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GS FOUNDATION 2024

DELHI 11 OCT, 5 PM

HYDERABAD 10 OCT

HYDERABAD: 8th AugAHMEDABAD: 22nd AugJAIPUR: 16th Aug | 30th JulyLUCKNOW: 25th Aug | 25th JuneCHANDIGARH: 25th Aug | 21st JunePUNE: 20th June

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DELHI: 15 सितंबर, 1 PM | 2 अगस्त, 9 AM

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JAIPUR: 16 अगस्त 4 PM



Monthly Current Affairs Revision 2023

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हिन्दी माध्यम | 4 Sept 5 PM

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» General Studies » Essay 7 Aug

for GS 2023: 7 Aug

सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 7 अगस्त

for GS 2023: 18 Sept

सामान्य अध्ययन 2023: 18 सितंबर

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INSIDE

A-1 TO ENHANCE
FLEET BY 25%,
START PREMIUM
ECONOMY **P17**MAHARASHTRA'S
'SEVA' FORTNIGHT:
MODI BIRTHDAY TO
GANDHI JAYANTI **P8**

No interview,
non-minorities'
admission on
CUET basis: HC
to St Stephen's

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE DELHI High Court on Monday said St Stephen's College cannot conduct interviews for admission of undergraduate students belonging to "non-minority category" and directed it to admit such candidates only on the basis of the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) results.

The court said the college must withdraw its admission prospectus in accordance with Delhi University's (DU) instructions and issue a public notice declaring the amended procedure.

"While the petitioner-college retains its authority to conduct interviews in addition to the CUET for the admission of students belonging to the minority community, it cannot devise a policy that forces the non-minority community to undergo an interview as well," said the division bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad.

St Stephen's College and DU
CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WORSHIP ACT DOESN'T BAR SUITS, SAYS COURT

Court allows hearing of Hindu plea for right to pray in Gyanvapi mosque

Sept 22 is next date of hearing, advocate for mosque says will challenge in HC

APURVA VISHWANATH
VARANASI, SEPTEMBER 12

UNDERLINING THAT Hindu groups are not barred by the 1991 Places of Worship Act, the Varanasi District Court Monday said that the suits seeking the right to worship inside the Gyanvapi mosque are maintainable.

"Therefore, according to the plaintiffs, even after 15th August, 1947 they were worshipping Maa Sringer Gauri, Lord Ganesh and Lord Hanuman daily up to

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THE EDITORIAL PAGE

LAW AND POLITICS

NOT BY THE LAW

BY FAIZAN MUSTAFA
PAGE 12

EXPLAINED

WHAT THE COURT SAID

PAGE 15



The petitioners in the case celebrate the court's order in Varanasi on Monday. **Anand Singh** **RELATED REPORTS, PAGE 8**

'91 Act: Scales tilt in favour of claimant seeking change

APURVA VISHWANATH
VARANASI, SEPTEMBER 12

EVEN AS a Constitutional challenge to the law is pending before the Supreme Court, the interpretation of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, both in the Mathura and Varanasi cases, effectively tilts the scales in favour of the party making a claim to change the religious character of a place of worship.

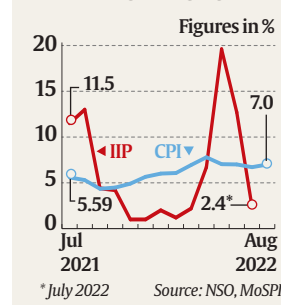
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BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Food prices
fuel retail
inflation to
7%; IIP at
4-month low

IIP GROWTH SLOWS,
INFLATION RISESENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

BUCKING THE downtrend of three months, retail inflation rose to 7 per cent in August, marking the eight consecutive month above the upper threshold of the Reserve Bank of India's target of 4 +/- 2 per cent, and almost three years (35 months) of staying above 4 per cent, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday.

The inflation rate picked up on the back of a rise in food prices, especially of fruits, vegetables, spices, cereals, wheat, milk and prepared meals, with a higher pace recorded for rural areas than urban areas.

In a separately released dataset by NSO, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) moderated to a four-month low of 2.4 per cent in July as against a growth of 11.5 per cent a year ago, with tepid growth in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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‘It took me time to open the gate’, says guard slapped at Noida society



Grab from CCTV footage

MALAVIKA PRASAD
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 12

TWO DAYS after a woman was arrested for slapping a security guard at a residential apartment complex in Noida — the incident was caught on camera — the guard told *The Indian Express* he was not at fault and an issue with the gate aggravated the woman. The incident took place on Saturday morning following which the woman was arrested and released on bail by Noida police.

The complainant, Sachin Rana, a resident of Pilakhuwa in Hapur district, has been working as a security guard at Cleo County in Sector 121 for the past two years. “The incident took place on Saturday morning. The RFID tag on the woman’s car was not working properly — it is a tag which allows the gate to open automatically. On Saturday, when her car approached the gate, it did not open on its own. It took me some time to open the gate manually. After she crossed the gate, she stepped out and slapped me without saying anything. There were other guards around me and my seniors also reached the gate shortly, following which I called up 112 and reported the incident to police. They took note of the incident,” Rana said.

According to police, the woman, Sutapa Das, a college professor, was allegedly upset that the guard was not “quick enough” in opening the gate. In the CCTV footage, she is purportedly seen walking towards a group of three security guards and slapping one of them. A non-cognizable report was registered under Section 151 (arrest to prevent the commission of cognizable offences) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, following which she was arrested and later released on bail, said Saad Miyan Khan, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central Noida.

An associate of the woman, who teaches at a Delhi University college, meanwhile claimed: “As she approached the society gate, she saw that the boom bar was not working properly. She kept honking to draw the guards’ attention, but nobody seemed to notice. She was in the vehicle with her child.”

Jindal university student found dead outside campus

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 12

SONEPAT POLICE have initiated inquest proceedings after a second-year BBA (Hons) student of OP Jindal Global University was found dead outside the campus on an under construction road on Sunday evening.

Police identified the student as Sanskaar Chaturvedi (19), a resident of Vadodara in Gujarat. They said his sister teaches at the university.

Vipin Kadian, Deputy Superintendent of Police in Sonapat’s Rai village, said: “The student had gone to visit his sister in Delhi. His body was found outside the university Sunday. We have initiated inquest proceedings under CrPc section 174. The cause of death will be known after the post-mortem report is received. The family has filed a complaint and a probe has been initiated.”

“... as per established guidelines, JGU has a zero tolerance policy towards any form of ragging with very robust and protective processes in place for all students in case of any such incident,” said the varsity spokesperson

The student’s cousin, meanwhile, told the media, “My cousin was studying in second year. Yesterday, we got information that he died under mysterious circumstances. We do not know the cause of death. Apparently usko... kaafi college se stress tha aur kuch usko ragging ki complaint (pauses) ya wo saari problems face kar raha tha wo.” “We request authorities to conduct a thorough probe. We

have filed a complaint with police,” he said.

Police said the body was handed over to the family after a post-mortem. Devender Kumar, SHO, Rai police station, said, “The student was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. A probe has been initiated. The family has filed a complaint alleging some students had been ragging the victim. As per doctors, the victim had minor bruises on his head...”

A spokesperson of the university said, “OP Jindal Global University is saddened to share the news of the untimely demise of Mr Sanskaar Chaturvedi, student of BBA (Hons), Class of 2024 outside the campus.”

On allegations levelled by the family, the spokesperson said, “... as per established guidelines, JGU has a zero tolerance policy towards any form of ragging with very robust and protective processes in place for all students in case of any such incident.”

Court convicts 2 AAP MLAs for being part of mob that attacked policemen in 2015

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

OBSERVING THAT they wanted to teach police officers a lesson, a Delhi court has convicted AAP MLAs Akhilesh Pati Tripathi and Sanjeev Jha after they were found guilty of being part of a mob which attacked policemen at Burari police station in 2015.

As per the prosecution’s case, on February 20, 2015, the MLAs were part of a mob which assaulted several policemen of

Burari police station over allegations that they did not take action in a kidnapping case. Police alleged the members of the mob demanded that the accused persons in the case be handed over to them so they may take action. After their request was denied, the mob assaulted policemen on duty.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vaibhav Mehta convicted Model Town MLA Tripathi, Burari MLA Jha and other accused persons after concluding that they sloganeered and instigated a mob that had

attacked personnel, on September 7. The judgment was made available recently.

The court perused testimonies of prosecution witnesses and said their testimony was consistent to show that the two MLAs were “not only active participants but were in fact leading the crowd and... provoking them”. It said they “shared the common object of unlawful assembly which was to teach police officials a lesson and to overawe the police by force/show of force”.

The defence counsel had ar-

gued that the accused persons were mere bystanders or were peacefully protesting. The MLAs’ lawyers argued that they were not provoking the crowd but had gone to defuse the situation.

The AAP leaders had produced 14 defence witnesses to show they left the police station before the violence. However, the court said there were “some discrepancies in the testimonies of the defence witnesses”.

The court will hear the case on quantum of sentence on September 21.

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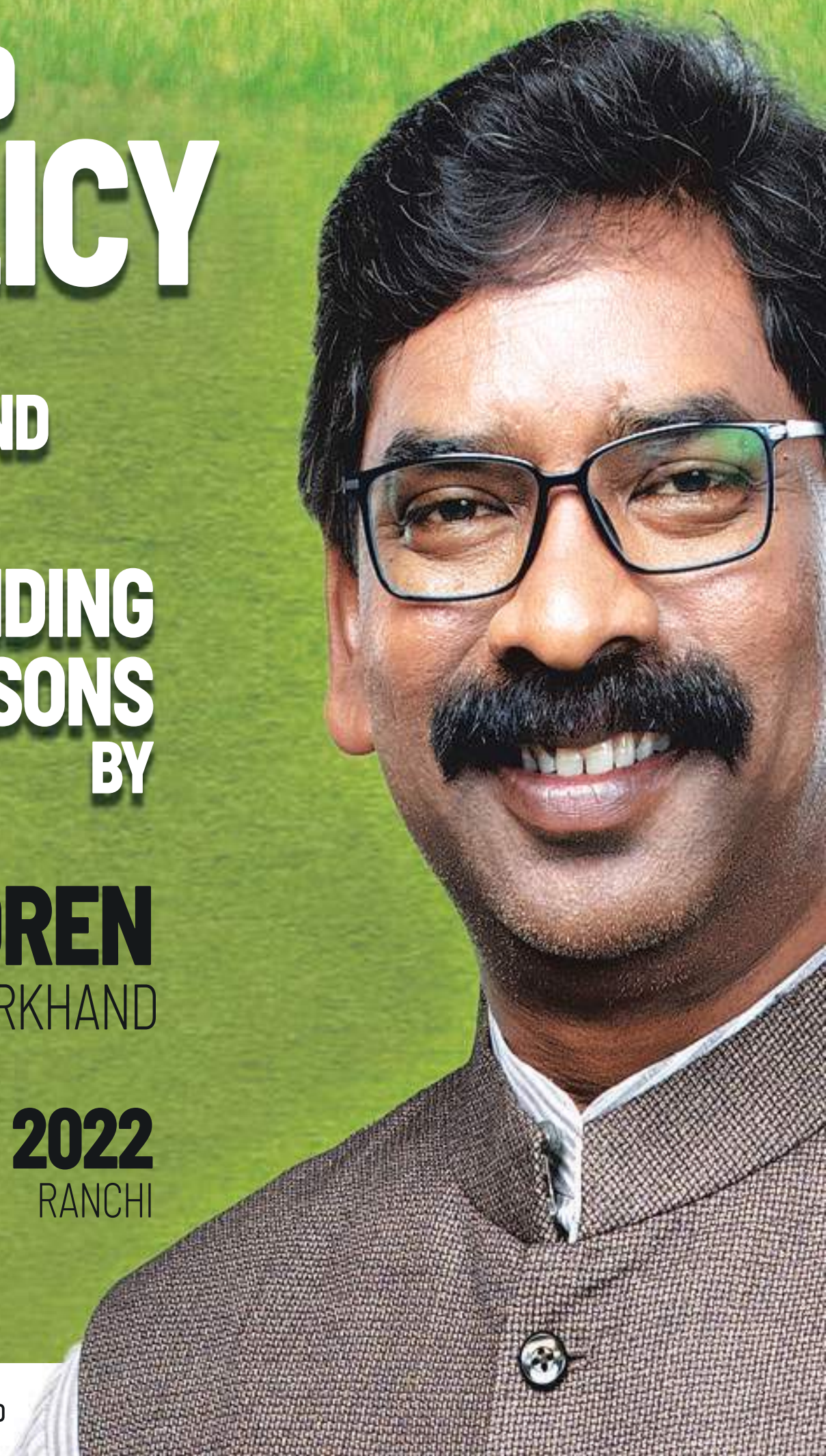


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SAY WITH SERVICE

TO ENSURE that leaders refrain from cake-cutting and other such rituals on PM Narendra Modi's birthday this time on September 17, BJP president J P Nadda has come out with strict instructions. The party is organising 'sewa pakhwada' (service fortnight) from September 17 to October 2 during which events such as blood donation camps, seminars, tree plantations, etc., will be organised. BJP general secretary Arun Singh has already written to the state units, listing out the programmes they are expected to organise during the fortnight. The state units have been asked to reach out to the workers till the booth level, urging them to meet people and talk about the Centre-run welfare schemes.

OLD VIDEO, NEW PLAINT

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Bhopender Yadav recently received a complaint about the abuse of an elephant at a temple in Tamil Nadu from Beatles veteran Paul McCartney. McCartney wrote to Yadav after a video of the captive elephant – Joy mala – went viral on social media. The video, Yadav said, was about one-and-half-year old and the 'mahout' responsible for torturing the elephant was removed from the job by the temple administration, besides his arrest. Nevertheless, Yadav set up a four-member committee to look into the matter and it was found that the animal has since been rehabilitated and is healthy.

LET'S DO IT FAST

MOST GOVERNMENT offices across the country have earned the bad repute of working at a snail's pace, causing inconvenience to citizens. It appears that the NCERT, the country's foremost government body on shaping school education, is not immune to the trend either. Recently, a circular was issued among NCERT officials flagging that routine as well policy-related files remain unattended for long durations. Observing that a "serious view" has been taken on the matter, the officials have been directed to ensure timely disposal of files.

Cong tweets pic of khaki shorts on fire; RSS, BJP say 'inciting hate'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE CONGRESS party's tweet on Monday depicting a khaki shorts on fire drew sharp criticism from the BJP and the RSS, which accused the grand old party of instigating violence.

Along with the image of khaki shorts — meant to reference the old uniform of the RSS — in flames, the Congress also tweeted text that read, "145 days more to go". The graphic was captioned: "To free the country from shackles of hate and undo the damage done by BJP-RSS. Step by step, we will reach our goal."

The BJP hit back quickly, saying that it was the Congress that was "inciting hate", "hurting nationalists", and "lighting fires", and that the post exposed the lies behind its Bharat Jodo Yatra.

RSS leader M Vaidya said: "They (the Congress) want to connect people to hatred. They have harbored hatred for us for a long time now. Their father and grandfather tried to stop the RSS but the RSS kept growing as we continued to get support from people."

Senior BJP leader and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sharma said the Congress tweet was reflective of a "shameful mindset". "Congress Party is not even hiding its true intentions. In the garb of 'Bharat Jodo', it is indulging in 'Bharat Todo'. India will not forgive them for their intentions of hurting nationalists!" he tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh, defended the tweet. "RSS and BJP are not used to aggressive responses from the Congress...If they are aggressive, we will be double aggressive..." he said at a press conference.

In a series of tweets, Ramesh also called burning effigies "a democratic right" and said: "Through a cartoon, we only depicted the heartburn of those who divide. Why are those people who burn the country troubled by a symbolic graphic which shows a burning effigy?"

"And why they are asking us questions? They should answer... those who killed Mahatma Gandhi...who support Godse...it is they who are bent on dividing the country..." he wrote.

18 days for Kerala, handful for UP: CPM slams Rahul Yatra plan, Cong counters with details

MANOJ CG & SHAJU PHILIP
NEW DELHI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 12

THE CPI(M)'s surprise criticism of the Congress's Bharat Jodo Yatra Monday contrasting the days Rahul Gandhi will spend on his march in the Left-ruled Kerala with those in the BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh has brought the finer points of the Yatra into spotlight.

According to the details emerging from the Congress camp, the Yatra would spend the maximum time in Rajasthan and Karnataka: 21 days. Both states are bound for elections next year: While the Assembly elections are due in Karnataka in May 2023, Rajasthan will go to polls along with Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Mizoram and Telangana six months later.

However, the Congress leaders insist that the Yatra is not aimed at state-specific elections. They argue that it will, for instance, not go to Gujarat where the Assembly elections are due this year-end. Similarly, it will not pass through Chhattisgarh.

The CPI(M), which has now shrunk to Kerala now after losing its erstwhile bastions, West

Run-ins with cops, dinner at auto driver's home mark Kejriwal's visit to Ahmedabad

SOHINI GHOSH & RASHI MISHRA
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

THREE TOWN halls in a day but the highlight of Delhi CM and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal's day-long visit to Ahmedabad was his run-ins with the police ending with an auto ride escorted by beacon flashing, hooting police cars.

The first was when Kejriwal and Gujarat AAP president Gopal Italia claimed that the police had raided AAP's 'data and management' office in Ahmedabad Sunday and Monday. This, even as the Ahmedabad police denied the AAP claims.

The second was when Kejriwal was stopped by his security detail when he chose to ride in an autorickshaw on his way to dine at the driver's home.

VHP SAYS FIRST BARRIER TO VARANASI TEMPLE CROSSED

BJP welcomes Gyanvapi verdict, UP Dy CM says Mathura, Kashi churning

LIZ MATHEW & LALMANI VERMA
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 12

AS BJP on Monday welcomed the Varanasi district court's order allowing the hearing of petitions seeking the right to worship inside the Gyanvapi mosque, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya hinted that next on the list could be Mathura even as party leaders in Delhi maintained a studied silence. They appeared to have decided to lie low while letting the VHP, considered the radical and hardliner wing of the Sangh, do most of the talking.

Soon after the verdict, Maurya tweeted what was being seen as a larger message: "Karvat leti Mathura, Kashi! (Varanasi and Mathura are stirring)."

This came minutes after Maurya, a former BJP state president, welcomed the court verdict. He tweeted (translated from Hindi), "Satyam Shivam Sundaram....I welcome the order of the honourable court in the matter of Baba Vishwanath ji Maa Shringaar Gauri Mandir; everyone should respect the decision."

Incidentally, in his first remarks on the row over Gyanvapi mosque, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had on June 2 questioned the need to "look for a Shivling" in every mosque, and said that RSS was not in favour of launching any other movement on these issues.

Bhagwat had then said: "One should not raise a new issue every day. Why escalate fights? On Gyanvapi, our faith has been



Police officials patrol the old city area of Lucknow on Monday. Vishal Srivastav

there for generations. What we are doing is fine. But why look for a Shivling in every mosque? What happens in mosques is also a form of prayer. Okay, it has come from outside. But Muslims who have accepted it are not outsiders, they need to understand this. Even if their prayer is from outside (this country), and they wish to continue with it, we are fine with it. We are not opposed to any form of worship," he said.

After the Varanasi court's verdict, another UP Deputy CM, Brajesh Pathak, told *The Indian Express*: "The UP government welcomes and respects the court order. We are alert. We will maintain the rule of law in UP; no one will be allowed to break the law." Party's UP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi said, "The question related to maintainability of the (law) suit has been disposed of and now hearing will be possible on the application seeking

permission for worship at Shringar Gauri temple. Both sides need to maintain patience. They should present all their facts, arguments and evidence before the court."

A BJP leader said, "While it is true that Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's image as a decisive leader, who is focused on development, has pushed BJP to its current stature, like (L.K.) Advani used to say, economics will never be a (long-term) winning formula. Polarisation has always helped BJP — without it, BJP will not be able to retain its dominance. (But) being a party that is under constant observation at the global level, BJP cannot afford to be seen as backing any group in such disputes."

Asked why BJP was enthusiastic with the verdict, a senior BJP leader in UP said, "Hearing in the matter is expected to continue for a few years — from district court to HC, and the Supreme Court.

Several elections will be contested in that period. When facts and evidence and reports of the court order on Gyanvapi are discussed, it will create a momentum."

The party's central leaders maintained that both BJP and the government should focus on the "ideology of development followed by Prime Minister Modi" and leave issues such as temple disputes to outfits such as VHP.

The VHP, which had successfully spearheaded the Ram Jannabhoomi movement, welcomed the court's order. Alok Kumar, international working president of VHP, said: "This decision is significant as the first barrier in the way of the Varanasi temple has been crossed. We knew earlier that the Places of Worship Act won't be applied in this case, and this was done only to prolong the case. But the court put it aside. The case will be heard based on facts, and we are sure we will win."

Citing Tamilisai's 'plight', DMK mouthpiece warns Governors of all states

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 12

DAYS AFTER Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan said she was facing trouble reaching out to the people, and that among others she wasn't even given the chance to unfurl the Tricolour or deliver a speech on Republic Day, DMK mouthpiece 'Murasoli' on Monday published a column reminding all Governors that they should not go "too far" beyond their constitutional limits, or they will risk being treated the same way.

In its popular column "Silanthi" (spider), the newspaper said the fate of Governors of other states would be the same as that of Soundararajan if they tried to interfere in policies and welfare programmes of the respective state governments.

"To keep the people and their interests from being hurt by the fight between the state government and the Governor, some state governments may be trying to find a middle ground for greater good. But if Governors keep getting in the way most of the time, they will end up in the same situation as Governor Soundararajan.

So all self-styled Governors should realise this sooner than later," the newspaper said.

The column, titled "Tamilisai's" was not a mere statement, but a lesson for some Governors to correct themselves," said Soundararajan could have avoided having to lament her fate if she had put some thought into what had led to this crisis. "Instead of working as agents for the party (BJP) that runs the Union government, Governors should work with state government for people's good," it said. The column said, "It is good for all Governors, including the Tamil Nadu Governor, who go against their constitutional limits to dominate and control the state governments, to remember that their fate will not be different from the Telangana Governor's."

The column in 'Murasoli' comes in the wake of a constant tussle between Tamil Nadu government and the state's Governor, R N Ravi, over delays in clearing some crucial policy matters. Ravi has also been critical of DMK's demand to exempt the state from NEET, its strong opposition to the new education policy being rolled out by the Centre, and its two-language policy that excludes Hindi.

Maharashtra 'Seva' fortnight – from Modi's birthday to Gandhi Jayanti

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 12

MAHARASHTRA Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis announced on Monday the state government's decision to celebrate as "Seva" fortnight the period from PM Narendra Modi's birthday on September 17 to Gandhi Jayanti on October 2.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi does not celebrate his birthday, September 17. He always tells us to serve people. The fortnight starting from this date till October 2 is a fortnight which represents 'Rashtra Neta' (Leader of the Nation) to 'Rashtra Pita' (Father of the Nation). We will offer services to people during this (period). All pending applications will be cleared on a mission mode," Fadnavis said after a Cabinet meet.

According to state govern-

ment sources, all departments will have to submit an action-taken report on October 5 about pending appeals and those that have been cleared with explanations to the respective administrative heads. A detailed report will have to be submitted to the government by October 10, they said.

Under this drive, all applications pending till September 10 on state government portals, such as Aaple Sarkar, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MAHADISCOM), Maha DBT portal and Nagri Seva Kendra, will have to be cleared by Oct. 2.

Apart from this, applications under services offered by 14 key departments, too, will be covered.

These services include: relief for farmers affected by rains (Relief and Rehabilitation department); beneficiaries who did not get aid under PM Kisan Samman Yojana due to technical problems

France Foreign Minister begins three-day visit to India today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

IN HER first visit to India as France's Foreign minister, Catherine Colonna will be on a three-day visit from Tuesday, during which she will meet PM Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and NSA Ajit Doval and discuss bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

As part of her official visit from September 13-15, Colonna will also travel to Mumbai for engagements with industry leaders and site visits on Thursday, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Monday.

