith (the subsequent Open Champion who has also signed up for the Saudi-backed league) at this year's Players Championship — the PGA Tour's flagship event — will make his debut in the \$20 million tournament in Boston this week.

Lahiri has said that achieving a better "work-life balance" was the primary concern behind the move, which is likely to bar him from the PGA Tour and the Major Championships, as the upstart initiative attempts to upset the established order in golf. It has taken the PGA Tour to court over the sanctions imposed on players who have joined LIV Golf.



Anirban Lahiri will make his LIV debut in Boston this week.

It will also leave him ineligible for the Presidents Cup, in which he has represented

the International team twice. "I see this as an effort to correct my

work-life balance. I see this as a move to get back closer to my family and friends. I see this as something that gives me more time to enjoy my kids growing up," Lahiri explained to Hindustan Times.

Lahiri has 18 professional titles worldwide, but has not been in the winner's circle since 2015. He hasn't made it to a Major weekend for the last five years either.

LIV Golf tournaments are 54-hole events (in contrast to the 72-hole competitions on the regular tours).

The 48 players in the field are divided into four-man teams for the three-day contests, which provide guaranteed prize money much more than what is on offer on the other tours, where a golfer doesn't get any prize money if he doesn't make the halfway cut. LIV Golf events have a shotgun start, as against a staggered one on other tours, and there's an individual as well as team champion for every tournament.

Other big names

Smith, who won the Open on The Old Course at St. Andrews in July, has reportedly jumped ship for a reported sum of \$100 million.

Other prominent golfers to have joined LIV Golf — which has been accused of 'sportswashing' Saudi Arabia's allegedly dismal human rights record and the ruling family's alleged role in the murder of The Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi — include Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Bryson DeChambeau, Henrik Stenson, Louis Oosthuizen, Brooks Koepka, Sergio Garcia, Ian Poulter, Abraham Ancer, Graeme McDowell and Bubba Watson.

Lahiri is the first Indian to join LIV Golf and it could be an acquisition aimed at exploiting the Asian market as the continental tour looks to raise its profile on the back of the big names on the LIV roster.

According to the HT report, Lahiri will be part of DeChambeau's team Crushers. "I have found the whole concept of LIV interesting and alluring.

They have so many new things on offer, which is nice at a time when golf tournaments needed a bit of a shake-up," he was quoted as saying.

In recent seasons, Lahiri has been in a constant struggle to maintain his PGA Tour card and had even had to come through the feeder tour to return to the elite level.



Shaheen Afridi suffered a knee injury in Sri Lanka last month. *Twitter*

Not ready for goodbye at Grand farewell

Serena puts off retirement talk with straight sets win in the first round, 'I am going to stay vague,' she says

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK, AUGUST 30

THEY CAME from far and wide for Serena — no last name required, befitting someone as much an icon as superstar athlete — to see her practice and play and, it turned out, win a match at the US Open, turning out in record numbers to fill Arthur Ashe Stadium and shout and applaud and pump their fists right along with her.

Serena Williams is not ready to say goodbye just yet. Nor, clearly, are her fans. And she heard them, loud and clear.

In her first match at what is expected to be the last US Open — and last tournament — of her remarkable playing career, even if she insists that she won't quite say so, Williams overcame a shaky start to overpower Danka Kovinic 6-3, 6-3 amid an atmosphere more akin to a festival than a farewell.

What memory will stick with her the most from the evening? "When I walked out, the reception was really overwhelming. It was loud and I could feel it in my chest. It was a really good feeling," said the owner of six U.S. Open championships and 23 Grand Slam titles overall, numbers unsurpassed by any other player in the sport's professional era.

"It's a feeling I'll never forget," she added. "Yeah, that meant a lot to me."

This opening outing against Kovinic, a 27-year-old from Montenegro ranked 80th, became an event with a capital "E." Spike Lee participated in the pre-match coin toss. Former President Bill Clinton was in the stands. So were Mike Tyson and Martina Navratilova, sitting next to each other. And sitting with Dad and Grandma was Williams' daughter, Olympia, who turns 5 on Thursday, wearing white beads in her hair just like Mom did while winning the U.S. Open for the first time at age 17 back in 1999.

Williams is now 40, and told the world three weeks ago via an essay for Vogue that she was ready to concentrate on having a second child and her venture capital firm.

