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### DELHI OFFLINE BATCHES

Evening Batch  
**29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022**  
(6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

Morning Batch  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(7:30 AM - 10:30 AM)

### BHOPAL OFFLINE BATCH

Evening Batch  
**8<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022**  
(5:30 PM - 8:30 PM)

### LIVE-ONLINE BATCH

Evening Batch  
**29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022**  
(6:30 PM - 9:30 PM)

## OPTIONAL FOUNDATION COURSE

### Offline Classes

### Live-Online Classes

#### Economics

by **Vibhas Jha Sir**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

#### Political Science & IR

by **Piyush Chaubey Sir**  
**15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2022**  
(11:30 AM to 2:00 PM)

#### Geography

by **Alok Ranjan Sir**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

#### Anthropology

by **Sudhir Kumar Sir**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

#### Sociology

by **Raj Rai Sir**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

#### Mathematics

by **Maneesh Singh Sir**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2022**  
(11:15 AM to 2:15 PM)



### OPEN SESSIONS

- Why & how to choose an Optional subject.
- Strategy to prepare Optional Subject.
- Previous year questions trend analysis.
- Comparative analysis of marks pattern.

**PSIR OPTIONAL**  
by **Piyush Chaubey Sir**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022**  
**4:00 PM**

Scan to Register

OFFLINE | LIVE ONLINE

**ECONOMICS OPTIONAL**  
by **Vibhas Jha Sir**  
**30<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2022**  
**4:00 PM**

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Open session venue : 27-B, Pusa Road, Metro Pillar No. 118, Near Karol Bagh Metro, New Delhi 110060

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[f](#) [@](#) /NationalGamesGujarat [t](#) /Nat\_Games\_Guj [v](#) /36th National Games Gujarat



Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister

75  
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( CATEGORY A )



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SWACHH PARYATAN  
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Shiv Temple, Bhojpur

Dekho Apna Desh, Sabse Pehle Madhya Pradesh

## PFI DISBANDS, ITS STUDENT WING SAYS WILL MOVE COURT

# Centre bans PFI, affiliates for 5 years, says major threat to internal security

MHA invokes UAPA, points to alleged terror links, bid to radicalise youth

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY, MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SHAJU PHILIP**  
NEW DELHI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 28

DAYS AFTER law enforcement agencies launched a nationwide crackdown against the Popular Front of India, the Centre Wednesday banned the PFI and its affiliates for five years.

Invoking the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to effect the ban, the Ministry of Home Affairs said the PFI and its affiliates are linked to terror groups like the ISIS, propagate "anti-national sentiments... radicalise a

**EXPLAINED** **E** What can follow

THE DECLARATION of the PFI and its affiliates as "unlawful associations" allows law enforcement agencies to freeze bank accounts, seize assets of these organisations – in short, choke their funding and activities.

particular section of society with the intention to create disaffection" and constitute a "major



PFI office, Delhi. Gajendra Yadav

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

**AFTER THE BAN**  
PAGE 14

**EXPLAINED**

**WHAT BAN MEANS**  
PAGE 24

**OPP CAUTIOUS; LALU SAYS BAN RSS TOO**  
PAGE 18

## Terror links to training sites to targeted killings: Govt's case against PFI

**DEEPTIMAN TIWARY**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BAN on the Popular Front of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act comes in the wake of over 1,300 criminal cases registered across the country by law enforcement agencies against PFI members and recoveries from them suggesting alleged terror links, sources in the security establishment told *The Indian Express* Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNNY



## Cong race opens up: Digvijaya in running, Gehlot heads to Delhi

**MANOJ CG**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

IN A fresh twist to the Congress presidential election saga, veteran party leader Digvijaya Singh Wednesday signalled his intention to throw his hat into the ring.

Sources close to Singh, who was Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister during the Congress's troubled decade from 1993 to 2003, said he will file his nomination papers for the top post. Singh is expected to arrive in Delhi from Kerala Wednesday

night and file his papers on Thursday or Friday, the last day for nominations. Congress central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry is said to be unavailable Thursday.

The surprise move is being seen by a section of leaders within the party as either a part of the leadership's "Plan B" or a "smoke-screen" to pressure Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to accept the leadership's wish that he contest for the top post and leave the decision on his successor in the state to the Gandhis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## In season of festivals, Govt extends free grain scheme by 3 months

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

DAYS AHEAD of the declaration of the schedule for Assembly polls in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, the government on Wednesday announced it has decided to extend its free foodgrains scheme — Pradhan Mantri-Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) — for three more months until December-end. The scheme was to end on September 30.

Under PM-GKAY, beneficiaries of the National Food Security Act, 2013, are entitled to 5 kg foodgrains per person in a month, over and above their entitlement under the Act. Briefing media persons after a Cabinet meeting, Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur said 122 Lakh Metric Tonnes (LMT) of foodgrains will be distributed during October-December, and this will entail a subsidy expenditure of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

**RELATED REPORT**  
PAGE 25

## Lt General Anil Chauhan, former chief of Eastern Command, is new CDS

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

MORE THAN nine months after the death in a helicopter crash of the country's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat (retired), the Government announced Wednesday it was appointing Lt General Anil Chauhan (retired) as the new CDS.

A statement from the



Lt General Chauhan succeeds the late General Bipin Rawat

Ministry of Defence said Chauhan "shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## In a first, Collegium looks at judge's performance for elevation to SC

**APURVA VISHWANATH**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

IN A first, the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, is accessing records of past judicial performances to make recommendations for appointment of judges to the top court, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

In its meeting held on September 26, the five-member Collegium recommended the

### EXPRESS NETWORK

**R VENKATARAMANI IS NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL OF INDIA**  
PAGE 16

appointment of Justice Dipankar Datta, Chief Justice of Bombay High Court, as Judge of the Supreme Court. This is the first recommendation to the apex court made by the Collegium led

by CJI Lalit since he took charge on August 27.

Sources told *The Indian Express* that the Collegium meeting for recommending judges to the Supreme Court took place only this week since information involving potential candidates was being collated.

It is learnt that this information ranges from the number of judgements delivered to their quality and rates of disposal. Sources said the move is aimed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

### EXPRESS CARTOONIST TRACKS RAHUL YATRA

## Wanting on plans, bid to see India 'in slow motion'



**E PUNNY**  
PALAKKAD, SEPTEMBER 28

YOU HAVE to join the walk to talk to Rahul Gandhi. His day is full. He must do at least 15 km in the forenoon and 10 in the afternoon to cover 3,571 km and complete the mission of walking Kanya-

kumari to Kashmir in 150 days. For now, that is just about the only plan in place for the party. "My colleagues walking with me ask what my plans are after the padyatra? I have none," Rahul says.

Might as well not plan at all when, for eight long years out of power, not many plans worked.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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# After ultimatum, protesters disperse from Noida society

**ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR**  
NOIDA, SEPTEMBER 28

THE TYAGI community protest outside Noida's Grand Omxase society — which had entered its second day as protesters said they will stay put until "all encroachments" in the society are removed — was eventually dispersed in the evening as authorities issued stern orders.

In August this year, Shrikant Tyagi, a resident, had hurled abuses at a woman during an argument about planting palm trees in the open area outside his ground floor house. Tyagi was later arrested and has been in jail since. The trees were removed and bulldozers also pulled down an extension Tyagi had made to his house.

On Tuesday, the trees were back, allegedly put up by his family. The Noida Authority then issued a 48-hour ultimatum saying all encroachments across the society had to be removed.

Members of the Tyagi community had started gathering outside the society on Tuesday evening, after reports that the new trees would be removed.

On Wednesday, the protesters said they would stay put till the encroachments are removed from all houses, not just Tyagi's.

In the evening, however, DCP Central Noida R B Singh said in a statement: "The protesters dispersed at 5 pm after the Noida authority began surveying Grand



Protesters on Wednesday with a shamiana over mats they spread on the road near the main gate

Omxase for any possible encroachments, as per the earlier announcement. Anu Tyagi, Shrikant's wife, meanwhile, said her family was being targeted. "Some people had targeted my family, destroyed our plants and demolished a part of our house... Now they are getting the results of their own actions."

The palm trees outside the house had not been removed on Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier in the day, protesters had put up a shamiana over mats they spread on the road near the main gate, while a stove and small water tank were also set up.

Those gathered raised slogans such as 'Tyagi Ekta Zindabad' and 'Jai Tyagi Samaj'. Addressing the protesters, Mange Ram Tyagi, who is leading the protests, said, "We are here to support not only Anu and her family, but to stand

up for all women and children of our community... When her husband is already in jail, she should not have been treated like this."

At the gates, delivery personnel and workers had a hard time getting inside, with a small queue at the society gate office as they waited for entry tokens to be issued. Armed police were also present with senior Central Noida officers ADCP Saad Miya Khan and DCP Ram Band Singh at the spot.

Meanwhile, the residents' welfare association said matters were under control.

RWA president Avinash Mathur said during the day: "The situation has remained peaceful. There is not much disruption except for the crowds when children return from school... Our residents have also been talking to protesters to ensure smooth entry and exit."

# CM wants 'Make India #1' in deshbhakti curriculum

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

CELEBRATING A year of the launch of deshbhakti curriculum, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday said that campaign 'Make India Number 1' needs to be included in the curriculum, to instil in students the desire to

work for the country's progress when they graduate. The campaign announced by the Aam Admi Party had unveiled the party's ambition and entry into the Lok Sabha polls fray. Addressing hundreds of teachers and students at the annual celebration of the Delhi government's ambitious project, Kejriwal said, "The politicians or

the political parties cannot make the country number one... We, 130 crore citizens, need to come together to take India to the top... We have already kickstarted the process and they will keep on emerging in newer forms, I request the teachers present here to include this topic in the deshbhakti curriculum so every child graduating from Delhi govern-

ment schools should have the spirit of making India 1." The mission was launched recently ahead of the Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh assembly elections. The party has also launched a missed call number through which any citizen can join the campaign. The deshbhakti curriculum was announced in 2019

for all schools under the Delhi government, and was launched last year on the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh. "We are proud of the efforts of our teachers. There cannot be a better gift to Bhagat Singh than the discussion on the deshbhakti curriculum on his birth anniversary," Kejriwal said.

## Prakriti International Documentary Film Festival

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## REVOLUTIONIZING LOGISTICS FOR NATIONAL GROWTH

**V. Kalyana Rama**  
Chairman and Managing Director

**CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AT 34<sup>th</sup> AGM OF CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA**

Shakti-National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity, will go a long way for sustainable development of infrastructure in the country. Various steps under the AatmaNirbhar Bharat, Production Linked Incentive (PLI), etc. will help in the growth and development of the industries within the country. The plan to set up 25,000 km of new highways, 100 new cargo terminals, multimodal connectivity between mass urban transport and railways along with faster implementation and innovative ways of financing will give a big boost to logistics facilities across the country.

The National Logistics Policy (NLP) unveiled by Hon'ble Prime Minister will help in establishing a technologically enabled, integrated, cost-efficient, sustainable and trusted logistics ecosystem in the country for accelerated and inclusive growth. The policy aims to reduce cost of logistics in India. By doing away with the host of long and cumbersome process for the trade, the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP), will bring all the digital services related to the transportation sector into a single portal.

Your Company is fully geared to take advantage from the above initiatives to achieve substantial growth.

**PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS:**

With the relentless commitment and dedication of every member of CONCOR family, your company has achieved yet another year of outstanding performance. I am delighted with the performance of your Company as it has done extremely well on all fronts. The impressive performance of the Company on various parameters such as physical volumes, financial, CAPEX, dividend, etc. are as follows:

**Business Volumes, Turnover and Profitability**

The year 2021-22 has been the year of outstanding performance for your Company, in which it achieved the highest ever handling volumes of 4 million TEUs as against 3.6 million TEUs in the FY 2020-21 i.e. a growth of 11.8%. It transported 47.69 million tonnes of cargo volume by rail during the year showing 13.5% increase over previous year. It registered a growth of 7.7% and 32.3% in EXIM and Domestic throughput respectively. The Company also achieved the highest ever gross turnover of Rs.7,857 crores, as against Rs.6,670 crores in FY 2020-21 i.e. a growth of 17.8%. The Profit after tax of the Company stood at Rs.1,062 crores with an increase of 111% over previous year.

**Capital Expenditure**

To achieve the mission of becoming the first choice of our customers, the Company remains firmly committed for development and expansion of its terminals, acquisition of wagons, containers, handling equipment and creating IT Infrastructure. In 2021-22, the Company has developed two new facilities at Multi Modal Logistics Park at Mundra, Gujarat and Rail Transport Hub at Swarupganj, Rajasthan. It has incurred Rs.603 crores as Capital expenditures. At the year end, it has a robust fleet of 16,679 wagons, 37,431 containers, 108 RSTs, 14 gantry cranes and 31 Reefer power packs of different capacity.

**Net Worth, Dividend and Market Capitalisation**

The Net worth and market capitalization of the Company as on 31.03.2022 was Rs.10,777 crores and Rs.40,954 crores respectively. The Company has always followed the policy of sharing the wealth it has created amongst its shareholders. During the year, on equity share of Rs. 5/- each, two interim dividends of 80% (Rs. 4/- per share) and 40% (Rs. 2/- per share) were paid to the shareholders and a final dividend of 60% (Rs. 3/- per share) for the FY 2021-22 has been recommended for approval of shareholders. With this, the total dividend payment for the year will be amounting to Rs.548.36 crores, which is 51.62% of net profit. As a testimony of your confidence in the Company, the numbers of shareholders have grown consistently over the years and as on 31.03.2022, the number of shareholders were 1.36 lakh.

**TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDISATION:**

The Company is actively involved in leveraging its existing digital assets and has undertaken further investments in technology driven solutions to improve operational efficiencies and making us more providing quality services. With the usage of well established digital assets during the pandemic, all our terminals operated at full capacity. The Company works in paperless e-office environment and all its operating and financial systems are well integrated. As an organisation, we always strive to excel with the use of latest and more advanced technologies. We believe that extensive use of technology will help us respond to the ever-changing business scenarios and stay ahead in the market. To improve its service standards, your Company is working on further automation of its operations by planning implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based systems at its terminals. The adoption of AI will improve our service standard as the movement of containers and cargo at the terminals can be captured and shared on real time basis without any manual intervention.

**HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT:**

Your Company's journey up till now would have been impossible without the dedication and hard work of Team CONCOR. The Company is focussed on attracting, developing and retaining the meritorious talent. It encourages its workforce to identify their short and long term goals and through training, motivation, exposure, etc., guidance is provided to achieve the same. Regular initiatives are taken to keep the workforce updated with the latest technologies and skill-sets that are necessary to fulfil the organisational as well as individual goals.

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:**

Your Company is a Navratna Undertaking and good Corporate Governance is the core to its success. It conducts its business in a responsible way by maintaining a high level of organizational integrity and ethical behavior. It has put in place the framework of best policies, practices, structure and ethics in the Organisation. Today your Company is a well respected corporate citizen and it has earned the trust and goodwill of all the stakeholders. It is committed to do things the right way, which includes taking business decisions and acting in ways that are ethical and compliant to applicable legislations. In my view the foundation for our success has been rooted in our work culture and values with our ethos of 'Customer Value Creation'.

**CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:**

Your Company always believes in carrying out its business activities in a socially and environmentally responsible manner by balancing the needs of all stakeholders and contributing to the upliftment and well-being of the disadvantaged sections of the society. In this respect, it is fully conscious and sensitive of its role as a corporate citizen and has put in place a well-structured policy on Corporate Social Responsibility. The key areas covered were in the field of health, education, skill development, environment sustainability, sports, infrastructure development, etc. An amount of Rs.15.17 crores was utilized during the year on CSR activities, which inter-alia included work in the following areas:

- Infrastructure Development of schools.
- Construction of toilet blocks at public places.

**SUBSIDIARIES, JOINT VENTURES AND ALLIANCES:**

To diversify, expand and enter the new markets, your Company has entered into different business alliances, including by setting up JVs (Joint Ventures) and Subsidiaries. At Present, your Company has four Subsidiaries and ten Joint Venture (JV) Companies. These alliances are in the related fields of sea port operations, last mile connectivity, container freight stations, air cargo and cold chain logistics. With such partnerships, we have achieved several synergistic benefits and they have contributed to the revenues of CONCOR and have helped in the overall growth of its business. Most of the JVs are doing very well and have been paying dividend regularly.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:**

Before concluding, I on behalf of the Board of Directors, would like to thank the Ministry of Railways, Shipping, Commerce and Industry, Finance other Ministries, Departments of the Government of India, various State Governments, shareholders, investors, JV partners, lenders, suppliers and customers for their consistent support and motivation.

I acknowledge and appreciate the guidance and valuable support of colleagues on the Board, C&AG of India and our Auditors. I also extend my thanks to the electronic and print media for providing constructive coverage.

My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all the employees of the Company for their consistent outstanding performance and contributions.

Dear shareholders, I would like to thank you for your trust and confidence which has always been the vital fuel in our majestic journey of steady growth and success.

I wish and pray for the good health and safety of you and your loved ones.

**Thank you once again, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

28<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 (V. Kalyana Rama)  
New Delhi Chairman and Managing Director

**Note:** This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Company.

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# WORLD HEART DAY

## Driving action to tackle cardiovascular diseases

*The World Heart Federation's biggest awareness-raising campaign, World Heart Day, steers attention to cardiovascular diseases and serves as a platform to inform, drive action and lead global involvement in the fight against cardiovascular diseases.*

**A** HUMAN heart beats an average of 100,000 times in a single day. Despite its mere size, that of a closed human fist, it is essential to care for the vital organ. World Heart Day, observed each year on September 29, is dedicated to spreading the message of a heart-healthy lifestyle throughout the world by bringing together people from all walks of life for a common purpose through participation in activities that focus on attaining this goal.

The emphasis on heart health becomes more pronounced in light of the harsh reality that cardiovascular diseases or CVDs are accountable for nearly half of all deaths resulting from non-communicable diseases. CVD is a medical term that is used for disorders of the human heart or the blood vessels. Coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, congenital heart disease, peripheral arterial disease and rheumatic heart disease along with certain other conditions of the heart and the blood vessels fall within the ambit of CVDs.

With a steady rise in the number of CVD cases worldwide, more so in low and middle-income countries, owing to a number of reasons, there is growing concern over effectively dealing with the menace that is claiming lives at an alarming rate. The annual observance of World Heart Day on September 29, initiated by Geneva-based non-governmental organisation World Heart Federation (WHF) — the principal representative



body of the global cardiovascular community — mobilises action for educating and uniting people in the global fight against CVDs.

The WHF, which is at the forefront of championing heart health, has voiced its concern by clearly stating, "Cardiovascular disease is the world's number one killer, causing over 18.6 million deaths per year." WHF, as the sponsor of the

biggest awareness-raising platform for cardiovascular diseases, ie, World Heart Day, steers global attention to the onslaught of CVDs that have assumed catastrophic proportions in every part of the world. The day, centred around a unique theme each year, effectively raises public awareness about CVD as a health hazard and its global impact, while highlighting the measures that are instru-

mental in averting and controlling CVDs. With its mission "to connect, lead and inspire the cardiovascular community", WHF continues to inspire and drive global involvement aimed at promoting a heart-healthy lifestyle through its noteworthy campaign — World Heart Day and its distinct themes. The theme for the year 2022, 'Use Heart for Every Heart', is meant to inspire and awaken the desire in

**WITH ITS MISSION "TO CONNECT, LEAD AND INSPIRE THE CARDIOVASCULAR COMMUNITY", WHF CONTINUES TO INSPIRE AND DRIVE GLOBAL INVOLVEMENT AIMED AT PROMOTING A HEART-HEALTHY LIFESTYLE THROUGH ITS NOTEWORTHY CAMPAIGN — WORLD HEART DAY.**

people to use their hearts to think differently, make the right decisions, aid others and act with courage.