On Wednesday, Colonna is scheduled to meet Modi. She will hold talks with Jaishankar the same day "on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest", the MEA stated. India and France have a long-standing strategic partnership, strengthened by regular high-level consultations and growing convergence in various areas, it said.

She will meet Doval for "discussions on regional and global security issues, strengthened defence cooperation, as well as implementation of France's counter-terrorism cooperation with India", the French embassy said in a statement.

The MEA said the visit will pave the way for further strengthening of the partnership across trade, defence, climate, migration and mobility, education and health sectors.

On Thursday, Colonna will travel to Mumbai and meet leading Indian investors with business interests in France. She will also address the annual general meeting of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

SC dismisses OPS plea, says sealing party office has consequences in democracy

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

STATING THAT attaching the office of a political party has "extraordinarily far-reaching consequences...in a democracy", the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed a plea by former Tamil Nadu CM O Panneerselvam.

Panneerselvam had challenged Madras High Court's order directing de-sealing of the AIADMK office and handing over the keys to rival Edappadi K. Palaniswami.

"You shall also bear in mind that attaching the office of a political party has extraordinarily far-reaching consequences. In a democracy, you are then not allowing a political party to effectively function," a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and Hima Kohli said, upholding the HC order of July 20.

On July 11, supporters of the two leaders clashed after a general council meeting expelled Panneerselvam. An official attached the property following the clash. Both leaders challenged this before HC, which set aside the order.

(Agriculture and Revenue departments); pending land records and non-creamy layer certification (Revenue department); and, ration card distribution (Food and Civil Supplies department).

The drive will also cover marriage certificates (Rural Development, Urban Development and Health departments); property transfer and tax (Rural Development and Urban development departments); and, new tap connections (Water Supply and Urban Development departments).

Besides, pending power connections to households and property holders' registration (MAHADISCOM); registration of ST beneficiaries under Birs Munda Krushi Kranti Yojana and approval of forest land, excluding appeals, (Tribal Welfare department); and, Divyang certificates (Health department), will also be cleared.



Kejriwal at auto driver Vikram Dantani's home. Nirmal Harindran

"We are a poor party with no money. The policemen searched our office for two hours and left. They were asking our people about money. They left when we said there was no money. Today, the Ahmedabad police said no raid took place. This is surprising," Kejriwal, who arrived late Sunday on a three-day visit to Gujarat,

said addressing a town hall of traders in Ahmedabad Monday. The day further turned eventful when Kejriwal, Italia and AAP national joint secretary Isudan Gadhvi were stopped by the police citing security reasons while riding to auto driver Vikram Dantani's home for dinner in his auto. Dantani's home

NO ALLIANCE WITH AAP, SAYS BTP

THE BHARATIYA Tribal Party (BTP) on Monday said there will be no alliance with the AAP for the Assembly polls in Gujarat. It accused the Arvind Kejriwal-led party of "sidelining" BTP leader Chhotubhai Vasava and trying to "usurp the strength" of the party in the state's tribal areas. "Doors have been closed" for the alliance with AAP, Jhagadia MLA Chhotubhai told media-persons. **ENS**

is in Ghatlodia, which falls in CM Bhupendra Patel's constituency. Videos circulated by AAP show Kejriwal refusing the Gujarat police security and asking them to "protect your CM and ministers"

EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

KERALA

Shamseer is new Speaker

Thiruvananthapuram: CPI(M) legislator A N Shamseer was Monday elected as the Kerala Assembly Speaker. The election was necessitated in the wake of the resignation of incumbent M B Rajesh. Shamseer, two-time MLA from Thalassery, got 96 votes against Congress's Anwar Sadath, who got 40 votes in the 140-strong Assembly. A member of CPI(M) state committee, Shamseer is party's emerging Muslim face in north Kerala. **ENS**

GUJARAT

HC admits bail plea of ex-DGP

Ahmedabad: The Gujarat High Court Monday admitted the bail plea moved by retired DGP RB Sreekumar, posting the matter for hearing a week later on September 19. Sreekumar is facing charges of alleged fabrication of evidence in relation to 2002 Gujarat riots. Sreekumar, along with Mumbai-based activist Teesta Setalvad, were refused bail by an Ahmedabad sessions court on July 30. While Setalvad subsequently moved the Gujarat HC and the Supreme Court seeking bail, Sreekumar continues to be behind bars. **ENS**

BIHAR

Defamation notice to MLA

Patna: Bihar Food and Consumer Protection Minister Leshi Singh Sunday served a defamation notice to party colleague and former minister Bima Bharti for making sundry allegations against her. While Singh is MLA from Dhamdaha, Bharti represents Rupauli in Purnia. Bharti had accused Singh of engaging in "criminal activities". Singh said: "I have nothing personal against her. What I had to say, I told JD(U) national president." Bharti said she received a notice of criminal defamation suit of Rs 5 crore. "My lawyers are studying it," she said. **ENS**

KARNATAKA

Flood victims' houses burgled

Bengaluru: Hit by floods, residents of Rainbow Drive Layout have now filed theft complaints, saying diamond and gold jewellery was missing from their houses. They alleged that their flooded houses were looted when they were away to live with their relatives. Police said the three victims, businessman Dharmateja G and software engineers Manjunath N and Uday Bhaskar B, approached them on Saturday. Three cases have been registered under IPC sections 380 (theft in dwelling house) and 457 (lurking house-trespass or house-breaking). **ENS**

NIA raids 50 places linked to Punjab gangsters in anti-terror nexus probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE NATIONAL Investigation Agency (NIA) Monday searched more than 50 locations across the country as part of an investigation into criminal gangs from Punjab — some of which are linked to the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala — and their alleged association with Pakistani terror groups.

The agency searched premises associated with gangsters including Moosewala murder accused Goldy Brar, Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuri in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, officials said.

"NIA conducted searches today at 50 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi/NCR region to dismantle and disrupt the emerging nexus between terrorists, gangsters and drug smugglers/traffickers based in India and abroad," the agency said in a statement. "A few of the most desperate gang leaders and their associates based in India and abroad, who are spearheading and carrying out such terror



Haryana cops during the NIA raid in Gurgaon, Monday. PTI

and criminal activities were identified and booked."

The raids come a day after Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav, during a press conference on the Moosewala murder case, said there were strong links between Punjab gangs and terror groups operating from Pakistan.

Sources said the NIA raids are in connection with two FIRs it has taken over from Delhi police in connection with the Moosewala murder and the gangs linked to

it. The Delhi police had earlier invoked the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in the cases.

"During the searches, six pistols, one revolver, one shotgun, have been seized, along with ammunition. Apart from the above, drugs, cash, incriminating documents, digital devices, details of benami property, threat letters, etc. have also been seized by the NIA," the agency said on Monday.

According to the agency, its probe has revealed that these gangs were carrying out targeted killings, including that of prominent people, to terrorise the general public in order to extort money. These gangs were also raising funds to carry out such criminal activities through smuggling of drugs and weapons, the NIA said.

"Many gang leaders and members had fled from India and were now operating from foreign countries, including Pakistan, Canada, Malaysia, Australia etc. Ongoing probes by the NIA in cases being investigated by the Agency, such as the killing of Shaurya Chakra Awarded Comrade Balwinder Singh in Punjab also revealed that most of these conspiracies were being hatched from inside jails of different states and were being executed by an organized network of operatives based in abroad," it added.

"In its ongoing efforts to dismantle these transnational terror and crime networks, NIA conducted searches at 50 locations in Fazilka, Fairdhot, Mukhtsar sahab, Moga, Taran Taaran, Amritsar, Ludhiana,

Chandigarh, Mohali Districts of Punjab, East Gurugram, Bhiwani, Yamuna Nagar, Sonapat and Jhajjar districts of Haryana, Hanumangarh and Ganganagar districts of Rajasthan and Dwarka, Outer North, North West, North East and Shahdara Districts of Delhi/NCR," said the agency's statement.

Punjab Police along with Delhi police arrested three more suspects in the case last week taking the total number of arrests to 23.

The UAPA was invoked by Delhi police against the Moosewala murder accused (Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar and Vikram Brar), members of their rival gangs (Davinder Bambiha, Kaushal Chaudhary, Neeraj Bawana, Sunil alias Tilly Tajpuriya, Dilpreet and Sukhpreet alias Budha) and absconding terrorist Harvinder Rinda. Delhi Police's Special Cell had received information that members of both gangs were procuring illegal weapons from outside the country to execute targeted killings in Delhi and other states.

Uzbekistan President: Afghans need 'good neighbours', helping them moral obligation

SHUBHAJIT ROY

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

INVOKING THE "Samarkand spirit" ahead of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to be held on September 14 and 15, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has said that people of Afghanistan need "good neighbours" and called it a "moral obligation" to extend a helping hand and offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis.

In an article for *The Indian Express* published (full piece on www.indianexpress.com), Mirziyoyev wrote: "Afghanistan that has played for centuries the role of a buffer in the historical confrontations of global and regional powers, should try on a new peaceful mission of connecting Central and South Asia."

In this context, he said the construction of the "trans-Afghan corridor" could become a symbol of such mutually beneficial inter-regional cooperation. "It is also important to understand that by implementing joint infrastructure projects such as the Termez – Mazar-i-Sharif – Kabul – Peshawar railroad, we are not just solving socio-economic, transport and communication problems, but also making a significant contribution to ensuring regional security," Mirziyoyev said, in his piece.

"I am full of confidence that it is important and necessary for the SCO to share its success story with Afghanistan. This country is an integral part of the larger SCO space. The Afghan people need good neighbours and their support now more than ever. It is our moral obligation to extend a helping hand, to offer them effective ways of overcoming the years-long crisis by promoting socio-economic growth of the country, its integration into regional and global development processes," he said.

"By bringing our positions closer to each other, together we can develop a new SCO agenda for a more peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan. Only in this way can we create a truly stable and sustainable SCO space with an indivisible security," he wrote.

He said: "The basis for the SCO's international attractiveness is its non-bloc status, open-



Shavkat Mirziyoyev

ness, non-targeting against third countries or the international organisations, equality and respect for the sovereignty of all participants, refusal to interfere in the internal affairs, as well as prevention of political confrontation and unhealthy rivalry."

"The SCO's success concept is the promotion of multifaceted cooperation through ensuring regional security. In fact, the SCO is called upon to become a pole of attraction without dividing lines, in the name of peace, cooperation and progress," he wrote.

He said, "Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO has fallen on a dynamic period, fraught with various events and trends – the period of the "historical rift", when one era comes to an end and another begins – thus far unpredictable and unknown."

"The modern system of international cooperation, based on the universal principles and norms, begins to falter. One of the main reasons for this is a deep crisis of trust at the global level, which, in turn, provokes a geopolitical confrontation and the risk of reviving the bloc thinking stereotypes. This process of mutual alienation complicates the return of the world economy to its former course of development and the restoration of global supply chains."

Referring to the war in Ukraine, he said: "The ongoing armed conflicts in the world destabilise trade and investment flows, exacerbate problems of ensuring food and energy security."

The SCO summit will be attended by PM Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif and Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi among other leaders.

FULL ARTICLE ON:
<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/uzbekistan-president-sco-samarkand-summit-interconnected-world-8146545/>

Jaishankar calls on Saudi Prince, shares PM message

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar met Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah on Sunday and handed over a written message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and apprised him of the progress in bilateral ties, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

During the meeting, bilateral relations and opportunities to enhance them were reviewed and the latest regional and international developments discussed, the agency reported.

"Honoured to call on HRH Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.... Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Apprised him of the progress in our bilateral relations. Thank him for sharing his vision of our ties," Jaishankar tweeted after the meeting.

Terming Saudi Arabia an "important player" in today's global economy, not only due to its impressive growth numbers but also due to its central position in the energy markets, Jaishankar told Jeddah-based English daily 'Saudi Gazette' that the Gulf country is an important economic partner for India. "Energy is indeed one of the keystone areas in our bilateral cooperation," he said. "Apart from our traditional trade in the field of energy, both nations are now collaborating in the domains of new and renewable energy. The Joint Working Group on Energy has identified 19 project opportunities for collaboration, which include investments in LNG infrastructure and multiple renewable energy projects, human capacity building and joint research."

Jaishankar said there are several areas where India and Saudi Arabia can collaborate to help achieve the latter's 'Vision 2030'.

BENGALURU: CM SAYS NO DISPARITY, EVICTION NOTICES SERVED

Drive to clear encroachments on stormwater drains begins

SANATH PRASAD

BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 12

THE BRUHAT Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Monday began the demolition drive in Mahadevapura as part of clearing encroachments on stormwater drains (SWD) and lake beds. The BBMP has identified a total of 15 buildings, including IT parks and developers.

BBMP chief engineer Basavaraj Kabade said as of today, three buildings and compound walls are now being identified as SWD encroachment between Chinnappanahalli Lake and Munnekolala Lake in Mahadevapura. The playground of Gopalan International School will also be demolished as it runs over the drain alignment.

"Today, we demolished unauthorised structures, com-



An illegal structure being demolished in Mahadevapura area of Bengaluru on Monday. Express

mercial buildings and wall compounds encroaching upon the SWD between the two lakes. However, the tehsildar has to provide a notice as per Section 104 of the land rules to the residents after which we will start demolishing illegal residential buildings too," he said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said there was no question of any disparity in the removal of encroachments. He said eviction notices had been served on those who built illegal structures on Rajakaluve, causing problems in the free flow of water in the kaluve.

PLEA AGAINST HIJAB BAN

You raised essential practice, HC had to take it up: SC to appellants

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE APPELLANTS against the Karnataka hijab ban Monday argued in the Supreme Court that the High Court should not have ventured into interpreting the Quran as it lacked expertise. But they were told by the top court that it was them who had raised the issue of essential religious practices first, which may have left the Karnataka High Court with no option but to do the same.

"You are the ones who went to the court saying that this is an essential religious practice, isn't it? Somebody raised this point... What was the option for the

High Court but to deal with it?" Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, sharing a bench with Justice Hemant Gupta, asked Senior Advocate Yusuf Muchhala.

The remarks came after Muchhala, appearing for one of the petitioners, submitted: "There are well-settled rules of interpreting the Quran... with which the courts are not well acquainted" and therefore must have not ventured to do so.

"Keepig in view such handicaps to deal with holy scriptures, judicial prudence requires that courts and also common citizens should restrain from interpreting the same," he told the bench.

Justice Dhulia responded: "At least I am not understanding this

point at all... First you assert it as a right. The High Court gives a decision one way or the other and then you say it cannot be done."

Muchhala agreed that the point had been raised. "Somebody may have done it erroneously or by over enthusiasm... the court must have said you asked this question but I can't answer."

"But this is the main plank of the argument" before the HC, Justice Dhulia said.

Muchhala said the matter raises issues of importance that require interpretation of the Constitution and urged the SC to consider referring it to a Constitution bench. The arguments remained inconclusive and will resume on September 14.

HC stays Lokpal proceedings against JMM chief Shibu Soren



Shibu Soren

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE DELHI High Court Monday stayed the proceedings initiated by Lokpal of India against Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) president and Rajiya Sabha MP Shibu Soren on the basis of a complaint alleging he has amassed huge wealth and assets by "adopting unscrupulous and corrupt means" in Jharkhand.

Justice Yashwant Varma said the matter requires consideration and till the next date of listing, there shall be a "stay of further proceedings pending before" the Lokpal. The court listed the matter for hearing on December 14.

Shibu Soren said the Lokpal has taken cognisance of a "politically motivated, frivolous and misconceived complaint" dated August 5, 2020, filed by Nishikant Dubey, a BJP MP from Jharkhand.

The Lokpal in September 2020 had directed a preliminary inquiry under provisions of the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013, and called for an inquiry report from the CBI. Following the submission of a report by CBI, the Lokpal on August 4 ordered the initiation of proceedings to determine whether a prima facie case exists to proceed against Soren.

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal represented Soren before the court against the Lokpal proceedings.

8 cheetahs to arrive this week: Chartered flight with vets, chopper ride

ESHA ROY

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

EIGHT AFRICAN cheetahs — five females and three males — will board a chartered Boeing 747 cargo flight from the Namibian capital of Windhoek on September 16, and arrive at the Jaipur airport the next morning, after an over 10-hour-long flight, the environment ministry said on Monday.

From Jaipur, they will take a 42-minute helicopter ride to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh where a temporary helipad has been constructed. The cheetahs are between four and six years old. Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said all preparations for the inter-country translocation of the cheetahs were complete.

"Sheopor district (where Kuno is located) has similar rain-

fall levels, temperatures, altitude and conditions as that of South Africa and Namibia. I recently visited the park to oversee the arrangements. The aim behind the translocation is not only to be able to re-introduce the cheetah in India — it was declared extinct in 1952 — thereby restoring India's natural heritage, but also to develop a cheetah metapopulation that will help in the global conservation of the animal," he said.

"There are now approximately 7,000 cheetahs globally — South Africa has the largest population at about 4,500. We expect to receive the next batch of 12 cheetahs from South Africa soon," he said. Over the next five years, the Indian government will acquire 8-10 cheetahs annually to establish a breeding cheetah metapopulation of 35-40 in the country, said officials.

India was to get 20 African



A cheetah in a South African reserve, which is in the batch to be sent to India. AP

cheetahs this year — eight from Namibia and 12 from South Africa. According to ministry officials, while all the preparations from the Indian side were over, the South African government's assent was still awaited. Like their counterparts in Namibia, the cheetahs to be sent from South Africa have already been prepped for the journey, including extensive health check-ups and blood

EXPLAINED Why Kuno was picked

KUNO NATIONAL Park was chosen for the project since it had already been prepared a decade ago for translocation of the Asiatic Lion from Gir National Park. While this translocation never took place, prey for lion was established at Kuno — with sambhal, cheetal, etc — and the park was sanitised to receive the lion, which also inhabits in landscapes similar to that of the cheetah.

work for detection of diseases, vaccination, and radio collaring. For the cheetahs arriving

from Namibia later this week, the plan is not to tranquillise them for the journey.

They will be fed two-three days before they begin the journey, and will be accompanied in the aircraft by a team of three veterinarians — an Indian, a Namibian and a South African. The cheetahs will be transported in cages measuring 114 cm X 118 cm X 84 cm.

On September 17, when the cheetahs will be released at the Kuno National Park by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, they will first be kept in a quarantine enclosure, measuring 1,500 square metres, for about a month to not only ensure their adaptation to the new environment, but to also check that they are not carrying any diseases. They will be monitored closely during this period, after which they will be released into a bigger enclosure of 6 square kilometres for the remaining pe-

riod that it takes them to adapt.

"In this bigger enclosure, where they will have prey and be able to hunt, we will closely monitor not only their health, but also how they are adapting to Kuno, hunting, feeding, excreta etc. Once this is found to be satisfactory, they will be released into the 740 sq km Kuno National Park," said SP Yadav, member secretary, National Tiger Conservation Authority.

While the park itself is 740 sq km, the cheetahs will have access to the larger forested and semi-forested region outside the park of 5,000 sq km, said officials. Of the 25 villages that were in the area earlier, 24 were relocated in preparation for the translocation of the Asiatic Lion from Gir National Park in Gujarat. Only one village, Bagcha, with a population of 148 families, remains on the periphery of the park, and its relocation process is under-

way, said the minister.

"Historically, the cheetah has not been known to attack humans. So we don't anticipate animal-human conflict in the area. However, they have been known to attack livestock, and we have informed the villagers of this and established cheetah-mitras who will operate as watch-and-ward staff. The cattle and feral dogs in the area have also been vaccinated," said Yadav.

He said the Madhya Pradesh government has already put in place an "adequate compensation" for any possible conflict between the cheetahs and villagers. The park itself has a healthy prey base of chital, nilgai, chowsingha, langur, peafowl, hares and feral cattle. Yadav said the cheetah has a wide range of habitats — from semi-arid grassland to coastal scrubs, wooded Savanna, Montane habitat, snow deserts and rugged semi-arid.

Bajrang Dal activist murder: NIA files chargesheet against 10

Bengaluru: The National Investigation Agency has filed a chargesheet against 10 people in connection with the murder of Bajrang Dal activist Harsha in Shivamogga on February 20. The NIA has alleged in that the accused carried out the murder in order to create communal disharmony in Shivamogga. The NIA has alleged that the accused targeted him after observing the movements of Hindu community leaders during festivals and celebrations in the city. **ENS**

Government of Himachal Pradesh
JAL Shakti Division, Ghumarwin
NOTICE INVITING E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

Online bids are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin, Distt. Bilaspur (H.P.)on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, in electronic tendering system for the under mentioned work from the qualified and experienced contractors/firms.

Sr. No.	Description	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Time	Cost of form
	Engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, trial run of various components of Providing drinking water supply schemes from reliable source (Satluj River) to Karloti Kaphara and Fatoh area of Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (H.P.) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to leftout households Under Jal Jeevan Mission- Har Ghar Nal Se Jal in single package on "Turn Key job basis" including & testing run, defect and liability period as 6 Month after physical completion of all component of the schemes.	11,23,33,985/-	11,56,000/-	Two Years	2500/-

1. Tender documents and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <http://hptenders.gov.in>, by the interested contractors/firms/individuals registered on the website which is free of cost.

2. Engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, trial run of various components of Providing drinking water supply schemes from reliable source (Satluj River) to Karloti Kaphara and Fatoh area of Tehsil Ghumarwin District Bilaspur (H.P.) to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to leftout households Under Jal Jeevan Mission- Har Ghar Nal Se Jal in single package on "Trun Key job basis" including & testing run, defect and liability period as 6 months after physical completion and commissioning of all component of the schemesas covered under this tender, shall be sustainable and responsive to standard norms as stipulated.

3. Accordingly, the bidder/firm must make all necessary provision for required qualified resource personnel, their time and other costs, and appropriate engineering / technical considerations in resurvey, design, construction, erection, execution, commissioning process for the project; including necessary documentation and inspections.

4. Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with "Single Stage Two Envelope" Bidding Procedure. Bid security, and eligibility documents as per eligibility criteria, Technical Bid and Financial bid should be put in separate envelop and all two separate envelops should be put together in a single envelop. The bids shall be submitted online electronically.

1. **Bid evaluation criteria-** Eligible Technically Qualified lowest evaluated bidder (L1) shall be considered as a successful bidder. However, the acceptance of the proposal shall rest with the EMPLOYER who does not bind itself to accept the lowest proposal, and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the proposals received without assigning any reason.

6. As the bids are to be submitted online are required to be encrypted and digitally signed, the bidders are advised to obtain Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from suitable vendors or from any authorized agency at the earliest.

7. KEY DATES SHALL BE AS UNDER:-

a	Date of Online publication	12-09-2022
b	Downloading of e-bid Documents	From 12-09-2022 05:00 PM to 26-09-2022 upto 05:00 PM
c	Date of submission of e-bid	From 12-09-2022 05:00 PM to 26-09-2022 upto 05:00 PM
d	Only Online submission of EMD and cost of tender documents	Up to 05:00 PM on 26-09-2022
e	Date of opening of bids:	
	Cover-1 Eligibility Criteria & Technical bid	On 27-09-2022 at 11:30 AM
	Cover-2 Financial Bid	Shall be intimated separately
f	Site Visit	Between 11:00 AM dated 12-09-2022 to 17-09-2022 5:00 PM along with the Assistant Engineer/concerned Junior Engineer Jal Shakti Sub Division Ghumarwin .
g	Pre-Bid Meeting	On 22-09-2022 PM in the Office of Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Hamirpur Zone, Hamirpur. The queries of the bidders to be discussed during Pre-bid shall be submit till 5:00 pm on 22-09-2022.No queries shall be enter tained afterwards.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:-

1. The e-bid documents shall be uploaded online in 2 (two) covers:-
(a) Cover -1 shall contain Scanned copies of "Eligibility Information & Technical Bid".
(b) Cover-2 shall contain "Financial bid" on the prescribed form

2. **Cover-1** shall contain scanned legible copies of following "Eligibility Information & Technical Bid" (**Scanned legible copies to be uploaded in Pdf file**).
(i) The earnest money in favour of Executive Engineer, JAL Shakti Division Ghumarwin, shall be submitted through online mode (e-payment).(Exemption of earnest money shall not be allowed).
(ii) The cost of tender form as shown above shall be submitted through online mode (e-payment) only in favor of "Executive Engineer" Jal Shakti Division, Ghumarwin. Exemption of cost of tender form shall not be allowed.
(iii) Copy of Certificate of registration with JAL Shakti Vibhag or any other state/central Govt. department or Govt Undertakings in appropriate class. The successful bidder should get himself registered in appropriate class with HP JAL Shakti Vibhag before award of work.
(iv) Copy of Certificate of EPF registration. If not registered then the successful bidder should get himself registered within one month after acceptance of the bid by the EMPLOYER.
(v) Annual Turnover of three years.

