



PERFECTION IAS

An Institute for UPSC & BPSC

PROUD MOMENT

BPSC 66TH RESULT TOTAL 131 SELECTIONS

OUR TOPPERS IN TOP 100



RITIKA RITI
RANK 11
SUB ELECTION OFFICER



SOURAV SETU
RANK 23
PROBATION OFFICER



MITHLESH KUMAR
RANK 24
DSP



RISHITA SNEH
RANK 29
DSP



SUMIT SHEKHAR
RANK 33
DSP



KUMAR HARSH
RANK 37
REVENUE OFFICER



APURV
RANK 40
RDO



RAVI SHANKAR
RANK 42
STATE TAX ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER



ALPANA PANDEY
RANK 47
PROBATION OFFICER



SNEHA SALVI
RANK 51
PROBATION OFFICER



VINAY KUMAR
RANK 59
DSP



SAURAV KUMAR
RANK 60
ADTO



SUMAN KUMAR
RANK 65
BPRO



RUCHI PRIYA
RANK 68
ADTO



DIVYA KUMARI
RANK 71
DSP



ABDUR RAHMAN DANISH
RANK 75
DSP



RAJU KUMAR
RANK 76
ADTO



ROHIT KUMAR SINGH
RANK 79
RDO



ALOK RANJAN
RANK 84
RDO



SANTOSH KR. PASWAN
RANK 85
DSP



ANIMESH
RANK 89
RDO



DHARMRAJ KUMAR
RDO



SHUBHAM PRAKASH
RDO



SHAMBHAVI SRIVASTAVA
RDO



ANJALI SHARMA
RDO



ASHMITA
BPRO



AGRASAR RAJ MEDHAVI
BPRO



BAMBAM KUMAR
LEO

and many more

**NEW
BATCHES**

FOR BPSC STARTING FROM



08th AUGUST 2022

HINDI MEDIUM

Time: 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM

24th AUGUST 2022

ENGLISH MEDIUM

Time: 11:30 AM - 02:30 PM

📍 Reg. Office: 103, Kumar Tower, Boring Rd. Crossing, Patna

☎ **9155090871 / 72 / 73**

🌐 www.perfectionias.com

✉ perfectionias@gmail.com

Classifieds

PERSONAL

It is for general information that I,Shiv Kumar Giri,S/o Tooki Ram,R/o,C-193, LIG-Flat, East-of-Loni,Shahdara,Delhi-110093,declare that the name of mine and my wife has been wrongly-written as Shiv Kumar Goswami and Poonam Goswami in my son's Nitish Goswami class-9th record.The actual-name of mine and my wife are Shiv Kumar Giri and Poonam Devi respectively,which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that I,Pinky Kesi,D/o-Hari Kumar,R/o,H.No-97-B,3rd-Floor,Hari-Nagar,Ashram South-Delhi-110014,declare that the name of mine and my father has been wrongly-written as Pinky and Hari Kumar Kesi in my class-10th record.The actual-name of mine and my father are Pinky Kesi and Hari Kumar respectively,which may be amended accordingly.

I,hitherto known as Rubina,W/o Kamal,residing at B-2547,Jain-Nagar, Karala,Delhi-110081,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ruby Malik.

I,Sachin Sethi,S/O Late Rajinder Kumar Sethi, R/O F-17/79, SECTOR-8, ROHINI, NEW DELHI-110085, have changed the name of my daughter from Chaitanya to new name Chaitanyaa Sethi.

I,SANJEEV KUMAR,S/O GOBIND DAS R/O-JP-71,MAURYA ENCLAVE,PITAMPURA,DELHI-110034.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJEEV KUMAR MITTAL.

I,SANDEEP KUMAR JAIN,S/O NEM CHAND JAIN,R/O-1021/67,DEVA RAM,TRINAGAR,DELHI-110035.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDEEP JAIN.

I,Rupal Kaur Saluwa W/O Ishdeep Singh Makkar R/o-H.No.09,Road No-54, Ground-Floor,West Punjabi-Bagh, N.Delhi-110026,have changed my name to Rupal Makkar.

I,Pink W/O-Manoj Kumar,R/O-RZF-43/14 Gali No-43,Sadh-Nagar Palam Colony,New Delhi-110045.Have change my Name Pinki to Madhubala,for all,future purpose.

I,No.4077838F LNK Naveen Prakash Singh,S/o Sh.Umeshwar Singh,R/o,Village-Ganeshpur,Post-Office Karbari(Simla-Vy-Pass)Distt.Dehradun,Uttarakha nd-248007,I,have changed my son's name from SIDHARTH SINGH to SIDHARTH SINGH RAWAT,in future,for all purpose.

I,No-9102541H,Ex-TS NK Jhangir Ahmed Lone. In my service records the name and D o B of my son has been wrongly mentioned as Anas Jahangir (D o B- 12-07-2005) instead of Anis Jahangir (D o B- 12-07-2006) as in school records. It needs correction .Objections be filled to unit 15 JAKLI within seven days.

I,Neeraj D/o-Nafe Singh,W/o Mr.Yogesh Dabas,R/O G-128,New Palam-Vihar Phase-1,Carterpurj, Gurgaon, Haryana-122017,have changed my name to Neeraj Devi.

I,Naveen Gupta,S/o-Satish Chander,R/O,Flat.No.12,Block.N o.17, Raj-Niwasi Marg,Rajpura-Road,Civil-Lines,North-Delhi,Delhi-110054,have changed the name of my minor-daughter Akshara aged-13-years and she shall

I,Mohd Naseem Chaudhary,S/o Sabeer Chaudhary,R/O-A-124-33-Foota Road Kabir-Nagar Delhi-110094,have changed my name to Naseem Ahmad.

I,MAYA DHOLPURIA,W/O LALIT KUMAR,residing at,H.No-7073-B,THIRD FLOOR,MATA RAMESHWARI,NEHRU NAGAR,KAROL-BAGH,DELHI-110005,have changed my name to MAYA DEVI,for all,future purpose.

I,Krishna W/O.Neeraj Soni R/O,WZ- 272A, f.f, street.no.8, Hari-Nagar New Delhi-110058,have changed my name to Krishna Soni,for all purposes.

I,Jaskirat Singh S/o Rajinder Singh R/o A-2/14, Rajouri- Garden, N.Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Jaskirat Singh Majithia.

I,JAGDISH S/O PYARE LAL R/O D-39,HARIJAN BASTI,MASOODPUR, VASANT KUNJ,DELHI 110070,HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON'S NAME FROM AMAN TO AMAN JAJORIYA.

I,Naryana Singh S/o Ratan Singh R/o WZ-809, Naraina Village, Delhi-110028 have changed my name to Narain Singh.

I,Ex No- JC-594005X,Sub Farooq Ahmed Bhat, R/O-Laisora, P/O-Gudder,Tehsil-D H Pora, District- Kulgam. In my service records the name of my children's has been wrongly mentioned as daughter's as Assrar Farooq (D o B- 15-05-2000),Falaq Jaan (D o B-08-02-2006) instead of Asrar Farooq(D o B-15-05-2002),Falaq Farooq (22-06-2010) and son as Fazil Farooq (D o B-08-05-2002) instead of Fazil Farooq Bhat (D o B- 04- 02-2006) as in Board of school Education certificates. It needs correction. Objections be filled to Unit 3 JAKLI within seven days.

I,Devender Kumar,S/O Ram Narayan Gupta,R/O B-136,Rameshwar-Nagar Golo.No-2,Azad Pur,Delhi-110033,have changed my name to Devender Kumar Gupta.

I,Ekta Mahendru alias EKTA D/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Ekta Mahendru, Ekta and Ekta Mahendru is same and one person

I,DIHIRENDA KUMAR SINGH,S/O UMA SHANKAR SINGH,R/O E-606,ASHIANA ORCHID GAMA-2,GREATER,NOIDA, GAUTAMBUDDH-NAGAR,U.P.201306,Changed my name to DIHIRENDA SINGH.

I,Chandu Lal Kushwaha, R/o-100/28 Rajapur Village,Delhi-110085, changed my minor son's name from Briji Mohan to Brijmohan Kushwaha,for all purposes.

I,Arpit Khare,S/o Rajendra Kumar Khare,R/o-Sadarpur Colony,Sector-44,Noida my Name wrongly mentioned-in LIC No. 113370806 as Shardiil Khare.But correct Name Arpit Khare for all future purpose.Arpit Khare and Shardiil Khare both,are same person.

I,Anil Gupta S/o Ganga Ram,R/o,H.No-525 Pocket-3 Janta-Quarters, Paschim Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Anil Kumar,for all,purposes.

I,Arpit Khare,S/o Rajendra Kumar Khare,R/o-Sadarpur Colony,Sector-44,Noida my Name wrongly mentioned-in LIC No. 113370806 as Shardiil Khare.But correct Name Arpit Khare for all future purpose.Arpit Khare and Shardiil Khare both,are same person.

I,Anil Gupta S/o Ganga Ram,R/o,H.No-525 Pocket-3 Janta-Quarters, Paschim Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Anil Kumar,for all,purposes.

I,Anika Arora,W/o Sahil Bajaj,R/O C-19, Vishal Enclave,New Delhi-110017,Have change my name to Anika Arora Bajaj for all purposes.

I,Angeliki Matharu W/O-Dilraj Singh R/O-FB-102, Mansarovar Garden,New Delhi-110015,have changed my name to Angeliki Singh.

I,Akshaya Krishna Murthi,D/o Krishna Murthy Jankiraman,R/o.B-3/4,Hanuman Mandir-Marg,Raghu Nagar,Palam Village, New Delhi-110045,have changed my name to Akshaya.

I,ASHA W/O GURMEET SINGH,R/O FLATNO.102,PLOTNO.C-109/1,BLOCK-C,GALINO.23,RAMA VIHAR,MOHAMMAD PUR MAJRI,DELHI-110081.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARPREET KAUR.

I,Uday Raj Patel S/o Gopi Nath R/O Patel Nagar, Bamela, Handia, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh-221503, have changed my minor son's name from Subedar Patel aged 16 years to Shivesh Singh Patel forever

I,TASLEEM W/O KHAIRUDDIN R/O 573, FF, KUMHARAN,GANJ MIR KHAN,BEHIND DELITE CINEMA,DELHI-110006, HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO TASLIMA.

I,Sumit Bhardwaj,S/o Ravindra Mohan Bhardwaj,R/o V-29, U.G.F,Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Sumit Bhardwaj, for all purposes.

I,Suchi Aggarwal, D/O Rakshesh Singhal, R/O 15061, ATS, Ahinsa khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad -201014 have changed my name to Suchi Singhal

I,Simranjeet Kaur W/o-Iminder Singh,R/o:D-157A,Fateh Nagar, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18 HaveChanged My Name to Simranjeet Kaur Bajwa after-Marriage.

I,Shivam Mahendru Shivam, S/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Shivam Mahendru , shivam and Shivam Mahendru is same and one person

I,Seema Srivastava D/o Sri Avadh Bihari Johari, R/O-E-1005 Luxuria Estate, Aditya World City Bamneta, NH-24, Ghaziabad-201002, have changed my name from Seema Srivastava to Seema Srivastava for all future purposes.

I,Shivam Mahendru Shivam, S/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Shivam Mahendru , shivam and Shivam Mahendru is same and one person

I,Meenal D/o Rajesh Kumar,R/o 810-B Pocket-2,Paschim Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Meenal Sardana,for all purposes.

I,Kamini Mahendru alias Kamani Devi Mahendru w/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Kamni Mahendru, Kamani Devi Mahendru and Kamani Mahendru is same and one person

I,Beena Rani Tyagi D/O Late Sh. Mahaveer Prasad Tyagi, 2/24, R/O Chiranjeev Vihar, Ghaziabad, U.P., 201002 have changed to Beena Tyagi

I,Avinash Mishra S/O Shri Girish Babu Mishra R/O Flat No-5, Balaji Homes-2,Chandra Vatika, Near Canara Bank, Noida Sector-45, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name from Avnish Mishra to Avinash Mishra

I,Anmol Kumar Grover, S/O Puneet Grover, R/o E-2/3, Sector 41, Noida- 201303, have changed my name to Anmol Grover.

I,Priyanka Mukherjee W/o Sh. Abhishek Mukherjee R/O 877/6, First Floor, Ward No.6, Mehrauli, South Delhi-110030 have changed the name of my minor son from Alishik Abhishek Mukherjee to Advait Aayan for all purposes.

I,Manju W/O-Devender Kumar Gupta,R/O B-136,Rameshwar-Nagar Golo No-2,Azad Pur,Delhi-110033,have changed my name to Manju Gupta.

I,MONIKA JAIN,W/O SANDEEP JAIN,R/O 1021/67,DEVA RAM,TRINAGAR,DELHI-110035.HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MONICA JAIN.

I,Fawzia Khan,D/OJahangir Iqbal Yar Khan,R/o,T-183/5 Emerald-Compound, 40,Feet-Road,New Palam-Vihar Phase 2, Sector-109, Choma(62), Gurgaon, Haryana 122017,have changed my name to Fawzia Jahangir Khan.

I,Ankita Sharma,D/o-Pradeep Kumar Sharma,W/o-Amit Gulati,R/O,H.No.871,Upper.Gr ound-Floor,Nr-Park Plaza-Hotel,Sector-21C, Faridabad,Haryana-121001,have changed my name to Ankita Gulati.

I,Shahanawas Mazumdar S/O Sahab Uddin Mazumdar born on (15/12/1986) residing at Flat No 2015, Om Tower Mahagun Mantra 1, Greater Noida 203207, have changed my name to Shahanawas Mazumdar vide affidavit dated (05/08/2022) at Greater Noida.

I,Sumit Bhardwaj,S/o Ravindra Mohan Bhardwaj,R/o V-29, U.G.F,Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027,have changed my name to Sumit Bhardwaj, for all purposes.

I,Suchi Aggarwal, D/O Rakshesh Singhal, R/O 15061, ATS, Ahinsa khand, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad -201014 have changed my name to Suchi Singhal

I,SURENDER KUMAR, S/o MAHENDER KUMAR, R/O- H.No-45, Gali No-1, Old Faridabad, Haryana-121002 have changed my name to SURENDER GOSWAMI for all purposes.

I, Rajeev Kumar Verma s/o HS Verma R/O I-119A I Block Gali No. 7 Garhwalli Mohalla Laxmi Nagar East Delhi have changed my name to Rajeev Verma.

I, Pinky Bhandari W/o Pawan Kumar Bhandari R/o-A-19, Sector-49, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) have changed my name Pinky Bhandari to Kamini Bhandari for all future purpose. Pinky Bhandari and Kamini Bhandari are same person.

I, Nisha, R/o SI/856, Shalimar Garden Extn.1, Near Police Chowki, Sahiabad, Ghaziabad-201005 have changed my name to Nisha Somkuwar.

I, Meenal D/o Rajesh Kumar,R/o 810-B Pocket-2,Paschim Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Meenal Sardana,for all purposes.

I,Kamini Mahendru alias Kamani Devi Mahendru w/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Kamni Mahendru, Kamani Devi Mahendru and Kamani Mahendru is same and one person

I,Beena Rani Tyagi D/O Late Sh. Mahaveer Prasad Tyagi, 2/24, R/O Chiranjeev Vihar, Ghaziabad, U.P., 201002 have changed to Beena Tyagi

I,Avinash Mishra S/O Shri Girish Babu Mishra R/O Flat No-5, Balaji Homes-2,Chandra Vatika, Near Canara Bank, Noida Sector-45, Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301, have changed my name from Avnish Mishra to Avinash Mishra

I,Anmol Kumar Grover, S/O Puneet Grover, R/o E-2/3, Sector 41, Noida- 201303, have changed my name to Anmol Grover.

I,Priyanka Mukherjee W/o Sh. Abhishek Mukherjee R/O 877/6, First Floor, Ward No.6, Mehrauli, South Delhi-110030 have changed the name of my minor son from Alishik Abhishek Mukherjee to Advait Aayan for all purposes.

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I,Ankita Sharma,D/o-Pradeep Kumar Sharma,W/o-Amit Gulati,R/O,H.No.871,Upper.Gr ound-Floor,Nr-Park Plaza-Hotel,Sector-21C, Faridabad,Haryana-121001,have changed my name to Ankita Gulati.

I,Shahanawas Mazumdar S/O Sahab Uddin Mazumdar born on (15/12/1986) residing at Flat No 2015, Om Tower Mahagun Mantra 1, Greater Noida 203207, have changed my name to Shahanawas Mazumdar vide affidavit dated (05/08/2022) at Greater Noida.

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I,Shivam Mahendru Shivam, S/o Vinod Mahendru R/o A-1/272 First Floor, Sector-17, Rohini, inform that my true and correct name is Shivam Mahendru , shivam and Shivam Mahendru is same and one person

I,Meenal D/o Rajesh Kumar,R/o 810-B Pocket-2,Paschim Puri,Delhi-63,have changed my name to Meenal Sardana,for all purposes.

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BRAHMIN
Sharma girl S/ 5'4", 21/11/1992, 5:20 am Ropar. M.tech, Job in Mohali, 11 lac package, 9417449202

GENERAL
SEEKING PGM FOR BE/ MBA working Maharashtran. Mumbai based 38 years, 5'-2". short marriage issuelss divorce. 9821133017.

MALYALEE KERALITE
Ezhava parents ret'd Judge and ret'd bank AGM invites proposal for their daughter (34/157) never married, MSc International Relations. Family is well - settled in Bangalore. 7259709520.

MUSLIM
Suitable Match for Govt. Nursing Officer, Sunni Muslim Girl, 5'2", Looking well settled educated tall Boy, Delhi/NCR, Medical/ Engineer field. Preferred Contact: 8368681191/ 8076130652

MARRIAGE BUREAU
KRUSHNADEV Matrimonial- As per your expectation with Brides/ Grooms of all Hindu casts/ Divorcees/ Widows. Register:- www.shaadimera.com/ 9004139985, 9004739985.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client Sh. Mangal Lal So Late Sh. Gliner aged about 66 years, R/o H.No. 73, Khajura No. 224, Near peer Bala Mazra, Village, Anaspur, Bagh Mochi, Meht Bagh, Delhi-110021, have changed and disinterred his son Mr. Radhey Shyam and his wife Smt. Kamlesh and their late. Mr. Radhey Shyam and his wife Smt. Kamlesh's elder son Pawan Tamwar and his wife Sonia Tamwar including their children and Younger son Ravi Tamwar in all manners being disloyal and independent towards him. They shall have no right, claim, interest or concern over all movable and immovable properties of my client in any manner whatsoever. My client shall not be held responsible for their acts or deeds in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client Sh. Sagar Singh S/o Late Durga Prasad & Smt. Indrawati Delhi W/o Sh. Sagar Singh both the Resident of House no. E-54A, Kondi Harian East Ambekar Park East Kandi, Delhi-110021, have changed my son Namely Sh. Arun and his wife Smt. Dimple from all my movable & immovable properties to their misconduct/family activities and cruelty committed upon me and my wife now my client shall not be responsible for the any Acts, Deeds & Things if any done by their son namely Sh. Arun and his wife Smt. Dimple. And hereby my client disowned/debar to Sh. Arun and his wife Smt. Dimple from all their movable & immovable property for the immediate effect

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Shri Kishan Rustgi H/o R.P. Kapoor R/o Flat No. 92-B, Pocket -C, Sidhartha Extension, New Delhi-110014 had lost the property documents i.e.GPA and Sale agreement between Anand Kaur & Smt. Kishan Rustgi a/c lost from her house and my client tried a lot to search the documents but failed to find it. Through this public notice, I hereby inform to public at large not to misuse and inform to the undersigned and if any one tried to misuse the same then he/she will be solely responsible for the same and my client reserves her right to take legal recourse against them.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas my clients Sh. Sundern Gupta R/o H.No.B-28B, Dabai Vihar, Kirti Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086, have disowned/debanded/denied of their married daughter namely Sushma, her husband Sagar S/o Ram Vinod Shah, mother's name late Smt. Asha Parvi S/o-1720, Jahangir Puri, Dholigat, Delhi-110033 & her friend namely Akash S/o Suraj, mother's name Sapna his known address Nandani Vihar, Kirti Suleman Nagar, Delhi-110086 from his all the social relation including disowned from any rights or title in the movable/immovable properties. The above said daughter, her husband and her friends shall have no claims/interest in any whatsoever in my clients' properties. Henceforth, my clients sever and relinquish all their relations from the above said daughter, her husband and her friends. My clients shall not be held responsible for any transactions, acts deeds and things in any manner with them (as above mentioned), if anyone deal with them will be completely responsible at its own risk for the same.

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ON BEHALF OF M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its registered office at Unit No. 408, 4th Floor, RG Trade Tower, Netaji Subhash Place, New Delhi-110024, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application documents submitted by Smt. Harvinder Kaur W/o late Sh. Harvinder Kaur R/o Flat No. F-684, 5th Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonapat, Haryana, the Developer 'M/s. Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is disowning, in place of late Sh. Nairinder Singh Bhalla, the names of following Class-I legal heirs of late Sh. Nairinder Singh Bhalla, qua allotment of Flat No. F-654, 5th Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonapat, Haryana:- 1. Harvinder Kaur (Wife) 2. Jaskaran Singh (Son) If any person has any objection / claim on the said property or against the said substitution, they may file their claim/objection within 10 days to the Company, and thereafter no objection / claim will be entertained in this regard.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client Mr. Birendra Bhandari, Rajeshwari Bhandari and Prashanti Bhandari resident of 705, Mahagun Villa, Vaisali, Ghaziabad hereby disowns my daughter Palak Bhandari because of internal family conflict. we forbid her from all legal relationship anyone interacting with her does so at their own risk.

LOST & FOUND
I, Pramod Kumar Sharma R/o 143 Harsh Vihar , Pitampura Delhi 110034 want to inform that for my original Perpetual Sub Lease Deed which was in the name of my Late Father Shri M P Sharma have been lost. The Complaint have been lodged In respect of Article / Document Lost in Delhi. SO No: 430 / 2014 Delhi Police P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi LR No:667529/2022. If Found please contact at 7011790914.

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GENERAL PUBLIC HEREBY INFORMED THAT MY CLIENT NAMELY SMT. SUDHA MO SHI V.K. PATEL AND SH. V. K. PATEK S/O LATE SH. S.P. PATHAK R/O H.NO.46A, STREET NO.18, A-1 BLOCK PHASE-I, SHYAM VILAS, MAHANGAR NEW DELHI-110043, HAS DISOWNED AND BREAK OFF ALL HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS SON NAMELY SR. PRASHANT SAURABH AND HIS WIFE SMT. POOJA SAURABH DELHI & BHANA INDIA, RESPECTIVELY, AS THE ABOVE NAMED SON AND DAUGHTER IN LAW have developed PROSECUTORY ATTITUDE AND NOT TAKING CARE OF MY CLIENT MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY OF THEIR ACTS. I HEREBY DISOWNED OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

PUBLIC NOTICE
To be known to all that my client SUPER SETHI SON OF LATE SH. GIRIDHAR LAL RESIDENT OF AC-VISVA, GROUND FLOOR, SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110086 purchase of DDA PLAT NO. 86-A on GROUND FLOOR SITUATED AT BLOCK-A, POCKET-C-V SITUATED AT SHALIMAR BAGH, DELHI-110086 document i.e. Demand Cum Allotment letter has been lost. As FIR vide LR No. 6664202/




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SUNDAY STORY

PAGE 10



END OF SESSION
A reluctant V-P who will be remembered fondly by all, including Opp

DHANKHAR GETS 528 VOTES, expected 510; Alva 182, expected 200 | **2 MPs EACH OF CONG AND SP,** 7 Shiv Sena MPs and 1 AAP MP absent

Vice-President Dhankhar

PM Modi congratulates 14th V-P for receiving support across party lines

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

NDA CANDIDATE Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected India's 14th Vice-President on Saturday, defeating Opposition candidate Margaret Alva by a huge margin in an election which was marked by absenteeism and invalid votes. The former West Bengal Governor got 528 of the 725 votes polled, with Alva — a former five-term Congress MP, Union minister and governor — getting 182, a lower tally than expected. On paper, the Opposition had close to 200 votes. The electoral college for the

vice-president comprises members of the two Houses of Parliament. Together, the Houses have a sanctioned strength of 788 MPs, of which there are eight vacancies in the Upper House. Among the 780-member electorate Saturday, 725 votes were polled (92.94% turnout), of which 15 votes were found to be invalid. Lok Sabha Secretary General Uptal Kumar Singh, the returning officer for the election, said, Dhankhar's victory was a foregone conclusion, with the BJP alone having 394 votes and the total adding up to 510 votes, counting its allies and supporting parties like the BJD and YSRCP. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP chief J P Nadda with Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

‘Not just Kenyans or Ethiopians, Indian too can win steeplechase’



EXPRESS IN BIRMINGHAM

SHIVANI NAIR
AUGUST 6

THE MOST fulsome praise for Avinash Sable came from Kenyan Olympic and two-time world champion Conseslus Kipruto, one of the two athletes from the long-distance super-power whom the Indian audaciously left behind while claiming a historic Commonwealth Games silver in the 3,000-metre steeplechase.

A third Kenyan, Abraham Kibibot, one of the season's top runners, eventually ended up with the gold. But not before surviving an almighty scare from Sable, who was breathing down his neck and snapping at his heels.



Silver medalist Avinash Sable and Kenya's Abraham Kibibot who won gold, in 3000 m steeplechase. ANI RELATED REPORT, P18

The Indian struck at the heart of steeplechase royalty and rewrote the national record for the ninth time — it could well be the n-th time — with a timing of

8:11.20. For the first 2,400 metres, Sable stalked the Kenyan Three — Kibibot, Kipruto and Amos Serem — who led the race. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Delhi excise policy row: L-G suspends 11 officers over ‘serious lapses’

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

INTENSIFYING THE face-off between Raj Niwas and the Delhi government over the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, Lt Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena Saturday approved the suspension and initiation of disciplinary proceedings for “serious lapses” against 11 officers of

the Excise department including the then Excise Commissioner Arava Gopi Krishna and Deputy Commissioner Anand Tiwari.

An IAS officer, Krishna was Excise Commissioner when the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

SISODIA SAYS EX-LG CHANGED STANCE ON LIQUOR VENDS **PAGE 6**

EXPRESS NETWORK



RCP SINGH QUILTS JD(U) AFTER PARTY FLAGS LAND DEALS

CAN BRING SMALLER, COST-EFFECTIVE SLV: ISRO CHAIRMAN **PAGE 7**

Lanka defers arrival of China ship, go-ahead given hrs before Gota fled

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 6

THE SRI Lanka Foreign Ministry has asked China to “defer” the arrival of the Yuan Wang 5, a military vessel, at its southern port of Hambantota.

Clearances for the Yuan Wang-class vessel to berth at Hambantota port were given by the Foreign Ministry on July 12, a

day before President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was driven out of office by a people's movement, was expected to resign as he had announced.

On Friday, the Foreign Ministry sent a communication to the Chinese embassy in Colombo, requesting that the arrival date of Yuan Wang 5 “be deferred until further consultations are made on this matter”.

With that, a matter that **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

EXPLAINED Why it worries Delhi


WITH ITS monitoring equipment, the Yuan Wang 5 vessel could snoop on many of India's southern ports and sensitive facilities from Sri Lankan waters.

Hindu Yuva Vahini set for a makeover, seeks to shed its vigilante image

BHUPENDRA PANDEY
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 6

THE HINDU Yuva Vahini, the youth outfit founded by Yogi Adityanath in 2002, is planning an image makeover — from an unruly band of men ready to flex muscles and lathis in the name of the Hindu cause to an organisation with strict membership

rules and streamlined operations. Sources said a name change too could be on the cards. On August 3, the Vahini dissolved all its organisational units in Uttar Pradesh, and sources said the outfit is likely to be restructured ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The revamp, sources said, was imperative considering the outfit **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



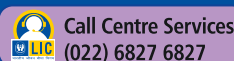
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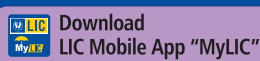
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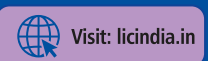
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FROM PAGE ONE

Jagdeep
Dhankhar wins
Vice-President
election

Dhankhar ended up getting even more, at 528. Congratulating him, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had received “resounding” support across party lines. As many as 55 MPs did not vote -- among them 34 from the Trinamool Congress, which had decided to abstain, saying the Opposition parties had decided on Alva without proper consultation with the party. Sources in the Congress said at least two of its Rajya Sabha MPs, Randeep Surjewala and Dhiraj Kumar Sahu, did not vote as they are undergoing treatment. Surjewala is said to be abroad. Besides them, from the Opposition camp, at least seven MPs of the Shiv Sena, two Samajwadi Party MPs and one AAP member did not vote. Of those backing Dhankhar, two BJP MPs and as many of the BSP were absent, as was one Independent. The two BJP MPs who did not vote were Sunny Deol and Sanjay Dhotre, also reportedly unwell. Sources in the TMC said that BJP MP Arjun Singh, who rejoined the TMC in May, did not vote either. In the presidential poll, Droupadi Murmu had garnered 540 votes from MPs. Of the 748 MP votes polled then, the joint Opposition candidate, Yashwant Sinha, had secured 208 (26 more than Alva).

At the time, two TMC MPs, Sisir Kumar Adhikari and his son Dibyendu Adhikari, had voted against the party's decision to back Yashwant Sinha. Sisir is the father of BJP MLA and West Bengal Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari. On Saturday, both Sisir and Dibyendu voted, defying the TMC decision to abstain. Hours later, TMC Lok Sabha floor leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay wrote to them saying the party has taken note of their move. The two are already facing disqualification proceedings. While the decision by the

TMC -- the second largest Opposition party after the Congress in Parliament, with 36 MPs -- to abstain had already dealt a body blow to the Opposition, others too like the BSP and TDP backed Dhankhar. The AAP, TRS, AIMIM and JMM though supported Alva. Of them, the JMM, largely a tribal party, had backed the NDA's Droupadi Murmu for President, by virtue of her being a tribal. Dhankhar succeeds M Venkaiah Naidu, whose term ends on August 10. He will be sworn in on August 11. President Murmu was among those who greeted Dhankhar on his win, besides Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Cabinet colleagues, chief ministers and senior Opposition leaders, including Congress president Sonia Gandhi, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Dhankhar's rival candidate, Margaret Alva. In her message to the 71-year-old Vice-President elect, Murmu said: “The nation will benefit from your long and rich experience of public life.”

