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TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

## LALQILEY SE GOONJ

NEHRU SE MODI TAK

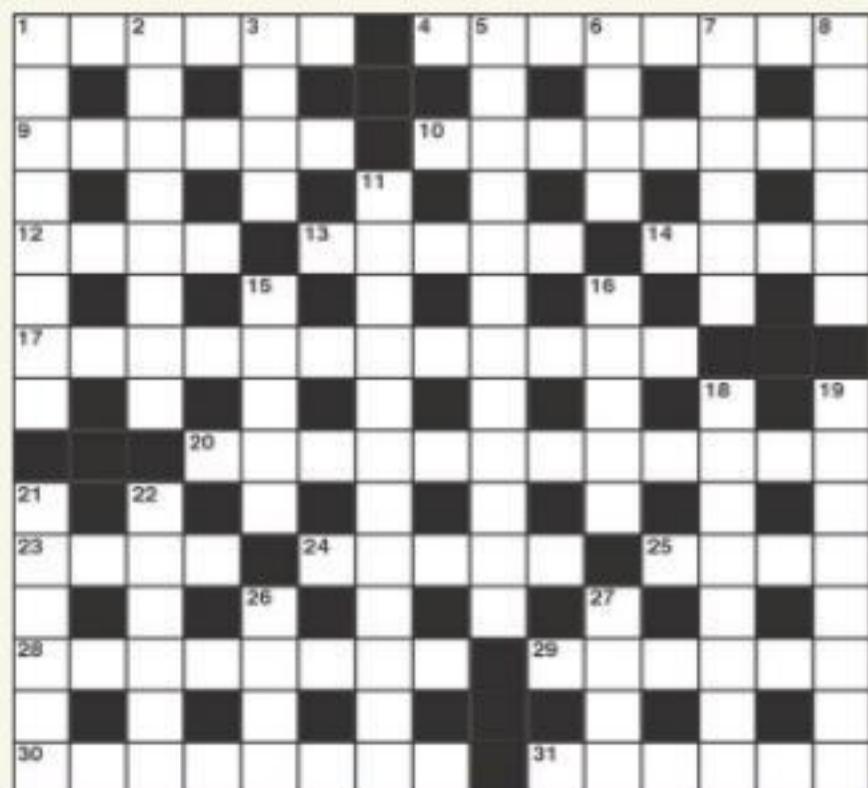
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## CROSSWORD 4821



**CROSS**  
1 Light sleep? (6)  
4 Go for a walk but with a meal out (8)  
9 Sudden flood of light material (6)  
10 Type of porcelain food container (8)  
12 Quality surprisingly found among the languid (4)  
13 Going with some hesitation to tender (5)  
14 French country is profitable (4)  
17 Go into battle and win some ground (4,3,5)  
20 Useless demonstration of hunger marchers? (5,7)  
23 Still on level terms (4)  
24 Like fifty doubled up in merriment? (5)  
25 Obstinate but practical person it's said (4)  
28 It means suspect can go free - absolutely free (2,6)  
29 Is she mostly preferred for being fair? (6)  
30 It's not for nothing you pass through it (4,4)  
31 Confine one after another we hear (6)

Solutions Crossword 4820: Across: 1 Heart, 4 Go-ahead, 8 Net, 9 Tide table, 10 Secret, 11 Pound, 13 Noodle, 15 Typhus, 18 Arena, 19 Command, 21 Staghound, 23 Die, 24 Noonday, 25 Lifts. Down: 1 Hangs on, 2 Artichoke, 3 Title, 4 Gadget, 5 Autopsy, 6 Ebb, 7 Dread, 12 Unheard-of, 14 Leashed, 16 Sadness, 17 Occupy, 18 Arson, 20 Model, 22 Ado.

**DOWN**  
1 Lets it break to a point that could be lethal (8)  
2 Sets aside Tom's battle scars? (8)  
3 One may win it by a head (4)  
5 Attractive perch on top of the world (8,4)  
6 The Bear River in America? (4)  
7 Name father turns up for an ancestor (6)  
8 Join forces? (6)  
11 No prime consideration (12)  
15 News articles from the Times (5)  
16 Sort of show to knock you out (5)  
18 Publicly expose a lightweight understudy (8)  
19 A brief way to stimulate fish (8)  
21 Edible seed for vegetable and fruit (6)  
22 Eyebrow-raising writer (6)  
26 Shocking report of Pole in kill (4)  
27 He's buried in an avalanche (4)

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; I Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBES by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLE WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.  
Rigour is to the \_\_\_ what morality is to men. - André Weil (13)

GLAAE	ASYCNT
BAIT	AWYHMM

Answers: GLAEE, TIRIA, ASYANT, WHAMMY

## SUDOKU 4928

**Difficulty Level 5s**  
**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

	1	5	3					
8		7			5			
	1	3		2	4			
		6						
6	2		4		5			
	7		4			9		
	6		3					
3	2		1					

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

## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4927

9	5	1	2	3	7	4	6	8
8	7	4	5	1	6	9	3	2
2	6	3	8	9	4	7	1	5
1	3	7	6	4	2	5	8	9
4	8	6	7	5	9	1	2	3
5	2	9	1	8	3	6	7	4
3	4	2	9	6	1	8	5	7
7	1	8	4	2	5	3	9	6
6	9	5	3	7	8	2	4	1



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## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Please do take great care with your finances. There seems to be little doubt that rash actions now could result in increased costs later. Somehow your emotional security also seems to be involved, but perhaps you need to remember how ultimately you can only rely on yourself.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Extremely powerful planetary aspects signify that you are now sailing on uncharted waters. If you can possibly ask for help and advice, please do so. Pride is a quality you can usefully do without. It will only get you into worse difficulties. And, in any case, other people might actually have done better than you.

## GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You can relax your efforts and allow others to do the arguing. No one has worked harder than you to keep the peace but now you deserve a little time to look after number one. After all, if you don't treat yourself well, you won't treat anyone else properly, either.

## CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The combined influences of those mighty planets, Saturn and Jupiter, are about to work another major change in your private affairs. You're probably sick of hearing that your life's about to be transformed, but you've also probably become blasé about upheavals that knock others for six.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Somebody has made all the right moves, but whether this is enough to placate you or make you change your ways is another matter. You are in a stubborn mood, but only you can decide if you should stay as you are or bend a little. Perhaps you can do both.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

The good news is that if you take a path of quiet meditation, devoted self-sacrifice and compromise, life will turn a very important corner and you'll end up with enhanced self-knowledge and understanding. And if you figure out your underlying motives, then you'll make the right decisions.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may think you are being caring and considerate, but someone may be a little tired of what they see as your efforts to probe into their affairs. I'd say that discretion is now the order of the day. Total honesty may not be the best way to reveal secrets which can only cause consternation, so choose your words with care.

## LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

Although it may be an indirect approach which matters, you may be more impressed by a direct appeal for help. The point I am trying to make is that you are quite touchy and will respond irritably to the precise manner in which others say and do things.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

If you're sensible, you'll consider eating humble pie, impressing others with your amazing contrition. You have much to be vain about, but overweening arrogance could cost you your happiness. If you're too complacent then you might just miss the most important developments.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)

It's not the easiest thing in the world to come to grips with your solar chart at the moment. I am concerned that you may feel victimised or martyred. So, if please try and see what led you to this situation. Then you'll figure out how to get back to the way you were.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Current planetary aspects will force you to accept that you have never made the most of your potential in certain ways. For example, have you ever truly shown the world the person you really are? I suspect that you haven't - but it's never too late to start.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Isn't it better to stand on your own two feet? There is a definite need to look to your laurels now and not imagine that other people are going to bail you out. Close partners feel quite rightly that you must dig yourself out of whatever hole you have put yourself in.

## PIRATES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You may think you are being caring and considerate, but someone may be a little tired of what they see as your efforts to probe into their affairs. I'd say that discretion is now the order of the day. Total honesty may not be the best way to reveal secrets which can only cause consternation, so choose your words with care.

## Iran denies involvement but justifies attack on Rushdie

JON GAMBRELL  
DUBAI, AUGUST 15

AN IRANIAN official Monday denied Tehran was involved in the stabbing of author Salman Rushdie, though he sought to justify the attack in the Islamic Republic's first public comments on the bloodshed.

The remarks by Nasser Kanaani, the spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry, came three days after Rushdie was wounded in New York state.

The writer has been taken off a ventilator and is "on the road to recovery," according to his agent.

Rushdie, 75, has faced death threats for more than 30 years over his novel *The Satanic Verses*, whose depiction of the Prophet Muhammad was seen by some Muslims as blasphemous.

In 1989, Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, issued a fatwa, or Islamic edict, demanding the author's death, and while Iran has not focused on Rushdie in recent years, the decree still stands.

Also, a semi-official Iranian foundation had posted a bounty of over \$3 million for the killing of the author. It has not commented on the attack.

"Regarding the attack against Salman Rushdie in America, we

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his Independence Day address from the Red Fort, Monday. PTI

MORE REPORTS, PAGES 5, 6, 11

### ADDRESS TO NATION ON 76TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

## PM says women's power key to national progress, flags nepotism and corruption

Other key issues: cleansing of politics, competitive cooperative federalism

### 'PANCH PRAN': 5 RESOLUTIONS

- 1 A developed India by 2047
- 2 Removing colonial mindset
- 3 Taking pride in roots
- 4 Unity, with gender equality as a key parameter
- 5 Duties and responsibilities of citizens

Speech subtext: Underlining national resolve, linking it to governance, BJP politics

SHUBHAJIT ROY & LIZ MATHEW  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

AS INDIA celebrated the 75th anniversary of its independence on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi framed his political argument on two pillars, spelling out a five-point "pran" (commit-

ment/resolve) for the ensuing 25 years, and the twin challenges of "corruption" and "dynasty politics and nepotism" confronting the nation.

Devout of announcements on any social sector schemes, Modi focused on the big picture, dwelt on the ideas for the future, urging people to embrace

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### THE WORLD



MORE DRILLS BY CHINA NEAR TAIWAN

KENYA: PRESIDENT NAMED AMID CHAOS

PAGE 10

### THE EDITORIAL PAGE

#### THE IDEAS DAY PAGE 8

the ramparts of Red Fort on the 76th Independence Day, the Prime Minister also called for a resolve to respect women. "It hurts me to say that we have witnessed a perversion in our day-to-day speech, behaviour.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### CONG MLA QUILTS OVER DALIT BOY DEATH

'My nephew is dead because of his caste... We are living in fear'

DEEP MUKHERJEE  
SURANA (JALORE), AUGUST 15

PAST THE Tricolour fluttering outside roadside tea stalls, past animated groups of children returning home after the August 15 celebrations in their schools, is the tin-roof house of Dewaram Meghwal, marked by the long wails of women that pierce the morning air.

It has only been hours since Dewaram carried out the last rites of his son Indra, who died in an Ahmedabad hospital on August 13, days after the nine-year-old was beaten up by his upper-caste teacher, allegedly for drinking water from a pot meant for the teacher.

Dewaram sits outside his house in Surana village, in Rajasthan's Jalore district, staring blankly at the mourners as they gather around a garlanded photo of Indra that's placed on a plastic chair.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



A water tank at Saraswati Vidya Mandir. Deep Mukherjee



### EXPRESS NETWORK



#### BEHIND MAMATA'S SUPPORT FOR ANUBRATA MONDAL SOLDIER'S REMAINS FOUND IN SIACHEN AFTER 38 YEARS PAGE 7

## 11 lifers convicted for Gujarat riots gangrape, murder set free in Godhra

'Remission in Bilkis case on completion of 14 yrs, conduct'

ADITIRAJA  
VADODARA, AUGUST 15

ELEVEN CONVICTS serving life imprisonment in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case from the 2002 Gujarat riots were freed from the Godhra sub-jail on Monday after a state government panel approved their application for remission of sentence, according

to senior officials.

Gujarat Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Raj Kumar told *The Indian Express* that the application for remission was considered due to the "completion of 14 years" in jail and other factors such as "age, nature of the crime, behaviour in prison and so on".

Bilkis was gangraped and her three-year-old daughter Saleha was among 14 killed by a mob on

March 3, 2002, in Limkheda taluka of Dahod district. Bilkis was pregnant at the time.

The Supreme Court had ordered a CBI investigation in the case after Bilkis approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). In August 2004, the Supreme Court directed the trial to be transferred from Gujarat to Maharashtra

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### DEEPTIMAN TIWARY PATNA, AUGUST 15

IN HIS Independence Day speech on Monday, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said the state government would try to create over 20 lakh jobs within and outside the government.

Nitish's remarks, days after he switched over from the NDA to the Mahagathbandhan camp, with his new Deputy Chief

Minister Tejashwi Prasad in the audience, is an acknowledgment of what the CM called "youth power" and one of its long-standing grouses against the government: *berozgari* (unemployment).