3. Pre-qualification criteria proof:-(a) A bidder/firm shall be considered pre-qualified for the work if he has:-
a) Financial Qualification:
Bidder must have achieved minimum average annual financial turnover (at current price level) from contract receipt of works (in all classes of civil engineering construction works only) of 30% of estimated cost in last three (3) financial years i.e. from year 2019-2020 to year 2021-2022.
b) Eligibility and qualification criteria:
Experience of having successfully completed similar works during last seven years ending last day of month previous to the one in which applications are invited should be either of the following :-
The bidder must have completed three similar works costing each not less than the amount equal to 40% of the estimated cost.
or
The bidder must have completed two similar works costing each not less than the amount equal to 50% of the estimated cost.
or
The bidder must have completed one similar works costing each not less than the amount equal to 80% of the estimated cost.
Note:-
i) The value of executed work shall be brought to current price level by enhancing the actual value of work at simple rate of 7% per annum calculated from the date of completion of works to previous day of submission of bids.
ii) Completed works means either completed or completed to the extent of minimum 90% of the awarded amount (including unpaid amount on a/c of paucity of funds).
iii) Certificate of work done should be obtained from the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned Govt./ Semi Govt. Organization.
Definition of similar work:- Similar work means "Water Related Projects" which includes:-
1. Pumping system including all electrical and mechanical components.
2. Piping work or water conveyance system
3. Desilting System/ Water Treatment Plant.
4. Water storage/ Retaining structure.
5. Pump Houses/Building works.
c) Joint venture is not allowed. However the firm shall be free to engage any number of specialist firms for execution of specialized component of Projects.
d) PAN (Permanent Account No.), GST registration and EPF registration.
e) Work done, Experience Certificates as per Pre-qualification criteria.
f) The authorization letter regarding digital signature certificate (DSC) of the person authorized by the registered bidder to upload the bid, be uploaded along with the other documents online.
g) A scanned copy of undertaking in that I have carefully studied all the terms and conditions stipulated in the contract document before quoting the rates.
Note: No physical submission of documents will be allowed.Any document / information found false / fabricated during scrutiny or later anytime, the bid is liable to be cancelled immediately. In such case bid security shall be forfeited.

4. "Technical bid" should be as under:
a) Make/ model of the proposed pumping machinery along with the characteristic curves.
b) The Bidder shall submit authorization certificate from authorized dealer for supplying of pumping machinery.
c) Flow diagram of the Booster stage, 1st and 2nd stage as per the site conditions.
Cover-2 shall contain "Financial Bid" which shall be opened at a later date to be notified separately and shall be opened only of those bidders /Firms whose documents as per eligibility information and technical bid "Cover-1" will be found in order. The Financial Bids shall contain only Financial Bid /Offer on departmental schedule of quantity/BOQ where bidder /firms shall quote his /their offer for each item.

6. Rates quoted must be INR (Indian Rupee) and shall be inclusive of all taxes applicable at the time of opening of bids.

7. The bidder shall not be permitted to bid for the work in the HPJSV Circle (responsible for award and execution of the contract) in which his near relative is posted as Divisional Accountant or as an officer in any capacity between the grades of Superintending Engineer & Assistant Engineer (both Inclusive). He shall also intimate the name of the persons who are working with him in any capacity or are subsequently employed by him who are near relative to any Gazetted officer in the Jal Shakti Vibhag. Any reach of this condition by the bidder would render him liable to be removed from the approved list of bidders of this department.

8. Bid security of L1, L2 and L3 shall be retained till the finalization of offer of the lowest bidder or 180 days whichever is earlier.

9. No subletting of work as a whole by the bidder is permissible. However bidder may sub contract specialized companies of work i.e. design & drawings, pumping machinery, Automation but not more than 25% of the total contract amount.

10. In case, opening day is a holiday, the bids shall be opened on next working day at the same time.

11. The validity of the bid shall be kept open for 180 days or till the finalization offer of the lowest bidder.

12. Ambiguous/telegraphic/ Conditional bids or bids by Fax/E-mail shall not be entertained/ considered in any case.

13. Conditional bids are liable to be rejected without assigning any reasons.

14. Executive Engineer, reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all the bids without assigning any reason(s).

15. Any enquiry regarding bid can be obtained on e-mail of the divisional officer under e-mail address i.e.xeniphgmr@rediffmail.com.

16. Rates should be quoted both in figure as well as in words in Indian Rupee (INR).

SD/-
Executive Engineer,
JAL SHAKTI Division, Ghumarwin.

4028/HP
HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

SC to refer pleas against CAA to 3-judge bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE SUPREME Court will refer the petitions challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 or CAA to a three-judge bench, the top court said Monday, adding it will issue further directions in the matter on October 31.

Presided over by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit, a two-judge bench took up a batch of around 200 petitions on the matter and issued directions on completion of procedural formalities.

The bench asked the Centre to file its response to the petitions and sought replies from the states of Assam and Tripura as well on pleas specific to them.

"Now put the house in order and take it that we will be making a reference to a three-judge combination," the bench, also comprising Justice S Ravindra,

said after passing the directions.

The CAA seeks to grant Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

Many, including opposition parties, have slammed it for excluding Muslims from the three countries.

The government, in response last year to one of the petitions, had called CAA "a benign piece of legislation" that it said seeks to "tackle a specific problem prevalent in specific countries, i.e., persecution on the grounds of religion... in light of the undisputable theocratic constitutional position... and the perception of fear amongst minorities...".

It said the CAA does not touch obtaining of Indian citizenship by foreigners of any country and that legal migration, on the basis of valid documents and visas, continues to be permissible from all countries, including the three specified ones.

NOTICE
Invitation for Empanelment of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery

No. Agri/Engg/4972/EM/SMAM/2022-23/209

Applications are invited from Manufacturers of Agricultural Machineries, who are registered in the DBT portal www.agrimachinery.nic.in, for empanelment to facilitate community procurement under different Schemes for the year 2022-23. Application forms along with Terms & Conditions and list of Agricultural Machinery shall be available in the office of the undersigned from **12.09.2022** and this is also made available in the departmental website www.diragri.assam.gov.in. Last Date & Time of submission of applications along with required documents, certificates, test reports etc. is **28.09.2022 up to 3:00 pm**.
Empanelment Security for an amount of **Rs. 50,000.00/-** (Rupees Fifty thousand) only in the form of FD/TDR pledged in favour of 'The Director of Agriculture, Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22' and with minimum **3 (three) years validity** shall have to be submitted along with application form.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture, Assam
Khanapara, Guwahati-22

JANASANYOG /CF/ 2155/22

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

T. Notice No. 230-Elect/TRD/PRY/J/E-Tender Notice/2022/481 **Date 09.09.2022**

Tender Notice

Sr. Divl. Electrical Engineer/TRD/N. C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following E- Tender, the details of the tenders are as under:

T. No.	Description of work
230-TRD-WC-863-2022	25kV OHE electrification of cross overs, Hot axle, Goods Wharf and other sidings of stations GMC area in Prayagraj Division. (IInd Call) Advertised value ₹ 12639985.95 Bid Security ₹ 213200.00 Completion Period 12 Months Bidding system Single Packet Tender Closing date & Time 03.10.22 & 14.00 Hrs Tender opening date & Time 03.10.22 & 15.00 Hrs Allocation Cap & RRSK UWID No. 060216213011
230-TRD-WC-864-2022	Modification of 25kV OHE due to connectivity of CPC siding to shunting neck of CPA Station & Interlocking of L.C gate No. 68C between BRN-ETH section alongwith provision of Auxiliary transformer & associated works in Prayagraj Division. Advertised value ₹ 9882033.29 Bid Security ₹ 197700.00 Completion Period 12 Months Bidding system Single Packet Tender Closing date & Time 03.10.2022 & 14.00 Hrs. Tender opening date & Time 03.10.22 & 15.00 Hrs Allocation Cap & RRSK UWID No. 060216213004 & 060229223001

Note:- 1. The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders shall be available on Website www.ireps.gov.in 21days prior to the date of opening of the tender, 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate. 3. In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. 1225/22 (ADM)

www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway

ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL PARK AND TRAINING AREA (AEPTA), DHAULA KUAN, NEW DELHI-110010
TENDER NOTICE

1. Tender for operating catering services for AEPTA (Restaurant, 05 party venue/lounge/coffee shop) at Dhaula Kuan, New Delhi-110010 are invited.

2. Tender forms available at AEPTA from **14 Sep 2022 to 21 Sep 2022** during working hours on payment of Rs. 500/- in cash.

For more information Contact
011-25693830, 25684179 & 8493023900

anadin THE TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED

AAVIN ILLAM, 3-A, NANDANAM, CHENNAI-600035. TELEPHONE : 044-23464500, FAX :044-23464505, E-MAIL: aavinadmgmg@yahoo.co.in
Ref. No:8674/Proj.2/2022 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-SUBMISSION ONLY)** Dated:12.09.2022

The TCMPF Ltd., invites **TWO PART TENDERS** by way of e-Submission through eProcurement Portal from the reputed Contractors / Manufacturers / Suppliers for following Equipments / Machinery and Civil Works for Metro Dairies and Various DCMPU Ltd., under Union / Federation /IDDF / NPDD Schemes Funds.

S. No.	Name of the works / Items	EMD Value	S. No.	Name of the works / Items	EMD Value
I. Machinery Works :-			II. Civil Construction Works:-		
1	1010 KVA DG Set and 1600 KVA Outdoor Transformer - 2 Nos.	Rs.5,50,000	1	SMP Godown (1500MT)	Rs.3,23,200
2	8000KG/HR. Boiler with Chimney	Rs.3,75,000	2	6 TLPD Ice Cream Plant	Rs.5,89,500
3	10LLPD Fully Automatic Dairy Plant	Rs.97,80,000	3	1.00 LLPD Dairy Plant	Rs.5,32,000
4	50KLDP Milk Dairy Plant	Rs.3,98,000	4	Rehabilitation of existing Chilling centre	Rs.68,500
5	5KL Bulk Milk Cooler - 111 Nos.	Rs.19,42,000	5	10LLPD Capacity Dairy Plant (Expandable to 15LLPD)	Rs.14,82,000
6	3KL Bulk Milk Cooler -10 Nos.	Rs.1,55,000	6	Call Rearing Station	Rs.86,000
7	Milk Adulteration Detection Machine - 163 Nos.	Rs.6,52,000	7	100MT Cattle feed plant	Rs.3,52,000
8	Cloud based Milk analyser - 1342 Nos.	Rs.8,32,000	Tender Document Availability :-		
9	Solar Power of 15 MW capacity	Rs.45,62,000	I.Machinery Works: 14.09.2022 to 17.10.2022 upto 2.00 PM		
10	Hiring of Cloud Based BMC Monitoring System - 50 Nos.	Rs.63,000	II.Civil Works : 19.10.2022 at 3.30 P.M.		
11	100 TLPD Capacity New Dairy Plant	Rs.35,00,000	E-Submission End Date and Time:-		
The tenderers should submit their bids only through eProcurement Portal (https://intenders.gov.in). All other details can be seen in the tender documents, the tender documents can be downloaded at the above website. Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.			Technical Bid opening Date and Time:-		
The Technical Bids shall be opened through online eProcurement Portal (https://intenders.gov.in) on following date at above mentioned address.			I. Machinery Works: 18.10.2022 at 2.30 PM		
DIPR/ 4088 /TENDER/2022			II.Civil Works : 19.10.2022 at 3.30 P.M.		
Deputy General Manager (Engg.),TCMPF Ltd.,					

WORLD DAIRY SUMMIT

Efforts on to curb lumpy skin disease: PM Modi

Says women are the real leaders in India's dairy sector

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & MALAVIKA PRASAD
NEW DELHI, GREATER NOIDA (UP), SEPTEMBER 12

OBSERVING THAT there has been a loss of livestock because of the lumpy skin disease (LSD) reported across several states in the country recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday said the Centre, with various state governments, is trying hard to control it.

Modi was speaking at the inaugural session of the four-day International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit (IDF WDS) 2022, the theme of which is 'Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood'.

In the event, about 1,500 participants from 50 countries, including industry leaders, experts, farmers, and policy planners, will exchange ideas and discuss issues related to the sector. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath welcomed PM Modi at the summit along with other dignitaries. The last such dairy summit was held in India about half a century ago in 1974.

Addressing the inaugural session, the PM said that the concept of 'pashu dhan' and occupations associated with milk have been an important part of the 1,000-year-old Indian culture. He listed out unique characteristics of the Indian dairy sector, the first being the small farmers who contribute the most. The second is the vast network of dairy cooperatives which are spread across 2-lakh villages involving 2-crore farmers, he said. "There are no middle men in this system; more than 70 per cent of the money received from the customers goes directly to the farmers," the PM said. He also pointed out the indigenous species of dairy animals which can adapt to extreme climates.

Highlighting the role of women in the dairy sector, as an-



PM Narendra Modi with Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Parshottam Rupala in Greater Noida on Monday. PTI

other unique feature of the Indian dairy sector, the Prime Minister said that women make for 70 per cent of the workforce in the sector. "The real leaders of India's dairy sector are women," he said, adding the sector provides livelihood to 8-crore families.

"In the recent past, there has been a loss of livestock due to lumpy skin disease across many states. Our scientists have developed an indigenous vaccine for lumpy skin disease," the PM said, adding efforts are also being made to control the disease by expediting testing and restricting the movement of animals.

The PM also said the total value of dairy production in the country is about Rs 8.5 lakh crore, which is more than the combined value of paddy and wheat production. The Indian dairy sector is known more for 'production by masses' than 'mass production', Modi said, adding the per capita availability of milk in India is higher than the world average.

Listing the measures taken by his government in the dairy sector, Modi said, "India produced 146 million tonnes of milk in 2014. It has now increased to 210 million tonnes. That is, an in-

crease of about 44 per cent."

The Prime Minister also said that as compared to the 2 per cent production growth at the global level, India is clocking the milk production growth rate at more than 6 per cent. He said the government is building the "largest" database of dairy animals. "We have resolved that by 2025, we will vaccinate 100% of the animals against foot and mouth disease and brucellosis," he said.

Union Cabinet Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala said the last time a dairy summit was organised in India was in 1974 and at that time milk production was 23 million tonnes, which has now increased to 220 million tonnes.

Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath said the state was the largest producer of milk in the country and that over 4-lakh milk producers are working UP.

Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr L Murugan; Minister of State Sanjeev Kumar Balyan; President of International Dairy Federation P Brazzale; and Director General of International Dairy Federation Ms Caroline Emond were also present.

Further probe ordered in harassment case against director of IIM Rohtak

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

LAMBASTING THE police for its "faulty investigation" in an FIR registered against IIM Rohtak's director Prof Dheeraj Sharma by a former female assistant professor alleging sexual harassment, a local court in Rohtak has directed for further probe into the case. Sharma is also facing accusations that he is not eligible for the post.

The court of Judicial Magistrate First Class Aditya Singh Yadav while refusing to accept the case-cancellation report filed by the police, ordered that all charges that were levelled by

the complainant against Sharma in the FIR registered against him in 2018 be re-investigated.

"From the perusal of cancellation report, it can be acknowledged that the investigation...is faulty... the investigation has not been carried out on the allegations mentioned in the detailed complaint given by complainant to police. Thus in the interest of justice, as doubts have been raised with regard to cancellation report, it would be appropriate if investigating officer is directed to further investigate the matter so as to bring out the truth of allegation levelled by the complainant in the original complaint on the basis of which FIR was lodged.

Accordingly, investigating officer is directed to conduct further investigation in this matter as per law," the court said in the order pronounced on September 6.

The court also fixed next date of hearing on December 12.

Based on the complaint filed, an FIR was lodged on May 29, 2018 under Sections 354 (outraging modesty) and 354A (sexual harassment) of IPC against Sharma.

The court passed the order while hearing an application moved by the complainant under section 173 (8) CrPc for further investigation challenging the closure report filed by the police in favour of Sharma.

Rajasthan ministers heckled as Bainsla's ashes immersed in Ajmer's Puskhar lake

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 12

RAJASTHAN MINISTERS Ashok Chandna and Shakuntala Rawat were heckled at a programme to mark the *asthi-varshan* (immersion of ashes) programme of late Gujar leader Kironi Singh Bainsla in Ajmer on Monday.

Bainsla (82), the architect of the Gujar reservation agitation in Rajasthan, had died in Jaipur in March earlier this year.

Led by his son Vijay Bainsla, the '*asthi kalash*' yatra began from Kotputli on August 17 and covered about 75 Assembly seats in 23 districts, before reaching Pushkar. Thousands from Most Backward Castes (MBC), including Gujjars, had gathered for the programme, which turned out to be a show of strength by the community ahead of elections in late 2023.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, BJP state president Satish Poonia, former minister Rajendra Rathore, and RLD national president Jayant Chaudhary were present, apart from CM's son Vaibhav Gehlot and ministers Chandna and Rawat. Chandna, who was reading a message from CM Ashok Gehlot, was heckled by listeners who hurled footwear in the air, waved them at him and also allegedly hurled some towards the stage as well. People also raised 'Sachin Pilot zindabad' slogans during his address and eventually, Chandna had to stop his address midway.

Later, Chanda took to Twitter saying that he witnessed something unbelievable when people clapped for Rajendra Rathore, "who was part of the cabinet that gave the orders for killing 72 martyrs" while "shoes were hurled on those whose family members went to jail" during the reservation agitation. Rawat, who spoke before Chandna, was similarly heckled by the crowd but completed her address.

Later, Bainsla's ashes were immersed in the Pushkar lake.

Stuck in traffic in Bengaluru, doc dashes 3 km to perform surgery



Dr Govind Nandakumar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 12

The notoriety of Bengaluru's traffic is nothing new, but here is a doctor who abandoned his car and ran 3km to perform a surgery.

Dr Govind Nandakumar, a gastroenterology surgeon, was on August 30 stuck in traffic on the Marathahalli-Sarjapur road when he was headed to Manipal Hospitals, where a patient was waiting for him. When the traffic stopped for a few minutes, Dr Nandakumar left his car with his driver and ran to the hospital.

A video that he posted on Instagram received much appreciation from the public for his commitment.

"Sometimes you gotta do what you gotta do!" " #run-towork should more of us run or walk to work?" he tweeted tagging Health Minister K Sudhakar, Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw and a few others.

JEE ADVANCED 2022 RESULT

How the toppers did it, in their own words

The Indian Express spoke to the top 10 rankers of JEE Advanced this year to find that nine of them want to study computer science at IIT Bombay and only one* at IIT Madras. A look at their background and tips for preparation



SHISHIR R K, 18
SCHOOL: Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakarnagar (near Bangaluru)
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 314/360 (Phy: 96, Chem: 109, Math: 109)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 96.4%
EXAM PREP TIP: Attempt as many mock tests as possible and note and correct errors after every exam.



POLISETTY KARTHIKEYA*, 19
SCHOOL: Sri Chaitanya Junior College, Veda Vyasa Bhavan, Vijayawada
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 292/360 (Phy: 98, Chem: 103, Math: 91)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 93.9%
EXAM PREP TIP: What sets one apart is confidence. Try not to panic and attempt questions with calmly.



POLU LAKSHMI SAI LOHITH REDDY, 17
SCHOOL: Narayana Junior College, Hitech City, Hyderabad
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 307/360 (Phy: 101, Chem: 94, Math: 112)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 97.9%
EXAM PREP TIP: Focus on concepts, not on attempting more questions. Start with the NCERT book.



PRATIK SAHOO, 18
SCHOOL: Prodigy Public School, Pune
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 292/360 (Phy: 104, Chem: 103, Math: 85)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 94.8%
EXAM PREP TIP: Don't fall for the popular 12-hour study regime. I think 7-8 hours a day is equally good. Quality of hours matter more than quantity.



THOMAS BIJU CHEERAMVELIL, 18
SCHOOL: Vishwa Prabhash Central School, Trivandrum.
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 300/360 (Phy: NA, Chem: NA, Math: NA)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 99.4%
EXAM PREP TIP: Study regularly and try to do many problems. Try not to repeat the mistakes.



DHEERAJ KURUKUNDA, 17
SCHOOL: Narayana Junior College, Hitech City, Hyderabad
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 287/360 (Phy: 92, Chem: 107, Math: 88)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 98.8%
EXAM PREP TIP: Attempting more questions should not be the aim. Focus on the basics.



VANGAPALLI SAI SIDDHARTHA, 18
SCHOOL: Narayana Junior College, Hitech City, Hyderabad
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 299/360 (Phy: 103, Chem: 110, Math: 86)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 98%
EXAM PREP TIP: Practice math for speed. Apart from books, try to read extra materials, follow teachers.



MAHIT GADHIWALA, 18
SCHOOL: Scholar English Academy School, Surat
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 285/360 (Phy: 107, Chem: 93, Math: 85)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 98.6%
EXAM PREP TIP: 4-5 hours of self-study daily apart from school and coaching class.



MAYANK MOTWANI, 18
SCHOOL: Lord Buddha Public School, Kota
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 297/360 (Phy: 88, Chem: 111, Math: 98)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 98%
EXAM PREP TIP: Follow the guidance of your teachers. Whatever you are taught, revise it and do all of your homework. I used to study 6-8 hours daily.



VENCHA GNANA MAHESH, 17
SCHOOL: Narayana Junior College, Visakhapatnam
JEE ADVANCED MARKS: 285/360 (Phy: 86, Chem: 99, Math: 100)
CLASS 12 EXAM: 97.6%
EXAM PREP TIP: Prepare short notes for important concepts, work on time management, avoid silly mistakes during examination.

PUNJAB
Minister in soup after audio clip to 'trap' contractors surfaces online

RAAKHI JAGGA
LUDHIANA, SEPTEMBER 12

PUNJAB CABINET minister Fauja Singh Sarari has landed in the eye of the storm after an audio clip of a conversation purportedly between him and a close aide discussing a plan to "trap" contractors – involved in transport of foodgrain – surfaced on the internet. Sarari, the minister for food processing and defence services welfare, has denied the charge.

In the one minute-40 second audio clip, Sarari and his OSD Tarsem Lal Kapoor are purportedly heard discussing ways to get some contractors involved in foodgrain transportation "trapped" with the help of government officials so that money could be demanded from them.

The cabinet minister on Sunday, while questioning the authenticity of the audio, accused Kapoor of levelling false allegations against him. He claimed that Kapoor's nephew Johnny was booked and later arrested for misusing the national flag on his private car. Sarari said Kapoor wanted his help in getting Jonny released, but since he denied assistance, he was being framed. "Everything can be edited and presented in a wrong way. The audio too has been edited," he said on Sunday.

On Monday, Sarari faced ire of hundreds of farmers belonging to Bharti Kisan Union (Dakonda) and ex-servicemen when he arrived at a state-level programme to mark the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi in Ferozepur. The protestors blocked his way and did not allow him to enter the Saraghi Memorial. Sarari, however, was escorted out under tight police cover from another gate to the venue.

Govt's FY19 health spending dropped from previous year

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE UNION government's healthcare spend dropped to 1.28 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2018-19 from the previous year's figure of 1.35 per cent.

In fact, total health expenditure – the total money spent on healthcare by the government, people, private entities and external funding – has fallen from 3.9% of the GDP to 3.2% in five years ending in 2018-19, according to the National Health Accounts Estimates 2018-19 released Monday.

The decline in proportion to GDP has happened despite an increase in the government's share of the country's total health expenditure – from 29 per cent in 2014-15 to 40.6 per cent in 2018-19.