On the occasion of World Heart Day, the focus of individuals, communities, organisations and governments shifts to promoting the message of a heart-healthy lifestyle through active participation in public talks, educational programmes, free health check-ups,

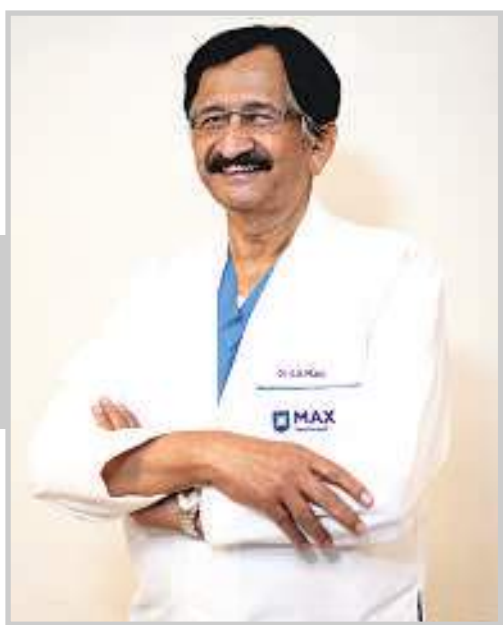
podcasts, leaflet distribution, fund-raising and sporting events, concerts, poster-making competitions and a range of engaging activities targeted at raising public awareness. Since this day aims at accelerating the exchange of knowledge pertaining to CVDs across borders, meetings of the medical community and international research organisations that are active in this field are commonplace on World Heart Day.

Contrary to the belief that cardiovascular diseases are modern-day living's ramifications, the earliest documented case of CVDs dates back to 1500 B.C. in Egypt. Cardiovascular diseases have plagued humans in every generation but the fast-paced and stressful life of this day and age has accelerated the occurrence of CVDs. Having said that, there is strong evidence which suggests that at least 80 per cent of premature deaths from heart diseases and strokes can be averted by addressing certain behavioural risk factors — unhealthy diet, obesity, physical inactivity, use of tobacco and the harmful use of alcohol. This emphasises the need for early detection of CVDs along with easy access to accurate information, affordable medical assistance, counselling and aftercare.

World Heart Day provides the perfect platform to unite everyone in the fight against cardiovascular diseases by focusing on raising awareness and actively propagating the message of a heart-healthy lifestyle.

## Cardiovascular Health For Everyone

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**Dr Ganesh K Mani**, Padmashri Recipient 2013  
Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Cardiac surgery,  
Max Smart Super Speciality Hospital, Saket

**T**O believe that Heart disease occurs only after the fourth or fifth decade would be erroneous. I do concede that it gets the maximum prominence then largely because it affects the most productive set of our population and that too at their career peaks. But the truth is that Heart Disease really affects the entire spectrum of the population from the unborn to the Super Seniors!

In infancy and childhood, we come across Congenital Heart Defects in about 8 out of every thousand live births. Some babies that are born blue because of Birth defects of the heart have to be operated in infancy itself and this highly specialised branch of medicine is not given adequate importance the world over and humanity carries the guilt of letting some of these children grow to adolescence when secondary changes in the lung make them inoperable. As Pediatric Cardiac surgery is expensive due to requirement of sophisticated infra structure and specially trained professionals it is not universally developed in the private Healthcare sector.

The young parents at the first rungs of their Careers do not have the necessary resource to afford the hospital bills. To assist in this area, Rotary International (a world wide NGO) has come forward to fund / defray the cost of the hospitalisations by their "GIFT OF LIFE" mission and their G.O.L. OUT-REACH Mission. Also many other philanthropic organisations also pitch in to offer succour to these unlucky kids born to poor parents. The Government does give importance to this

**Children born with Congenital Heart Disease can become Normal Citizens with Normal Life expectancy !**



**Dr. Ganesh Mani with Padma Vibhushan  
Dr S. Padmavati, The Pioneer  
in Cardiology in India .**

**Dr Padmavati pioneered the Rheumatic Fever Prophylaxis Program (RFPP)**

speciality in their premier tertiary care centres but only to a few. The vast majority in non urban areas may remain unattended because of ignorance or lack of resources.

Heart disease affects school children as well as many neglect repeated sore Throats and joint pains and end up with heart valve narrowed or leaking. Government run schemes like AYUSHMAN BHARAT and Arogyashree do fund these children for ballooning and artificial heart valves. India probably does the maximum number of valve related procedures in the World. So far only one Artificial Valve was manufactured in India called "Chitra Valve, but recently some other Indian Organisations also have been encouraged to make valves by PM Modi's "Make in India" Mission.

Thanks to our Genetic predilection and food habits, Heart disease continues to be the biggest killer of Indian adults. As the Festival season begins, the consumption of sweets go up and so does our incidence of Diabetes. Today it is not the cholesterol that we consume directly affects the heart but it is the carbohydrates that get converted to body fat and consequent Insulin Resistance. Lack of exercise, Smoking and Stressful life are the curse of the competitive age that we live in. Getting into the stage of angina before starting preventive measures is a no brainer.

What we should aim is to prevent deposition of fats on the walls of our coronary or cerebral arteries which may progress to various degrees of narrowing. Going to the Doctor only after symptoms are noticed is the present practice. Angiography, Stent or Bypass Surgery is the succours available.

Deciding on the modality of Revascularization should be the exclusive decision of the Doctor and not dictated by patient preference. Though stents are getting better and better, Bypass Surgery with arterial grafts are more durable and saves more lives in the long run.

Recently in addition to CT scan and Angiography which pick up the narrowing of the arteries at the late stages, Artificial Intelligence aided CT scans and MRI's become valuable in discovering early disease and institute appropriate treatment using nutraceuticals in a preventive role much before the disease manifests in heart attacks or Sudden deaths. Lot of research is also being done in the use of growth hormones, testosterone and exosomes to prevent atherosclerosis which is the hitherto inevitable cause of ageing.

In the super seniors, we encounter problems of degeneration and rhythm disturbances. For fit patients surgical replacement of calcified valves is the treatment offered but for the unfit seniors, a less invasive but more expensive transcatheter valve or TAVI is getting popular.

Advancement in Pacemakers and Defibrillators have contributed in a big way to increase Longevity.

Thus we come back to the theme of the 2022 World Heart Day which champions "CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH FOR EVERY ONE!"

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And Research Trust (H.E.A.R.T.)**



# WORLD HEART DAY

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## LDL Cholesterol and Heart Health

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IT IS unfortunate that every fifth Indian dies off a heart attack, and it is often to do with abnormal lipid profile levels. It is alarming that Indians who do get cardiovascular diseases (heart attack, stroke and peripheral vascular diseases) get it almost 10 years before their western counterparts. The cholesterol, which is a fat-like substance found in all cells in the body travels through the blood vessels in small packages called lipoproteins. LDL or low density lipoprotein is bad because it leads to a build up of cholesterol in the blood vessel. HDL or high density lipoprotein is good because it removes the bad cholesterol (LDL) from the circulation back to the liver which removes the cholesterol from the blood.

**The important risk factor for heart disease i. diabetes, hypertension, tobacco, stress etc. Push the bad cholesterol (LDL) into the arterial wall there by developing the blockage. Hence the control of risk factors is very important.**

In recent times, many celebrities (Actors, cricketers) have suffered from heart disease inspite of being physically fit were in fact victims of high LDL. Moreover, on looking into young people affected with heart disease indicate that in such cases high LDL plays an important role. If we reduce LDL by lifestyle and medication we can prevent cardiovascular disease and have people with a healthy heart in our society. Unfortunately high cholesterol has no symptoms unlike hypertension and diabetes and the only way out is to get a lipid profile done. LDL cholesterol estimation is easy and simple tool to diagnosis and monitor therapy.

**When should one get a lipid profile done?**  
It is recommended that at the age of 20, one should get their first lipid profile done. This would help in creating a record for future comparison. In people with high cholesterol, the test should be done once a year. In patients suffering from familial hypercholesterolemia (FH), a genetic disorder, their siblings and children (2-8 years) should get the lipid profile estimated at the earliest and treated accordingly.

**Should one fast for the lipid profile test?**  
Globally, most of the guidelines for management of lipid disorders have recommended non fasting

lipid profile (no need of 8-10 hrs fasting) based on evidence from clinical studies. There is no change in Total cholesterol, LDL, HDL, non HDL cholesterol between fasting and non fasting state. However, a patient who is a known case of high triglycerides (>400 mg/dl) will require fasting lipid profile. Every other patient of heart disease, acute heart attack, elderly, young, diabetic, for preventive check up and follow up after medication can undergo non fasting lipid profile. Non fasting state makes it convenient for both patients and the staffs who conducts these test by avoiding early morning rush at labs and clinics.

**How much should one target the LDL cholesterol levels to be?**

One needs to view a heart patient differently from those who are yet to show any signs of the disease. LDL cholesterol levels are the most important variable in the lipid profile for estimating the risk. In case of healthy people, it is less than 100 mg/dl. But, for patients who are at a very high risk, especially those with established heart disease, stroke, limb vessel disease, CT angiogram showing multiple blocks, long standing diabetes with multiple risk factors and patient of familial hypercholesterolemia with heart disease; the target should be to keep LDL <55 mg/dl.

In patients who are at high risk such as DM with one risk factor like hypertension or dyslipidemia, LDL >190 mg/dl, high BP with risk factors are suggested to keep LDL <70 mg/dl. Patients with low risk are required to keep it below <100 mg/dl. Likewise, patients who have high triglycerides above 200 mg/dl, non HDL cholesterol (Total cholesterol - HDL cholesterol) should be targeted and it is 30 mg more than LDL.

There are different normal reference values for different patients and normal people. But there is no uniformity in reference range for lipids which are being followed by different laboratories across the country. That leads to confusion and thus often under diagnosed and under treated. It is recommended that separate reference range should be referred to for different patients and normal people but uniform throughout the laboratories across the country.

Population	LDL target
Normal Healthy	<100 mg/dl
Diabetes, hypertension with other risk factors	<70mg/dl
Established heart disease, stroke, FH with heart disease	<55 mg/dl



*High cholesterol (LDL cholesterol) is often overlooked and is a significant risk factor for cardiovascular disease says **Dr. JPS Sawhney**, Senior Consultant Cardiologist and Chairman of Cardiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Delhi and Past Chairman of Lipid council of India, CSI (Cardiological society of India).*

**What is the dietary source of cholesterol?**

This is a very important aspect that is often overlooked. Liver is the organ which synthesises cholesterol and is present only in animals. So only animal products - milk, egg and flesh (chicken, mutton, and fish) have cholesterol. 80% of the production of cholesterol happens in the liver itself. Dietary contribution to serum cholesterol is only 20-25%. Plant products like fruits, cereals, soya, nuts (including cashew) etc. have no cholesterol.

**So, is sugar more dangerous than modest consumption of fat?**

Yes, sugar is more dangerous than modest consumption of fat. General public can consume <10% of saturated fat (ghee, butter, and meat)

If you consume fat - there is increase in LDL as well as HDL but the ratio of LDL/HDL remains same with large size LDL. If you consume more sweet and >50% carbohydrate food, Triglycerides increases resulting in reduction of HDL while LDL levels do not change but LDL size reduces. The change in ratio of LDL & HDL and smaller LDL makes it easier to enter into arterial wall and cause atheroma formation (blockage of arteries). Patients with history of heart disease, diabetes, and high serum cholesterol are advised to reduce intake of dietary cholesterol as well as carbohydrates

**Is LDL cholesterol genetically linked?**

The common risk factors for premature cardiovascular disease (heart attack and stroke) are high LDL, Diabetes, smoking and family history of heart disease. Patients with premature heart disease, high cholesterol and family history of heart disease often have a genetic disorder known as Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH). FH is the under diagnosed clinical condition in our society which causes premature heart attacks at an early age of 40-50 yrs.

In our study we have found >15% patient with young heart attack (<55 year male & <60 yrs female) with high cholesterol and family history had FH. In our country more than half of heart attacks occur at young age. Since it is a genetic disease it can also be transferred to the next generation in about 50% of the cases and such people are prone for premature heart attacks. These patients have very high cholesterol because of genetic defect on LDL receptor over surface of liver cells.

We suggest doing lipid profile of children and sibling of index patients to identify carrier of FH and if we can treat them with lifestyle and cholesterol lowering drugs on time we can prevent future premature heart disease in society.

There is another genetic marker of lipid disorder called Lp(a) which causes blockage and clot formation in blood vessels. High levels (>50 mg/dl) are more common in our community as compared to western world in general population. It is recommended now that once in lifetime one should get Lp(a) levels preferably with 1st lipid profile estimation. Common lipid lowering drugs do not reduce Lp(a). New group of drugs are under evaluation which can specifically reduce Lp(a) and reduce cardiovascular diseases.

**In recent times, many celebrities have suffered from heart disease and most of them were victims of high LDL**

**What is the way to manage and treat high cholesterol (LDL)?**

Firstly, lifestyle modification with diet and exercise plays an important role in managing high cholesterol. We can reduce dietary intake of cholesterol (animal products). Exercise helps in reducing triglycerides and increase HDL cholesterol and increases the size of LDL cholesterol. Mainstay of treatment is statins (Atorvastatin, Rosuvastatin, Pitavastatin) which act in liver and reduces syntheses of LDL. They are very effective and safe drugs (approx. 5% only gets muscle aches).

Patients with established coronary disease need moderate to high doses to reach LDL goal of less than 55mg/dl. Non statin drug Ezetimibe 10 mg acts by preventing absorption of cholesterol from intestine and is also effective and safe. New oral drugs Bempedoic acid is now available and is also effective. Both the drugs are effective in statin intolerant patients (muscle aches). We have PCSK9 inhibitors (drugs that can be injected twice a month) available, which is effective, safe but costly. Other drug not yet available in India is Inclisiran (twice a year injection) which is also very effective.

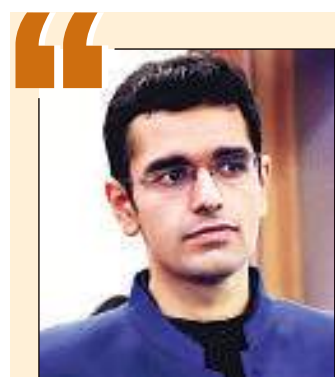
Patient with very high cholesterol >120 mg/dl and suffering from heart disease we even start combination treatment of high dose statin and ezetimibe to reach goal of LDL earlier. Control of other risk factors is always important like keeping BP (130/80), Sugar (HbA1C<7%), quitting tobacco (chewing and smoking including bidis), reducing stress (exercise, yoga, meditation). The mantra to reduce LDL cholesterol is - Earlier the better, Lower the better, Longer the better and Together the better.

## Be Attentive to Your Heart Health

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*'Use Heart for Every Heart' is the theme of the World Heart Day, 2022, which is observed every year on 29th September. In India, the increasing number of heart ailments, particularly in the youth, is a serious concern and burden for the State, and cardiologists are tackling the scourge. With an experience spanning 41 years, the renowned physician and cardiologist, **Dr R.N. Kalra**, Medical Director and CEO R&D of Kalra Hospitals, New Delhi, shares his concerns, advice and message about heart ailments on the occasion of this global event.*



**THIS** year, the World Heart Day, is of bigger significance for the medical fraternity as our nation has completed 75 years of its independence. It's a journey that we all have travelled with our pioneering seniors of the medical fraternity going to unimaginable lengths of self-sacrifice to pull India's healthcare from deep morass to become a global destination. The onus is on the younger generation to take forward the great legacy that people like my father, Dr R.N. Kalra, have established. We assure you of the best care made possible by technology. On World Heart Day, I appeal to everyone not to take their heart for granted. Lead a disciplined life.

**DR ANKUR KALRA**  
MBBS, MD (Internal Medicine),  
DNB (Cardiology)

**How is the World Heart Day observed at the landmark Kalra (Group of) Hospitals?**

We celebrate the World Heart Day every year in our hospitals by conducting activities to create awareness about rising heart diseases in our country, particularly, in the young generation. When I started my practice in 1981, people used to get heart attacks only when they were past 60-70 years of age. At that time, getting an ECG of the heart was more common, and echocardiography (Echo) was a newly introduced diagnostic modality in cardiac care. There was no facility for angiography in Delhi in the 80's and I used to refer my patients to Chennai, which had the facility or to London if they could afford it (and so was the case with bypass surgery). Today, we have all the latest treatment modalities as anywhere else in the world, which has reduced the mortality rate and increased longevity of the patients who can now live a good quality life. Advent of AI-enabled precision surgeries and advanced technology in healthcare are a boon. Those suffering from arrhythmia, i.e. irregular heartbeat, and if their hearts are found to function at a low pace, can be corrected with miniscule wireless pacemakers that are less cumbersome.

**What is the difference that you see in heart disease incidence now compared with 20-30 years ago?**

In over four decades of practice as a cardiologist, I have come to recognize ailments from the heart beat of patients because of the sheer numbers that I have



examined and treated.

Today, the heart incidents that come to us are a byproduct of stressful lifestyles. The worry is that the population of younger generation with high stress, high BP and more occurrence of heart attacks are all triggered by their obsessive desire to earn more money much sooner with minimal physical effort. Also, aggravating the heart condition is environmental pollution and larger number of people becoming diabetic in India, which is increasingly leading to heart attacks in the general population and is more upsetting when the youth succumb to it.

**Your advise on how to keep the heart healthy?**

Prevention is better than cure and also holds true for one's heart. Make exercise a part of your daily routine and do not lead a sedentary life. Go for brisk walk atleast 30-45 minutes five days in a week, and those who can't do so can opt for tough exercise once a week, do gardening, take a pet for a stroll etc., all of which will de-stress your heart and help prevent the onset of any disease.

Do not indulge in any substance abuse. Say 'NO' to smoking. Alcohol should also be taken in moderation, say 30 ml per day.

If you can keep your weight, BP, triglycerides, LDL (bad cholesterol) and diabetes

under control, heart ailments can be prevented.

**What is the diet that one has to follow for a healthy heart?**

Avoid saturated fats and avoid overeating. Start with a sumptuous breakfast, a lighter lunch and frugal dinner with minimal carbohydrates. Try to keep 10-12 hours gap between breakfast and dinner, which must be had before sunset. It will also help keep your weight under control. I follow what I preach, which is the secret to my active life. For patients, it is of paramount importance to strictly follow the doctor's advice.

**How true is that the Covid-19 has affected the heart?**

We are still learning about the deleterious effects of the virus on the heart. There are satisfactory data re: the safety of the vaccines against COVID-19 in patients with heart disease. I urge people reading this to maintain general hygiene, wash hands, wear masks, and get vaccinated.

**What are the latest medical armament that Kalra Hospitals have acquired?**

Kalra Hospitals are already equipped with the latest catheterization laboratories. The latest equipment is intravascular ultrasound, (IVUS), which can take the image of the blood vessel from inside to ensure what size stent would fit the blood vessel and whether the stent has been inserted properly in the patient's heart, which helps us to be more accurate

in the treatment. Cardiac MRI, which supplements echocardiography, is a recent addition to our technology at Kalra Hospitals.