Amid the recent political churn in the state, as the BJP and Mahagathbandhan prepare to face off in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, *The Indian Express* travelled across the state and found that conversations at village chau-pals, and tea and paan shops are

dominated by *berozgari*, along with that other burning issue – *mehangai* (price rise).

While the blame for *berozgari* is laid at the doors of both the Centre and the state government, the Narendra Modi regime at the Centre faces much of the heat for the rising prices. The common refrain being: "Modi ji toh aata par bhi GST laga diye hain (Modi has started taxing even wheat flour)."

Maheesh Das, 50, a Dalit daily wager at Hajipur, who until re-

cently worked in a Punjab factory, says, "Inflation has gone through the roof. Edible oil is selling at Rs 200 a litre and my daily earning is just Rs 300-400. Even wheat flour is selling at Rs 35 a kg. How will we survive?"

But what he is more worried about is the future of his 24-year-old son Jitendra, a graduate.

After having tried for years to get a government job, Jitendra now runs a customer service

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

### Bihar berozgari refrain makes way into CM's job promise



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar with his deputy Tejashwi Yadav in Patna on Monday. PTI

## Private sector steps up hiring, but staff strength in most PSUs sees a decline

Of the top 15 listed PSUs, employee strength of a dozen dipped in FY22

PRANAV MUKUL  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

A MAJORITY of the top 15 listed PSUs by market capitalisation continued to witness a shrinking of their headcount, an analysis of the annual reports, including for the latest financial year 2021-22 (FY 22), showed. This trend was seen across sectors from banking and manufacturing to energy and minerals.

Barring, SBI Life Insurance and IRCTC, which reported an expansion in headcount during FY22, and LIC, which has not yet reported its numbers for the year-ended March 31, 2022, all companies in the list have been reporting a decline in the number of employees for the past several years.

The *Indian Express* had reported Monday that eight out of top 10 private companies by market capitalisation had added over 3 lakh to their human resource during 2021-22. Within the private sector, the year witnessed maximum hiring in services – particularly retail, IT services and banking – as companies tapped into Tier-2,

Tier-3 and Tier-4 cities for manpower. The companies included Reliance Industries Ltd, Infosys and TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Bajaj Finance, and Maruti Suzuki Ltd.

India's largest bank SBI last witnessed an increase in the number of its employees in 2017-18, when it added 71,000 employees following the merger of its five associate banks and Bharatiya Mahila Bank during the year. Even prior to that, the bank was witnessing a steady decline in staff strength. SBI's subsidiary SBI Cards and Payments too saw a decline over the last three years to 3,774 people on its rolls as of March 31, 2022, compared to 3,967 as of March 31, 2020.

Bank of Baroda has been witnessing a reduction in its employee headcount for the last two years, after witnessing a bump on account of amalgamation of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with effect from April 1, 2019. The bank had 79,806 people on its rolls as of March 31, 2022, down from 84,283 employees as of March 31, 2020.

Coal India Ltd employee CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## In Kabul, Taliban celebrates 1 yr in power but few civilians, no women



EXPRESS IN KABUL  
NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN  
AUGUST 15

HUNDREDS of Taliban fighters took to the streets of Kabul on Monday to celebrate the first anniversary of their takeover of Afghanistan, riding in open pickup trucks, holding automatic

guns and waving their group's white-and-black flags.

The Taliban regime marked the occasion with sedate victory speeches by senior leaders inside a state-media auditorium in the high-security Green Zone, close to the Indian Embassy. But few civilians, either on the streets or indoors, took part in the celebrations – and no women at all.

However, a small group of women reportedly met in secret at a house in Kabul to mark their protest, and pledged to continue their resistance against the Taliban. A statement by the group, RAWA (Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan), denounced the

Taliban for being anti-women and blamed the US for the "planned" handover of power last year.

On the streets, fighters congregated through the day at a prominent roundabout in Kabul named after Ahmad Shah Massoud, whose Northern Alliance was the main resistance to the Taliban in the 1990s before he was killed by an Al Qaeda suicide bomber two days ahead of the 9/11 attacks in the US.

"We defeated America, and we won our independence. That is what we are celebrating here," said Abdul Qahar Agha Jan, from Laghman province, south of Kabul. He said he was working



Taliban fighters gather in Kabul to mark a year since their takeover of Afghanistan, on Monday. Nirupama Subramanian

in the Ministry of Defence.

He said the decision to congregate at Massoud Circle, close to the US Embassy, was a message that the Taliban now rule Afghanistan. "We are in power. This place belongs to all Afghans. We also want to tell other mujahideen and the family members of Ahmad Shah Massoud that they come here and live with us in peace," said Agha Jan.

Some of the fighters were holding posters of the Haqqani group patriarch, Jalaluddin Haqqani, who died in 2018. A middle-aged Taliban delivered a speech denouncing the recent US drone strike in Kabul to kill Ayman Al-Zawahiri, and declared

that the Americans were "lying" that they had eliminated the Al Qaeda leader.

One group of Taliban in the back of a sand-coloured Toyota pick-up were dressed in US army uniforms with American military gear – night-vision equipment, goggles, sand-coloured face masks and M4 automatic carbines. As religious songs blared from portable public address systems, a Taliban holding an M4 said the weapon had been left behind by the "Amreeki" while another held a Soviet-era gun, boasting that it "worked very well".

Across the roundabout was a huge concrete security wall around a government ministry, painted with slogans hailing the Taliban's victory last year. "Freedom is as beautiful as spring," one slogan proclaimed. "The people are our own, and we are from the people," another read.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

### INSIDE

#### AFGHAN MISSIONS ABROAD SLAM TALIBAN REGIME P7

#### U.S. BIPARTISAN BILL FOR CITIZENSHIP TO AFGHANS P10

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pick-up were dressed in US army uniforms with American military gear – night-vision equipment, goggles, sand-coloured face masks and M4 automatic carbines. As religious songs blared from portable public address systems, a Taliban holding an M4 said the weapon had been left behind by the "Amreeki" while another held a Soviet-era gun, boasting that it "worked very well".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## FROM PAGE ONE

## PM's Independence Day speech

We have been casually using language and words that are insulting to women. Can we not pledge to get rid of everything in our behaviour, culture and everyday life that humiliates and demeans women? The pride of women will be a huge asset in fulfilling the dreams of the nation. I see this women's power ("naarishakti") and therefore insist on it," he said.

He laid out five key resolutions, which he called the "Panch Pran", including the "big resolution" of making India a developed country.

Detailing the challenges that the country faces in the period leading to the centenary year, Modi said, "I do not want to discuss everything but would definitely want to focus on two issues. One is corruption and the other is nepotism ("bhai-bhatijawad") and the dynasty system ("parivarwad")...If we do not take corrective steps in time, these can become formidable."

In his 82-minute speech, which started at 7.35 am, the Prime Minister also spoke about a range of other key issues that, he said, need to be addressed: self-reliance ("Atmanirbhar Bharat"); need for innovation ("anusandhaan"); cleansing ("shuddhikaran") of politics and institutions from a "family mentality"; ensuring cooperative federalism that is also competitive; and, respect for women.

His "Panch Pran" included making India a developed country by 2047; abandoning the mentality of servitude; taking pride in heritage; ensuring unity and solidarity; and, performing the duty of citizens.

Modi said the occasion is also "an opportunity to also solemnly acknowledge" the debt of those who fought for India's freedom and "pledge to fulfil their dreams at the earliest with deep resolve". Listing several personalities in this context, he said: "All the countrymen are deeply in-

debted to Pujya Bapu (Mahatma Gandhi), Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Babasaheb Ambedkar, Veer Savarkar, who devoted all their life on the path of duty towards the nation."

Modi also invoked the country's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru while listing the "great men" who "fought the war of independence and built the country after independence" — like Dr Rajendra Prasad ji, Nehru ji, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Deendayal Upadhyay, Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Acharya Vinoba Bhava, Nanaji Deshmukh, Subramania Bharathi.

Even so, a sizable part of the speech — his ninth from Red Fort as Prime Minister — was devoted to tackling corruption and nepotism. Asserting that India's fight against corruption was entering a "decisive period", Modi said "even bigwigs will not be spared". "In a country like India where people are fighting poverty... on one side, there are people who do not have a place to live, on the other side, there are people who do not have a place to keep their ill-gotten money," he said.

"This is not an ideal condition. Therefore, we have to fight against corruption with full vigour," Modi said, adding that the Government has been successful in working for the betterment of the country by saving Rs 2 lakh crore, which used to "go to the wrong hands", by using modern systems like Direct Benefit Transfer and Aadhaar.

"Those who fled the country after looting banks during the tenure of the previous government, we have seized their property and are trying to get them back. Some have been forced to go behind bars," he said.

Corruption, he said, is hollowing the country like termites. "It is our effort that those who

have looted the country are forced to return (the loot). We are trying to create that situation... With this attitude, India is marching in a decisive period against corruption," he said.

Striking a personal note, Modi said, "I have to fight against it, intensify the fight and have to take it to a decisive point. So, my 130 crore countrymen, please bless me and support me. Today I have come to seek your support and cooperation so that I can fight this battle..."

Without naming any entity or individual, the Prime Minister said that it is "a matter of great concern that although abhorrence of corruption in the country is visible and expressed, sometimes generosity is shown towards the corrupt, which is not acceptable in any country".

He said, "And many people have been so shameless that despite being convicted in court, having been proved corrupt, having been sentenced to imprisonment, while still serving time in jail, they continue to glorify, take pride and continue to elevate their status."

"Such mentality won't change," he said, "unless we develop towards corruption and the corrupt, and relegate these people to social shaming".

Moving on to the other key challenge, Modi said, "When I talk about nepotism, people think that I am only talking about politics. No, unfortunately that evil in the political field has nurtured nepotism in every institution of India."

Against the backdrop of India finishing fourth in the Commonwealth Games, he said, "It is not that our sons and daughters, the youth of India, are not achieving anything in the world of sports. But sadly they have been pushed out due to the nepotism channel. The ones that qualified to reach the competition in other countries were least bothered about winning medals

for the country. But when transparency was reinstated, selection was on merit and talent was honoured on playgrounds. It is a moment of pride today to see the Tricolor flying high and the national anthem reverberating at stadiums globally."

Hitting out at dynasty politics, Modi said it "is aimed at the welfare of a family only and doesn't care about the welfare of the country". "Aiye Hindustan ki rajneeti ke shuddhikaran aur sabhi santhaon kis shuddhi ke liye kadam badhayen (Come, let's move forward and clean India's politics and institutions)," he said. The PM also stressed on the need for the country to set its own standards. "The slave mentality has to be abandoned. How long will the world continue to give certificates to us? How long will we live on the certificates of the world?"

Discussing the Government's focus on "Atmanirbhar Bharat", Modi said, "We have to become self-reliant in the energy sector." In this context, he emphasised on the need for innovation, adding "Jai Anusandhan" to the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" which he said was the "inspirational call" of former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri to which "Jai Vigyan" was added by former prime minister A B Vajpayee.

On federalism, Modi said, "Our dreams are bound to be realised if we walk shoulder to shoulder... Programmes may differ, working styles may differ, but resolutions can't differ, dreams for nation cannot be different... There are many states which have played a great role in taking the country forward, have led and worked as examples in many fields. This gives strength to our federalism. But today the need of the hour is that we need cooperative federalism as well as cooperative competitive federalism. We need competition for development."

Ticketing platform IRCTC, which had 1,971 people on its rolls as of March 31 this year, saw a decline in 2020-21 to 1,417 from 1,446 employees in 2019-20. SBI Life Insurance has also been seeing a consistent rise in headcount over the past several years to 18,515 people as of March 31, 2022 from 13,207 as of March 31, 2018.

## Collegium

(2019) made 130 recommendations for the high courts and 14 for the Supreme Court.

CJI Ranamna's tenure also saw the most appointments being cleared by the government. While the government appointed 266 judges to the high courts in Justice Ranamna's time as CJI, only 104 appointments were made when Justice Bobde was CJI and 107 when Justice Gogoi held the post.

The government Sunday appointed 11 additional judges to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

A three-member collegium makes recommendations for judge appointments to high courts and a five-member collegium makes recommendations for the Supreme Court. The CJI Ramana-led collegium for high court appointments comprised Justices Lalit (CJI-designate) and A M Khanwilkar, who retired on July 29. The next collegium headed by Justice Lalit will also include Justices D Y Chandrachud and Sanjay Kishan Kaul.

The Supreme Court's strength will be at 30 when CJI Ramana retires on August 26. Three more judges, Justices Lalit, Indira Banerjee and Hemant Gupta, are expected to retire this year.

## Berozgari refrain

strength dropped from 2.48 lakh as on March 31, 2022, compared with 3.83 lakh eleven years ago in 2010-11. Power generation major NTPC had also last reported an increase in its number of employees a decade ago. At the end of 2011-12, NTPC had 25,511 employees and since then, its numbers have fallen consistently to 17,474 as of March 31 this year.