"Even though the GDP or the size of the country's economy must have increased in the five years, we would expect the spending on healthcare to either go up or at the very least remain constant. This, however, has not happened. And, the chronic under-funding of the healthcare sector affects the poorest. Bad infrastructure in public facilities, long queues at hospitals such as AIIMS, or issues with accessing the facility leads to even the poorest spending out of pocket and going even to unlicensed practitioners," said an expert on

health financing, requesting anonymity.

Government spending on health schemes contributed 9.6 per cent of the total health expenditure, as against 9 per cent the previous year. Ayushman Bharat was rolled out in the September of the same year to which the report pertains. Hence, this proportion is likely to increase in the subsequent reports.

Other than government spending and people spending out-of-pocket, private health insurance accounted for 6.6 per cent of the total health expenditure, against 5.8 per cent the previous year.

The expert quoted above said: "We need to look at whether the number of people covered has increased or just the amount they are paying as premiums. There have been huge increases in the premiums over the last few years. People paying for healthcare expenses out-of-pocket made up 48.2 per cent of the total health expenses in the year 2018-19, a small drop from 48.8 per cent the previous year. Out-of-pocket expenses have now decreased substantially from the seen 62.6 per cent during 2014-15.

What worries experts is a 10-percentage point drop that was recorded in the 2017-18 report. "There is no on-ground explanation for the drastic drop in out of pocket expenditure, so we need to look at the methodology. This drop has been worrying many," the expert said.

Shah meets Naga leaders over peace accord

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

HOME MINISTER Amit Shah Monday held a meeting with Naga leaders over the long pending Naga peace accord, it is learnt. The delegation was led by Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

In a statement, the Ministry of Home Affairs said it was committed to resolving Naga issues to the satisfaction of all stakeholders.

"The Union Home & Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah met with a wide spectrum of the political leadership of Naga Groups, led by the Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Riu in New Delhi today. Many issues were discussed at the meeting. Talks over the Naga issues have been in progress for a number of years... the efforts of the Government of India have been to resolve the many complicated issues that are involved in the Naga talks," the statement said.

The statement also dismissed reports on possible solutions as "speculative", since negotiations are still on.

The Naga political issue has been hanging fire for several years with the government in negotiations with multiple Naga groups, including the largest – the National Security Council of Nagalim-Isak Muivah (NSCN-IM). In 2015, the government signed a Framework Agreement with the NSCN-IM for giving final shape to the peace accord. Seven years later, it remains a work in progress. The NSCN-IM has been demanding a separate constitution and "national flag", which the Centre has rejected.



The ground floor of the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready by December 2023, Express

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE GROUND floor of the Ram temple in Ayodhya will be ready by December 2023 and devotees will be able to offer prayers by January 2024 after 'pran pratishtha (installation of the deity)', said Nripendra Misra, Chairman of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, adding that the construction work of the temple is progressing according to the plan.

The office-bearers of the Trust met on Sunday to review the progress of the temple. "The total cost of the temple complex is being pegged at Rs 1,800 crore, but it might go up eventually," said Champat Rai, General Secretary of the Trust.

"While the ground floor that

will house the sanctum sanctorum will be complete by December 2023, the first and second floors of the temple will be ready by December 2024, even as the entire carving work will be complete by the end of 2025," Misra told *The Indian Express*.

Considering that the 'darshan' of "Ram Lalla" will open in December 2023 or at the most by January 2024, the construction work of the pilgrimage facilitation centre, utilities and infrastructure services at the complex have also started, said a statement from the Trust on Monday.

The masterplan of the remaining area of the temple complex is still being finalised, which entails construction of the temples dedicated to Valmiki, Vashistha, Viswamitra, Jatayu and Sabri, in addition to ritualistic facilities like a "yagya

mandap", a residential block for sages, a museum, research centre and a library. The under-construction pilgrimage facilitation centre comprises the facility of depositing shoes and other personal belongings, waiting halls for 5,000 devotees, drinking water and toilets blocks.

The super structure of the temple is being constructed using the carved Rajasthan sandstone from Banshi Paharpur. The carving process is on and approximately 1,200 artisans are engaged at mines and workshops in Rajasthan and at the temple site in Ayodhya, the Trust statement said. For the sanctum sanctorum, white Makrana marble from Rajasthan has been finalised, which will also be used for the flooring, arches, railing and door frames in the main temple.

Girl dies in school bus

Thiruvananthapuram: A Kerala family's four-year-old daughter died after she was left locked inside a school bus in Qatar on Sunday. The girl, Minsa Mariyam Jacob, was a KG student and had dozed off on way to the school. She was found unconscious at noon by the bus crew. She was rushed to a hospital, but died. **ENS**

**DELIMITATION COMMITTEE
STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
NCT OF DELHI & UT CHANDIGARH
NIGAM BHAWAN, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI**

Dated: 13.09.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

DELIMITATION OF WARDS OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF DELHI

Draft Delimitation Order, as approved by Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has been put on the State Election Commission's website **"sec.delhigovt.nic.in"**

All political parties, aspiring candidates for the General Election to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the general public are requested to visit the aforesaid website and view the details of proposed delimited wards.

Objections/suggestions, if any, on Draft Delimitation Order may be sent to the Delimitation Committee latest by **3rd October 22, 5.00 pm**. Objection/suggestion received after the stipulated time shall not be considered by the Committee.

This Public notice has been published in newspapers of English, Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi.

Sd/-
(SECRETARY)
**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
NCT OF DELHI**
DIP/Shabdarth/0332/22-23

varthana

Varthana Finance Private Limited
(Formerly known as Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,)
Registered Office at : No. 58C-110, Varasiddhi, Outer Ring Road, Service Road, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043. Website www.varthana.com, Email: care@varthana.com, Phone: 080-68455777, Branch Office : No. 1162 & 1163, Tower B-1, 11th Floor, Space 1 Tech Park, Sector 49, Sohna Road, Gurugram 122018.

POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1)) (For Immoveable property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., (Formerly Known as M/s. Thirumeni Finance Private Ltd.,) Gurugram Branch, Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a **Demand Notice dated : 28-06-2022**, calling upon the **Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgageors, in Loan Account No's. S19GUR-GUR-007004, U20GUR-GUR-014535, U21GUR-GUR-016581, 1). M/s. The Global School, Represented by it's Authorised Signatory, 2). M/s. Global Educational Society, Represented by it's Authorised Signatory, No. 1 and 2 are having office at Village Jali Khori, Tehsil Firozpur Jhirka Mewat, Haryana – 122104., 3). Sandeep Aggarwal, S/o. Jagan Parsad, No. 163, Ward No.7, Ferozpur Jhirka, Mewat, Haryana - 122104, 4). Annu, W/o. Sandeep Aggarwal, 5). Kusumlata, W/o. Jagan Parsad, No. 4 and 5 are residing at Near Syndicate Bank, Ward No.7. Ferozpur Jhirka Mewat, Haryana - 122104.,** to repay the amount mentioned in the said notice being a sum of **Rs. 37,12,880/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Only)** as on **25-06-2022**, to pay agreed contractual rate of interest together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges etc., as details mentioned in the Demand Notice, till the date of payment, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

However the Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgageors herein above having failed to repay the full amount with interest/other charges, notice is hereby given to the Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgageors in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned being Authorised Officer of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., Gurugram** has taken **POSSESSION** of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on this Day of **09th September 2022**.

The Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgageors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the **M/s. Varthana Finance Private Ltd., Gurugram**, for an amount of **Rs. 37,12,880/- (Rupees Thirty Seven Lakh Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty Only)** as on **25-06-2022**, with agreed contractual rate of interest, as mentioned herein above until the date of payment together with incidental expenses, cost and other charges. The Applicants/ Co-Aplicants/ Mortgageors attention is invited to provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured Assets.

Description of the Immoveable Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Khewat/Khata No.80/88, Killa No.91/11/3/2, Admeasuring Area 6 Kanal 8 Marla, Situated in Village Reggad Tehsil Firozpur Jhirka District Mewat Nuh, Haryana and bounded on, East By : Other Property, West By : Other Property, North By : Road, South By : Other Property.

Date: 13-09-2022, Place: Reggad. **Authorised Officer, Sd/-Varthana Finance Private Limited**

SC Collegium clears names of 20 judges for HCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE SUPREME Court Collegium has cleared the names of 20 judges for the High Courts of Bombay, Karnataka, Punjab and Haryana. Those recommended for elevation include 15 judicial officers, three Additional Judges and two advocates.

An official statement said the SC Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India U U Lalit at a meeting on September 7 approved the proposal for appointment of Additional Judges Justices Mohammed Ghouse Shukure Kamal, Rajendra Badamkar, and Khazi Jayabunnisa Mohiuddin as Permanent Judges in the Karnataka High Court.

The Collegium also approved proposal for elevation of six judicial officers – Sanjay Anandrao Deshmukh, Yanshivraj Gopichand Khobragade, Mahendra Wadhurnal Chandwani, Abhay Sopanrao Waghware, Ravindra Madhusudan Joshi, and Shubhangi Vijay Joshi – as judges in Bombay HC.

The Collegium again met on Monday and cleared proposal for elevation of Advocates Santosh Govindrao Chapalgaonkar, and Milind Manohar Sathaye, as judges in the Bombay HC. Monday's meeting also approved the proposal for elevation of nine judicial officers as judges in the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Those recommended are Gurbir Singh, Deepak Gupta, Amarjot Bhatti, Ritu Tagore, Manisha Batra, Harpreet Kaur Jeevan, Sukhvinder Kaur, Sanjiv Berry, and Vikram Aggarwal.

**AI AIRPORT SERVICES LIMITED
APPOINTMENT**

AI AIRPORT SERVICES LIMITED (formerly known as Air India Airport Services Limited) (AIASL) wishes to fill in existing vacancies and maintain a wait-list for vacancies arising in future. Indian Nationals (Male & Female) who meet with the requirements stipulated herein for the following posts on a fixed term contract basis, which may be renewed subject to their performance and the requirement of the AI Airport Services Limited, to fill –in the existing vacancies as shown below and to maintain a wait – list for vacancies arising in future.

Sr. No.	Position	No. of Vacancies	Place of Posting
1	Chief of IT	1	Delhi –HQ
2	Dy. Chief of IT	1	Delhi –HQ
3	Manager IT	2	Mumbai, Kolkata
4	Officer IT	5	Amritsar, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi

Govt. guidelines applicable for Reserved Categories.
For Application Format and all other details, please see **Advertisement** on our website- <http://aiasl.in> - Recruitment & <http://aiasl.in> - Careers

State Bank of India
Central Recruitment & Promotion Department
Corporate Centre, Mumbai
(Advertisement No. CRPD/CR/2022-23/15)

Recruitment of Junior Associates (Customer Support & Sales) in Clerical Cadre in State Bank of India (SBI)

Applications are invited from Indian Citizens for recruitment of Junior Associates (Customer Support & Sales) in clerical cadre in SBI.

Vacancies: 5212 (including 204 backlog vacancies for SC, ST & OBC)

For vacancy details, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and online application please visit bank's website <https://www.sbi.co.in/careers> or <https://bank.sbi/careers> - **"Latest Announcement/Current Openings"**. Candidates can register their application through the link available therein.

- Online Registration of application and payment of fees: from 07.09.2022 to 27.09.2022
- Date of online Preliminary Exam (Tentative): Various dates in November 2022
- Date of online Main Exam (tentative): in December 2022 / January 2023

Place: Mumbai
Date: 07.09.2022
General Manager (RP&PM)

**BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK
NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED**
CORPORATE OFFICE, BENGALURU – 560 029
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT MANAGER, DEPUTY MANAGER AND ASSISTANT MANAGER (SECURITY)

Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL/ Company), a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India presently having its Presses at Mysuru in Karnataka and Salboni in West Bengal with Corporate Office at Bengaluru is committed to design, print and supply banknotes conforming to customer requirements by continuous improvement through dedicated people on a transparent, secure and confidential environment and meet the environmental needs of the area and society. BRBNMPL invites applications from willing applicants for the posts of **Assistant Manager, Deputy Manager and Assistant Manager (Security)** for its organisation on or before **October 08, 2022**.

Indicative number of vacancies to be filled up is as detailed below:

Name of the Post	Post code	No. of Vacancies					Total vacancy
		SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	
Deputy Manager – Environmental Engineering background	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Assistant Manager – Environmental Engineering background	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
Assistant Manager – Civil Engineering Background	3	1	0	1	2	1	5
Assistant Manager - Finance & Accounts Background	4	1	1	2	0	2	6
Assistant Manager (Security)	5	0	1	0	1	2	4

For further details for the above posts, please refer to the complete advertisement (Adv. No. 2 /2022) displayed on the Company's website <https://www.brbtnmpl.co.in> under the page **"Careers"** and in Employment News issue dated September 24, 2022 or subsequently.

BRBNMPL is also inviting applications for appointing an **Advisor and 2 Consultants** on contractual basis, whose details are displayed under the page **"Careers"** on the Company's website <https://www.brbtnmpl.co.in>

(For updates / corrigendum on the advertisements, please visit Company's Website: <https://www.brbtnmpl.co.in>)

The Hindi version of this advertisement has been published in *Dainik Jagran*



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

LAW AND POLITICS

Varanasi court order on Gyanvapi mosque opens a legal process and frames a challenge that lies outside the court too

THE VARANASI DISTRICT court said Monday it would hear a petition seeking the right to worship Maa Shringar Gowri within the Gyanvapi mosque complex on September 22. District judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha dismissed the mosque committee's objections against the petition, which were on the grounds that it is barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, the Waqf Act 1995 and the UP Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983. Judge Vishvesha said: "The plaintiffs are only demanding right to worship Maa Shringar Gauri and other visible and invisible deities which were being worshipped incessantly till 1993 and after 1993 till now once in a year under the regulatory of State of Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 does not operate as the bar on the suit of plaintiffs." The Act, legislated by Parliament in the backdrop of the Ramjanmabhoomi agitation, freezes the status of religious places as they existed on August 15, 1947. The judge has held that the petitioners only sought the right to worship as a civil right at the disputed property and their appeal did not seek conversion of the mosque to a temple or demand ownership of the complex.

The mosque committee has said it will appeal against the district court order. The Supreme Court, which had in the first place insisted that the district court hear the petition against the plea by the devotees, will soon hear the challenge to the constitutionality of the Places of Worship Act. As the legal battle continues in higher courts, it must not be forgotten that the crux of the matter lies in politics, rather in law. The Hindu claim to mosques at Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura has been part of a political project pursued by the BJP and other Sangh Parivar outfits, in court and on the street. Ayodhya, Kashi and Mathura emerged as political flashpoints — put on the backburner only during the BJP's coalition years. Over time, shrine politics — its culmination the demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 — has enmeshed with narratives of nationhood and Hindu self-pride that frame Muslims as outsiders.

In June this year, RSS sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat underlined that the Gyanvapi dispute involved issues of faith but questioned the need to "look for a Shiving in every mosque (*har masjid me Shiving kyun dekhna*)". Why escalate fights, he said. As the court in Varanasi opens the doors to a renewed legal process likely to go all the way to the highest court, the salience of those words couldn't be understated. The Supreme Court, in its 2019 order clearing the decks for the temple to be built in Ayodhya where the Babri masjid once stood, described the Places of Worship Act as a "legislative instrument designed to protect the secular features of the Indian polity, which is one of the basic features of the Constitution". The Varanasi court order puts a question mark on that and frames the challenge ahead.

PINCHING THE WALLET

Price rise across the board is a concern, policy makers may need to act tough

ON MONDAY, DATA released by the National Statistical Office showed that retail inflation has reversed its downward trend, edging marginally upwards in August. Inflation rose to 7 per cent, up from 6.71 per cent the month before, driven in part by higher food inflation. So far in the second quarter (July-August), inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, has averaged 6.9 per cent. This is marginally lower than the Reserve Bank of India's most recent forecast which had pegged inflation at 7.1 per cent for the entire quarter. However, inflation has now been above the upper threshold of the RBI's inflation targeting framework for eight consecutive months. This latest data, which comes just a few weeks before the next meeting of the monetary policy committee that is scheduled to be held at the end of this month, only underlines the price pressures in the economy.

The disaggregated data shows that the consumer food price index rose to 7.62 per cent in August, up from 6.69 per cent in July, with sharp increases seen in cereals, milk, fruits and vegetables. As per analysts, while wheat prices are elevated due to the heat wave which impacted output, the shortfall in rainfall across the Gangetic plain is expected to adversely impact rice prices. This would suggest that cereal inflation is likely to remain elevated in the near term. On its part, the government has been taking measures aimed to ease the price pressures. In May, it had announced a ban on exports of wheat, and has now imposed restrictions on rice shipments as well. Alongside these price pressures, it is equally worrying that core inflation which excludes the volatile food and fuel components continues to remain elevated. In fact, across several categories such as clothing and footwear, household goods and services, recreation and amusement, personal care and effects, prices remain elevated.

In the last monetary policy meeting, the RBI had projected inflation to trend lower in the second half of the ongoing financial year, dipping further thereafter to around 5 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the next financial year. However, the minutes of the last MPC meeting suggested that most members of the committee were in favour of further interest rate hikes to tackle inflation. The latest data will only restrict the policy choices before the MPC when they meet next. The MPC should stay the course, continue to focus on bringing inflation in line with its target.

CUP OF JOY

Sri Lankan cricket team's success at the Asia Cup is a triumph against many odds

IF NOT FOR a last minute decision to skip the Sunday mass in 2019, Sri Lanka's captain Dasun Shanaka might well not be alive today. St Sebastian Church, in his home town Negombo, was one of the six churches and hotels attacked by terrorists. Shanaka was too tired to make it to church and when he heard the blast, he rushed to find it completely destroyed. A few months later, the nation would slip into economic chaos and political crisis, with people rising in protest against those in power. Inflation shot up over 50 per cent, people struggled with daily power cuts and shortages of fuel, food, and medicines, as the country defaulted on its debt repayments.

Cricket continued amidst this crisis. When the Australian cricket team toured Sri Lanka in June this year, they were met with lines of people protesting all around the city of Colombo against the government. But inside the stadium people turned out in large numbers to watch the game. Chamika Karunaratne, the allrounder who did the Naagin dance after the team won against Bangladesh at the just concluded Asia Cup, once had to miss practice as he was stuck in the line for petrol. Several former cricketers such as Roshan Mahanama participated in the peaceful protests and numerous others including Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, two modern greats of the game, voiced their support to the people.

If the chaos around wasn't enough, Sri Lankan cricket went through a musical chairs of captaincy and coaches before settling with Shanaka as the captain and Chris Silverwood, who was unceremoniously sacked from England after the Ashes defeat, as the coach. Two years ago, they had dropped many senior players. In 2021, after a heavy defeat to England, Shanaka was made captain. The irony is that Sri Lanka is yet to qualify for the T20 World Cup, and have to play qualification rounds. From then on, to re-unite the team, infuse them with energy and purpose, it has been an unenviable task. On Sunday, Team Sri Lanka was crowned the Asian champions, a win they will cherish for a long time.



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

VARANASI DISTRICT JUDGE A K Visvesha, in *Rakhi Singh & others*, rather than waiting for the Supreme Court's three-judge bench to render its judgment on the constitutionality of the Places of Worship Act, 1991, has ordered that the petition by the five Hindu women is maintainable under the Civil Procedure Code (CPC) 1908 and will now be heard on merit. The judge has noted that the petitioners are seeking neither the conversion of the Gyanvapi mosque into a Shiv temple nor making any claim to ownership. They are merely seeking a right to worship as a civil right and, therefore, the bar of the 1991 Act is not applicable. He also held that the entry of the property as waqf in the revenue records, as per settled law, does not create ownership rights. The Masjid Anjuman Committee's objections on the maintainability under Order 7, Rule 11 of the CPC have been rejected. The Anjuman may appeal to the High Court and eventually to the Supreme Court (SC). But is it worth it? At the heart of the debate is the Places of Worship Act, its constitutionality and what it permits or prohibits. Why do we, as a nation, refuse to learn from the past? Is litigation the best method to resolve disputes between faith-based communities? Why can't local Hindus and Muslims of Kashi come up with an out-of-the-box solution?

The five petitioners mosque wanted to pray inside the complex at "Shringar Gauri Sthal". The matter went to the SC, which transferred it to the district judge.

Many genuinely believed that the Babri Masjid verdict (2019) would mean curtains on demands for conversion of religious places. Even the RSS chief had reiterated several times that the Sangh joined the Ram Janmabhoomi movement due to historical reasons and it would no longer be closely associated with any other demand for the conversion of a mosque to a temple. Simultaneously, he emphasised that Kashi and Mathura do have great religious and sentimental significance for Hindus. He even discouraged the search for shivlings here and there. Ideally, such a positive reaction should have been welcomed by the Muslim leadership and an out-of-court amicable settlement should have been arrived

Our obsession with the law as a solution to problems -- particularly religious and social problems -- is the real problem. In the context of both Kashi and Mathura, many Muslims and liberals relied excessively on the Places of Worship Act. Laws are not written in stone and are routinely amended and struck down. Moreover, they are interpreted by judges. After all, the law is what the judges say it is.



RISHABH BHANDARI

THE DEATH OF Queen Elizabeth marks the end of an era in Britain. As a nation mourns its sovereign, this is a time to pause and reflect. The wider circumstances facing the country are precarious, with voters facing a cost of living crisis with rising food prices, soaring energy bills and inflation. As Liz Truss starts her prime ministerial tenure, she will need to articulate a response to thwart recessionary headwinds while outlining a vision for the future.

The Queen came to embody stability, continuity and dignity as she fulfilled her responsibilities while guiding an ever-changing Britain. A consummate diplomat, she maintained excellent ties with a slew of global leaders and helped to build relationships with allies. Truss could do no better than draw on such qualities.

As a starting point, Truss will need to reunite her party after a bitter leadership contest. Her margin of victory was narrower than anticipated, at 57 per cent to Rishi Sunak's 43 per cent. She did not have a majority of Tory MPs on her side. Nor did she secure a majority among eligible Tory party members, given that nearly 18 per cent abstained. Nonetheless, she has considerable ministerial experience and understands how the complex machinery of government works. Her track record of not just surviving but thriving under three prime ministers — David Cameron, Theresa May and Boris Johnson — is a testament to her pragmatism and adaptability.

Truss voted to remain in the EU but so adroitly reshaped her message thereafter that arch-Brexiteers saw her as "their" candidate

THE CHALLENGE FOR LIZ TRUSS

She must combat cost of living crisis while articulating a long-term vision for Britain

None of this will be easy. But if Truss seeks to reset Britain's political direction, she will have to be bold. She should not be shy about introducing truly conservative policies that are capable of promoting transformative change. If she is serious about turning Britain into 'an aspiration nation' for a post-Elizabethan age, that encourages social mobility and remains open for business, there is precious little time to lose.

during the leadership contest. What we witnessed from Truss was a masterclass in political manoeuvring. She understood what the core Tory voters were passionate about. But as PM, she will need to widen her appeal. The news that the three great offices of state (home, treasury and foreign office) will be occupied by three non-white ministers is a tribute to growing the diversity of the party. But Truss should also champion diversity of thought and opinion within the party.

Economic circumstances remain dire. The conflict in Ukraine has pushed energy prices up by over 50 per cent with fuel poverty a real concern. Inflation is expected to touch 10 per cent this year, the highest in 30 years. The Office of Budget Responsibility warned that real living standards can expect "their largest financial year fall on record". Truss will need to reassure the public that she can navigate this choppy terrain. In her first key move, the government has announced a multi-billion package of subsidies to signal to voters that it empathises with their pain. Truss is also expected to deliver on tax cuts to kick-start the economy.

What might be the downside risks of this path? It remains to be seen whether a tax-cutting agenda fuels further inflation or not. But after the Johnson years where making the argument for lower taxes — especially for the low paid — was forgotten by a centre-right government, at least Truss's willingness to make the case is welcome. An energy relief package is likely to be funded by borrowing but this cannot be sustained forever. It stands to pass debts on to the youth. Truss and the

It has also been held that the property in dispute is a "temple" within Section 4(9) of UP Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983. As a matter of fact, until 1993, devotees were allowed to worship on the fourth day of Chaitra in Vashnatik Navratra. The judge also refused to attach much importance to the 1937 judgment in favour of the mosque committee on the ground that Hindus were not impleaded as a party. Just like Babar, it was also argued that Aurangzeb did not create any waqf. Moreover, the bar of entertaining such a dispute under Section 85 of the Waqf Act does not apply to non-Muslims and strangers to the alleged waqf property. This finding would indeed open a Pandora's box of similar cases.