My two sons, Dr Ankur Kalra and Dr Ankit Kalra, are largely shouldering the clinical and management aspects of Kalra Hospitals with a fresh perspective that is global in vision and introducing high precision technology driven medical care with the help of a highly experienced team of doctors and trained staff. Dr. Ankur Kalra is a Harvard-trained interventional cardiologist, and was formerly a medical staff member at the Cleveland Clinic.

**How can the government help strengthen private healthcare sector?**

Even today, many medical drugs and equipment are imported, which are purchased by us at very exorbitant prices. If the customs duty charges on them are removed or at least negotiated, then in the long-term it would be a win-win situation for all stakeholders. It will enhance viability and enable scalability of numbers that would enable us to pass on the benefits to the patients to get the best of world-class treatment at affordable cost.

**On the World Heart Day, what is your message to the public?**

If you want to live longer keep your heart healthy, keep smiling and live a positive life with no room for negativity such as jealousy. Give your best to what you do and do good selflessly, leave the rest to destiny and God.



**THE** theme for the World Heart Day 2022 is "Use Heart for Every Heart." In a 2020 study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association Network, we reported a 4.5-5-fold increase in the incidence of broken heart syndrome during the COVID-19 pandemic. We attributed this increase in the incidence to personal, societal and economic losses during the pandemic. As the world is slowing reeling out of the pandemic, it is important for us to use our heart to care for every heart, not only anatomically or physiologically or through medicines, but also through mindfulness, spirituality, love and poetry.

**DR ANKUR KALRA**  
MD, FACP, FACC, FSCAI  
Formerly at the Cleveland Clinic  
Director, Barry J Maron Hyper-trophic Cardiomyopathy Center  
Kalra Hospitals, New Delhi, India

# WORLD HEART DAY

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SEPTEMBER 29  
**WORLD HEART DAY**

## All You Need To Know About Heart Health

*To believe that Heart disease occurs only after the fourth or fifth decade would be erroneous. I do concede that it gets the maximum prominence then largely because it affects the most productive set of our population and that too at their career peaks. But the truth is that Heart Disease really affects the entire spectrum of the population from the unborn to the Super Seniors!*

**O**VER the past few years, there has been a sharp increase in the number of young and seemingly fit celebrities succumbing to sudden cardiac arrest. It is essential that we learn to identify risk factors and understand more about heart health.

The incidence of heart disease and cardiac arrests among young and seemingly fit Indians is on the rise. The shocking deaths of comedian Raju Srivastava, singer KK, Telugu star Puneeth Rajkumar, and TV actor Sidharth Shukla have left Indians baffled. Most of these celebrities were under the age of 55 and had no prior history of heart ailments.

According to the Indian Heart Association, Indians are more vulnerable to heart diseases than others and a significant number suffer cardiac arrests without prior warning. In fact, a recent study suggests that the rate of heart attacks among Indians has doubled in recent years. The spike has been rather sharp among the young. Nearly 25% of all heart attacks affect those under the age of 40. This has us wondering what makes young Indians vulnerable to heart attacks and cardiac diseases.

Eminent cardiologist, Dr Viveka Kumar of Max Healthcare, helps us understand the risk factors and how we can mitigate these through diet and lifestyle management.

### What are the major factors that affect heart health?

A number of factors are used to determine a person's risk of developing heart diseases. Age, family history, dietary habits, smoking, lack of exercise, and comorbid conditions such as hypertension (high blood pressure), hyperlipidaemia (high cholesterol), and diabetes are the

most common and significant. Men are at a greater risk of suffering from cardiac events and heart diseases than women.

### Why is there a rise in heart disease and sudden cardiac arrest among young Indians?

We have seen a significant rise in the number of sudden cardiac arrests among people between ages 20 and 50 across the world. Heart disease among young Indians is rising. While much of this is attributed to a sedentary lifestyle, lack of activity or overexercising, smoking, lack of adequate sleep, and stress, the COVID-19 pandemic has also played an important role. Timely identification of risk factors, lifestyle modification, and prompt treatment can go a long way in preventing death or disability.

### Several celebrities who have suffered from sudden cardiac arrest seemed fit. Some were at the gym when they experienced their cardiac events. How do we explain this?

An excess of anything can affect cardiac health. Unfortunately, a number of people are neglecting the need to gradually step up their fitness training regimen and throw themselves into strenuous exercise schedules. In these cases, the heart cannot tolerate this sudden change, and a cardiac event occurs. Overtraining is detrimental to cardiac health.

Indians have also started to undertake a lot of travel and adventurous activities. It is also important to remember that if you travel to mountainous places, proper acclimatisation is important. Sudden changes in temperature and altitude can put a strain on your heart.

Sudden cardiac arrests often come



**DR VIVEKA KUMAR**, Principal Director & Chief of Cath Labs (Pan Max)- Cardiac Sciences, Department of Cardiology, Max Hospital, Saket, New Delhi

**Sudden cardiac arrests often come without much warning. Young Indians should be encouraged to learn to administer CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) which can restart the heart and restore blood supply to the brain.**

without much warning. Young Indians should be encouraged to learn to administer CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) which can restart the heart and restore blood supply to the brain.

### What is the role of diet in heart health?

Our dietary habits are directly linked to our health. The risks of developing lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac conditions can be lowered by consuming high-fibre foods, fruits, and vegetables. It is important to avoid refined and processed foods high in saturated fats, sugar, and salt. Fast foods are best avoided. Most young Indians try out crash diets. It is important to have a balanced diet rather than try any extreme dietary fads.

### What are the symptoms to look out for?

One of the most common signs to look out for is heart palpitations. The feeling that the heart is beating very fast should not be ignored. A normal heart beat ranges between 60 and 100 times a minute. Most cardiac events occur due to arrhythmias or irregular heartbeat. This is usually due to very fast heart beat or tachycardia but it could also include slowing down of the heart or brady arrhythmia.

Other signs to look out for are sudden chest pain, a spell of breathlessness, giddiness or light-headedness that could lead to loss of consciousness, and unusual sweating.

If you experience any pain or discomfort in the upper back or arms while exercising, it is important to stop and immediately seek medical attention. This goes for young people in their 20s and

30s as well.

### What are the things we can do to prevent heart disease?

**There are 6S for a healthy heart –**

**S**edentary lifestyle should be avoided at all times. Stay active and fit. Lack of activity and exercise can lead to several diseases, including heart ailments.

**S**moking is a leading cause of heart disease. Talk to your doctor if you need help quitting.

**S**tress is one of the significant causes of cardiac ailments and heart attacks. Learning to manage stress and taking up relaxing hobbies can help lead a healthy life.

**S**leep is the body's way of rebooting itself and promoting healing. Lack of adequate sleep can put cardiac health in jeopardy.

**S**alt intake should be limited since excess sodium consumption is one of the leading causes of hypertension and heart failure.

**S**ugar-laden foods, when consumed regularly, can be the cause of diabetes and cardiac diseases. Instead, consume a balanced diet with proper proportions of nutrients, vitamins, and minerals.

It is important to understand that cardiac health can be improved with a positive lifestyle and clean habits. Regular health checks are important, particularly if you have a family history of cardiac ailments or diabetes. People in high stress work environments are particularly vulnerable to cardiac stress and diseases. There is an urgent need to raise awareness among the youth of India and encourage them to get regular check-ups, even if they do not have any significant risk factors.

## Perspective Of A Cardiac Surgeon

ADVERTORIAL

SEPTEMBER 29  
**WORLD HEART DAY 2022**

*Cardiovascular Surgeries in India - In Conversation with Dr Manoj Luthra, CEO & Director of Cardiac Surgery - Jaypee Hospital, Noida.*

India's burden of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) is among the highest worldwide. According to recent studies nearly 25% of all deaths in the country can be attributed to CVD. This is nearly a fifth of the 18 million deaths recorded each year across the globe. The rise of hypertension, heart attacks, and other cardiac ailments among young Indians, has now reached alarming proportions. Unhealthy lifestyle, poor dietary habits, stress, and smoking are among the leading contributors to heart diseases and the COVID-19 pandemic has only served to exacerbate the situation.

On the other hand, India is now becoming the global hub for healthcare and the country has excellent medical facilities. The country has come to be known for its highly trained and experienced doctors, great infrastructure, state-of-the-art technology, and the best of patient care. Let us hear from eminent heart surgeon Dr Manoj Luthra about cardiovascular diseases and surgical treatment options.

### Doctor, can you tell us a little about the history of cardiac surgery? Since when have heart surgeries been performed?

Till the end of the 19th century, the heart remained an organ that was considerably inoperable. Cardiac surgery as we currently know it was first performed in 1896 when a German surgeon Ludwig Rehn placed sutures for an injury on a patient's heart for the very first time.

Cardiothoracic surgery was in fact practiced in ancient India. Maharishi Sushruta, who is often referred to as the Father of Surgery, is believed to have performed procedures like the drainage of the pericardium nearly 2600

years ago. This procedure requires making a chest incision and draining the fluid around the heart.

Surgical repair or replacement of heart valves, however, came to be performed much later in the mid-1920s. These surgeries were pioneered in the USA. Over a period of time, with advances in medicine, Heart surgery has gone from being one speciality to several specialised fields of surgical treatment.

### Your special area of interest is off-pump CABG with arterial grafts. What is this procedure?

Open heart surgeries have been performed across the world since the 1950s. An open-heart surgery is one in which the patient is placed on a cardiopulmonary bypass machine which takes over the functions of the heart and the lungs while the surgeon repairs the heart. In 1953, Dr John Gibbon, who had invented this bypass machine, became the first surgeon to perform this type of open-heart surgery at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia.

In the 1990s, surgeons started to perform coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG), without putting the patient on bypass machine and stopping the heart. In fact, over 80% of these off-pump CABG surgeries are being performed in India and with considerable success. The expertise and the dexterity of Indian surgeons in this regard is commendable. Off-pump CABG surgeries reduce costs, complications, and post-operative infections.

### What are minimally invasive cardiac surgeries?

Traditional open-heart surgery involves making a large cut in the middle of the chest, cutting through the breastbone or sternum and getting to the heart. Minimally invasive surgery

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**Dr Manoj Luthra** is one of India's leading cardiac surgeons specialising in both adult and paediatric heart surgeries. Apart from a distinguished service in the Armed Forces Medical Corps, he pursued fellowships in Australia and UK in specialised areas of cardiac surgery. His areas of interest include off-pump total arterial revascularization and thoracic aneurysm surgery.

is a procedure where a small 5-8-inch incision is made on one side of the chest and the heart is reached by going between the ribs. Highly specialised instruments are used.

### How does a surgeon decide if he/she wants to use an artery or vein for a bypass surgery?

There are several decisions that are made as part of the surgical plan. One of these is if an artery or a vein should be used for the bypass graft. A surgeon will typically prefer to use an artery as these last longer. A healthy artery graft should last up to 20 years while a vein could last about 10-12 years. Another factor is the location of the diseased artery. If the left anterior descending artery is blocked or narrowed due to build-up of plaque, an artery graft is preferable to a vein. The state of the patient's native arteries and age of the patient are other factors to consider.

### Can a patient develop a blockage again after a CABG surgery?

Coronary artery disease happens when cholesterol deposits or plaques build up inside the arteries that supply blood to the heart. While we treat it surgically by performing the CABG procedure, the condition that caused this blockage is not treated by surgery. The patient needs to work on lifestyle management and take medicines that will prevent the formation of newer blockages.

### When are valve replacement surgeries being done with a CABG procedure?

If the blood flow to the heart valves is compromised by a severe blockage of the coronary arteries, the patient will need to be evaluated for the extent of the damage to the heart valves. If the valve is far too damaged to function optimally, the surgeon may choose to replace or repair the valve in the same surgery instead of putting the patient through heart surgery for a second time.

### What is the involvement of the patient in the various surgical decisions that a surgeon may take?

In the case of planned surgeries, surgeons should ideally present their surgical plan to the patients and take the patients wishes and suggestions into consideration. As a surgeon, it is incumbent on our part to present the patient with the pros and cons of each decision

that we may have to take and also offer our recommendations about the best course of action.

### Cardiac surgeries come at a huge cost. Has there been an effort to reduce the cost and make surgeries more affordable?

As a cardiac surgeon, this is one of the areas I have been passionately working on for several years now. I believe in keeping the procedure simple and straightforward. We should use the best possible technologies that are available but should also remain conscious about their affordability. Another important step that we need to take is focus on indigenous availability of medical technology and devices.

The manufacturing industry should come together with doctors to encourage domestic production to help reduce the costs considerably. The government is also putting in a great deal of effort to encourage domestic medical manufacturing industry. We must take advantage of it.

Jaypee Group itself is working towards manufacturing of commonly used high quality medical disposables at an optimal cost.

### What initiatives the Government has taken in the Health Sector?

To achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage, Ayushman Bharat- a flagship scheme of the Government of India under the leadership of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi was launched in 2018.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) as part of the Ayushman Bharat is the World's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the Government for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.

Other initiatives include Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and Health Infrastructure Mission (ABHIM) for capacity building at all levels of health systems and to create new infrastructure.

### Young Indians are increasingly suffering from heart condition. What is your recommendation?

Eat right, exercise right. Maintaining a healthy diet and lifestyle is at the very core of heart health. Make a commitment to yourself and your family to stay fit and healthy at all times.

# WORLD HEART DAY

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## Redefining Healthcare with Excellence and Empathy

**The theme for the World Heart day, 2022 is "Use heart for every heart." How is SSB Hospital spreading this message of positivity to mark this day?**

One should develop a helping attitude and do something positive for the heart of the general public and save as many lives as possible. To mark the World Heart Day, our hospital is giving discounts for angiography, CT Scan, free consultation, holding free health check-ups and encouraging people to come and get themselves screened because detecting heart problem early can help in the management of the heart disease. We want to educate people about the importance of prevention and healthy lifestyle i.e. reduction in weight, heart healthy diet, exercise and no smoking among the pillars of heart healthy lifestyle. Our team of 5 cardiologists are conducting free check-ups in the OPD for detecting risk factors for heart problems, and doing echo for those deserving it. We have also launched awareness campaigns on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.



*Brilliance is writ large on the persona of renowned interventional cardiologist **Dr S.S. Bansal**, Chairman and Managing director of SSB Heart & Multispecialty Hospital in Faridabad. He started the first heart centre in Haryana in 2002 & has the distinction of having many firsts to his credit, of being the first qualified DM cardiologist, of Haryana to start his career in 1994 at the then Escorts hospital which was the only corporate hospital in the state. Recipient of many recognitions and honours, Dr Bansal shares his experiences of over 30 years on World Heart Day.*

risk of heart attack in next 10 years and even during your life time. If the blood pressure and blood sugar is normal going for check-up once or twice in two years would suffice and the same goes for cholesterol. Go for lifestyle modifications to stay healthy, yet if you are detected early for any heart disease go for medication and get a check-up done every three months till you achieve the target objective parameters, thereafter once every year would do.

**What makes SSB Hospital a landmark healthcare centre?**

We are a multi-speciality hospital with a special focus on heart. I feel proud to say that we are a strong team of eminent doctors and surgeons, who are well versed with working with advanced technologies. The 200 bedded hospital has state-of-the-art Cath labs, special catheters, advanced Rotablator, CT scan for heart and Cardiac MRI which is the latest machinery redefining the paradigms of diagnostics and clinical outcomes. Advancement in drugs too has helped in better heart management. Today's modern drugs are so effective that problems such as blockages in stents do not occur and the probability of death is extremely low. Our endeavour is to save lives.

**What is your message to the people on World Heart Day?**

With advancement of drugs, diagnostics and precision surgery options, which are effective and affordable, one should not avoid consulting a cardiologist on detecting even the slightest of symptoms of heart problem. Get yourself screened for lipid, sugar & high BP as it helps early detection, treatment becomes easy and you enjoy quality life. Download ASCVD app on your smart mobile phones to calculate your risk of heart attack and death. Anybody in the 40-70 year age category can calculate the total heart attack risk for the next 10 years. If the risk is more than 20 percent then they should consult a cardiologist and take appropriate medication as advised to prevent risk of paralysis, stroke and many other cascading disease.

**Could you elaborate on what is primary, secondary and tertiary prevention?**

Primary prevention is aimed at spreading awareness through talks, lectures about the risk factors for heart disease. In secondary prevention, people are thoroughly screened for early detection of heart disease. Tertiary prevention involves people with established CAD, who are put on appropriate medications to prevent heart attack and also heart failure to avert sudden death. Patients who are at risk of sudden death are advised implantable cardiovascular de-fibrillator (ICD) and those who have multiple artery blockages, angioplasty is advised. If the person needs by-pass surgery, we do that also alongwith appropriate drugs to prevent progression of heart failure and advancement of atherosclerosis disease. If all the three preventions are taken care of, a heart patient can live for 30-40 years where being in touch with their cardiologists and heart hospital is paramount. Heart care has advanced incredibly that if the patients are managed well they don't usually die of heart disease but they die of cancer, substantiated by a 20

years of study in the US.

**What is the most prevalent heart disease among the Indian population?**

The South East Asian population are prone to heart disease because of their genetic disposition. They tend to get heart disease atleast 10 years earlier than the western population because their endothelial function is poor. Also, we have the tendency of being more susceptible to diabetes because we carry its genes exposing Indians to premature heart disease. The prevalence of high BP, diabetes etc., mostly ignored by people in our country also heighten the risk factor for heart diseases. Cardiovascular diseases are the commonest which can manifest as heart attacks, angina or as paralytic stroke due to blockage of the artery which can occur in respective organs and in any circulatory system of the body that is impacted due to cholesterol deposition.

**Young heart attacks are alarmingly**

**common place. What is your advice to the youth?**

The youngest person was a 19 year-old boy for whom I did the angioplasty. We get to see an increasing number of young CAD patients reporting to us. If the problem is detected early the situation is retrievable by opening blocked arteries enabling them to lead a healthy life. The problem is grave when patients come to us at a later stage and by then the heart muscles are completely damaged, they do not survive and if they do they have to live with a very weak heart. Patients with CAD should not go to gym or do any isometric exercise which increases both systolic & diastolic blood pressure which could rupture the plaque in the arteries and block them precipitating into a sudden heart attack or silent death. Brisk walk is the safest and best for all depending upon individual capacity.

**Has Covid-19 aggravated heart problems in people?**

The Covid-19 virus has impacted the heart

muscles and increased the chances of clot formation in the coronary arteries, but it was not a common phenomenon. I have seen many Covid patients during the second wave of Covid out of which 4-5 percent of them developed heart disease that led to clot formation in the artery and where the heart muscle was involved making the heart weak and risk of death in these patients was high. But those patients, who reported early, we could save their lives by doing timely angioplasty on them. There is no proven fact that confirms Covid affects the heart. However, some of them who took Covishield vaccine were susceptible to clot formation in the brain, in the arteries of the heart and also in the lung leading to paralytic stroke and pulmonary embolism [clot in lung circulation] sometimes causing sudden death.

**What is the impact of pollution on heart health?**

It is estimated that out of the global 1.86 crore people dying of heart and other car-

diovascular problems, in India, out of 50 lakhs CVD deaths, 25 percent of them die of air pollution. My suggestion is that industries must be shifted out of residential area. Going for car pool can also reduce pollution caused by vehicular emission or opt for cycling, which is good for the heart and does not add to the pollution. Burning of stubble is another issue that the government is now looking into it. Burning of waste such as plastic and other hazardous waste on roadside should be strictly banned.