Modi and BJP president J P Nadda met Dhankhar after the results. Thanking the MPs who had voted for Dhankhar, Modi said: “At a time when India is marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, we are proud to have a kisan putra (son of a farmer) Vice-President who has excellent legal knowledge and intellectual prowess...I am confident he will be an outstanding Vice-President. Our nation will gain tremendously from his intellect and wisdom.” Alva, who congratulated Dhankhar, thanked all the MPs from across parties who had voted for her. Taking potshots at the TMC, she tweeted: “This election was an opportunity for the Opposition to work together, to leave the past behind and build trust amongst each other. Unfortunately, some Opposition parties chose to directly or indirectly support the BJP, in an attempt to derail the idea of a united Opposition. It is my belief that by doing so, these parties and their leaders have damaged their own credibility.”

Alva added: “This election is over. The battle for protecting our Constitution, strengthening our democracy and restoring the dignity of Parliament will continue.” Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that “as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar will prove to be an ideal guardian of the Constitution”. Joining Congress president Sonia Gandhi in congratulating the new Vice-President, Rahul Gandhi tweeted: “Thank you to Smt Margaret Alva ji for representing the spirit of the joint Opposition with grace and dignity.” Like Alva, the Congress too didn't spare the TMC. “Alva ran a spirited campaign and it was too bad the TMC didn't support her. India will have to wait for its first woman Vice-President,” senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said. On Dhankhar, he said: “I hope he will display the sagacity and objectivity of Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and the wit and humour of Venkaiah Naidu, his partymen who became V-P.” Dhankhar, who hails from Rajasthan, began his political career in the erstwhile Janata Dal. A lawyer by training, he was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jhunjhunu in 1989. He was a Union deputy minister briefly from April-November 1990. He was in-charge of Parliamentary Affairs. He then shifted to state politics and moved to the Congress. His next election was for the Rajasthan Assembly on a Congress ticket. He represented Kishangarh seat from 1993 to 1998. After that, he practised as a lawyer in the Supreme Court until he was appointed the Governor of West Bengal in July 2019. His stint as Governor of West Bengal was marked by constant run-ins with the Mamata Banerjee government.

‘Indian too can win steeplechase, not just Kenyans or Ethiopians’

Once he made his move on the sixth of seven-and-a-half laps, the world's bronze medalist from a fortnight ago, Kipruto, saw his medal hopes dissipate. “Sable's such a strong guy,” said Kipruto, who faded to sixth and most likely paced the younger Kibiwot and Serem (8:16.83). “Since the Worlds we all viewed him as the strongest challenge here and I had been thinking about how to stop him. He is in such good shape and we knew he would give us a fight. He is also a smart guy. He ran his own race, with the same focus, and did not bother about others.” What Kipruto was praising Sable for were the precise thoughts that haunted the Indian's last fortnight, after he finished a disappointing 11th at the World Championships. Distraught, he flew out of Oregon and returned to Colorado with his coach the following noon. At Oregon, Sable's strategy of hanging back had backfired -- the pace slowed down, he found himself boxed into a lull and his timing fell to a crawl. This was his lowest point. But it also drove him to bolt out of the barn gates at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium, with little regard for the Kenyan halo that had held him back previously. On Saturday, at 10 minutes to noon local time, Sable started edging closer to the Kenyan athletes. Admittedly, he had little idea of who exactly was ahead of him. “I just decided and planned for a medal here. I knew I would need to beat all Kenyans if I wanted a medal,” said the Army man, who was once posted at Siachen. He would lie fourth for two-thirds of the race, but always in the peripheral vision of the front pack. Sable never lost sight of his own steady pace, clocking an average speed of 21.7 kmph. At the 2K mark, he knew he had to push gears. The Kenyans knew he was breaking free, and he made a clean cut in the next lap. “I sped at 2 km and tried to go into the lead. But the last water jump and hurdle were mistakes.” Briefly, Kibiwot leaned a little outward and pinged too

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EXPRESS AUDIO

CWG Daily: Murali Sreeshankar's turn-around, India's heavy medal sport, balti wars

Host Rahul Pandey joins Shivani Naik to talk about Murali Sreeshankar's turnaround during his penultimate jump as well as a foul that cost him his gold.

close in Sable's lane, and the sudden misdirection seemed to confuse the Indian a little. “I didn't know which way he would go so I got confused. Won't happen next time, it was a mistake,” Sable said. The stadium announcer kept calling him “Sabel”. Like table. Or sabre. Everyone saw Sable rattling the Kenyans across the packed stadium. The last hurdle was a nervous taster. He ran the leader close, to within 0.05 seconds, and finished with a redeeming silver: “Microsecond se gold reh gayaa (Missed it by microsecond). I wanted to hear our national anthem. I'm sorry I couldn't today, but I'm happy with the medal,” he said. “I stick to my plan. I had blundered following others at Worlds. I decided won't make the mistake again of slowing down because others had.” Yet, it was 15 sleepless nights, where he questioned everything about himself. “You start wondering why you even run if you can't win despite working so hard. I always believed hard work is bigger even than destiny and luck. But I couldn't understand why I didn't get a result at the World Championships,” he recalled. Seeking answers, he called up his nutritionist, wondering if he was eating wrong. He asked his coach a hundred questions about what was wrong with him. He wondered if practicing was a waste, but he trained hard anyway. “I was sent to the USA to train by those supporting me for 4-5 months. Even after I failed at World's they told me it's not a big deal. But I was angry at myself. So I thought of it from every angle,” he said, describing his state of mind. Senior players received calls asking them to analyse his mistakes. All that masochism finally yielded a result. “I thought if hard work doesn't give medals nothing will. Thankfully people trusted me.” Sable said he was especially bothered about those who had funded his international trips and might have been wondering if he was worth the effort. “I didn't want them to think I'm not worth their trust.” A quiet, reserved person he might be who keeps to himself. But those around him know of his quiet confidence in his own abilities to challenge the elite of the world. “I wanted to prove it's not just the Africans -- Kenyans and Ethiopians who win in long-distance races. An Indian can win too.”

Lanka defers arrival of China ship, go-ahead was given hrs before Gota fled

raised questions in Delhi about the motives of the Sri Lankan

government in welcoming the ship, has blown over, at least for now. But concerns remain in Delhi over the language of the note verbale, or “third party note” as it is called in Sri Lanka, which suggests that the issue is still open for discussion. India has poured in financial and material assistance to Sri Lanka to the tune of \$4 billion since January, and has also been hand-holding it in its discussions with the IMF for a package to help recover from the collapse of its economy. Delhi was shocked to learn that the government in Colombo had given clearances for the Chinese military vessel to berth at Hambantota. The matter first came to light through a seemingly innocuous mention on the website of BRISL (Belt and Road Initiative Sri Lanka) that the ship was calling over at the southern port. Hambantota Port was developed with loans from Beijing. In 2017, the Sri Lankan government leased the port to China Merchants Port Holdings Company, a Hong Kong-based shipping company, for a period of 99 years. Over the last week, Delhi conveyed more than once that it had serious concerns about the planned arrival of the ship, and was in constant talks with the Sri Lankan government on the issue. At first, Colombo sought to give assurances that it was a “re-search” ship for development activities, and was only stopping over for bunkering, for a week, from August 11 to 17. But India conveyed that this did nothing to allay its concerns over the vessel, one of six tracking ships in the Yuan Wang class, used by the People's Liberation Army to monitor satellites and intercontinental ballistic missiles. Bristling with satellite antennas and other equipment, these large vessels form part of the PLA's Strategic Support Force. A foothold for it in Hambantota would make several ports and other sensitive facilities in south India vulnerable, as also any movement by Indian Navy ships, officials said. “Spy” ship, officials said, was a misnomer for the vessel, and that it was in fact a dual purpose strategic platform, the likes of which had not been sent by any country into these waters before. President Ranil Wickremesinghe's government had conveyed to Delhi that the permission was given by the previous government. The Foreign Ministry communication to the Chinese embassy mentions that clearances for the ship to arrive at Hambantota were given on July 12. The Sri Lankan government was in complete disarray at the time. Gotabaya Rajapaksa was then in hiding, plotting his escape from the country. He was said to have arrived at a military base near Katunayake International

Airport, Sri Lanka's main airport, in preparation to leave. Other than the Presidency, Rajapaksa also held charge of the Defence Ministry, while the Foreign Ministry was then under G L Peiris. Wickremesinghe was Prime Minister then -- Gotabaya would make him acting President the next day -- but need not have been in the decision-making on the Chinese ship. The then Ports and Shipping Minister had been suspended following a corruption investigation. Official sources in Colombo said the request from the Chinese side for clearances came in June. The sources maintained that while inputs were taken from the Defence Ministry, the final decision to give the clearance was made by the East Asia division of the Foreign Ministry, without scaling up the matter to the appropriate levels in the Ministry for further consultation. No discussion was held with the South Asia division of the Ministry either, the sources said. Hindu Yuva Vahini set for a makeover, seeks to shed its vigilante image continues to be closely linked to Adityanath, though he had tried to clamp down on its aggressive ways after he became Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister for the first time in 2017. Among the plans, they said, is a steady expansion of the Vahini beyond UP to other states. The outfit now has a strong presence in the eastern UP districts of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, Azamgarh, Mau, Sant Kabir Nagar and Basti. Experts from various fields are believed to be engaged in drawing up bylaws for a revamped Vahini, with rules for membership and appointment of office-bearers. Sources also said that as part of the image makeover, the outfit will take care to enlist members from the “service and business classes” as well as social outfits. Raghvendra Singh, former BJP MLA and earlier state in-charge of the Vahini, told The Sunday Express, “We dissolved the Vahini since many other organisations with similar names had cropped up over the last five years and were involved in shady activities. The restructuring will be done in a month or two.” Sources said the decision to restructure the Vahini has the consent of the top BJP leadership. The Vahini's strong-arm image is linked to a number of cases against its members. Before the BJP came to power, during the Mulayam Singh Yadav government (2004-07) and later Mayawati's regime (2007-2011), several members of the outfit were named in cases of communal riots and tensions in Gorakhpur, Mau, Azamgarh, Kushinagar and elsewhere. In February this year, Raghvendra Singh, the former state in-charge of the Vahini, was booked in a hate speech case in Siddharth Nagar district. He contested the Assembly selection as a BJP candidate from Domariyaganj constituency but lost to the Samajwadi Party. Adityanath had founded the Vahini in 2002 as an organisation to work for Hindu culture and cow protection, and against untouchability. After the 2017 elections, enthused by Adityanath taking over as CM, the organisation had burst on to the scene with its members turning into vigilantes. They were accused of forcibly entering homes alleging love jihad, imposing moral policing and attacking alleged

cattle smugglers. They had piped down only after Adityanath's rap to avoid controversies. Ever since, the outfit has maintained a low profile, only to briefly emerge from the shadows to campaign for Adityanath during the Assembly elections earlier this year. Delhi excise policy row: L-G suspends 11 officers over ‘serious lapses’ policy was formulated and implemented last year. Anand Tiwari, a DANICS officer, was serving as the Deputy Commissioner under Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia. The others suspended are Assistant Commissioners Pankaj Bhatnagar, Narinder Singh, Neeraj Gupta, Section Officers Kuljeet Singh, Subhash Ranjan and Suman and Dealing Hands Satya Brat Bhargav, Sachin Solanki and Gaurav Mann. Last month, Lt Governor Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, putting Sisodia, in-charge of the excise department, directly in the line of fire. The move followed a report submitted by Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar on the matter. It alleged corruption and violation of transaction of business rules. The report alleged that undue benefits were provided to liquor vend licencees in lieu of “kickbacks” and “commissions”. Krishna was transferred after the Excise department replied to the Chief Secretary on the seven questions he raised on the excise policy. The Lt Governor asked the Chief Secretary to submit a detailed report on the role of officers in the formulation and implementation of the policy. Sources in the Lt Governor's office claimed the officers did not inform the authority concerned despite being aware of “illegal activities” and “changes being made by Sisodia on behalf of the Cabinet without the approval of the LG”. “The LG has taken this decision in view of the serious lapses on part of the officers concerned, in the implementation of the Excise Policy, including inter alia irregularities in finalizing the tender and extending post-tender benefits to select vendors, as brought out by the Directorate of Vigilance (DoV) in its report after inquiry,” the sources said. The new excise policy had been introduced by the Delhi government to increase government revenue, improve consumer experience, reduce corruption and redistribute liquor shops in an equitable manner. Under the new policy, implemented in November last year, only private liquor shops could run in the Capital. Last month, after the Lt Governor called for a CBI probe, there was a sharp reaction from Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. “I have known Sisodia for 22 years and I have never seen anyone as honest or as much of a deshbhakt as him,” Kejriwal said, accusing the Lt Governor of making “false allegations”. He also accused the Centre of going after AAP ever since it won the Punjab Assembly elections. Sisodia, in a Twitter post, targeted the Prime Minister: “Modi ji is very afraid of Kejriwal ji. People have become disillusioned with Modi ji. Now the country has hope only from Kejriwal ji. As AAP's influence grows across the country, there will be many more false cases. But no jail can stop Kejriwal ji and AAP. The future belongs to AAP, the future belongs to India.”

BAN ON SHARP SYNTHETIC/ NYLON FLYING THREAD POPULARLY KNOWN AS “CHINESE MANJHA”

There shall be a complete ban on the sale, purchase, storage, supply, import, and use of kite flying thread made out of nylon, plastic, or any other synthetic material including popularly known as “Chinese Manjha” and any other kite-flying thread that is sharp or made sharp such as by being laced with glass, metal or any other sharp materials in the NCT of Delhi.

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The violation of directions issued under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, or the rules made thereunder shall be punishable under section 15 of the said Act which includes imprisonment up to five years and/or with fine which may be extended to Rs. One Lac or with both.

WHAT IS ALLOWED

Kite flying shall be permissible only with a cotton thread, free from any sharp material

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2	Divisional Commissioner, GNCTD	dlwecm@nic.in	1077
3	Chief Wildlife Warden, GNCTD	cdgncitd@gmail.com	1800118600
4	Commissioner, MCD	commissioner@mcd.nic.in	155305

For more details: www.environment.delhigovt.nic.in

Department of Environment, Government of NCT of Delhi

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Revised graded pollution plan to be in place from October 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE REVISED Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to deal with air pollution this winter will come into force with effect from October 1, as per the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). An expert group constituted by the CAQM had suggested revisions to the existing GRAP which comprises measures to be taken when the air quality worsens in Delhi-NCR.

This year, the GRAP will be implemented differently — it will be pre-emptive and will be invoked three days in advance of the air quality reaching a certain level based on forecasts. In previous years, GRAP was invoked when particulate matter concentrations reached a certain threshold.

The commission issued directions Friday asking officials to ensure strict implementation of the revised GRAP. In the revised plan, there are four stages of adverse

EXPLAINED

What's different

UNLIKE THE old plan, which was invoked when particulate matter concentrations reached a certain threshold, the revised Graded Response Action Plan will be pre-emptive — it will come into play three days in advance of air quality reaching a certain level based on forecasts. As per directions issued by CAQM, chief secretaries of NCR states and Delhi government have been asked to frequently review the plan's implementation.

air quality — 'poor' (AQI from 201 to 300), 'very poor' (AQI from 301 to 400), 'severe' (AQI from 401 to 450) and 'severe +' (AQI more than 450). Actions under 'very

poor', 'severe' and 'severe +' are to be invoked at least three days in advance of AQI reaching that particular stage. This will be based on forecasts provided to CAQM by IMD and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology.

The restrictions

■ **CONSTRUCTION:** Under the revised plan, a ban will set in under 'severe' category (except for work involving railways, projects of national security, hospitals, Metro services, and linear public projects like highways, roads). Under 'severe+' category, construction on linear public projects will be banned.

■ **INDUSTRIES:** Restrictions on industries in NCR will set in under 'severe' category. Industries that don't have PNG supply will be allowed to operate only five days a week till December 31. Under 'severe+', all industries in NCR running on fuel other than those approved for the region will be shut down.

■ **FOUR-WHEELERS:** Under 'severe' category, state governments in NCR and Delhi may impose restrictions on BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel four-wheelers. Under 'severe +' category, there will be a ban on plying Delhi-registered diesel-operated "medium" and "heavy goods vehicles" in Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services.

Under the same AQI category, there will also be a ban on plying four-wheeler diesel vehicles in Delhi and NCR districts bordering Delhi, except for BS-VI vehicles and those used for essential or emergency services.

■ **OTHER MEASURES:** For 'severe+' category, NCR governments are to decide on allowing "public, municipal and private offices" to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home. It is under this category that state governments can take a call on additional measures like closure of educational institutions, and odd-even rules for vehicles.

13 days to go for twin tower demolition, stakeholders meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NOIDA, AUGUST 6

THE NOIDA Authority held a meeting Saturday afternoon to discuss status of demolition of the Supertech twin towers, following directions of a Supreme Court order on July 29. The buildings, Apex and Ceyane, are located in Sector 93A. The demolition is fixed for August 21 at 2.30 pm, just under a fortnight away.

Information sought by Central Building Research Institute (CBRI); requisite details supplied by Supertech Ltd. and Edifice Engineering; a construction and demolition waste management plan; preparations made for countering effect of dust created due to the demolition on green area and parks located in ATS Village and Supertech Emerald Court (build-

ings in the vicinity); and steps to be taken for securing GAIL's gas pipeline were discussed. Based on discussions, certain directions were taken. A note shared by the authority states that CBRI found that Supertech hasn't provided certain details pertaining to structural audit and same are to be provided by August 7. After receiving requisite information, CBRI will submit its report to Noida Authority by August 9 pursuant to which the authority will file a status report by August 11 before SC.

On July 29, in a miscellaneous application filed by Supertech, the SC had directed CBRI to seek relevant information and had asked Supertech and Edifice to provide the same by August 5. It had instructed Noida Authority to convene a meeting in the matter on August 6 and file a status report before August 12.

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Spa worker 'raped', 4 held

New Delhi: Four men have been arrested in connection with the alleged rape of a 22-year-old employee of a spa in Northwest Delhi. Police said the men include the manager and a client, arrested for the alleged rape, and the two owners, arrested for alleged violation of guidelines.

Police said a PCR call was re-

ceived around 10 pm Thursday about the incident. When police reached the spot, the woman was present along with her husband outside the spa and alleged that she had been raped by the manager and another person. Police said she was sent to a hospital for medical examination. **ENS**

BRIEFLY

Celebratory firing leaves 3 kids injured

New Delhi: Three children were injured during an incident of celebratory firing in Northeast district Saturday. Police said a search is on for the person who fired the shot.

14-year-old electrocuted

Gurgaon: A 14-year-old boy died after he was allegedly electrocuted in Sohna, Friday, said police. His family alleged that he had come in contact with two coolers kept outside a house on the road. **ENS**

**NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI**
(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR LL.M. (Professional) 2022-23
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS: 31.08.2022

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Interested candidates should register online only on payment of Rs.25,000/- (non-refundable) on the University website www.nludelhi.ac.in. The balance fee will be payable on confirmation of the admission before the date to be notified by the University to the candidates.

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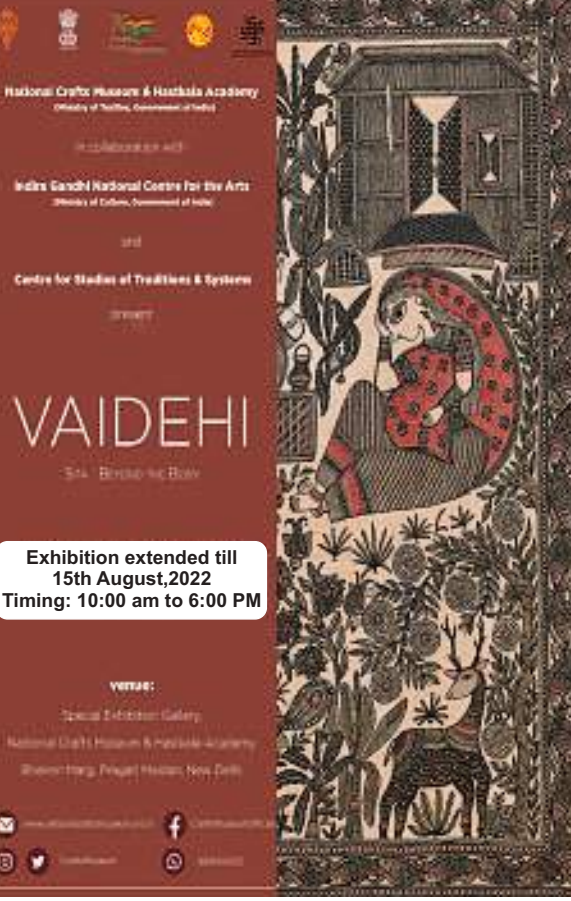
SHORT VACANCY NOTIFICATION

Through advertisement no. RLBCAU/02/2022, applications from eligible Indian Nationals are invited for recruitment for the following Regular/ Contractual positions.

Position	Level	Discipline	Vacancies
1. First Controller	14	On Deputation	01-UR
2. Teaching-Cum-Research Associate	(Contractual)	Forest Biology and Tree Improvement, Forest Products & Utilization, Floriculture & Landscaping, Genetics & Plant Breeding	01 Each
In DBT sponsored project on "Characterization of chickpea germplasm resource to accelerate genomics-assisted crop improvement"			
3. Junior Research Fellow	(Contractual)	Plant Pathology	01
4. Field Assistant	(Contractual)	-	01
5. Young Professional-II (NAHEP funded Project)	(Contractual)	Genetics & Plant Breeding	01
In DBT sponsored project on "Main stream of sesame Germplasm for productivity enhancement through genomics assisted core development and trait discovery"			
6. Project Assistant	(Contractual)	-	01

Further details viz. essential qualifications, category of reservation, pay scale, application form, date of interview of contractual positions and other instructions can be seen on University website www.rlbcu.ac.in. The closing date for receipt of application will be 04 September, 2022. However, in case of candidates residing and posted in remote areas, the closing date will be 19 September, 2022.

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New Delhi

6 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS	13,551
PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL:	470
OXYGEN SUPPORT	112
VENTILATOR SUPPORT	15

	Total	Vacant
DELHI TOTAL CASES	19,67,104	9,033
HOSPITAL BEDS	9,406	2,021
ICU BEDS	2,119	2,021
Aug 5	Cases 2,419	Recoveries 1,716
Aug 6	Cases 2,311	Recoveries 1,837
Total	7,349*	19,33,427
	Deaths 2	Tests 18,685
	Deaths 1	Tests 16,702
	Deaths 3,96,01,980	

*Total active cases in Delhi

	Aug 5	Aug 6
NOIDA		
Cases	230	158
Deaths	0	0
GURGAON		
Cases	N/A	402
Deaths	N/A	0

Liquor wars: Govt trains guns on former L-G, Sisodia says he changed stance on vends

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

A WEEK after the Delhi government decided to scrap its new liquor policy, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said he has written to the CBI requesting a probe into what he claimed was a sudden change in former L-G Anil Bajjal's decision on opening vends in unauthorised areas. This caused "thousands of crores of losses" to the Delhi government, he alleged. Bajjal did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

Sisodia, who also holds the excise portfolio, had announced on July 30 that the new excise policy would be rolled back. This came after current L-G VK Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the new policy over alleged irregular-

ities, and Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing launched a probe into the excise department.

At a press conference on Saturday, Sisodia said: "In May 2021, the Cabinet passed the new excise policy. We said the number of liquor shops will remain the same. But in the earlier policy, shops were unevenly distributed — some wards had 25 shops, some had none... some malls had many shops. In the new policy, this principle was highlighted that there will be equitable distribution of shops, but the number of shops will not change. This was an important provision."

There were 849 shops earlier, and even under the new policy, the number of shops was to remain the same, as per Sisodia.

The policy was then sent to the L-G for approval and he made important suggestions for



Sisodia at a press conference on Saturday. Amit Mehra

changes, Sisodia said. "All suggestions were accepted, and the new policy was sent to the L-G in June. He read it carefully and it was then passed. The policy said un-equitable distribution will be stopped. In every ward, there will be two-three shops, including in unauthorised areas," Sisodia said. But the L-G's office then changed its decision, he claimed.

"The L-G read the policy and then approved it. After this, tenders were issued... In the first week of November, the proposal to open shops was sent to the L-G, since they were to be opened from November 17 onwards, including in unauthorised areas. On November 15, the L-G laid down a new condition that to open shops in unauthorised areas, permission from the DDA and MCD is needed. When he read the policy, this condition was not laid down," he said.

"Why was this decision changed 48 hours before? Which shop owners made a profit? Did the L-G make the decision himself or under pressure from someone? I have written to the CBI asking for a probe," Sisodia said. "The real corruption was here... where the decision was changed."

Sisodia said that every year,

shops were being opened in unauthorised areas even before the new policy kicked in: "Every year, these files were approved. This was approved even when the policy mentioned it. But when it went to the L-G office as a file to open the shops, the L-G office changed its stand."

"Because of this, shops were not able to open in unauthorised (areas). The new licensees went to court, which ordered that in unauthorised wards, licence fees be relaxed on a pro-rata basis and they be given a rebate. Because of this, the government faced thousands of crores of losses. Without discussing it with the Cabinet or government, the L-G changed his decision. The new excise policy would have brought revenue to the government, but instead, it caused losses because of this change in the L-G's stand," he

claimed.

"The most important thing here is that some shops were allowed to open, others were not. Those allowed to open shops made profits. This was a deliberate attempt to ensure some vendors got profits and others faced losses," Sisodia added.

In his communication to the CBI, Sisodia wrote: "Through the new excise policy, in one financial year, the government was to get Rs 9,000 crore. In this financial year, with the new policy, the government was supposed to get Rs 3,713 crore, but got only Rs 2,352 crore in four and a half months."

Hitting out at the government, BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra said at a press conference: "When the heat of the investigation has reached them, they are busy finding a scapegoat."

How Dilshad Garden started out as a slice of Lahore

ADRIJA ROYCHOWDHURY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

WHEN SUSHIL Mishra (70) set out from his home in Unnao in 1968, he had a single purpose in mind — that of being a journalist in the national capital. With lofty dreams of being a news reader some day and meeting the high and mighty of Indian politics, he moved into his first home in the capital — a room in the Seemapuri slum of East Delhi. Mishra remembers those early days of struggle when he spent the days running from pillar to post to find a job in news offices, while the evenings went by in writing poetry.

"Everything about the city was such a shock for me. My room in Seemapuri did not even have a bathroom. Every morning, close to 30-40 people would queue up and then get into fights over the common bathrooms," he recalled.

As days went by, he saw his dream of being a journalist slowly slipping away, as he started taking up odd jobs in transport, construction and the like. On one such occasion, sometime in the late 1970s, he came across some officials from the Delhi Development Authority (DDA)

who had started developing the nearby colony of Dilshad Garden. As he took up some contractual jobs with the DDA during this time, he saw with great enthusiasm the area around his slum developing with the best of facilities. "These were well-built flats, surrounded by parks and markets," he recalled.

Soon after, by 1985, Mishra had managed to earn a decent amount to rent his first accommodation in Dilshad Garden, a janta flat for which he paid Rs 250 as monthly rent. "For many living in the slums of Seemapuri, the making of Dilshad Garden signalled a new hope for their lives," he said. "Some of us who somehow made a little money hoped to get an accommodation here."

Dilshad Garden was in fact built at a time that ushered in a new phase in the development of the capital. Casually called 'Jamna paar' or the east side of the Yamuna, it was up until the 1970s considered unfit for development. "Originally East Delhi was avoided because about five or six kilometres eastwards from the river consisted of floodplains," explained Professor K T Ravindran, who served as head of urban design in the School of Planning and



Dilshad Colony was developed by the DLF. Adrija Roychowdhury

Architecture in Delhi and was former chairperson of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission.

The first time the DDA turned its attention towards this area was during Sanjay Gandhi's urban renewal plan of the mid 1970s when close to 2 lakh people from the slums of Old Delhi were moved to the resettlement colonies like Jahangirpuri, Seelampur and Dakshinpur, built by the authority in the peripheral areas of East Delhi.

It was only a few years later and with the political interest in cooperative housing societies that colonies like Dilshad Garden were developed in the area.

The original roots of Dilshad Garden, however, go back much further, to the 1940s, when the land here was first acquired by a barrister from Lahore, Diwan Khem Chand. Khem Chand had completed his education in

England and was the man who conceived of the Model Town housing society in Lahore in 1921. He was an admirer of English urban planner Ebenezer Howard's idea of 'garden cities' and reproduced it in Model Town. He wished to bring the same architectural planning to Delhi's Dilshad Garden.

In 1940, Khem Chand founded the company, Housing in General Finance (HGF), which bought land for Dilshad Garden from the Tahirpur Estate Limited which had Rai Bahadur Madho Pershad as one of the directors. "By this time, people knew that land in and around Delhi was about to get valuable, so a lot of people were buying and consolidating property. Madho Pershad, who was a municipal commissioner and came from a banking family, had bought 600 acres of land in the east side and was just waiting to

sell it when the chance arrived," explained Anish Vanaik, urban historian and clinical associate professor at Purdue University.

Vanaik noted that by 1950, HGF managed to sell off some 600 plots, by which time the scheme started failing and in the next few years the company collapsed. "The main reason is that they were not able to develop their plots into houses. They were trying to get the municipality to build roads, water and electricity, and the government was not keen on incurring costs for a private company's profits," he said.

After HGF failed in developing this area, a part of their land was bought by the Delhi Land and Finance (DLF) that had been developing several colonies in South Delhi by then. Indumati Sharma (92), who moved to Dilshad Colony developed by the DLF from Old Delhi in 1955, said that her family was forced to move to this area because they were asked to vacate their rented accommodation in Old Delhi and everywhere else in Delhi at that time was beyond their means.

Later in the 1980s, when the DDA took over the remaining plots and developed Dilshad Garden, there arose a marked distinction between the area built by the DLF and that which was built adjacent to it by the government. "Since we were a private colony, we still did not have access to basic amenities like electricity, water, roads. The DDA had all amenities that the middle class needed,

and residents would look down on this area," said Sharma.

Sharma also recollected that since it was a flood-prone area, during the monsoons it would be common for her house to be submerged in several inches of water and they would have to frantically find space to keep valuables from getting spoiled.

The development of the DLF-built Dilshad Colony happened much later in the 2000s, and only with the intervention of the RWAs which pooled in money from all residents to build roads, sewers and get water connection. "The DDA refused to develop this area since it was a private colony and the DLF had already sold off its plots to residents by then and backed out from developing it any further," said Vijay Arora, a real estate developer living in Dilshad Colony.

Ravindran said that despite land conditions not being amicable, accessibility has historically been very good in Dilshad Garden. "It is bound on one side by the historic Grand Trunk Road that connected Central Asia to the Indian subcontinent. Later, with the coming of the DDA and the development of Noida and Ghaziabad, it was bounded on both sides by very important arteries," he said. "The Metro line too has played a significant role in developing this area. The red line, which was the first Metro line to be inaugurated in 2002 by then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, started out from the adjacent area of Seelampur."