In a legal battle, the judgment can go either way. A major shortcoming of litigation is that only one party wins. In arbitration, mediation and out-of-court settlements, both parties can emerge winners. Both get something. Even on Ayodhya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee had once suggested that let the mosque be retained but give the other portion of the complex for the temple. Even the high court's judgment of each party getting one-third of the complex was not acceptable to anyone.

This author has always been an advocate of amity and harmony between religious communities so that the constitutional ideal of "fraternity" is achieved and the rich composite cultural heritage of the nation is preserved. Multi-faith prayer rooms are quite common at Western airports. Why is it absolutely impossible to create some place for the prayer of these five women petitioners without disturbing Muslim prayers? Is there any possibility of considering at least silent prayers?

True, there is possibly no end to the increasing assertion of such demands. Yet, a path different from the Babri dispute is worth exploring. Let a step in the direction of communal amity be not rejected as a surrender by the minority. Let the majority assure minorities about the sanctity of their other places of worship so that an environment of mutual trust is created.

The writer is a constitutional law expert

new chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, will need to reassure markets that the government remains committed to fiscal conservatism.

The Tories remain fortunate that the Labour party is still a work in progress. That said, persuading the electorate to hand the Tories a fourth mandate at the next general election cannot be taken for granted.

What other guiding principles should Truss look for in a reset? First, restoring integrity at the core of government would be key to regaining public confidence after the scandals of the Johnson era. Second, Truss should double down on championing economic freedom in line with her instincts. Investment in infrastructure and in education should be prioritised. Core to this agenda would be a competitive tax regime to boost entrepreneurship and a fit-for-purpose approach to immigration. Alliances with like-minded democracies such as India will need to be cemented too. Rebuilding relationships with European allies should also be factored.

None of this will be easy. But if Truss seeks to reset Britain's political direction, she will have to be bold. She should not be shy about introducing truly conservative policies that are capable of promoting transformative change. If she is serious about turning Britain into "an aspiration nation" for a post-Elizabethan age, that encourages social mobility and remains open for business, there is precious little time to lose.

The writer is a London-based lawyer and political commentator

SEPTEMBER 13, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

J&K NEW CABINET

FAROOQ ABDULLAH TOOK away the breath of a teeming multitude gathered to pay homage to his father by announcing suddenly that he was going to do away with the entire Sheikh Cabinet that he had inherited and have a completely new team. He said he would reduce the number of ministers from the earlier 21 to 11. The Sheikh Cabinet had seven cabinet ministers, six ministers of state and eight deputy ministers.

34 AKALIS DIE

THIRTY-FOUR AKALI DAL (L) volunteers

were killed and 21 injured—most of them seriously — when the bus in which they were being taken to the Bhatinda jail collided with a passenger train at the Tarn Taran railway crossing. The condition of eight of the 21 injured persons admitted to the Guru Teg Bahadur hospital in Tarn Taran is reported to be critical.

CCP POLITBURO

THE COMMUNIST PARTY central committee elected a new ruling politburo that included China's undisputed leader Deng Xiaoping, but ousted the late chairman Mao's protege Hua Guofeng, the official Xinhua news

agency said. Deng was elected to the politburo and its elite standing committee of six members. He also was re-elected chairman of the party's powerful military commission. Hua, who succeeded Mao as chairman, was removed from the politburo and its standing committee, but remains a member of the new central committee.

ZURICH ACCIDENT

AT LEAST 38 people were killed when a train hit a busload of Germans on a level crossing, it was reported in Geneva. The accident happened in the canton of Zurich. The level crossing barriers were not down at the time.

A setback for Moscow

All major powers are beginning to take a fresh look at the potential outcomes of the war and recalibrate their geopolitical calculus. India will not be an exception



RAJA-MANDALA
BY C RAJA MOHAN

IT MIGHT BE too early to call it a Russian rout as some in the Western media have described it, but a major military retreat it is. Russia suffered a serious setback in Ukraine over the weekend. Unless Moscow can quickly get the Russian military act together, the new momentum in favour of Kyiv could prove to be the decisive moment in the war for Ukraine.

All major powers are beginning to take a fresh look at the potential outcomes of the war and recalibrate their geopolitical calculus. India will not be an exception.

Triggering a fresh look at the war is the lightning offensive by Kyiv that saw Ukraine's armed forces capture some key towns in the northeast of the country that have been under Russian occupation. Russia has formally acknowledged that it has pulled out of a large part of the Kharkiv region and is regrouping to mount a better defence of its territorial gains in the Donbas region. The latest reports suggest that Ukraine has regained an estimated area of nearly 3,000 sq km and is threatening to take more, including in regions in the eastern part of the country that have been under Russian control since 2014-15. But Ukraine has a long way to go before it can push the Russian forces back into their own territory.

There are moments in a war when the balance of forces shifts in favour of one of the belligerents. Are we at that moment now in Ukraine?

Until this weekend, the consensus view was that the prolonged stalemate between the two sides is likely to endure and that any plan for terminating the war must come to terms with that reality. Ukraine's territorial gains in the last few days have made Kyiv's victory a real possibility. Russia has by no means lost the war in Ukraine but it surely is losing ground. The probability of a Russian defeat in Ukraine may no longer be a trivial one.

This is not the first time that Russia had to pull back in the last seven months. After its initial multi-pronged attack on Ukraine on February 24, Russia hoped to quickly reach Kyiv and oust the government headed by Volodymyr Zelenskyy. But as the advance on Kyiv fizzled out, Russia decided to concentrate its forces to make a determined onslaught on eastern Ukraine. After some significant advances in the east and southeast of Ukraine, Russian forces got locked into a stalemate. Ukraine has now broken the framework of an extended "war of attrition". With its major counter-offensive in the last few days, Ukraine has seized the political initiative in the war for the first time, raised the operational tempo, altered the terms of military engagement with Russia, and reaffirmed the demand for complete Russian withdrawal.

Zelenskyy was widely advised to settle for a territorial compromise with Russia by ceding the eastern part of Ukraine to Vladimir Putin. But he has increasingly sounded upbeat and tough, laying down new conditions for peace — including war reparations from Russia and a war crimes tribunal to render justice to the victims of Putin's invasion.

Ukraine's key supporters in the war are stating for the first time that it might be able to liberate most of the areas occupied by



C R Sasikumar

Russian forces, including the Crimean Peninsula that Moscow had taken in 2014. Not everyone is so hopeful. Ukraine might find it hard to consolidate its recent gains.

By advancing too far into occupied territories and opening multiple fronts, Ukraine must now manage longer supply lines and will be vulnerable to Russian counter-offensives. But then success begets success and failure can feed on itself. For now, at least, there is no question that the global narrative on the war in Ukraine is beginning to change. For Delhi, five broad dimensions will be worth a close watch.

First is the nature of the debate in Moscow. All major wars have domestic political consequences for the belligerents, especially if you are losing or seen as losing by your own people. Until now, there has been considerable popular support for Putin's invasion as the nation rallied behind the flag. It is an open question whether the retreat will change the terms of the domestic debate. While the liberals have no voice, early signs of criticism of the Russian military operations are now coming from the right-wing cheerleaders of the invasion.

Second, Putin will soon have to make major decisions on recasting Russian military strategy. Persisting with the present policy is no longer a credible course. Russia has taken heavy losses of manpower and equipment in the last six months. Putin could consider a general war mobilisation that he has avoided so far. Alternatively, he will have to escalate the confrontation to a higher level, including the potential threat to use nuclear weapons. He could, of course, cut his losses and sue for peace. All these options carry risks of their own.

The third is the impact of the military setback in the Russian sphere of influence. A major aim of Putin's Ukraine war is to expand the Russian zone of influence in Eurasia. If Moscow is seen as failing in Ukraine, it could weaken the Russian influence where it is dominant now. Belarus could well turn out to be a test case. The president of Belarus,

Until this weekend, the consensus view was that the prolonged stalemate between the two sides is likely to endure and that any plan for terminating the war must come to terms with that reality. Ukraine's territorial gains in the last few days have made Kyiv's victory a real possibility. Russia has by no means lost the war in Ukraine but it surely is losing ground. The probability of a Russian defeat in Ukraine may no longer be a trivial one.

Aleksandr Lukashenko, who has crushed the popular democratic opposition with the help of Putin, might now find a resurgence of internal resistance.

Fourth, Putin had bet that the European dependence on Russian natural gas supplies will make it hard to sustain the initial united stand in favour of Ukraine. The Russian energy war was all set to shake up European politics, as energy bills rise manifold and popular discontent grows. Movements on the left and right in Europe are opposing the war, and many European governments would like to see a quick end to the conflict before the winter chill sets in. But the sense of Ukraine's gains and sustained US pressure could compel the Europeans to stay the course. A lot will depend on how the US might help Ukraine build on the current military momentum.

Fifth, China will have some hard thinking to do as Russia struggles to regain the initiative in Ukraine. Putin and Xi Jinping announced an alliance "without limits" and "no forbidden areas". Although Beijing has lent political support to Moscow in Ukraine, it has held back from substantive material support. A potential Russian defeat and the Western triumph in Ukraine would inevitably alter the nature of China's relations with Russia as well as the US. That, in turn, will send strategic ripples across Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific.

In the last few months, Delhi's focus has been on managing the economic consequences of the war in Ukraine and limiting its geopolitical impact on India's security. The intensive diplomatic season this month — including this week's regional summit in Samarkand and the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York — should give Delhi a good sense of the changing dynamic in Ukraine and develop an effective response.

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Before the IPEF takes shape, some people in the US are eager to install teeth on it. Such bloc confrontational mentality and geopolitical evil thought have already determined the future of the IPEF."

—GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

Supreme Court and the CAA puzzle

Its decision could set limits to Parliament's powers with respect to citizenship



MOHSIN ALAM BHAT

AFTER A long wait, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the arguments on the constitutional validity of the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019. Parliament has changed the Citizenship Act 1955, India's principal citizenship law, on numerous occasions in the past. But its most recent amendment has ignited an unprecedentedly intense and divided public reaction. The Court is now poised to decide several significant constitutional questions for the first time, which could shape India's constitutional identity.

The CAA introduces important changes to the Indian citizenship law. Since 2003, Indian law has disqualified persons deemed to be "illegal migrants" from citizenship and disqualified their progeny even if they are born in India. The Act exempts non-Muslim immigrants from being considered "illegal migrants" if they arrived from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan before 2015. It also provides accelerated naturalisation to these non-Muslim immigrants.

The first question for the Supreme Court is whether this "religious test" for Indian citizenship is arbitrary and discriminatory. In its counter affidavit filed in the court, the government has argued that the CAA does not discriminate on the basis of religion but provides relief to persecuted minorities in the region. But while it is uncontroversial that non-Muslims in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan are persecuted, the government will still need to justify limiting CAA's benefits on the basis of religion and countries of origin.

This is because Indian constitutional law requires that the government must show a "rational connection" between the law's purpose and the distinctions the law makes among groups. Muslim groups like Ahmadiyyas, Shias, Rohingyas and Uyghurs, and non-Muslims like Sri Lankan Tamils, Tibetan Buddhists and the Lhotshampa continue to be persecuted in India's neighbourhood. The burden for the government will be to show why choosing only non-Muslim minorities from three countries satisfies the CAA's proclaimed purpose of addressing persecution.

Perhaps the most accessible argument for the government is that the CAA addresses the plight of the minorities affected by Partition. In its affidavit, the government has argued that under the 1950 Nehru-Liaquat Pact, India and Pakistan had promised "complete equality of citizenship" and "a full sense of security" to their religious minorities. The failure of Pakistan and by extension today's Bangladesh to honour this promise, according to the government, justifies targeting relief to non-Muslim refugees from these two countries. The inclusion of Afghanistan under the CAA, though, will stick out like a sore thumb. The Act's exclusion of immigrants after 2015 also appears inconsistent with the law's apparent purpose of addressing persecution, which is ongoing by all accounts.

For critics of the government, these anomalies show that the real aim and effect of the CAA is to selectively give citizenship to the alleged Hindu undocumented immigrants living in regions like Assam. The Supreme Court will have to consider whether under the law it should take the government's claims at face value or inquire deeper into its motives.

The CAA's ambiguities will pose further challenges for the government. For instance, it does not define "persecution" or provide meaningful guidance about what beneficiaries will need to prove beyond their religious identity. It is also unclear if Muslim immigrants would qualify under the CAA if they convert to Hinduism. This scenario raises the alarming possibility of religious coercion and violation of religious liberty. The Court will need to decide if these issues with serious implications for individual rights can be left for the government to formulate later under the rules.

It would also be interesting to see if the SC takes into account India's obligations under international law. While India is not strictly bound to respect asylum and other refugee rights as a non-signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention, religion-specific grant of citizenship and disqualification of Indian-born children on the basis of their parents' religion under the CAA violates international human rights law. Indian courts ordinarily do not directly enforce international law but have historically interpreted India's internal laws in its light.

Answers to these questions will depend on what the Court considers to be the legally appropriate deference to Parliament's powers in the area of citizenship. The government has argued that Parliament as the "sovereign" has unrestricted powers to decide qualifications for Indian citizenship. There are good reasons to be sceptical of this expansive position, not least because such unlimited powers would permit Parliament to even deprive Indians of their citizenship. It is more constitutionally tenable and hence likely for the Supreme Court to find a middle ground that recognises Parliament's broad powers and also specifies its limits.

What these limits are will be the most significant legal contribution of the case and will depend on what the Court determines to be citizenship's constitutional value and status. Though citizenship status is not a fundamental right, it still has a profound bearing on individual liberty, freedom and dignity. The Court will have to carefully consider if excluding long-term refugees and their Indian-born children from Indian citizenship, who do not have meaningful recourse to any other country's citizenship, violates the rights they enjoy as persons under the Constitution. It will also have to consider if selectively granting citizenship to such refugees based on ethnicity or religion aggravates this violation.

Most significantly, we will see if the Court is willing to recognise that citizenship, even if not explicitly a right under the Constitution, constitutes the very foundation of our constitutional republic. By this measure, the "religious test" of citizenship under CAA will also have to be assessed on how it alters our constitutional identity as a secular and inclusive polity that belongs to all its citizens irrespective of their religious faith.

The writer is professor of law at Jindal University

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNHOLY UNION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Reach out for Bharat Jodo' (IE, September 12). The author's advice for Rahul Gandhi to avoid criticising the RSS and instead collaborate with them does not make sense, given the latter's ideology of polarisation emanating from the concept of "Hindutva" where certain sections of society are treated as outsiders because their faiths have different origins. For this yatra to be a success, the goal needs to be integration.

L R Murmu, New Delhi

LONG-TERM FIX

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The thaw in Ladakh' (IE, September 12). Without a permanent settlement of the LAC, no lasting peace is possible between the two Asian giants. The settlement will have to be done through a process of give and take and at present leaders on either side of the McMahon line have the requisite political stature to attempt it. The Chinese have allowed this thaw to happen due to several reasons: India's robust military posture on ground, deft diplomacy and the realisation that it was a strategic mistake to open a front in Ladakh when their focus is on Taiwan. The thaw will last only if India sustains the heat skillfully at all levels.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

UNRELIABLE PARTNER

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Food insecurity' (IE, September 12). The edit rightly points out that India's agriculture policy suffers due to short-sighted policy decisions. On April 12, PM Modi said that, "if WTO gives us permission, India is ready to supply food stock to the world from tomorrow". The statement evoked optimism in the developing world which was facing a food crisis due to the Russia-Ukraine war. But the statement was followed by the wheat export ban in May, wheat flour ban in July and now rice export ban in September. It erodes India's image as a reliable partner.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad

GREAT POTENTIAL

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Giving Wanderlust its due' (IE, September 12). The tourism sector in India has the utmost potential to improve. Its implementation requires a well-planned policy by a team of tourism analysts to hold planners accountable. We should learn from our past mistakes and from other nations as well. France and Spain, for example, have excelled in this sector. Their core strategies could set the bedrock for India being host to the grandest tourism market in the world.

Shaswat Jena, Ghaziabad



PRATIKSHA BAXI

Remission as impunity

Mass remission for Bilkis Bano case convicts is an act of symbolic violence

ON THE 75th anniversary of Independence, 11 men convicted for mass rape and murder in the Bilkis Bano case were released prematurely following the decision to grant "mass" remission. This release, during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, stole from women a sense of security and justice, which independent India had promised. It denied Muslim women and indeed all women, a place in this moment of celebration.

The survivor's historic struggle against mass rape and mass murder as crimes against humanity should have been acknowledged as an important chapter in our quest for freedom. Instead, images were released of the rapists being honoured and welcomed back into political society in Gujarat. Disturbing commentaries were telecast suggesting that the rapists could not have possibly committed such crimes by virtue of their caste and kinship.

Those who have not read these judgments must do so to instruct themselves about how the nation failed Muslim women. This was one of the first cases in the history of independent India where the judiciary found overwhelming evidence of mass rape and murder of Muslims. The Supreme Court transferred the trial to Bombay courts upon finding evidence that the state of Gujarat did not create safe con-

ditions of testimony for Muslim victims and witnesses. The Supreme Court even recognised the split public where feminist or human rights critique directed at state impunity was construed as an attack on Gujarati *asmita*. And it ordered the expunging of the allegations of the Gujarat state which caricatured lawyers and activists as anti-national and anti-social.

Today, this has become the norm — lawyers, academics and activists who challenge state impunity are often dubbed as anti-national. This discourse has been incorporated into the penal policy of the state today. In this changed socio-legal context, the Supreme Court considered the plea for remission and decided that the state of Gujarat had jurisdiction. It did not consider the sociological context of "reformation" in the state of Gujarat. While lawyers have stated the legal reasons for why the remission is bad in law, the Supreme Court's findings of why the transfer was necessary in the first place back then continue to hold salience today. The defence and celebration of the mass rapists furnishes proof of this.

If the issue of sexual violence has been used to expand the carceral power of the state, equally the language of pardon masks sexual impunity. In 2013, the memory of sexual violence during the Gujarat 2002

mass violence was de-linked to mainstream anti-rape protests. The Nirbhaya anti-rape struggle was represented as the first mass movement against sexual violence, yet it did not mainstream feminist struggles against sexual impunity in 2002. This has come to haunt us today. For since 2013, every major anti-rape protest has been instrumentalised to strengthen state power. The introduction of long-distance acoustic devices to be used against protestors in Delhi coincided with the protests following the December 16, 2012 rape and murder case. The rise of masculine state forensics ironically coincides with the December 16 protests. The governance of outrage is marked by encounter killings, lynching and even criminalisation of protestors and journalists. And languages of compromise, reform, rehabilitation, remission, perjury and contempt are used against those women who are raped on the grounds of their identity. Feminist outrage is now also seen as defamatory of the state. Perhaps this is because feminists argue that the fight against the expansion of carceral power must challenge state impunity.

Even as the Supreme Court hears this matter, it needs to be said loudly and clearly that the trauma inflicted on Bilkis and her family is unpardonable. The judiciary must reflect on how this decision was indifferent

to the fact that each stage of the case has been indescribably traumatic for the survivor, witnesses, and her support persons. This trauma, which is simultaneously individual and collective, has been inflicted yet again 20 years later.

The legal process dehumanises rape survivors. And the legal response to the extreme de-humanisation of this sexual violence can never be translated in legal language other than through its sentencing policy. Who decides remission? Do they take the victim's perspective into account? Surely remission (routine or special) is used as a technique to entrench state impunity. After all, these men were chosen over other convicts as deserving of freedom.

The political symbolism of the mass remission marked as "special" on the 75th grand festival of freedom is wounding. It is nothing less than an act of symbolic violence. It unveiled the majoritarian grammar of the penal policy of the state which directed freedom to men who committed inhuman mass crimes against Muslim women. Surely, the struggle against sexual violence for all women cannot be at the cost of Muslim women in India.

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SC’s three-question test for validity of 10% EWS quota

SHYAMLAL YADAV
& APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, VARANASI, SEPTEMBER 12

BEGINNING TUESDAY, the Supreme Court will examine whether The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, which introduced a 10 per cent quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in government jobs and admissions, violates the basic structure of the Constitution. A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) U U Lalit and also comprising Justices S Ravindra Bhat, Dinesh Maheshwari, S B Pardiwala, and Bela Trivedi last week decided to examine three key issues to ascertain the validity of the amendment. The challenge to the EWS quota was referred to a five-judge Bench in August 2020.

What are the issues fixed by the SC?
Attorney General K K Venugopal had drafted four issues for the consideration of the Bench. On September 8, the court decided to take up three of them:
■ “Whether the 103rd Constitution Amendment can be said to breach the basic structure of the Constitution by permitting

the state to make special provisions, including reservation, based on economic criteria”;
■ “Whether it (the amendment) can be said to breach the basic structure...by permitting the state to make special provisions in relation to admission to private unaided institutions”;
■ Whether the basic structure is violated by “excluding the SEBCs (Socially and Educationally Backward Classes)/ OBCs (Other Backward Classes)/ SCs (Scheduled Castes)/ STs (Scheduled Tribes) from the scope of EWS reservation”.

What is the 103rd Amendment?
The 103rd Amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) in the Constitution to provide up to 10 per cent reservation to EWS other than backward classes, SCs, and STs in higher educational institutions and initial recruitment in government jobs. The amendment empowered state governments to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. Article 16 guarantees equal opportunity in matters of public employment. The additional clauses gave Parliament the power

to make special laws for EWS like it does for SCs, STs, and OBCs. The EWS reservation was granted based on the recommendations of a commission headed by Major General (retd) S R Sinho. The commission, which was constituted by the UPA government in March 2005, submitted its report in July 2010. The Sinho Commission recommended that all below-poverty-line (BPL) families within the general category as notified from time to time, and also all families whose annual family income from all sources is below the taxable limit, should be identified as EBCs (economically backward classes).
How is EWS status determined under the law?
The EWS criteria for employment and admission was notified on January 31, 2019 by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) based on the 103rd Amendment. Under the 2019 notification, a person who was not covered under the scheme of reservation for SCs, STs, and OBCs, and whose family had a gross annual income below Rs 8 lakh, was to be identified as EWS for the benefit of reservation. The notification specified what

constituted “income”, and excluded some persons from the EWS category if their families possessed certain specified assets. In October 2021, the Supreme Court, while hearing a challenge to reservation for EWS in the All-India quota for PG medical courses, asked the government how the threshold of Rs 8 lakh had been reached. The Centre told the court that it would revisit the income criterion, and set up a three-member panel for this purpose. In January this year, the government accepted the committee’s report, which said that the “threshold of Rs 8 lakh of annual family income, in the current situation, seems reasonable for determining EWS” and “may be retained”. However, the committee said, “EWS may...exclude, irrespective of income, a person whose family has 5 acres of agricultural land and above”. Also, the committee recommended, “the residential asset criteria may altogether be removed”.
What is the basis of the challenge to the amendment?
When a law is challenged, the burden of proving it is unconstitutional lies on the petitioners. The primary argument in this case is

that the amendment violates the basic structure of the Constitution. Although there is no clear definition of basic structure, any law that violates it is understood to be unconstitutional. This argument in the present case stems from the view that the special protections guaranteed to socially disadvantaged groups is part of the basic structure, and that the 103rd Amendment departs from this by promising special protections on the sole basis of economic status. The petitioners have also challenged the amendment on the ground that it violates the Supreme Court’s 1992 ruling in *Indra Sawhney & Ors v Union of India*, which upheld the Mandal report and capped reservations at 50 per cent. The court had held that economic backwardness cannot be the sole criterion for identifying a backward class. Another challenge is on behalf of private, unaided educational institutions. They have argued that their fundamental right to practise a trade/ profession is violated when the state compels them to implement its reservation policy and admit students on any criteria other than merit.

in this matter so far?
In counter affidavits, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment argued that under Article 46 of the Constitution, part of Directive Principles of State Policy, the state has a duty to protect the interests of economically weaker sections: “The state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.” Against the argument of violation of the basic structure, the government said that “to sustain a challenge against a constitutional amendment, it must be shown that the very identity of the Constitution has been altered”. On the Indra Sawhney principle, the government has relied on the SC’s 2008 ruling in *Ashoka Kumar Thakur v Union of India*, in which the court upheld the 27 per cent quota for OBCs. The argument is that the court accepted that the definition of OBCs was not made on the sole criterion of caste but a mix of caste and economic factors; thus, there need not be a sole criterion for according reservation.