**How early should one go for screening of the heart and check-ups?**

Children with family history of heart disease or high cholesterol level should get their lipid profile at the age of 13 or on attaining puberty and after turning 20, everyone should go for lipid profile, sugar, BP check-up. After the age of 40 all must undergo screening test and the ASCVD app has to be downloaded in your mobile to assess the

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New Delhi



# WORLD HEART DAY

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**Love your Heart**  
**Keep it strong**

**Love your Life**  
**Live for Long**

## Keep Your Heart Beating, beating and beating...

**W**orld Heart Day is observed every year on 29th September with the aim of increasing awareness regarding cardiovascular disease.

Healthy heart makes a healthy life, healthy life makes a Healthy Nation. It is important to take care of the health of our heart which beats around 72 times per minute throughout our lifetime. Neglecting the health of our heart may lead to cardiovascular disease, stroke and sudden heart attacks.

Cardiovascular Disease is a class of disease that affects heart or blood vessels.

Cardiovascular Disease is considered as the No.1 Killer in the World.

Over 8.6 million deaths occur every year globally due to cardiovascular disease.

### RISK FACTORS

- Family history
- Smoking
- Diabetes
- High Cholesterol
- Unhealthy diet
- Physical inactivity
- Excessive Alcohol
- Obesity
- Stress

World Heart Day is observed annually on 29th September with the aim of increasing awareness of cardiovascular disease and how to control them.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

Cardiovascular disease is a silent killer. Most of the time it remains asymptomatic. The patients may present with:

- Pain or discomfort in the center of

the chest

- Pain or discomfort in left shoulder, left arm, back and neck
- Difficulty in breathing

Earlier, it was thought that cardiovascular disease is seen among elderly persons only. However, it is seen that even at the young age of 30 to 40 years., the disease can be the seen.

### PREVENTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

- Modification of life style
- Avoid smoking and tobacco consumption
- Control diabetes and hypertension
- Healthy Food habit: - eating fiber rich diet, fruits, vegetables and low calories diet.
- Avoid fatty and carbohydrates rich diet

- Regular exercises, preferably brisk walking, 40 to 50 minutes per day
- Proper continuous sleep - 6 to 8 hours per day.
- Regular Cardiac check-up especially Blood Pressure and Blood sugar after the age of 40.

### THEME OF THIS YEAR

The World Heart Federation has adopted the following Theme for World Heart Day 2022:

### "USE HEART FOR EVERY HEART"

This Theme has a philosophical meaning conveying that one has to be empathetic, helpful and courteous towards others. Such behavior will provide a soothing effect to our heart and thereby reduce the stressful effect on our mind.



Greeting from Indian Medical Association on the occasion of World Heart Day.

It is important to take care of our heart which takes care of us throughout our life. Healthy Heart enables us to lead a healthy and productive life. The World Heart Day is observed mainly to disseminate information among the general public regarding health and disease of the heart.

Heart Diseases are preventable to large extent. Smoking, tobacco consumption, excessive alcohol consumption, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, diabetes and obesity are the main risk factors.

Healthy diet, modified lifestyle, regular physical activity and avoiding stressful environment will prevent the cardiovascular diseases.

With this, I heartily wish all the readers happy, healthy and joyful life.

Thanking you,  
With regards,

**DR. SAHAJANAND PRASAD SINGH**  
National President, IMA

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75  
Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav

# PROGRESSIVE UTTAR PRADESH



## WELFARE AND DOUBLING THE INCOME OF FARMERS

- Rs. 602 crore approved under Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay Kisan Samridhhi Yojana for projects to make barren and rugged land cultivable
- Rs.48,324 crore transferred to 2.60 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme
- 27 mandis in the state modernized. Arrangement of pre-arrival -pass for farmers in mandis done under Ease of Doing Business
- 54 Krishi Kalyan Kendras established in the districts to help the farmers
- Payment of Rs. 30,697 crore to sugarcane farmers in last six months. Total payment to sugarcane farmers in last five and a half years exceeds Rs. 1,78,608 crore
- Use of drones in agricultural activities started. FPOs and graduates in agriculture to get these drones at 40-50% subsidy. Also 10,000 solar pumps allotted to farmers under the PM Kusum Yojana
- Digging of 2,847 field ponds under the PM Agricultural Irrigation scheme in progress
- As many as 2,49,727 beneficiaries given cards under the PM Kisan Mandhan Yojana, 85,710 Hectare land in 49 districts identified for natural farming under the National Mission on Natural Farming

## EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Approval to start 'PG Diploma in Geo Informatics' in Architecture & Planning faculty of the Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical University (AKTU)
- Tablets/smart phones to given to 11.80 lakh identified students under Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana
- Career counseling portal 'Pankh' developed to help students. E-library portal 'Pragyan' and mobile app developed to make available contemporary and reference material easily to students and general public
- 280 new Government Inter Colleges started in the state. 39 new high schools and 14 new inter colleges are under construction to provide quality education in unrepresented areas
- 77 girls hostels started to benefit girl students from the deprived class
- Three new state universities established while construction of 78 new government degree colleges is in progress. Also E-learning Parks developed in 119 government degree colleges
- Construction of 26 new government polytechnics approved as construction of 24 of these in progress
- Infrastructure improvement worth Rs. 200 crore implemented in AKTU under the Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Quality Improvement Scheme
- 15 incubation centres established in engineering colleges in the state and AKTU institutions under the UP Start-up policy
- Training, Counseling and Placement Cells formed in Government ITIs for employment of successful trainees



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES BEING CREATED



- More than five lakh government jobs given in last five and a half years. More than one lakh of these jobs went to women
- Uttar Pradesh Public Service Commission selects 3,532 candidates for various posts through a transparent process
- Selections done on 1,473 posts of Lecturers in the Department of Secondary Education and 1,314 posts of workshop instructors in Technical Education Department
- Eight examinations successfully conducted for a total of 3,404 posts of various services
- UPSSSC declared the result of selection process for 940 posts through a transparent process. The process of selection on 9,212 more posts is the final stage
- Registration and training of more than 10,000 youth in industries and establishments under Chief Minister's Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme
- More than 8,000 youth given employment in special mega job fairs. Selection of 48,608 candidates in more than 400 job fairs organized for employment generation
- Selections done on 461 posts in Agriculture department, 256 posts of Medical Officer (Allopath) in Labor Department and 29 posts of District Economics and Statistics Officer in Planning Department



VACCINATIONS IN LAST 24 HOURS: 16,790

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 61

OXYGEN SUPPORT: 8

VENTILATOR SUPPORT: 4

DELHI TOTAL	Total				Vacant
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests	
20,03,207	73	59	0	8,084	8,869
Sep 27	88	82	0	8,751	2,086
Sep 28	392	19,76,314	26,501	4,02,21,929	2,072
Total	Total active cases in Delhi				

NOIDA	Sep 27		Sep 28	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
GURGAON	Cases		Deaths	
	16	27	0	0

SENT TO 5-DAY CUSTODY

# Pressing for custody, CBI tells court Vijay Nair met liquor manufacturers, distributors at hotels

ANANDMOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

VIJAY NAIR, former CEO of events company Only Much Louder (OML) and currently the communications in-charge of the Aam Aadmi Party, was on Wednesday sent to five-day CBI custody by a Delhi court. Nair was on Tuesday arrested by the agency in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise policy case.

Special Judge MK Nagpal of Rouse Avenue court while granting five days custody observed that the investigation of the case is at a nascent stage and "detailed custodial interrogation of the accused is felt necessary not only to unearth the entire conspiracy, the roles played by different accused persons including the public servants, but also to trace out the trail of ill-gotten money which is alleged to have been paid to the accused public servants by way of commission".

The court also said that though Nair is stated to have joined investigation on six different dates, but it is alleged that he is "not co-operative and has avoided to give reasonable replies to the questions put to him as he had been giving evasive replies to the same on different pretexts."

The court stated that custodial interrogation of the accused is also felt necessary to confront him with the evidence and the nature of data deleted from his phone.

The CBI senior public prosecutor, Pankaj Gupta, had moved an application seeking seven-day police custody. He began his arguments by submitting that the agency seized two mobile phones that had been formatted. The CBI also submitted that they were investigating chats sent by Nair on Signal, which were encrypted.

Gupta submitted that this was a high-profile case involving



Nair was arrested by the agency Tuesday

high-profile people such as Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and that Nair was "not cooperating, not answering" the investigators.

CBI said that Nair was actively involved in the formulation of the Delhi government's liquor policy for the year 2021-22.

The agency alleged that Nair was involved in "meeting with the other co-accused and liquor

manufacturers as well as distributors in different hotels at Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi for arranging ill-gotten money through hawala operators/channels".

The agency submitted that this was done for arranging 6% commission out of 12% profits from wholesale distributors of major brands of liquor in Delhi.

The agency submitted that Nair tried to "conceal true facts relating to the conspiracy, the roles played by the other co-accused, including public servants, as well as the trail of ill-gotten money received through hawala channels".

The CBI stated that the accused had given "evasive replies to most of the questions put to him with regard to above aspects and had thus avoided replies thereto on some false pretexts".

Senior advocate Rebecca John, who appeared on behalf of Nair, walked the court through the case so far. She told the court

that an FIR was registered on August 17, and two days later, a search was conducted at Nair's home when he was in London. She told the court that Nair informed the agency that he would return to India as soon as possible, and arrived on August 28, when two of his mobile phones were seized.

John told the court that the agency had in total seized five mobile phones. While addressing allegations that Nair formatted his phone, John told the court, "I (Nair) told them (CBI) that I had given this (the phones) as a gift to my friends in London... obviously it may have been formatted for their use. I had given them (phones) to friends, even some of my own phones are formatted. That cannot be treated as a circumstance against me."

"As far as the case is concerned, application handed over to me seems speculative than based on any hard facts. Fact is, I have not dealt with any money

and did not even deal with policy. I dealt with the media... These are allegations based without foundation. They asked for 7 days' police custody (PC). PC should not be granted in a routine way. I was in custody for over three weeks. Please reject the PC and send me to judicial custody," John told the court.

A CBI officer told the court, "A lot of data was deleted on those phones."

John, while addressing allegations that Nair was not cooperating with the investigation, told the court: "It is a red herring in criminal law, that unless I don't say what they want (me) to say, then he is not cooperating."

"I repeatedly came for questioning. We don't care who is the co-accused, everybody is equal in law. Speaking for myself, I have joined on every date of hearing. I would have gone if they continue to call me. I used to come till 9 in the night," John told the court.

# Indospirit MD was 'kingpin' of excise policy: ED in court

ANANDMOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has told a Delhi court that Sameer Mahendru, managing director of Indospirit Group, was one of the kingpins and major beneficiaries of the now scrapped Delhi excise policy, which was in contradiction with the policy's stated objectives. The agency is probing a money laundering case filed in connection with the policy, and Mahendru, who was arrested by the ED earlier in the day, is one of the 15 people named in the CBI FIR.

Special Judge M K Nagpal sent Mahendru to ED custody till October 6, observing that his custodial interrogation was necessary to ascertain the exact volume and extent of laundered proceeds of crime.

The court also noted that he needs to be confronted with digital and physical records stated to have been seized during searches, and to "go to the root of cartelisation and volume of kickbacks alleged to have been paid to the government servants" involved in drafting and implementation of the excise policy.

The ED, represented by special public prosecutor N K Matta and Faizan, had moved an application seeking 14-day custody.

The agency had in their remand application stated that Mahendru "is one of the kingpins and a major beneficiary in the entire policy". It stated that he conspired with other persons/entities having interests in the Delhi liquor trade to form a nexus of operations from manufacturing, wholesale and retail, which contradicted the stated objectives of the policy.

The ED stated that Mahendru "used proxy/dummy persons to conceal the real owner of the businesses".

As per the ED case, Mahendru had a partnership stake of 35 per cent in Indospirit LLP, which got a wholesale L1 licence. He also obtained two retail zone licences under the name of Khao Gali restaurants that is under the name of his father-in-law "but (he) used to take all financial decisions in Khao Gali" and was the beneficial owner of the company, it is alleged.

The ED alleged that the profit that the company made between November 17, 2011, and August 31, 2022, of Rs 50 crore, is "nothing but an undue benefit which has been generated out of criminal activities. These proceeds of crime were again layered and laundered in the guise of profit through various persons and entities".

The ED alleged that Mahendru was directly/indirectly controlling the manufacturing, wholesale and retail businesses, in violation of the Excise policy.

"Mahendru extended his scheme of cartelisation beyond his own entities by defeating the objectives of the policy... he was also involved in heavy kickback in advance and allowed dummy partners in Indospirit," the remand application read.

Advocate Dhruv Gupta, who appeared on behalf of the accused, opposed the ED remand by submitting that there was not a single ground in their plea besides pointing out the magnitude of the matter. "They say 103 places were raided. Do they belong to me? The answer is in the negative," Gupta argued.

Gupta told the court that six statements have been made by Mahendru to the agency.

"What more to add? Nothing is to be recovered from my possession. I might have taken a stand in my statements; what more can I do? Unless I say something to their benefit," Gupta told the court.

# Kejriwal responds: 'AAP ka ek chhota sa karyakarta'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A DAY after AAP communication in-charge Vijay Nair was arrested by the CBI in connection with alleged corruption in Delhi's now scrapped liquor policy, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal linked his arrest with the upcoming Gujarat assembly polls.

"They arrested Vijay Nair yesterday. Who is Vijay Nair? AAP ka chhota sa kartakarta hai (He is a small-time AAP worker). He handles communication for us. Earlier, he did great work in Punjab and we formed the government there. Now he is handling the communication strategy in Gujarat. He was handling

social media outreach in Gujarat. Now they have arrested him. They are saying he was involved in a liquor scam in Delhi. I don't understand how he is linked to liquor or a liquor scam. He looks at social media in Gujarat. He is just a party worker," Kejriwal said in a video address.

Nair, the former CEO of Mumbai-based entertainment and events management firm Only Much Louder, has been associated with AAP since 2014 but got a bigger role in 2019 during the party's assembly election campaign in Delhi, party sources said. He, along with Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, has been named in the CBI FIR in the alleged liquor scam case, along with 13 others.



Linked arrest to Gujarat polls

"Over the past few days he was being called for questioning every day. He was being pressured to name Manish Sisodia, and threatened with arrest if he did not name him. But he is a truthful AAP worker and refused to lie. They arrested him. Earlier, they raided Manish Sisodia's

home but did not find anything. They searched his bank locker but did not find anything; now they are trying to trap him like this. They raided Vijay Nair's home twice in a month but did not find anything there either," he said.

Kejriwal also said that the central government was not interested in solving the problems being faced by the common man.

"People from across the country are suffering because of price rise and inflation, everything is expensive, there is joblessness, and businesses are shutting down. At a time like this, it is the biggest job of any government to find solutions. But they don't care. They only want to indulge in dirty politics. They are only looking for ways to finish AAP, to crush

Kejriwal and AAP," he said.

"The people of Gujarat are abusing them openly. They only think about how to crush AAP. First they arrested Jain (health minister) in a fake case, then they arrested MLA Amanatullah Khan in a fake case. Yesterday they arrested Nair. Next week they will arrest Manish Sisodia. If they can arrest a small party worker like Nair, they can arrest anyone. Today I appeal to all AAP workers across the county to be ready for arrests. If Vijay Nair can be arrested, any AAP worker can be arrested. You should be ready for arrests, they can arrest you under any case, especially workers from Gujarat," Kejriwal said.

Kejriwal also hit out at Congress and BJP and said they

had looted India more in 75 years than the British had in 200 years.

"Today is Bhagat Singh's birth anniversary. This is the second independence struggle. He fought to free the country from the British, we have to fight to free it from these looters. We have to save it from those who roam the country trying to buy MLAs. They are looting the nation's wealth and taking it abroad. In the 75 years since Independence, they have looted India more than the British did in 200 years. First one party did it, now the other is doing it. They will file false cases against you, are you ready for this? Be a part of AAP only if you are ready to go to jail, only if you are ready to sacrifice for the country like Bhagat Singh," Kejriwal said.

## BRIEFLY

### Men rob Delhi govt wine shop

New Delhi: A group of unknown persons allegedly broke into a Delhi government wine shop in West Delhi and decamped with Rs 30 lakh in cash along with CCTV system. No arrest has been made so far. Police said they are looking into CCTVs and trying to identify the accused.

### SUV rams into five, 3 killed

Nuh: Three of a family, including a 5-year-old girl, were killed while two were injured after an SUV rammed into them in Nuh district on Wednesday. ENS



## OUT OF BOUNDS

A deserted Old Railway Bridge Wednesday, after it was closed for traffic owing to the rise in water level in the Yamuna. Amit Mehra

# Substandard referral systems put newborns, toddlers at risk: Study

ANKITA UPADHYAY  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

SUBSTANDARD REFERRAL systems adopted by peripheral healthcare centres and private hospitals have put newborns and children under five at risk and led to mortality, according to research conducted by a team of doctors at Safdarjung hospital.

The research was conducted by doctors to study risk factors predicting mortality within 48 hours of admission in newborns and children under 5, referred to the paediatric emergency of a tertiary care hospital in India.

According to the research, 20% of 246 consecutive paediatric referral cases (62 newborns, 52 infants, and 132 children aged between 1 and 5 years) enrolled at Safdarjung Hospital witnessed mortality within 48 hours.

As many as 300 children were enrolled in this study. Out of these, 246 referred children were

included for analysis and 54 were excluded. The children who were excluded were those who had come for surgical cases as the researchers were only looking for children of medical cases.

According to the research, 60% were referred from one healthcare contact, whereas 40% had to visit two and more healthcare facilities before being referred. Sixty per cent covered more than 20 km during transport and 20% of patients took more than two hours to reach the hospital. "Indication for referral to our centre was lack of intensive care services," the study said.

The team found that financial constraints were a leading cause of referrals from private hospitals.

"A large percentage was also referred from public sector hospitals. A majority (60%) referrals were due to unavailability of intensive care services, while a third was critical at arrival, requiring immediate resuscitation and

management," said the study.

The research concluded that developing a paediatric triage and monitoring system, telepaediatric ICU, regionalising referral and back-referral services with robust interhospital communication, and strengthening paediatric emergency services are the need of the hour to reduce early in-hospital mortality.

One of the contributors to the research, Dr Harish Chelani, Professor at Department of Paediatrics, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, said that tertiary care hospitals like Safdarjung hospital are loaded because there is no prior referral information.

"We are not informed about the patients in advance. The babies are coming from peripheral healthcare centres and private hospitals and different states of the country in unstable conditions. Since Safdarjung Hospital has a non-refusal policy, they have to be taken up," he added.

# To recreate jungle safari in Gurgaon, CM travels to Dubai — after a delay

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

THE HARYANA government is aiming to create jungle safari and trekking routes in the Aravallis in Gurgaon. To convert the hills into a jungle safari, a delegation of the government led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar went to Dubai Wednesday morning on a day's visit to study the jungle safari park there and replicate it in the district.

The proposal to develop a jungle safari and trekking routes was originally mooted by Khattar a few months ago during his meeting with the union minister for environment, forest and climate change Bhupendra Yadav. Incidentally, Yadav had also gone to Dubai today to attend the Ministerial Round Table for Green Economy at the World Green Economy Summit at the World Trade Centre in Dubai,



The proposal was originally mooted by Khattar a few months. Archive

UAE. Both Khattar and Yadav are expected to visit the Dubai Jungle Safari park Thursday.