Interim bail to Satyendar Jain's wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

DELHI MINISTER and AAP leader Satyendar Jain's wife was on Saturday granted interim bail by a court in an alleged money laundering case, in which he was arrested over two months ago.

Special Judge Geetanji Goel granted interim bail to Poonam

Jain on furnishing of personal bond in the sum of Rs 1 lakh with surety of like amount.

Poonam had moved a bail application before the court. Since the Enforcement Directorate submitted that it would file its reply to the bail application, and considering the fact that she was not previously arrested by the agency, the court granted her interim bail.

The court also allowed Jain to withdraw his application seeking interim bail in the case. His counsel moved for withdrawal saying they have been informed that he was being discharged from hospital.

Jain has been in judicial custody since June 13. He is accused of having laundered money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

New Delhi: Two men, including a 29-year-old advocate, were arrested for allegedly assaulting a head constable inside Anand Vihar police station last week. Police said the advocate has been identified as Satish Kumar.

Purported videos of the incident circulated online show several men surrounding the policeman, and physically assaulting and berating him. One of them

can purportedly be seen holding the policeman by the collar.

Police said they received a call on July 30 alleging that a woman had been physically assaulted in Karkardooma village. Police found that the incident was a fallout of a dispute between the woman and a man, both residents of the village.

Police said the man was apprehended in an inebriated con-

dition and brought to the station for enquiry. Police said a group of his associates, including his brother Satish, then came to the station. Police said the head constable, Prakash, was at work when he was allegedly surrounded by the group, abused, and assaulted around 2 am.

DCP (Shahdara) R Sathiyasundaram said an FIR has been registered. **ENS**

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR
No. NR/2022-23/11802-16 दिवस 05.08.2022

निविदा सूचना-2022-23
निविदा सूचना-2022-23
निविदा सूचना-2022-23

कार्य का विवरण	अंदाज़ित लागत (₹)	निविदा सूचना संख्या
Construction of Various Enclosures and Road in Marudhara Biological Park, Bilaspur, U.P. No. JRC/22/23/NSO/089499	330.50 Lakh	ई-21/22-23
Construction of Phase/II of Medical College & Upgradation of Hospital at Simla, U.P. No. JRC/22/23/WL/080485	5872.04 Lakh	अप्रकाशित ई-21/22-23
Construction of ITI college at Chhoti Sadari Distt. Pratapgarh, U.P. No. JRC/22/23/WL/080894	567.00 Lakh	ई-21/22-23

निविदा से संबंधित प्रश्न में निविदा सूचना, प्रवेशीयता कायदनामक करने व खोलने की तारीख खोलने सम्पूर्ण विवरण एवं संपादन केवल ई-मेल पर <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> या <http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in> तथा <http://roads.rajasthan.gov.in/srsc> पर देखा जा सकता है। दृष्टिकोण से निविदा को अनेक दिवसों के माध्यम से केवल ई-मेल पर <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> पर संपर्क करके प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

महाराष्ट्र सरकार

JHARKHAND MEDICAL AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (JMHPDCL)
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010
(CIN-U85100JH2013SGC001276), E-mail: jmhidpc2014@gmail.com

Ref: JMC-HR/01/Admin-15/15/ 1093 Date :06.08.2022
RECRUITMENT ADVERTISEMENT

The Jharkhand Medical & Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Limited has been established by the department of Health, Family Welfare & Medical Education, Government of Jharkhand with primary objective of ensuring readily availability of all essential Drugs, Surgical items and health equipment's, furniture and fixtures and consumables in the government medical Institutions/facilities across the state by adopting a streamlined procedure of its procurement, storage and distributors system. To expedite the functioning of corporation. The JMHPDCL invites application from eligible candidate for the following appointments purely on contractual basis.

JMHPDCL invites application from eligible candidates for the following posts:-

Name of the Post	: General Manager (Procurement)
Number of Post	: 1 (One)
Monthly Salary	: 15600 -39100 with Grade pay 6600 and other perks & allowances as per rule

Terms of employment : Contractual for **3 years** which may be extended
Essential Qualification : **B Tech or M-Tech** in Bio - Medical Engineering
Preferential Qualification : **B Pharma**
Reporting authority : Managing Director, JMHPDCL
Experience : Candidate Should have more than **5 years** experience in health sector, out of which **3 years** experience in procurement of medicine /kits/drugs/equipment, tendering, Vendor management and who well versed in Drugs& Cosmetic Act 1940, Contract Law, etc.
Method of Recruitment : **On Contractual Basis**
For detail Information related to eligible qualification and experience, application form, application and selection process, duties and responsibilities and other relevant information please visit <http://https://jmhidpc2014@gmail.com>. Last date for receipt of application is **20/08/2022**

PR 275320 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(22-23),D

Sd/- Managing Director JMHPDCL

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 9135- 2763808 & Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UP20050202666
Website: www.ujvn.com

पत्रांक: 500 TIME EXTENSION NOTICE दिनांक: 06.08.2022

Due to unavoidable reasons the Tender No.10/EE (M&G)/DKN/2022-23 : (Hiring of vehicle for school going children of employee posted at Dhakrani Power Station.) shall now be received up to 15:00 hrs dated 16.08.2022 & opened on dated 17.08.2022 at 11:30 Hrs. Other terms & conditions shall remain the same. For eligibility criteria and full & further details please visit our website www.ujvn.com

EE (M&G)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Mosam, D/o: Murari Singh, R/o: H.No. D-13, Back side of sardar Tire Wale (Sunny Buddhiraja ka makan) Rani Garden, near Ambekar Park, Delhi, Age: 17 years, Height: 5'5", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red colour suit, black colour plazzo and black colour slipper** feet, has been missing/ kidnapped since **dated 08.07.2022** at 05:00 pm from the area of P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 400/22 U/s 363 IPC dated 25.07.2022** has been registered at P.S. Geeta colony, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this girl please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> E-mail Id - clc@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 P.S. Geeta Colony, Delhi DP/942/SHD/2022 Ph.: 011-22506665, 7065036026

SHO

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male **Namely: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o : Unknown Age: about 35 years., Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black colour underwear, who was found in front of GGS Hospital Raghurib Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case GD No.10A dated 30.07.2022 has been registered at PS: Khyala, New Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

DP/1016/DW/2022 Sd/- S.H.O. Khyala, New Delhi Tel No. 8750871132, 8700684171

'Harrowing... want him behind bars': Woman abused by Noida resident

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NOIDA, AUGUST 6

THE WOMAN seen standing up to a man, who abused and pushed her during an argument at an upscale Noida society, told *The Indian Express* on Saturday that the experience has been harrowing for her and her family.

The man, Shrikant Tyagi, was on Friday booked by Noida Police after a video of the incident came to light. A resident of Grand Omaxe society in Noida's Sector 93B, Tyagi is currently on the run, police said. Amid reports that he is from the BJP, the party insisted on Friday and Saturday that they have no association with him.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, the woman said that Tyagi, who lives on the ground floor of one of 22 towers in the residential society, first extended the balcony area of his flat a few years ago. "He planted palm trees in the common lawn area of the building in 2019. What he was essentially trying to do is create his own area within the common lawn area, which is accessible to all residents. On Thursday, he wanted to plant a few more plants in the common area. I, along with other residents, mostly women, went to the common area where the planting was happening, and we decided that we would pluck out the plants. Tyagi came out and started abusing me, calling me names that I can't even imagine being addressed by. He not only threatened me and my husband but said, 'Tu ped chuyegi toh main tujhe choonga (if you touch the tree, I will touch you)', and also pushed me. All of this has been recorded in the video. It has been such a harrowing experience for me and my family," said the woman. She also thanked other women who stood with her during the incident.

Tyagi was booked under IPC Section 354 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty). More sections were added on Saturday. As BJP leaders Mahesh Sharma and Sharda Chaturvedi



Shrikant Tyagi, who is on the run, was seen on video 'abusing and pushing' a woman during an argument

visited the residential society on Saturday to assure residents of action against the accused, the woman told them: "I want Noida Police to put him behind bars." This was met by applause from the residents.

"He has misbehaved with a lot of people — *kabhi bachcon se, kabhi senior citizens se, kabhi guards se*. This time, it was the women. It has been so difficult for me and my family; nobody wants to hear such words about themselves. I don't want words; I want some action to be taken," she told the BJP leaders.

According to the Grand Omaxe Apartments owners' association/board of members, the encroachment started over two years ago but no action was taken by the Noida Authority. "Extending your balcony into the common area of the society is against the rules, but he went ahead and did that despite repeated requests from the Board and the residents. Earlier this week, Tyagi called his own staff to plant ornamental hedges in the common area, which he had already encroached with the palm trees. One of us approached him to stop for the next 24 hours. He was informed of the frustration that the residents had been feeling, but as soon as the 24 hours were over, his workers started planting the hedges again on Thursday. It was after this that residents who had had enough came outside and the incident took place," the board members alleged.

BJP firefights: 'Man neither member nor worker of party'

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NOIDA, AUGUST 6

AFTER REPORTS emerged that a man seen abusing and pushing a woman during an argument was from the BJP, party leaders Saturday headed to the Noida residential society where the incident took place two days ago.

The man, Shrikant Tyagi, was on Friday booked by Noida Police after a video of the incident came to light. A resident of Grand Omaxe society in Noida's Sector 93B, Tyagi is currently on the run, police said.

BJP MP from Gautam Budh Nagar, Dr Mahesh Sharma, met residents along with Manoj Gupta, district president of the BJP in Noida, and Sharda Chaturvedi, the party's Mahila Morcha Adhyaksh. The meeting saw residents raise questions about his alleged association with the party.

Sharma said, "I was informed of the incident yesterday pursuant to which cognizance has been taken by Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (Yogi Adityanath), and I have been directed to speak with you today along with other leaders present. The incident which has been captured in the video requires no witnesses anymore. I have been informed by Noida Police that more sections have been added to the FIR registered against the accused. I want to assure you that this man is not associated with our party. He may have clicked a photo with a party leader; that's a separate issue. I have lived in Noida for the past 49 years. The actions depicted by Tyagi cannot be accepted by the party. The whole party is standing with you; I

want the women who are like my sisters and daughters to be rest assured. National President of the party, J P Nadda, has also taken cognizance of the incident. Tyagi's background is subject of investigation but in my entire political life, I have never seen this man in any programme of the party. He should be given the strictest punishment. Tyagi is neither a member nor a worker of the party."

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Ranvijay Singh, meanwhile, shared an update on the case: "On Friday afternoon, a video went viral on social media where a man living in a society in Sector 93, identified as Shrikant Tyagi, was seen misbehaving with a woman. Noida Police took cognizance of the matter as soon as we were informed and an FIR was registered against the accused. Several police teams were dispatched to arrest him. We have detained four people close to the accused and have been questioning them. A lot of information has been collected from them. There were three cars found in the society premises, of which two cars found in contravention of Motor Vehicles Act which have been seized. Another car, a Fortuner, carried a UP government logo, against which another FIR has been registered against the accused. Police teams are continuously searching for all possible whereabouts of the accused. I want to inform that Tyagi was not provided any security personnel by Gautam Budh Nagar Commissionerate Police, as opposed to what is being said on social media. We will arrest the accused very soon and strict action will be taken against him."

Govt & Politics

‘Want to show India can bring out smaller, cost-effective SLV’

WITH THE maiden flight for ISRO's newly developed three-stage solid fuel Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-D1) scheduled for Sunday morning, the space agency's chairperson **S SOMANATH** speaks to **ANONNA DUTT** about what the quick turn-around-time for the rocket will mean for the commercial space sector. Excerpts:

What are the challenges that you are watching out for the mission?

First and foremost, it is a completely new rocket. It is not a variant of any existing rockets. And, not only is it newly developed, it will also use many new technologies for the first time. So, in that sense we have to be extremely careful for the first launch of the vehicle.

Otherwise, what we look for any launch – whether the satellite goes to the right orbit or not. The whole thing has been programmed in the system; we don't really have to do anything once we give the command for lift-off,

it will do everything itself.

What we do now is some testing on ground till the launch to ensure everything is all right. We do many rehearsal simulations at the computer level, check data from ground stations, and several other tests till the time of lift-off.

It will take around 800 seconds to inject the satellites.

What new technologies are being used in this launch vehicle?

There are methods by which solid propulsion stages are defined in ISRO, we have made some departures in this, which includes making the design such that it can be assembled very, very fast. The current arrangements are also such that it takes certain amount of time to a launch, these constraints were removed, which means there are certain defined risks for this. But we have done a very rigorous testing to prove this approach.

These changes make for fast production, assembly, dis-



THE EXPRESS

INTERVIEW

WITH

S SOMANATH

ISRO CHAIRPERSON

sembly. It makes it convenient to assemble in both horizontal and vertical conditions, making it very flexible for operations. (The current PSLV and GSLV can be assembled only vertically.)

Second major change is that we roped in Indian industries for manufacturing this rocket that are not traditionally into rocket-man-

ufacturing. That gives us – one, there are many more vendors; two, they are cost-effective as compared to the big players; three, it can be done with less compact machines making it easier to produce anywhere. There features were made part of the design.

The third important change is the electronics. Almost 90% of the electronics – computers, data sending, pyro, power system – that we use in this rocket are new design... have undergone rigorous testing. The importance of these new things is that we have gone for low-cost electronics, meaning all of them are not aerospace grade, rather commercial-grade electronics. The commercial electronics are available at much lower costs but it has a risk of failure, which we counter with steps like appropriate design, enough redundancies, etc.

We also have new algorithms and software that depends more on our NavIC as compared to previous PSLV.

Also, because we are going for commercial use, its size and

volume becomes lesser because it is a more compact design. The production and procurement time becomes lesser.

So, what will be the turnaround time for the SSLV?

From procurement, making parts, and reaching the final level takes six month. But, the idea here is to manufacture the parts and keep them at someplace, and when needed just assemble and launch. It is a serial production system. It's just like buying a car. The company doesn't start to make it after you put in the order.

Our plan is to make it available in a week's time – the assembly can be done in two days, two days of testing, and the next two days we are doing the rehearsal and launch. (It takes months of planning and manufacturing for the other ISRO rockets.) We have already done that this time.

What happens after the launch?

After the launch, we will do experiments on the upper stage

on whether it can be re-started, whether it can go to another orbit, whether it can do some manoeuvres.

This rocket is mainly meant for commercial launch of small satellites. How will India's reach in the global space market change once it becomes operational?

This will be based on certain projections that show a large number of small satellites will be launched. The projections are based on recent market evolutions where interest is in small satellites in low earth orbit. Correspondingly, there are also many small rockets that are coming up, including our start-ups that are making it in the 100-200 kg class...

ISRO doesn't want to operate SSLV as a commercial activity. Our plan is to demonstrate that yes we can bring out a smaller cost-effective satellite launch vehicle in India. We want then the industries to take it on... **FULL INTERVIEW ON**

www.indianexpress.com

RCP Singh quits JD(U) after party questions his land deals

Ex-Union minister says allegations a 'conspiracy', calls party a 'sinking ship'

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, AUGUST 6



RCP Singh was recently forced to step down as a Union minister after JD(U) declined to field him for a third Rajya Sabha term

THE JANATA Dal (United) on Saturday accused its former chief RCP Singh of "huge irregularities" in declaring land assets, prompting him to announce his resignation and call the party a "sinking ship" – the coda to a dramatic internal fall from grace.

In a letter to Singh on August 4, JD(U) Bihar president Umesh Kushwaha sought a reply to an allegation – made by two unnamed JD(U) "workers" – that he bought at least 47 plots of land in Nalanda between 2013 and 2022. Over this time, Singh held several different positions: JD(U) general secretary (organisation), Rajya Sabha MP, JD(U) national president and Union minister.

In his 2016 Rajya Sabha election affidavit, Singh showed one shared immovable asset worth Rs 4.86 lakh (his share) at Asthawan village. He had declared moveable assets worth around Rs 2.53 crore and over Rs 15 lakh in his wife's name.

Singh was recently forced to step down as a Union minister after JD(U) declined to field him for a third Rajya Sabha term. A former Uttar Pradesh-cadre IAS officer, Singh had taken VRS in 2010 to join politics. He had served as the principal secretary to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar during his first five years as CM and rose rapidly within the party ranks.

His relationship with Nitish soured after he accepted the ministerial position without the CM's consent – and over his perceived closeness to BJP. Singh had also been asked to give up the party chief's post.

The tensions finally came to a head with Kushwaha's letter to Singh. In the letter, the state party chief presented a list of

land deals showing that Singh allegedly purchased the plots (totalling 1,600 decimals of land) in the name of his wife Girja Singh and two daughters at Asthawan and Islampur blocks of Nalanda.

The estimated government rate of one decimal land varied from Rs 15,000 to Rs 40,000 at the time of purchase. The current value of land in Asthawan and Islampur ranges from Rs 25,000 to Rs 90,000 per decimal. Separately, Kushwaha had written to JD(U) national president Rajiv Ranjan Singh on 26 July with a list of land purchases, it is learnt.

Addressing the former Union minister, Kushwaha wrote in Hindi: "Two JD(U) friends from Nalanda have made a written complaint to me with evidence that you have accumulated huge property between 2013 and 2022. There seem to be huge irregularities."

Singh told reporters in Nalanda: "They should have directly asked me to explain (the land plot purchases) rather than writing to me, quoting two people... There is a conspiracy against me. I am resigning right now from primary membership of the party. JD(U) is a sinking ship. Sirf jhola dhonewale log bache hai. Mai kahta hoon idhar aa jao (only hangers-on are left. I advise people to join me)."

DMK mouthpiece says Nirmala needs patience to figure out India's finances

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, AUGUST 6

SUGGESTING THAT Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman can seek funds later but it is high time for her to "find a little patience", *Murasoli*, the mouthpiece of ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, on Saturday asked her to slow down and "figure out the truth about the country's finances".

The editorial was published in response to Sitharaman's speech in Parliament on August 1 on price-rise, increase in GST rates, and taxes on petrol and diesel.

Responding to her remarks on Tamil Nadu and the Opposition's demand to reduce fuel prices, the editorial asked whether Sitharaman was aware that the

state had reduced taxes on fuel in August 2021. Quoting Telangana Chief Minister Chandrasekhar Rao's statement that "those who increased fuel prices should reduce it," the editorial stated, "When there are questions aimed at you, answer them instead of throwing blame at others as your answer..."

Taking on Sitharaman's contention that states are equally responsible for GST rates, state Finance Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan, meanwhile, said "one hundred percent" of the GST Council's agenda is decided by the Centre, "without consulting the states".

He said although GST is seen as a model of federalism, the Centre uses the GST Council as a "rubber stamp".

KCR writes to PM, says will boycott Niti meet

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, AUGUST 6

TELANGANA CHIEF Minister K Chandrashekar Rao has decided to boycott the Niti Aayog meeting to be held Sunday.

"It is a painful decision, but I had to take it to express my resentment towards the Centre's attitude. I have written a letter to the Prime Minister regarding this," he said. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday evening, KCR said Niti Aayog has become rudderless. He also said the NDA government at the Centre failed to fulfil the promises it made to the people, and that it did not bother about Niti Aayog, so there was no point in attending the meeting.

"The message (from the Centre to the states) is either you do what we say or we will punish you," KCR said. "Our boycott and protest is aimed at hoping that the PM will change his ways..."

The state spent Rs 1,90,000 crore in the last financial year, but

the amount received for central government schemes was just Rs 5,000 crore, the Chief Minister said. He also slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for criticising welfare schemes by calling them freebies. "Giving pensions to handicapped or disabled people is a freebie? Helping farmers by giving a financial incentive so that their lands do not remain barren is a freebie?" he asked.

In his letter to the PM, KCR said Niti Aayog was started as an institution with the lofty objective of bringing the states on the same page with the Centre for ensuring equitable development of the country in the spirit of cooperative federalism. "But recent unpleasant happenings have given rise to an inescapable realisation that the federal structure of India is being systematically eroded by some deliberate actions by the Government of India..." he wrote.

NITI AAYOG HITS BACK AT KCR [PAGE 12](#)

Persecuted minorities from Pak can practice medicine: NMC

New Delhi: Opening its doors to persecuted minorities who fled Pakistan to practice medicine in India, the National Medical Commission (NMC) on Saturday allowed permanent registration for them after an examination. All doctors have to be registered with their respective state commissions to practice anywhere in the country, the NMC stated.

This will be applicable only for people who fled Pakistan and obtained citizenship in India on or before December 31, 2014. "The applicant must possess a valid medical qualification and had been practicing in Pakistan prior to his/her migration to India," the notification said. All such people have been given time until September 5 to fill online applications on the NMC website. The examination will be conducted "by the commission or any agency authorised by the commission, the notification said. **ENS**

Increase jobs: Health secy to states with rising Covid-19 cases

New Delhi: Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan has written to seven states reporting high number of Covid-19 cases, together contributing 54.2% of the fresh cases reported during the week ending on August 5, to ensure adequate testing, promote Covid-appropriate behaviour and increase the pace of vaccination to contain the surge.

In a letter to Karnataka, Maharashtra, Delhi, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Odisha, Bhushan said the upcoming festivals and mass congregations in the country could facilitate transmission of Covid-19.

The states have been asked to ensure "adequate testing... while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR tests" and closely monitor districts reporting high number of cases and positivity rate along with clusters to prevent spread of the infection. **ENS**



Renuka Puri



Prem Nath Pandey



Prem Nath Pandey

BALLOT BATTLE

(Clockwise from top) Union ministers Anupriya Patel, Darshana Jardosh and Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti with other MPs during the Vice-Presidential election at Parliament House on Saturday; Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah cast their vote.

Patriotic fervour should be inculcated in youth: PM

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

AZAADI Ka Amrit Mahotsav is a "sanskrit utsav for the youth", which will fill them with "undying passion to contribute for the country", said Prime Minister Narendra Modi while addressing the third national committee meeting on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav here on Saturday.

Modi said the patriotic fervour seen during the freedom struggle was unprecedented, and it is the same fervour "that we need to inculcate in our current generation and channelise it for



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with JKNC president Farooq Abdullah in New Delhi on Saturday. *PTI*

nation-building". He said Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is creating an atmosphere of patriotic zeal in the country and it is a great opportunity to establish the emotional connect of the youth with the task of nation-building.

Highlighting the contribution of freedom fighters from tribal

communities, Modi said people should pay tribute by building tribal museums at local level.

Among members of the committee who attended the meeting were Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Manipur and West Bengal Governor La Ganesan, Chief Ministers Yogi

Charting Mr V-P's career: From court of law to electoral politics and Governor

SANTANU CHOWDHURY, DEEP MUKHERJEE & SUKHBIR SIWACH
KOLKATA, JAIPUR, CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 6

BJP-LED NDA candidate and former West Bengal Governor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, 71, was elected 14th Vice President of India on Saturday, trouncing Opposition's nominee, Margaret Alva, comfortably by securing 528 votes against the latter's 182 in the poll.

Since July 2019, when he was appointed the Governor of West Bengal, Dhankhar had been at loggerheads with the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government on a range of issues.

For a leader known more for his run-ins with the Banerjee gov-



Vice President-elect Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi on Saturday. *Prem Nath Pandey*

ernment as Governor, and whom the TMC had often accused of acting as an "agent of BJP", the first election Dhankhar contested was on a Janata Dal ticket in 1989 Lok Sabha polls, and then Haryana CM Devi Lal had vigorously campaigned for him.

Ranjit Singh Chautala, Devi Lal's son and a minister in the present Haryana government, told *The Indian Express*: "Dhankhar is like a family member. He came into politics after being influenced by Devi Lal."

Ranjit Chautala recalled that when Devi Lal called a rally of the Opposition at Delhi's Boat Club in 1987, Dhankhar brought 500 vehicles full of people from Jhunjhunu to participate in it. Devi Lal was obviously impressed – "He called him (Dhankhar) from his home and offered a Janata Dal ticket to contest from Jhunjhunu Lok Sabha constituency in 1989," Dhankhar won the election and became a minister in the V P Singh-led government when Devi Lal became Deputy PM.

His next election was for the

Rajasthan Assembly – this time on a Congress ticket. He represented Kishangarh in the Assembly from 1993 to 1998. Dhankhar, a graduate from University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, who completed his LLB degree in 1978-79, is also a former president of Rajasthan HC Bar Association.

After he joined BJP, Dhankhar, a Jat leader, became the national convener of the saffron party's law and legal affairs department in 2016. BJP sources said he had in the past "extended solid support both politically and through legal advice and assistance" to BJP, RSS and its affiliates. Born into a farmer's family at Kithana village in Jhunjhunu district in 1951, Dhankhar studied at a local government school before going to Sainik school in Chittorgarh.

In high-security cell, Partha Chatterjee spends most of his first night sitting

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 6

PARTHA CHATTERJEE spent a tough first night at the Presidency Central Correctional Home's high-security block on Friday, with American Centre attack mastermind Aftab Ansari among his fellow inmates, a ceiling fan against the heat, and blankets for mattresses.

Jail officials said a despondent Chatterjee resisted being taken inside the jail at first, and wanted an air-conditioned room. When that didn't materialise, he reportedly sat for a long time on the commode of the toilet inside his cell till it broke. He then finally lay on the blanket on the floor.

On Friday, the Enforcement



Partha Chatterjee

Directorate Special Court in Kolkata sent Chatterjee and his aide Arpita Mukherjee to 14 days' judicial custody. While Chatterjee was brought to the Presidency Central Correctional Home, Mukherjee was taken to Alipur Women's Correctional Home.

"He (Chatterjee) did not want to go inside the jail at first. It took us an hour to convince him.

Immediately, he demanded an air-conditioned room. No one paid any heed. He was searched according to rules and then taken to the Poils Baish (1-22) cell block. He was put in Cell No. 2," a senior jail official jail.

Poila Baish is the most-secure cell block in the jail, watched 24X7. It houses, apart from Ansari, those convicted for serious crimes, and inmates on death row.

About his meals, the official said he had asked for *chapatis* and said no to rice. "He was given chapatis, sabzi and dal for dinner. He ate that sitting on the commode." He has his medicines with him in the cell. Another official said Chatterjee had been placed in the high-security facility to minimise his interaction with anyone, including other convicts. "Senior

jailors have been directed to visit his cell every hour. Officials have also been asked to keep communication with him to a minimum."

While visibly shaken when he came, the former minister appeared to have calmed down by Saturday morning, sources said, and had tea and biscuits.

The Alipur Women's Central Correctional Home where Mukherjee is housed is about five minutes' drive away. An official said she had been distraught. "She kept on crying and did not have dinner. This morning she had tea and biscuits."

The ED claims to have recovered more than Rs 50 crore in cash, among other assets, from properties linked to Mukherjee, and allegedly connected to Chatterjee.



New Delhi



Justice Chandrachud: Being tolerant doesn't mean blind conformity

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 6



Supreme Court judge Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

BEING ACCEPTING or tolerant of others' opinion does not mean "blind conformity" or "not standing up against hate speech", Supreme Court Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said Saturday.

"The words famously attributed to Voltaire, 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend your right to say it' must be incorporated into our being. Make no mistake, being accepting and tolerant of the opinions of others, by no means translates into blind conformity and it does not mean not standing up against hate speech," Justice Chandrachud said during a convocation address at Gujarat National Law University in Gandhinagar Saturday.

"Stepping into the world as fresh graduates, amid the increasing noise and confusion, of political, social and moral clashes of ideology, you must be guided by the thought of your own conscience, and equitable reason. Speak truth to power. Maintain your composure in the face of unspeakable social injustices and utilise your good fortune and privilege to remedy them," he said in the pre-recorded video message.

Justice Chandrachud emphasised that law must not be confused with justice and also pointed out that the students, over the course of their career, would often realise that "what is legal is prob-

ably unjust, whereas what is just may not always be legal."

Citing several examples, including the striking down of Section 377, lack of child labour legislations for the longest time, and minimum wages being a result of recent labour movements across the world, he said, "All these issues existed simultaneously with the institutions of law. However, we now agree that they were unjust. There continue to be laws as well as lack of regulations, which push the marginalised, deeper into the pockets of marginalisation."

It is also important to look for ways in which laws can be reimagined and redefined to make them better and more just, he added. "At all junctures where you do have the opportunity of working towards social justice, and furthering rights in small and big ways, you must remember the importance of differentiating between law and justice and (using) the law as a step to advance justice... the journey to justice does not stop at a midpoint, or where we feel that we are being less unjust than the others," he said at the 11th convocation of the GNLU where 247 students received degrees for UG, postgraduate, doctoral and MBA programmes.

DHANBAD ADDITIONAL SESSIONS JUDGE MURDER

Convicts duo gets rigorous imprisonment till death

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 6

LAKHAN VERMA and Rahul Verma, who were convicted by a Sessions Court in Jharkhand's Dhanbad last month for murdering Additional Sessions Judge Uttam Anand, have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment till death, defence lawyer Kumar Bimlendu said on Saturday.

A fine of Rs 30,000 has also been imposed on both the convicts. The sentencing came a year

after Judge Anand was hit by an auto-rickshaw during his morning walk on July 28 last year, and he succumbed to head injuries later.

ASJ Rajni Kant Pathak held the two accused, Lakhan Verma and Rahul Verma, guilty under Indian Penal Code sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and under 34 (common intention).

Defence Counsel Kumar Bimlendu said: "For IPC sections 302, 34, the convicts were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment

till death, and Rs 20,000 fine, each. For IPC Section 201, the court sentenced 10 years of imprisonment and Rs 10,000, each. However, the detailed court judgment will be out on Tuesday."

The prosecution had said that the motive of the crime was to snatch the victim's mobile phone, and that it was a premeditated act that warranted a conviction under IPC Section 302. The defence had, however, pleaded that it was not an "intentional hit" and that it attracted

only the charge of culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

Jharkhand Police had conducted initial investigation into the death and had arrested both the accused. The Jharkhand government had subsequently handed over the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which had re-registered the case and filed the charge sheet in October last year. The sessions court framed charges on February 2 this year, and after 35 hearings, completed the trial.

Fake stamp paper racket busted, 11 held in Karnataka

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 6

THE CENTRAL Crime Branch (CCB) of the Karnataka Police arrested a gang of 11, including a father-son duo, on charges of selling fake stamp papers.

The arrested have been identified as Vishwanath, 57, his son Karthik, 29, both residents of SBM Colony; Venkatesh, 54, of Sanjay Nagar; and Shamaraju, 48, of Nagashettyhalli. Their associates Shashidhar, Kariyappa, Ravishankar, Shivashankarappa, Gunashekar, Raghav and Kishore have also been arrested.

Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Raman Gupta said 2,664 fake stamp papers worth over Rs 5 lakh, a computer and printer, around 119 fake seals of various government departments and fake documents were seized.

Smooth day for CUET; some not following protocols, says NTA

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE COMMON University Entrance Test (CUETUG) 2022 had a largely smooth run on Saturday, with no last minute cancellation, even as Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held a meeting on technical glitches holding up the test in many centres over the last two days.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) hinted that it might act against certain centres for "failing to comply with the laid down protocols" resulting in repeated glitches, causing inconvenience to thousands of students. Exams in 50 centres, where 9,000 candidates were assigned slots, have already been postponed by the NTA.

KIDNAPPED MUMBAI GIRL REUNITED WITH KIN AFTER 9 YEARS

As locals, media swarm to take a look, family takes girl to unknown location

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

ON SATURDAY, the Gilbert Hill residence of the 16-year-old girl who was reunited with her family after nine years, was swarming with activity as mediapersons, local residents and relatives made a beeline to the Karnataka Milan Welfare society to catch a glimpse of "Girl no. 166".

Such was the crowd that the girl's family had whisked her away to an unknown location fearing that she may be harmed or injured. Her paternal uncle told *The Sunday Express*, "There was so much crowd that our lawyer told us to ensure that she was protected. We then moved her away to another location and will produce her whenever the police



The girl with her mother in Mumbai. Mohamed Thayer

want to talk to her." This was a day after the girl, just seven when she went missing on January 22, 2013, was reunited with her family. The

lifted three shutters of Mullaperiyar dam where water level had reached 137 ft, to release 534 cusecs of water into Periyar, which eventually flows to Idukki dam. However, as inflow remained robust, Tamil Nadu lifted seven more shutters of Mullaperiyar and increased the outflow to 2,122 cusecs at night. However, water level at Mullaperiyar went up to 138.10 ft at 9 am on Saturday.

By discharging water from Idukki dam before the level reaches the full reservoir level (FRL) of 2,403 ft, the government is looking to avert a repeat of the devastating flood of 2018 when it delayed a decision to release water from Idukki and other reservoirs.

**MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LIMITED**
www.mrv.v Indianrailways.gov.in

TENDER NOTICE
(No. MRVC/Pune/W/IRICEN Hostel/02 Dated 05.08.2022)
Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation, Mumbai invites open tender (E-tender, Two Packets) from eligible contractors for the work of: Construction of Multi-storied Hostel Building (and dismantling of existing Hostel) including general electrification, Air Conditioning, firefighting etc. in IRICEN premises, Koregaonpark, Pune. **Approximate Cost of work: ₹ 61.79 crore (without GST), Bid security: ₹ 37,96,100.00/- Pre-bid Meeting: 18/08/2022 11:00, Tender closing date: 22/09/2022 14:00 hrs, completion period 36 months.** For more details please visit www.ireps.gov.in

**POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LIMITED**
(A Maharatna Company)
Registered Office: Ujandhi, 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001, India
Email: investors@pfcl.com, pfclindia@gmail.com
Website: www.pfcindia.com, CIN: L65910DL1986G0024862
Tel: +91 11 23456000, Fax: +91 11 23412545

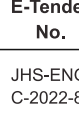
NOTICE OF POSTAL BALLOT & REMOTE E-VOTING
Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 108, 110 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 and 22 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Secretarial Standard issued by ICSI on General Meetings ("SS-2") (including any statutory amendment(s), modification(s) or re-enactment(s) thereof, for the time being in force), read with General Circulars dated April 8, 2020, April 13, 2020, read with other relevant circulars and General Circular No. 3/2022 dated May 5, 2022 issued by Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), the Company is seeking approval of its members for passing of ordinary resolution as set out in the Postal Ballot Notice dated August 5, 2022 by way of remote e-voting:
Appointment of Shri Ajay Tewari (DIN 0009633300)
Additional Secretary, Ministry of Power as Government Nominee Director on the Board of Directors of Power Finance Corporation Limited.
Members are hereby informed that:
1. In compliance of above-mentioned provisions, the Company has completed the dispatch of Postal Ballot Notice only through e-mail, on Friday August 5, 2022, to those shareholders whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Depositories and whose names appear in the register of members/register of beneficial owners as on the cut-off date i.e. Wednesday, August 3, 2022. Further, physical copy of Notice along with explanatory statement and Postal ballot form has not been sent to the members for this Postal ballot. Hence, the members are required to communicate their assent/dissent only through remote e-voting system. The company has engaged the services of M/s Kfin Technologies Limited (Kfintech) for providing e-voting facility to shareholders.
2. The Cut-off date for the purpose of ascertaining the eligibility of members to cast their vote through remote e-voting facility is Wednesday, August 3, 2022. The members whose names appear in the register of members/register of beneficial owners as on the Cut-off date shall only be entitled to avail the remote e-voting facility. A person who is not a member as on the Cut-off date should treat this Notice for information purposes only.
3. The remote e-voting period shall commence on Saturday, August 6, 2022 (0900 hours) and will end on Sunday, September 4, 2022 (1700 hours). The remote e-voting module will be disabled thereafter by Kfintech. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by a Member, they shall not be allowed to change it subsequently or cast the vote again. The detailed procedure /Instructions for e-voting are specified in the Notes to the Postal Ballot Notice.
4. The Board of Directors of the Company has appointed Shri Amit Agrawal (FCS No.5311 of M/s Amit Agrawal & Associates, CP No.3647), as Scrutinizer for conducting this Postal Ballot process.
5. The aforesaid Notice along with explanatory statement is available on the website of the Company i.e. www.pfcindia.com, website of e-voting agency at <https://evoting.kfintech.com> and website of Stock Exchanges i.e. www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com. Those Members, whose e-mail IDs are not registered, are requested to refer to the procedure mentioned in the Notes to Postal Ballot Notice, available on the above websites, to cast their votes electronically.
6. Members holding shares in electronic form are requested to register/update their e-mail IDs with the respective depository participants and in case of shares held in physical form, by sending a request through e-mail to the agency providing the remote e-voting service at email ID inward.ris@kfintech.com with a copy marked to pbaugust2022@pfcindia.com.
7. In case of any queries/grievances related to this postal ballot, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for shareholders and e-voting user manual available at the <https://evoting.kfintech.com/public/Faq.aspx> or download section of www.evoting.nsdl.com or refer to the instructions as mentioned in the Postal Ballot Notice or call on toll free nos. 1-800-309-4001 or send a request to Ms. Swati Reddy, at inward.ris@kfintech.com and evoting@kfintech.com. Members may also write to the Company Secretary at the e-mail ID: pbaugust2022@pfcindia.com.
8. The result of the Postal Ballot along with Scrutinizer's Report will be declared on or by Tuesday, September 06, 2022 by placing the same on the website of the Company i.e. www.pfcindia.com and e-voting agency i.e. <https://evoting.kfintech.com>. Further, the results shall also be communicated to the Stock Exchanges simultaneously.

For and on behalf of Power Finance Corporation Ltd.
Place: New Delhi
Date: August 6, 2022

Sd/-
(Manohar Balwani)
CGM & Company Secretary

**CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR**
Green Campus, Ganderbal-191201 (J&K) www.cukashmir.ac.in

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR OUTSOURCING OF HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES
Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal invites bids under "Two Bid System" for outsourcing of Housekeeping services across its different Campuses etc. at Ganderbal to be submitted online through e-Wizard (www.mhnd.com/wizard). For detailed tender notice please visit University website www.cukashmir.ac.in and (www.mhnd.com/wizard).
No. Est. 02 of 2022 Date 05-08-2022 Sd/Registrar

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ**
E-Tendering Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) North Central Railway, Jhansi, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:-

E-Tender No.	Description of Work	Approx Cost (₹)	Earnest Money (₹)
JHS-ENG-C-2022-87	Bina-Jhansi Section: Supplying & fixing of various safety boards & other track related ancillary item under ADEN/Lalitpur sub-division.	3198642.57	64000.00

Date of closing Tender: 26.08.2022 at 15:00 hrs.
Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 06 Months.
● Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on **26.08.2022**
● For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in **1007/22 (ADM)**
North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway

Korba District Urban Public Service Society, Korba
R.No./2022/77 Korba Dated. 05.08.2022


RFP NOTICE For Selection of Operators for Operation, Maintenance and Management of City Bus Services and Ancillary Infrastructure in Korba Urban Agglomeration in Chhattisgarh

Through this notice Korba District Urban Public Service Society, Korba (KDUPSS) invites proposal as given below online Electronic Chhattisgarh Government Procurement System (eGPs) <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> as per RFP for Operation, Maintenance and Management of City Bus Services and Ancillary infrastructure in Korba Urban Agglomeration in Chhattisgarh. Interested Bidders should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualification and relevant experience to perform the relevant tasks. Amendment/ Corrigendum in RFP, if any, will only be uploaded on the website and shall not be published in any newspaper.

S. No.	System Tender No.	FDR Amount	Last Date of Bid Submission	Last Date of Physical Submission
1	106446 (3rd Call)	Rs. 4,00,000.00 (Rs. Four Lakhs in favour Of Secretary, KDUPSS & bidder jointly valid for 8 Years)	16.08.2022 5.30PM	17.08.2022 3.00PM

Sd/-
Nodal Officer

1819 Korba District Urban Public Service Society, Korba (C.G.)

**BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI**
4th FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.

O.A. No 325/2020
BANK OF BARODA VERSUS APPLICANT
AVESH AGARWAL & ORS. RESPONDENT

DATE : 25.02.2022

To. DEFENDANTS
1. MR. AVESH AGARWAL S/O SH SURESH CHAND AGARWAL
2. MRS. GUNJAN AGARWAL W/O MR. AVESH AGARWAL
BOTHAT: R/O HOUSE NO. 1131, SEC-21, GURGAON, HRY - 122016
3. AMRAPALI SMART CITY DEVELOPERS PVT. LTD.
THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR
307, 3RD FLOOR NIPUN TOWER COMMUNITY CENTRE KARKARDOOMA DELHI-92
Whereas the above named applicant(s) has / have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 33,67,641/- (RUPEE THIRTY THREE LAKH SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY ONE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 31.08.2022 at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
Due to ongoing Pandemic situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i). All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex" application/ Software;
(ii). "Meeting ID" and Password for the date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/ Recovery Officer-I/ and Recovery Officer-II shall be displayed in the daily cause list itself at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in
(iii). In any emergency qua that the Advocate/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23744876.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the 25th day of Feb., 2022.
By Order Of The Tribunal
Assistant Registrar, DRT-II, Delhi.

**उत्तर प्रदेश पावर ट्रॉन्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड**
खुली निविदा आमंत्रण

मोहरबन्द / निविदा अनभववी ठेकेदारों / फर्मों से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदा की धरोहर धनराशि एवं निविदा शुल्क अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय, आगरा के पक्ष में (यात्रा खाता संख्या 628705501013, IFSC Code ICIC0006287, आई.सी.आई.सी.आई. बैंक, संचयन पैलेस आगरा) RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से धनराशि स्थानान्तरण किया जायेगा जिसकी प्रति (यू.टी.आर. संख्या एवं दिनांक, बैंक खाता संख्या, धनराशि एवं फर्म का नाम) टेण्डर के माग-प्रथम के जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा। अधोस्ताक्षरकर्ता को बिना कारण बताए निविदा निरस्त करने का पूर्ण अधिकार होगा। निविदा खुलने की तिथि को अवकाश होने की दशा में निविदाये अगले कार्य दिवस को खोली जायेगी। धरोहर धनराशि के अभाव में निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। 1 खुली निविदा संख्या टी-05 /अ0अशिव / विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय आगरा / 22-23- विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय, आगरा के अन्तर्गत उपयोग हेतु कार्यदायी संस्था के माध्यम से वि०पा० उपखण्ड-द्वितीय आगरा के लिये एक अर्द्ध डीजल चालित वाहन मय ड्राइवर के (टेक्सी कोटे में) (09 माह के लिये) रखे जाने हेतु। निविदा शुल्क-560.00 एवं धरोहर राशि-2000.00, निविदा शुल्क / धरोहर राशि जमा करने की तिथि- 25/08/2022 समय 17:00 बजे। कार्यालय से निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त करने की तिथि- 26/08/2022 समय 11:00 बजे तक, कार्यालय में निविदा प्रपत्र जमा करने की तिथि- 26/08/2022 समय 13:00 बजे तक, निविदा खोलने की तिथि-दि० 26.08.2022 समय 15:00 बजे (पार्ट प्रथम एवं तत्पश्चात् पार्ट द्वितीय) अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड-तृतीय-आगरा, निकट अमर उजाला प्रैस, ककरैठा रोड, आगरा राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाये पत्रांक-624-वि०पा०ख० / त०आ० / खुली निविदा / दिनांक-06.08.2022

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता
हैड वर्क्स खण्ड आगरा नहर ओखला नई दिल्ली-25
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या-10 / ई०ई० / 2022-2023

महामहिम राज्यपाल, उत्तर प्रदेश की ओर से निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ऑन लाइन निविदाये (<https://etender.up.nic.in>) सिवाई एवं जल संसाधन विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश में वर्गीकृत श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से दिनांक 26.08.2022 को अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदा की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन / टेक्निकल बिड अधोस्ताक्षरी के पक्ष में निविदा ओपनिंग हेतु गणित समिति के सदस्यों द्वारा दिनांक 26.08.2022 अपराह्न 4.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन / टेक्निकल बिड में क्वालिफाइड पाये गये ठेकेदारों की ही फाइनेशियल बिड खोली जायेगी। कार्यालय बन्द होने अथवा अवकाश होने की दशा में यह निविदाये अगले कार्यदिवस में उसी समय खोली जायेगी। निविदा दिनांक 17.08.2022 को पूर्वाह्न 11.00 बजे से दिनांक 26.08.2022 को अपराह्न 4.00 बजे तक डाउनलोड / अपलोड की जा सकती है। कार्यों का विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत (लाख रु. में)	धरोहर धनराशि (लाख रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि	निविदा प्राप्त का मूल्य (रुपये में) + 18 प्रतिशत जीएसटी	पंजीकरण श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 25.900 से 26.050 तक मैटैडल सर्विस रोड की मरम्मत का कार्य।	13.75	0.28	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
2.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 13.300 पर स्थित पुल के डाउनस्ट्रीम में बलिप्रस्त पिथिंग की मरम्मत का कार्य।	15.00	0.30	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
3.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 27.00पर स्थित पुल के ड्रेक स्लैब के ऊपर सड़क की मरम्मत का कार्य	11.50	0.23	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
4.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 18.170 पर स्थित पुल के डाउनस्ट्रीम में बलिप्रस्त पिथिंग की मरम्मत का कार्य।	13.00	0.26	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
5.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 23.805 पर स्थित पुल के डाउनस्ट्रीम में बलिप्रस्त पिथिंग की मरम्मत का कार्य।	12.50	0.25	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
6.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 22.900 से 23.020 तक पैरापेट एवं मैटैडल सर्विस रोड की मरम्मत का कार्य।	11.65	0.24	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
7.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 30.118 पर स्थित पुल के अपस्ट्रीम में बलिप्रस्त पिथिंग की मरम्मत का कार्य।	11.85	0.24	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
8.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 23.650 से 23.780 तक पैरापेट एवं मैटैडल सर्विस रोड की मरम्मत का कार्य।	12.60	0.26	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
9.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 27.00पर स्थित पुल के बायी तरफ मैटैडल पड्डिंग मार्ग का कार्य	13.50	0.27	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
10.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 18.170 पर स्थित पुल के अपस्ट्रीम में बलिप्रस्त पिथिंग की मरम्मत का कार्य।	13.50	0.27	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"
11.	आगरा नहर के कि.मी. 23.320 से 23.470 तक पैरापेट एवं मैटैडल सर्विस रोड की मरम्मत का कार्य।	14.40	0.29	15 दिन	Rs. 300+54 =354	"सी"

अधिशासी अभियन्ता
हैड वर्क्स खंड, आगरा नहर ओखला, नई दिल्ली-25

अ.ओ. संख्या-178402 दिनांक- 05/08/2022
www.upgovt.nic.in

ROW OVER 'URDU SCHOOLS'

Jharkhand scrapped, then reinstated Friday offs last year

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, AUGUST 6

THE JHARKHAND government has said that there were 407 schools in the state that had been declared "Urdu schools", and 509 schools that were "illegally" giving a weekly off on Friday instead of Sunday. The statement by minister Alamgir Alam came in response to a question in the state Assembly by Sahibganj MLA Anant Ojha of the BJP.

Alam said 350 of the 407 schools had since removed the word 'Urdu' from their names, and that 459 of the 509 schools had "rectified" the move to give Fridays off. "Orders have been passed to initiate action against erring officials," the minister added.

In January 2021, orders by Jharkhand's Primary Education Directorate showed that the weekly offs on Fridays had been cancelled and then reinstated nine days later after objections were raised.

A letter by the Primary Education Directorate dated January 22, 2021 said that after the Friday offs were cancelled, "Various teachers' associations have come forward to keep the weekly holiday as on Friday as it was earlier. Therefore, after receiving requests from teachers' associations, all Urdu schools will maintain weekly leaves on Friday, and Sunday will be a working day."

The controversy took off in Jharkhand after schools with 'Urdu' in their names in Jamtara district were brought to the limelight. However, a district official in Jamtara said, "It was a practice since at least the formation of Jharkhand that weekly offs were given on Friday instead of Sunday in government schools in minority areas. The addition of the word 'Urdu' in the names of schools is a recent phenomenon." A source in the Education Department said, "The Directorate had changed years-old tradition of Friday leaves in Urdu schools and had brought uniformity while bringing out a leave calendar in all government schools. However, there was a furore in some sections, and then the Department was ordered to maintain the status quo ante. The recent controversy erupted after the media brought this to the limelight."

**उ.प्र. पावर ट्रान्समिशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड, अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 38-ईसीटीसी/मुारा०/2022-23, ई-**

टेण्डर चार माह की वैधता हेतु दो भागों में भाग-1 व भाग-2 अधोलिखित विवरण के अनुसार आमंत्रित किया जाता है। निविदा प्राप्त होने/खोले जाने का दिनांक व समय 25.08.2022, 14.00 बजे एवं 26.08.2022, 14.00 बजे है। क्रमांक:1; कार्य का नाम: प्रस्तावित 132/33 के.वी. (2x40) एम.वी.ए. क्षमता उपकेन्द्र, डिल्ली, मुगदाबाद के निर्माण हेतु प्रस्तावित भूमि पर मृदा परीक्षण भूमि सर्वेक्षण, कंटेरिंग, टैक्सिंग एवं उपकेन्द्र पर जानपदीय कार्यों की डिजाइन व ड्राइंग के कार्य हेतु क्षेत्रीय प्रस्तावनुसार कार्य। निविदा प्रपत्र ई-प्रोक्वायरेमेंट वेबसाइट <http://etender.up.nic.in> से ही स्वीकार किये जायेंगे। उक्त निविदा से सम्बंधित विवरण यथा तकनीकी विशिष्टीकरण, कार्यबंध, धरोहर राशि, निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत इत्यादि एवं किसी प्रकार के संशोधन परिवर्तन, शुद्धि पत्र हेतु <http://etender.up.nic.in> अथवा www.upptcl.org पर लॉगिन करें "राष्ट्रहित में बिजली बचाये" हस्ता/- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, मुगदाबाद, संख्या: 965 कैम्प-ईसीटीएम/टी-2/मुारा, दिनांक: 06.08.2022

BSP MP acquitted in 2019 rape case

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 6

A SPECIAL court in Varanasi on Saturday acquitted BSP MP Atul Rai in an alleged rape case of a 24-year-old woman, who, along with her friend, died by suicide in front of the Supreme Court in August last year. The woman had registered a rape case against Rai in 2019. Rai, who is MP from Ghosi, is lodged in Naini jail.

The woman and her friend, also a prime witness, had immolated themselves outside the Supreme Court in August last year, after alleging harassment. Despite his acquittal in the rape case, Rai's lawyer Anuj Yadav told the media that the MP would remain in jail in the pending case of abetment to suicide registered in Lucknow. "Additional District and Session Judge Siyaram Chaurasia acquitted Rai on grounds of benefit of doubt," said government counsel Jyoti Shankar Upadhyay.



Protesting students and police personnel at the site of agitation in Imphal, Manipur, Saturday. *Express*

MANIPUR ADC BILL ROW

2 cops among 32 injured in student-police clash

JIMMY LEIVON
IMPHAL, AUGUST 6

AROUND 30 students and two policemen sustained injuries after a confrontation broke out between student protesters and police in Imphal on Saturday.

Over 100 tribal students converged at Kabo Leikai in Imphal West district to stage a protest demanding the release of some leaders of the All Tribal Students' Union Manipur (ATSUM). The student leaders were arrested for imposing a total shutdown and subsequent economic blockade in hill districts of Manipur. They were demanding the tabling of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC)-recommended Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) Amendment Bill, 2021.

The protesters, however, were dispersed by the police citing the prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the CrPc. Aggrieved by the police action, the protesters erupted in fury and a confrontation ensued with the police.

To neutralise the situation, police resorted to firing tear gas shells and baton charge. In retaliation, the protesters hurled stones at the police personnel. During the confrontation, around

NIA registers FIR in Karnataka BJP youth leader murder case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 6

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA), which was ordered on Wednesday by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to investigate the murder of a BJP youth leader in the Bellare area of Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada district, has registered an FIR in the case in New Delhi. The case will be investigated by a newly created Bengaluru unit of the NIA, police sources said. The case, registered by an NIA police station in New Delhi this week, will be transferred to a court in Bengaluru.

Praveen Nettaru was hacked to death by three men at Bellare village on the night of July 26. The motorcycle-borne assailants

attacked the BJP youth leader as he was leaving his poultry store.

Police in Bellare had registered an FIR in the early hours of July 27, but the BJP government in Karnataka decided on July 29 to hand over the investigation to the NIA. The state government subsequently wrote to the MHA.

The investigation by the Karnataka Police has led to the arrest of four people — Mohammed Shafiq, Zakir Savanoor, Saddam and Harris — who were all residents of the Dakshina Kannada region. They are alleged to have provided logistical support, including shelter and food, for the main attackers who are yet to be arrested.

In its order to the NIA, the MHA noted that "local police arrested four accused persons and further investigation in the case

has revealed that the accused conspired to do this act with the intent to strike terror among the people of the locality".

The order also said that Sections 16 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (relating to acts of terror) and Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (for criminal conspiracy) has been invoked in the case by the Karnataka Police.

According to the order, the central government is of the view that a scheduled offence under the National Investigation Agency Act of 2008 was committed in the case, and "having regard to the gravity of the offence and its interstate ramifications, it is required to be investigated by the NIA in accordance with the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008".

The decision came even as police have claimed to have

identified the killers, who they say are on the run.

The Karnataka Police will continue to investigate the murder as the NIA begins its formal takeover of the case in order to prevent a loss of momentum in the probe, senior police officials have said.

Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra said on Saturday that the state police have gathered information that the murder was executed by people from the Dakshina Kannada region who are affiliated with a radical outfit.

"The information that we have is that the murder of Praveen Nettaru was carried out by people who are locals of the Mangaluru region. Police are investigating their affiliations and all efforts are on to arrest the accused," the Jnanendra said.

KERALA: SEATS IN KENDRIYA VIDYALAYAS

HC sets aside order allowing pleas challenging discretionary quota

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, AUGUST 6

AKERALA High Court single-judge bench's decision allowing petitions that challenged the annulment of the discretionary quota of Vidyalaya Management Committee chairpersons in admission to Kendriya Vidyalayas was set aside by a division bench

of the court. Two students from Kerala had approached the single-judge bench challenging the Centre's decision to do away with all discretionary quotas. The bench had on June 9 allowed the pleas.

After this academic year's KV admission process commenced, the Centre had cancelled various quotas, including 10 seats under MP quota. This policy decision to do away with the practice of giving admission based on recom-


mendations was taken after allocating seats for students from all vulnerable groups, including those orphaned by the pandemic. The cancelled discretionary quota included seats under the quota of the chairmen of Vidyalaya Management Committees.

Assistant Solicitor General of India, S Manu, who appeared for the Centre, pointed out that only influential people were benefitting from the discretionary quotas.

1 killed as CISF jawan opens fire in Kolkata

Kolkata: One person died after a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) jawan randomly opened fire at Kid Street Barrack, near Indian Museum in Kolkata on Saturday evening.

The incident took place around 6:30 pm after the jawan at the CISF barracks near the Indian museum reportedly started firing indiscriminately, after snatching an AK-47 from a sentry on duty at the spot. Two CISF personnel were shot at and one of them died, police said. Police identified the deceased as CISF ASI Ranjit Sarengi. The injured person was identified as Assistant Commandant Subir Ghosh, who hails from Nadia district. **ENS**



GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA

गुरु घासीदास विश्वविद्यालय

(A Central University established by the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009)

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Ref. No. 185 /Rec/Admn/2022

Walk-In-Interview

Eligible and interested candidates are invited for Walk-in-Interview at the Administrative Building of the University for **Appointment as Temporary Teachers to teach in different programs on Purely Temporary Basis** (initially for six months or till regular appointment whichever is earlier) for the Academic Session 2022-23 with an application on plain paper giving their bio-data and attested copies of Mark-sheets/Certificates/Degrees of academic qualifications and experiences along with originals for verification on the dates mentioned on the University website. The University reserves the right not to fill any post and also to alter the nature and number of vacancies/appointments if the circumstances so warrant. Selected candidates shall be entitled to a consolidated salary 25000/- per month. For more details and regular updates of eligibility criteria, number of positions (which may vary according to need) interview schedule and general instructions please log on to **www.ggu.ac.in**.

Registrar

Man attacked over WhatsApp 'status' supporting Nupur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, AUGUST 6

A 23-YEAR-OLD man was attacked by a mob in Karjat taluka of Ahmednagar in Maharashtra allegedly over his WhatsApp status supporting suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma.

The incident took place on the evening of Thursday, August 4. An FIR was lodged by a friend of the victim, Pratik alias Sunny Rajendra Pawar at the Karjat police station. Manoj Patil, superintendent of Ahmednagar police, said the complainant, Amit Mane, has alleged that the attack was over showing support to Nupur Sharma on social media. The police are investigation various angles. So far, five arrests have been made.

Police said the victim and the accused had had skirmishes in the past as well and they are investigating whether some previous dispute led to the attack on Pawar now. The complaint says a group of about 14 men armed with sharp weapons attacked the complainant and Pawar on Rashin Road in Karjat. Based on the complaint, police have booked 14 persons on charges of attempt to murder as per sections 307, 143, 323, 504, of the IPC, and under relevant sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Sohail Pathan (24), Arbaz Pathan (23) of Karjat were arrested on Friday and they were remained in police custody till August 10. On Saturday, three more accused, Junaid Pathan (19) of Karjat, Arbaz Shaikh (24) of Daund, Hussain Shaikh (40) of Baramati were arrested while search is on for the others.

SC lets unmarried woman end 24-week pregnancy, opens doors for others

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

THE SUPREME Court's decision to permit a 25-year-old unmarried woman to terminate her pregnancy of 24 weeks may soon open the doors to extend the relief to all unmarried women.

On Friday, a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and J B Pardiwala said that there appeared to be no logical reasoning to allow a married woman to do so under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, and Rules framed under it, but denying the same to unmarried women, even though the risk is same for both.

"An unmarried woman who suffers a pregnancy beyond 20 weeks can suffer the same mental anguish as the married woman. Why should she be excluded from termination up to 24 weeks if a married woman is allowed to do it," Justice Chandrachud said. "We have to also move ahead when there is so much development around this. We are responsible for jurisprudential evolution."

The bench said it can strike down the restrictive clause "for being manifestly arbitrary", which in turn would allow extending the benefit of terminating pregnancy above 20 weeks to unmarried women as well. "Mental health is important. If we strike down the words...benefit of termination on grounds of mental anguish can be

EXPLAINED What law says

RULE 3B of the law recognises certain categories of women — such as divorcees, widows, minors, disabled and mentally ill women, and survivors of sexual assault or rape — as being entitled to medically terminate pregnancy in particular situations, but this does not include unmarried women.

extended to even above 20 weeks," the court observed. "Then rules will not be restrictive. That is a way to get around it."

Referring to the MTP Act, the court pointed to the intent of the legislature while it amended the law in 2021 and said the amended Act used the word 'partner', and not 'husband'. "So it concerns [relationships] outside marriage as well," it said.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who appeared for the Union Health Ministry, said the question is not about being married or unmarried but about the woman's well-being, as 24 weeks is not easy.

The court asked the ASG to give suggestions on how to deal with it and posted the case for hearing next week.