How the G7 plans to ‘price cap’ Russian oil



The G7 is trying to build a ‘price cap’ coalition to keep Russia’s oil revenue down.
AP File

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

IN ITS attempt to counter “Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine” and the war’s impact on the global economy, the G7 countries and the European Union have begun working towards a plan for targeting Russia’s major source of income – oil exports.

The ‘price cap’ plan
A joint statement released last week by the G7 finance ministers, which include some of the world’s most prosperous countries – the US, UK, France, Italy, Japan, Canada and Germany – said that efforts will be made so that the maritime transportation of crude oil globally “would only be allowed if the oil and petroleum products are purchased at or below a price (‘the price cap’) determined by the broad coalition of countries adhering to and implementing the price cap”.

How will it work?
According to *Reuters*, the plan agreed on during the G7 finance ministers’ meeting calls for participating countries to deny “Western-dominated services including insurance, finance, brokering and navigation to oil cargoes priced above the cap”. To get those services, the buyers of oil shipments from Russia

would have to prove they bought the goods at ‘price cap’ rates or lower. While G7 countries are hammering out the exact details with the EU, they also want other nations to join in. In response to the proposed plan, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow would withhold exports to those demanding cheaper oil.
Rollout deadline
However, this ‘price cap’ method will not immediately come into effect, beginning only around December, reported *Reuters*. Even prior to this move, Europe and the US had decided to reduce reliance on Russian fossil fuels, with the US completely halting exports in March 2022. Europe too aims to wean itself off oil imports by the end of this year. India and China, meanwhile, have continued to purchase Russian oil and have not joined the Western boycott of Russian fossil fuels. But even if India and China don’t join, a cap could help force down prices for Asia and other consumers, the *Reuters* report said. Meanwhile, US Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen said the step would be “a major blow for Russian finances”. She added, “We have already begun to see the impact of the price cap through Russia’s hurried attempts to negotiate bilateral oil trades at massive discounts.”

APURVA VISHWANATH
VARANASI, SEPTEMBER 12
THE VARANASI District Court on Monday dismissed the challenge by Anjuman Intezamia Masajid Committee against the civil suits that sought the right to worship Maa Shringar Gauri and other deities within the Gyanvapi mosque premises. The preliminary ruling by District Judge A K Vishvesha means that the cases can now be heard on merits where the parties have to present evidence to prove their claims.

The case so far
Last year, five women filed a civil suit seeking enforcement of their right to worship deities within the Gyanvapi mosque complex. In April, the Civil Judge (Senior Division) allowed a video survey of the mosque where a *Shivling* was said to have been found in the *waukhana*. The Anjuman Intezamia moved the Supreme Court, arguing that the proceedings were an attempt to change the religious character of the mosque. The Places of Worship Act, 1991 bars the conversion of the religious character of a place of worship from how it existed on August 15, 1947. On May 20, the Supreme Court, underlining the “complexity of the issues involved in the civil suit”, transferred the case to the District Judge. The SC subsequently said it would intervene only after the District Judge had decided on the preliminary aspects of the case.

Preliminary ruling
District Judge Vishvesha ruled on Monday that he did not find any law that barred the petitioners from filing such a suit. Under the Code of Civil Procedure, in the initial stage, averments made in a suit must be *prima facie* accepted without going into the veracity of the claims, unless such a suit is barred by law. Once the suit is accepted, the onus of proving the claims would be on the plaintiffs. The mosque side had argued that the suits were barred under three specific laws. **The Places of Worship Act, 1991:** Section 4 of the Act is a declaration that “the religious character of a place of worship existing on the 15th day of August, 1947 shall continue to be the same as it existed on that day”. The provision states that if “any suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship, existing on [that day]... is pending before any court, tribunal or other authority, the same shall abate, and no suit, appeal or other proceeding with respect to any such matter shall lie on or after such commencement in any court, tribunal or other authority”. The Muslim side argued that allowing the civil suits would alter the character of the mosque as it has existed for over 600 years. The Hindu petitioners argued that until 1993, regular prayers were offered inside the Gyanvapi mosque complex to Hindu deities – and since 1993, prayers have been allowed on a designated day annually. Relying on the



Security personnel outside Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi earlier this year. PTI File

argument that even after August 15, 1947, the religious character of the Gyanvapi mosque allowed for prayers to Hindu deities, the Varanasi court said in its order that the Places of Worship Act does not bar the civil suit. In May, the Supreme Court too had observed that “finding the nature of the religious place” is not barred under the 1991 law. “But the ascertainment of a religious character of a place, as a processual instrument, may not necessarily fall foul of the provisions of Sections 3 and 4 (of the Act)... These are matters which we will not hazard an opinion in our order at all,” Justice D Y Chandrachud had said.

The court cited Section 4 (9) of the Act, which defines “Temple”, to hold that it does not bar the mosque premises. The provision defines the temple as “the Temple of Adi Vishveshwar, popularly known as Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple... which is used as a place of public religious worship, and dedicated to or for the benefit of or used as of right by the Hindus, as a place of public religious worship of the Jyotirlinga and includes all subordinate temple, shrines, sub-shrines and the Asthan of all other images and deities, mandaps, wells, tanks and other necessary structures and land appurtenant thereto...”.

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EVERYDAY HEALTH

Why diabetics, those with heart issues, must be careful with Keto

EXPERT
EXPLAINS

ANOOP MISRA

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight



ONE OF my patients, a 23-year-old woman (weight 92 kg, BMI 33 kg/m²) who suffers from obesity, has been on a Keto diet for the last two months. While she has lost 4 kg, she said she has been feeling feverish, fatigued and dizzy. She has also experienced cramps, insomnia and bad breath. She is struggling to eat food with high fat and oil content daily, as recommended in the diet.

What is a Keto diet?

The story of Keto diets starts with the Atkins diet, which has rapidly gained popularity. *Dr Atkins’s New Diet Revolution: The High Calorie Way to Stay Thin Forever* has sold 12 million copies and remains a best-seller. The Atkins diet is especially popular among non-vegetarian western populations. (Breakfast: Greasy ham, bacon and eggs; lunch: steak with plenty of cheese; dinner: fish, crab, and chicken cooked in a whole lot of butter.) This diet leads to rapid weight loss in many individuals. The low amount of carbohydrates in the diet (less than 30 g per day, equivalent to about one and a half *rotis*) makes the body find alternative routes of energy generation from acidic ketone bodies (hence the name ketogenic diet). These ketone bodies provide energy in an efficient manner and suppress appetite. After the popularity of the Atkins diet, several similar diets have emerged. Since it

is difficult to consistently consume very low-carb, high-fat, and high-protein items daily, the quantity of carbs per day has been increased in the modified diets. As it is also not possible for vegetarians to consume a diet designed by Atkins, items such as *ghee* and coconut oil have been added to it. **What are the pluses and minuses of a low-carb diet?** There are several advantages of this diet. Rapid weight loss can be achieved, sometimes more than what is seen in usual calorie-restrictive diets. In patients with diabetes, blood sugar levels and sensitivity to insulin improve, and the need for anti-diabetic medication decreases. The diet may also help patients with polycystic ovaries by improving their metabolic environment. Interestingly, robust evidence indicates that this diet decreases seizures in children who are resistant to high-dose medications.

There is persuasive evidence that it also affects acne. There are, however, no clear benefits in cases of cancer, Parkinson’s disease, and Alzheimer’s. But many scientists are not ready to accept this diet because of the uncertainty regarding benefits and harms. Several adverse effects have been recorded. While the short-term weight loss is slightly superior to conventional weight-loss diets, long-term results are not yet known. In animals, this diet is known to increase density of fat in the liver (and worsen fatty liver). There is not enough data on this about humans. Recent reports show that this diet leads to an increase in “bad” LDL cholesterol, which could adversely impact heart health. Also, no good studies are available concerning Indians, who have bad liver (plenty of fatty livers) and LDL cholesterol (blood is full of fats, which could lead to dense deposition in the arteries that may cause blockages).

Who should avoid the Keto diet? These diets should never be followed by patients who have faced heart issues and irregular heart rhythm. Patients with disturbed functions of kidney and liver, and history of pancreatic inflammation (pancreatitis) should also avoid these diets. Even patients with diabetes should take extra precautions while adopting these diets. Those with Type 1 diabetes or diabetes during pregnancy should not try it at all. Many diabetic patients who are on SGLT2 inhibitors (medication such as Empagliflozin, Dapagliflozin and Canagliflozin) should be careful since the Keto diet, along with these drugs, will have an additive effect on ketogenesis, which could reach dangerous levels. Finally, those who are on blood thinners (Vitamin K-dependent anticoagulation) should also avoid Keto diets. **Is the diet worth the short-term gain?** The low-carbohydrate Keto diet is a rea-

sonable option for rapid weight loss among young obese individuals with no organ dysfunction. But it should be tried for three to six months only under the supervision of nutritionists and physicians. Before taking up the diet, a complete cholesterol and liver profile should be done to check for any extreme responses. In young, obese patients who have recently been detected with diabetes (and are not on SGLT2i), this diet is a reasonable option to check the surge of sugars or even for reversal of diabetes. Finally, the effect of very low-carb Ketogenic diets on longevity is unknown, and one study suggests these are not favourable. *Dr Anoop Misra, Padma Shri, is one of India’s most eminent diabetologists and endocrinologists. He is chairman, Fortis C-DOC Center for Diabetes, and author of Diabetes with Delight*

TOP OF THE WORLD



Over 660,000 people, including women & children, are living at relief camps. **AP**

PAKISTAN

Country faces food shortages, GDP to dip: PM

Islamabad: Pakistan is grappling with food shortages after floods left the impoverished country's agriculture belt underwater, the PM told the Turkish president on call, as authorities scaled up efforts Monday to deliver food, tents and other items. Shahbaz Sharif spoke to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan overnight to thank Turkey for dispatching food, tents and medicine by 12 military aircraft, four trains and Turkish Red Crescent trucks. The floods are likely to reduce the country's GDP by over 2 percentage points. The PM said as per initial estimates, the floods are likely to reduce Pakistan's GDP by over 2 percentage points. **AP & PTI**

SYRIA

IS militants kill 6 US-backed fighters

Beirut: The Islamic State group killed six US-backed Syrian fighters in eastern Syria saying on Monday that the killing was in retaliation for an ongoing operation inside a sprawling camp housing family of the extremist group. The IS-linked Amaq news agency released a video showing the shooting of the six members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces near Ruwaisah where they were captured alive and later shot late Sunday. **AP**

SWEDEN

Anti-immigration party leads poll results

Stockholm: Sweden's right bloc appeared in pole position on Monday to form a government for the first time in nearly a decade. Sunday's election remained too close to call on Monday with about 5% of electoral districts yet to be counted, but early results gave right-wing parties 175 of the 349 seats in Riksdag. Overseas postal ballots were still to be counted and a full preliminary result is not due till Wednesday. **REUTERS**

IRAN

Drone designed to hit Tel Aviv developed: Report

IRAN HAS developed an advanced long-range suicide drone "designed to hit Israel's Tel Aviv, Haifa", the semi-official Mehr News on Monday quoted Iran's ground forces chief as saying. Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari said the drone, named Arash-2, is a newer version of Arash-1. **REUTERS**

AFGHANISTAN

Three UN staff temporarily detained

Kabul: The UN Mission to Afghanistan on Monday said three of its woman Afghan employees had been temporarily detained by Taliban security agents. Taliban spokesmen said they strongly rejected the allegations. **REUTERS**

NORTHEAST ADVANCE

Ukraine keeps up momentum, reclaims more territory, reports capturing POWs

Kremlin insists that 'special military operation' will meet its goals, strikes Kharkiv

AGENCIES

KHARKIV, SEPTEMBER 12

UKRAINE CLAIMED Monday that it took several more villages, pushing Russian forces right back to the northeastern border, part of a lightning counteroffensive that forced Moscow to withdraw troops from some areas in recent days.

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, Kyiv's sudden momentum has lifted Ukrainian morale and provoked outrage in Russia and even some rare public criticism of President Vladimir Putin's war. As Ukrainian flags began to flutter over one city emerging from Russian occupation, a local leader alleged the Kremlin's troops had committed atrocities against civilians there.



A Russian rocket attack hits an electric power station in Kharkiv on Sunday. **AP**

"In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation," said Oleh

Syniehubov, the governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region. A spokesman for Ukrainian military intelligence said Russian

troops were surrendering en masse as "they understand the hopelessness of their situation." A Ukrainian presidential adviser said there were so many POWs that the country was running out of space to accommodate them.

The Ukrainian military claimed on Monday that it had retaken more territory in the south and was reiterating calls for Russian units fighting west of the Dnipro River in the Kherson region to surrender.

It was not yet clear if Ukraine's latest blitz could signal a turning point in the war — though some analysts suggested it might be while also cautioning there would likely be months more fighting. Momentum has switched back and forth before.

Retreating Russian forces have retaliated with long-range missile strikes and air raids,

Ukrainian and American officials said. Late on Sunday, Moscow attacked infrastructure facilities in Kharkiv, leaving many civilians without power and water. The services were mostly restored by Monday morning, the Ukrainian news agency reported.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, insisted on Monday it would achieve its military goals and Putin maintained an air of business as usual as he chaired a meeting on the economy.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov declined to answer directly, when asked if Putin still had confidence in his military leadership after Ukraine's lightning counteroffensive. Instead he repeated a familiar mantra. "The special military operation continues. And it will continue until the goals that were originally set are achieved."

QUEEN HAILED IN SCOTLAND AS A 'CONSTANT IN ALL OUR LIVES'



King Charles, Queen Camilla, Anne, Princess Royal, Prince Andrew among other members of the Royal family attend a Service of Prayer for the Queen at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh. **Reuters**

In Parliament address, King Charles promises to uphold UK Constitution

THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 12

UNDER THE ancient, vaulted timbers of Westminster Hall, King Charles III addressed Britain's Parliament on Monday for the first time as sovereign, accepting condolences and pledging to uphold the principles of the country's constitutional monarchy.

Speaking from the chamber where the body of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, will lie in state later this week, Charles said, "Parliament is the living and breathing instrument of our democracy." The ceremony showcased the harmonious and



King Charles thanks the members of the House of Lords and Commons for their condolence. **AP**

occasionally fraught intersection of British royalty and government. There were expressions of fealty from Parliament to the King and a reciprocal pledge by him to

abide by the limits of his constitutional role, which stipulates that he remain above politics.

Charles struck a more poignant note, paying tribute to the Queen, whom he said was a "pattern to all princes living," quoting from Shakespeare.

"While very young, her late majesty pledged herself to serve her country and her people and to maintain the precious principles of constitutional government which lie at the heart of our nation," the king said.

"This vow, she kept with unsurpassed devotion," Charles said. "She set an example of selfless duty which with God's help and your counsels I am resolved faithfully to follow."

We, too, smile knowing that you and grandpa are reunited: Prince Harry

London: Britain's Prince Harry paid a highly personal tribute on Monday to his "granny", the late Queen Elizabeth, saying how he cherished the time he had spent with her and how he would honour his father as the new king.

In a statement, Harry praised the queen's service as head of state and monarch, and

also spoke emotionally of her role as a grandmother. "Granny, while this final parting brings us great sadness, I am forever grateful for all of our first meetings - from my earliest childhood memories with you, to meeting you for the first time as my Commander-in-Chief, to the first moment you met my

darling wife and hugged your beloved great-grandchildren," he said.

He praised her "unwavering grace and dignity" and her commitment to duty. "We, too, smile knowing that you and grandpa are reunited now, and both together in peace," he said, a reference to her husband. **REUTERS**

FROM NO. 2 TO NO. 18

COLUMBIA UNIV DROPS IN US RANKINGS

Columbia University was demoted from No. 2 to No. 18 in the influential US News & World Report college rankings on Monday, about eight months after a Columbia math professor accused the university of fudging some key statistics used in the rankings.

MAR-A-LAGO PROBE

Keep blocking FBI from working with seized files, Trump asks judge

THE NEW YORK TIMES

SEPTEMBER 12

LAWYERS FOR former President Donald J Trump asked a federal judge on Monday to deny the Justice Department's request to immediately restart a key part of its criminal investigation into his hoarding of sensitive government documents at his residence in Florida.

Renewing their request for an expansive independent review of records seized from Trump, the former president's legal team argued that documents marked as classified should remain off limits to the FBI and prosecutors. They asked the judge, Aileen M Cannon, to maintain her order barring agents from using any of the materials taken from his estate until an outside arbiter, known as a special master, has vetted all of them.

The 21-page filing was an aggressive rebuke of the Justice Department's broader inquiry into whether Trump or his aides illegally kept national security secrets at his property, Mar-a-Lago, or obstructed the government's repeated attempts to retrieve the materials. It played down the

EXPLAINED

The 21-page report

THE 21-PAGE filing underscores the significant factual and legal disagreements between lawyers for Trump and the US government as the Justice Department looks to move forward with its criminal investigation into the illegal retention of national defense information at Mar-a-Lago and into the potential obstruction of that probe.

criminal inquiry as a "storage dispute" and insinuated that officials might have leaked information about the contents of the files.

"This investigation of the 45th president of the US is both unprecedented and misguided," the filing said. "In what at its core is a document storage dispute that has spiraled out of control, the government wrongfully seeks to criminalise the possession by the 45th president of his own presidential and personal records."

AN ODE TO THE QUEEN



PRINCE ANDREW TO CARE FOR CORGI DOGS: For the legions of dog lovers who have wondered what will happen to Queen Elizabeth's two surviving corgis, there is clarity: The Duke of York, Prince Andrew, and his former wife, Sarah, Duchess of York, will take care of the two corgis. It was the duchess who had found the dogs when they were puppies, and the duke who gave them to the queen as gifts.

NEW ZEALAND SAYS NO REPUBLIC PLAN: New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern said her government will not pursue any moves to change the country into a republic following the death of the Queen. Ardern said she thought New Zealand will eventually become a republic, but that there were more pressing issues for her government now.

A MINUTE'S SILENCE: The UK will observe a minute's silence at 8pm local time on Sunday, the night before Queen Elizabeth II's State Funeral at Westminster Abbey. Downing Street announced. PM Liz Truss's office said the silence will be a chance for UK to come together to mourn and reflect on the life of the Queen.

KAREN FREIFELD & ALEXANDRA ALPER

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 12

THE BIDEN administration plans next month to broaden curbs on US shipments to China of semiconductors used for artificial intelligence and chipmaking tools, several people familiar with the matter said.

The Commerce Department intends to publish new regulations based on restrictions communicated in letters earlier this year to three US companies — KLA Corp, Lam Research Corp and Applied Materials Inc, the people said. The plan for new rules has not been previously reported.

The letters, which the companies publicly acknowledged, forbade them from exporting chipmaking equipment to Chinese factories that produce advanced semiconductors with sub-14 nanometer processes un-



The Biden administration plans to broaden curbs next month

less the sellers obtain Commerce Department licences.

The rules would also codify restrictions in Commerce Department letters sent to Nvidia Corp and Advanced Micro Devices last month instructing them to halt shipments of several artificial intelligence computing chips to China unless they obtain licences. Some of the sources said the regulations would likely include additional actions against China. **REUTERS**

Prolonged Rohingya stay impacts stability: Hasina

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 12

BANGLADESH'S PRIME minister said Monday that the prolonged stay of over 1 million Rohingya refugees in crowded camps in the country has become a serious security and stability concern.

"Apart from their own miseries, their prolonged presence is causing a serious impact on the economy, environment, security and sociopolitical stability of Bangladesh," PM Sheikh Hasina said at the opening ceremony of a three-day meeting of



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina

military officials from 24 countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Participants in the meeting, including the US, Canada, Australia, Japan, Indonesia and India will visit the sprawling Rohingya refugee camps to see their plight, said chief of Bangladesh army. Hasina has said that repatriation is the only solution to the crisis.

Dubai throngs to get first glimpse of Hindu temple

Dubai: Thousands of UAE residents are making a beeline to get the first glimpse of the new Hindu temple in Dubai after its soft opening earlier this month.

The temple, which will be officially open to the public from October 5 — the day of the Dussehra festival, welcomes people of all faiths and has allowed entry to worshippers and other visitors for viewing the 16 deities and other interior works, the Gulf News reported on Sunday.

The soft opening of the temple was held on September 1 with the temple management activating the QR-code based appointment booking system. Appointments for most week-ends till the end of October have already been booked. **PTI**

74TH PRIMETIME AWARDS WILL BE BIG AND FESTIVE

'Squid Game,' 'Succession,' 'Ted Lasso' vie for Emmy Awards

LYNN ELBER

LOS ANGELES, SEPTEMBER 12

EMMY AWARDS host Kenan Thompson and the ceremony's producers are promising a feel-good event — a phrase not applicable to several of the top nominated shows.

The best drama contenders include the violently dystopian "Squid Game," bleak workplace satire "Severance" and "Succession," about a powerful and cutthroat family. Even comedy nominee "Ted Lasso," the defending champ, took a storytelling dark turn.

But after several pandemic-

constrained awards seasons, Monday's 74th Primetime Emmy Awards (airing 8 pm EDT on NBC, streaming on Peacock) will be big and festive, executive producers Reginald Hudlin and Ian Stewart said.

They're actually taking a page from last year's scaled-down ceremony and its club-style table seating for nominees.

"They had a ball. They had a party. They celebrated themselves," Stewart said, recalling a comment made by actor Sophia Bush at the evening's end: "Oh, my God, I actually had fun at the Emmys." The tables will be back and again reserved for nominees — and their "significant," Stewart



Brian Cox in a scene from 'Succession.' **AP**

said — but there will be some 3,000 other guests seated traditionally in the temporarily reconfigured 7,000-seat Microsoft

Theater in downtown Los Angeles. "When the nominees are having a great time that translates on screen," Hudlin said, citing the "passionate, touching" speeches delivered by winners.

Thompson, the veteran "Saturday Night Live" cast member taking his first turn as Emmys host, said he wants to enjoy the ceremony and make sure others do.

"This should be a night of appreciating artistry and creativity and removing the stress of it all out. I get it — it sucks to lose, and everybody's picking outfits and trying to do the red carpet," Thompson said. "But at the same time, it's an awesome thing to be

in the room on Emmys night, and I don't want that to get lost in the stress." He doesn't expect anything mirroring the Will Smith-Chris Rock confrontation that cast a shadow over the Oscars earlier this year, Thompson said.

Although HBO's "Succession," which won the best drama series award in 2020, and "Ted Lasso" from Apple TV+ are considered the frontrunners for top series honors, there's potential for surprises. Netflix's "Squid Game," a global sensation, would be the first non-English language drama series to win an Emmy.

On the comedy side, ABC's acclaimed newcomer "Abbott Elementary" could become the

first broadcast show to win the best comedy award since the network's "Modern Family" in 2014. It's also among the few contenders this year, along with "Squid Game," to field a substantial number of nominees of colour.