Upstream oil company ONGC,

which had 27,165 employees as of March-end this year, last recruited in 2015-16. It had 33,927 people on its rolls at the end of March 2016. Privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has also reported a steady decline in the number of employees since 2013-14. At the end of 2013-14, BPCL reported 13,214 employees — one person more than it had as of March 31, 2012 — and has witnessed a fall to 8,594 as of March 31, 2022.

GAIL India saw a net addition to its headcount five years back in 2016-17, when it reported 22,604 employees. It has since witnessed a fall to 17,828 people as of March 31, 2022. India's biggest state-owned oil marketing company Indian Oil has been witnessing a decline in employee numbers since 2018-19. It had 31,254 employees at the end of 2021-22, compared with 33,498 at the end of 2018-19.

Modi said people should hate the corrupt and hold them in contempt — a new framing in the fight against corruption. With leaders of parties such as the Aam Aadmi Party, whose crusade against corruption is its main political plank,

and the Congress, finding themselves in the crosshairs of the law now, he solicited peoples' support to emerge victorious in this fight.

The second key challenge confronting the nation, according to Modi was *pariwaarwad* (dynasty politics) and *bhai-bhatijawad* (nepotism); this was not just limited to the political sphere, but other institutions and sectors too.

The PM has talked about it many times, most recently at the three-day BJP national executive meeting in early July. It assumes significance now as the BJP is gearing up for a poll battle in Telangana, where the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led TRS is accused of being dynastic in its style of functioning. While the BJP has to engage in a bitter electoral fight with Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh and RJD in Bihar, where it recently lost its government and ally to arch-rival Lalu Prasad-led RJD, in the south the party has to face parties like DMK, YSRCP and TRS — all are accused of being run by families — to expand its footprints.

All this points to the larger political campaign plan for 2024 on these twin planks of "corruption" and "nepotism" — something that he is familiar with, has used in the run-up to the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, and knows that it continues to resonate among the electorate.

## PSUs

strength dropped from 2.48 lakh as on March 31, 2022, compared with 3.83 lakh eleven years ago in 2010-11. Power generation major NTPC had also last reported an increase in its number of employees a decade ago. At the end of 2011-12, NTPC had 25,511 employees and since then, its numbers have fallen consistently to 17,474 as of March 31 this year.

Upstream oil company ONGC,

which had 27,165 employees as of March-end this year, last recruited in 2015-16. It had 33,927 people on its rolls at the end of March 2016. Privatisation-bound Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has also reported a steady decline in the number of employees since 2013-14. At the end of 2013-14, BPCL reported 13,214 employees — one person more than it had as of March 31, 2012 — and has witnessed a fall to 8,594 as of March 31, 2022.

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CORONAVIRUS  
IN THE CAPITAL

VACCINATIONS IN

LAST 24 HOURS

19,530

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL: 594

OXYGEN SUPPORT 144

VENTILATOR SUPPORT 19

DELHI TOTAL CASES

19,85,822

HOSPITAL BEDS 9,415

ICU BEDS 2,129

Deaths 1,925

Tests 17,106

Aug 14 2,162 1,832 5 17,106

Aug 15 1,227 2,130 8 8,421

Total 7,519\* 19,85,822 26,389 3,97,29,246

\*Total active cases in Delhi

Vacant 8,828

Noida Aug 14 124

Cases N/A

Deaths 0

Gurgaon

Cases 382 357

Deaths 0 0

# Need 5 yrs to change entire system... did it in Delhi: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

DELHI CHIEF Minister Arvind Kejriwal Monday said free education and healthcare are not 'freebies' and that access to these can eliminate poverty in one generation and help make India the number one in the world.

"We just need five years and we can change the entire system, from education to health, in the country," said the CM, speaking on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day celebrations at Chhatrasal Stadium Monday.

Paying homage to freedom fighters, Kejriwal said, "In the last 75 years, the country has made good progress and it's time to celebrate all that on this auspicious day. But while celebrating the success, we should also think about current challenges and what path we should choose in the future. Today, people are asking why India is still behind several countries... even those that got freedom after us."

Hinting at AAP's expansion, Kejriwal added: "India has a population of 130 crore and around 27 crore children go to school... 10 crore study in private schools and 17 crore in government schools. I am not saying conditions of all government schools are bad but there are several thousands of schools across the country which are in poor shape... Earlier, Delhi government schools were in the same condition but we changed that in just five years," he said.

"Humare desh mein sab kuch hai par system kharab hai... Delhi mein bhi system kharab tha... ye system theek karna padega, hum Delhi walon ko system theek kar aa gaya... humne Delhi mein theek kar ke dikhaya hai... ab poore desh mein system theek karna hai, sarkari school, hospitals theek karne hain aur ye sirf 5 saal mein ho sakta hai... jaise Delhi mein sirf

*saal mein sarkari schools theek hue aise pure desh ki school theek ho sakte hain* (We have everything in our country but the system is broken... In Delhi too, the system was broken... We changed the system, now we have to do the same for the country... we can fix the issues plaguing our schools in just five years... like in Delhi)," he said.

On the 'free ki revdi' row, Kejriwal requested the opposition not to call schemes provided to ordinary citizens 'freebies'. "I want to tell you all with folded hands that education is not a freebie... Parents skip meals to provide good education to their children... if there is fund scarcity, we people of India will skip a meal and provide good education to all..."

He also said the condition of hospitals was in shambles but the AAP government, after coming to power, improved infrastructure. "Today, even the rich from areas like Greater Kailash go to mohalla clinics for treatment... On average, the government spends only Rs 2,000 per person annually... The entire country's population is 130 crore and if we provide free healthcare to all, it will cost Rs 2.5 lakh crore only... The Centre and state governments just have to spend a little more to provide better healthcare system to the public," he said.

Kejriwal further said, "Instead of providing health insurance, construct hospitals and mohalla clinics... The country needs hospitals, mohalla clinics and medicines; insurance won't do. In five years, we can open hospitals across the country. In five years, we can ensure every citizen has access to free and fantastic healthcare."

The event saw more than 3,000 students from government schools as well as teachers in attendance. Under the 'Har Haath Tiranga' campaign, the government also distributed 25 lakh flags across Delhi.



Navy personnel march during the 76th Independence Day function at the Red Fort, Monday. PTI

## Overcast sky does little to dampen I-Day at Red Fort; aerial displays a treat for visitors

ARNAV CHANDRASEKHAR  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

DESPITE AN overcast sky earlier in the day, the atmosphere remained festive among guests who arrived for Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort Monday. The event was kicked off by two helicopters that rained down petals on the crowd. The aerial display did not stop there. After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address, guests were surprised by a large number of balloons in shades of the Tricolour, many of them with flags.

Guests and onlookers crowded the railings for a glimpse of the PM as he descended to greet young delegates of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and state representatives. Tourists, who arrived after security measures were lifted, thronged the grounds to check out the multi-metre floral decorations and took selfies with the animatronic elephants on the premises.

Outside, on the streets, stalls popped up to take advantage of the crowds heading to the fort, with kulfis and flag pin sellers navigating the traffic. At a distance from the restricted zone, kites, many of them in colours of



Tricolour balloons at the ceremony. PTI

the national flag, were spotted in the sky.

Visitors were pleasantly surprised by the changes this year. Delhi resident Sanjay Soni said, "I

have come to the Independence Day ceremony before, and it always looks good. However, they have done very well with decorations and other things this year."

There were first-time attendees as well. Saroj, who brought his family along, said, "This is the first time I have come to the Red Fort on Independence Day and I'm very impressed. I wish I had come a little earlier and avoided some of the crowd. I will definitely come next year as well."

Attendees also braved language barriers. Karthik from Tamil Nadu said, "It is a little hard getting around here. But it is a small thing to deal with to see the Red Fort. I wanted to come since it is the 75th anniversary of Independence."

For Himanshu Wadhawan, it was the satisfaction of seeing his own work on display. "Staff from my father's company and I worked hard on the seating arrangements and flooring for the ceremony as well as arrangements near the rampart. It was definitely challenging," he said.

Meanwhile, police sources said traffic was heavy in the New Delhi district with over 10,000-15,000 people visiting India Gate while over 15,000 people visited Red Fort. "We provided commuters with alternate routes in New Delhi such as Sher Shah road, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, and Shahjahan Road. At Red Fort, people were advised to take the

Turkman Gate route, Asaf Ali road, ISBT bridge etc," said an officer from the traffic unit.

## NCC cadets meet PM

After the Prime Minister's speech ended, members of the NCC selected to attend the ceremony had the opportunity to speak to him in the minutes before security measures were relaxed. Among them was Vishal Sharma from Jammu and Kashmir, a student of the Government Degree College in Udhampur. He said: "We had been preparing for the event for 15 days and we finally got to meet the PM. Many dream of participating in the Independence Day ceremony but for us, it came true."

Rajesh from Government Degree College in Saidapet, Telangana, said: "Many of us are in Delhi for the first time... It is amazing to see these famous monuments, especially while attending such an important event."

Many cadets made the most of their time in Delhi despite a busy schedule. Vishal said: "We made sure to see the main landmarks such as India Gate. After all, one cannot leave Delhi without seeing these historical places."



Govt school students at Chhatrasal Stadium



Kejriwal at Chhatrasal Stadium on Monday. Praveen Khanna

## Property dealer shot dead at point blank range

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

A 40-YEAR-OLD property dealer was shot dead by unknown assailants in Southeast Delhi's Jamia Nagar Sunday. Police said the victim was identified as Waseef Sattar Ghazi. CCTV visuals appear to show two bike-borne assailants hitting the victim's bike and knocking him down before shooting him at close range.

Police said information was received from Holy Family Hospital that a man with a bullet injury was declared dead on arrival. Police said the victim was on his motorcycle when the assailants came on a scooter and fired at him near the Moosa Masjid.

Esha Pandey, DCP (Southeast), said: "A case has been registered under section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code and Arms Act sections 25 (punishment for offences) 27 (punishment for using arms), Arms rule 54 (renewal of license) and Arms rule 59 (proof test of firearms). CCTV footage from nearby spots is being checked."

## Working at Air Force station, labourer dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

A 40-YEAR-OLD labourer died and four others sustained injuries while constructing a column at a building inside the Air Force Station, Delhi Cantt.

The victim and his wife had been working at the site for over three weeks, constructing a mess building. Other workers alleged they had asked the construction supervisor and contractor to provide them with safety equipment but were denied the same.

Police have registered a case based on the workers' complaints under IPC sections 288 (negligent conduct with respect to pulling down or repairing buildings) and 304A (causing death by negligence) against the contractor and supervisor. No arrest has been made so far. Senior officials at the Delhi Cantt said an enquiry will be conducted against the contractor and supervisor.

The incident took place on August 10 in the afternoon. Around 5-6 labourers were making a column when it collapsed on them; they sustained injuries as heavy construction material fell on them. The deceased, Halle Kalyan, sustained injuries to his neck and died later. His wife, Seema, alleged that their employ-

**The victim's wife and other workers alleged they were not given safety gear**

ers did not help and Kalyan wasn't admitted to a hospital, which led to his death.

"We'd asked for safety equipment like a crane as we knew it would be dangerous to construct a column without it. But the supervisor said other workers have never asked for any equipment.. We were trying to make the column but couldn't balance it due to the height and weight of the material. It fell on us... They stopped work and gave us leave, saying it was Raksha Bandhan. The construction company owner, site supervisor and contractor didn't take us to any hospital for treatment," alleged Seema.

Kalyan went back home. Seema said he complained of headaches and neck pain. She took him to the hospital with the help of her neighbours but he was declared dead on arrival.

Kalyan is survived by his parents, wife and their two children. Seema and her family live in Delhi's Jharoda Kalan and hail from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh. She alleged that their employ-

## 4 bouncers assault Armyman, his brothers after argument over playing a song in Gurgaon

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
GURGAON, AUGUST 15

FOUR BOUNCERS were booked for allegedly beating up an Armyman and his two brothers with sticks after an argument over playing music at a club in Sector 29 on Sunday night. Police said two injured men were taken to a private hospital for treatment and later discharged. According to police, the incident took place around midnight.

In the FIR, the complainant, a native of Rohtak who is posted as a naik in the Army, said he and his brothers had gone to a club in sector 29 Sunday night. "We entered the club at 11.20 pm and enjoyed for over 20 minutes, following which the club stopped playing music. My brother requested a bouncer to play one song, but he did not play the song. The bouncer started arguing with us and took us downstairs... outside the club. At the time, two bouncers were in the club and immediately after coming outside, they started beating the three of us. Two more bouncers joined them. The four bouncers thrashed us with sticks. Among the victims, two brothers

## EXPLAINED Bouncer check

After the first incident last week, the Gurgaon Police commissioner had made police verification and background checks mandatory for all security staff working in the city's bars and clubs. Police had said legal action would be taken against those who have criminal antecedents and that the exercise would be completed by August 31.