पुलिस मुख्यालय छत्तीसगढ़, नवा रायपुर, अटल नगर, जिला रायपुर- 492002

विज्ञापन

छत्तीसगढ़ पुलिस विभाग के अंतर्गत "काउंटर टेररिज्म एण्ड जंगल वाफेयर कौलेज (सीटीजेडब्ल्यू कौलेज), काकिर" में निदेशक के रिक्त पद को प्रतिनिधित्व/संवित्ता के आधार पर भरा जाना है, जिस हेतु पात्र अभ्यर्थियों से आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। विवरण निम्नानुसार है:-

01. पद:-

स.क्र.	पद का नाम	रिक्तियों की संख्या	भर्ती की प्रक्रिया
01	निदेशक (बिगोडियर), सीटीजेडब्ल्यू कौलेज, काकिर	01	प्रतिनिधित्व अथवा छत्तीसगढ़ सिविल सेवा (संवित्ता नियुक्ति) नियम, 2012 के प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत संवित्ता नियुक्ति

02. उक्त पद हेतु योग्यता:-

1. ईक	: बिगोडियर/कॉर्नल
2. इकाई	: प्रतिनिधित्व हेतु- सेना अथवा समकक्ष ऑर्गेनाइजेशन में बिगोडियर/कॉर्नल अथवा समकक्ष पद पर पदस्थ हो। संवित्ता नियुक्ति हेतु- सेना अथवा समकक्ष ऑर्गेनाइजेशन में बिगोडियर/कॉर्नल अथवा समकक्ष पद पर पदस्थ रहे हो।
3. उम्र	: दिनांक 01.01.2022 को 60 साल से अधिक नहीं होना चाहिए।
4. अनुभव	: J&K/NE/WE क्षेत्र में उदात्त विरोधी अभियान का अनुभव होना चाहिए। कमांडे प्रशिक्षण, विविध बलों में काम करने का अनुभव, फोर्ड क्राफ्ट एवं टैंकट्रैक्स के प्रशिक्षण इत्यादि का प्रशिक्षक के रूप में अनुभव होने पर अतिरिक्त अंक दिये जाएंगे।
5. प्रशिक्षक के रूप में अनुभव	: काउंटर ईसरन्सेस एवं जंगल वाफेयर स्कूल, वरॉस्टे अथवा अन्य ख्याति प्राप्त विशिष्ट प्रशिक्षण संस्थान में प्रशिक्षक के रूप में कार्य किया हो।
6. मॉडकल रेटर्ड	: Shape-1
7. Honours/Awards	: सेवा के दौरान वीरता/उल्लेखनीय सेवा हेतु मेडल प्राप्तकर्ता को सेवा मूल्यांकन हेतु अतिरिक्त अंक प्रदान किये जायेंगे।

03. आवेदन पत्र जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि:- आवेदन पत्र पुलिस महानिदेशक, छत्तीसगढ़ पुलिस मुख्यालय, अटल नगर, नवा रायपुर के पते पर दिनांक 31.08.2022 के शाम 5:30 बजे तक स्वीकार्य किया जायेगा। निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय के पश्चात प्राप्त होने वाले आवेदन पत्रों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। डाक/कूरियर में देती के लिए विभाग निम्नस्थ नहीं होगा।

04. प्रतिनिधित्व हेतु आवेदन करने वाले अभ्यर्थियों के लिए निम्नोक्त प्राधिकारी का अभ्यर्थण आवश्यक होगा। निम्नोक्त प्राधिकारी द्वारा अभ्यर्थण नहीं किये जाने की स्थिति में आवेदन चोपित किया जा सकेगा।

05. वेतन- शासन द्वारा जारी निर्देश अनुसार वेतन/सेवानिवृत्त प्रदान किया जायेगा।

06. नियुक्ति का तरीका:- दिनांक 31.08.2022 के शाम 05:30 बजे तक प्राप्त समस्त आवेदन-पत्रों के संबंध में विभागों स्तर पर प्रक्रिया संपादित कर पात्र अभ्यर्थियों की सूची अंतिम निर्णय/आदेश जारी करने हेतु छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, गृह (पुलिस) विभाग, मंत्रालय, महानदी भवन, नवा रायपुर को और प्रेषित की जायेगी। संवित्ता नियुक्ति के संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय गृह (पुलिस) विभाग, छत्तीसगढ़ शासन के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। आवेदन पत्र का प्राप्र छत्तीसगढ़ पुलिस की अधिकारिता वेबसाइट- <https://www.cgpolice.gov.in/> पर उपलब्ध है।

(अशोक कुंनेडा)
पुलिस महानिदेशक
छत्तीसगढ़

93460

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR LOK NAYAK HOSPITAL: NEW DELHI-110002 (GENERAL BRANCH)

Applications are invited for certified Radiological Assistant course 2022-24 session Batch No. 61, Last date for receipt of application form duly filled is 31-08-2022 up to 3.00 PM. Completed application form in all respect alongwith self attested photocopies of all the educational, Caste, Character Certificate, Domicile of Delhi, Aadhar Card & two photographs(one should be affix on the application form) etc. Must be submitted in the General Branch, Vth floor MRD Building, Lok Nayak Hospital, New Delhi-110002.

Educational Qualification:

Students who are the domicile of the Delhi only are eligible to apply for admission in the said course. The Candidates should have passed the senior secondary examination (10+2) not earlier than 2021 and secondary school examination (10th) not earlier than 2019. They should have passed from a recognized school situated in Delhi and recognized by CBSE on regular basis with Physics, Chemistry and Biology as main subjects obtaining not less than 50% marks for each of these subjects. 5% will be deducted from aggregate of PCB marks for every attempt in 10+2 while preparing the final merit list. The last two years of schooling should be in Delhi.

1. Seats :-

There are total 15 seats out of which 03 seats are reserved for OBC candidates and 02 Seats for SC and 01 for ST candidate and 01 seat is reserved for EWSs candidates.

2. Age:-

Candidates applying for the said course must have attained the age of 18 years as on 31th August 2022, but should not be more than 22 years as on 31th August 2022. 05 Year age relaxation for SC/ST and 03 year's age relaxation for OBC candidate in Upper Age.

3. Duration of Course:-

Two years course Selected candidates will be paid of Rs.500/- P.M. and will be required to execute the bond on Rs.100 Non-Judicial stamp paper for Rs.3000/- that is, if selected candidates drop out of the said course before its completion, he/she will be deposit the bond money and also submit all the stipend money taken till date of Resignation.

4. Application for can be obtained from General Branch, 5th floor MRD Building, LNH from 17.08.2022 to 31.08.2022 on all working days and the same is also available on the website <http://www.lnh.delhigovt.nic.in>.

Signature
(MEDICAL DIRECTOR)

DIP/Shabdarth/0275/22-23

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS, AUGUST 7, 2022

10 SUNDAY STORY

THE SUNDAY PROFILE

End of Session

A reluctant Vice-President who presided over the Rajya Sabha at its most raucous, the BJP veteran will be remembered fondly by everyone, including the Opposition, for his amiability, his annual lunches, and his puns. **MANOJ C G & LIZ MATHEW** on the man who could have been more

MY OPERATION depends on your cooperation, otherwise there will be separation." As Venkaiah Naidu, 73, demits office as Vice-President of India on August 10, the Rajya Sabha, of which he is ex-officio Chairman, will be poorer for his quick wit and puns, many of which elicited laughter and served to briefly unite the Treasury and Opposition benches at a time of deep discord and distrust between the two sides. His recent "operation-cooperation-separation" remark was in response to frequent disruptions in the Upper House by Opposition members seeking a discussion on price rise.

Naidu, though seen as a reluctant Vice-President, had plunged headlong into his Rajya Sabha role, playing referee with élan even if, according to the Opposition, he blew the whistle far too often on them.

While his critics say that despite his constitutional role, Naidu's heart never stopped beating for the BJP, a party he served for several decades before becoming Vice-President, they agree that he is among the most amiable chairpersons the Rajya Sabha has had, with friends on both sides of the aisle. The annual lunches he hosts — with a spread of south Indian seafood and Hyderabad dishes — is one of the most awaited events in the Capital's political calendar, with leaders across parties in attendance.

Born at Chavatapalem in SPS Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh on July 1, 1949, Naidu had already joined the RSS and was a member of the ABVP by the time he joined Andhra University for a bachelor's degree in law. His electoral career began in 1978 when he won as a Janata Party MLA from Udayagiri. In 1983, he won on a BJP ticket from the same constituency, and by 1988, went on to become president of the Andhra BJP. In 1993, he moved to the national scene after becoming general secretary of the party.

In the BJP, Naidu was seen as L.K. Advani's protégé. After the 2002 communal riots in Gujarat, it is widely known that then prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wanted Narendra Modi to resign as Gujarat chief minister, but Advani was against his removal. Sources say it was Naidu, as BJP president, who conveyed Advani's decision to Vajpayee. As he did so, "with trembling hands", Vajpayee half-heartedly agreed.

But a decade later, as winds of change started blowing in the BJP, Naidu effortlessly transformed himself into one of the most ardent supporters of Modi.

While his contemporaries Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj largely refrained from waxing eloquent on Modi, Naidu was always effusive. Moving the political resolution during the BJP's national executive meeting in March 2016, Naidu had described Modi as "God's gift to India", a "messiah of the poor", a "decisive leader" and "MODifier of developing India".

Naidu was in his fourth term as Rajya Sabha MP when he was nominated by the party for the post of Vice-President. As the BJP's best known face from the South, Naidu's vast parliamentary experience, impressive stature as a leader and his relatively easy-going nature had gone in his favour.

Sources say Naidu, who held several portfolios in Modi's Cabinet — Parliamentary Affairs, Urban Development and Housing

and Urban Poverty Alleviation in the first term, and the crucial Information and Broadcasting in the second — was rattled when his name started doing the rounds as the ruling NDA's nominee for the post of Vice-President. Those close to him had said he "was not very excited" and would have wanted to be an "active politician" till the end of his political career.

It was finally a call from the Prime Minister that "reassured" him.

Still, Naidu had turned emotional at a par-

liamentary board meeting, saying leaving the party was like "leaving my mother".

Now at the end of his five-year tenure as presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha, Naidu leaves a mixed legacy. His term often saw him brooking no indiscipline in the House, which had the Opposition complaining that he bowed to the government.

His tenure, which coincided with relations between the government and Opposition hitting a new low, saw the Rajya Sabha often turning into a political battle-

ground. The Upper House witnessed chaotic scenes over the passage of the farm laws and the Bills to bifurcate Jammu and Kashmir, and led to the suspension of Opposition MPs.

According to Rajya Sabha records, the 13 sessions that Naidu presided over were chaotic. "During the last 13 sessions, 141 of the 248 scheduled full sittings (or 57 per cent) were disrupted partly or fully," Naidu himself said at the beginning of the Monsoon Session, his last as presiding officer.

The session also turned out to be a stand-



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

india 75
NUMBER PLATE
8.41 mn tonnes



The total production of pulses in India during 1950-51, which increased to 25.72 million tonnes during 2020-21. In 2020-21, Madhya Pradesh was the top producer of pulses in the country with a production of 5.30 million tonnes (20.60 per cent of the country's total production). This was followed by Rajasthan (4.31 million tonnes) and Maharashtra (4.30 million tonnes)

19.09 MILLION HECTARES
Total area under pulses during 1950-51, which increased to 28.83 million hectares during 2020-21

441 KG/HECTARE
The yield of pulses per hectare during 1950-51, which increased to 892 kg per hectare in 2020-21
HARIKISHAN SHARMA

The hands that build the city

Four labourers who fell off the 17th floor and died last week are the latest casualty among the men reshaping Gurgaon's skyline.

Fear is a constant among them, as is desperation and a sweet irony: they build homes but are themselves homeless

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA

"DARR TOH lagta hai sahab, par majboori hai isliye karna padta hai (Of course, there is fear, but I have no choice but to do this work)," says Amarjeet Kumar, 35, as he puts down his blue helmet on a table and sips tea at a makeshift stall in Sector 65 near Golf Course Extension Road in Gurgaon. Several under-construction buildings and skyscrapers — including luxury condominiums and shopping complexes — loom over the stall in the Millennium City's evolving skyline.

Kumar, a construction worker hailing from Patna, has just descended for a 10-minute break from a similar building, 36-storey high, where he does 'shuttering' work. The brochure of the project he is working on promises 'an elevated lifestyle experience' for buyers.

Kumar says he is unaware of the mishap at a construction site in Sector 77 a few days ago, where four labourers died and one was injured after falling off the 17th floor of a residential project while dismantling a crane. But, he is not surprised. "Harr ek-do mahine mein ek haadsa hota hai (Every month or so, there is an incident like this)," he says.

Every time he goes up, he is aware of the "risk". "Shuttering involves being suspended on a platform at a height. One can slip, a hook may give away, a rope may break..."

He recalls an incident from 2019 when he was deployed at a construction site in Greater Noida. "We were perched on an iron platform on the 19th floor, when a fellow worker

fell to his death... At that time, one thinks of one's family. Who will take care of them if I suffer such fate?"

But mostly, he avoids dwelling on it, Kumar says. "It is up to fate."

It was in 2013 that Kumar left home in a village in Patna to find work, and got onto a train to Delhi. After several odd jobs, including as a helper at a firm which paid him Rs 95 a day, he landed carpentry work with the help of a friend at a construction site.

A decade on, he has worked at several construction sites in Noida, Delhi and Gurgaon. "The tallest building in our village was a three-storey-high water tank. I had never climbed it. Now, I work at buildings that are over 100 metres high," he smiles.

Kumar gets paid Rs 1,000 a day for a shift that stretches 12 hours, and is grateful that there is work on most days of the month. He still shudders thinking of peak Covid, when all construction came to a halt and he had to walk home, remaining without work for months. Of his earnings, he sends half home to his family — his wife, and three children, between the ages of 3 and 7.

Kumar has also found a family of sorts here in Gurgaon, of others like him, from mostly Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. At break time, they emerge carrying blue and yellow helmets and tiffins, from buildings all around.

Most of them live within walking distance from the construction sites, earning Rs 400 to Rs 1,000 a day depending on the nature of skill involved. The contractors who hire them put them up in tin-roofed shanties, often 30 to a shed. They move site to site, as



The day ends for two workers at a site in Sector 50, Gurgaon. Pavneet Singh Chadha

per work, provided the basics of three meals a day, water and power, visiting home at most twice a year.

Ranjit Kumar, 19, from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, lives at a labour camp near Sector 50, and does scaffolding work. "The roof leaks when it rains, but at least there is bed and food here," he says.

Ravikant Kumar, 27, of Supaul district in Bihar, comments on the irony. "Hum logon ke liye bada ghar banate hain, par hamara pucca ghar nahin (We build these grand houses for people, but we do not have a permanent

house of our own)."

At the tea stall, pointing to an upcoming mall nearby, Manzar Alam (19) talks about two workers who died there in June after they fell off the 19th floor. They must not have been provided a safety harness, he says. "A belt would have saved them."

Alam, who is from Bhais Bandha village in Katihar, Bihar, comes from a farming family. Forced to move out as "there is no work in the village", he worked initially as a helper.

Now into his sixth month in the construction job, Alam still remembers clearly the

first time he went up a high-rise. "My feet were trembling. We had been given gloves, boots, harness belt, a jacket and a helmet. The contractor also gives training, but a mishap can occur at any time. In summer months, when the heat is unbearable, often labourers do not wear the safety equipment as it is cumbersome to work with."

Workers say while big contractors provide safety equipment, including safety nets, the enforcement of laws at smaller sites is lax. In the aftermath of the recent deaths, Gurgaon Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav announced a four-member committee under a sub-divisional magistrate to probe the incident, apart from compensation for the families of the deceased and injured. The district administration has ordered a safety audit of all construction sites and directed construction firms to adhere to safety norms.

The Haryana Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Service) Rules, 2005, mandates that in every establishment where 500 or more workers are ordinarily employed, a safety committee shall be constituted to identify probable causes of accidents and unsafe practices, and suggest measures to improve welfare amenities. The rules also require safety officers to conduct inspections and investigate all fatal accidents.

Gufan Ahmed, who worked as a scaffolder at the same site, says things will return to "normal" soon. "At sites, due to haste in completing work and the costs involved, safety measures are ignored. If workers complain, they are simply asked to quit," he says.

His critics also point out that while in his role as Rajya Sabha Chairman, Naidu often threw the rule book at the Opposition, during the UPA's second innings, when the Manmohan Singh government was buffeted with charges of corruption, Naidu, seated in the front row with his late friend Jaitley, never displayed any unease when BJP backbenchers disrupted session after session.

Yet, several leaders in the Opposition admit that Naidu holds no malice, with many holding him in high regard. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh recently suggested that the government should create a post of 'Chairman Emeritus' as a token of acknowledgement of Naidu's contributions to the Upper House.

A sign of his accommodative nature were his annual luncheons, both for their spread and their guest list. At the height of the beef controversy, Naidu once said, "Some people keep saying such things (that the BJP wants to impose vegetarianism). It is people's choice to eat what they want."

He is fond of narrating how, as a young student in Andhra Pradesh, he was reluctant to join the RSS fearing he would have to give up his favourite non-vegetarian food, but was glad no such demands were made of him.

Known to be a family man, Naidu is often accompanied by his wife Usha. He once joked: "I neither want to be rashtrapati (president) or uprashtrapati (vice-president). I am happy to Usha's pati." His son is a businessman while his daughter Deepa Venkat runs the Swarna Bharat Trust, which is involved in skill development and healthcare, at Muchintal village near Hyderabad.

Now, as Naidu joins a long list of his predecessors (barring S Radhakrishnan and Hamid Ansari) who did not get a second term in office, many point out that his reluctance about the V-P role was not misplaced. Asked what the party has in mind for Naidu now, a top leader of the BJP said: "He will continue to be our margdarshak. Having been in a constitutional post, he cannot take up any other role. The party will keep getting his advice."

As Jairam Ramesh said in a tweet, "So it is curtains for Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu-garu. His humour and wit will be missed. On many occasions, he got the Opposition all agitated, but at the end of it, a good man exits. He may have retired, but I know he will not be tired."

== TAKE 5 ==

ON HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN

SANJAY KATURIA, 51, LAKSHYA NAGPAL, 35 FLAG TRADERS IN OLD DELHI



Shops in Delhi's Sadar Bazar are doing good business, Express

'Patriotism has increased and so has the demand for flags'

As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to mark 75 years of India's

Independence, the Modi government is aiming to have at least 20 crore flags atop houses from August 13 to August 15. BJP-led governments have been distributing flags and setting targets to manufacture the Tricolour. Sanjay Katuria, 51, a wholesale trader of flags in Sadar Bazar, Old Delhi, and his employee Lakshya Nagpal, 35, say they have been getting orders from across the country

VIDHATRI RAO

1 How long have you been in the business?

Katuria: Our shop has been around since 1992 and we sell all kinds of flags — from campaign flags of political parties to the Tricolour.

2 What do you think of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign?

Katuria: I think it is good as PM Modi ji has managed to spread awareness on the Tricolour among people. Traders, sellers and manufacturers were told about the campaign, the details of the tenders for the larger flags, etc.

3 Has the campaign helped your business?

Katuria: The bulk of our sales used to be around Independence Day, but that took a hit over the last two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thankfully, that has changed with the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. There is a high demand with orders from across the country, so we are able to set prices as well. It will remain like this till August 15.

Nagpal: Patriotism has definitely increased and so has demand.

4 Recently, the flag code was amended to allow for machine-made polyester flags. Do you sell those too?

Katuria: We sell flags made of paper, silk, khadi, cotton, and yes, now polyester. Polyester flags have been selling a lot these days, particularly through government tenders... We procure the material and get our flags made at a manufacturing unit in Surat.

Nagpal: Employment among tailors has also risen through this campaign. So, that's a good thing.

5 Who are some of the clients?

Katuria: We have a variety of clients, from people conducting events in schools, to political leaders who place orders.

Nagpal: These days, we have big orders from political leaders and these are from various parts of the country, from Uttar Pradesh to Assam to Telangana. The leaders are taking up campaigning in their places.



New Delhi



Across
THE AISLE



PCHIDAMBARAM

Website: pchidambaram.in
Twitter @Pchidambaram, IN

Prices are rising. Rising prices are badly hurting the people, especially the poor and the middle class. Consumption and savings have fallen, household debt has risen and malnutrition (especially among women and children) has increased. Sadly, the government is not willing to acknowledge these facts

Mr Chairman,

THIS DEBATE should have been held several days ago. I fail to understand the difference, *in substance*, between a discussion under Rule 267 and any other Rule. The government was stubborn, the people attributed it to its hauteur.

Let's debate price rise. This is *not* a debate on the state of the economy. If it were, we may have a hundred things to say about the economic management — rather, mis-management — of this government since the day of the infamous demonetisation.

Prices are rising. Rising prices are badly hurting the people, especially the poor and the middle class. Consumption and savings have fallen, household debt has risen and malnutrition (especially among women and children) has increased. Sadly, the government is not willing to acknowledge these facts. Yesterday, I was horrified to hear the Hon'ble Finance Minister tell the other House that the increases in the GST rates did *not* affect the people! That statement can be put to a simple test which I shall reveal at the end of my intervention.

CAUSES AND COURSE

I hope the debate in this House does not meander into by-lanes and alleys. A *tu-tu main-main* debate takes us nowhere. I urge the government and all Hon'ble members to accept the reality

The speech that I might have made

of intolerable price increase and ask the only relevant question: 'what steps will the government take to contain inflation?'

The starting point is identifying the causes of the current inflation.

Let me begin with the *Fiscal Deficit*. We know that a large and growing Fiscal Deficit affects prices. I don't have the time to explain how. In the Budget for this year, the government estimated a Fiscal Deficit of 6.4 per cent or Rs 16,61,196 crore. In April-June, the Fiscal Deficit touched Rs 3,51,871 crore. We know the government has underestimated expenditure and has not budgeted for the same. Has the government underestimated revenues too? Will the government be able to contain the Fiscal Deficit at 6.4 per cent? We want a specific answer.

MORE MAN-MADE
CAUSES

Next is the *Current Account Deficit* (CAD). The CAD may be near USD 30 billion in April-June. The trade deficit in July was USD 31 billion. If CAD crossed USD 100 billion for the whole year, as estimated, it would have disastrous consequences. Let the government tell this House what it proposes to do about the CAD. Again, Mr Chairman, I want a specific answer.

The third red light is the *Interest Rate*.

We know that the policy rate is set by the RBI. The government has nominated three members to the Monetary Policy Committee. The government's Secretary is on the RBI Board. So, the government cannot plead it has no responsibility. India followed the Advanced Economies when they pursued an accommodative monetary policy and pumped liquidity into the market. They are now increasing interest rates. I doubt if the country can take a different line now. If RBI hikes the interest rate, it may contain demand and, consequently, moderate prices, but it will also affect sales, profits and, above all, employment. The trick lies in 'calibration'. Are the government and the RBI Governor on the same page? Will the government share with us its forecast on interest rates?

The fourth is the *Supply Side*. Since liberal imports are ruled out for the time being, what steps will the government take to increase domestic production and supply? MSMEs are in deep distress, and they cannot help unless they are helped first. Large companies are interested in maximizing profits and hence they may keep supply artificially constrained. Trade is shackled by the GST laws and rates. My question is, what does the government intend to do to ensure abundant supply of goods and services?

ORIGINAL SIN

Last on my list is the item that has troubled the people the most: the gov-

ernment's *Tax Policy*. I charge the government with committing the original sin that fuelled inflation, namely, imposing cruel taxes and cesses on petrol and diesel. The government collected a whopping Rs 26,00,000 crore through the oil companies as taxes, cesses and dividends. This government is callous, heartless and anti-poor. Add to that, the periodic hikes in GST rates on goods and services consumed by the poor and the middle class. This government does not feel the pain of six-year old Kriti Dubey who could not understand why her mother scolded her when she asked for another pencil or the pain of the mother who cannot afford another pencil for her daughter. If this government has a head and a heart, it will immediately moderate the taxes on petrol and diesel, reduce the price of LPG, and reverse the hike in taxes on essential goods that are consumed by the poor and the middle class.

Mr Chairman, let me close with an offer of a 'test' that I alluded to earlier. Let the three of us — you Mr Chairman, the Hon'ble FM and I — drive in an unmarked car, without any security, to a middle-class neighborhood or a slum in Delhi. Mr Chairman, please ask the people if they are affected by the fuel prices, the price of LPG and the GST rates. I am willing to abide by their verdict. I hope the Hon'ble FM will also abide by the verdict of the *aam aadmi*.

Thank you.

Fifth
COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH

Twitter @tavleen_singh



The Yogi model

WHEN THE Chief Minister of Karnataka declared that he was ready to use the 'Yogi model' in his state, I expected outrage from the political class. And, especially from my brethren in the media. It is true that millions of Indians have no idea that the rule of law is the foundational pillar of democracy, but we in the media know this well. So, is it cynicism or fear that has caused such little outrage? Whatever the reason, it makes us complicit. And we should be speaking loudly because there are too many BJP voices raised in defence of the 'Yogi model' for us to remain silent.

In a way, Basavaraj Bommai did India a favour by saying what he did. He will be remembered as the first senior BJP leader who has admitted that there is a 'Yogi model' and that he would not hesitate to use it. Bulldozers, instead of the rule of law, have been used in Madhya Pradesh and in Delhi, but when questioned about this in court, BJP leaders have gone out of their way to assert that it was mere coincidence that bulldozers demolished people's homes in the immediate wake of an incident of violence.

Let me now analyse for you the 'Yogi Model'. The mildest way that I can describe it is that it is an abomination. It is founded on the principle that it will not be courts who decide if someone is guilty of a crime but officials with bulldozers, acting at the behest of a political leader. Crime and punishment are both decided by officials and the punishment meted out to those suspected of a crime is that their homes are crushed by bulldozers. If this brutal kind of retribution is ever challenged in a court, it will be pointless. Those who have suffered this barbaric form of 'justice' have already lost everything that they may have spent a lifetime building.

Last week Rahul Gandhi called a press conference to announce the death of democracy. It puzzled me that he did not mention the 'Yogi model' as an example of what he meant. Instead, he repeated something he has said ad nauseum, that the RSS has taken over the 'infrastructure' of democracy and that four people are running India. Has Rahul not noticed yet that this has no resonance with the people? Maybe there would be resonance if he said, for instance, that the 'Yogi model' is anti-democratic and violates basic human rights.

The worst criminals convicted in a court of law continue to have the right to their homes and properties. Their families are not rendered homeless and destitute by their conviction. It is only the 'Yogi model' that gives officials the right to go around destroying people's lives without bothering to prove their guilt through due process in a court of law. And yet, this horrific form of rough justice has its admirers. They shriek their support on social media on the grounds that the process of justice takes too long. It does.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of our Independence, it is shameful that our criminal justice system is so broken that it takes decades for murderers, rapists and terrorists to be punished. Our Supreme Court judges expound eloquently on what the problem is but why has there not yet been a Chief Justice who has offered real solutions? Not only is the process of justice cumbersome and archaic, the sad truth is that most Indians cannot even afford to go to court. There are other questions. Why do the courts remain clogged with cases that should have been decided long ago? Why do courtrooms look like storerooms for old files? Why do judges need thousands of words to pronounce judgments? Why are there not enough judges?

Many, many things in the justice system need urgent fixing. But the 'Yogi model' cannot be the alternative. Political leaders must not be allowed to become judge, jury and executioner. This is the 'Yogi model'. The scariest thing is that if the State itself is seen to disrespect the law of the land, it loses the right to expect ordinary citizens to respect the law. The result is that slowly but surely faith in democracy begins to die.

Rahul Gandhi is right when he draws attention to the diminution of democracy. Where he is wrong is that instead of taking to the streets to demand something that would resonate with the people, he seems to protest only when his family is directly affected by the Enforcement Directorate. Rising prices and unemployment were the ostensible reason for last week's protests and press conference, but these are not things that suddenly happened. What did suddenly happen was that the Gandhi family was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate for alleged irregularities in the way the National Herald was being run.

When important leaders are shown that they are not above the law, this is a good thing. It strengthens democracy. What is a direct threat to democracy is the 'Yogi model'. The Chief Minister of Karnataka should be ashamed that he has become the latest proponent of this jungle justice. Those who believe that it was this kind of rough justice that won Yogi Adityanath a second term in office should also be ashamed. The 'Yogi model' is a blot on Indian democracy. It is not something to be proud of.

The Sans of Namibia. A life on margins of society

Dalitality

ELLISON TJIRERA

etjirera@gmail.com



ISSUES OF marginality, inequality, and oppression that brother Suraj (Yengde) grapples with, strike a chord with the pitiable all over the world. What effortlessly comes to my mind as a Namibian is the plight of the San people in Namibia. There is a lot to learn from the Dalit struggle in India and globally to make sense of San people's marginality. That the fight for equality and inclusion by various Dalit activists and scholars has kept their struggle in the public imagination remains admirable. This sustenance of momentum has maintained the relevance of continuing the fight for social justice.

Who are the San people, and what is their position? Historical accounts indicate that the San people are the first indigenous people of Southern Africa. As hunter-gatherers, they foraged the entire southern African region, living modestly and sustainably with nature. Black peoples of Southern Africa, who are the majority of the region's population, can be divided into speakers of two languages: Khoisan and Bantu. The San people belong to the former language family but speak various dialects.

According to the latest report of the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, the San people number between 28,000 and 35,000, translating into less than 2% of the total national population. The same report states that 80% of the San people have been dispossessed of their ancestral lands and resources, and they are now some of the country's poorest and most marginalized peoples. Their dispossession is entwined with both historical and contemporary factors. The Bantu arrival from central Africa, European colonisation and post-colonial nationalisation have pushed San people to the brink of marginal, forgetful entity.

To think about my country and its inequalities, the San people's marginality, and their plight continue to animate my curiosity. I teach Advanced Sociology of the Namibian Society at the University of Namibia, Windhoek. What strikes me is that whenever the theme of San Marginalization is discussed, many uncomfortable truths come to the fore. Their plight is concerning because their situation has worsened com-

pared to other social groups over time.

As a corollary, marginalization and poverty have become common features of the San identity for attributes that are synonymous with them, including an 'under-class' status; high level of political, social, and economic exclusion; and limited access to social services, as Dieckmann, Thiem & Hays have noted in their work. Marginalization of the San people has morphed into dependency due to loss of land and access to resources. Moreover, their popular stereotypes include being incapable, unreliable, childlike, and drunken.

Despite some interventions by the Namibian government, studies show that the San people are worse off than they were immediately before independence in 1990. Government-run projects appear to be highly paternalistic and top-down. This explains the limited success that government interventions have yielded despite the allocation of resources and official recognition of San as a 'development priority'.

After two national land conferences — in 1991 and 2018 — the concerns about the San people's alienation from their ancestral land continue to be neglected. Many other ethnic groups in Namibia amplify their colonial land dispossession to make claims for restitution in a manner suggestive of historical amnesia.

I am not suggesting that other ethnic groups must speak on behalf of the San people. However, the deliberate indifference to the plight of minority groups does not augur well for the ethos of social justice. How do we embrace peaceful coexistence and equality for all when we deny the humanity of others through deliberate exclusion and historical erasure? The struggle by Dalits in India and across the globe to organise around issues that affect them is instructive in fighting oppression and exclusion. In 2019, Chief Frederick Langman of the #Kao //Aesa Traditional Authority is reported to have rebuked the usage of 'marginalized' when talking about San communities.

"I have swallowed enough of these glowing coals and want to get rid of what is in my heart because it burns me. Stop using this term [marginalized]," the chief said. (Source: *Xoagub*, F. 2019 [June 17th])

The writer teaches sociology at the University of Namibia, Windhoek, and is associated with a Windhoek-based think tank, IPPR.

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column

history

HEADLINE

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AS ITS most recent occupant, Jagdeep Dhankhar, gets ready to be sworn in as the Vice-President of the country, there is another link between the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata and our national Parliament.

A building connected with the legislative history of our country, the Bhavan has on its first floor a room distinct from others with its plain white walls and functional furniture, unlike other rooms in the sprawling structure with their priceless art and carpets. This is the Council Chamber, where pre-independent India's first "central though rudimentary" legislature started its journey.

We can trace the evolution of modern law-making institutions to the East India company. Its officers were empowered to make laws under the charter given by the British government in 1601. A council of the company's senior officers carried out the corporation's administration in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. These settlements were independent, each with its own committee, and their meeting venue was the Council Chamber in the respective cities.