At the Emmy creative arts ceremonies held earlier this month, the mockumentary-style show about educators in an underfunded Philadelphia school, won the trophy for outstanding comedy series casting. "Succession" won the drama series casting award. "The Crown," last year's big winner, wasn't in the running this time because it sat out the Emmys eligibility period. **AP**

17 ECONOMY



GOLD

₹51,071



RUPEE

79.53/\$



OIL

\$90.51



SILVER

₹56,510

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) per barrel as of September 9

SENSEX: 60,115.13 ▲ 321.99 (0.54%) NIFTY: 17,936.35 ▲ 103.00 (0.58%) NIKKEI: 28,542.11 ▲ 327.36 HANG SENG: 19,362.25 ▲ 507.63 FTSE: 7,446.71 ▲ 95.64 DAX: 13,310.28 ▲ 222.07

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
TECH PLATFORMS

Keeping Big Tech in check: 'Safe harbour' under lens in US, India

SOUMYARENDRA BARIK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

SIX PRINCIPLES

■ The US has identified six key principles to keep the power of social media cos in check

AMID THE growing chorus of the influence and dominance of social media companies, the United States has identified six key principles to keep their power in check. The areas range from competition; privacy; youth mental health; misinformation and disinformation; illegal and abusive conduct, including sexual exploitation; and algorithmic discrimination and lack of transparency.

These principles are in line with global scepticism around the influence of social media platforms as countries around the world, including India, look to check the dominance of these platforms.

A move to bring 'greater accountability'

"Although tech platforms can help keep us connected, create a vibrant marketplace of ideas, and open up new opportunities for bringing products and services to market, they can also divide us and wreak serious real-world harms," the White House said in a statement, after convening a discussion involving experts and practitioners on the harms that tech platforms could cause.

Calling for clear rules on handling competition issues, it said that a small number of dominant internet platforms use their power to "exclude market entrants, to engage in rent-seeking, and to gather intimate personal information that they can use for their own advantage". The White House added should also be clear limits on the ability to collect, use, transfer, and maintain our personal data, including limits on targeted advertising.

A rethink of immunity enjoyed by social media platforms: US vs India

One of the key principles listed by the White House is to remove special protection available to social media platforms under Section 230 of the US Communications Decency Act (CDA). This section is similar to Section 79 of India's Information Technology Act, 2000, (IT Act) which classifies social media platforms as intermediaries and broadly shields them from legal action based on content users post on their platform.

Both these regulations offer social media platforms something called 'safe harbour'. The idea is that since platforms cannot control at the first instance what users post on their site, they should not be held legally liable for any objectionable content they host as long as they agree to take such content down when flagged by the government or various courts. Since social media platforms are generally understood to be

EXPLAINED crucial tools of speech, safe harbour is typically seen as a core tenet of enabling freedom of expression on these platforms.

The White House, however, has called for "fundamental reforms" to Section 230 after experts highlighted the "magnitude of illegal and abusive conduct hosted or disseminated by platforms, but for which they are currently shielded from being held liable and lack adequate incentive to reasonably address, such as child sexual exploitation, cyberstalking, and non-consensual distribution of intimate images of adults".

In February 2021, India had notified extensive changes to its social media regulations in the form of the Information Technology Rules, 2021 (IT Rules) which placed significant due diligence requirements on large social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter, including appointing key personnel to handle law enforcement requests and user grievances, enabling identification of the first originator of the information on its platform under certain conditions, and deploying technology-based measures on a best-effort basis to identify certain types of content.

Social media companies have objected to some of the provisions in the IT Rules, with WhatsApp also having filed a case against a requirement which mandates it to trace the first originator of a message. One of the reasons that the platform may be required to trace the originator is if a user has shared child sexual abuse material on its platform. WhatsApp has, however, alleged that the requirement will dilute the encryption security on its platform and could compromise personal messages of millions of Indians.

This June, with a view to make the Internet "open, safe and trusted, and accountable", the IT Ministry proposed further amendments to the IT Rules. One of the most contentious proposals is the creation of government-backed grievance appellate committees which would have the authority to review and revoke content moderation decisions taken by platforms.

India is also working on a complete overhaul of its technology policies and is expected to soon come out with a replacement of its IT Act, 2000, which will look at ensuring net neutrality, data privacy, and algorithmic accountability of social media platforms.

LAST FLEET EXPANSION WAS IN 2016

Air India fleet to rise by 25%, premium economy on cards

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

MARKING THE beginning of one of Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran's core aims to upgrade and modernise the Air India fleet, the airline has signed lease agreements to induct 30 new aircraft to boost domestic and international operations over the next 15 months, according to an official statement. The carrier said it will bring in 21 Airbus A320neo planes, four Airbus A321neo planes and five Boeing 777-200LR wide-bodied planes progressively from December.

The wide-bodied planes will have a Premium Economy offering — a product Air India will offer for the first time. Premium Economy is currently offered in India by Tata-Singapore Airlines joint-venture airline Vistara.

The last time Air India had expanded its fleet was in 2016, when it leased 14 Airbus A320neo aircraft. This was preceded by an order to purchase 111 Airbus narrow-bodied planes and Boeing wide-bodied planes in 2006-07.

"These new aircraft, which will enter service from late 2022,

NEW AIRCRAFT TO BE INDUCTED

THE CARRIER will bring in 21 Airbus A320neo planes, 4 Airbus A321neo planes and 5 Boeing 777-200LR wide-bodied planes progressively from December



File

will increase the airline's fleet by over 25 per cent. Not counting the 10 long-grounded narrow-body and six wide-body aircraft that have been returned to service in recent months, these new aircraft mark the first major fleet expansion since Air India's acquisition by the Tata Group earlier this year," the statement said.

Currently, Air India has 70 narrow-bodied aircraft, of which 54 are in service, and 43 wide-bodied planes, of which 33 are operational. The grounded planes are expected to return to service early next year, the airline said.

The Boeing 777-200LRs will join the fleet between December 2022 and March 2023, and be deployed on routes from metro cities to the US, Air India said. Mumbai will see the addition of flights to San Francisco as well as to the

New York international airports, Newark Liberty and John F Kennedy, while Bengaluru will receive a thrice-a-week service to San Francisco, it added.

The four Airbus A321 aircraft are expected to join the Air India fleet in the first quarter of calendar year 2023, while the 21 A320 planes will be inducted in the second half of 2023. These aircraft will be deployed on domestic sectors as well as to short-haul international destinations.

Campbell Wilson, CEO & MD, Air India, said: "After a long time without significant growth, Air India is delighted to resume expanding its fleet and global footprint. These new aircraft, together with existing aircraft being returned to service, address an immediate need for more capacity and connectivity, and mark a

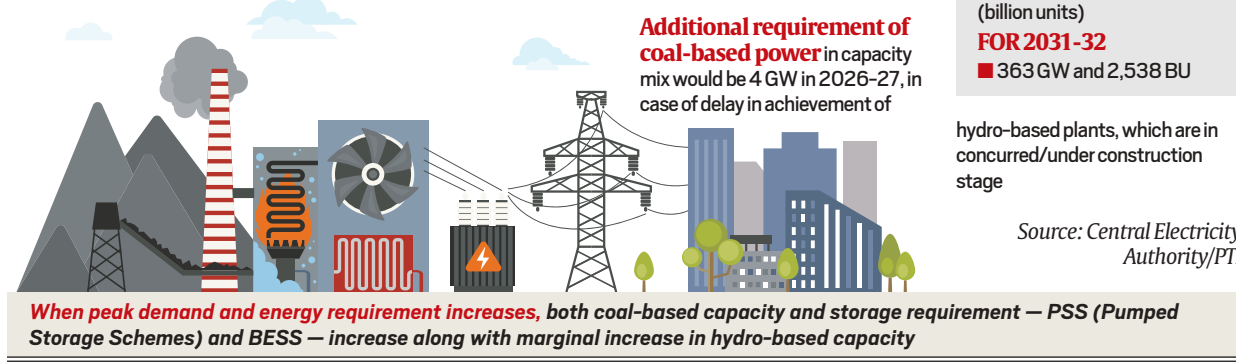
strong step forward. Air India has exciting expansion and renewal plans, of which these new aircraft are just the beginning".

In his maiden address to Air India employees in February after its acquisition by the Tata Group, Chandrasekaran had said upgrading and modernising the fleet and hospitality was among the core areas where the airline will focus under the new management. "We will upgrade our fleet. We will bring modernity to our fleet. We will bring a new fleet, we will expand our outreach... We will not only increase the number of aircraft that we will have, wide body and narrow body, (but) we will fly to many destinations."

Air India's market share in domestic air passenger traffic has steadily dropped over the last 5-6 years, and the expansion of its fleet will give it a chance to add capacity to compete with the likes of IndiGo, Vistara, SpiceJet, AkasaAir and GoFirst. As per latest available official data, Air India had a domestic market share of 8.4 per cent in July. In the first month, IndiGo, Vistara, GoFirst and SpiceJet had market shares of 58.8 per cent, 10.4 per cent, 8.2 per cent and 8.0 per cent, respectively.

'May need up to 28 GW of extra coal-based capacity by 2032'

India may need up to 28 GW of more coal-fired power generation capacity by 2032 apart from the 25 GW under-construction projects, the Central Electricity Authority said



'Vedanta plans \$20-bn chip unit in Gujarat'

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

VEDANTA HAS decided to set up its semiconductor manufacturing unit in Gujarat and has identified land for it. According to Reuters, an announcement to this effect is expected later this week with a formal signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the state government and the company.

The Vedanta Group has an initial investment plan of \$2 billion for the semiconductor unit,



Reuters file

which would go up to \$20 billion as the company scales up the project. "Various state governments have approached us for

providing land for the project, and we are also in talks with several of them. We will soon identify the location to set up the unit. We want to see which state is able to create an entire cluster of units," Anil Agarwal, Vedanta chairman, had said earlier.

Vedanta is amongst the five companies which have applied for the government's Rs 76,000-crore incentive scheme for development of semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

In fact, the company has submitted two proposals — one

where it has formed a joint venture with Foxconn for manufacturing chips and the second, on its own for display fabs.

Vedanta is confident of getting global orders once its semiconductor manufacturing unit is up and running in India. It is already into manufacturing fab glasses and optic fibre globally, so it is not going to be a new business for the company. "We already make fab glasses in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan and have 20,000 people working for us, so we are already in the business," Agarwal had said. FE

States may have NITI Aayog-like bodies soon

PRASANTA SAHU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE NITI Aayog — the think-tank at the Central level — will handhold each state to set up similar bodies, replacing their planning boards for faster and inclusive economic growth, in tandem with the vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The move is in recognition of the fact that except for sectors like defence, railways and highways, the national gross domestic product (GDP) growth is an aggregation of states' rates of growth. Health, education and skill development are primarily with the state government. The NITI Aayog notes that state governments' role is critical to improving ease of doing business, land reforms, infrastructure development, credit flows and urbanisation, all of which are vital for sustained economic growth.

In his Independence Day speech last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set an ambitious target of making India a developed nation by 2047. The NITI Aayog has already initiated the "state support mission" by holding a meeting of state planning secretaries on September 6. The think-tank, which will likely extend support to states including experts from IIMs and IITs, has received positive responses from states, according to sources.

Initially, it aims for 8-10 states to set up such bodies, before reaching out to all by March 2023. Four states — Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Assam — have already begun work in this regard while Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat will likely begin work soon, sources said.

It has been seven years since the 65-year-old Planning Commission was replaced with the NITI Aayog by the Modi government in January 2015, mainly as a think-tank for forging a na-

'STATE SUPPORT MISSION'

■ The move is in recognition of the fact that except for sectors like defence, railways and highways, the national GDP growth is an aggregation of states' rates of growth

■ The NITI Aayog has initiated the "state support mission" by holding a meet of state planning secretaries on September 6

tional vision on development. The Centre has since given the plan fund allocation powers to the Finance Ministry.

However, most states so far have done little to rejuvenate their planning departments/boards, which earlier dealt with the Planning Commission and prepared parallel state five-year plans with the Centre. "Most states' planning departments, with huge manpower, are almost defunct and have no clarity what work they will do," said a senior official said. "A plan has been chalked out by NITI Aayog to help in the creation of teams that will examine the existing structure of state planning boards, and in the next 4-6 months conceptualise the State Institution for Transformation (STI)."

Lateral entry of professionals will be encouraged in STIs to undertake high-quality analytical work and policy recommendations. Besides reorienting state planning boards as STIs, a blueprint will be made on how it will guide states in policy formulation, take up monitoring and evaluation of government policies and programmes, and suggest better technology or models for delivery of schemes. FE

ED allows WazirX to resume banking ops

Bengaluru: In a relief to Indian crypto exchange WazirX, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) unfroze its bank accounts.

WazirX communicated in a blog post on Monday that it is now in a position to continue banking operations as usual, over a month after the ED froze its bank accounts to inspect money laundering cases. WazirX said it has cooperated with investigators by providing all necessary details, information, and documents of the accused companies who used its platform.

The ED is investigating 16 fintech companies and instant loan apps, including WazirX.

The Binance-linked company's assets worth Rs 64.7 crore were frozen after the central agency suspected that the crypto exchange assisted instant loan app companies in laundering the proceeds of crime by converting them into cryptocurrencies on its platform. A number of fintech companies were involved in illegal lending practices that were backed by Chinese funds, the ED had said. FE

BRIEFLY

Amazon sellers

New Delhi: Amazon India has cut down selling fee by 50% for new vendors on its platform ahead of festive season sale, it said Monday. All vendors are required to pay a fee for selling their products on Amazon and it is calculated as a percentage of the total sales price that is paid by the buyer.

AmEx India head

New Delhi: American Express Banking Corp (AEB) on Monday announced the appointment of Sanjay Khanna as the CEO and Country Manager for India. PTI

'Google may make some Pixel phones in India'

REUTERS
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 12

ALPHABET INC is considering moving some production of Pixel phones to India following disruptions in China from Covid-19 lockdowns and Beijing's rising tensions with the United States, the Information reported on Monday, citing a source.

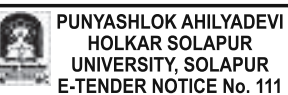
Alphabet, which did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment, has solicited bids from manufacturers in India to make between 500,000 and 1 million Pixel smartphones, equivalent to 10-20 per cent of the estimated an-

nual production for the device, according to the report.

The company's chief executive Sundar Pichai previewed a plan to manufacture in India earlier this year but a final decision has not yet been made, the report added. If approved, India production operations will still require import of components from China.

Alphabet is also considering Vietnam as another manufacturing base, according to Nikkei.

Apple Inc, the company's main smartphone rival, already makes at least four models up to iPhone 13 in India through contract manufacturing partners Foxconn and Wistron.

PUNYASHLOK AHILYADEVI
HOLKAR SOLAPUR UNIVERSITY, SOLAPUR
E-TENDER NOTICE No. 111

Sealed E-tenders in B-1 % rate are invited for electrical works of Administrative Building and Examination Bhavan by the Registrar - P.A.H. Solapur from the registered contractor in 'A' class with PWD, having estimated cost of Rs. 2,52,10,123/- with EMD, Rs. 2,52,10,5/-, cost of tender Rs. 8000/- + 12% GST. The detail tender notice is available on <https://mahatenders.gov.in> and <https://su.digitaluniversity.ac> websites and also on notice board of University. The tenderers can download the entire tender documents from 12/9/22 to 6/10/22 and follow the tender programme. The conditional tenders will not be accepted. The Registrar, P.A.H. Solapur University, Solapur reserves the right to accept or reject the lowest or any other tender or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Ref. No. PAHSUS/Engg/2022/111
Date: 12/09/2022

Ag. Registrar

MUNICIPAL BOARD, NATHDWARA DIST.- RAJSAMAND

S.No./M.B.Nath/Nirman/22/15518 Date : 07-09-2022

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for different works NIT No. 25/2022-23 of Municipal Board Nathdwara are invited from interested bidders up to date 20-09-2022 on 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajashtan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state govt.

UBN No. — DLB2223WSOB15347
Raj.Samwadd/C/22/7561

Commissioner

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, नगर वृत्त, जोधपुर
क्रमांक: 3361 दिनांक: 6/9/2022

निविदा संशोधन सूचना 1/2022-23

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 1/2022-23 में क्रम संख्या 1 एवं 2 पर अंकित आरआईडीएफ-28 के कार्यों को निविदाये ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत किये जाने की दिनांक 22.09.2022 को सार्व 6.00 बजे तक बढ़ाई जाती है। तत्कनीकी निविदाये दिनांक 23.09.2022 को प्रातः 11.00 बजे संबंधित कार्यालय में ऑनलाईन खोली जायेगी। निविदा को अन्य शर्तें बंधावत रहेंगी।

हस्ता./- (बिनीत गुप्ता)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. नगर वृत्त, जोधपुर

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Corporate Office: Belapur Bhavan, Sector-11 CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai-400614

ATTENTION OF AIR TRAVEL AGENCIES

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work : Booking / Issuing of Domestic / International Air Tickets to Konkarn Railway Corporation Limited, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai. **Open Tender Notice No:CO-11033-20-1-2018-GEN-22.** Bid has been invited through E-Tenders (on IREPS portal). Manual Bids shall not be accepted. The Bid shall be submitted in accordance with the procedure laid down in IREPS. The last date for submission of completed Tender Form is upto 15:00 hrs on dated 26.09.2022 and Technical Bid will be opened on dated 26.09.2022 at 15:30 hrs. **Earnest Money Deposit Rs.1,60,000/-** Total Tender Value Rs.80,00,000/- (Rupees Eighty Lakhs) Payment towards Cost of Tender Document and Earnest Money deposit shall be made only through payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net Banking, Debit Card, Credit Card etc. Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details.

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
(Nagpur Metro Rail Project)
"Metro Bhavan", V/P Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspath,
Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrc.tenders@gmail.com
Website : www.mahametro.org

Tender Notice No. N1-O&M-14/2022 Dt. 05.09.2022

Name of work : Comprehensive Maintenance Works (Preventive/ Corrective / Break Down etc) of various assets of Rolling Stock, CBTC Signalling systems, Telecommunication systems and Lifts & Escalators including Consumables, Tools & Tackles but excluding Spares for a period of 5 years, for Phase - 1 of Nagpur Metro Rail Project of Maha-Metro.

Cost of Documents : INR 59,000/- (inclusive of GST).

Interested Bidders may visit MAHA-METRO Website: www.mahametro.org and CPP Website : <https://eprocure.gov.in> for NIT and download the bid documents for further details regarding the tender, from e-tender portal <https://mahametrorail.etenders.in> from 16.00 Hrs on 16.09.2022 to 16.00 Hrs on 11.10.2022.

Executive Director/Procurement
Maha-Metro, (Nagpur Metro)

Government of Odisha
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK
('e'-PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 11/2022-23.

- The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors Sports Complex works as mentioned below.

- No. of work** :- 2 Nos.
- Nature of work** :- Sports Complex works.
- Class of contractor** :- 'A' & Special Class.
- Tender paper cost** :- Rs. 10000/- (online)
- Available of bid documents** :- From 14.09.2022 to 16.00 Hours of 28.09.2022
- Date of opening of bid** :- Dt. 29.09.2022 at 11.00 Hours.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- P.K. Pradhan
Chief Construction Engineer
Cuttack (R&B) Circle
OIPR-34012/11/0014/2223

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

A TRIBUTE TO BRAVE HEART

13th September

CT / GD AVTAR SINGH

5th Res. Bn. Ghaziabad 13-09-2002



CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-heart. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noblest deed.

12TH BATTALION THE JAT REGIMENT MARTYR'S DAY (IN MEMORIAM)

In everlasting memory of these brave sons of "Bahadur 12" who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives to preserve the integrity of the motherland while serving with battalion in various operations.

"INDO-PAK WAR" 1971 (BANGLADESH)

Maj Sudesh Kumar, Nb Sub Prem Kumar, Nb Sub SD Tiwari, L Hav Bodhu Ram, Nk Kartar Singh, LNK Amar Chand, LNK Girdahari Lal, LNK Kapur Singh, Sep Sardara Singh, Sep Bhagmal, Sep Sandoor Singh, Sep Makhan Singh, Sep Jai Narain, Sep Pit Ram, Sep/Ck Ram Singh, Sep Nihal Singh and Sep Ram Chander.

"OP PAWAN" 1988-90 (Sri Lanka)

Maj Michael Lewis, Capt Pramod Jolly, Hav Dalip Singh, Hav Prabhu Dayal, Nk Babu Singh, Nk Mohinder Singh, Nk Bhoop Singh, Nk RN Mishra, LNK Phool Singh, Sep Babu Lal, Sep Sube Singh, Sep Satyawar, Sep Daljit Singh, Sep Ramesh Kumar, Sep Ram Singh, Sep Kapoor Singh and Sep Netra Singh.

"OP RAKSHAK" 1992-2011 (J&K)

Maj Manoj Kumar Pandey, Maj Sobhit Tiwari, Sub Nathu Ram Karwasra, Hav Ghan Shyam, CHM Mohan Chander Joshi, LNK Banshi Dhar, SM, Sep Dharmender Prasad Bharati, LNK Raj Kumar Mahto, Sep Sultan Singh, SM, Sep Man Singh and Nk Parvin Kumar.

"OP MEGHDOOT/OP VIJAY" 1999(J&K)

Nb Sub Rajbir Singh, LNK Vijaya Kumar Shukla, LNK Khadag Singh, SM, Sub Gardari Lal, Nb Sub Gulzar Singh and Sep Pawan Kumar.

"OP PARAKRAM" 2001-2002

Sub Mam Chand, CHM Siya Ram Gurjar, Hav Shishu Pal, Nk Sis Ram, Nk Dinesh Chandra, Nk Ram Sahay Mishra, Nk Rajender Singh, LNK Chandan Singh, Sep Mukesh Kumar, Sep Vinod Kumar, Sep Virendra Prasad, Sep Satish Kumar, Sep Parvender Kumar, Sep Savinder Kumar, Sep Sunil, Sep Mukesh, Sep Atar Singh, and Sep Ganesh Kumar.

On our 'Martyr's Day' we, once again, pledge to follow your personal example of dedication towards duty. You are no longer with us but your memories will be with us forever.

ALL RANKS 12 JAT

उत्तरखण्ड पेयजल संसाधन विकास एवं निर्माण निगम
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, यांत्रिक गण्डक,
102, बसुकाखेर, कञ्चलिया देवगढ़ मार्ग, पौड़ी गढ़वाल, (उत्तरखण्ड)-246001
E-mail: samechnicalpau@gmail.com

प्रक्रांक-27 / निविदा / 01 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक- 12.09.2022

- कार्य का नाम- जनपद टिहरी गढ़वाल के अंतर्गत वीसीपीएलको (फेज-I) ग्राम समूह पथेम पेयजल के पुनर्गठन कार्य।
- कार्य की अनुमानित/कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि- रु० 499.49 लाख (जीएसटी+ 18% सहित) / 12 माह
- पोर्टल पर निविदा उपलब्ध होने का विवरण : दि० 13.09.2022, समय 16:00 बजे
- ऑन-लाईन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय : दि० 27.09.2022 समय 17:00 बजे
- ऑफ-लाईन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि व समय : दि० 28.09.2022 समय 14:00 बजे
- निविदा की पूर्ण जानकारी, शुद्धि-पत्र एवं संशोधन/निरस्तोकरण आदि की सूचना हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in वेबसाइट पर लाइन-इन करें।

अधीक्षण अभियंता
"जल संचय-जीवन संचय" "कृषया जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित होने से बचाईये"
"वैधानिक चेतावनी-जल स्रोतों को प्रदूषित करना दण्डनीय अपराध है।"

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (Train Set), Northern Railway, Chargah, Workshop, Lucknow invites following e-tender from reputed firms for works as given below: **Tender No.:** W-CB-VII-Local Truck-22-23 **Name of Work:** 03 Nos. truck of 03 MT capacity for local (Lucknow) work i.e., Diesel Shed, Alambagh, C&W Workshop, Alambagh, Lucknow Station etc. including loading & unloading of material. (20 days per truck per month subjected to 480 days in 24 Months). **Estimated Cost of Work:** Rs. 20,000/- **Earnest Money/Bid Security:** -86,400/- only. **Cost of Tender Form:** Rs. 0/- only. **Period of Contract:** 24 Months. **Date & Time for Submission of Tender:** from 19.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 upto 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time for Opening of Tender:** after 15:15 Hrs. on 03.10.2022. * The tender form may be submitted on the website www.irops.gov.in from 19.09.2022 to 03.10.2022 (upto 15:00 Hrs.). * Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, any such manual Offer received shall be ignored. * Contractors are allowed to make payment against this tender towards tender document cost and Earnest Money /Bid security only cash through e-payment gateway or submitted as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents. *The tender will be opened on specified date and time as above. In case the above date is a holiday the tender opening would be conducted at the same time on the next working day. * No post tender correspondence for submission of additional documents shall be entertained after opening the technical & commercial offers. Even suo-moto post letter of the tender shall be treated as NULL & Void.