The complainant added that he suffered an injury on his head, left hand and foot: "One of my brothers suffered injuries on his arms, shoulder and left foot. My other brother sustained injuries on his ribs, right thigh and his face. The bouncers then threatened to kill us and ran away."

A police officer said, "There was an argument over playing music in a club which escalated. Four bouncers beat up three men outside the club with sticks. Among the victims, two brothers

were taken to a hospital for treatment. One had a head injury while another suffered a fracture in his arm. An FIR has been registered against four bouncers. They are absconding; efforts are on to arrest them."

The Armyman told *The Indian Express*, "My brothers and I had gone there to have a good time. But the bouncers became unruly and attacked us after an argument over playing music. Four bouncers attacked us with sticks and a slugger. When I fell, they asked me to hand over my wallet also. I have a head injury and I am unable to walk. I am posted in Srinagar and had come on leave. I was supposed to join duty from Wednesday. My brother, who is in the Air Force, has suffered a fracture in his arm."

The FIR was registered against the accused under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) said police.

The incident comes days after six bouncers and the manager of club were arrested for allegedly beating up an MNC manager and his friends after they had confronted one of the bouncers for misbehaving with their woman friend.

## Help 'beaten, stripped' on suspicion of theft

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

A 28-YEAR-OLD woman has been arrested and her family members booked after they allegedly stripped and assaulted their 43-year-old domestic worker on suspicion of theft. Police said the family had called a 'tantrik' (occultist) to find out who among their employees had allegedly committed theft. Based on his 'verdict', the accused allegedly beat up the woman, who later attempted suicide.

Police said the incident took place in South Delhi's Maidangarhi on August 9 and was reported to them two days later. Police said the family members were booked for assault and criminal intimidation.

According to police, the family claimed they had lost gold jewellery and cash 10 months ago, so they called an occultist to find out who committed the theft. Police said he allegedly fed all domestic workers rice and lime.

The domestic help alleged in her complaint, "He (the occultist) said the mixture will turn red inside the thief's mouth. They kept it in my mouth and it turned red. He called me a thief. After this, my employer and her mother took me to the children's room and

tied my hands and legs with a rope. They forced me into accepting that I was a thief... The next day, around 6 am, my employers, their mother and their relative disrobed me. They assaulted me with a rolling pin, shoes and footwear. They also kicked me."

She was allegedly tied up for hours and assaulted by the family while she was undressed. She told police she admitted to the theft just so the accused would stop beating her up. "I told them I had hidden the jewellery in a box at my native place, and my employer sent my husband to fetch the stolen articles. They returned my clothes... When I went back to my room, I found a bottle of rat poison and ingested it. I was fed up with the torture... I thought death would be better than this..." she said, as per the FIR.

The woman was then taken to a hospital where an MLC was carried out and doctors found that she had injuries on her back and hands. Doctors also stated that she had consumed poison, and police were informed.

DCP (South) Benita Mary Jaiker said: "We arrested a woman named Seema Khatoon (28) from the same house. Other accused will soon be arrested."

The woman has been working at the house for two years.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Students pay tribute to freedom fighters and social reformers at Red Road, Kolkata, on Monday. Partha Paul



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow. AP



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in Guwahati. PTI



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde in Mumbai. Deepak Joshi



Slackliner Harshdeep Pawar walks a high-line rigged at a height of 250 ft in Mumbai. PTI



Spectators at the Attari-Wagah border in Amritsar. PTI



(Top) Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin in Chennai; BJP chief J P Nadda and Union Minister Piyush Goyal in New Delhi. Amit Mehra

30 CBI officials honoured with President's police medals

ENS & PTI  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

THIRTY OFFICERS and officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) were awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service by the President of India on the occasion of Independence Day, on Monday, the agency said in a press release.

Six officials were awarded the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service (PPMDS) while 24 officers were awarded the Police Medals for Meritorious Service (PMMS), the agency stated.

Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Alok Kumar, who has been tasked with preventing corruption within the agency, Deputy SPs Atul Hajela, Tejprakash Devrani and T.Sridharan, Sub-Inspector (SI) Gurmeet Singh, and Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Narpat Singh, received the PPMDS, it said.

Deputy Inspector General Keshav Ram, and Additional Legal Advisor Vijay Kumar Sharma, who were part of the investigation in the coal scam case were awarded the PMMS.

Other CBI officials who received the medal are: SP Sandeep Kumar Sharma; Additional SPs Suresh Kumar, Bhartendar Sharma and Bharat Bhushan Bhatt; Deputy SPs Karan Singh Rana, Subhash Pandey, Gulshan Mohan Rath, T.Selvakumar, Shri Bhagwan, and Manoj Kumar; Inspector Vijay Yadav; Sis Shabani Saha, Shashikant Rajaram Rajapure; ASIs Bishram Singh and Sham Singh; Head Constables Krishan Lal, Rajesh Babu Chauhan, Durga Singh and Tej Pal Singh; Constables Siby, P G and Ram Singh Dhami; and stenographer Dinesh Singh Pundir, the agency stated in a media release.

"It is not easy to handle the situation which you have in India. It

said his government is committed to providing reservation benefits to OBC, Maratha, and Dhingar communities.

**BIHAR**

The focus of Nitish Kumar's speech at Patna's Gandhi Maidan was on jobs. Nitish promised that the new government will create up to 20 lakh jobs within and outside the government. Nitish referred to his deputy, Tejashwi Yadav, who had promised 10 lakh jobs during the 2020 poll campaign. Tejashwi called it a "historic announcement".

**UTTAR PRADESH**

Yogi Adityanath, in his speech, said "service, security and good governance" are his government's priorities. He said the UP administration is working on a plan to develop Ayodhya along the lines of "divine Kashi Vishwanath Dham". Work is also going on for overall development of other religious places such as Braj Bhumi and Naimisharanya.

**MAHARASHTRA**

Eknath Shinde said the state has begun its journey to becoming a leader of the country and his government has not stayed any public welfare scheme. After hoisting the national flag, Shinde

announced an increase in eligibility criteria of beneficiaries under the National

Food Security Act from Rs 10,000 per month income to Rs 15,000. He also said 1 kg chana (gram) will be provided to each NFSA card holder at concessional rates. Patel made the announcements at an event at Modasa in Aravalli.

**TAMIL NADU**

Chief Minister M K Stalin said the freedom struggle did not begin in 1857 but much earlier. "For some, the freedom struggle began only with the sepoy mutiny in 1857, but Tamils had started it long before that." He announced a museum in Chennai that will document Tamil Nadu's 260-year contribution to India's freedom struggle as well as an increase in the government's pension for freedom fighters to Rs 20,000.

**WEST BENGAL**

Mamata Banerjee, in a series of tweets, said she wants to build a nation where no one goes hungry, no woman feels unsafe and where no oppressive forces divide people. She said Indians must uphold dignity of democratic values.

**GUJARAT**

Bhupendra Patel announced an increase in eligibility criteria of beneficiaries under the National

lakh minor cases, including those related to social media posts, registered before midnight of August 14 to lessen the "burden on the lower judiciary".

**MADHYA PRADESH**

Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that a memorial of RSS founder K B Hedgewar will be built in Balaghat district's Rampayli for his contribution to "awakening the spirit of swaraj and the freedom struggle". Another memorial — "Veer Bharat Smarak" — will be built in Bhopal to showcase the lifestyle of freedom fighters and revolutionaries from MP, he said.

**KARNATAKA**

Basavaraj Bommai announced a new scheme to provide employment to one family member of soldiers killed in line of duty. Among other new initiatives, the CM said Rs 250 crore will be allocated for a clean and hygienic environment in government schools and colleges for increasing toilet coverage, and a

loan subsidy of Rs 50,000 to backward class and SC artisans.

**KERALA**

Pinarayi Vijayan said "we can realise freedom fighters' dream as a country that incorporates its rich diversity" only by retaining federal principles. Vijayan said his government is going ahead with programmes to bridge the digital divide, eradicate extreme poverty, and address homelessness.

**PUNJAB**

Bhagwant Mann expressed concern about the state's youth immigrating abroad due to unemployment. Urging the youth to remain in Punjab, he assured that his government would "open new medical colleges, schools and stadiums in Punjab so that your children get all the opportunities here".

**FROM ENS LUCKNOW, MUMBAI, PATNA, KOLKATA, AHMEDABAD, CHENNAI, GUWAHATI, BHOPAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, BENGALURU, CHANDIGARH**

**Self-absorbed govt trivialising India's achievements: Sonia**

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

A DAY after BJP questioned Jawaharlal Nehru's role in the Partition of India, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Monday said the party will strongly oppose misrepresentation of history for "political gains" by putting icons of the independence movement "on the dock based on lies".

In her message on the occasion of Independence Day, Sonia said attempts to "trivialise" the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the "glorious achievements" made by the country can never be accepted.

"We have achieved a lot over the last 75 years but what can never be accepted is that the current self-absorbed government is hell bent on trivialising the great sacrifices made by our freedom fighters and the country's glorious achievements," Sonia said in her written message issued by the Congress. "The Indian National Congress strongly opposes misrepresentation of historical facts for political benefits and putting great national leaders like (Mahatma) Gandhi, Nehru, (Sardar) Patel and (Maulana) Azad on the dock based on lies."

Although the statement did not go into any specifics, it appeared to be aimed at BJP's account on the Partition, released on Sunday in the form of short video clips on social media. The clip, which obliquely questioned Nehru's role, was titled, "Where were those people who had the responsibility to fight against divisive forces?"

In a Facebook post in Hindi, Rahul Gandhi said, "We vow that we will always serve our country and its people, and will not allow divisions in the name of religion, sect, language at any cost." Asked about the PM's remarks on nepotism, he refused to comment.

Party general secretary (com-



Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra at AICC office in New Delhi. Prem Nath Pandey

**CONG: PM'S NEPOTISM REMARK LINKED TO BJP'S INTERNAL ISSUES**

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi's remarks on nepotism in his Independence Day speech is linked to the "BJP's internal issues", the Congress said Monday, taking a swipe at Home Minister Amit Shah and his son Jay Shah, BCCI secretary. "The statements made by him appear to be connected to the BJP's own dynastic matters. Maybe he was attacking the Home Minister or the External Affairs Minister whose son is part of a foreign think-tank. Perhaps he was attacking the Civil Aviation Minister or the son of the Defence Minister," Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said. ENS

munication) Jairam Ramesh alleged Hindutva ideologue V D Savarkar gave birth to two-nation theory and Mohd Ali Jinnah perfected it. "The real intent of the PM to mark Aug 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is to use most traumatic historical events as fodder for his current political battles."

**Challenges unique, must work together: Rijiju**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15



Law Minister Rijiju and CJI Ramana in Delhi. Amit Mehra

is very unique. It is very easy to pass comments and very easy to comment that the legislature should do this, executive should do that, the judiciary should finish all the pending cases...it is very easy to make sweeping comments," Rijiju said.

Speaking of the unique challenges, Rijiju said "it is not that any organ of our State is functioning less than the other one. The fact that our country is very unique, so are the challenges."

The minister pointed out that "each judge (in India) disposes of 40-50 cases in a day...judges of no other country have this kind of workload to handle".

"It is not easy to handle the situation which you have in India. It

is very unique. It is very easy to pass comments and very easy to comment that the legislature should do this, executive should do that, the judiciary should finish all the pending cases...it is very easy to make sweeping comments," Rijiju said.

He said unlike the UK, where an MP constituency doesn't have more than 70,000 voters, an MP in India represents an average 3-million people. Besides attending

to their concerns, the MP also has to perform his Parliamentary duties. "The only other country which is larger than India in size and population is China, which is not democratic. So, no country can face the problems which India faces," Rijiju said.

Emphasising the need for all

the organs to work together, he said "if we don't work together, we

will not understand each other. If we don't understand each other, we will never be able to solve the problem of this country. We have to come together."

Speaking on the occasion,

CJI of India NV Ramana explained how the Covid-19 pan-

demic had disrupted work in the top court and left a backlog.

"The court has inherited the backlog of nearly a year on account of Covid. In last 16 months, we could physically assemble only for 55 days. I wish the situation were different and we could be more productive," he said.

The CJI said that "under the Constitutional framework, each organ has been given a unique obligation" and that securing justice to citizens is not the responsibility of the court alone which is made clear by Article 38 of the Constitution "which mandates the State to secure justice: social, economic and political".

In a Facebook post in Hindi,

Rahul Gandhi said, "We vow that we will always serve our country and its people, and will not allow divisions in the name of religion, sect, language at any cost."

Asked about the PM's remarks on nepotism, he refused to comment.