Khattar's departure from New Delhi to Dubai, however, got delayed after the bag carrying his passport was left at his residence in Chandigarh. "As a result, the Chief Minister missed his Emirates flight on which he was supposed to travel. The passport

was later sent to Delhi, and the CM and his PSO boarded the next Air India flight to Dubai and travelled in economy class. Khattar and the officials have met certain investors in Dubai and had discussions with them about other projects that could be implemented in Haryana," a senior official told *The Indian Express*.

A senior official said Khattar and the delegation also met investors in Dubai and "had discussions about other projects that could be implemented in Haryana".

Khattar tweeted: "Had a cordial & productive meeting with Mr Sharafuddin Sharaf from Sharaf Group, Dubai. Various issues regarding infrastructure development and investment opportunities in Haryana were discussed during our interaction."

According to sources, the government is aiming to create the jungle safari in about 3,800

# Amanatullah gets bail, court says no loss to exchequer

ANANDMOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

GRANTING BAIL to Aam Aadmi Party Okhla MLA Amanatullah Khan in a case of alleged irregularities in the Waqf Board, a Delhi court on Wednesday said that there was no loss to the state exchequer.

Special Judge Vikas Dhull held that allegations against Khan are not grave and serious in nature. He was granted bail on furnishing a personal bond of Rs 1 lakh.

On allegations of irregularities in recruitment to the Waqf Board, the court said that there is "no material on record to show that any of these recruited employees had paid any bribe to the accused in securing the employment".

The ACB had alleged that Khan granted tenancies at a lower rate of rent, which caused loss to the



AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan

board and state exchequer. The court, after perusing the documents of 15 properties, said there was no loss to the exchequer.

The court said, "From the said document, it is apparent that tenancies have been created at a higher rent than the reserve price and also the rent is higher than the previous rent being taken from the earlier tenants."

Regarding the allegation of misappropriation of Rs 3.2 crore, by way of payment of salaries to

32 contractual employees, the court said it has come on record that "accused, being the Chairman, had no exclusive control over the Waqf fund."

"There is no material on record to show that grant in aid received by the Waqf Board in Waqf Fund was in the exclusive domain of the present accused being the Chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board, or he had the power to deal with the Waqf fund exclusively. Therefore, prima facie there is no material to show entrustment of Waqf fund to the present accused or his having exclusive dominion over the same," the court said. On allegations that Rs 3.2 crore was transferred to Khan, the court said: "There is also no material on record to show that contractual employees were being paid salary without they performing the duties assigned to them."

# 21 held over B-day party on the road

New Delhi: Twenty-one men were arrested Wednesday for allegedly throwing a birthday party in the middle of an elevated road, police said.

Police from the Indrapuram station said the incident took place early Wednesday morning when a 21-year-old East Delhi resident and his friends decided to celebrate his birthday there. Eight cars have been seized.

Police said the accused parked their cars haphazardly near Vasundhara Sector 13 and cut a birthday cake. They played music loudly through speakers and hurled abuses at passing vehicles, police said.

They also said the party resulted in traffic congestion, risking a potential accident. SP City-2 Gyandendra Singh, said: "These people started partying at 2 am. It seemed that they might have continued for a long time if we had not detained them."



## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

### AFTER THE BAN

It may help to counter security threat posed by PFI but the work of addressing its political challenge remains

FIVE DAYS AFTER Central agencies raided premises of the Popular Front of India (PFI) and arrested over a hundred of its leaders, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has banned the outfit for a period of five years under the UAPA. The MHA notification says that “the PFI and its associates or affiliates or fronts operate openly as socio-economic, educational and political organisation but they have been pursuing a secret agenda to radicalise a particular section of the society working towards undermining the concept of democracy and show sheer disrespect towards the constitutional authority and constitutional set up of the country”. In response, the PFI has announced that “as law-abiding citizens”, members of the outfit accept the ban, and henceforth, the outfit will cease to exist. But both the ban and the disbanding of the organisation are unlikely to mark the end of the political challenge that the now-erstwhile PFI continues to pose.

Investigating agencies claim to have unearthed unaccounted funds and linkages of PFI with global terrorist groups such as Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The role of PFI cadres in unleashing violence, including killings, to further their agenda is well-documented. Shutting down PFI's funding network and arresting their leaders may help to counter the security challenge posed by the outfit. But the PFI is much more than a security threat: It also represents a militant strand of political Islam that draws money, material, cadre by exploiting the resentment and fear among a section of the Muslim minority amid the rise of majoritarian agendas and their perceived support by the state. That is a political challenge, which must be addressed politically. It will require mainstream parties to confront the increasing relegation of Muslims in public life, and call out rights abuses by state agencies — for instance, the often opaque and extended incarceration of Muslim youth under laws like the UAPA. The impression has also gained ground among sections of the community that many mainstream secular parties are more interested in patronising the minority as a vote bank than standing up for their Constitutional guarantees. The PFI and SDPI, the electoral arm of the PFI, have exploited distrust and/or disillusionment to push their ideological footprint.

The MHA ban doesn't extend to SDPI though it covers various outfits deemed to be PFI affiliates. Even though the PFI and SDPI have separate leaderships, their cadres overlap and they share a political vision. The SDPI is a registered political party and active in electoral politics — it has a few hundred representatives in local bodies, mostly in Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Significant sections of the minority community find little resonance in the PFI's methods, including its use of terror and violence. But a ban may only force cadres underground. It cannot be — it should not be — the whole response to the gauntlet thrown down, in a diverse democracy, by an outfit like the PFI. What follows the ban, how the state goes about due process while implementing it, will frame the challenges that lie ahead.

### GIVE AND TAKE

Foreign minister Jaishankar does well to call out US attempt to put a counter-terrorism gloss on its F-16 package to Pakistan

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER S Jaishankar rightly called out the United States for trying to justify its \$450 million F-16 refurbishment package to Pakistan as one aimed at retaining “interoperability with US and partner forces in on-going counter-terrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations”. In response, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has reiterated that it was Washington's “obligation” to ensure that the aircraft are maintained and sustained to bolster Islamabad's capability to deal with “clear terrorist threats” from al Qaeda and ISIS. Truly, the US does not fool anybody with this explanation. Whether Pakistan fought terrorism at all has been a question of international debate. What role, if any, Pakistan's F-16s played in this is even more unclear. Much of the global “war on terror” in Afghanistan was fought by US and NATO troops on the ground, and from the skies it was UAVs that rained missiles on high value targets. Pakistan's two failed operations on its territory against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan included the Air Force. If F-16s were deployed in those operations, the results have not been promising. But to the extent that the US has used the F-16s as a reward for Pakistan — first for its role in the defeat of the Soviet Union in the first Afghan war, then as a sweetener in 2001 after commandeering its co-operation in the invasion of Afghanistan, and once again in 2016 citing the anti-Tehreek-e-Taliban operation — these aircraft have played an important role.

It can be presumed that the “F-16 case for sustainment and related equipment” approved on September 7 is reward for co-operation in the elimination of al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul a month earlier, and for giving the US access to Pakistani airspace, and also, perhaps, for delivering the Taliban to talks that enabled US withdrawal from Afghanistan. It reverses the freeze on military assistance to Pakistan imposed by the previous Trump administration. Donald Trump wasn't the first or only US president to figure out Pakistan's “deceit”. But the others let it pass for what they saw as the big picture, including getting Osama bin Laden.

India's fulminations are unlikely to change the direction of the wind. Since the start of the Russian war in Ukraine, Delhi has deployed “strategic autonomy” to fashion a new foreign policy. Its “neutrality”, and its decision to ignore international sanctions to buy oil from Russia, have angered the US and Europe. But India is not the only country that is balancing relationships. When the White House spokesman speaks about both India and Pakistan as US partners with “different points of emphasis”, he confirms for India the logic of its non-alignment. Of course, eventually, the best antidote lies in the normalisation of India-Pakistan relations.

### ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN

Release of Leonard Cohen's unpublished story has fans engaging in literary forensics, hoping to uncover origins of his lyrics

THERE IS A bittersweet joy in discovering an artist's work — unpublished, unseen and unheard — after he is no longer able to create. Years before Leonard Cohen became the soundtrack for happiness, despair, love and longing for scores of people around the world — before *Hallelujah* and *Suzanne* were sung — there was a young man who wanted to write. Now, six years after his death, a book of Cohen's thus far unpublished writings — *A Ballet of Lepers* — consisting of a novella and some short stories, is set to release. One of the stories, *The Jukebox Heart*, is available in the public domain. And in its words, fans and fanatics are searching for the genealogy of Cohen's poetry, set to music.

Is Mariette, the woman in the story who seems to suffuse the senses even from the two dimensional page, the origin of *So Long Marianne*? Are the dark streets of Montreal, the men in their overcoats, the roots of the “demons that were middle class and tame” in *You Want it Darker*? And as the young lovers — part memory, part fantasy and a projection into the future — lie languorously, those who know the song cannot help but think that the story is a precursor to *Hey, That's No Way to Say Goodbye*.

This kind of literary forensics is, perhaps, the only tribute people can pay to artists who have given them much more than the price of admission to a museum, theatre or a CD. Tupac Shakur's posthumous music often seems prophetic, and every time another book compiled by Christopher Tolkien — of unpublished writings of his father — came out, *Lord of the Rings* fans had something to obsess over. In a way, there is something more honest in a posthumous work of art than a memoir. The truth of the artist's origins, the demons and milieu that defines them, can be uncovered and revisited. And sometimes, as with Cohen, in the prose of a musician, there is a vivid image of a genius in the making.

# Rediscovery of the South

G-20 presidency is an opportunity to position India as the voice of the ‘Global South’, flag North-South issues



SANJAYA BARU

CAUGHT BETWEEN AN existential East-West conflict of major powers, and dealing with the crisis of multilateralism, the slowing down of the major economies and a global impasse on the eve of taking charge of the presidency of the Group of Twenty (G-20), India has wisely rediscovered the South. India is being perceived as the “Voice of Global South”, declared external affairs minister S Jaishankar, after a hectic week at the United Nations. Asked if India was taking the dust off an earlier foreign policy template of South-South cooperation, the minister replied, “Global South solidarity has always been with us, it's part of our DNA.”

The fact, however, is that over the past two decades India has been busy claiming “rising”, “leading” and major power status, with its impressive economic rise between the mid-1990s and the mid-2010s. Interestingly, still fighting shy of admitting to our low middle income “developing country” status we have adopted the now fashionable term of the aspirational Third World — “Global South”.

Consider the fact that India has been largely inactive in what many in the Indian foreign policy commentariat regard as a moribund organisation, the Group of 77 (G-77) — now a 134-member group of developing economies. India last hosted a G-77 meeting in New Delhi in the 1980s. Pakistan has been more active within this group and currently chairs it. India, on the other hand, was busy hobnobbing with the big guys in forums like “G-7 plus”, BRICS, SCO and trilaterals and quadrilaterals like Quad, Japan-America-India (JAI), Russia-India-China (RIC), and so on.

Several factors seem to have contributed to a change in Indian official outlook. First and foremost, the persistent unwillingness of the Big Five (the US, Russia, China, France and UK) to reform UN governance and let India into the UN Security Council, despite occasional endorsement of India's claims. Second, Western deglobalisation and disinterest in reform of multilateral financial and trade organisations (IMF, WB & WTO). Third, failure on the part of the US, EU, China and Japan to

The Indian elite and foreign policy commentariat, influenced heavily by Western thinking on world affairs, have acquired an exaggerated view of Indian global influence and power, hitching their wagons to the West rather than stay the course with the South. A return to the basics, placing the developing world's developmental concerns at the heart of global discourse, may not be a bad option today, but requires effort on the part of the Global South.

address the problem of mounting external debt burden of developing countries. Fourth, the impasse on climate change. Finally, the unleashing of an East-West power struggle, brought to a head by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, imposing huge costs on developing economies.

In the early days of the East-West conflict, many analysts imagined that India could step in as an interlocutor, given its good relations with both Russia and the US, help secure a ceasefire and emerge as a global player, fulfilling prophecies of its potential as a “Swing State”. Alas, that did not happen. Neither Vladimir Putin nor Joseph Biden was willing to listen to friendly advice from Narendra Modi. Even the Europeans lent a deaf ear and, worse, sermonised India forcing a friendly Jaishankar to admonish them at Bratislava.

The huge economic costs imposed on developing countries by the economic consequences of the East-West conflict have come on top of the burden of Covid. Someone had to remind the world's most powerful, engaged in a continued search for global dominance, that the developing, post-colonial nations seek to rid the world of colonialism, neo-colonialism, “social imperialism” and hegemonism. These were the watchwords of the G-77 and have all but been forgotten in the era of globalisation, once fashionably referred to as a “Flat World” of equals.

It is at a time like this that India waits to take up the chairmanship of the G-20. We would know within the next month where the G-20 is headed. Host country Indonesia has tried to bring all sides together but given the state of the Ukraine war, it is unlikely that Putin and Biden will find themselves face to face in Jakarta. If the Indonesia summit fails, G-20 itself might enter a non-functional phase.

In fact, over the past few years the G-20 has little to its credit. Its glory days were in 2008-11 when the group stabilised the global economy. It failed to step in and help the Covid-afflicted world. So India may be taking over the chairmanship of a paralysed group.

It is perhaps against this background that the Indian government has chosen to switch gears. If G-20 is going to be stymied by the East-West conflict, why not try to breathe life into it as a platform for North-South dialogue? With three countries of the South — Indonesia, India and Brazil — taking charge of G-20 in 2022-24, this period offers an opportunity for North-South issues to be flagged.

India's focus on reform of multilateralism, international finance and trade, climate change, developing country external debt, energy and food prices and so on is a menu that was last served in the pre-globalisation, pre-Rising India era of the G-77. As a low middle income country seeking rapid economic development India remains well placed to be the “Voice of the Global South”. However, India needs to regain the trust of other developing countries, especially in Africa and South and Southeast Asia, espousing their interests, for it to once again play this role effectively.

The Indian elite and foreign policy commentariat, influenced heavily by Western thinking on world affairs, have acquired an exaggerated view of Indian global influence and power, hitching their wagons to the West rather than stay the course with the South. A return to the basics, placing the developing world's developmental concerns at the heart of global discourse, may not be a bad option today, but requires effort on the part of the Global South.

Given the impasse in G-20, India may have well decided to make the most of the run-up to the summit, using this period to host several conferences and events, showcasing India as a tourist destination. The Union Minister of Tourism and Culture has already said this is a good opportunity for India to promote tourism. Perhaps that is why Prime Minister Modi chose to appoint an official who earned his bureaucratic credentials as a promoter of tourism — Kerala's “God's Own Country” and the “Incredible India” brands — as his G-20 Sherpa.

The writer is a policy analyst



TANMAY SINGH AND KRISHNESH BAPAT

### EYE OF THE STATE

Draft telecom bill proposes expansion of legal surveillance, with no safeguards

OVERTWO DECADES ago, allegations of surveillance against politicians led to a CBI inquiry and report against V P Singh's government. The allegations revealed that imaginary reasons were given for ordering phone-tapping without authorisation. This led to the Supreme Court issuing the last substantive legal reform on surveillance laws in India. The SC's directions are likely to remain the last reforms, as the Union government has published the Draft Telecommunications Bill, 2022 to replace the Telegraph Act, 1885.

The Telegraph Act contains broad and excessive powers of interception and surveillance of communications carried out through any telegraph. The surveillance power is principally contained under Section 5(2), and has resulted in an unaccountable, opaque and unconstitutional exercise of surveillance that has led to accusations across the political spectrum. This same provision is being replicated today, almost to the word, under the proposed Clause 24(2) of the Telecommunications Bill, 2022. Worse, the application of the power now clearly extends to “telecommunication services”, defined to include “over-the-top (OTT) communications services” that are usually internet-based text or audio-visual transmissions through providers such as Signal, Telegram, Whatsapp or Zoom. Essentially, the privacy preserving technology of end-to-end encryption will be sought to be broken. This technology keeps messages private by preventing anyone other than the recipient from seeing them. Even today, large amounts of metadata, including phone numbers and user profiles that include membership of groups and conversations (without their content) are available to law

Essentially, the privacy preserving technology of end-to-end encryption will be sought to be broken. This technology keeps messages private by preventing anyone other than the recipient from seeing them. Even today, large amounts of metadata, including phone numbers and user profiles that include membership of groups and conversations (without their content) are available to law enforcement without any data protection or surveillance reform.

enforcement without any data protection or surveillance reform. Clause 24(2) will lead to greater surveillance by making even personal conversations over OTT communication services available to law enforcement agencies.

There are two additional powers which raise further concerns. First, the central government may, under Clauses 3 and 4, require licensing of “telecommunications services”. The second is the power to prescribe standards under Clause 23, which may result in regulations as recently issued by the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) that have resulted in the closure of servers or services by leading, global VPN providers such as Proton and TunnelBear. All of this practically means that users will have less choice in the privacy and security of their digital footprint, as these powers will foreseeably lead to requirements to locally register and host data, and comply with requirements to identify users (KYC requirements). This means smaller service providers like Signal will be unable to comply due to compliance costs and privacy concerns, also leading to less innovation on privacy and the market concentration of a few dominant firms.

Finally, even law enforcement access is being expanded under vague grounds while maintaining the unaccountable enforcement structure of the Telegraph Act. Clause 25 provides for extensive powers to the government, including, “taking over the control... suspending the operation... [and even] manage any or all... telecommunications services”, for reasons of, “national security”. The term, “national security” is left undefined and does not match constitutional precedent or text which instead uses the phrase, “in the in-

terests of the security of state”. With each subsequent provision, the Bill becomes worse. For instance, Clause 34 imposes a positive duty on users not to provide “false particulars” that may even lead to legal prosecution, and Clause 51 requires service providers to supply user information to authorised officers not only for pending but also for “apprehended civil or criminal proceedings”. The coup-de-grace is served by Clause 53 that, despite an expansion of power under the Draft, continues with the insufficient procedural safeguards made under the Telegraph Act.

This massive expansion in legally sanctioned surveillance of millions of Indians is being proposed at a time when access to mobile internet has increased, and when there exist unprecedented methods of data collection. This is being done without a data protection law and with little transparency. Take two instances as examples: First, the Ministry of Home Affairs refuses to disclose even aggregate data on the number of surveillance orders issued by it each year; and second, there exist reported cases in which illegally gathered evidence is being sought to prosecute people. For instance, the Bombay High Court about three years ago noted in a case pending appeal before the Supreme Court, that premier investigating agencies such as the CBI have used, “interception orders (that) neither have sanction of law nor issued for legitimate aim”. All of these issues in the Draft Communications Bill, 2022 portend an Orwellian state, before one even utters, “Pegasus”.

The writer are Counsels at the Internet Freedom Foundation

### SEPTEMBER 29, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

#### CONGRESS VS MANEKA

THE CONGRESS (I) is launching a massive drive with a plan to isolate Maneka Gandhi by weaning away the tiny groups of Sanjaya Vichar Manch workers spread over several cities. Influential party leaders are being deputed to all centres where Maneka Gandhi had addressed followers recently. These include Baroda, Nagpur, Pune and towns in Punjab and Haryana and the state capitals.

#### THE PUNJAB SITUATION

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi discussed

the Punjab situation and the Akali morcha with President Zail Singh. Singh informed Mrs Gandhi that Balwant Singh had told him that it would be difficult for the Akalis to resume negotiations with the government unless something concrete was conceded by the latter.