No: NR/CB /Workshop/September/LocalTruck/2022/VII Date: 12.09.2022 2368/22

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993. In the matter of **O.A. NO. 262/2019**

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA Vs RAHUL SHROTRIYA AND ORS

Applicant Defendants

D-1 MR RAHUL SHROTRIYA, S/O MR HARISH KUMAR SHARMA

H NO B 168 A, II FLOOR, STREET NO.9, B BLOCK, BHAIJANPURA, DELHI-110053

D-2 MRS BHAVANA SHROTRIYA, W/O MR RAHUL SHROTRIYA

H NO B 168 A, II FLOOR, STREET NO.9, B BLOCK, BHAIJANPURA, DELHI-110053

D-3 M/S AMRAPALI LEISURE VALLEY PVT. LTD., THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR/AR

REGD. OFFICE AT- 307, II FLOOR, NIPUN TOWER, PLOT NO 15, COMMUNITY CENTRE, KARVAD, DELHI-110092

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal **14.10.2022 at 10.30 A.M.**

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

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

(i) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/Software;

(ii) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by Registrar/Recovery Officer-I and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.

(iii) In any emergency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No 23748469.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 17th day of June, 2022.

By Order of the Tribunal

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. JIS/ByCMM/2022-23/13 Date 08.09.2022

E-Procurement Tender Notice

On behalf of the President of India, The Dy Chief Material Manager, General Store Depot, Jhansi are invites the following E-Procurement tender:

S. No.	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender Opening Date	EMD Rs.
1.	51225110	Set of Battery bank for Battery Operated Platform Truck (Tugger), 36V 300Ah, No. of Cells per battery (16 cells for 2 Volt battery) and Battery size (39"x18"x16") battery container M.S. sheet (S.M.M) Make- EXIDE, AMARON, LUMINOUS OR SIMILAR.	06 Set	07.10.2022	00.00

Note: 1. The complete information of above E-Procurement Tender are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.irops.gov.in> 2. Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders for this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with class III digital signature certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. 3. Rules entered into financial rate page and duly signed digitally signature shall only be considered rates and any other financial entry in any other form/letter had if attached by vendor shall be original straightway ignored and shall not be considered. 1200/22 FA

For further information please go through the website <http://jhrkhandtenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 e-mail— ecrdapsfdran-jhr@nic.in

PR 277596 Road (22-23)_D

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of work and its location : 30-Elect-04-T-R2-22-23-E3

Replacement/Augmentation of existing centralized air conditioning plant with other allied works at Rail Bhawan.

Approx cost of the works : Rs. 3,559.99 lacs

Address of the office : Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

Bid Security (Earnest Money) : Rs. 19,30,000.00

Date & time of submission of tender : 06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.

Opening of tender : 06.10.2022, 12.00 Hrs.

Website & notice board : www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

2377/2022

Serving Customers with a Smile

Testing positive in China will be a nightmare: Sathiyan

ANIL DIAS
SEPTEMBER 12

Alcaraz now belongs in the same paragraph even if he never made it look remotely



AF

that easy in New York. He had to save a match point against Jannik Sinner of Italy in the quarterfinals. That was part of him winning three five-set matches in a row that finished near midnight or well after and kept him from going to sleep until much of the city was starting to wake up.

And all that was just to reach the final, where a letdown would have been entirely understandable. But Alcaraz was having

This was appointment viewing, too, a day when two hungry young men were chasing their first major title and the No. 1 ranking at

"It is what makes Carlos special," Ferrero said during my visit in December. "Many players like to compete but not so many look forward to playing the biggest points. Carlos does, and I think that is a very good sign for the future." Ferrero said he sensed some of Alcaraz's joy was missing earlier this summer at the Masters 1000 tournaments in Montreal and Mason, Ohio. Ferrero was intent on recapturing it and urged him to be true to his attacking instincts, to approach the net off short balls and to use his full range of skills. Mission accomplished. "I came here just to enjoy," Alcaraz said. "To smile on court and to enjoy playing tennis."

But he also had a long-term view in mind. "Above all, he told me not to be in a hurry," Alcaraz explained in December. "That's why I'm going to get the experience and play the tournaments and learn the ropes, and that's why there's no need to get ahead of the process. I need to live all these moments and not be in a hurry for the results right away."

So much for not being in a hurry. **NYT**

strictest of bio-bubbles; no player will be allowed to even step out of the zone. Players will be tested every day and if found showing any kind of symptoms, will be put in strict quarantine. Sathiyam says, that's the biggest fear. "The last time I was in a strict bubble was at the Doha WTT in 2020. The Tokyo Olympics had a bio-bubble but it was quite relaxed. It seems as though China is still in the 2020 phase when it comes to Covid restrictions. "Our biggest fear



Lure of WTT Champions Macao

"We're going to China and there's a Covid-19 lockdown there."

Solutions Crossword 4844: Across: 1 Armed, 4 Redress, 8 Ass, 9 Uplifting, 10 Noonday, 11 Ermits, 13 Thebes, 15 Stores, 18 Range, 19 Caravan, 21 Billiards, 23 Rue, 24 Dresser, 25 Needs. **Down:** 1 Against, 2 Misgovern, 3 Druid, 4 Relays, 5 Deflect, 6 El, 7 Sagas, 12 In reverse, 14 Enemies, 16 Singers, 17 Scorer, 18 Rabid, 20 Resin, 22 Lie

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.

It's only after we've lost everything that we're _____ anything - Chuck Palahniuk (4,2,2)

BOSEE					

EHMROT					

CCUOR					

AEORDF					

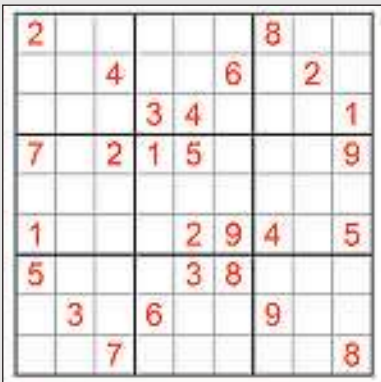
SOLUTION: OBESSE, OCCUR, MOI HEK, FEDORA
Answer: It's only after we've lost everything that we're **free to do anything** - Chuck Palahniuk

YOU'RE AT THE AGE WHERE YOU THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

AT MY AGE YOU JUST THINK ABOUT THE PAST

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Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;
5s = Very Hard; 6s =
Genius




SOLUTION SUDOKU 4955



BY PETER VIDAL

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
 You can pay a bit more attention than usual to professional qualms and queries. You're bound to feel a little emotional about your place in the world, but nothing will suffice except commonsense and an appreciation of reality. Just because other people have their heads in the clouds, that doesn't mean that you should join them.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 One particular disagreement does not want to go away, however much you wish it would. It's not in your nature to grit your teeth and carry on, so do what you can to make sure that everyone sees that peace and harmony are the fundamental conditions for a happy world.

Fingers crossed, prayer on lips

Inconclusive experiments, leap of faith makes India's familiar-looking squad for next month's T20 World Cup fragile

SRIRAM VEERA

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 12

INDIA'S MAIN hope at the T20 World Cup in Australia is Hardik Pandya and he will rightly be cotton-wooled at National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore when his team mates take on Australia and South Africa. The worry of what if he gets injured is too risky to even contemplate.

The rest of the T20 World Cup squad has no surprises; just reactions to the long yet conservative experimental phase which has unsurprisingly thrown up more questions than answers. It's been a kind of experimentation that has left India still punting and hoping at the World Cup.

A couple of observations stick out from this last one year. The Indian batting seems to be in second gear. The Indian bowling is on the other spectrum; if everyone is not at their utmost best, this attack can be taken apart.

Since no new pacer has really turned in astounding performances, Mohammad Shami gets a comeback in those two series and has been named as a standby. Shami hopefully isn't too rusty after sitting out for so long to produce a couple of performances that can make the team management and selectors introspect.

Since they didn't experiment with Rishabh Pant as an opener — who could have done the job what Rohit Sharma did against Pakistan: provide a breezy start, India are now seemingly stuck with KL Rahul, Rohit, and Virat Kohli as their top three.

A Pant at the top could have freed Rohit to play his T20 style when in form; now he is reduced to providing the fiery start and hope he doesn't get out in the process. It is now known that Pant would have been successful at all as the conservative experiment didn't try it out consistently. With Dinesh Karthik and Hardik in the line-up, and especially with Pant not quite nailing the lower-order position, it would have been worth a try.

Since Arshwin wasn't given many chances, there is no overwhelming evidence to show that he is good enough to take one spinner's spot. It is not even known that Arshwin would be bowling more off breaks, which he did in the one Asia Cup game, or be a carrom-ball bowler like he has consistently doing in the IPL, making his coach Kumar Sangakkara politely sigh when their campaign ended.

Since Ravindra Jadeja reportedly had a water-skiing incident in a desert, India will be without their second man who offered them balance after Pandya. And it's all like-for-like replacements these days, Axar Patel gets into the team even though the same management preferred Ravi Bishnoi over him at Asia Cup and who did rather well. Of course he was dropped as one couldn't risk his inexperience for the big tournament. That doubt over his temperament and talent could have been answered had the experimental phase of the last year been thought through carefully.

Since Harshal Patel was injured, India were lucky to unearth Arshdeep Singh but can both play in a T20 XI? Highly doubtful. The hope is Jasprit Bumrah picks up his form and skill post return from injury from two series just ahead of the World Cup. Even then it leaves a bowling attack, vulnerable to be taken apart on their less-than-best day, never mind their bad days. Can Harshal's style be conducive on Australian pitches? And what if Bhuvneshwar Kumar doesn't get the new ball to move around there?

QUESTIONS STARING TEAM INDIA

- Could Virat Kohli's No. 3 spot, which now has a hint of uncertainty, be otherwise given to Suryakumar Yadav?
- Can KL Rahul rediscover his past form from pre-IPL captaincy years where he used to go and hit?
- Given that Arshwin hasn't been given many chances, will he be good enough to take one spinner's spot?
- Can India play both Arshdeep and Harshal? And will the latter's style be conducive on Australian pitches?
- What if Bhuvneshwar Kumar doesn't get the new ball to move around there?

Since Yuzvendra Chahal has had no contenders been given chances consistently, including Arshwin or Bishnoi, India will go with the hope that he can strike form in Australia with longer boundaries. If he doesn't get much turn, it's easy to visualise what he would do: bowl more floaters well outside off, bowl really full front-of-hand ones on the middle and leg, try the occasional googly. A decently prepared team should be able to tackle it, if he doesn't get purchase off the tracks.

Virat Kohli at No. 3

Since Virat has now hit a hundred, India will play him at No.3 and hope he does the job. What did we learn about his T20 form by the end of the Asia Cup? That he has rediscovered his old style? Is that the approach where he proceeds relatively serenely before going for his shots? One positive thing that stood out from the Afghanistan game was his aggressive approach to the spinners. It's still not clear despite a few hits in the desert, if he can do the same against pacers, early in his knock. A crucial spot which otherwise would have gone to Suryakumar Yadav will now be with Kohli with a hint of uncertainty.

Since KL Rahul was injured for a few series, he didn't hamper his chances by playing too much. Now the hope remains that he can rediscover his past form from pre-IPL captaincy years where he used to go and hit. Again, that uncertainty. If the last year was used more wisely, perhaps, India could have made a well-reasoned decision on Pant or one of the other opening contenders over Rahul. Now, they won't know but will still be punting.

For India to do well at the T20 World Cup, the players will have to be playing out of their skin, extending themselves more than they have shown this last year. Indian batting has to shed their second-gear approach, and Indian bowling has to be always on their top form. Something that's normally tough to produce consistently through a long tough tournament like the world cup. Time will tell.

SQUAD: Rohit Sharma (captain), KL Rahul (vice-captain), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Rishabh Pant (wicketkeeper), Dinesh Karthik (wicketkeeper), Hardik Pandya, R Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel, Arshdeep Singh

STANDBY PLAYERS: Mohd. Shami, Shreyas Iyer, Ravi Bishnoi, Deepak Chahar



Rohit Sharma-led India have their task cut out ahead of the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Australia next month. AP

After social-media trolling, Arshdeep has something to cheer with ticket to Australia

NITIN SHARMA

CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

IN THE morning after Arshdeep Singh dropped a vital catch before almost defending seven runs in the last over of the Asia Cup Super-Four match against Pakistan, the 23-year-old pacer had a chat with coach Jaswant Rai.

Arshdeep, who was trolled on social media over the dropped catch of Asif Ali, could not sleep that night thinking about his full toss that resulted in the match-deciding boundary. On Monday, when he was named in the 15-member Indian squad for the T20 World Cup in Australia, Rai had something to celebrate at his Chandigarh Academy.

"Like any player, Arshdeep was a bit tense but then we told him that he has done all the hard work and does not have to worry. After he dropped the catch against Pakistan and almost defended seven runs in the last over, I had a talk with him and he told me that he could not sleep that night. He shared that he does not care about trolls but his thoughts were only about not his attempted yorker turning into a full toss. The T20 World Cup is the biggest stage for any cricketer and Arshdeep's attitude of rectifying his mistakes will only help him and India," Rai told *The Indian Express*.

It was in 2015 that Rai first saw Arshdeep, who had come with his parents Darshan Singh and Baljeet Kaur to his Sector 36 academy. Since then, the youngster has risen to become one of the best death overs bowlers in the IPL. The last one year has seen him being the bowler with the best economy rate in the death overs (7.58), claiming 10 wickets in 14 matches for Punjab Kings. Last year,

After he dropped the catch against Pakistan and almost defended seven runs in the last over, I had a talk with him and he told me that he could not sleep that night. He shared that he does not care about trolls but his thoughts were only about not his attempted yorker turning into a full toss."

JASWANT RAI

ARSHDEEP SINGH'S ACADEMY COACH

Arshdeep had picked 18 wickets and had the second-best strike rate of 13.77 among the top 10 wicket-takers. "The best thing about Arshdeep as a youngster was he could think or bowl six balls with six different variations. But I knew that it could only be mastered after he practised each one of the variations. So, we came with a plan where I would stand near the wickets and would ask him to bowl 5m or 6m or 7m length balls aimed at boxes on the pitch as he entered his delivery stride in an effort to train his mind about making last-second changes," remembers Rai.

Post his debut for India earlier this year, Arshdeep has picked 14 wickets in 11 T20Is at an average of 20.14 and a strike rate of 16.3. His economy of 7.38 has impressed coach Rai. In UAE, he got two wickets against Pakistan in India's opening match before he picked three more in the tournament. "Earlier in his career, I would also make him bowl with a tennis ball so that he learnt better control of length. As he matured, we worked on his wrist position as well as seam

position. While his wrists are the main tool behind his slow and fast bouncers, we worked on his posture including his arm closer to the ear for in-swing and far from ear for out-swing."

Looking ahead

In Australia, Arshdeep will be part of India's pace quintet along with Jasprit Bumrah, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Harshal Patel and Hardik Pandya. With Australian grounds being bigger than most in India, Rai has been working with him to adjust to Australian pitches. "His yorkers are almost perfect. What we are aiming now is to work on length balls according to Australian pitches. He can't pull back or extend the length as batsmen can counter them with pull or straight shots. The bigger ground gives him the advantage of bowling the slow bouncers and bouncers effectively as in UAE and IPL with small boundaries, these don't work sometimes. If the wicket is slow in Australia, he should aim for a slower one where the ball grips on the pitch and use more yorkers and length balls. On green-tops, he has to utilise the swing," shared Rai.

Arshdeep's performances have certainly caught the attention of those who know a thing or two about left-arm pace bowling. "He told me that post the match against Pakistan, Wasim Akram told him, 'Well done, sardar ji, Bahut achha ball dal rahe ho (you are bowling very well)'. In the last one week, a lot of former players told him that he made both the matches against Pakistan and Sri Lanka close with his bowling in the slog overs. What more can I ask as a coach from Arshdeep?" Rai signed off.

BRIEFLY

Long jumper Jeswin Aldrin wins gold

New Delhi: Indian long jumper Jeswin Aldrin won gold in the 3rd Golden Fry Series athletics meet at Schaan in Liechtenstein, with an impressive effort of 8.12m. It was the first time Aldrin had jumped more than 8m outside India. He had failed to touch 8m in his last five meets. Radek Juska of Czech Republic was second with 7.70m while Henrik Flatnes of Norway was third with 7.66m in the event on Sunday. Triple jumper Praveen Chithravel, competing in long jump, was fourth with 7.58m.

Hyderabad FC in Durand Cup semis

Kolkata: Indian Super League champions Hyderabad FC entered the semifinals of the Durand Cup football tournament, defeating Rajasthan United FC 3-1 in the quarterfinals here on Monday. Nigerian goal-machine Bartholomew Ogbeche (sixth minute) opened the scoring for Hyderabad, with Akash Mishra (45th) and Javier Siverio (69th) getting the other two. Uruguayan Martin Chavez scored off a penalty for Rajasthan in the 29th minute. Mohammedan Sporting took on Mumbai City FC in the first semifinals on Wednesday while Hyderabad go up against Bengaluru FC a day later.

Bouchard beats Zuger in Chennai Open

Chennai: Canada's former world no.5 Eugenie Bouchard, who is on a comeback trail, began her campaign in the Chennai Open WTA 250 tennis tournament with a 7-5 6-2 win over Joanne Zuger of Switzerland here on Monday. **Results (1st round):** Eugenie Bouchard (Canada) beat Joanne Zuger (Switzerland) 7-6, 6-2; Katarzyna Kawa (Poland) beat Astra Sharma (Australia) 6-4, 6-3; Nao Hibino (Japan) beat Jana Fett (Croatia) 6-0, 6-4; Rebecca Marino (Canada-X7) beat Anna Blinkova (Russia) 7-5, 6-2

India enter SAFF U-17 C'ship final

Colombo: India defeated Bangladesh 2-1 in the SAFF U-17 Championship semifinal here on Monday to book their spot in the summit clash. Striker Thangalsoun Gangte (51st, 59th) netted a second-half brace to win the match for India. Bangladesh pulled one back through a Mirajul Islam penalty in the 62nd minute.

England beat SA, win Test series 2-1

London: England returned to the Oval on Monday to speedily knock off the 33 runs required to win the deciding third test against South Africa, completing a sweep of series victories this summer in a successful start to the new era under captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum. **Brief scores:** South Africa 118 & 169 lost to England 158 & 130 for 1 (Crawley 69*, Lees 39) by nine wickets

PTI & AP

ASIA CUP

Stars who scripted the story: Understated names lead Sri Lanka's fairytale run



EXPRESS IN UAE

SANDIP G

SEPTEMBER 12

TWO FAMILIAR names—Wanindu Hasaranga and Bhanuka Rajapaksa—were the chief protagonists of Sri Lanka's fairytale Asia Cup triumph. But there were unfamiliar names that played an equally pivotal role in scripting a triumph that could potentially restore the old glory of Sri Lankan cricket.

Captain Cool Shanaka

The all-rounder was never earmarked as a future captain. When he became the captain last year, he was not even a permanent fixture of the team. But there, practically, were few other alternatives. Kusal Perera, the captain, and senior player Kusal Mendis, were banned for breaching Covid-19 protocol. Rajapaksa too was banished for giving interviews blasting selectors and the board. Hasaranga was reluctant. The crown of thrones fell on Shanaka's head. The early days

were tumultuous, a public spat over tactics with then coach Micky Arthur, became scandalous. Defeats piled on—before the Asia Cup, Sri Lanka had lost 10 of their last 14 games. An economic crisis was blowing in his country. There was an all-round disillusionment.

But throughout all the mess, Shanaka remained cool. He gradually built a team, picking the players he wanted, instilling confidence and leading from the front. The Afghanistan game aside, he made all the right moves. Like drafting, Dhananjay de Silva and handing out debut to Pramod Madushan in the last super four game against Pakistan. Madushan was to pick four wickets in the final, de Silva cracked a glorious 24 to allay the early pressure. Even when some of the senior players were going through a rough patch, he kept faith. Like Kusal Mendis, Sri Lanka's top-scorer in the tournament, or his partner Pathum Nissanka. When bowlers got hit or the fielders dropped catches, he would wrap an arm around them. After a long time, Sri Lanka have looked like a team.

Even in the press conference, he stood for the players and requested that the media spared their personal lives. "Believe in our cricketers," he said. "A lot of bad things are going around. As cricketers, they too should enjoy their lives as well, not spreading bad things. They have private lives too."

But at the same time, he is stern when he has to be. After the shoddy batting display against Afghanistan, he sounded out the batsmen to lift their game. He spoke to them



Sri Lanka defied odds to win the Asia Cup after beating Pakistan in the final. AP

individually and told them that none of their spots in the World Cup was secure.

Dilshana, the pace-setter

The left-armer is fast, can seam the ball either ways, can generate awkward bounce though he is not a beanpole and has a streak of aggression that some Sri Lanka's pacemen have been bereft of. He got the wicket of Virat Kohli, troubled Babar Azam in Super Four and the final, won the admiration of Wasim Akram, who likened him to a young Chaminda Vaas. His emergence caps a memorable back

story. From a fishing village in the port city of Hambantota—when at home he still accompanies his father to the sea—he had not seen a leather ball until he was 17. He used to play soft ball cricket in the locality, not because he was too fond of the game but because he could earn some money and support his father. "Until the day I came to Colombo for Sri Lanka under-19 practices, all I did was play soft-ball cricket. We went for all the tournaments around. We were never at home during weekends. At times we played tournaments through the night and

returned home only in the evening of the following day," he told papare.com

For most of the soft-ball career, he played barefoot and almost quit the game because he could not afford the equipment. But one day, he saw a notification of the country's U-19 trials and decided to attend it. He borrowed a ragged pair from his friend and bowled his heart out at the trials. The next day, he got a call from an unknown number on his rickety third-hand cell-phone. Turns out to be Chaminda Vaas, the then U-19 coach. Two days later, he joined the U-19 team and two years later, transitioned to the national side, living a dream beyond his wildest dream.

Old kid on the block

The right-arm seamer's story is one of persistence, his journey the exact opposite of Madushanka. A medium pace rather than pace bowler in his early days, he barely got a decent string of chances on the spinner-friendly tracks in his country. He made his first-class debut in 2015, but in seven years has featured in just 31 games. He changed clubs, but the fate remained the same. So much so that he had made up his mind to quit the game, only to be persuaded back by his friends.

Side by side, he amped up his pace, became a skiddy operator, developed variations like the slow bouncer and worked on his batting too. The breakthrough came after Galle Gladiators drafted him and harnessed his

white-ball potential. "Before this I did not know that I was this good a T20 bowler. My life changed," he said in an interview on the club's website. Soon, a four-wicket haul against Australia A helped as did an improved haul in domestic cricket. Picking him was a risk, Shanaka admitted, but one that paid glorious rewards as he snaffled four wickets in the final, including those of Babar Azam and Fakhar Zaman off successive balls.

Fire and ice combo

Both are not exactly unfamiliar names, but both had reasons to prove themselves. Mendis, once considered the future of Sri Lankan batting, was besieged by inconsistency and injuries, his career not progressing as it was expected to be. Nissanka's troubles were different, he could not crack the T20 batting code, as a strike rate of 115 in 29 games testify. But Shanaka said he wanted someone to give stability at the top of the order and Nissanka gave exactly that this Asia Cup, notching up two vital half-centuries, against India and Pakistan in the Super Four, besides a valiant 35 against Afghanistan.

From the other end, Mendis would provide fast starts, exemplified by his strike rate of 156.56, the highest among all batters.

Thus, Sri Lanka has developed a core of men who could restore the team's lost glory. "This could be the turnaround in our cricket," Shanaka said. "This lot can continue to play for five-six years, which is a very good sign as well."