Party general secretary (com-

out mentioning their political affiliation. Later in the afternoon, the state secretariat issued a statement blaming a BJP-RSS gang for the murder. "It is the habit of BJP-RSS to kill CPM workers and then unleash a baseless campaign. In this case also, the BJP has started a false propaganda with the help of the media," read the statement.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who holds the Home portfolio, deplored the killing. Without giving any political colour for the killing, Vijayan said "stringent action will be taken against attempts to shatter peace. Police have been given direction to bring the culprits before law," he said in a Facebook post.

Around 2am on Monday, four hours after the murder, police booked eight RSS-BJP workers as the accused, all from Kottakkad, Kerala.

**BJP turns Bihar focus to Dalits, EBCs for '24 polls**

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
PATNA, HAJIPUR, SARAN,  
AUGUST 15



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

**NITISH CABINET EXPANSION TODAY**

**Patna:** The two-member cabinet in Bihar comprising CM Nitish Kumar and his deputy Tejashwi Prasad Yadav will be expanded on Tuesday when about 30 members will be inducted from different constituents of the Grand Alliance. According to sources, the swearing-in will take place at 11.30 am. Among the invitees could be RJD chief Lalu Prasad. The state cabinet can have up to 36 ministers, including the CM.

It is these caste contradictions that the BJP is now hoping

that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has sought to forge now. After snapping his ties with the BJP and taking oath as the CM for the 8th time at the head of the

Dalits make up 16 per cent of

Bihar's population. Paswans and Ravidasis account for about 5 per cent and 4 per cent of the state's population, respectively. Along with Musahars, these two communities constitute about 3/4th of the Dalit population in the state.

While Yadavs make up about 14 per cent of the state's population and Muslims 17 per cent, the biggest chunk of voters, about 30 per cent, are said to be in the EBC group. Upper caste Hindus make up around 13-14% of the population and the rest are non-Yadav OBCs. "We have around 40 per cent votes with us. But they (Mahagathbandhan) have 60 per cent as it is a big alliance. We have to find a way to get those extra 10-12% votes. And for that we can't just depend on Modi magic. We have been focusing on EBCs in the past few years. Renu Devi, an EBC leader, was appointed deputy CM in the previous government," a BJP leader said.

**FULL REPORT ON**

[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

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Around 2am on Monday, four hours after the murder, police booked eight RSS-BJP workers as the accused, all from Kottakkad, Kerala.

Suresh told the media,

"It is too early to talk about the motive behind the murder. Prima facie, there is no evidence to suggest that it was a political murder. A detailed probe is on. We have identified all the accused persons," he said.

Earlier in the day, an eyewitness named Suresh told the media that there had been eight persons in the gang and two of them had hacked Shahajan. "These persons had been with the CPM in the past. Two of them, Sabarees and Aneesh, who hacked Shahajan, had been party members. They had a dispute over subscribing to the CPM daily Deshabhimani, which Shahajan was not subscribing to. One of the accused, Suresh, is my son," Suresh told the media.



## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



## THREE CHEERS

MORE THAN 5 crore Tiranga selfies have been uploaded on the Har Ghar Tiranga website. The website allowed people to digitally 'pin a flag' at a location based on their IP. This feature saw a huge draw, with participation from across India and the world crossing the 5-crore mark. The Culture Ministry, under minister G Kishan Reddy, had undertaken this initiative, asking Indians everywhere to display the flag at home or their place of work.

## SENT, NOT RECEIVED

INDEPENDENCE DAY celebrations organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in the top court's lawns usually sees attendance from the Union Law Minister every year. Addressing the celebrations on Monday, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, however, said he could not attend last year's event since he had not received the invite, even though, he said, SCBA's president, senior advocate Vikas Singh, had said that the invite had been sent. "Last year, the (SCBA) president told me he had sent the invitation. (But) I never received it," he said and quipped, "we left it inconclusive whose fault was that..." Rijiju said he is extremely delighted to be a confirmed participant at the event this year.

## HURDLE CROSSED

PROF ASHOK Banerjee, faculty at IIM-Calcutta, was recently appointed the new director of IIM-Udaipur. He succeeds Prof Janat Shah, the institute's director since its establishment in 2011. Although Banerjee's joining was announced only this month, his candidature for the post had been approved by IIM-Udaipur board at least a month ago, it is learnt. The formal appointment, however, faced a few hiccups, with the Education Ministry initially objecting to the Vigilance clearance provided by Banerjee's parent institution IIM-Calcutta. Apparently, some paragraphs in an audit report on Banerjee proved to be a problem. After a lot of back and forth and explanations given by IIM-Calcutta, it seems the paragraphs were eventually dropped from the report, which finally cleared the way for his appointment.

## Afghan missions slam Taliban, want travel ban back

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

THE TALIBAN have not only failed to deliver on their commitments but also "reenacted draconian policies", including systematically erasing women from public life, Afghan diplomatic missions across the world said on Monday, on the first anniversary of the fall of the democratically elected government in Kabul.

The missions in different countries also said the international community should reinforce the UN-mandated travel ban on certain Taliban leaders, as the group has misused travel-ban exemptions by refusing to engage in any meaningful dialogue for a political settlement".

They called on the international community and the UN to seek "pragmatic solutions" to the current economic, political and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan through putting in place all necessary measures to meet the urgent needs of the people of Afghanistan.

In New Delhi, the statement was put out by the Afghanistan embassy.

Most diplomatic missions of Afghanistan, including in India, are still functioning independently of the Taliban dispensation. At present, around 70 Afghan missions are in operation.

The missions said the killing of Al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in Kabul last month affirmed that the Taliban are hosting and sheltering a "coterie" of foreign terrorist groups.

The missions put forward seven points for consideration by the international community to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. These include, apart from the travel ban, enlisting new

individuals in the sanction regime, coordinated measures to address "dangerous threat" emanating from the presence of foreign terrorist groups in the country.

The missions specifically urged the international community to "reinforce the UN travel ban for Taliban leaders [concerned], as the group has continuously misused travel-ban exemptions by refusing to engage in any meaningful dialogue for a political settlement".

They called on the international community and the UN to seek "pragmatic solutions" to the current economic, political and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan through putting in place all necessary measures to meet the urgent needs of the people of Afghanistan.

"Afghan citizens are deprived of basic services and face grave human rights abuses and violations, poverty, repression, and fear," they stated.

A year on since the takeover, the statement said, the Taliban have "not only totally failed to deliver on all their commitments but re-enacted draconian policies and directives."

"Among others, the group has banned girls from attending secondary education and systematically erased women and girls from public life by restricting their fundamental rights to work and play an active role in society," it added.

## Citizens' freedom can't be taken away: journalist Kappan's child

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MALAPPURAM (KERALA), AUGUST 15

AS INDIA celebrated its 76th Independence Day, the nine-year-old daughter of Malayali journalist Siddique Kappan – jailed under the UAPA in the Hathras conspiracy case – said that "ordinary citizens' freedom be not taken away".

"I am the daughter of a journalist who has been left to languish in jail by being denied the

basic civil rights available to all Indian citizens," is how she began her Independence Day speech at her school on Monday, a video of which has gone viral.

In her speech, she said that every Indian has the right to resist or oppose; they have the choice to decide what to speak, eat or which religion to profess. She further said that there was still unrest in the country as it was evident from the violence on the basis of religion, colour or politics and that the same should be "rooted out with love and unity".

Close on the heels of Mondal's

arrest on August 11, minister and TMC leader Chandrima Bhattacharya had said that "Party has zero tolerance on corruption. The accused should prove their innocence before the law."

This was in line with the stance the TMC took a fortnight earlier when party heavyweight

Partha Chatterjee was arrested by the ED over his alleged role in the teacher recruitment scam. The ED also arrested Chatterjee's associate Arpita Mukherjee and recovered over Rs 50 crore from her flats in Kolkata.

Swinging into action, Mamata had then sacked Chatterjee from her cabinet and suspended him from the TMC, even as her nephew and second-in-command Abhishek Banerjee had distanced the party from the seized cash.

Explained

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However, rising in defence of Mondal, Mamata on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the BJP-led Centre, asserting that she will stand by the Birbhum party

strongman and

announced to "start a movement" against alleged excesses of the central agencies like the ED and the CBI.

"What has Keshto (Mondal) done? What evidence you have against him? I asked him to go to Rajya Sabha, but he declined saying he would love to work for the party organi-

party's old guard and its youth leadership".

A senior TMC leader said, "Abhishek is a young leader. Didi (Mamata) is a veteran politician. She can clearly see that after the arrest of Mondal, many people in the party are getting anxious, especially after the party sought to leave him to fight his own battle with a central agency. Didi understands that such a feeling among party rank and file is dangerous. So Mamata stood by Anubrata and asked the party to gear up to face such battles." Full Report On

www.indianexpress.com

## Why Mamata is throwing her weight behind Anubrata Mondal

ATRIMITRA  
KOLKATA, AUGUST 15



Anubrata Mondal

DAYS AFTER the Trinamool Congress (TMC) sought to distance itself from its Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal after he was arrested by the CBI in a cattle-smuggling case, the West Bengal Chief Minister and party supremo, Mamata Banerjee, has made it clear now that the party will stand by Mondal, who has been remanded in the CBI custody till August 20.

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arrest on August 11, minister and TMC leader Chandrima Bhattacharya had said that "Party has zero tolerance on corruption. The accused should prove their innocence before the law."

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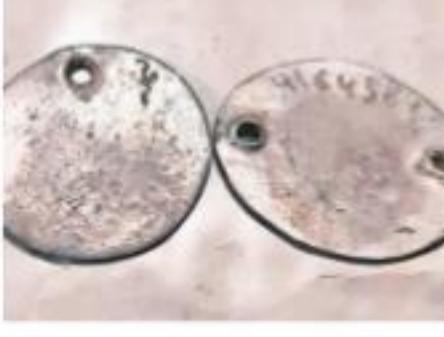
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www.indianexpress.com

## Soldier's remains found in Siachen after 38 years

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, AUGUST 15



Lance Naik Chandrashekhar Singh's mortal remains were identified from the Army disc. Express

alanche on May 29, 1984, on way to Shankar Top. He was identified

from an Army disc, the PRO said, adding that details about the soldier were retrieved from the Army records.

The remains will be handed over to Lance Naik Chandrashekhar's family in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, soon, he added. The family of Lance Naik Chandrashekhar, which included his wife Shanti Devi and two daughters, bade him a beaverheart's farewell, Lt Colonel Abhinav said.

Lance Naik Chandrashekhar's wife Shanti Devi, originally from Almora, currently lives in Haldwani's Saraswati Vihar

Colony. Haldwani sub-collector Manish Kumar and Tehsildar Sanjay Kumar, who reached Shanti Devi's house, said his last rites will be performed with full military honours.

Shanti Devi said at the time, they were married for nine years and that she was 28. Their elder daughter at the time was four and the younger one was one-and-a-half years old.

Shanti Devi said she was proud of her husband as he prioritised his service towards the country. According to information available, Lance Naik Chandrashekhar, a resident of

Dwarahat in Almora, had enlisted in the Army in 1975.

Operation Meghdoot was launched by the Indian Armed Forces to take control of Siachen Glacier on the morning of April 13, 1984, pre-empting Pakistan's designs to capture it.

The Army PRO said bodies of 12 of the 20 soldiers were recovered during a search operation, while the remains of the rest, including Lance Naik Chandrashekhar Singh's, were never found.

But as the fate would have it, 38 years later, a patrol party of Rajasthan Rifles came across a

shelter that seemingly had been destroyed by an avalanche. During search of the surroundings, they stumbled upon the remains, torn clothes and an Army disc, he said.

"The sacrifice made by this soldier shows the spirit of the Indian army which is 'Service before self'. His devotion to duty is manifested as even though the terrain is unforgivable, the climate ghastly, he still kept advancing and eventually made the supreme sacrifice. This discovery augmented the sense of duty of every soldier who is currently serving in the Siachen Glacier," Lt Col Abhinav said. (WITH PTI INPUTS)

## MUMBAI TRAIN BLASTS CASE

## Convict seeks inquiry into police report on accused

SAGAR RAJPUT

MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

A 56-YEAR-OLD jeweller has been arrested from Borivali for allegedly dialling the helpline number of South Mumbai-based HN Reliance Foundation Hospital and issuing death threats to Mukesh Ambani, the chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries Ltd.

Police said the incident took place between 10.39 am and 12.04 pm on Monday when the accused, identified as Vishnu Vidhu Bhaumik, called at the hospital nine times and issued death threats. In one of the calls, the accused identified himself as Afzal, and stated that he may do something in the next three hours.

An official from DB Marg police station said, "He abused the receiver and later gave death threats to Mukesh Ambani. He even gave a reference of late Dhirubhai Ambani."

Soon after the last call, a security officer lodged a complaint.

DCP Neelopal (zone II) said, "We have registered a case under Section 506 (II) (criminal intimidation) of the IPC."

Simultaneously, the investigators started tracing the culprit, when the accused was located at his residence in Borivali (west).