#### ASSAM DEADLOCK

THE GOVERNMENT WAS understood to have told the Assam agitation leaders that it would be difficult for it to agree to the deletion from the electoral rolls of names of those foreign nationals who had voted even once in ear-

lier elections in the state. The government's stand conveyed by Defence Minister R Venkataraman, to the Assam leaders during their second informal meeting in two days, is bound to cast a shadow on the fifth round of formal tripartite talks.

#### MASSACRE PROBE

THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT bowed to intense domestic and international pressure and agreed to set up a formal inquiry into the massacre of Palestinians by Israel's Lebanese Christian allies. The military chief of the PLO was killed in an ambush behind Syrian lines.



# 15 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Indira's failure, Atal's success

As a new party is born in Jammu and Kashmir, Modi-led Centre must learn from the past. Only a free and fair election can revive peace-building in the former state



RADHA KUMAR

GHULAM NABI AZAD'S re-entry into Jammu and Kashmir's politics with the launch of a new party has once again put the focus on the long-overdue elections in the former state. May 2022 marked the completion of four years since the elected government fell. Since then, the erstwhile state has been under direct administration by the Union. Though the Narendra Modi administration has repeatedly promised assembly elections, it appears that the earliest time for holding them might be spring 2023.

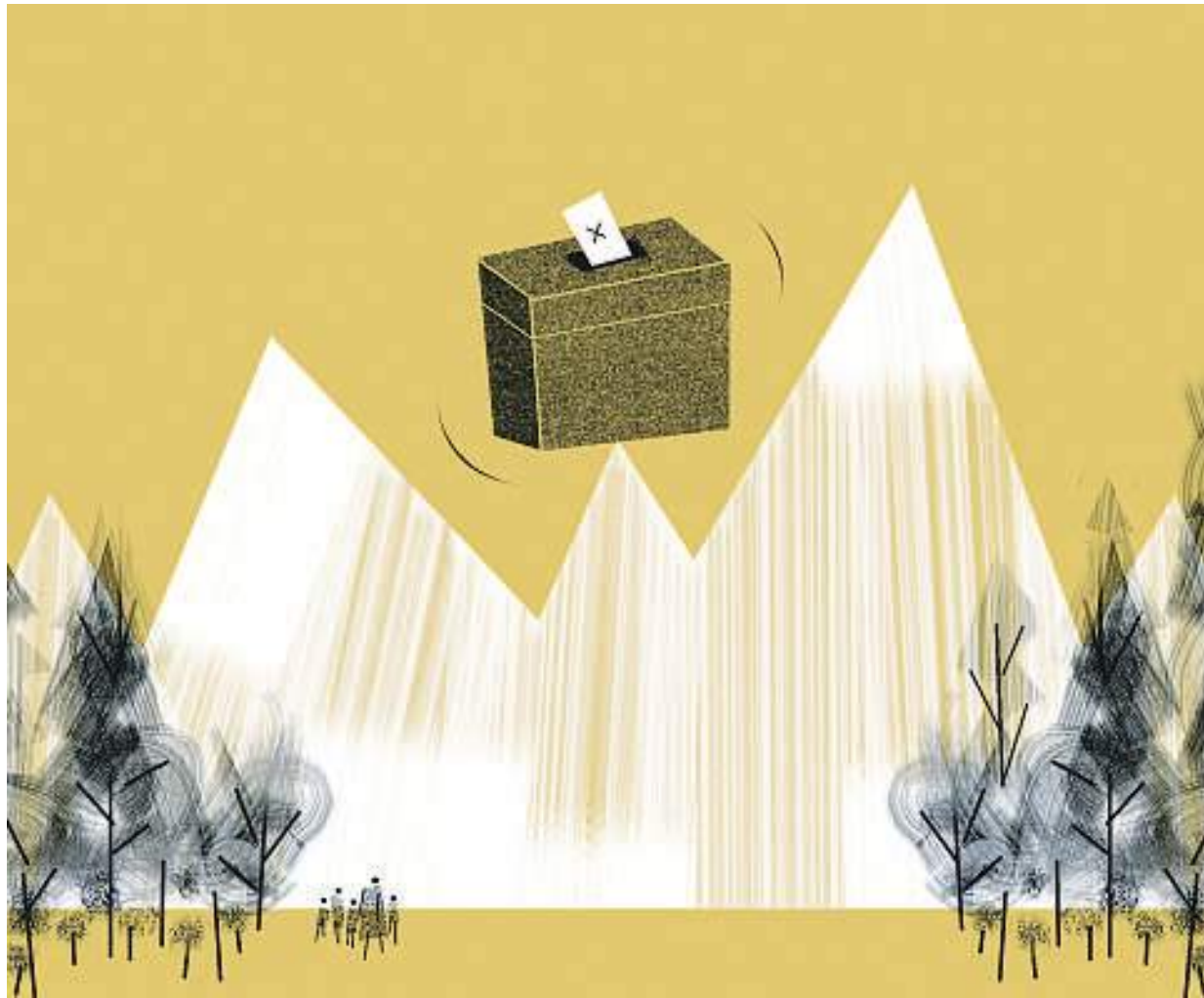
To understand the impact that elections might have on the former state, it is important to note how the context has changed over the past four years. While Jammu and Kashmir was under President's Rule, the Union parliament divided the state. The new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir was given an assembly with curtailed powers, along the lines of the Delhi assembly. The reorganisation act was immediately challenged in the Supreme Court by the Valley's chief political parties as well as engaged citizens like myself. Our petitions are still to be heard.

In the meantime, the Modi administration made far-reaching alterations to Jammu and Kashmir's polity. It replaced the state subject certificates with domicile certificates that opened up property and voting rights to a large number of temporary as well as long-time residents, it altered land laws and affected forest rights, it allocated mining rights to industry from outside the former state, it removed the right to free education up to the post-graduate level, it dissolved the Jammu and Kashmir administrative service, and it made anyone even remotely related to a militant liable to dismissal. Its latest act was to redo the delimitation of electoral constituencies, as ordered by the reorganisation act.

After the delimitation commission submitted its report in May this year, the Jammu and Kashmir administration began to revise the voters' list, announcing the possible addition of as many as two and a half million new voters. Given the absence of a recent census — the 2020 census exercise was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and has yet to resume — it is difficult to understand how the figure was arrived at.

Like the delimitation commission's bizarre exercise, which took radically divergent population yardsticks for Jammu province and the Kashmir Valley without offering any justification, the revision of the voters' list has given rise to further suspicion of the Modi administration's intent — from seeking demographic change to manipulating the voters' list — to install a BJP-led or compliant administration in the former state.

The suspicion is not baseless. According to BJP members, the party formed a coalition with the Mufti Mohammad Sayeed-led People's Democratic Party (PDP) to gain insider knowledge of the latter. Having gained what they sought, they withdrew from the alliance, unseating his daughter Mehbooba Mufti's administration. Twenty-one months later, they engineered a split in the PDP leading to the founding of Apni Party, which was the latest entrant to Jammu and Kashmir's politics until the advent of Azad's risibly named Democratic Azad Party (DAP).



C R Sasikumar

The next assembly elections, whenever they are held, will see a larger number of political parties in the fray than ever before. But the extent to which parties like the Apni Party or DAP will impact the electorate is doubtful. In the Valley, the vast majority of seats are likely to go to the National Conference (NC) and PDP, both of which have strenuously opposed the Modi administration's actions since 2019. Though the removal of special status is popular in Jammu, the BJP might not do as well as they did the last time, since Jammu too has suffered as a result of the new domicile certificates, land laws and industrial policies. New voters, such as refugees from Pakistan, a large proportion of whom live in Jammu, might swell BJP votes but most likely only in and around Jammu city which would have gone to the BJP anyway. The probable shortfall in BJP seats might be taken up by DAP or ultranationalist Jammu parties, but it might equally well be divided between these and the NC or PDP. Unless the elections are blatantly rigged, the prospect of a BJP-led or supported administration being elected is dim at best.

The spectre of rigging already hangs over the next election, with allegations of gerrymandering by the delimitation commission and over the prospective voters' list. Yet the need for a free and fair assembly election — preferably one that allows civil society observers, as has happened in the past — has never been greater. The memory of the partially-rigged 1987 election is fresh in the Valley. The alienation from Delhi that the people of the Valley felt following two cross-border wars and a series of political blunders by the Indira Gandhi administration is even stronger today, this time due to the actions of the Modi administration from 2019 onwards.

Despite an overweening security grid that has brought down the number of armed attacks by local as well as cross-border

Atal Bihari Vajpayee ensured free and fair elections in 2002 at a time when the insurgency was at its height. Jammu and Kashmir paid a high cost in terms of lives lost in attacks on candidates and campaigners. But the elections were followed by new policies of non-interference in state governance, along with peace negotiations with armed groups as well as Pakistan, which were continued by Vajpayee's successor, Manmohan Singh. Together, they soon led to a sharp fall in attacks and casualties and the restoration of a functioning government. The peace-building years of 2002-2012 also laid the foundation for India to use the UN's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to target Pakistan-based terrorists.

groups, support for insurgency has grown in the Valley and targeted attacks on Pandits, panchayat officials and the police continue. The administration might fear that a return to democracy, likely to loosen heavy security restrictions, will lead to an increase in violence. The answer to that lies in India's own experience.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee ensured free and fair elections in 2002 at a time when the insurgency was at its height. Jammu and Kashmir paid a high cost in terms of lives lost in attacks on candidates and campaigners. But the elections were followed by new policies of non-interference in state governance, along with peace negotiations with armed groups as well as Pakistan, which were continued by Vajpayee's successor, Manmohan Singh. Together, they soon led to a sharp fall in attacks and casualties and the restoration of a functioning government. The peace-building years of 2002-2012 also laid the foundation for India to use the UN's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to target Pakistan-based terrorists.

A free and fair election in 2023 can revive peace-building in the former state. The strongest confidence-building measure would be to restore statehood prior to elections and shelve the delimitation commission's recommendations. Since the former requires repeal of the reorganisation act, shelving the latter will be easy. It was constituted under the act and should vanish along with it.

The belief that installing a compliant administration would pacify the Valley was held by Indira Gandhi too. She failed. Her failure, and Vajpayee's success, are lessons worth remembering by the current administration.

Radha Kumar is author of *Paradise at War: A Political History of Jammu and Kashmir* and a former interlocutor for the state

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"For Europe which is standing at a crossroads, it faces a series of development and security issues that wait for urgent solutions as its politics turns right. It needs strategic autonomy and the courage to see truth from facts. Italy is no exception to this." — GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

## Rise of SDPI, a cautionary tale

Steady growth of SDPI, political outfit of now-banned PFI, in Karnataka tells us a larger political story



SANJITH RAO AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

ONCE DESCRIBED by the poet Kannada Kuvempu as *Sarva Jangadha Shaantiya Thota* (a garden in which all people co-exist in harmony), Karnataka's image has undergone a drastic change in recent times. Over the last year, it has been affected by the large-scale saffronisation of politics. The root cause is simple: The replacement of veteran BJP leader and Lingayat strongman, BS Yediyurappa with Basavaraj Bommai as the state's chief minister. Bommai, also a Lingayat, lacks popular support even from his own community — one of the state's most influential when it comes to electoral politics. The new CM has resorted to polarisation in a bid to cling on to power.

Saffronisation of the state's politics has taken several forms — rising vigilantism, the passing of "anti-conversion" Bills in both Houses, the hijab issue and the subsequent economic boycott of Muslim traders, the halal controversy, the rewriting of the school curriculum, and the resurrection of the Baba Budangiri Dargah conflict. These politically driven campaigns have been directed at the state's 8 million odd Muslims.

The Muslims of Karnataka, like in most other parts of India, are increasingly under-represented in the political sphere today. The state's Muslims community have not had a presence in the Lok Sabha since the 14th Lok Sabha (2004-2009). Of the 224 seats in Karnataka's 16th Assembly, only seven, roughly 3 per cent, are held by Muslims though the community accounts for close to 13 per cent of the state's population, according to the 2011 Census. Three of these MLAs are from Bengaluru. Two of the remaining four are from the "Hyderabad-Karnataka" region — Kaneez Fatima from Gulbarga Uttar and Rahim Khan from Bidar. The other two Muslim MLAs are UT Khader from Mangaluru and Tanveer Sait from Narsimharaja constituency in Mysore. Notably, all seven are from the Congress.

The Congress's response to the increasing communalisation in the state, however, has lacked the force required from a "secular party". The party's members seem to be toying a "balanced line" in a bid to not disappoint the floating voters. KPCC President DK Shivakumar has been reported as having wanted to go soft on the hijab issue. While addressing a press conference, a couple of months ago, the Deputy leader of the Opposition and Muslim politician, U T Khader took a jibe at the pro-hijab protesters by asking them to value their liberty and freedoms in India (as opposed to Pakistan and Saudi Arabia) and said that the courts will not make rules as per their (pro-hijab

supporters') "whims and fancies". Such statements by senior leaders of the state's Congress raise eyebrows about the party's willingness to represent the Muslim community.

In the context of the polarisation process mentioned above, the Congress's lacklustre response is bound to give an impetus to the slow yet steady growth of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), the political outfit of the Popular Front of India, the now banned organisation. The SDPI has recently had a taste of electoral success in Karnataka's coastal belt, with victories in urban local body elections — three seats in Kaup and one each in Vittla and Kotekar. It has also registered impressive victories in the gram panchayat elections in Dakshina Kannada, Kodagu and Hassan districts. While these victories are unrelated to the hijab controversy, the growth of the SDPI does indicate the rising disgruntlement of Muslims against the Congress. The hijab controversy could increase the polarisation in the state.

In the absence of effective political representation, the Muslim vote bank could shift to a party that "represents" the community better, a phenomenon that calls to mind the inroads Asaddudin Owaisi's MIM has made in some Congress strongholds in other parts of the country.

We should, however, not get ahead of ourselves about the SDPI's prospects in the next year's state assembly election. Despite its electoral victories in local body elections, questions about the outfit's capacity to make a dent at the state level remain — rightly so, for the funds and organisational capacities required to win a state election are much higher. In the 2018 assembly elections, the party contested only three seats and its candidates lost their deposits in two of them. The SDPI's candidate also lost his deposit in the 2019 by-election to the Shivajinagar (Bangalore) constituency. The minority may choose not to split the Congress' vote share in 2023, especially if the party projects a more secular face and the BJP intensifies its polarisation strategy.

Another variable needs to be factored in. Unlike the PFI, the SDPI has not been banned so far. But enforcement agencies have cracked down on the party's members. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) have conducted raids in more than 10 states and arrested over 100 activists from the SDPI stable. This could make the party ineffective and dissuade Muslim voters from voting for it. On the contrary, the voters may also show solidarity with the embattled outfit. But then will SDPI candidates be even allowed to contest? That depends on whether the BJP intends to divide the Muslim vote or if it prefers to please its support base.

Rao is a student at Sciences Po, Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London, and non-resident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace



AMITABH MATTOO

## A champion of dosti

Humayun Khan believed that an India-Pakistan resolution is possible

IN THE passing away of Humayun Khan, former foreign secretary of Pakistan and Islamabad's envoy to New Delhi, the Indian Subcontinent has lost a wise, almost sagely soul, who was also a "formidable diplomat, a thinker of high calibre and a genuine humanist," as former Pakistani Senator (and current leader of the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement), Afrasaib Khattak, described him. Khan was a Pashtun in the mould of the "frontier" Gandhi, Badshah Khan, rather than the usurpers of Pashtunwali, the dreadful Taliban. He was, above all, a passionate believer in India-Pakistan dosti.

Khan understood that long-term realism in South Asia demands moving beyond the tactical and looking forward towards a common and secure future. In the last decades of his full and varied life, he devoted himself to his two passions — the cause of India-Pakistan peace and rural development, especially to ensure the sustainable development of the people of his beloved Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

For Humayun "Lalla", the essence of the problematic of India-Pakistan relations was simple: India must have a larger heart and Pakistan must develop a more thoughtful head. If an expansive heart of India met the sensitive spirit of Pakistan, no problem would be too difficult to resolve. Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to see this dream

translate into reality.

Even his formidable adversaries within the Indian establishment spoke of his generosity, in thought and action. The former Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan, Gopalaswamy Parthasarthy, often seen as a hardliner, happily admitted to me that Khan "was a class apart". Parthasarthy and Khan had co-authored a book, *Diplomatic Divide*, reminiscing about their lives in Islamabad and New Delhi, respectively.

Khan belonged to a distinguished Pashtun family of Peshawar and had his early education as a boarder at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla, and then went to earn a tripos from Trinity at Cambridge. Subsequently, he joined the Civil Service of Pakistan and served primarily in the Northwest Frontier (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) including as Political Agent in Malakand and North Waziristan and then as Home Secretary for the Province.

In the 1970s was Khan first seconded to and then permanently absorbed in the Pakistan foreign service serving as its High Commissioner in Bangladesh and then India before being promoted and superannuating as Foreign Secretary. In the early 1990s, he served as Pakistan's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. TCA Raghavan, India's High Commissioner to Islamabad from 2013-2015, described Khan as a "mentor and friend".

The high point of Humayun Khan's tenure

was his four-year stint as High Commissioner to India, from 1984-1988 and as Foreign Secretary for less than a year thereafter. As High Commissioner, he arrived in New Delhi in the last months of Indira Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister and stayed through the initial bonhomie of the Rajiv Gandhi-Benazir Bhutto diplomatic honeymoon and presided over the twists and turns during that intriguing period in bilateral relations.

When Khan called on Mrs Gandhi, he found that, not surprisingly, she did not like General Zia-ul-Haq but she reserved real animosity for Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. This was because the bitterness that she still nursed about the betrayal at Shimla. As is well known, ZAB had agreed at Shimla to converting the Line of Control into the international border but wanted time to "prepare his people" before signing a formal agreement. In Mrs Gandhi's view, ZAB did a complete U-turn once he returned to Pakistan from Shimla.

One of the most enduring bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan, "The Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack Against Nuclear Installations and Facilities — the Non-Attack Agreement" was signed by Khan and his Indian counterpart, KPS Menon, on December 31, 1988.

A notable failure during Khan's tenure as Foreign Secretary was the inability to arrive at

an agreement and disengage at the Siachen glacier. Both Rajiv Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto, seeking a major foreign policy success (Rajiv Gandhi particularly after the fiasco in Sri Lanka and Nepal) had apparently personally intervened to give "political clearance" to a plan to demilitarise Siachen but the agreement fell apart after meeting strong opposition from the Indian armed forces, unwilling to move out of the dominating heights of the Saltrio ridge.

My personal relationship with Humayun "Lalla" evolved while chairing for a decade the only meaningful Track 2 dialogue with the blessings of the top leadership on both sides. His was a voice of reason, of restraint, of moderation and nuance and he brought with him the highest drafting skills when demanded.

I hosted him as Vice Chancellor at Jammu, and I remember him talking about izzat as being at the heart of Pashtunwali. "All of us in South Asia are driven by our honour. The izzat you have conferred on me today, Amitabh, has overwhelmed me — there is very little I will not do for you! Imagine the consequences if our beloved countries can just learn to respect each other."

The writer, at JNU and an honorary professor at the University of Melbourne, founded and co-chaired the now disbanded Chaophraya dialogue for over a decade

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### CONGRESS CRISIS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The low command' (IE, September 28). From day one, Ashok Gehlot had been unwilling to quit his home turf; and never to his bete noire, Sachin Pilot. Gehlot agreed to toss his hat in the ring for the Congress presidency hoping to have the sole right to choose one of his loyalists to be his successor. The entire episode amply illustrates that the national president of India's grand old party is not a coveted position for its sitting chief ministers. With over 90 MLAs throwing their weight behind Gehlot, he has once again lived up to his sobriquet: jaadugar. The defiance of the Gehlot supporting MLAs is bound to cast a shadow on Rahul Gandhi's yatra. Regardless of what comes of the crisis, it is inevitably going to be detrimental to the electoral prospects of the party in the assembly elections next year.