Over the next 170 years, the trading company would spread its tentacles and become a political and territorial power. The changing nature of the company would eventually lead to the British parliament taking more interest in its affairs. Centralisation of power accompanied this shift, and Calcutta (as it was known then) became the seat of administration. The British Parliament's Regulating Act of 1773 made the Presidency of Bengal supreme, and its Governor became the Governor General, assisted by a council of four members. Until the beginning of the 19th century, the Governor General and his Council met in different Calcutta buildings. A permanent venue for these meetings resulted from constructing a home for the Governor General. Till then, Governors did not have an official residence and lived in houses rented from the local *nawabs*, which some found unsatisfactory.

A Frenchman travelling to Calcutta in 1798 wrote, "the Governor General of the English Settlements East of the Cape of Good Hope resides at Calcutta... As there

As Dhankhar moves to Centre, a Raj Bhavan link



Governor Dhankhar at an interaction in the Council Chamber. Credit @jdhanckhar1

is no palace yet built for him, he lives in a house on the Esplanade, opposite the Citadel. The house is handsome, but by no means equal to what it ought to be for a personage of such importance. Many private individuals in the town have houses as good; and if the Governor were disposed to any extraordinary luxury, he must curb his inclination for want of the necessary accommodation of room. The house of the Governor of Pondicherry is much more magnificent."

A house in Calcutta worthy of the representative of the East India company was the brainchild of Governor-General Richard Colley Wellesley. He was an Irish aristocrat who was appointed Governor-General in 1797 and took charge of his office a month

before his 38th birthday. He would splurge money on constructing the Government House (the present Raj Bhavan) and throw a party to mark its opening in 1803. After that, his tenure in India was short-lived, as the excesses associated with the construction would cost him his governorship.

In the coming years, the British Parliament began exerting more control over the company in India. In 1833 it enacted a law to strip the company of its

trading rights and separate the executive and law-making functions of the Council. The law would set up one Legislative Council for all British territories in India and appoint a law member. The venue for the meetings of this body would be the Council Chamber on the first floor of the Government House.

Changes in the 1850s would lay the foundation of modern parliamentary functioning in the country. Legislative deliberations in the Council were conducted orally, instead of in writing as was done earlier. Bills started getting examined by select committees and Legislative Council proceedings became open to the public and reportable by the press.

The Indian Penal Code of 1860, which defines crime and punishment in the country, was discussed and passed in this Council Chamber. Some proceedings of the Council also invited considerable public interest, like the 1883 Ilbert Bill, which allowed Indian judges to preside over cases involving British subjects. The discussion on the law had to be held in a hall outside the Council Chamber to accommodate everyone interested in the debate. The British constructed another Council Chamber in the Government House in Shimla when the government shifted to the hills in the summers. And when the capital of British India moved to Delhi, so did the Legislative Council and its Chamber.

On the
LOOSE

LEHERKALA

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ERUDITE AND stylish Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra countered snarky comments questioning her ownership of a Louis Vuitton bag with biting sarcasm. "Modiji sent me some of the proceeds after auctioning his 10 lakh rupee suit. I bought a handbag," Moitra retorted on Twitter, when asked about the source of her funds. For the uninitiated, a short video of Moitra showing her LV bag out of sight went viral; observant Twitterati gleefully pounced on the irony that at the time, the TMC's Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar was ruing the calamitously high prices of goods, in Parliament. Moitra, an ex-investment banker, remained coolly unperturbed by oblique criticisms from online bystanders; she retaliated by

posting many more images of herself with the same designer bag.

The hullabaloo around Moitra's expensive accessory is emblematic of a larger question that perplexes large swathes of humanity: what's with women and their obsession with obscenely priced handbags? It's worth delving into because Indians tend to get ineffectually righteous about how other people spend their money. Ah, the pleasurable indignation of sneering at wannabes who derive joy out of slinging leather embossed with massive L and V initials! One needn't be a sociologist to see these banal judgments stem from a history of wretched scarcity; lest we forget, three million Indians died of starvation in the Bengal Famine of 1943. When the lockdown began, we witnessed horrifying scenes of migrant labour walking to their villages, enduring unspeakable hardships along the way. With so much inequal-

ity staring us in the face every day, a confusing mix of envy and contempt clouds our perspective, when we think about self-indulgent extravagances.

Undoubtedly, the women who go on waiting lists for the It-bag of the season are rarely discerning aesthetes motivated by cutting edge design — mostly, they're conforming to the ideals of success laid down by society. Is that wrong? It is, perhaps, all too human that we need signs of respect from the world to feel good about ourselves. High status, as experienced by elite athletes or Nobel laureates, is a rarity; for the majority of us, our social position rests precariously on what we achieve, which is then shyly revealed by what we possess. It's what economists call signaling, and whether we do it consciously or not, our jobs, degrees and lifestyle, convey our significance, and our ambitions. Some years back I had profiled

an enterprising entrepreneur who started a designer bag rental business with her personal collection of 24 bags. One of her young clients chose a trendy Chanel clutch to rent for a date with a prospective husband: a clear, non-verbal message establishing the standards she was accustomed to.

Let's face it, no one's buying a Rolex for Rs 20 lakh to tell the time or a Mercedes for Rs 70 lakh to drive at 50 kmph on Delhi's roads. In his seminal inquiry into class consciousness, *Status Anxiety*, modern philosopher Alain de Botton argues that the predominant impulse behind the desire for pricey acquisitions stems from a state of insecure lovelessness. "We're all stuck with a congenial uncertainty as to our own value," writes de Botton compassionately, insinuating that wild spending is always a desperate bid for the world's attention. In millennial lingo, it translates

to FOMO, Fear of Missing Out. Alas, the tormenting suspicion of the existence of a rarefied parallel universe where refinement and taste reside — only for an exclusive few — is what keeps constant discontent and luxury brands alive.

The rich get an unfairly bad rap for conspicuous consumption. But making a virtue of frugality as a morally superior way of life is equally irritating. If brand consciousness didn't exist, we would all be driving Tata Nanos. We're not because we don't want to be seen in the world's cheapest car. Ratan Tata himself has lamented the advertising mistake that doomed the Nano, that failed to recognise that consumers are deeply aspirational. At every level, complex assertions of status shape our Darwinian universe; Chanel, Dior and LV are merely convenient punching bags.

The writer is director, Hutkay Films

12 ECONOMY

SECTOR WATCH MONETARY POLICY

Behind RBI's 50-bp hike: 'Unacceptably high' inflation level, low global growth

SANDEEP SINGH
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6



RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the regulator has projected inflation to fall to 5% in Q1FY24. PTI file

WITH AN eye on inflation amid the prevailing global uncertainties, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced a hike of 50 bps in the repo rate — at which it lends to commercial banks — thereby taking the cumulative rate hike over the last three months at 140 bps. Here is a look at why the RBI continued with its aggressive stance and the impact it could have on borrowers.

Why the 50-bp hike?

As it decided to go for a second 50-bp hike in a matter of two months, high levels of inflation was the key concern for the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

"With inflation expected to remain above the upper threshold in Q2 and Q3, the MPC stressed that sustained high inflation could destabilise inflation expectations and harm growth in the medium term. The MPC, therefore, judged that further calibrated withdrawal of monetary accommodation is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored and contain the second-round effects," the central bank said in its MPC statement.

Even as the consumer price inflation has eased from its surge in April, the MPC noted that it remains uncomfortably high and above the upper threshold of the target.

"Inflationary pressures are broad-based and core inflation remains at elevated levels. The volatility in global financial markets is impinging upon domestic financial markets, including the currency market, thereby leading to imported inflation."

Why is RBI not drawing comfort from softening inflation?

Even as Governor Das stated that CPI inflation has peaked and the RBI has projected inflation to soften and come down to 5 per cent in Q1FY24, the regulator went ahead with a 50-bp hike as it said that inflation currently remains at unacceptable levels and global uncertainties prevail. The MPC felt there are global challenges on the front of globalised inflationary surges, tightening of financial conditions, sharp appreciation of the US dollar and lower growth across geographies and hence monetary policy has to act.

"Inflation still remains at 7 per cent and at unacceptably high levels. So with that kind of trajectory monetary policy has to act... There are several uncertainties that are clouding the outlook, so monetary policy has to be

there and therefore the action of 50 bps," said Das.

How will it hit borrowers and depositors?

With Friday's hike of 50 bps, the RBI has now raised the repo rate by 140 bps over the last three months. This is set to hit existing home loan customers and prospective borrowers further, as they will see an increase in lending rates.

However, at the same time, conservative investors who like to park their funds in fixed deposits of banks will benefit as banks are also likely to raise their deposit rates following the rate hike. The deposit rate

hike, however, will also be dependent upon the credit demand in the economy and the need for banks to raise additional

funds.

The rate hike, however, will hit borrowers earlier. Banks and housing finance companies (HFCs) already raised their lending rates between 70-90 bps after the 90-bp hike in repo rate in May and June. Banks and HFCs are now again expected to raise rates.

Following the 140-bp hike in repo rate over the last three months, if the lending rates were to rise by 150 bps, it will have a significant impact on equated monthly instalments (EMIs). For example, if the rate on your home loan goes up by 150 bps from 7 per cent in April to 8.5 per cent, the EMI on principal outstanding of Rs 50 lakh for 15 years will go up from Rs 44,941 to Rs 49,236 — a rise of Rs 4,295 in monthly EMIs if the tenure is kept constant. However, if the rates were to rise by 200 bps by the end of the year (which is expected given RBI's enhanced concerns over inflation), customers would see their loan rate going up from around 7 per cent now to 9 per cent. In that case, the EMI for the same loan would rise to Rs 50,713 — a Rs 5,771 rise per month. *Full report on www.indianexpress.com*

MANY STATE-RUN, PRIVATE LENDERS RAISE LENDING RATES

With RBI moving to rising rate cycle, banks hike RLLR

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, AUG 6

SEVERAL BANKS have raised their repo rate-linked lending rates (RLLR) after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday increased the repo rate by 50 basis points (bps) to 5.40 per cent.

Public sector lenders including Bank of Baroda (BoB), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India, as well as private sector ICICI Bank on Saturday raised their RLLRs.

Following the hike, BoB's RLLR stands at 7.95 per cent, with 5.40 per cent as RBI repo rate and a mark-up of 2.55 per cent. The new RLLR will be effective from Saturday. PNB has increased its RLLR from 7.40 per cent to 7.90 per cent, while Bank of India's RLLR stands at 8.25 per cent, with effect from Friday.

MAJOR BANKS THAT INCREASED RATES

■ Bank of Baroda's repo rate-linked lending rate (RLLR) stands at 7.95%, with 5.40% as RBI repo rate and a mark-up of 2.55%

■ Punjab National Bank hiked its RLLR to 7.90% and Bank of India to 8.25%

■ Bank of Maharashtra's RLLR will be 7.70% and Union Bank of India's external benchmarked lending rates (EBLR) stands at 7.70%

■ ICICI Bank's EBLR, which is pegged to the RBI repo rate, stands at 9.10%

Bank of Maharashtra's RLLR will stand at 7.70 per cent from August 10 and Union Bank of India's external benchmarked lending rates (EBLR) stands at 7.70 per cent, effective August 11.

ICICI Bank's EBLR, which is pegged to the RBI repo rate, stands at 9.10 per cent.

RLLR is linked to or is based on the repo rate and is revised every time the RBI changes pol-

icy rates. With the RBI moving into a rising rate cycle, banks too have started raising their lending rates, both externally benchmarked and marginal cost of funds-based (MCLR). Since April, the RBI has increased the repo rate by 140 bps in three tranches.

As the transmission of monetary policy takes place more effectively under the EBLR regime, banks are opting to switch to the

system. As per RBI data, the share of loans under the EBLR-based system, for all banks, has increased to 39.2 per cent in December 2021 from 28.6 per cent in March.

The immediate increase in RLLR or EBLR by banks and a comparatively delayed increase in deposit rates augurs well for their margins. In addition to the RLLR, banks are also increasing their MCLR. ICICI Bank, PNB, Yes Bank and Bank of India also raised their MCLR by 10-15 bps before the RBI policy decision.

While banks revise RLLR whenever there is a change in repo rate, MCLR is revised by lenders every month. Other lenders like Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) and LIC Housing Finance have also increased their retail prime lending rate (RPLR) on home loans. **WITH FE**

NITI hits back after KCR skips governing council meeting over 'Centre's attitude'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

HOURS AFTER Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao said that he will not attend NITI Aayog's governing council meeting on Sunday, the government think-tank hit back at him, calling his decision "unfortunate".

Rao had on Saturday said that he would boycott the meeting to protest "the Centre's attitude", and objected to Prime Minister Narendra Modi "dismissing welfare schemes as freebies", marking the latest in a series of his attacks on the BJP-led Central government. In a letter to PM Modi, Rao said that the Aayog was started "with the lofty objective of bringing the states on the same page with the Centre."

"But recent unpleasant happenings have given rise to an inescapable realisation that the federal structure of India is being systematically eroded by some deliberate actions by the government of India," he wrote, adding that "the blatant discrimination against some states even in the legitimate functions assigned to them in the Constitution leaves much to be desired".

Countering his claims, the NITI Aayog in a statement said that a delegation led by the organisation's Vice Chairman had met Rao in Hyderabad in January 2021 to discuss development issues pertaining to the state. "More recently, despite requests made by NITI Aayog for a meeting, the Chief Minister did not respond," the think-tank said.

The governing council meeting, scheduled for Sunday, is chaired by the Prime Minister and has chief ministers and lieutenant governors as its members. Rao had also missed the governing council meeting in 2019 along with then Punjab CM Amrinder Singh and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee.

According to a detailed agenda of the meeting seen by *The Sunday Express*, interventions by CMs and L-Gs are expected to last for a little over three hours, where issues such as crop diversification, implementation of the National Education Policy and urban governance, among others are supposed to be discussed. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar is also set to give a presentation on India's presidency of the G20 summit which the country will hold from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023. The meeting is scheduled to start at 9.45 AM and end at 4 PM on Sunday.

Stating that the Aayog's recommendations were being ignored, Rao cited recommendations for a Rs 5,000-crore



K Chandrashekhara Rao. The Telangana CM recently objected to PM Narendra Modi "dismissing welfare schemes as freebies". File

irrigation grant for Telangana's Mission Kakatiya and another for a Rs 19,205-crore assistance for Mission Bhagiratha to provide drinking water to every household in the state.

Responding to his criticism, the Aayog said that over the last four years, the Centre has allocated Rs 3,982 crore under the Jal Jeevan Mission for Telangana. "However, the state (Telangana) chose to draw only Rs 200 crore."

"The Government of India has been consistently supporting states in financial matters including for flagship schemes/programmes of national importance. Overall allocation under Centrally Sponsored Schemes have increased from Rs. 2,03,740 crores in 2015-16 to Rs. 4,42,781 crores in 2022-23, i.e. more than double during this period, in addition to the substantial hike in awards under the Fourteenth Finance Commission from 32% to 42%," the Aayog said.

Rao said he felt happy when the Aayog had constituted a group of chief ministers to give recommendations on developmental issues. "However, it was short-lived as the institution failed to live up to the expectations," he said.

"The basis of these recommendations was the unanimous belief that not all the schemes contemplated, designed and finalised by the Centre, serve their intended purpose considering the vast diversity and different needs of states. With much pain and anguish, let me point out that such an important recommendation has been aside and on the contrary, I find the Centre to be micromanaging the schemes, giving a complete go-by to the state-specific needs which are best left to individual states," he said.

Accusing the Centre of failing to fulfil its promises, Rao wondered what the Niti Aayog had achieved in the past eight years. "It appears that the NDA government is not bothered about the Niti Aayog and there is no point in attending the meeting."

FY22: Over 5 cr mobile services-related complaints received against telcos

More than five crore complaints were received against telecom operators related to mobile services during 2021-22, the government informed Parliament

~5.5 cr Complaints related to cellular mobile telephone services registered by consumers through helpline numbers of operators at complaint centres during 2021-22, Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan told the Lok Sabha in a written reply

~54% Share of complaints received against Airtel alone within total complaints against various telecom service providers (TSPs)



Complaints received at complaint centres through customer helpline numbers are resolved by the concerned TSP. Where complaints are not resolved by TSPs, complainants can approach the public grievance wing of the Department of Telecommunications, which are monitored and resolved through CPGRAMS portal Source: Government data/PTI

SBI Q1 net profit falls 6.7% to ₹6,068 crore

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 6

STATE BANK OF India (SBI) on Saturday reported a 6.7 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) fall in its first quarter net profit to Rs 6,068 crore as losses in the treasury portfolio hurt the bank's non-interest income.

SBI's net interest income (NII), or the difference between interest earned and expended,



DINESH KHARA
Chairman, SBI File

rose 13 per cent y-o-y to Rs 31,196 crore. The domestic net interest margin (NIM) fell 17 basis points (bps) sequentially to 3.23 per cent.

The hit on account of mark-to-market (MTM) losses amounted to Rs 6,549 crore. The MTM hit also had an adverse impact on the SBI's return on assets (RoA) and return on equity (RoE), which were down 9 bps and 203 bps on a y-o-y basis, respectively. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara

said the bank was confident of recouping losses in its investment book over the course of the year.

The Reserve Bank of India's back-to-back rate hikes in May and June led to a firming up of yields in Q1FY23 and hit most banks' bond portfolios.

On Saturday, Khara said more than the rate hike, SBI's treasury performance will be a function of how yields on government bonds move. **FE**

Petrol, diesel price freeze: Record quarterly loss for HPCL

New Delhi: Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) on Saturday reported its highest ever quarterly net loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore in the June quarter as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision wiped away record refining margins.

A standalone net loss of Rs 10,196.94 crore during April-June compares with a net profit of Rs 1,795 crore in the same period a year back, according to a filing with the stock exchanges.

During the quarter, HPCL and other state-owned fuel retailers Indian Oil (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) did not revise petrol and diesel prices in line with rising costs to help the government contain runaway inflation. The basket of crude oil India imports averaged \$109 per barrel but the retail pump rates were aligned to about \$85-86 a barrel cost.

Because of the freeze, IOC too reported a net loss of Rs 1,992.53

crore for the June quarter.

Loss for IOC, which is nearly double the size of HPCL, was smaller as it had vast oil refining and petrochemical businesses to offset some of the losses on fuel marketing. HPCL on the other hand sells more fuel than it produces. To meet nearly one-fourth of the market it controls, it has to buy petrol, diesel and LPG from refineries, who would sell the fuel at market price and not subsidised rates. **PTI**

BPCL posts ₹6,291 cr Q1 net loss

New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) on Saturday reported a net loss of Rs 6,291 crore in the first quarter of current fiscal on holding fuel prices despite rise in cost.

Net loss of Rs 6,290.8 crore in April-June against Rs 3,192.58 crore in the same

period a year back, it said.

Revenue from operations rose to Rs 1.38 lakh crore against Rs 89,688.98 crore. The company earned \$27.51 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel in the quarter as against \$4.12 per barrel gross refining margin a year back. **PTI**

Musk challenges Twitter CEO to debate on bots



ELON MUSK
CEO, Tesla Inc Reuters file

Bengaluru: Elon Musk on Saturday challenged Twitter Inc CEO Parag Agrawal to a public debate about the percentage of bots on the social media platform. "Let him prove to the public that Twitter has <5% fake or spam daily users!", Musk tweeted.

Twitter on Thursday dismissed a claim by Musk that he was hoodwinked into signing a \$44 billion agreement to buy the company.

The Tesla chief executive filed a countersuit against Twitter on July 29, escalating his legal fight against the company over his bid to walk away from the purchase agreement. Earlier on Saturday, Musk said that if Twitter could provide its method of sampling 100 accounts and how it confirmed that the accounts are real, his deal to buy the company should proceed on its original terms. **REUTERS**

BRIEFLY

IOBQ1 net rises

New Delhi: State-owned Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) on Saturday posted a 20% rise in net profit to ₹392 crore for the first quarter of the current fiscal, helped by a decline in bad loans. The lender had reported a net profit of ₹327 crore in the April-June quarter of FY22.

FortisQ1 net

New Delhi: Fortis Healthcare posted 69% decline in consolidated net profit at ₹134 crore for the quarter ended June. The healthcare major had seen a net profit of ₹431 crore, including an exceptional gain of ₹306 crore, in April-June 2021-22. **PTI**

JUNE ENDS WITH \$105.4 BILLION OF CASH AND EQUIVALENTS IT COULD STILL DEPLOY

Berkshire Hathaway posts \$43.8-bn loss as stock holdings slide

JONATHAN STEMPER
NEW YORK, AUGUST 6

THE SLIDE in US stock prices punished Berkshire Hathaway Inc's bottom line in the second quarter as the company run by billionaire Warren Buffett posted a \$43.8 billion loss.

Berkshire nevertheless generated nearly \$9.3 billion of profit from its operating businesses, as improvement from reinsurance and the BNSF railroad offset a loss at the Geico car insurer, where car parts shortages and higher vehicle prices boosted losses from accidents.

Rising interest rates and div-

idend payouts helped Berkshire's insurance units generate more money from investments, while the strengthening US dollar boosted profit from the company's European and Japanese debt investments.

Berkshire also slowed purchases of its stocks, including its own, though it ended June with \$105.4 billion of cash and equivalents it could still deploy.

In its quarterly report, Berkshire said "significant disruptions of supply chains and higher costs have persisted" as new Covid-19 variants emerge and because of geopolitical conflicts including Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

STOCK PURCHASES SLOWED

THE WARREN Buffett-owned Berkshire Hathaway also slowed purchases of its stocks, including its own, though it ended June with \$105.4 billion of cash and equivalents it could still deploy



Reuters file

However, it said direct losses to the company have not been material, despite the impact of higher costs for materials, shipping and labour.

Net results suffered from

Berkshire's \$53 billion of losses from investments and derivatives. Accounting rules require Berkshire to report the losses with its results even if it buys and sells nothing.

Buffett urges investors to ignore the fluctuations, and Berkshire will make money if stocks rise over time. In 2020, for example, Berkshire lost nearly \$50 billion in the first quarter as Covid took hold, but made \$42.5 billion for the full year.

The quarterly net loss was equal to \$29,754 per Class A share, and compared with a net profit of \$28.1 billion, or \$18,488 per Class A share, a year earlier.

Berkshire's \$9.28 billion of operating profit, or about \$6,326 per Class A share, rose 39 per cent from \$6.69 billion, or \$4,424 per Class A share, a year earlier. Currency gains on foreign debt totaled \$1.06 billion.

Abel sells energy co stake

Meanwhile, Berkshire said its vice chairman Greg Abel, who is set to succeed Buffett as chief executive, sold his 1 per cent stake in the company's Berkshire Hathaway Energy unit for \$870 million.

In its quarterly report, Berkshire said the energy unit bought out Abel in June under an agreement among them and the family of the late billionaire philanthropist Walter Scott, which owns an 8 per cent stake.

The conglomerate took a \$362 million charge to capital, reflecting the premium over how much the stake's value was reflected on its books. **REUTERS**

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

eye



FILMS

Oasis in the Desert

The 39th Jerusalem Film Festival offered a chance to experience Israel, in reel and real



SPOTLIGHT

A Change is Gonna Come

Pakistani author Mohsin Hamid on upending dystopias, finding ways to engage with a new readership and his latest novel



LOOMCRAFTS

STAYING SMALL, LIVING BIG

The tiny home movement with its focus on responsible choices and living light is catching up in the country

Rinku Ghosh

ANNA REDDY, a retired teacher from Bengaluru, is living free in the autumn of her life. She has downsized and moved into a 320 sq. ft tiny home that has been up-cycled from an old shipping container. Having lived through the loneliness of a lockdown and waking up to the need for smart budgeting as a pensioner, she has chosen to be resource-conscious without feeling the pinch. So, she's leased a patch of land on a friend's farm far out of the city, parked her pre-fabricated home on an outcrop overlooking a lake, pushed up the interiors and wrapped herself with a huge sun deck. Apart from sleeping, cooking and chores, she spends sunrise to sundown outdoors, tending to her organic garden, attempting some landscaping with rocks and foliage, writing a blog on the patio, lounging with her dog, dining with friends under the stars and watching the season change colour. "Can we make room for something more meaningful in our lives than clutter it with things that one has no use for and spaces that are unmanageable?" asks the 58-year-old.

Not far down the road are Rohit and Maya Chinnaswamy, both software professionals in their late 20s, who have a tiny home of their own in a land bought years ago by their parents. Just married, and with COVID-19 giving legitimacy to a work-from-home culture, they have created their oasis without the burden of EMIs, living rich rather than squeezing themselves into a city apartment. "Minimalism is not about giving up, it is about choosing what you need. We don't have the big TV wall but we have a bigger drop-down projector screen," says Rohit.

The tiny-house movement, which advocates a "living with less philosophy", is no longer an alternative way of living. As cities bulge out of the seams and shrink the greens, tiny houses are being seen as a sustainable, energy-saving and low-carbon footprint reality than an option. In India, where homes are repositories of memories, collectibles and heirlooms and the acquisitive measure of success, we seem to be right-sizing our

mindset where bigger does not mean better and less is more.

Reddy says she had to cut her belongings by one-third. That wasn't difficult. "I hadn't used them in years. But I kept my books. My 'smart' kitchen is bigger and more functional. Maintenance fees and bills are now less than half, I am debt-free and can spiff up my home in 15 minutes. My house is small, but I am living big," says Reddy, who's working on a wildflower project with the locals. And should she choose to move elsewhere, to the hills or coast, she can dismantle and reassemble her modular home.

So what is a tiny house? According to the 2018 definition by the International Code Council in the US, it is a dwelling unit with a maximum of 37 sq. m (400 sq. ft) of floor area, excluding bedroom lofts and mezzanine fitouts. But they stretch outdoors with extended porches, leading the inside to the outside. It is debt-free living (the price range varies from Rs 6 lakh to Rs 25 lakh depend-

ing on embellishments) and low-maintenance. Some day, it will run off-grid, with solar energy and harvested rainwater.

With space optimisation a challenge for city planners, tiny homes are seen as a way of future-proofing our existence on this planet. And now that industrialists like Anand Mahindra are backing Chennai-based Arun Prabhu NG, who built a portable house on an autorickshaw, and furniture major IKEA are running a pan-India "Tiny House Project" since 2019, the trend has caught on. The endorsement by Tesla chief Elon Musk, who described his rented one-room pad at Boca Chica, Texas, "more homey", and with Netflix and YouTube propagating the movement, conspicuous consumerism is no longer aspirational but a societal vice. In resource-starved times, bigness is about letting go and making healthy space for the next generation. Alternative living is an experiment but considering that between 2014 and 2018, the average apartment size in seven major Indian cities shrunk by 17 per cent, according to a study done by ANAROCK Property Consultants, the tiny-home movement is carving out its niche in our realty market. The US-based Jay Shafer, who started his company, Tumbleweed Tiny House, in 1999, is today feted as an icon by millennial tiny-home builders in India.



TEJASWI RAJANAH



CAESAR FERNANDES



OKNO MODHOMES



HABITAINER



HABITAINER

LESS IS MORE

(Clockwise from top) Steel-frame tiny home with wood cladding by Loomcrafts; Okno Modhomes' Swiss chalet-style wooden villas at Gandipet near Hyderabad; the interiors of Habitainer's Jade Garden, Bengaluru; its container-home facade; interiors of Caesar Fernandes' Goa home; The Little Ranch by Tejaswi Rajanah, on the outskirts of Bengaluru

"Owning a big house is a socio-cultural statement and a small house has so far been seen as a second home. Most of our pre-fabricated homes were being used in resorts and country estates with owners renting them out for Airbnb guests. Post-pandemic, more people want to live in them permanently. With tech-enabled features and plush comforts, we have built more than 200 houses in two years. We've even located one in Hyderabad's posh Banjara Hills. And while south India had woken up to the concept for some time, we are now getting orders from the north as well," says Payal Jindal, co-director of Loomcrafts, which builds steel module homes with patented technology and stylised interiors.

After the customer chooses the layout and design, a unit is completed, from chassis to electric wiring and interior fitments, at the factory within 90 days. "Steel limits the use of other materials, is structurally strong and requires low-cost insulation in the form of fiberglass blankets, which are fire- and sound-resistant. And while we make trailer houses for international customers, here we place them on a cemented plinth. We then plug in the water and electricity lines that are available in farmlands or leased community

land," Jindal adds. Loomcrafts offers an all-weather guarantee for 50 years.

Bengaluru-based The Habitainer makes luxury container homes with flippable sofa-beds, bar-cum-tables, extendable kitchen counters, and customised refrigerators. Inspired by the high demand, its director Gaurav Chouraria is now exploring possibilities of setting up India's first tiny-home community where investors can lease their own little green patch and set up their homes. "We have done 70 projects in 62 locations across the country in the pandemic years. Of these, only two are offices, the rest are homes. Many have taken to the idea of living permanently in container homes after their staycations at Airbnbs during the pandemic," he says. The company buys containers at port auctions, using 20 ft x 8 ft for regular homes and 40 ft x 8 ft for premium ones. "There's a 27-point checklist. For example, we won't use containers that have carried radioactive material or chemicals. We then strip it down and insulate it with aircraft grade rockwool. High ceilings control ambient temperature and doors, skylights and windows ensure cross ventilation. People mistake tiny living as a cramped-up compromise or forced minimalism. But the basic idea is to stay indoors as little as possi-

ble and pursue activities outdoors," he says.

While this may seem more apt for single people, empty nesters and young people, Chouraria dispels such misconceptions. "The fluidity of adding or joining more containers on your land means that families can actually stay close to each other while maintaining privacy. And since these houses are portable, you can take them as you move or sell them online should your priorities change. You can reuse, recycle and renew," he says.

Chouraria is now tying up with camping operators to strengthen his revenue stream in the travel industry. Like Tejaswi Rajanah, who owns a five-acre guava plantation, an hour-and-a-half drive away from Bengaluru. He's parked a 160 sq. ft single container with a 200 sq. ft of porch called The Little Ranch. "I rented it out during the pandemic at Rs 1,000 a day with discounted deals for staycations. Overlooking a valley, it has good mobile network connectivity where you can comfortably 'work from nature'," he says. The Little Ranch was built using a used shipping container, which usually goes into scrap.

Two 23-year-olds from Hyderabad, Harshit Puram and Parikshit Linga, are working with wood while building vacation homes in Gandipet on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Launched in April this year, Okno Modhomes builds Swiss chalet-style homes with atrium-high ceilings in 90 days. They import guilt-free wood, from New Zealand, Finland and Norway, which means that for every tree cut, four more have already been planted. "Besides the cellulose and water are extracted in such a way that no termites and moisture can get into them. Cement attracts and radiates heat, wood does the reverse," says Puram. Leak proof, synchronised with cloud-based voice service Alexa and fitted out with IKEA, these span between 300 and 500 sq. ft. It is the only project to be recognised by the Indian Green Building Council.