"He had used his own mobile phone to call and through his call data record he was traced to his house," added another investigator.

"Bhaumik also owns a jewellery shop in south Mumbai," added another investigator.

"He was arrested on Monday and we also want to know the reason for calling," said an officer.

was listed as an absconding accused in the Mumbai train blast case, the report said. It concluded in the final report that he had committed suicide due to mental stress and that there was no foul play in the death.

Siddiqui has also specifically referred to the deposition of three witnesses, seeking action against them for perjury. One of the witnesses referred to is a man who deposed that he had seen Razzak at the home of convict Faisal Shaikh in 2006 along with three Pakistani men. Two of these men were claimed to have been dead.

Relying on the report, Siddiqui has sought further investigation stating that Razzak was lodged in jail during that period and could not have been in Mumbai or brought Pakistani men to the city. The prosecution had also claimed that Razzak had helped the three Pakistani men enter India from the Gujarat border in 2006.

Before the special court in another plea, the prosecution has been asked to file a reply to Siddiqui's plea and the case is likely to be heard later this week. An appeal filed by those convicted in the case is pending before the Bombay HC. Siddiqui has been approaching various forums stating that the investigation has not been proper. The special court in 2015 had concluded that the case where 188 persons had lost their lives fell in the 'rare of rare' category and sentenced five, including Siddiqui, to death penalty.

When contacted, ATS Maharashtra chief Vineet Agarwal, did not respond to messages.

## Two injured in separate grenade attacks in J&amp;K

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, AUG 15

injured. He has been shifted to Srinagar hospital for treatment where his condition is stated to be stable. Area cordoned off. Further details shall follow," a police spokesman tweeted.

"Terrorists hurled grenade at Police Control Room Kashmir, resulting in minor injuries to one policeman. Area cordoned off," he said in another tweet.

In another incident, A police man, who was injured in an encounter in Srinagar's Nowhattan Independence Day eve, succumbed to injuries on Monday.

Consequently, a police man, who was injured in an encounter in Srinagar's Nowhattan Independence Day eve, succumbed to injuries on Monday. Constable Sarfaraz Ahmad, a resident of Ramban district, died at a hospital, officials said.

However, rising in defence of Mondal, Mamata on Sunday launched a blistering attack on the BJP-led Centre, asserting that she will stand by the Birbhum party strongman and announced to "start a movement" against alleged excesses of the central agencies like the ED and the CBI.

"How many people will be arrested? I will hold a jail Bharo movement with everyone. Come down to the streets. If tomorrow they go to my house, what will you do? Will you take to the streets?" she asked party workers.

A TMC section played down the buzz in political circles that Mamata's bid to back Mondal betrayed a "disconnect between the

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BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## THE IDEAS DAY

By linking Nari Shakti to national progress, roots to scaling heights, PM enlivens the idea of aspiration

**I**N HIS INDEPENDENCE Day speech from Red Fort, his ninth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a long and large view. This was not a speech about schemes, programmes or plans, even though he mentioned several — from Swachhta Abhiyan to Atmanirbhar Bharat, Nal Se Jal to National Education Policy, ethanol blending to Covid vaccination drive. This was not about the problems and choices that crowd the nation's present moment. This I-Day, instead, the prime ministerial viewfinder framed a country that has turned 75 and is moving towards its centenary. It captured big ideas of that journey. Of course, many of these ideas are not new, some have come up against hurdles in the past or lack of sincerity on the ground, others remained excluded from his rendition. But what was not in doubt was his attempt to re-enliven the ideas that he spoke about — by expanding one, or imparting greater urgency to another through a more vivid connect with the aam citizen. For instance, this was not the first mention of Naari Shakti, woman power, one of the themes he emphasised. It is constantly spoken of, seldom acted upon. But the PM called it "desh ki poonji (the wealth of the nation)", and drew a link between giving the woman her rightful place and the nation's ease in fulfilling the goals it sets itself in the next 25 years, the Amrit Kal. This enunciation was powerful.

The PM spoke evocatively about the pride the nation must take in its own inheritance. "Jab ham apni dharti se judenge, tab hi toh ooncha udenge (we can fly truly high only when we have feet on our own ground)". Only an India in touch with its roots can give "vishwa ke samadhan", answers to the world's problems, he said, be it indigenous solutions to climate change, or the crisis of family values. And that even as India feels the world's gaze, it must liberate itself from psychological enslavement to the need for external validation — the affirmation should lie within. His mention of "vividhata (diversity)" was perfunctory, while he spoke feelingly of an aspirational society that is impatient for change even as it is in the throes of a "punar jagran (re-awakening)".

But there was something missing, something lost, in the PM's talk of "saamohik chetna (collective consciousness)", "sankalp (resolve)", "samarthyta (capability)", and "anusandhan (innovation)". There was no outreach to those who feel excluded or left out from the collective, as it is defined by the PM's party and government, or those who are weak and need a leg-up to participate in the fulfilment of ambitious national goals. The PM's emphasis on "nagrik ka kartavya (citizen's duties)" also seemed to be the other side of a silence — on the government's responsibility to be more compassionate and sensitive to the needs of those who aspire, first, to an unquestioned sense of belonging and inalienable community. It's a thought, perhaps, that could be developed more in the PM's next eloquent I-Day speech, as the nation moves a year closer to its centenary.

## DEATH BY INEQUALITY

Violence against Dalit student in Rajasthan is stark reminder of nation's unfinished tasks. Gehlot government must act swiftly

**O**N SATURDAY, AS the nation prepared to commemorate its 75th Independence Day, a nine-year-old Dalit child from Rajasthan's Jalore district succumbed to his injuries, allegedly inflicted by a person who should have given wings to his dreams — his teacher. The FIR in the case should be read as a sobering reality check on the terrible inequalities that continue to afflict and debilitate the nation as it aims to become the "destination," where as Prime Minister Narendra Modi said from the ramparts of Red Fort, "aspirations are met". "Indra was a child. He didn't know that the matki (earthen pot) that he drank from had been kept separately for the savarna jati (upper caste) teacher" ... "the teacher abused him with casteist slurs and beat him up, resulting in internal injuries", the FIR says. These words should prick the nation's conscience, and remind policymakers of unmet promises and unfinished tasks, as India begins the "Amrit Kal" to the centenary of its Independence. The Ashok Gehlot government must ensure that due processes are rolled out swiftly and surely to provide justice in this case.

That casteist violence is a grim lived reality — at odds with India's constitutional principles — for a large section of the country's Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities is borne out by numerous reports and surveys. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data show that a crime was committed every 10 minutes against a person from an SC community in 2020. Rajasthan along with Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh accounts for two-thirds of such crimes though these four states constitute about 40 per cent of the country's population. Cases registered in Rajasthan under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act went up from around 6,000 in 2018 to more than 8,500 in 2020. Worryingly, the conviction rate in the state in such cases has gone down from 11 per cent in 2016 to less than 8 per cent in 2020.

From the lack of enabling measures that force thousands of SC & ST students to drop out of institutions of learning every year to the persecution that can drive a young scholar like Rohith Vemula to take his own life, the discrimination faced by Dalit youth is endemic and deeply ingrained. Swift action in the case of the atrocity at Jalore will signal the state's resolve to stamp out the oppression that bedevils the aspirations of its young. That should also be an urgent imperative for a nation aspiring to be a knowledge hub.

## HE BET ON INDIA, WON

Jhunjhunwala was bullish on India, put his money where his mouth was, inspired many to buy into growth story

**R**AJESH JHUNJHUNWALA, WHO passed away on Sunday morning, was widely known as the "Big Bull" of the Indian stock markets. The epithet describes an investor who buys stocks and shares with the firm belief that they will grow in value. And while its use in common culture is often laced with an accusation of irrationality, in Jhunjhunwala's case, it was the real deal. Jhunjhunwala came from a middle-class background and was known for his integrity. His father, who was his lifelong idol, was an income tax officer. Jhunjhunwala started investing in the stock market in the 1980s when he was still in college, beginning with Rs 5,000 and ending with a net-worth north of Rs 45,000 crore (\$5.8 billion).

By rising from nowhere to become one of the richest Indians on the basis of his investments, Jhunjhunwala not only created his own legend but also gave hundreds of thousands of Indian investors the confidence that they too could invest in the stock market and become rich. His influence on scores of foreign investors, who were warily watching India open up its economy during the 1990s, was equally dramatic. Jhunjhunwala was bullish on India and its long-term growth. He put his money where his mouth was, and inspired many others to buy into the India growth story.

In the three decades since economic liberalisation, several shocks, both domestic and international, have buffeted the economy. At each stage, it was natural for investors to give in to doubts, book their profits (or cut their losses) and leave. The Indian markets needed a champion and they found him in Jhunjhunwala, whose belief in India's growth trajectory was unwavering till the end. In doing so, he created an ecosystem where investors (both domestic and foreign) have learnt to trust and lend to Indian companies and entrepreneurs. That is Rakesh Jhunjhunwala's lasting legacy.

## Diplomacy for Viksit Bharat



C Raja Mohan

India remains trapped in a framework that emerged 75 years ago. That must change

THE NEW AMBITION outlined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a developed country, "Viksit Bharat", by 2047 will demand significant changes in Indian foreign policy tradition. Some of those changes, already set in motion in recent years, must now acquire greater purpose and speed. But can India's foreign policy community get out of its old mindset?

Our diplomatic discourse remains trapped in a framework that emerged when India was weak and vulnerable 75 years ago. The fears of a "developing nation" can't be the guiding principles for the diplomacy of a "developed nation". Your global perspectives must necessarily change when you move from the bottom of the scrum to the top of the heap. While the geographic imperatives of a nation endure, the changing nature of the Indian economy, evolution of external conditions, emergence of new regional challenges, and shifts in the global power hierarchy all demand new foreign policy strategies.

While India is well on its way to becoming the third-largest economy in the next few years, that does not necessarily make it a developed nation. Many of the tasks of becoming a developed nation are indeed domestic — promoting social justice, internal unity, economic modernisation, resilient political institutions, and deep bases of science and technology.

Three major foreign policy tasks present themselves in the hopeful journey to a Viksit Bharat. The first is the need to overcome the residual legacies of Partition that continue to undermine Delhi's geopolitical position. Resolving the problems left over by Partition on India's northwestern frontier looks quite hard despite the efforts by successive PMs in the last three decades.

Deterring the dangers from across the Western frontier must remain a major priority until Pakistan is ready for a productive relationship with India. Meanwhile, Delhi must continue to build on the recent good work in overcoming the bitter legacies of Partition in the east — including the settlement of the boundary dispute with Bangladesh. If Partition weakened India, Delhi struggled to retain the regional primacy it had inherited from the

British Raj in the Subcontinent and the Indian Ocean. The reclaiming of a prominent role for India in the region can't be by fiat, but by making cooperation with Delhi more attractive to the neighbouring elites in the Subcontinent and beyond.

The initiatives of the last few years on intensifying connectivity, trade ties, and security partnerships with the neighbours will need a sustained push in the coming years. India also needs to double down on strengthening regional and trans-regional institutions. As the world's third-largest economy that wants to be a developed state, India must look beyond the immediate neighbourhood to more effectively engage with Africa, Latin America and Oceania where Delhi's footprint remains light, despite some recent initiatives.

The second is about coping with the growing power gap with China. Beijing has been the greatest beneficiary of India's Partition. China unified itself after an extended civil war in 1949 just after India chose to be divided in 1947. Beijing has leveraged the divisions within the Subcontinent to constrain India. Delhi's ability to raise its level of engagement in the extended neighbourhood and beyond also runs into substantive Chinese presence.

India has compounded that problem over the decades by persistent romanticism about China and overestimating the potential for collaboration with Beijing — whether it was Nehru's notion of an "area of peace" in Asia or the pursuit of a "multipolar world" since the 1990s in partnership with Beijing. The first came crashing down in 1962 and the second now confronts the nightmare of a "unipolar Asia" dominated by an assertive China. To make matters worse, the Chinese military can choose its time and place today to raise the temperature on the disputed Sino-Indian border as it has done in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2020.

All the policies outlined by the Modi government to address the China challenge — securing our frontiers, retaining India's regional position, strengthening India's manufacturing sector, improving domestic technological capabilities, and producing more weapons at home — lead us to the third task.

It is about building stronger partnerships

with other major powers. But collaboration with other great powers has been hobbled by old ideas of "non-alignment" and "strategic autonomy". All countries practice strategic autonomy to the extent they can; it is not a special characteristic of Indian diplomacy. India's problem as it becomes the third-largest economy is not about seeking autonomy from other powers, but joining them in shaping a stable balance of power system in the world.

This might involve both competing and collaborating with other major powers — sometimes doing both at the same time. Building partnerships is not ceding ground to other powers, but negotiating mutually beneficial terms in dealing with complex problems. While much of the domestic debate on India's Ukraine policy has been rooted in the familiar framework of "external pressures", Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan has praised Delhi's successful pursuit of its own interests. If India can do this with a \$3-trillion economy, its ability to engage the other powers can only improve along with the growth of its comprehensive national power.