Samuil Hassan Quadri, Bikaner

### OPEN COURT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'SC, live' (IE, September 28). Initiating live-streaming of court proceedings for the public is a beneficial move by the apex court. The judiciary is one of the most critical pillars of democracy and gestures like these will only deepen the trust of the common man in the institution. Naturally, being watched by millions is an unnerving position to be in, especially while handling cases. However, as time goes on, they will get acquainted with the process. The move will also make it tougher for the judges

to show their prejudices while hearing cases.

Bal Govind, Noida

### THE ROAD AHEAD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Taking a hard right' (IE, September 28). Giorgia Meloni-led Brothers of Italy party, with neo-fascist origins, is going to form the next government. The road ahead is not going to be easy given Italy's economic problems, divisions within her coalition and foreign policy challenges, including Ukraine. The twin challenges of deep-rooted corruption and organised crime will test Meloni's mettle. Europe and the world need to be wary of the rise of another "powerful" leader.

SS Paul, Nadia

### REALISING A DREAM

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A dream For 2047' (IE, September 28). The need of the hour is to involve all stakeholders in a process of introspection. This should begin with strengthening the civil society organisations. Their inputs must be looked at from the perspective of strengthening participatory democracy. However, as Nani Palkhiwala has put it, it is the conscience of men in power that can make the ultimate difference when it comes to building a better future. A leadership which leads us into continuous introspection is expected from those in power if we wish to realise the dream the piece aspires to.

Sarthak Sonwalkar, Ujjain



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## TEMPLE RUN

AFTER RETURNING from Tamil Nadu and Kerala, BJP president Jagat Prakash Nadda is set to begin his two-day Odisha tour on Thursday. During his stay in the state, Nadda will meet BJP office-bearers and workers, besides attending other events. He will also offer prayers at Jagannath temple in Puri. Incidentally, temple visits were part of his itinerary during his tour to southern states last week.

## FILLING THE POST

ANIL SAHASRABUDHE completed his term as AICTE chairman on September 1 and UGC Chairman Jagadish Kumar has been holding additional charge of the post since then. The Union government is learnt to have shortlisted a few candidates for the job now. Among the front-runners are the AICTE vice-chairperson MP Poonia, IIT Guwahati director TG Sitharam and a professor from IIT Kanpur.

## NEW DIRECTORS

Over the last two weeks, nine IITs have got new directors with the Ministry of Education finalising names after a long delay since conducting interviews for the job. On Wednesday, Prof Kamal Kishore Pant, who teaches chemical engineering at the IIT Delhi, was appointed director of IIT Roorkee. The interviews of the shortlisted candidates for the post was held in March, it is learnt. On September 19, appointments of new directors were notified for IITs at Palakkad, Tirupati, Dharwad, Bhillai, Gandhinagar, Bhubaneswar, Goa and Jammu.

# Emergency response phase since Galwan incident over: China envoy

SHUBHAJIT ROY  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28



China's ambassador to India Sun Weidong

THE "PHASE of emergency response since the Galwan Valley incident" has "basically come to an end" and the border situation is now switching to "normalised management and control", China's ambassador to India, Sun Weidong, has said.

Sun has also linked the Taiwan question and Tibet-related issues by expressing hope that India can "properly handle issues related to China's core interests".

This is a significant framing, as Beijing has, for the first time, sought to link its redline on Taiwan with the India-China border situation.

Speaking at a virtual event to celebrate the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China on Tuesday, organised by the Chinese embassy in New Delhi — the speech was released on Wednesday — Sun said, "The current border situation is overall stable. The phase of emergency response since the Galwan Valley incident has basically come to an end, and the border situation is now switching to normalised management and control."

"The Chinese side is willing to maintain dialogues via diplomatic and military channels with the Indian side, and together seek so-

lution to the border issues in a peaceful manner through dialogue and consultation," he said. "It is hoped that the Indian side can properly handle issues related to China's core interests, including [the] Taiwan question and Xizang-related issues," he said.

The Chinese refer to Tibet as "Xizang".

Sun also said, "According to the consensus reached in the 16th Round of China-India Corps Commander Level Meeting, the Chinese and Indian troops in the area of Jianan Daban have completed disengagement." The Chinese called the Gogra-Hot Springs area as Jianan Daban.

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

A day after Indian and Chinese troops completed the disengagement process at Patrolling Point-

**EXPLAINED**  
Linking Taiwan with Tibet issue

INDIA AND China have differences over how to proceed further in the relationship. While New Delhi has maintained that the bilateral ties cannot be normal until the border situation is resolved, Beijing has always said that the border situation should be managed in a proper way, without allowing them to disturb the overall development of the bilateral relations. The Chinese envoy's comments underline that point, but also make it clear that there are redlines on Taiwan and Tibet.

15 in Gogra-Hot Springs region of Ladakh earlier this month, Jaishankar had called it "one problem less on the border".

Talking about properly handling differences and sensitive issues, the Chinese ambassador said, "Neighbouring countries cannot move away. It is normal for neighbouring countries to have differences, what matters is how



EAM S Jaishankar meets NSA Jake Sullivan in Washington on Wednesday. @DrSJaishankar

## Jaishankar, Sullivan discuss India-US ties, Indo-Pacific

PRESSTrust OF INDIA  
WASHINGTON, SEPT 28

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar held talks with US NSA Jake Sullivan during which they reviewed progress in US-India strategic partnership and exchanged views on global and regional issues, including approaches to advance a free, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar, who is on a four-day official trip to Washington, also discussed Ukraine conflict with Sullivan during their meeting at the White House Tuesday.

"Met today with Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar to discuss our shared efforts to deepen the US-India strategic partnership, mitigate the impacts of Russia's war in Ukraine, and advance a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific," Sullivan said in a tweet.

In a readout, his office said they discussed "approaches to promoting debt sustainability

and advancing a free, open, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific". The US, India and several other world powers have been discussing the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

On Tuesday, during a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken after holding bilateral talks, Jaishankar said India faced no difficulties in terms of servicing and spare parts supply of equipment that it received in the past from Russia in the aftermath of the war in Ukraine and asserted that it exercises a choice which it believes is in its national interest when it is offered weapons.

"I don't think in recent months we have faced any particular problems in terms of servicing and spare parts supply of (military) equipment that we have got in the past from Russia," Jaishankar told reporters while responding to a question.

## Cabinet hikes DA by 4% for central govt employees

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AHEAD OF Diwali and the festive season, the Union Cabinet Wednesday hiked the dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief by 4 per cent effective July 1, 2022, benefiting 41.85 lakh central government employees and 69.76 lakh pensioners. The increase of 4 per cent is over the existing rate of 34 per cent of basic pay/rate.

The total extra outgo on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 12,852.5 crore per annum, I&B Minister Anurag Thakur said while briefing the media about the decisions of the Union Cabinet.

Central government employees and pensioners will be entitled to higher amount of DA and DR, respectively, with effect from July 1, 2022, he said.

"These three months are full of festivals across India. Today's decisions by the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister are also such that would bring in cheer in the festive season," Thakur said.

The increase in the DA and DR is based on the percentage increase in 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for the period ending June 2022.

### Cabinet clears MoU

The Union Cabinet Wednesday gave its ex-post facto approval for Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on withdrawal of up to 153 cuses of water each by the two countries from common border river Kushiara. The MoU was signed on September 6 between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and Bangladesh's Ministry of Water Resources. ENS



Union Ministers Anurag Thakur and Ashwini Vaishnav at the press conference in Delhi Wednesday. Prem nath Pandey

## Cabinet okays Rs 10,000 cr for facelift of Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad rly stations

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has approved the redevelopment of major railway stations using money from its own coffers instead of going for public private partnership (PPP), finally bringing a clarity on the funding mechanism for these mega projects.

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi on Wednesday cleared Rs 10,000 crore for the redevelopment of railway stations at New Delhi, Mumbai (Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus), and Ahmedabad in poll-bound Gujarat. The works will be taken up under the engineering, procurement and construction model and the money will solely come from government coffers, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said while briefing the media on the Cabinet decision.

"Railways caters to middle

class and lower middle class so any extra burden on passengers is not good. So, it has been decided to invest budget money in the Railways. It is a conscious decision to redevelop all these stations under the EPC model," he said.

The *Indian Express* had earlier reported the government's intention to directly fund the station redevelopment works—a priority project monitored by the Prime Minister's Office—rather than wait for PPP model to take off.

Vaishnav said the target is to complete the redevelopment of New Delhi station in three-and-a-half years. The other two stations will be redeveloped in two-and-a-half years, he said, adding that tenders will be out in about 10 days.

"New Delhi station will integrate train services with buses, auto and metro rail services. Ahmedabad station redesign is inspired by Modhera's Sun temple. CSMT's heritage building won't be touched but buildings nearby will be re-developed," he said.

Azam Khan

## Azam is in Delhi hospital, says wife, day after cops claimed he is 'untraceable'

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

A DAY after UP Police said that veteran Samajwadi Party leader and Rampur MLA Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam Khan, have returned their security teams and gone "untraceable" amid court summons, Tanzeen Fatima said her husband Azam Khan was admitted at Delhi's Ganga Ram Hospital with son Abdullah taking care of him there.

Following Fatima's statement, police said they have sent back the security team to Delhi hospital. "The news that my husband Azam Khan and son Abdullah are missing is false. Azam Khan is still at Delhi's Ganga Ram Hospital undergoing treatment. My husband is having mental and physical health issues. If he is needed for some investigation, then he will take part in it properly after his health improves," Fatima, a former MP, said. She also said that the "information that her son and husband returned their security cover was wrong".

ASP (Rampur) Sansar Singh Wednesday said: "After we got to know that Azam Khan is admitted at a Delhi hospital, we sent back our officials... We hope that he will accept the security."

On Tuesday, police said that Azam and Abdullah were untraceable and have been skipping court appearances. The case in question is over an alleged 2019 hate speech.

### CONG PRESIDENT ELECTION

## Amid infighting in Haryana, first hurdle is getting the delegate list

VARINDER BHATIA  
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

INFIGHTING in its Rajasthan unit has put a spoke in the wheels of election for the Congress president. Meanwhile, infighting in its Haryana unit has ensured that even the list of delegates from the state who will vote for the post remains stuck.

A week after Haryana Congress president Udai Bhan and CLP leader Bhupinder Hooda said they had shortlisted 195 delegates from state for the election, the list is yet to be put up at the PCC office.

Candidates contesting for party president's election are supposed to get the names, addresses and contact numbers of the delegates, from across the country, for election on October 17, so as to get in touch with them and rally support. Earlier, one of the contenders for the post, Shashi Tharoor, had demanded that the list be made public, following which Congress had said it would be available to whoever asked for it.

Sources said that courtesy the intense infighting in the Haryana Congress unit, and objections raised by several senior leaders, the delegate list is being kept under wraps. Randeep Surjewala, Kiran Choudhry and Kumari Selja, all known Hooda detractors, are believed to have approached the party high command accusing Hooda and Bhan of ignoring them in finalising the list of delegates. They also met chairman of the

Congress's Central Election Authority (CEA), Madhusudan Mistry, in New Delhi on Sunday, seeking his intervention.

Bhan, however, claimed that they had submitted the list of 195 delegates from across the 180 blocks of the state unit to Mistry. "Anybody can get it from there," he said, adding: "Whatever instructions we received from the top, we followed them, and submitted the list."

"No favouritism has been done in the selection of delegates. The entire process took place in the presence of the Pradesh Returning Officer (former Rajasthan MP Tara Chand Bhagora)," he added.

Bhagora confirmed to *The Indian Express* that the list had been given to Mistry.

About cases of more than one member of a family being in the delegate list, Udai Bhan said: "So, what is wrong in that? The selection happened on the basis of their work and efforts in increasing the membership of the party."

A senior Congress leader accused Hooda and Bhan of holding on to the list till the last minute, to ensure there was no "rebellion".

Another Congress leader added, "As such, the appointment of delegates is happening after a long, long time... They have to be issued identity cards, as has happened in other units. It has not been done in case of Haryana's delegates. How will party workers know who is the delegate?"

## Venkataramani appointed Attorney General of India

EXPRESSNEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28



Venkataramani will be the 16th AG of India

THE CENTRE on Wednesday notified the appointment of Senior Advocate R Venkataramani as the 16th Attorney General for India. He will succeed K K Venugopal whose term comes to an end on September 30. Venkataramani appointment is for a period of three years.

Venkataramani got enrolled as a lawyer in the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in July 1977 and started practising in the Supreme Court in 1979. He was designated as Senior Advocate in 1997.

In 2010, he was appointed member of the Law Commission, and reappointed for a further term in 2013. Venkataramani practised in various branches of law, including constitutional, indirect taxes, human rights, civil and criminal, consumer, and service law.

He has represented the Central government, different state governments, universities and public sector undertakings before the Supreme Court and high courts in key cases.

Outgoing Attorney General K K Venugopal had succeeded Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi as the 15th AG in July 2017 for three years. When his three-year tenure came to an end in 2020, 91-year-old Venugopal had requested that he be relieved of his post citing his age. However, the Central government requested him to continue and kept extending his tenure. On his third extension, he told the government that he didn't want to continue after September 30.

## Canadian firm Canpotex to supply 15 lakh MT potash to India annually

New Delhi: Canadian firm Canpotex will supply up to 15 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of potash to India annually for three years, the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said on Wednesday.

"In a significant step towards ensuring long-term fertilizer availability for the farming community, India's fertilizer companies—Coromandel International, Chambal Fertilizers and Indian

Potash Limited signed an MoU with Canpotex, Canada on 27th September 2022," a ministry statement said. "Canpotex, Canada will supply up to 15 LMT of Potash annually for 3 years." Canpotex is one of the largest suppliers of potash globally.

The development is significant as India is completely dependent on imports to meet its potash requirements. ENS

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Rc.No.: 009353/PUR-1/2022 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date:28.09.2022

1.	Description of Tender	Supply and delivery of 71.61 Lakh pairs of Socks separately for Boys and Girls for school children in Tamil Nadu for the year 2023-2024.
2.	Sale period of Tender Document	On all working days from 29.09.2022 to 31.10.2022 between 10.00 a.m. and 05.45 p.m
3.	Last Date and Time Submission of Tender	01.11.2022 up to 02.00 p.m
4.	Pre-Bid meeting date, time & place	12.10.2022 at 02.30 p.m in Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, College Road, Chennai-6.
5.	Tender opening date, time & place	01.11.2022 at 02.30 p.m. in Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation, Chennai-6
6.	Tender Document and other details are available in the Websites and can be downloaded free of cost	a) <a href="http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in">http://www.textbookcorp.tn.gov.in</a> b) <a href="http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in">http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in</a>

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TENDER NOTICE No.24 BCM/2022-23/DATED:27.09.2022

FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM / Itemwise rate  
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tenders are invited from the eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5 for the following works:-

Sl.No.	Name of work and EMD	Approximate value of work	Period	EMD in favour of
1.	<b>Two Cover System</b> Construction of Additional Building for Additional Beds (Specialty) & Other Amenities in District Head Quarters Government Hospital at Tiruttani in Tiruvallur District. E.M.D. : Rs.21,55,800/-	Rs.4291.44 Lakhs	18 Months	Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction & Maintenance) Division, Tiruvallur.
2.	<b>Two Cover System</b> Construction of Additional Four Floors over the existing CEMONC Centre in Government RSRM LYING IN Hospital at Royapuram in Chennai-13. E.M.D. : Rs.12,63,200/-	Rs.2506.34 Lakhs	18 Months	Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction) Division-II, Chennai-5.
3.	<b>Two Cover System</b> Construction of Additional Building for MCH Care in the Institute of Social Obstetrics and Government Kasthuriba Gandhi Hospital for Women & Children at Triplicane, Chennai - 600 005. E.M.D. : Rs.12,45,800/-	Rs.2471.58 Lakhs	18 Months	Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction) Division-II, Chennai-5.

Tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the Website <https://www.tntenders.gov.in> (or) <https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in> and also available in the o/o the undersigned at a cost of Rs.15000/- + Rs.2700 (GST). Tender schedule will be made available from 29.09.2022 to 03.11.2022 Last date of receipt of tender is 04.11.2022 upto 03.00 P.M. and opened on the same day at 04.00 P.M. by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website.

DIPR/4291/Tender/2022  
Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai-5.

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**

Sr. No.	NAME OF BOARD/ CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT/ EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	CONSTRUCTION AND BEAUTIFICATION OF AJIT STADIUM AT VIL-LAGE DHANWAPUR WARD NO.12, ZONE-I, MCG, GURUGRAM, HARYANA.	27.09.2022 18.10.2022	13.07 CRORE	<a href="https://tenders.hry.nic.in">https://tenders.hry.nic.in</a>	9729424282 eehq@mcg.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: [www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaaprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER, TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA**

"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. - CE&BM, TEL, 04/2022-23

1.	Name of work:-	Construction of FPE on Tel left from Gaterkela to Tel Bridge from RD 0.00M TO 6000 M
2.	Total Number of Works:-	1 No
3.	Value of work:-	Rs 1269.56 Lakhs (excluding (G.S.T.))
4.	Period of Completion:-	18 (Eighteen) Calendar month
5.	Other details as follows:-	

Procurement Officer Name & address of the officer inviting Bids. Bid Identification No. Date & Time of availability of Bid document in the Portal. To

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Tel Basin, Bhawanipatna	CE&BM, TEL, 04/2022-23	Dt. 30.09.2022 10.00 hours	Dt. 20.10.2022 to 17.30 hours
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Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in)

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER  
TEL BASIN, BHAWANIPATNA  
OIPR- 32317/11/0005/2223











# WORLD HEART DAY

## Healing Hearts to Health

**What makes Kailash Deepak Hospital a comprehensive heart care centre?**

Kailash Deepak Hospital has fully equipped Cath lab and cardiac operation theatre with state of the art instrumentation and round the clock facilities for dealing with cardiac emergencies. We have highly skilled cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons, cardiac anaesthesiologist many with over 25 years of experience and other trained supporting staff. All interventional and surgical operations are available at our state-of-the-art facilities at a reasonable cost.

**Why is India known to have high cardio vascular diseases?**

Today we are facing an epidemic of cardiovascular diseases globally due to unhealthy lifestyle, excessive use of smoking, alcohol and drug abuse, especially in younger population. Overall increase in diabetes, hypertension, lack of exercise and sleep deprivation will also lead to increased risk of cardiac disease. Recently environmental pollution has also been linked to increased risk of cardiovascular disease.

**What are the preventive measures for reducing heart diseases?**

In order to decrease the overall cardiovascular disease (CVD) burden we should start preventive measures like regular exercise, healthy diet, cessation of smoking and alcohol, right from young age. Importance of yoga and healthy lifestyle should be incorporated in the school curriculum. Bi Annual Preventive Cardiac health check-up should be started at an early age.

**How is family history linked with CVD?**

Recently the importance of genetics is well established for the development of various cardiovascular disease including hypertension, diabetes, heart attacks, arrhythmias,

sudden cardiac death and structural heart diseases. Genetically susceptible people develop heart disease like cardiomyopathy and heart failure at an early age especially if they follow an unhealthy lifestyle. Couples with a family history of CVD can opt for Cardiac Counselling before family planning.