Caesar Fernandes, CEO, Wooden Homes India, himself lives in a pre-fabricated 800 sq. ft home. He, too, imports certified red pine and spruce planks, arguing that the Scandinavian cutting technique reduces wastage. "Our wood panels are interlocking. And apart from treating the wood every two years, there's no maintenance really," he says.

As tiny homes dot the margins of our big cities, and in the absence of Western-style building codes, what are the legalities involved in building one? Fernandes says, "Given their portability, tiny homes are considered temporary structures and do not come under civil construction laws. Usually, people rent farmlands or take advantage of farmhouses owned by friends and relatives but leasing land, particularly in tier II and III cities, where there are controlled green zones (non-residential zone) with 10 per cent allowed for housing, is a possibility. But we need revision of building byelaws to dedicate new zones for 160-300 sq. ft living." Nevertheless, a beginning has been made. Simplicity, according to Renaissance Man Leonardo Da Vinci, "is the ultimate sophistication."



New Delhi



Make in India

American filmmakers Anthony and Joe Russo talk about tapping into Indian talent and the challenges of mounting large-scale entertainers

Alaka Sahani

WHEN AMERICAN producer-director duo Joe and Anthony Russo — widely known as the Russo brothers — visited India last month, coinciding with the Netflix release on July 22 of their latest action thriller *The Gray Man*, they made it clear that they were aiming to grow their association with it. “I love India. So, we will keep casting Indian talent. The Indian film industry is so vibrant; it rivals Hollywood. There is so much talent here that’s untapped at an international level,” says Joe, 51, on his third visit to the country.

The brothers, who have worked on major money-spinners like *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (2014), *Captain America: Civil War* (2016), *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) and *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), are familiar with Indian talent. For their 2020 Netflix movie *Extraction*, they worked with a bunch of Indian actors including Pankaj Tripathi and Randeep Hooda. In *The Gray Man*, Dhanush is the Lone Wolf and fights Ryan Gosling. The brothers, who have been heaping praise on Dhanush for being “a consummate professional”, have expressed their wish to work again with the *Asuran* (2019) actor. Meanwhile, they are working with Priyanka Chopra for the spy-thriller series *Citadel*. Their time in Mumbai was eventful. “Being here in India has let us see first-hand how much entertainment is thriving here,” says Anthony.

Based on the novel *The Gray Man* (2009) by Mark Greaney, the film was in the making for close to a decade. “We were in awe of Greaney’s writing and the amount of research he does. We are always on a quest to develop interesting sideways to a genre. Having been inspired by the ’70s thrillers that we grew up on, *The Gray Man* encompasses themes of a complex political rebellion against the system, and we have reflected on our own fears about the world,” says Joe. *The Gray Man* revolves around CIA operative Court Gentry (Gosling), aka, Sierra Six. As he is hunted across the globe by Lloyd Hansen (Chris Evans), a former cohort at the CIA, he finds support in Agent Dani Miranda (Ana de Armas). Soon, a spin-off movie, written by screenwriters Paul Wernick and Rhett Reese (*Deadpool*, *Zombieland*), will explore a different element of *The Gray Man* universe. “We had intended *The Gray Man* to be part of an expanded universe. We are thrilled that Netflix is announcing a sequel with Ryan, as well as a second script that we’re excited to talk about soon,” says Joe.

Over the years, the brothers have built an impressive filmography featuring multiple blockbusters. Their partnership started during their college days as Anthony studied law and Joe studied acting. They got their break when Steven Soderbergh approached them after watching their first feature *Pieces* (1997), an absurdist black-



BROTHERS IN ARMS
(Above) a still from the film *The Gray Man*; Anthony (left) and Joe Russo

and-white comedy, and offered to produce their next film. Since then, they have directed and produced several talked-about movies and series. “It’s difficult to describe our process. It kind of naturally flows. At the end of the day, it is about if you like the story and if others would like it,” says Anthony.

The process of executing a project varies depending on the nature of a story. “We try to figure out where we can go cinematically with that story. We start thinking about it at an abstract level, trying to find a few key ideas that we want to use. Then, we move to the scripting phase. The next stage is a more collaborative phase where we bring in the people we want to work with — production designers, actors, cinematographers,” Joe says.

Famous for creating big-screen spectacles — for instance, *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) with an impressive ensemble cast that featured Robert Downey Jr, Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Holland and others — they are aware that after being cooped up in their homes for long stretches of time, the audience is craving tent-pole movies that serve as escapist fare. “Spectacle entertainment allows you to escape. We like escapist entertainment,” Joe says.

The biggest challenge while making spectacle movies, according to them, is creating a convincing world. “*The Gray Man* is set in a real world and you would think it’s not so hard to create. But to stage some major sequences in the movie, we needed very specific locations,” says Anthony. *The Gray Man* was shot in seven different locations across the globe including the US, France, the Czech Republic, Thailand, Croatia, Austria and Azerbaijan. When it comes to creating a fitting world for their characters, the brothers think live-action movies can be much tougher than working on a Marvel world. “When you are dealing with worlds that simply don’t exist and are fantasy, the concern is how are we creating it — physically or digitally? A story can live in your head forever but to make a movie, you have to physicalise it,” Joe says.

Their next project, *The Electric State*, too, promises to be a mass entertainer. “It’s a fantasy film and we start shooting during the fall,” Joe says. The forthcoming adaptation of Simon Stalenhag’s sci-fi graphic novel has already generated interest as it has roped in *Stranger Things* (2016) star Millie Bobby Brown. Set in a retro-futuristic past, *The Electric State* will tell the story of an orphan Michelle (essayed by Brown) who teams up with a sweet but mysterious robot and a drifter to look for her brother.

The 39th Jerusalem Film Festival offered a chance to experience Israel, in reel and real

Shubhra Gupta

STREAMING INTO Sultan’s Pool, the open-to-the-sky location of the opening film of the Jerusalem Film Festival (JFF) 2022, you are aware of the duality that is so overwhelmingly present in this wondrous city: antiquity and modernity. The large amphitheatre is said to go back to Roman times, and here we are, about to watch Ruben Ostlund’s Cannes winner, *Triangle of Sadness*, a film about the repercussions of 21st-century hedonism. It feels both bizarre and perfectly fitting that in this place, wherever you turn, the old and new mix and meld, making it a unique experience.

The idea is to savour the films and the place in a concise but comprehensive programme, which ensures we do both in equal measure. And we dive into it with enthusiasm from Day 1, which begins with a visit to the Old City. We go back in time as we step inside. Narrow alleys lead into the Jewish, Muslim, Christian quarters, each vastly different in flavour and aspect, each with a living population navigating the shifting complexities of the region.

Nothing I’ve read matches the actual experience, as we pause at a colourful mural filling up the whole wall (apparently a great “selfie point”, which we duly take advantage of); walk by remnants of the walls surrounding the city, and the shops heaped with artefacts and dried fruits. It is the kind of old quarter you will find across the Middle East, but here in Jerusalem, you can feel the burden of myth, history and conflict at every step.

Here’s the start of Via Dolorosa (the Path of Tears), where Christ is said to have walked, on the way to his crucifixion. Up ahead is the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, with a sharp arrow of sunlight streaming in from the open dome. And now we are at the steps leading to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which we can go up part way for a glimpse, for only Muslims are allowed in. And then we stop at the Western Wall, a holy place where Jews pray and place their “wish-notes” in the crevices of the wall. I place one of mine and just stand there for a minute, absorbing the head-spinning amalgamation of sights and sounds, before heading off to a delicious hummus-pita-kebab lunch in the company of Daniella Gefen, our most knowledgeable guide, and Matias Sakkal, our friendly ever-helpful host.



COURTESY SHAI SAMPSON



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



COURTESY SHAI SAMPSON



It takes considerable effort to wrench ourselves back into the present. Riches await in the solidly programmed 39th edition of the JFF, with more than 200 films spread over 10 days.

The international competition section has a clutch of films from this year’s Cannes Film Festival, including David Cronenberg’s latest body-horror provocation *Crimes of The Future*, Jerzy Skolimowski’s quirky treatise on donkey wisdom *EO*, Park Chan-wook’s crime thriller *Decision to Leave*, Kore-eda Hirokazu’s *Broker*, which can be seen as a less effective, but still powerful, companion piece to his 2018 film *Shoplifters*, and Ali Abbasi’s Iranian serial-killer noir *Holy Spider*.

I repeat-watch a couple, and then focus on the films from Israel. It is interesting to learn that documentaries are popular, thanks to the interest of viewers, supportive TV channels, and grants, which enable filmmakers to em-

OLD AND NEW
(Clockwise from top) the Western Wall and the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the background in the Old City of Jerusalem; still from the film *June Zero*; the Movieland theatre in Netanya; still from the film *Barren*; (below, left) Shai S Sampson

bark on ambitious non-fiction projects. But going by the films I caught, feature films are coming back into their own: *Concerned Citizen* by Idan Haguel, a tragicomedy involving men and manners, *Barren* by Mordechai Vardi, about the struggles of an Orthodox Jewish couple to have a child, and *June Zero* by Jake Paltrow, a moving account of a trio at the periphery of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann’s trial.

One of the highlights of my visit is an unplanned but wholly fascinating evening spent with the affable Shai S Sampson, the sole Israeli distributor of Indian films in Israel. He asks if I would like to be present at the premiere of Ranbir Kapoor’s *Shamsher* at his theatre in Netanya, located on the other side of Tel Aviv. I jump at his kind offer, and over the hour-and-a-half spent driving to the theatre Movieland, he talks about his father Solomon Sampson, who migrated to Israel in the early ’60s, and was a pioneer in getting Bollywood movies to the country. Shai also owns TV channels which show Bollywood films in not just in Israel, but several countries in Africa and Europe; the UK,

the US and Canada are on the cards soon.

Mainstream TV pushed Bollywood movies to the margins around the ’80s, but it is still a lingering flavour among a certain generation of Israelis who grew up on Raj Kapoor movies, and who burst into the evergreen ditties *Mera joota hai Japani* and *Ichak dana* from *Shree 420* (1955) without too much urging. The Jerusalem Press Club director general, Uri Dromi, gives us a hearty rendition of *Ichak dana*, as we are shown around the impressive archives of the Cinematheque, the film festival venue.

On our last day, a visit to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial museum leaves us shaken to the core. We’ve seen many cinematic representations — the Oscar statuette for Spielberg’s *Schindler’s List* (1994) is on exhibit — but the tour leaves one speechless, at the horror, hope, resilience. It brings us to the end of a film festival which I’m not about to forget in a hurry.

The writer was part of a delegation of film critics invited, by the Jerusalem Press Club, to the 39th Jerusalem Film Festival, July 21–31



Tanushree Ghosh

WHEN GURU Dutt died in 1964 in Bombay, his cinematographer VK Murthy was shooting in Madras. Govind Nihalani, who was assisting Murthy, and who would go on to become a cinematographer and director himself, asked his mentor how he felt at the news of Dutt’s passing. Murthy said to him, “I cried, but more for myself than for him.” Murthy and Dutt were a dream team, like Spielberg and Kaminski, David Lean and Freddie Young. “Murthy ji was as calm and composed as Dutt saab was impatient, but the two were aligned in their vision,” recalls actor Waheeda Rehman in a new documentary. This faith in each other created magic in Dutt’s films, the oblong chiaroscuros, and the “mirror shot”, for instance, in his swansong, the German Expressionistic noir *Kaagaz ke Phool* (1959). Nihalani, whose horoscope declared he would work with art and mechanics, was only too glad Murthy took him in.

Nihalani is among the 14 yesteryear cinematographers in Hemant Chaturvedi’s documentary *Chhayaankan: The Management of Shadows*, who talk about their fade-in and fade-out of the Bombay film industry, while pulling our focus on the magical world of star tantrums and challenging science with imagination and limited resources in the analogue era. They made our heroes levitate, and even vanish. Kaifi Azmi’s son Baba saw the DOPs like Jal and Fali Mistry, with their assistants, and felt they had the “real power” on the sets.

The characters in the documentary, famous as they became, were all accidental cinematographers. Kamalakar Rao was an engineer. Jehangir Choudhary “never wanted to be a cinematographer, he was getting his commercial pilot’s licence when the Gulf War happened and the aviation fuel rates went through the sky. The next best thing was cinematography for he’d grown up with it (he’s related to veteran cinematographers Jal and Fali Mistry and

The Shadow Lives
A new documentary throws light on the forgotten cinematographers who made Hindi cinema great



ABHINAV SAHA

actor Shyama),” says Chaturvedi, 54. Nadeem Khan, the “disco cinematographer” (*Disco Dancer*, 1982), got his gig in Muzaffar Ali’s *Gaman* (1978) because Jacques Renoir could not make it.

The operative cameraman in *Sholay* (1975), SM Anwar, a matriculate and radio-mechanic diploma holder, used to install loudspeakers at weddings and repair electrical sockets. Anwar (*Shaan*, *Shakti*, *Saagar* in the early ’80s) picked up his shooting skills by capturing birds in flight, and followed Zeenat Aman, on lens (for *Manoranjan*, 1974) in tight close-ups. A look at the rushes later left the film’s cinematographer Dwarka Divecha impressed. Anwar was hired with a fat package of Rs 25 monthly at Eagle Films.

The documentary’s *sutradhar*, in black-and-white frames, is, perhaps, the oldest cinematographer in India today, at age 93 or 94. The spe-

FADE-OUTS
Hemant Chaturvedi; (top; first row, clockwise from left) film stills with Dilip Dutta, Baba Azmi, Kamalakar Rao, Pravin Bhatt, SM Anwar, Nadeem Khan, Jehangir Choudhary, AK Bir, Peter Pereira, Sunil Sharma, Ishwar Bidri, Govind Nihalani, Barun Mukherjee, and RM Rao

cial-effects man made Mr India vanish in 1987 and Ajooba fight the villain on a flying carpet in 1991. The now-visually-impaired Peter Pereira holds the magazine of an old camera and instantly recognises it to be an old Mitchell camera. The moment’s irony evokes a sense of pathos and deep reverence at once. A hilarious Pereira also makes no bones about calling Wadia Movietone’s Homi Wadia a “kanjoos (miserly) man” for increasing his salary to Rs 50 a month.

The “*ghantewala*” stars, we are told, came to the sets for two hours and got shots taken, in multiple angles and expressions, to be used in the editing stage, because they wouldn’t be available later for a re-shoot. One such was called the “Chakraborty Shot”, after Mithun Chakraborty. Discipline came with the likes of Shabana Azmi and Smita Patil who “came to become stars, let’s get that straight,” says

Chaturvedi in the film, “but were okay with being actors; they changed the industry.”

Mumbai-based Chaturvedi, a Jamia Millia Islamia graduate, did TV in the beginning: *India Business Report*, *Amul India Show*, *Turning Point*, India’s first chat show *Nikki Tonight*, *Rendezvous with Simi Garewal*, *Kaun Banega Crorepati* season 1, *Gubbare* (for Vishal Bhardwaj). He was taking notes on the sets of Merchant-Ivory productions. During the shoot of the documentary *Street Musicians of Bombay* (1994), he saw, for the first time, a cinematographer (Choudhury), with his meter, white cloth and dolly, bent over, looking into the camera, his one eye shut. “Something sparked off, and I felt I should pursue this,” says Chaturvedi, who, as a clapper boy/focus puller, learnt technique and ethics from Larry Pizer, during *In Custody* (1993), to whom he dedicates the documentary.

Chaturvedi’s Bollywood entry was dramatic: Ram Gopal Varma, on a treadmill, offered him *Company* (2002). He did *Makdee*, *Maqbool*, *15 Park Avenue*, *Kurbaan*, etc. in the 2000s, before quitting cinematography in 2015. He “tried very hard to break into the industry but people were obnoxious. I was told to be a waitstaff instead. Those who rejected me, in 1989-91, are in my film (the other three were Murthy, KK Mahajan and Ashok Mehta). The industry produced its own cameramen, and FTII seniors hired their juniors. Till date, those cliques exist,” he says. The first thing he did after quitting was to interview these veterans. The documentary took “15 days of shoot, six years of inertia, and six months to finish, last year. When Nadeem saab went into coma and Ishwar Bidri passed away, I realised if my own cast doesn’t get to see the film, then it’s a shame,” adds Chaturvedi, whose very-Bombay film was rejected by the Mumbai International Film Festival this year, and will screen at Delhi’s India International Centre on August 18. Chaturvedi is on a parallel mission, having photo-documented 950 old single-screen theatres across India so far. But that story is for another day.

10

16 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD

USA

Indiana first state to approve abortion ban

Indianapolis: Indiana on Friday became the first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, as the Republican governor quickly signed a near-total ban on the procedure shortly after lawmakers approved it. The ban, which takes effect Sept. 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10-weeks post-fertilisation and if a foetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly. **AP**

SOUTH AFRICA

Life expectancy in African region up by 10 yrs: WHO

Johannesburg: The average life expectancy in the African region has increased on average by 10 years per person between 2000 and 2019, the WHO has said, describing the rise greater than in any other region of the world during the same period. Sharing details of a report, WHO said number of years an individual is in a good state of health—increased to 56 years in 2019, compared with 46 in 2000. **PTI**

AFGHANISTAN

Blast in Kabul, kills 8, injures 22

Kabul: A bomb blast in a busy shopping street in Kabul on Saturday killed at least eight people and injured 22, hospital officials and witnesses said. The bomb exploded in a western district of the city where members of the Shia Muslim community regularly meet. Islamic State, a Sunni Muslim militant group, claimed responsibility for the attack. **REUTERS**

USA

Senate confirms PIO to top court

Washington: The US Senate has confirmed Indian American litigator Roopal H Desai to the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, making her the first South Asian judge to serve on this powerful court. Desai was confirmed by the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 67-29 on Thursday. Headquartered in San Francisco, California, the Ninth Circuit is by far the largest of the 13 courts of appeals. **PTI**

CHINA TAKING IRRESPONSIBLE STEPS: U.S.

PLA military drills simulate attack, says Taiwan as Beijing warns Washington

Taiwanese jets scrambled as 20 Chinese aircraft cross median line

REUTERS & PTI
TAIPEI, AUGUST 6

TAIWAN OFFICIALS said Chinese aircraft and warships rehearsed an attack on the island on Saturday, part of Beijing's retaliation for a visit there by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that has also seen it halt talks with the US on issues, including defence and climate change.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accused China of taking "irresponsible steps" by halting key communication channels with Washington, and said its actions over Taiwan showed a move from prioritising peaceful resolution towards use of force.

Taiwan's defence ministry said multiple Chinese ships and planes conducted missions in the Taiwan Strait on Saturday, with some crossing the median line, in what the Taiwan military described as a simulation attack on the island. The ministry said later that Taiwan scrambled jets to warn away 20 Chinese aircraft, including 14 that crossed the median line. It also detected 14 Chinese military ships conducting activities around the Taiwan Strait, the ministry said in a statement.

China's Eastern Theater Command said it had continued to conduct sea and air joint exercises north, southwest and east of Taiwan. It said its focus was on testing the system's land strike and sea



A Chinese PLA aircraft over Pingtan island, Fujian province, China. Reuters

assault capabilities.

Meanwhile, China warned the US not to "stir up a bigger crisis" over Taiwan. While the scale of the military drills has led to speculation that China may be getting ready for an invasion of Taiwan, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi played down the reports.

"It's a complete rumour and slander that the US claims that China has changed the status quo in the Taiwan Straits," he said. Yi has warned the US not to "stir up a bigger crisis" over Taiwan. He was quoted as saying that the usual tactic of the US is that it will first create the problems, and then use them to achieve their goal. "We must solemnly warn the US not to act rashly or create a bigger crisis," he said, a day after Beijing imposed sanctions on Pelosi and her immediate family.

PELOSI DESTROYER OF GLOBAL PEACE: N KOREA

Seoul: North Korea on Saturday called US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi "the worst destroyer of international peace and stability," accusing her of inciting anti-North Korea sentiment and enraging China during her Asian tour earlier this week. On Saturday, Jo Yong Sam, director general at the North Korean Foreign Ministry's press and information affairs department said "Pelosi, stirred up the atmosphere of confrontation" with North Korea during her stay in South Korea. **AP**

TAIWAN OFFICIAL HEADING MISSILE PROJECT DIES

Taipei: The deputy head of Taiwan defence ministry's research and development unit was found dead on Saturday morning in a hotel room, succumbing to a heart attack, according to the official Central News Agency. Ou Yang Li-hsing, deputy head of the military-owned National Chung-Shan Institute of Science and Technology, showed no sign of any 'intrusion', CNA said. **REUTERS**

12-YEAR-OLD WAS IN COMA IN UK HOSPITAL

Boy at heart of court battle dies after life support ends

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON, AUGUST 6



Archie Battersbee

family had fought to continue.

Archie Battersbee's mother, Hollie Dance, said her son died at 12.15 pm, about two hours after the hospital began withdrawing treatment. British courts had rejected both the family's effort to extend treatment and a request to move Archie to a hospice, saying neither move was in the child's best interests.

"I'm the proudest mum in the world," Dance said as she stood outside the hospital and

wept. "Such a beautiful little boy and he fought right until the very end." Archie was found unconscious at home with a ligature over his head on April 7. His parents believe he may have been taking part in an online challenge that went wrong.

Doctors concluded Archie was brain-stem dead soon after the accident and sought to end the long list of treatments that kept him alive, including artificial respiration. But his family objected, claiming Archie had shown signs of life and wouldn't have wanted them to give up hope.

The disagreement triggered weeks of legal arguments as Archie's parents sought to force the hospital to continue life-sustaining treatments. Doctors at the Royal London Hospital argued there was no chance of recovery and he should be allowed to die.

A series of courts ruled it was in Archie's best interest that he be allowed to die. Archie's family said his death was anything but peaceful.

Alex Jones slapped with \$45.2 mn in punitive damages

REUTERS
AUGUST 6

US CONSPIRACY theorist Alex Jones must pay the parents of a 6-year-old boy killed in the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre \$45.2 million in punitive damages - on top of \$4.1 million in compensatory damages already awarded - for falsely claiming the shooting was a hoax, a Texas jury said on Friday.

Xi builds security fortress for China and himself

THE NEW YORK TIMES
AUGUST 6

OVER INFORMAL, private meals with American leaders, China's Xi Jinping let his guard down a little. It was a decade ago, relations were less strained, and Xi, still cementing his power, hinted he worried about the Chinese Communist Party's grip.

Speaking privately with President Barack Obama and vice-president Joe Biden, Xi sug-

Woes to last another year; looking at new sectors for recovery: Ranil

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, AUGUST 6

PRESIDENT RANIL Wickremesinghe has said Sri Lanka's economic woes would last for another year and it will have to think outside the box and look at new sectors like logistics and nuclear energy to revive the bankrupt economy.

Speaking at a two-day conference titled "Let's reset Sri Lanka" held on Friday, Wickremesinghe said reforms in the country also would need higher taxation. "The next six months to one year, till about July next year, we will have to go through a hard time," he said, adding that for recovery Lanka would have to look at new sectors such as logistics and nuclear energy. "One I believe in very



An anti-government rally in Colombo on Saturday. Reuters

much is logistics, if you see the growth of the Indian, Bangladeshi and Pakistani economies, logistics can have a big role to play here in Colombo, in Hambantota and Trincomalee. This is how we use our strategic position," he said.

Tourism industry also got dented initially due to the Covid-19 pandemic and later owing to

the economic turmoil. Wickremesinghe said economic reforms would require higher taxation. "Even taxation on wealth, we have to resort to those measures, first for economic recovery and second for social stability," he said.

The president also said the country will have to consider getting into the nuclear energy sector. "More you have more energy you can sell to India, at the same time keep more renewable energy available. We have to think outside the box," he said.

Referring to the ongoing IMF bailout attempt, Wickremesinghe said the legal and technical advisers on debt restructuring are moving ahead with the task. "First the foreign debt... and when you look at the official debt are we getting caught into the geopolitics of the region of Asia?," he said.

Air strikes, rocket attacks push Israel, Gaza into second day of violence

REUTERS
GAZA/JERUSALEM, AUGUST 6

ISRAEL STRUCK in Gaza and Palestinians fired rockets at Israeli cities on Saturday after an Israeli operation against the Islamic Jihad militant group ended over a year of relative calm along the border. Israel on Friday killed one of the group's senior commanders in a surprise daytime strike on a high-rise building in Gaza City which drew rocket salvos in response.

On Saturday, Israel said it struck Islamic Jihad militants preparing to launch rockets and militant posts. Additional bombings targeted five houses, wit-

nesses said, sending huge clouds of smoke and debris into the air as explosions rocked Gaza City.

Palestinian militants fired at least 160 rockets across the border, setting off air raids sirens and sending people running to bomb shelters as far as the central Israeli city of Modiin, between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Islamic Jihad said it had targeted Israel's main international gateway, Ben Gurion Airport, but the rocket fell short near Modiin, around 20 km away, and the Civil Aviation Authority said the airport was operating as usual with flight routes adjusted. Most missiles were intercepted and there were no reports of serious casualties.

EXPLAINED In Hamas's shadow

HAMAS SEIZED power in Gaza from rival Palestinian forces in 2007, two years after Israel withdrew from the coastal strip. Tensions soared again earlier this year following a wave of attacks inside Israel, near-daily military operations in the West Bank and tensions at a flashpoint Jerusalem holy site.



Alex Jones was fined in the lawsuit by Sandy Hook victims' families

determining the compensatory damages following a two-week trial in the defamation lawsuit in state court in Austin, where Jones'

radio show and far-right webcast Infowars are based.

Jones had called the Sandy Hook massacre a US government hoax staged using crisis actors to serve as a pretext for taking away Americans' guns.

After the verdict, Lewis told reporters that the trial's outcome showed that "we can choose love," adding: "We're all responsible for one another." The parents had sought \$145.9 million in punitive damages and \$150 million in compensatory damages. An attorney for Jones, Federico Andino Reynal, had asked jurors to return a verdict of \$270,000 in punitive damages based on the number of hours Infowars devoted to Sandy Hook coverage. Outside the courthouse, Reynal told reporters the verdict was high but that Texas law caps punitive damages at \$750,000 per plaintiff.



Xi Jinping with former US President Obama in 2012. NYT

ing drive to expand the very meaning of "national security" in China, bolstering the party's con-

trol on all fronts. He has strengthened, centralised and emboldened an already pervasive security apparatus, turning it into a hulking fortress that protects him and positions him as the most powerful leader since Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping. Xi has built what he calls a "comprehensive" system designed for a world he sees as determined to thwart China - politically, economically, socially, militarily and technologically.

As Xi prepares to claim a breakthrough third term as

Pak Army chief reaches out to UAE, Saudi for bailout package

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 6

DAYS AFTER seeking US help in securing an early release of a crucial \$1.7 billion instalment from the IMF to Pakistan, Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa has now reached out to Saudi Arabia and the UAE as part of his efforts to ensure financial assistance for the cash-strapped nation, according to a media report on Saturday.

As the Executive Board of the IMF is set to meet later this month to formally approve the next tranche of \$1.2 billion instalment, the international lender wants Pakistan to ensure it receives commitment from its friends for financial assistance, the *Express Tribune* reported.

It is believed that the IMF has asked Pakistan to provide firm guarantees that its friends would provide \$4 billion for its external requirements. Pakistan is in talks with key allies like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and China to provide the necessary funding, the report said.

When Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif travelled to Saudi Arabia in April, he returned empty-handed as Riyadh had not given any firm assurance. The UAE was also reluctant to come to the rescue. Instead of providing loans, the UAE offered Pakistan to buy shares and assets.

Pakistan Army's media wing said General Bajwa received a call from UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan. It, however, made no mention of any talks related to financial aid to Pakistan. **PTI**

Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
Offers e-Auction of
Commercial Complexes, Institutional, Hospital & School Sites in all Zones
On 31st August, 2022

Commercial Complex in Gurugram Zone					Institutional Sites				
Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	Plot No.	Area in Sq. Mtr.	Total No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	Plot No.	Area in Sq. Mtr.	Total No. of Plots
1	24-25A, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	1821.6	1	1	18, Gurugram	Institutional Plot 76-H	3180.63	1
2	27, Gurugram	Commercial Complex-I	3635.1	1	2	32, Gurugram	Institutional Plot No. 8	8380.00	1
3	28, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	5544.39	1	3	32, Gurugram	Institutional Plot No. 72	2167.90	1
4	38, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	7729.5	1	4	37-C, Gurugram	Institutional Site	7539.29	1
5	41, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	6740.58	1	5	44, Gurugram-II	167	9860.15	1
6	43, Gurugram	Commercial Complex-I	5018.2	1	6	44, Gurugram-II	160	5769.86	1
7	49, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	3091.32	1	7	16-17, Hisar	Institutional Site 1 P	8554.81	1
8	53, Gurugram	Commercial Complex	12060.06	1	8	16-17, Hisar	Institutional Site 3	6717.69	1
9	62, Gurugram	Commercial Tower No. 1	8296.35	1	9	16-17, Hisar	Institutional Site 4	1982.93	1
10	62, Gurugram	Commercial Tower No. 2	10643.61	1	10	16-17, Hisar	Institutional Site 5	1982.93	1

Hospital Sites					School Sites				
Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	Plot No.	Area in Sq. Mtr.	Total No. of Plots	Sr. No.	Sector, Urban Estate	Plot No.	Area in Sq. Mtr.	Total No. of Plots
1	Sector 1, Patauldi	Hospital Site	4694.35	1	1	37-C, Gurugram	High School	8215.1	1
2	2, Faridabad	Hospital Site No. 1	5100.00	1	2	45, Gurugram	High School	8457.93	1
3	2, Faridabad	Hospital Site No. 2	5100.00	1					
4	62, Faridabad	Hospital Site-III	10798.12	1					
5	16-17, Hisar	Hospital Site No.1P	6865.64	1					
6	16-17, Hisar	Hospital Site No.3P	39873.54	1					
7	9, Jind	Hospital Site	24281.16	1					

*The bidding is now on Reserve Price and not on Base Price.
*There is no concept of counteroffer now.
*H1 Price is the final Price.

Helpline Number: 8360516607 (9 AM to 5 PM), 1800-180-3030 (24x7 to 8 PM)
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Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran
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The detailed information of the sites and terms & conditions of e-auction will be available on
<https://hsvphry.org.in>.

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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.