Becoming the third largest economy and a developed society can't just be about geopolitics and balance of power. It is also about global leadership in managing the consequences of the unfolding technological revolution, stabilising the economic order, and addressing the challenges of climate change and pandemics.

India's innocent internationalism after Independence soon ran headlong into harsh realities in the high Himalayas. The uncritical acceptance of globalisation in the early 21st century has created economic problems of its own. On its way to 2047, Delhi will have to temper its soaring universalism with geopolitical sensitivity and combine the pursuit of multilateralism — at the UN, G-20, and WTO — with coalitions of like-minded nations. Getting power and principle to reinforce each other will help herald India's arrival as a developed nation and a major power.

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



D Raja

AS THE country celebrates the 75th anniversary of Independence, it's an irony of history that the RSS is now trying to appropriate the legacy of our secular and inclusive struggle. Indian independence was the result of a century-long mass struggle, with many streams of political thoughts and ideologies merging in opposition to British rule and liberating the masses from oppression.

Our struggle was not just a movement to remove the British from power. It also had an agenda for the country's future. That agenda of social reforms and liberation from poverty and inequality was the outcome of a dialogue between the major ideological currents fighting for independence. The most important among these were the school of thought represented by Mahatma Gandhi through the policies and programmes of the Congress party, the communists and socialists, and advocates of social reforms best represented in the work of B R Ambedkar. Dialogue and debates between these streams produced the values that define our struggle against colonialism and gave a coherent shape to the future republic and state, with secularism and welfarism at its core. These values are under threat from an organisation that played no role in our long fight for independence, the RSS.

At the time of Independence, the form of government India should opt for was much debated. Discussions around the Westminster system and the American presidential system were common. A majority of the leaders preferred parliamentary democracy. In his address to the nation on the 50th anniversary of Independence, the then President K R Narayan said: "The Drafting Committee in

## APPROPRIATING A LEGACY

Many political groups contributed to India's freedom struggle. RSS didn't

When the nation was uniting to drive away the British, the RSS was busy finding the 'enemy within'. They soon found the Muslim bogey to unite the Hindus under their divisive hold. This has led the RSS to declare open war on the country's past as they continue their attempts at demonising Muslims. For the nation, the enemy was British colonialism; for the RSS, it was Muslims.

choosing the parliamentary system for India, preferred more responsibility to more stability, a system under which the government will be on the anvil every day." This idea of collective responsibility is under strain today due to the encroachments made by the executive on other branches of the state under the influence of the RSS.

During the freedom struggle itself, the RSS was not pleased with representative democracy and constitutional safeguards. Its admiration for the European fascists and their emphasis on the leader principle made it incompatible with the very functioning of a democratic society. B S Moonje, mentor to RSS founder K B Hedgewar, met the leader of Italian fascists, Benito Mussolini, and told him, "I shall have no hesitation to raise my voice from the public platform both in India and England whenever occasion may arise in praise of your Balilla and fascist organisations. I wish them good luck and every success." The RSS still follows the rule of subservience to one supreme leader. When we say that democracy itself is under threat from the RSS-BJP, the seeds can be found in the very foundation and functioning of the RSS.

Another example is the case of secularism, a foundational value of our freedom movement. Hindus and Muslims fought shoulder-to-shoulder in the fight against the British. However, it is widely known and clear from the writings of RSS leaders and ideologues that their objective is to establish a hierarchical, exclusionary and discriminatory Hindu Rashtra. Ambedkar had warned about this: "If Hindu Raj does become a fact, it will, no doubt, be the greatest calamity for this country."

When the nation was uniting to drive away



## AUGUST 16, 1982, FORTY YEARS AGO

## PM'S I-DAY SPEECH

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi called on the people on August 15 to stand firm before disruptive forces, which were weakening the nation's unity. There was a need to rekindle the spirit of sacrifice and striving that characterised the freedom struggle. Speaking after unfurling the national flag at Delhi's Red Fort to mark the country's 36th Independence Day, the PM said no progress was possible in the absence of unity and hard work. The task of loosening poverty's grip, lessening injustice and taking the benefits of independence down to everyone was gigantic. She admitted that despite all efforts, injustice, oppression

and corruption continued to exist. But these problems could not be combated by a weak government.

## ISRAEL'S DEMANDS

THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT demanded a check of the list of Palestinian guerrillas to leave Beirut, and insisted that it get back a captured air force pilot before the evacuation began, a cabinet statement said. Despite optimistic talk of an imminent agreement, a senior government official said Israel suspected that the PLO was planning to leave several thousand guerrillas in Beirut after it departed.

## DANCER BARRED

THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR to Pakistan, KD Sharma, clarified that it was the Pakistan government which had decided not to allow Bharati Shivaji, Indian classical dancer, to give performances in Pakistan on the occasion of India's Independence Day celebrations.

## AMITABH IMPROVES

FILM STAR AMITABH Bachchan's condition "though still serious, showed improvement", according to a medical bulletin issued by the Breach Candy Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment for intestinal injury.



**TH**

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# THE IDEAS PAGE

## Dear Hadi Matar

You have failed – we are all returning to Rushdie's words



AMITAVA KUMAR

LISTEN, YOU ARE young and I understand you will only be sitting in a room doing nothing for many, many years. I hope you will find time to read this letter.

The world learned last week that you are 24. The man you tried to kill is 75. I don't know about you but when I was 24, I was reading that man's writings with great devotion. You might even say I was a bit fanatical in my habit.

The following year, when I was 25, there was a fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeini, calling for this man's death for his novel *The Satanic Verses* – and that murderous edict resulted, after three decades, in the terrible act you perpetrated with such savagery. The man you tried to kill survived your attack; I'm guessing that now there will be no bounty for you. Only an eternity in prison.

I'm just pointing out the basic facts here. As the man you tried to kill might put it, in his own light-hearted way, it didn't turn out to be such a profitable investment for you.

I apologise. I sound petty. When I sat down to write this letter, I hadn't intended to be bitter. In fact, I wanted to meet you with my own twenty-four-year-old self. That particular version of me would want you to read books. Instead of listening to old men railing from the pulpit, men who believe they carry the word of God, and who decide who can live or die – instead of listening to them, will you not heed more human voices?

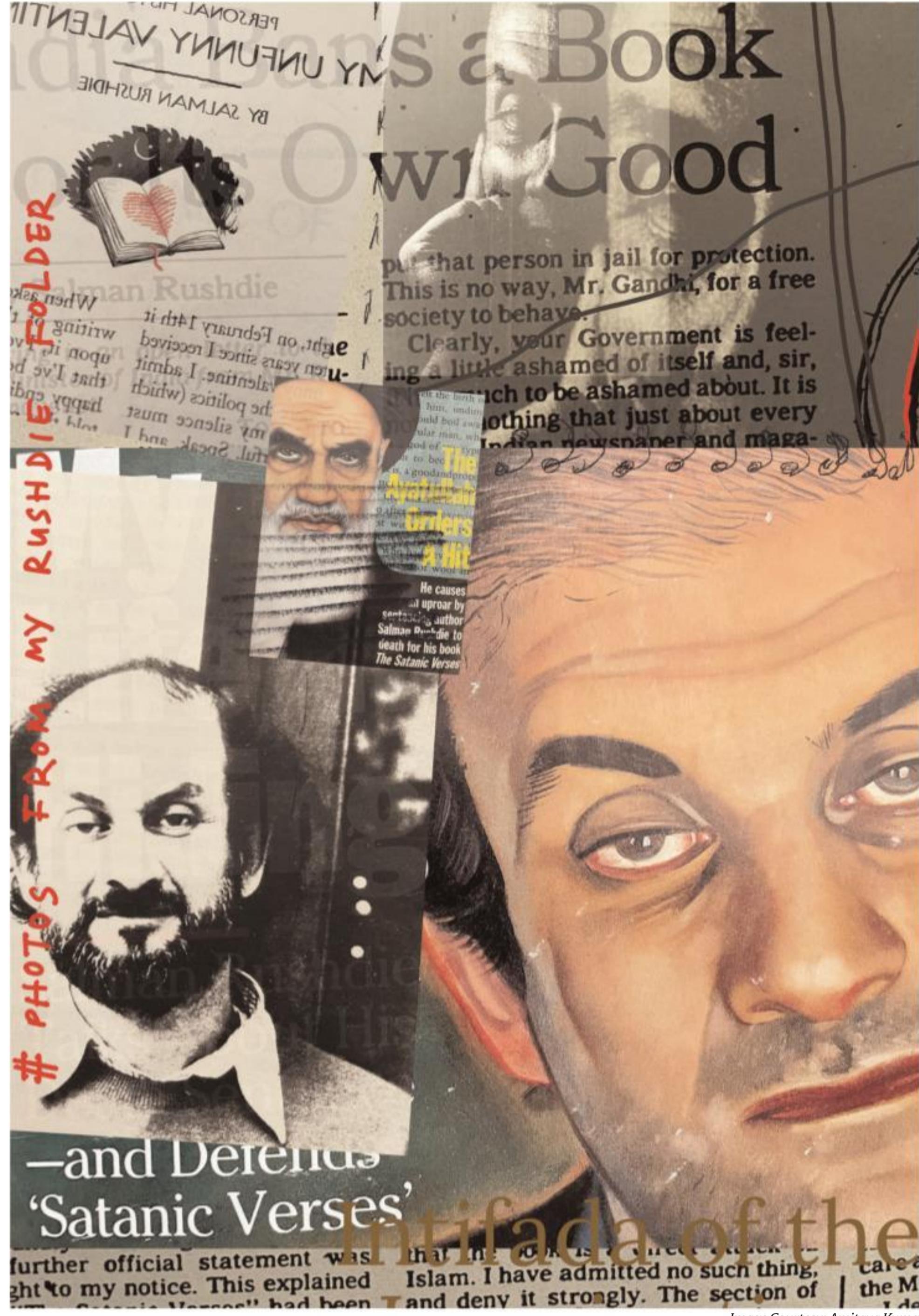
Let me begin with the voice of the man you tried to kill.

After that appalling fatwa, issued on Valentine's Day, the writer went into hiding. He lived in safe houses under police protection. On the first anniversary of the fatwa, in a short poem that he published in *Granta* magazine, to "sing on, in spite of attacks, / to sing (while my dreams are being murdered by facts) / praises of butterflies broken on racks."

You will perhaps grasp the brutality, but do you also see the beauty? That image of butterflies broken on instruments of torture is so striking and so powerful that I see at once why the great literary critic Edward Said once commented that the man you tried to kill represented "the intifada of the imagination."

Ten years after the fatwa, in a piece in *The New Yorker* entitled 'My Unfunny Valentine', the writer who you tried to kill stated that he was now going to write only of love. "Love feels more and more like the only subject. At the centre of my life, of my new work, of my future plans, I now find nothing else." Can you imagine what it meant for a young man, a little older than you, to be given the gift of such words to shape his own identity as a writer?

Do you read? I ask not to diminish you or humiliate you, but to offer an invitation. It hurt me terribly some years ago to learn that the killer of a writer in India had never read the woman he had shot to death. The dead writer was a journalist of enormous courage. Her killer was reportedly paid Rs 10,000 by people who told him nothing more than that this woman was hurting their religion. This writer's name was Gauri Lankesh. The man who allegedly shot her, Parshuram Waghmare, was only two years older than you are now when he committed the murder. He is in prison. Forces of fundamentalist belief, that use religion as an excuse for destroying lives, have been unleashed in different parts of the world.



It is a threatening feature of the apocalyptic landscape of modern geopolitics.

Like the man you tried to kill, I too am a writer. As my life has been given over to reading and writing books, I hold on to the belief that if we read widely and deeply, we will encounter people and places unlike ourselves. This sense of difference, its pleasures and challenges, will perhaps steer us away from intolerance. Many people in this country (the US), including Malcolm X, discovered reading in prison – and were transformed. I hope that you too will find a similar liberation in learning.

We have seen the universal outpouring of grief and concern for the man you tried to kill

People have been posting his lines on social media, they are discussing the influence of his work. Over the past three days, I have read nothing but his words in essays, novels, and interviews. (My son, only 12, has declared his interest in reading *The Satanic Verses*. I think he should wait.) Do you see what I'm getting at? You have failed – as any act of violence, and in such circumstances, inevitably would – because you have succeeded only in returning us to his words.

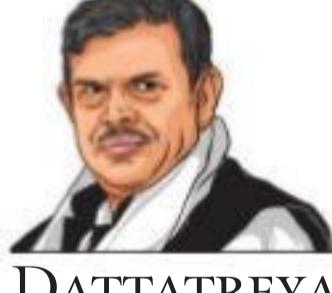
– but there's a further point I'm trying to make. People have been posting his lines on social media, they are discussing the influence of his work. Over the past three days, I have read nothing but his words in essays, novels, and interviews. (My son, only 12, has declared his interest in reading *The Satanic Verses*. I think he should wait.) Do you see what I'm getting at? You have failed – as any act of violence, and in such circumstances, inevitably would – because you have succeeded only in returning us to his words.