**Have heart patients been impacted by the Covid-19 virus?**

Patients already having cardiovascular disease, COVID 19 infection increases the risk for thrombotic events like heart attack, heart failure, stroke and clotting of blood in legs. It can also lead to arrhythmia and sudden death. It is advisable to have an ECHO Screening post COVID

**The synergy that can be created with PPP model in car-**

**diac care?**

Government and private hospitals should work in coordination to ensure the availability of cardiac care in the rural places where cardiac facilities are unavailable. They should work together in providing affordable healthcare to the population. Government should strive to control environmental pollution.

**What is the message that you would like to convey on World Heart Day?**

On the occasion of World Heart Day, we would like to convey people to follow 'Life's Simple Seven', which includes-get active, eat better, manage your weight, stop smoking, control cholesterol, manage BP, and control blood sugar.



**Dr Ajay Mittal,**  
DM Cardiology, Senior Cardiologist, Kailash Deepak Hospital, is amongst the dynamic cardiac team at the Super Speciality Hospital in East Delhi. On World Heart Day, he shares his views on cardiac care.

## Crusader of Cardiac Care

**What are the activities that Kailash Deepak Hospital has planned for the World Heart Day?**

Our hospital is organizing a marathon, will distribute T-shirts, hold some lectures and free camps in the hospital premises. All these activities are aimed at generating public awareness on heart care and fitness apart from the latest treatments available in cardiac care.

A spate of young and healthy celebrities dying of heart attack has drawn wide public attention and alarm. What is the reason for such bizarre heart incidents?

Physical health has nothing to do with cardiac health. Meaning if you look and feel healthy does not mean that your heart is healthy. They are two are completely different paradigms of health and wellness. Cardiac fitness can be maintained by light activities such as going for walks five times a week, yoga, sound sleep of 6-8 hours, good diet, hobbies such as gardening and a positive state of mind. Doing stress exercises at the gym such as weightlifting will only tone muscles and give shape to the body, but exert tremendous pressure on the heart. You also end up sweating excessively in doing strenuous exercise which leads to sodium imbalance affecting heart function and also the brain and other organs of the body.

**In your OPD, which is the most prevalent CVD that you get to see among your patients?**

Stress is the highest that I get to see in almost every third patient who comes to me. Emotionally and mentally too stress levels are very high in this era of tough competition, which wears down the heart. Hypertension and diabetes, both lifestyle diseases and atherosclerosis diseases such as stroke, paralysis and heart attack are the three main causes leading to high mortality and morbidity in the Indian population.

**What is the heart attack rate in women?**

Below the age of 40 women show up with far lesser heart attack incidence because of hormones such as estrogen and



**Dr Mitesh Sharma**  
MS, MCh Senior Cardio Thoracic & Vascular Surgeon at Kailash Deepak Hospital in Karkadooma, Delhi is among the cardiac team spearheading the team in the battle in saving the heart against all odds. On World Heart Day, he shares the condition of cardiac care in present times.

progesterone, which gives them natural protection from cardiac problems. But after menopause women are equally susceptible to heart diseases as men. Women with diabetes, hypertension and hormonal imbalance are more prone to heart diseases. In underdeveloped countries and in our society, women are neglected, therefore, CVD in them is not reported, but is actually increasing rapidly. They are also being diagnosed late, which raises the number of fatalities in women.

**When it comes to comparison between the urban and rural population, how does the latter fare in CVD counts?**

Studies have shown that rural folks are catching up fast with their urban counterparts when it comes to CVD numbers, because city lifestyle is fast expanding and is influencing their ways of life. In many cases rural CVD counts in rural areas have

been found to be at par with urban numbers. Substance abuse, poor nutrition, poverty and also medical care, which is not easily accessible to them, impacts heart health of rural masses. They are becoming more vulnerable.

**What are the perils of pollution on the heart?**

There is much debate over this aspect because dangerous pollution levels are impacting the body organs including the heart. If a person lives in the midst of nature where there is far less pollution and he is happy then definitely they have a healthier heart as compared to those living in crowded cities or industrial towns where factories spew toxic fumes and sludge into the environment which mingles with the air and soil getting into the food chain to affect the health of the public. Pollution is adding to the health burden and damaging hearts with impunity.

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<b>NOIDA</b>	Vipul (Sec-63) 9899095972	Fairdeal Premium Wheels (Sec-10) 9999700944	Rohan (Sec-1) 9873501288	Vipul (Sec-18) 8800091555	<b>GREATER NOIDA</b>	Rohan (Udyog Vihar) 9811800980	<b>GHAZIABAD</b>	Rohan (Mukund Nagar) 9650100045	Motocraft (Sahibabad) 9650972222	T.R. Sawhney (Mohand Nagar) 9582263544	Regent Auto (Meerut Road) 7065191234	Rohan (Hapur) 0122-2313204	Motocraft (Modi Nagar) 8057692222	Motocraft (Bhojpur) 9319583222	<b>FARIDABAD</b>	Vipul (Mathura Road) 9999994707	TCS Autoworld (Neelam Chowk) 0129-4252525	Auto Nation (Mathura Road) 9899596002	Vipul (Ballabgarh) 0129-4208400	Rohan (Patwal) 8930202062	Fairdeal Premium Wheels (Piyali Chowk) 9582139824	<b>GURGAON</b>	Competent (Sec-12) 9582797711	Prem Motors (32nd Milestone) 8750487504	Rohan (Sec-54) 4845400
<b>BALASAR</b>	Prem Motors (JMD Sikanderpur) 8750987509	Vipul (Sec-18) 4395700	Pasco (Subhash Chowk) 9582797739	Competent (SCO Plot No-322 Sec-29) 4260000	<b>MANESAR</b>	Rana Motors (Silvertown Sec-50) 7839003300	<b>DELHI</b>	Pasco (Azadpur) 9999369725	DD Motors (Narela) 9999003888	T.R. Sawhney (Pitampura) 9582263509	D.D. Motors (Peeragarhi) 9999003888	T.R. Sawhney (Badli) 9999324333	Rana Motors (Prashant Vihar) 9711507777	D.D. Motors (Wazirpur) 9999003888	Krish (Pitampura) 9999159577	Rana Motors (GT Karnal Road) 9873477733	Krish (GT Karnal Road) 8929268182	Fairdeal Wheels (Budh Vihar) 8448296614, 8448296615	<b>SOUTH DELHI</b>	Rohan (Mathura Road) 9560036262	T.R. Sawhney (Nehru Place) 9999563333	Competent (Lajpat Nagar) 9582797810	AAA Vehicleleads (Malviya Nagar) 9971500011	Prem Motors (Mahipalpur) 8745887458	D.D. Motors (Okhla Ph-1) 9999003888
<b>DELHI</b>	SK Universe Automobile 8445710000	SK Universe Automobile (Sikandrabad) 9520870938	SK Universe Automobile (Siyana) 9520870939	<b>NORTH DELHI</b>	Saya (Azadpur) 9999369725	DD Motors (Narela) 9999003888	T.R. Sawhney (Rajouri Garden) 9873781333	Competent (Najafgarh) 9582797763	Magc Auto (Dwarka Sec-13) 8929268144	AAA Vehicleleads (Mundka) 9650445555	Competent (Dwarka) 9582797879	Magc Auto (Palam Dabrl Road) 8929400501	Competent (Shivaji Marg) 9811477799	Rana Motors (Janakpuri) 9999577776	D.D. Motors (Mayapuri) 9999003888	Jagmohan Automotives (Naraina) 011-35011310	Fairdeal Wheels (Bhajanpura) 7290009372	Fairdeal Wheels (Shahdara) 8448296614, 8448296615	Competent (Gazipur) 8377007977	Bagga Link (Patparganj) 9818199370	T.R. Sawhney (Gokulpur) 9999399150	Magc Auto (Preet Vihar) 8929400502			

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SECTOR WATCH CORPORATE PRACTICES

US SEC fines Oracle \$23 mn: 'Improper conduct' by units in India, UAE, Turkey

SOUAMYARENDRABARIK NEW DELHI, SEPT 28

TECHNOLOGY FIRM Oracle's India unit used an "excessive discount scheme" in connection with a transaction with a transportation company owned by the Ministry of Railways, according to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

This is the second instance in a decade where Oracle has been fined over "improper conduct" displayed by its India subsidiary. The SEC has fined Oracle more than \$23 million to resolve charges that it violated provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) when its subsidiaries in India, Turkey and UAE created and used slush funds — money that is improperly accounted typically for illicit purposes — to "bribe foreign officials" in return for business between 2016 and 2019. Without admitting or denying the SEC's findings, Oracle has agreed to cease and desist from committing the anti-bribery, books and records, and internal accounting controls provisions of the FCPA and to pay approximately \$8 million in disgorgement and a \$15 million penalty.

The US SEC has fined Oracle to resolve charges that it violated provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

request, SEC said. "The Indian state-owned entity's publicly available procurement website indicated that Oracle India faced no competition because it had mandated the use of Oracle products for the project."

The SEC also alleged that one of the sales employees involved in the transaction maintained a spreadsheet that indicated \$67,000 was the "buffer" available to potentially make payments to "a specific Indian state-owned entity official". A total of approximately \$330,000 was funnelled to an entity with "a reputation for paying state-owned entity officials" and another \$62,000 was paid to an entity controlled by the sales employees responsible for the transaction.

The Ministry of Railways did not respond to an immediate request for comment. A mail sent to Oracle India did not elicit a response.

What did the SEC find about Oracle's 'improper conduct' in India?

According to its order, in 2019, Oracle India sales employees used "an excessive discount scheme" in connection with a transaction with a transportation company, a majority of which was owned by the Indian Ministry of Railways. In January 2019, the sales employees working on the deal, citing intense competition from other original equipment manufacturers, claimed the deal would be lost without a 70 per cent discount on the software component of the deal.

Due to the size of the discount, Oracle required an employee based in France to approve the request. However, the deal was approved without requiring the sales employee to provide further documentary support for the

What was the previous instance of Oracle India being fined?

In 2012, Oracle had agreed to pay \$2 million to settle federal civil charges of failing to prevent secret payments in its sales operations in India — amounting to a "scam". At the time, the SEC had said that Oracle violated the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by allowing its Indian subsidiary to secretly set aside money that went to phony local vendors.

Oracle ran the risk of the secret funds being used for bribes, the SEC had then said. The agency said the violations occurred from 2005 to 2007. It said the subsidiary sold software licences and services to the Indian government and kept some of the sale proceeds off Oracle's books. At the time, too, Oracle had neither confirmed or denied the SEC's findings.

BRIEFLY

GST revenue

New Delhi: GST revenue mop-up in September is likely to be near Rs 1.45 lakh crore, an official said. It has been over ₹1.4 lakh crore from March. It was ₹1.43 lakh crore in August.

Ambuja, ACC

New Delhi: Ambuja Cements has created a non-disposable undertaking (NDU) over 50% stake in its arm ACC Ltd as "collateral for loans taken by the company".

Akash Ambani

New Delhi: Akash Ambani, son of Mukesh Ambani and head of India's largest telecom firm Jio, has been named in the Time 100 Next.

Hindustan Copper

New Delhi: Shareholders of Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) on Wednesday approved a 23.2% dividend for the fiscal ended in March 2022. PTI

Inox Wind

New Delhi: Inox Wind announced commissioning of India's first 3.3 MW wind turbine in Gujarat's Rajkot, in presence of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. ENS

PMGKAY EXTENSION TO RESULT IN ₹44,762 CRORE EXTRA SPENDING

Strained fiscal math limits foodgrain scheme extension to only 3 months

AANCHAL MAGAZINE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT'S nod to extend the subsidised foodgrains programme beyond the September deadline — but only for three months despite the upcoming state polls — has been prompted by specific concerns flagged by the Finance Ministry that any extension beyond these three months would have meant overshooting the budgeted level of borrowing to meet the incremental expenditure.

With the decision to extend the foodgrains scheme for three months, the Centre will end up spending Rs 44,762 crore incrementally for this period, which has led to experts estimating an

overshooting of the fiscal deficit to the tune of Rs 1 lakh crore. As it is, the government is staring at an additional expenditure of around Rs 2.4 lakh crore for the food, fertilizer and cooking gas subsidies, which has not been accounted for in the Budget for financial year 2022-23.

A senior government official told *The Indian Express* that even with the three-month extension to the foodgrains scheme, the Centre can still maintain its borrowing target for this fiscal. "As of now, even after this decision, there are no plans to borrow more," the official said, adding that, "approximately Rs 1 lakh crore would be extra for fertilizer subsidy, around Rs 1.2 lakh crore would be for food subsidy. There are other contingencies as well."

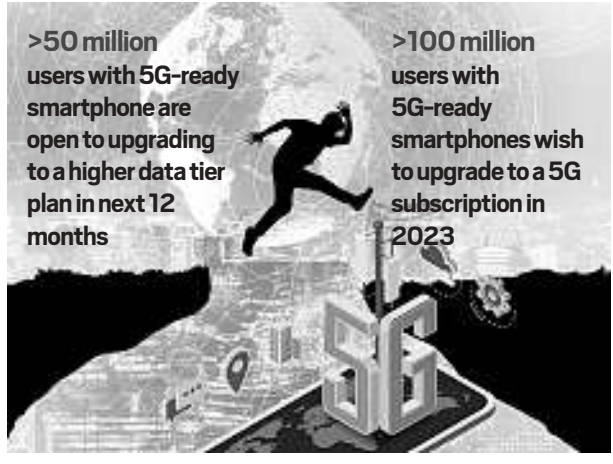
₹2.4L CR SPENDING FOR SUBSIDIES

The Centre is staring at an additional expenditure of around ₹2.4 lakh crore for food, fertilizer and cooking gas subsidies, which has not been accounted for in the Budget for FY23. The Centre had budgeted ₹14.31 lakh crore as borrowing for FY23

So, earlier we were seeing this extra spending amount at Rs 2 lakh crore, now it could be around Rs 2.4 lakh crore."

'Users willing to pay up to 45% premium for 5G plans'

Over 100 million users in India with 5G-ready smartphones want to upgrade to 5G network in 2023 and many of them are willing to pay up to 45% premium, a study by Ericsson said



~60% of early adopters who already have a 5G-capable phone expect new innovative applications, which are considered more appealing than better coverage

~36% of surveyed people plan to churn to the best provider of 5G network when it is available. 3X rise seen in smartphone users who own a 5G handset in last 2 yrs. 5G adoption is expected to start with consumers and then move to enterprises

Source:Ericsson/PTI

Tata Motors lines up EV models; drives in Tiago for ₹8.49 lakh

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

TATA MOTORS, the country's largest passenger electric vehicle (EV) manufacturer, on Wednesday virtually signalled a price war in the segment by launching its latest variant of the Tiago EV at Rs 8.49 lakh. This is also the first hatchback in the EV segment.

So far, there is no electric offering in the passenger vehicle segment which is priced below Rs 10 lakh. Already, the most affordable car in the segment was also from



Shailesh Chandra, MD—Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, Tata Motors, at the launch of Tata Tiago EV, on Wednesday. AP

Tata Motors' stable — Tigor at Rs 12.49 lakh. Other EVs currently available in the market from other manufacturers like Hyundai and Kia are above Rs 20 lakh. FE

'Apple drops plan to boost iPhone output'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

SEBI ON Wednesday came out with a new framework for credit rating agencies (CRAs), involving ratings of securities having explicit credit enhancement features.

The new framework, applicable from January 1, 2023, is aimed at enhancing transparency and improving the rating process, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular. Under the rule,

Credit rating agencies: Sebi issues framework

CRAs can assign the suffix 'CE' (Credit Enhancement) to the rating of instruments having explicit credit enhancement.

To enable investors to understand the extent of credit enhancement provided by a third party or parent or group company and support considerations specified by the regulator, including debt backed by a pledge of shares and a letter of comfort, Sebi said that the press release for credit ratings, with or without the CE-suffix, backed by such support considerations need to contain certain disclosures.

15% retaliatory duties proposed on 22 items imported from UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

INDIA HAS proposed additional customs duties of 15 per cent on the import of 22 products, including whiskey, cheese and diesel engine parts, from the UK in retaliation to Britain's decision to impose restrictions on steel products.

In a communication to the World Trade Organization (WTO), India said it is estimated that the safeguard measures taken by the United Kingdom on steel products have resulted in the decline of exports to the tune of 2,19,000 tonnes on which the duty collection would be

\$247.7 million. Accordingly, India's proposed suspension of concessions would result in an equivalent amount of duty collected from products originating in the United Kingdom, it said.

"India hereby notifies the (WTO's) Council for Trade in Goods of its decision to suspend concessions or other obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 and the Agreement on Safeguards that are substantially equivalent to the amount of trade affected by the measures of the UK," it added.

India's average imports of semi-manufactured silver from the UK stood at \$412.68 million.

EMERGENCY BOND-BUYING PROGRAMME

Bank of England steps in to calm mkts amid IMF warning

REUTERS LONDON, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BANK of England sought to quell the fire-storm in Britain's bond markets, saying it would buy as much government debt as needed to restore order after new Prime Minister Liz Truss's tax cutting plans triggered financial chaos.

Having failed to cool the sell-off with verbal interventions over the previous two days, the British central bank announced on Wednesday the immediate launch of an emergency bond-buying programme aimed at preventing the market turmoil from spreading. "Were dysfunction in this market to continue or worsen, there would be a material risk to UK financial stability," the BoE warned. Since finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng outlined a plan on Friday for tax cuts on top of an energy bill bailout, all funded by a



Bank of England, London. AP

huge increase in government borrowing, UK mortgage markets have frozen, pension funds have dumped gilts and corporate borrowing costs have leapt.

The BoE will now buy up to 5 billion pounds (\$5.31 billion) a day of British government bonds of at least 20 years' maturity starting on Wednesday and running until October 14. Its announcement, which represented a sudden reversal of plans to sell bonds it had amassed since the global financial

crisis of 2008-9, immediately pushed down borrowing costs. The 30-year gilt yield was set for its biggest drop in records going back to 1992. The pound pared earlier losses to rise against the dollar. The BoE said it would return to its plan to sell bonds at the end of October.

In a rare intervention over a G7 country, the International Monetary Fund urged Truss to reverse course. US bond giant PIMCO said it would have less confidence in sterling than it did before Friday's announcement. Meanwhile, global equities staged a partial comeback on after the BoE announcement. Sterling, which hit record lows against the dollar on Monday, was last up about 1.37 per cent. Wall Street gained momentum, with the S&P 500 Index up about 1.6 per cent after it fell to a two-year low on Tuesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 1.6 per cent and Nasdaq Composite was up 1.5 per cent.

Bank credit: Share of loans to industry on decline, personal up

Mumbai: The share of industrial loans in total credit has been gradually declining over the last decade while that of personal loans is on the rise, the RBI said. Both industrial and personal loans had nearly 27 per cent credit share each in March, as per the 'Basic Statistical Return on Credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) in India - March 2022' re-

leased by the RBI. Meanwhile, loans to the industrial sector recorded 4.7 per cent growth in FY22 after seeing a decline in the previous year. The share of loans up to Rs one crore has surged to nearly 48 per cent in March 2022 from around 39 per cent five years ago, whereas the share of loans

above Rs 10 crore fell to nearly 40 per cent from around 49 per cent over the same period, notwithstanding the price effect on loan-size over time. The share of loans bearing less than 7 per cent interest rate rose to 23.6 per cent in March 2022 compared to 15.1 per cent a year ago. PTI