SCHEDULE OF THE SECURED ASSETS					
Lot No.	Name of the Branch Name of the Account Name & addresses of the Borrower/Guarantors Account	Description of the Immovable Properties Mortgaged/ Owner's Name	A) Dt. of Demand Notice 13(2) B) Outstanding Amount C) Possession Date D) Nature of possession	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 rances known to the secured creditor
1.	M/s. PREM CHAND OL MILL through its Prop. Sh. PREM CHAND SAH S/o Sh. Shiv Pujan Singh A/C No.- 2690008700002233 & 26960087000000374 BO: Akorhi (269600)	LAND & BUILDING SITUATED AT: 1. Sale deed no. 4425 of 22.07.2016, Mauza- Deokali, P.O. Akorhi, PS.- Mohania, Dist. Kaimur, Khata No. 07, Khesra no. 265, Thana no. 130, Area- 15 Decimal, BOUNDARY: North- Govind Singh, South- Kameshwar Singh, East- Nij Manmohir, West- Garamin Road, 2. Sale deed no. 3010 of 01.06.2016, Mauza- Deokali, P.O. Akorhi, PS.- Mohania, Dist. Kaimur, Khata no. 07, Khesra no. 265, Thana no. 130, Area- 05 Decimal, BOUNDARY: North- Govind Singh, South- Kameshwar Singh, East- Brij Nath Singh, West- Nij Manmohir, Mortgagor: Smt. Mira Devi W/o Sri Prem Chand Sah	A) 24.02.2021 B) Rs.24,31,131.74 + Intt due from 01.10.2019 & Other Bank's Charges, C) 06.04.2022 D) Symbolic	A) 22.22 Lakh B) 2.22Lakh C) 08/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	09/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM Not Known
2.	M/s. SHER SHAH AUTO SALES and Services through its proprietor MD. ARZOO KHAN S/o Late Abdul Khair Khan A/C No.- 2759008700007249 BO: Thakurhat (275900)	Land situated at: Mauza: Lanjhi(474), Revenue Thana Chenari, Dist. Rohtas, Khata No: 10, Plot No: 699, Area: 6 decimal. Boundary- North- Nij, South- Nij, East-Swan Hata, West- Nij. Boundary: N- Late Deomuni Chaubey Heirs, S- Late Raj Kumar Chaubey's Heirs and Baha, E- Kailash Singh, W- Dhanajay Singh Mortgagor: Most. Mobina Khatoun W/O Late Abdul Khair	A) 25.06.2021 B) Rs.25,23,456.04 + Intt due from 01.06.2021 & Other Bank's Charges, C) 07.05.2022 D) Symbolic	A) 20.40Lakh B) 2.04Lakh C) 08/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	09/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM Not Known
3.	M/s. AMULYA NITIKA GARMENTS through its proprietor Sh. VINOD BIHARI OJHA S/o Sh. Chateswar Ojha A/C No.-0899008700007271 & 089900CF00000388 BO: Shahpur (089900)	Mortgaged Properties situated at- Sale Deed No. - 3260 dated- 13.05.1980, Mauza- Semariya, Thana- Shahpur, Anchal- Shahpur, Dist.- Bhojpur, Thana No.-56 Khata no.-339, Khesra no.- 1671, Area-7 Decimal, Boundary- N- Ram Nath Ojha & Sonbhada Ojha, S- Badri Ojha, E- Bajinath Ojha, W- Srinath Ojha Mortgagor: Chateswar Ojha S/o- Lt. Pandit Shankar Dutta Ojha	A) 17.06.2021 B) Rs.24,00,520.11+ Intt due from 01.06.2021 & Other Bank's Charges, C) 02.06.2022 D) Symbolic	A) 15.54Lakh B) 1.55Lakh C) 08/09/2022 D) 10,000/-	09/09/2022 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM Not Known

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 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 09.09.2022 @ 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: 07.08.2022
Place : Ara

Authorized Officer
Punjab National Bank, Secured Creditor

Pant, Rohit power India to 191/5 vs Windies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUDERHILL, AUGUST 6

RISHABH PANT and skipper Rohit Sharma missed out on big knocks but made useful enough contributions to propel India to 191 for 5 in the fourth T20I against West Indies on Saturday. Rohit (33 off 16 balls) and Pant (44 off 31 balls) were the main contributors while Axar Patel struck some meaty blows towards the end to finish unbeaten on 20 off 8 balls. Sanju Samson was more subdued during his 30 not out off 23 balls, often failing to find the boundaries, which prevented India from reaching 200.

For West Indies left-arm pacer Obed McCoy, cricket indeed turned out to be a great leveller as he was smoked for 66 runs off his 4 overs only a week after he had taken a career-best six-wicket haul in the second ODI. It was the most expensive spell by a West Indies bowler in T20Is.

Rohit's new approach in powerplay might not have produced many big knocks save a half-century but he is certainly showing the way with positive intent upfront.

McCoY went for three sixes and 25 runs in an over. In those three, Rohit had a couple — a pull over deep mid-wicket and a flat one over long-off. The one that got him maximum cheers was a slog swept six off Akeal Hosein (1/28 in 4 overs), but in the very next delivery, which was a tad slower and the length slightly shorter, brought about his downfall.

But Rohit's 33 in a stand of 53 in less than five overs set the tone and gave other batters time and confidence to go after the bowling. The tendency to preserve wickets and then go after bowling, which has been a bane of Indian T20 teams of the recent past, isn't visible anymore. The cushion of the strike-rate gave Pant and Deepak Hooda (21 off 19 balls) close to six overs to produce a 47-run stand, which was the launch-pad for the final flourish from Axar.

'Ideal preparation'

Wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik feels playing in different conditions on the Caribbean tour will stand India in good stead while preparing for the various challenges Australian grounds will pose during the T20 World Cup later this year.

"I think it is very interesting because even in the World Cup straightaway the three grounds that come to my mind are Sydney - [where] the sides are slightly smaller and the straights are longer," Karthik said ahead of the fourth T20I. "Adelaide, we all know that the sides are very small and again, the straights are long, whereas in Melbourne, it's the exact opposite - the straights are short and the sides are very big."

Brief Scores: India: 191 for 5 in 20 overs (Rishabh Pant 44; Alzarri Joseph 2/29).

BRIDGE

Dealer: South Vulnerable: North/South

WEST		WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
♠ 986			1NT		
♥ 8		Pass	3NT	Pass	Pass
♦ 86542		Pass			
♣ 7653					

North-South bid 1NT - 3NT and West has to lead from a terrible hand. You can make a case for any of the four suits. What considerations do you recognize here?

The North hand: S-10 4H-10 9 5 D-AQ10 9C-K 9 8 2
The East hand: S-KJ732 H-KJ732 D-7 C-AQ
The South hand: S-AQ5 H-AQ6 4D-KJ3C-J10 4

1. When the opponents bid to 3NT without looking for a major, there is a modest presumption that leading a major suit is better than leading a minor suit.

2. When you have a hopeless hand, leading your long suit may be fruitless if you can not get in to run it.

3. Leading a singleton is a terrible choice. Even if you find partner with five of them, this is a suit in which declarer's side has seven cards. He may need to attack this suit himself. If you lead it, you rate to be helping declarer guess the suit. This is a strong rule. Do not lead singletons unless your partner has bid the suit.

Given these suggestions, what is the correct lead?

The nine of spades is the correct lead. Mind you, being the correct lead does not mean it is the winning lead. It is the lead that most players would make. They would not tell you that they are proud of it. How does it work?

On this hand it works great. I make no claims that a spade lead will work all the time. But it has a better chance than other leads. NOTE that the singleton heart gives South three easy heart tricks. If you do not lead hearts, he might not go after heart tricks. Leading clubs has some appeal for declarer, and that does not work.

A spade lead gives you a chance. A heart lead does not.

Dealer: North Vulnerable: None

	NORTH		SOUTH
♠	KJ103	♣	Q2
♥	Q3	♥	AJ10
♦	A8	♦	KQ10753
♣	Q9874	♠	53

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
	1C	Pass	1D
Pass	1S	Pass	3NT

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

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Those who have suffered much become very ____ or very ____ - Will Durant (6,...8)

LVEEE	EELKIT
<div></div>	<div></div>
KSIRT	ITUBGN
<div></div>	<div></div>

Answer: Those who have suffered much become very bitter or very gentle - Will Durant



SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2385

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

7. Alcoholic beverage (6)

8. Mean (8)

9. Set forth (8)

10. Scottish landlords (6)

11. Decode (8)

12. Delicate morsel of food (6)

13. Stood for, exemplified (11)

18. Sikh headdress (6)

20. Spurred (8)

22. Fire from the air with machine guns (6)

23. One who seeks advancement (8)

24. Native (8)

25. Come out (6)

DOWN

1. Penetrates (7)

2. Catch unawares (8)

3. Bend down fearfully (6)

4. Bone formation in the family cupboard (8)

5. Coveted or begrudged (6)

6. Pantomime character (7)

8. Fail to appreciate (13)

14. Portrayed (8)

15. Magnifies (8)

16. Expelling or evicting (7)

17. Adolescent (7)

19. South American country (6)

21. Salt's partner (6)

CRYPTIC CLUES ACROSS

7. Prairie wolf getting bashful with dislocated toe (6)

8. Nag Point off this Devon resort (8)

9. Is a craft wrecked when fully laden with this Italian white wine (8)

10. At times 'e gets the chops chopped up (6)

11. Beginning to like being an escort (6,2)

12. US dramatist found half of partnership ailing (6)

13. Cause annoyance by luring Billy away? (3,4,4)

18. He keeps to the left to come round motorway (6)

20. Too dense to be above class (8)

22. Take pleasure in expressing admiration about

DOWN

1. An opening act or passage (7)

2. Wicked woman posing Spooner's question about existence (4,4)

3. Where one girl hugs another out East? (6)

4. Enduring advice on how to get old? (4-4)

5. Disguise one's writing in enclosed poem (6)

6. Get to a pub with the Spaniard's encouragement to be good (3,4)

8. His stay at camp is no holiday (8,2,3)

14. In a manner of speaking, one may give a single weapon like this (4,4)

15. Atmospheric passage of mine

EVERYTHING (6)

23. But after raising fresh funds for election (3,5)

24. Andrew is off with the Queen: he's an inveterate traveller (8)

25. Fidget uneasily, though highly intelligent (6)

(3,5)

16. Boys at a centre for music (7)

17. Poteen's used in dance (3-4)

19. Complaint of youth in springtime (6)

21. A green compound for making incense (6)

Solutions to 2384

QUICK CLUES Across: 7 Workshop, 9 Arenas, 10 Warm, 11 Regardless, 12 Chants, 14 Eastward, 15 High and mighty, 17 Statured, 19 Raptor, 21 Detachment, 22 Silt, 23 Strewn, 24 Sarajiv. Down: 1 Potash, 2 Skim, 3 Charisma, 4 Lairds, 5 Fellowship, 6 Passer-by, 8 Pigheadedness, 13 Nightmares, 15 Hitherto, 16 Initiate, 18 Reharg, 20 Origin, 22 Soar. CRYPTIC CLUES Across: 7 Abu Dhabi, 9 Lining, 10 Miss, 11 In the final, 12 Jet-lag, 14 Misheard, 15 Back of the head, 17 Walk-over, 19 Pities, 21 Never-never, 22 Nips, 23 Oddest, 24 Erectors. Down: 1 Oblige, 2 Ida's, 3 Taking to, 4 Sleeps, 5 Insideleft, 6 Unbested, 8 Intimate revue, 13 Lock-keeper, 15 Beam-ends, 16 Exporter, 18 Vanity, 20 Expiry, 22 NATO.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday August 7

Be positive. Mars, the planet responsible for your energetic and assertive qualities, is about to adjust its position, sending you a series of much more lively messages than has been the case over recent weeks.

Monday August 8

You'll be in for an easier time than many people, so count your blessings. Domestic chores may wind you up.

Tuesday August 9

You'll be bombarding friends with your many ideas. You'll be happy in company, but happiest when reading a book, watching TV or chatting on the phone.

Wednesday August 10

It's decision time. Will you choose to stay in the past or make a move into the future? You will be able to make the most of many different options at one and the same time.

Thursday August 11

You may be motivated by your fantasies rather than by the facts. The secret is not to expect too much. If people are late and decisions deferred, just take a deep breath and try again.

Friday August 12

You'll be making up your mind about all sorts of treasured ambitions. However, you need to remember to tell everyone who is intimately involved.

Saturday August 13

It's a condition of success today that you pursue your goals in a down-to-earth manner, one step at a time and with maximum regard for long-term results.

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4918

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

Difficulty Level 3s

Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

U20 Worlds: Triple jump silver in bag, Selva eager to savour mom's biryani

ANDREW AMSAN
AUGUST 6

TRIPLE JUMPER Selva Prabhu hasn't been home in the last six months as he didn't want to risk disturbing his training routine. The Madurai resident was single-mindedly focused on realising his dream of finishing on the podium at the 2022 U20 World Championships in Cali, Colombia.

His determination paid off on Friday as he won India's first junior Worlds medal in triple jump after finishing second with a best effort of 16.15m. Selva is as much relieved as he is elated about winning the medal because less than a month back, he was saddled with crippling self-doubt after recording just 15.30m in the final trials conducted by the federation.

"My coach and family were really disappointed with that performance. I had lost hope. My preparations for the junior Worlds began six months ago but in the last month, everything went haywire. I just couldn't get the distance I desired. I was left without answers," Selva tells The Indian Express after his podium finish.

Luckily for 17-year-old Selva, his coach, two-time World Championship silver medallist triple jumper Yoandri Betanzos, had a solution. He has been working with Selva and other top jumpers, including Asian Games champion Arpinder Singh, for about six months now at JSW's facilities in Vijayanagar. Betanzos observed that Selva was taking longer strides as he came closer to the board which reduced his speed just before takeoff. "I was asked to take shorter and faster strides closer to the board," he says.

The solution may appear simple but a tweak in technique just weeks before a major

competition would leave even seasoned athletes sweating. But Selva knew there wasn't a Plan B. "It is very difficult to make changes to your technique. It is like changing a habit and it requires time. But I wanted to win this medal no matter what. So I just gave it everything in my training and was able to make the correction just in time," he says.

Coach Betanzos also made the youngster study five-time World and two-time Olympic Champion Christian Taylor's videos. "I have watched and observed his approach in the run-up. It helped me a lot," says Selva.

At the U20 Worlds, Selva reached the finals with a 15.99m jump, finishing third in the qualification round. During the medal round, Selva showed he meant business as he cleared the 16m mark in his first four attempts, landing the silver with his third try. He still finished quite some distance behind gold medallist Jamaican Jaydon Hibbert, who had a championship record-breaking leap of 17.27m. The Indian finished just 2cm ahead of Estonia's bronze medallist Viktor Mozorov.

Back home, Selva's family ended their 15-day fast for his success in Colombia. Father Thirumaran, who runs a small water purifying unit in Madurai, was up all night as he didn't want to miss his son's event. He broke down at least three times while talking about his son's triumph.

"My phone has 200 messages already (11 am) and the calls haven't stopped coming. I don't have words to express my joy. For the past 15 days, we have been fasting and praying for his victory," says Thirumaran.

The family is now eagerly awaiting Selva's return to celebrate the achievement. So is Selva. "It's been a long time since I've been home. I miss home food a lot. I just can't wait to have mutton biryani prepared by my mum," says the youngster.



Selva Prabhu, 17, tweaked his run-up just weeks before the U20 World Championships to produce a silver-winning effort of 16.15m. @IIS_Vijayanagar/Twitter

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You need to hang on to your principles, but much still revolves around money. You feel that you should not be in the business of making other people happy, but of securing your own interests. It is about time that you put yourself first, so don't feel guilty.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You must be prepared for frank and open debate. You may wish that everything were sweetness and light, but it's far better to face up to causes of disagreement. There's little to be gained from papering over the cracks. In the long-term, life is running your way, so you can afford to relax.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You are famous for your good ideas but, also, in many people's opinion, for the ease with which you change your mind. However, it's now important to be consistent and realise that your plans must be capable of implementation.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Passions are mounting. This obviously means that romantic dalliances could develop a momentum of their own. It also indicates, though, that all your creative powers should now be at a peak. Cancerian artists, and that includes all of you, will be exploring new avenues or expertise. The results could benefit your business life.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Power struggles are inevitable, most likely at home or within your family. Never imagine that you are completely faultless, for, even inadvertently, you have contributed to current, awkward emotional situations. An older, or more experienced, partner, will come to your aid.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

It's difficult to focus on details at the moment and you should be setting off on a fact-finding expedition at work. According to all indications, you'll do well in serious discussions and meetings, but don't be thrown by people who are out to shock you. Family matters could benefit from some of your sensitive and intuitive skills.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

If you have a spare moment, you may celebrate Jupiter's presence in intriguing parts of your chart by buying yourself a treat or two. Your pleasure may be slightly marred by a hint of provocation in the financial department. Yet, all the signs suggest that a cash crisis will pass with a partner's support. That's the week's good news.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

Planet is piling upon planet, star upon star, and you may be experiencing a welcome rise in energy. However, there are too many choices. If you really can't decide what you should be doing, it is perfectly acceptable to surrender to circumstances and let fate take its course.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Your fantasy life appears to be extremely powerful at present. There's nothing wrong with this, just as long as you don't imagine that what you believe to be true really is true. As the days pass, fact and fiction begin to follow completely separate paths.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Your stars mean business, and friends and acquaintances are set to take life extremely seriously and, at any moment, an otherwise light-hearted situation can become extremely intense. What happens in the end is very much up to you, and your emotional wisdom and experience will be thoroughly tested.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Discussions and decisions which take place over the current period will be dominated by the Moon, and that means you'll be making rational choices on the basis of your instincts and feelings. And that's no easy feat. Your judgment may be good, but think before you speak.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It's time to catch up with a few basic life-lessons. It looks very much as if you may have been taking other people for granted, or otherwise under-valuing their gifts and qualities. You would do well to reconsider your habits and preconceptions.



BRIEFLY

Ravi overcomes weight issues to win gold in style



"I am my favourite. I am," **Ravi Dahiya** would say in an Insta video recorded by United World Wrestling, on the morning of his Commonwealth Games final where he brought India's 4th of 6 wrestling gold at Coventry.

It was unintentional swag, it was authentic though. "Arre, I couldn't think of anyone. They asked, so I answered," he would say later, even as American Jordan Burroughs topped the tally. Not for India's silver medallist from Tokyo, and the most watchable grappler since Sushil Kumar.

On the mat, he picked eight points from the snaking phile, and then finished a technical superiority reaching 10 points a few seconds later, all achieved without much fuss.

It was in the morning though - when not under the spotlight, where he sauntered in and swaggered out, and stood with his hand on hips, waiting for the world to settle into an applauding chorus - that Ravi had faced his toughest test: making weight. He had clearly not been eating much the last few days. To top that, he spent three hours in the morning spilling sweat and getting cranky to come within 100 gm of his required weight. "That is the worst part of these smaller categories. But you have to do it for the country. What to do?" he would say.

Ravi is known to spend three hours at Chhatrasal, prepping for each six-minute fight, where sparring opponents who don't accord him undue respect, are let loose on him one after the other, as a progressively tiring fighter takes on the fresh challengers. He runs at 4 am, and allows Holi, Diwali and other festivals to drift past year after year. "I'm still in wrestling. I don't like thinking of anything else," he says, seeing no need to unwind.

The cardio strength and stamina he's known for are entirely built on the mat. "No gym. If I have to fight on the mat, I should build strength on the mat," he says.

His relatively tall stature at 57 kg - teaming with smaller wrestlers - means his hand reach when he swoops them for leg holds is a tremendous sight to watch. When Ravi's hands flap out, the opponent is about to be baited and turn to a kill. It opens him up for the hulking, bending opponent going for his leg though. "Yes, I'm not known for my defense, really. I'm an attacking wrestler, I don't believe in defense much."

He's grateful for the love and blessings of people. But such is the self-assurance of this man, he'll win even otherwise. --**Shivani Naik**

Nikhat, Panghal in finals

Reigning world champion Nikhat Zareen and Amit Panghal were among three Indian boxers who entered the finals while Jaismine Lamboria settled for bronze at the Commonwealth Games. Nikhat stormed into the final of women's 50kg after outclassing England's Stubley Alfia Savannah 5-0. Panghal (51kg) reached his second consecutive CWG final. Nitu Ghanghas (48kg) also reached the final. **PTI**

THE QUICK START

Unlike the Worlds, where he got boxed in in one of the slowest races, Sable was quick off the blocks this time, staying in front with the Kenyan trio for 2,400m.

THE WATER JUMP

With 552m left, Sable caught up with Serem. Then, with the water jump at 500m, executed flawlessly from the outside, he overtook Serem and Kipruto to move to second spot.

THE FINAL KICK

The focus then turned to the final 400m. Some of the world's best complete the last quartermile in 53-54 secs. Sable showed he can be just as fast but fell short by 0.5 secs.

Sable's fable

27-year-old overcomes recent disappointments to run a 'fearless' race and win a silver medal

EXPRESSNEWSERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 6

Avinash Sable's taking down two world-class Kenyans and leaving them in his wake at the Commonwealth Games will go down as the stuff of legends. His long-time coach Amrish Kumar experienced goosebumps as Sable's finishing kick in the home stretch wooed the world. Amrish was over the moon not because he was stunned or surprised by Sable's audacity on the track. Rather this race was the result of years of hard work which had come to nothing when Sable had followed the herd at the World Championships.

"The man in blue you saw on the track today is the real Avinash Sable. The one who ran at the world championships was someone else. Today Sable ran his race. To take on the best is what all the years of training were focussed on. He was fearless. Sable is someone who never gets intimidated. The Kenyans saw what he is capable of and he will only get better," Amrish said.

The army coach is now retired but he does have regular chats with Sable. They had a short call before the Commonwealth Games. Amrish's advice to Sable was to not repeat the same mistakes he made at the World Championships.

At Eugene, Sable was foxed by the tactics of the leaders who never really pushed in what turned out to be the slowest ever race at a World Championship. Saturday's race was in contrast to the slow pace at the Worlds, a race which was won by Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali with a time of 8:25.13.

At the CWG, Abraham Kibiwot of Kenya clocked 8:11.15 to win gold, Sable came second with 8:11.20 while Amos Serum of Kenya was third with 8:16.83.

Sable had set his previous national record at the Diamond League in Rabat earlier this year, a very fast race in which El Bakkali had run a sub-eight-minute time. Sable likes an all-out race because he believes he can keep pace with the leading pack. In slow races, he is still unsure of when to push, especially against a world-class field, as we saw at the World Championships.

"He likes races which are fast because he can go all out. In training, there have been days when he has clocked up to 20 kilometres at a quick pace. He is a coach's dream to work with because he is focussed on training and is ready to put in the hard work," Amrish added.

Not so long ago, however, Sable was at his home in Mandva, a village in the arid Beed district, and had started working on a farm.

Even though he had broken a national record at the Tokyo Olympics, where he had competed soon after recovering from Covid, the disappointment of not reaching the final consumed him. And it only got worse after the World Championship, where he had another below-par outing.

After the twin disappointments, Amrish feels the CWG silver will be a stepping stone for Sable.



India's Avinash Sable and Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot in action during the 3000m steeplechase final on Saturday. Reuters

Goswami leaves nothing to chance, wins silver



EXPRESS IN BIRMINGHAM

SHIVANI NAIK
BIRMINGHAM, AUGUST 6

PRIYANKA GOSWAMI recalls days when she rationed her appetite because there was no money for all meals while she trained as a racewalker away from home in Lucknow.

Her father had been suspended from his roadways job and couldn't really afford to send her money to subsist in another city where she trained, much before she made the national camp. On Saturday, Goswami survived on "bread-jam" - out of choice - though the athlete's dining room was teaming with all sorts of food. "Medal se pet bharr gayaa," she would say, after picking India's first-ever CWG silver in the 10km race-walk.

This one other time, she found herself weighing her options - whether to go meet a close friend's parents or not - because she didn't have enough bus money to reach Ambala. Those days, she believes, are firmly behind her.

She wasn't sure if her silver would register, though, given it was raining medals all around Birmingham. But it had been an eventful day when her Kenyan competitor had literally asked her why she was pushing the pace, and she had snorted away those lit-



Priyanka Goswami maintained the lead till the 4000m mark. AP

tle mental games because she'd come a long way to even reach here.

"I even got a warning at 6 km, and I think officials do it just to intimidate us. I mean I was thinking, half the distance is over and bhaisaab never saw a problem in my technique. Suddenly why's he having a problem?" she would laugh.

The chatterbox athlete takes a Bal Gopal idol in a little basket wherever she goes, and she would insist on carrying it to the podium,

Smriti, Rana take India to final

Birmingham: All-rounder Sneh Rana showed nerves of steel by choking runs in death overs as Indian women's cricket team pipped hosts England by four runs to enter the final of the Commonwealth Games on Saturday. Needing 165 to win, England were cruising along at 132 for 3. The hosts required only 33 runs off 24 balls but off-spinner Rana (4-0-28-2) bowled extremely well. She gave away only 3 runs in the 18th and 9 runs in the final over. England finished at 160 for 6 and even a last-ball maximum from Sophie Ecclestone couldn't save the day for the hosts.

BRIEF SCORES: India 164/5 in 20 overs (Smriti Mandhana 61; Freya Kemp 2/22) beat England 160/6 in 20 overs (Natalie Sciver 41; Sneh Rana 2/28) by 4 runs. **PTI**

it, I'll carry it everywhere. The chief coach keeps it for me when I'm competing," she says. Then it travels with her to the podium.

Goswami loved competitions. "In school, I'd take part in Diya and rangoli competitions and be happy to win those," she recalls. Not winning weaned her away from gymnastics as a youngster in Meerut. She was petrified of the Balance beam, arguably Gymnastics' most dreaded apparatus. "Coach would scream at me too much when I failed. I couldn't take the yelling. So I ran away," she says, adding that sometimes she even got caned and developed an aversion for the sport.

But in Class 11, she believed she was now all grown up, and no one would yell at her. But the scoldings never stopped. So after having gathered the courage to return to the sport cause she did not want to be a quitter, she drifted towards athletics. "There also I wasn't winning. Someone told me to try Walking. Mujhe lagaa bas chalnaa hi hai. So I took off," she says. Over 3 km, things were easy, over 10km in seniors, life got pretty technical.

On Saturday, she was wary of last-minute drama. "I kept hearing from the sidelines that the third place is far behind. But why should I leave? I kept pushing the pace," she says. It's when the Kenyan Emily Wamusi Ngii, who won the bronze, was totally bogged about the Indian's mad rush.

"Usually mummy gets dreams of my success. But when I asked her today, she said, aaj clearly kuchh theek se dikha nahi sapna (I couldn't see the dream clearly today)," she would quip. She didn't leave things to chance, divinity, or a Kenyan's prompt. She raced ahead, not heeding warnings of the jury, and raced to glory.

Silver in men's fours adds to India's growing lawn bowls story

ABHISHEK PUROHIT
AUGUST 6

"I AM feeling as if we have taken our Kohinoor back," Madhukant Pathak can be granted the indulgence in hyperbole, for he has dreamed of this day for the better part of two decades. From the day he arranged for four bowls from Delhi through veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh in 2005 and began training players on a hockey pitch in Ranchi, Pathak has been working towards making India a force in lawn bowls, driven by his "madness" for the game.

Pathak's long struggle has finally borne fruit, and at the most apt of locations. First, the women's fours team brought the relatively obscure and ridiculed game into national limelight with a historic gold medal at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Then, the men's team entered the fours final by beating England, which has the world's oldest surviving bowling green dating back to the 13th century. On Saturday, Sunil Bahadur, Navneet Singh, Chandan Kumar Singh and Dinesh Kumar, all of whom have trained under Pathak, added another chunky slice of

history at the Victoria Park Lawn Bowls Rink 1 with a silver medal, going down to Northern Ireland.

For a sport that is not even acknowledged as one by many, and played at the most by a few hundred in India, winning a Commonwealth gold and a silver in a country with centuries of tradition in lawn bowls can well feel like getting the crown jewels back.

"Even when we had brought the game to Jharkhand, people would say, 'bowl ludhkaane ka bhi koi game hota hai kya?' (Is rolling a bowl even a sport?)" says Pathak, who is also the treasurer of the Athletics Federation of India.

Pathak would scout for players who had stalled in other sports and try and convince them to take up lawn bowls. From there, to having someone like 27-year-old Navneet, who was attracted to the sport during the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games, is already quite a progression. Navneet's school in Delhi happened to have a rare lawn bowls facility for him to get introduced to the game, but that has, of course, been the exception.

"We would get in people with sports backgrounds earlier, also because we would



India's (from left) Sunil Bahadur, Navneet Singh, Chandan Kumar Singh and Dinesh Kumar after winning silver on Saturday. PTI

have to work less on training them," says Pathak.

Dinesh, 45, was once a goalkeeper at the East Bengal academy and also played for the

Mohammedan Sporting junior team. But a knee injury effectively cut short his football career. "He suffered knee trouble around 2000. In 2002-03, he came to us. I told him

that this game is suited for your fitness as the physical requirement is not that much," says Pathak.

Sunil, another lawn bowls veteran and about the same age as Dinesh, had no sporting background unlike the ex-footballer, but would like to come and just watch other players practise. "Then once we told him, 'You just keep watching, why don't you try your hand at it?' Then he started playing consistently. He was in the police so was physically fit."

The cop became so dedicated to lawn bowls that it would be hard to get him off the green. "When no one else would practise, even then, Sunil would come in and put in 400 bowls a day." After winning an Asian medal, he was promoted from constable to sub-inspector.

Chandan's entry into lawn bowls was among the most random. He happened to be the nephew of one of Pathak's friends. "He would just keep roaming around, awara jaisa (like a vagabond). We got hold of him from the Ranchi College hostel and brought him into the game."

He's since gone on to win medals at the Asian level, including gold in fours in 2016 and triples in 2017. "Our players have won

around 25 medals at the Asian level," reckons Pathak.

Getting recognition

But it is these Commonwealth medals that have catapulted them from anonymity to overnight attention. "I had full faith that my players were good. We would lose only because we did not get to play too many international matches at crucial times. So, I was sure that we had to click at this level someday," says Pathak. "And if we had grass greens, we could have got this result earlier. We did not have the required fund of Rs 10 lakh for installing grass greens. There is a lot of difference between playing on a synthetic surface and on grass greens."

About 15 years ago, Pathak had requested the then Deputy Commissioner to allot two acres of land, and an indoor and outdoor facility was constructed on the outskirts of Ranchi with Rs 4 crore sanctioned from the MPLAD fund of former Rajya Sabha MP RK Anand. Today, Pathak says 44 seniors and 38 juniors train there. "We have more players than there are in the rest of

India." That is likely to change after his wards' Commonwealth success.