Asked after her victory Monday whether this will definitively be her final tournament, Williams replied with a knowing smile: "Yeah, I've been pretty vague about it, right?" Then she added: "I'm going to stay vague, because you never know." The night session drew 29,000 folks, a high for the tournament — more than 23,000 were in Ashe; thousands more watched on a video screen outside the arena — and the place was as loud as ever. Certainly louder than any other first-round match in memory.

Both players called the decibel level "crazy." Kovinic said she couldn't hear the ball come off Williams' racket strings — or even her own. Early, Williams was not at her best. Maybe



Serena Williams celebrates after her opening-round victory on Monday. AP

it was the significance of the moment. There were double-faults. Other missed strokes, missed opportunities. She went up 2-0, but then quickly trailed 3-2. Then, suddenly, Williams, looked a lot like the champion she's been for decades and less like the player who came into this match with a 1-3 record since returning to action in late June after nearly a year off the tour.

"At this point, honestly, everything is a bonus for me, I feel," Williams said.

"It's good that I was able to get this under my belt... I'm just not even thinking about that. I'm just thinking about just this moment. I think it's good for me just to live in the moment now." She rolled through the end of that opening set, capping it with a service winner she reacted to with clenched fists and her trademark cry of "Come on!" That was met with thunderous cheers and applause — as was the ending of the 1-hour, 40-minute contest, as if another trophy had been earned.

Instead, there is plenty more work to be done. Williams will play in the second round of singles on Wednesday against No. 2 seed Anett Kontaveit of Estonia.

"Just keep supporting me," Williams told the spectators, "as long as I'm here." They surely will. They were there to honor her and show appreciation for what she's done on the court and off. After watching the victory over Kovinic, spectators held up blue, white or red placards that were distributed at their seats to spell out "We (Heart) Serena." After Kovinic was introduced simply by name, making clear to even her what an afterthought she was on this muggy evening, Williams' entrance was preceded by a tribute video narrated by Queen

Latifah, who called the American the "Queen of Queens." The arena announcer called Williams "the greatest of all time," and intoned: "This U.S. Open marks the final chapter of her storied tennis history." She means a lot to a lot of people. As a tennis player. As a woman. As an African American. As a mother. As a businesswoman.

"When she started out, female athletes weren't getting recognized. She's done so much," said Quintella Thorn, a 68-year-old from Columbus, Georgia, making her eighth trip to the US Open. "And now, she's..." "Evolving," chimed in Thorn's friend, Cora Monroe, 72, of Shreveport, Louisiana, using the word Williams says she prefers to "retirement." Which is why Monday mattered more than the usual Day 1 at a major tournament. And why the daily program did not make mention of any other of the dozens of athletes in action, showing instead a montage of six images of Williams holding her six U.S. Open trophies above the title: "Serena Williams, A Legacy of Greatness." And why there was a sense of less importance for matches involving wins for other elite players such as past U.S. Open champions Bianca Andreescu, Andy Murray and Daniil Medvedev, or French Open finalist Coco Gauff, an 18-year-old American.

After her own 6-2, 6-3 victory over Leolia Jeanjean earlier in the day, Gauff looked forward to sitting in Ashe herself to watch Williams. "Everybody is going to be on her side. I'm going to be cheering for her," Gauff said. "It's going to be probably one of the most electric matches that will ever happen in tennis." Lived up to the billing. Now there is more to come for Williams and her supporters.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

DAY 2
Iga Swiatek def. Jasmine Paolini 6-3, 6-0

WITH HALEP out, World No. 1 Swiatek has become one of the prime contenders for the title in New York this week. The Pole got her campaign off to a dominant start as she saw off Paolini in straight sets. Swiatek's dominant display came despite her being far from her best, and with a rusty tune-up she will need to play herself into form in the first week in New York. Quick and efficient results like these are welcome.

DAY 1
Daria Snigur def. Simona Halep 6-2, 0-6, 6-4

THE BIGGEST upset on Monday was seventh seed Halep — one of the bookmakers' favourites for the title — losing to Ukrainian qualifier Snigur. Halep was uncharacteristically slow out of the blocks in the first set, and despite asserting herself in the second, fell to a 1-5 deficit in the third she could not come back from.

Daniel Galan def. Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-0, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5

WORLD NO. 5 Tsitsipas has never made it past the second week at the US Open, a streak that continues after his first-round defeat to Colombian qualifier Daniel Galan. The Greek had a shocking start, where he lost the first 11 games of the match, and despite finding his feet in the third set, he could not recover from it.

Brandon Holt def. Taylor Fritz 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4

INDIAN WELLS champion. Wimbledon quarterfinalist. Tenth seed. There was a lot of excitement around local favourite and America's No. 1 Taylor Fritz ahead of the Open. His opening round loss to qualifier and World No. 303 Brandon Holt was a jolt, to say the least. A huge dent in the progress he has made this year.

ENS

After Star and Sony, fans now need to subscribe to Zee too

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
KOLKATA, AUGUST 30

INDIAN CRICKET fans now need to subscribe to three TV channels or as many as three OTT platforms to follow the game they love. ZEE is the latest in the TV list after entering into a strategic partnership with Disney Star to telecast all ICC men's events for the 2024-27 cycle. So apart from Star and Sony, fans need to have ZEE TV channels also. As for digital viewing, Hotstar, SonyLIV and Voot are the available options.

Star is the broadcast rights holder (TV and digital) for international fixtures in India and also domestic cricket. It has retained the TV rights for the IPL as well besides taking over the Australian rights from Sony from 2023. Sony (TV channels and SonyLIV), meanwhile, has renewed its media rights deal with the England and Wales Cricket Board. Voot would be the platform to watch the IPL matches from the next year onwards.

A strategic alliance between Disney Star and ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. entered on Tuesday will give cricket fans more options as regards to watching the ICC men's events for the 2024-27 cycle. Those who would prefer to watch games online, Hotstar would be their go-to digital platform for the men's T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026, the Champions Trophy in 2025 and the men's 50-over World Cup in 2027.

For TV nerds, they can watch all this on ZEE channels. The strategic alliance is a landmark deal in Indian cricket, offering novelty.

"ZEE Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. (ZEE) and Disney Star, today announced that they have entered into a strategic licensing agreement by which Disney Star will license the television broadcasting rights of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's and Under 19 (U-19) global events for a period of four years, to ZEE. Disney Star will continue to be the exclusive home for streaming of all ICC tournaments through its digital platform — Disney+ Hotstar. ICC has in-principle approved this arrangement," said a joint press statement.

Added: "This association enables ZEE to be the exclusive television rights holder of

ICC men's events, including the coveted ICC Men's T20 World Cup (2024, 2026), ICC Men's Champions Trophy (2025), and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup (2027) along with key ICC U-19 events."

This came just days after Star winning the television and digital rights for both men's and women's global events from 2024 to 2027 for a reported \$3 billion.

The IPL media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle, too, saw a split, with Star bagging the TV rights and Viacom 18/Reliance sweeping the digital segment.

Collectively, the IPL media rights were sold for around \$6.2 billion. The ICC media rights, exclusively won by Star for the Indian market fetched less, but the company's strategic alliance with ZEE made the viewing pool much wider for cricket followers and might have a positive impact on the subscription packages. This is rather more akin to how Sky Sports and BT Sport collaborate to broadcast the Premier League. In 2019, Sky Sports and BT Sport reached an agreement to sell their titled channels on each other's

platforms. In Indian cricket, as mentioned by ZEE's MD & CEO Punit Goenka, this is a "first-of-its-kind".

"This is a first-of-its-kind partnership in the Indian media & entertainment landscape, and this association with Disney Star reflects our sharp, strategic vision for the sports business in India. As a one-stop television destination for ICC men's cricket events until 2027, ZEE will leverage the strength of its network to offer

for a compelling experience for its viewers and a great return on investment for its advertisers," Goenka stated in the press release.

Disney Star's country manager and president K Madhavan said: "By securing the IPL television broadcast rights for 2023-27 and now opting to retain only the digital rights for ICC tournaments for 2024-27, we have in place a balanced and robust cricket offering for our audiences across linear and digital."

As far as Star is concerned, this is apparently an effort to balance the books after forking out Rs 23,575 crore (\$3 billion approx.) for the Indian Premier League television rights in the subcontinent. From viewers' perspective, however, the strategic alliance would give them the leeway to pick and choose.

A strategic alliance between Disney Star and ZEE entered on Tuesday will give cricket fans more options as regards to watching the ICC men's events for the 2024-27 cycle.



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