Amitava Kumar is the author, most recently, of *The Blue Book* (HarperCollins, 2022)

Image Courtesy: Amitava Kumar

## India's centenary challenge

Time to find homegrown solutions, fortify internal systems



DATTATREYA HOSABALE

HAVING COMPLETED 75 years after attaining Independence from foreign rule, Bharat has embarked on a new journey to play a lead role globally. While the next phase of its civilisational journey has begun, every citizen is in a boisterous and jubilant mood as the Amrit Mahotsav got underway with a new purpose.

Our nation completed this journey after having crossed numerous obstacles and problems. It has been an arduous, exciting and momentous journey. We have a vivid picture of the nation that became independent but faced the tragedy of Partition and suffered the trauma of violence unleashed after. Immediately after this tragic experience, its borders were attacked. The issues that the country faced post-independence could not dent our resilience, defeat our capabilities or shackle the potential of our nation. Taking the challenges head-on has led to the strengthening of Bharat's democratic foundations.

Today, we can hardly imagine how the nation celebrated its greatest festival of democracy in 1952 and set up an elected government after having suffered the trauma of Partition and the attack on its borders. It was indeed the willpower and efforts of the people that ensured integration of those areas that were left out of the Union in 1947, such as Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Hyderabad and Puducherry.

Often, a question arises as to how a nation

that secured political independence only a few years earlier could pick up the pieces and move forward so quickly. One cannot comprehend this without understanding the Bharatiya society as a whole. Even while suffering the acute pain of invasions and other crises, the Bharatiya society did not forget the *sutra* of its unity. Only if genuine attempts are made can one understand the freedom struggle of Bharat that left its footprint over towns, villages, forests, mountains and the coastal areas: Whether it is the Santhal uprising or the armed struggles in southern India, there's a single underlying principle. Every one of our heroes yearned for the country's independence. This craving for swarajya was not for themselves, but for the society and the nation.

Restlessness in the Bharatiya society was so intense that people made supreme sacrifices. This was why the independence movement spread as far as the UK, the US, Japan and so on. In fact, the India House in London was one of the major centres of the freedom movement.

Innumerable people sacrificed their lives in search of freedom. Some of them are household names while we hardly know about several others who submitted their lives at the altar of independence. This legacy of heroism, unparalleled patriotic fervour, supreme sacrifices and bloodshed seems to have served as the perfect launch pad for the citizens to win

glory for the country. This desire on their part reflects Bharat's societal aspiration rather than being fuelled by political leaders. This very aspiration came to the fore when internal Emergency was imposed and democratic institutions were attacked during 1975-77.

Citizens from across the spectrum were at the forefront of the struggle against anti-democratic and authoritarian forces.

The 75th year of independence may also be the right time to introspect and plan for the centenary year, 2047. Also, at a time when the whole world is coming to terms with the post-Covid-19 social order and facing uncertainty, we should set our own distinct goals as a nation and society.

Undoubtedly, the last decade has been a period of achievements for Bharat. We may have to build on our recent successes.

Providing access to affordable and quality healthcare, housing, education and achieving financial inclusion apart from citizens' empowerment are areas where we have made large strides. For instance, Bharat's ingenuity and intelligence were at their best while developing a safe and affordable vaccine against Covid-19 in a short period. The vaccine served as the perfect antidote and saved billions of lives globally.

Going forward, we have to recognise and confront several internal and external threats from known and unknown sources. Achieving societal harmony should be a priority area for

Bharat. Given the inalienable link between society's strength and harmony amongst her communities, we may have to channelise our energies in this direction.

On the economic front, Bharat has made rapid strides. But a lot more has to be achieved, given the aspirations of a 1.4 billion population. There's untapped potential in several areas. Unless we place Bharat's home-grown businesses and enterprises at the forefront of our policy formulation, providing work opportunities to all may remain a pipe dream. Bharat will emerge strong in the true sense only when it is self-reliant.

A reorganisation of our policy and democratic institutions may have to be done in sync with the expectations of our people and requirements at a time Bharat seeks to play a lead role among global communities by drawing strength from its millennia-old civilisation. Making the judiciary, executive and all public institutions accessible to common people, who feel distraught and helpless, may be very significant in our onward march.

Global challenges in the short term can be faced only when our internal systems are strong. Apart from economic and political empowerment, finding home-grown solutions to tackle social challenges and fortifying Bharat's internal systems should get a big push.

The writer is sarkaryavah, RSS

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The violent attack on Rushdie on Friday was not just a heinous attempt on the life of one of the world's most insightful storytellers but an attack on the right to disagree, on liberal democracy and on freedom itself."

— THE GUARDIAN

## Walk back from the extremes

Commitment to inclusivity and social justice should guide the nation's march towards 2047



KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI

grounded in social justice. Our leaders, including Thanthai Periyar, Kamarajar, C N Annadurai and Kalaignar M Karunanidhi have been proponents of the inclusive character of democracy. Take, for example, the initiative led by Kalaignar in setting up government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu that opened opportunities for everyone back in the day. With low fees, they made sure the medical dream of any young child is accessible. In the present day, the NEET is disrupting this fight.

The strand of history to which we belong is soaked in the dye of patriarchy. This makes change hard. Women contribute just 18 per cent of the labour income in the country today. Lack of access, systemic prejudices about skill levels, and unaccounted familial duties move the spotlight away from women. I hope to see a significant shift by 2047. I hope 33 per cent is not just a number but a reality so that we can join hands and work towards

50 per cent strongly. On a more basic level, women participating in the labour force significantly increases the output. But when you go deeper, you understand something even better. Economists suggest that this effect on the economy influences the big picture, the reverberations of which benefit everyone.

Freedom, by its very nature, gives everyone choices. For instance, the choice to adhere to a religion. Individuals choose to practise the religion that they feel connected to.



A true sense of freedom on an individual level also means the distribution of rights and privileges irrespective of identities, especially minority identities. By 2047, the LGBTQ+ community, one of the most oppressed sections of society, should be able to lead a life on the socio-political plane without being challenged by regressive norms. There is a lack of empathy in the system, which does not treat the minorities with the dignity they deserve. The unfair treatment was a characteristic fed into the system. A beautiful canopy of equity, equality, and social justice will be where their voices will be heard, their concerns will be echoed.

We need a course correction so that our upcoming generations witness a free and prosperous society. We should ensure our republic protects all citizens and approaches checkpoints in this journey with a scientific temper.

I am reminded of this famous adage, "History is written by the victors". I think the future is written by the hopefuls". Well, hopefuls when they have freedom of expression. The Indian jails today are home to numerous hopefuls who were denied their freedom of expression. A denial rooted in an inconsistent dialogue of interpretations propagated by an authoritarian state. But we'll continue to write bold words, talk louder, and walk the talk towards 2047, for we have words of the revolutionary Tamil poet Subramaniya Bharathyar in our minds:

*There should be no one in poverty or in slavery/ There should be no one in India oppressed in the name of caste/ Let's praise the wealth of education,/ Join in happiness/ And live in equality as we all are one.*

The writer is a DMK MP

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SCOUNDREL TIMES

THE ATTACK ON Salman Rushdie is a terrifying reminder of the forces of hate, bigotry and intolerance that have emerged around the world. How does one confront them and the questions that stare us in the face are complex: How and why have we reached this stage? Are there political and social conditions that give rise to such forces?

However, the overarching thought that crosses my mind is that when will we reach a stage where a difference of opinion, a contrarian point of view and even an iconoclastic vision be accepted as part of human discourse? Salman Rushdie has paid a horrifying price in these scoundrel times.

Saeed Mirza, via email

### HER COUNTRY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'I-Day, Her Day' (IE, August 15). It was heartening to read the ideas shared by women who have proven themselves in their chosen fields, on Independence Day. Their views about India after 25 years, when it will complete century of its freedom, are visionary. They touched almost all the relevant fields where India as a nation needs to work and perform.

Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

cial changes we see in society. It will take more than a Droupadi Murmu, ascending to the highest office of the land, to bring the required transformation in our male-dominated world.

Vijai Pant, Hempur

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Devendra Awasthi, Lucknow

### BARBARIC ATTACK

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Severed nerves in arms, Salman Rushdie put on ventilator, may lose an eye' (IE, August 14). The barbaric attack on Salman Rushdie at the Chautauqua Institution in New York state – which occurred, with savage irony, as he was being introduced to give a talk on artistic freedom – has left writers and readers alike stunned. For 33 years, Rushdie has embodied freedom and the fight against obscurantism. Our thoughts are with him and here's wishing him a speedy recovery.

SS Paul, Nadia



DATTATREYA HOSABALE

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that secured political independence only a few years earlier could pick up the pieces and move forward so quickly. One cannot comprehend this without understanding the Bharatiya society as a whole. Even while suffering the acute pain of invasions and other crises, the Bharatiya society did not forget the *sutra* of its unity. Only if genuine attempts are made can one understand the freedom struggle of Bharat that left its footprint over towns, villages, forests, mountains and the coastal areas: Whether it is the Santhal uprising or the armed struggles in southern India, there's a single underlying principle. Every one of our heroes yearned for the country's independence. This craving for swarajya was not for themselves, but for the society and the nation.

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10

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022

# THE WORLD



JURY SELECTION BEGINS

## KELLY TRIAL ON HEARING FIXING CHARGE

The R and B singer is accused of rigging his 2008 child pornography trial by threatening and paying off a girl who he allegedly filmed himself having sex with when he was around 30 and she was around 14. The woman, now in her 30s, will be the government's star witness.

TOP OF THE  
WORLD

Iran minister Hossein Amirabdollahian. File

IRAN

Tehran set to respond to EU's Nuke deal text

IRAN WILL respond to the EU's "final" draft text to save a 2015 nuclear deal by midnight Monday, its foreign minister said, calling on the US to show flexibility to resolve three remaining issues. "Our answer will be given to the EU tonight at 12 midnight. There are three issues that if resolved, we can reach an agreement in the coming days," Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said, suggesting Tehran's response would not be a final acceptance or rejection of the EU text. "We have told them our red lines should be respected... We have shown enough flexibility..." REUTERS

COVID

UK approves variant-adapted Moderna shot

BRITAIN, THE first country to approve a coronavirus vaccine in late 2020, has now also given the first green light to a variant-adapted shot that targets both the original and Omicron version of the virus. The UK medicines regulator gave the so-called bivalent vaccine made by US drug company Moderna conditional approval as a booster for adults on Monday. Hours later, the country's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended all adults in the United Kingdom be offered boosters this autumn. REUTERS

RUSSIA

Griner appeals conviction amid Biden's offer

THE DEFENCE team for Brittney Griner, the American basketball star sentenced to prison in Russia on drug smuggling charges, said on Monday that it had appealed the verdict as Russian diplomats began to speak more openly about a potential prisoner exchange with the US. Over the weekend, Aleksandr Darchiev, a high-ranking Russian diplomat, said that political negotiations with the US were already underway, including discussion of Russians held by the US whose release Moscow seeks in order to secure Griner's freedom. NYT

PAKISTAN

Indian plane in Karachi, sparks buzz

A CHARTER airplane from India with a dozen passengers on board landed at Jinnah International Airport in Karachi on Monday, according to a media report. An aviation official said the flight had flown in from India and it had no connection whatsoever with the country other than that. The flight had departed from Hyderabad. It is not yet clear why the plane had landed at Karachi. The incident comes after two planes from India landed in Karachi last month due to technical issues. PTI

BEIJING 'CONTINUES TO TRAIN, PREPARE FOR WAR'

## China seethes, holds more military drills around Taiwan over US lawmakers' visit

RYAN WOO & BEN BLANCHARD  
BEIJING/TAIPEI, AUGUST 15

CHINA'S MILITARY said it carried out more exercises near Taiwan on Monday as a group of US lawmakers visited the Chinese-claimed island and met President Tsai Ing-wen, who said her government was committed to maintaining stability.

The five lawmakers, led by Senator Ed Markey, arrived in Taipei on an unannounced visit late on Sunday, the second high-level group to visit following that of US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi in early August, which set off several

days of Chinese war games.

The Chinese military unit responsible for the area adjacent to Taiwan, the People's Liberation Army's Eastern Theatre Command, said it had organised multi-service joint combat readiness patrols and combat drills in the sea and airspace around Taiwan on Monday. The exercises were "a stern deterrent to the United States and Taiwan continuing to play political tricks and undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait", it added.

China's Defence Ministry said in a separate statement that the lawmakers' trip infringed on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and "fully exposes the true face of the United States



The lawmakers with President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday. AP

as a spoiler and spoiler of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait".

"The Chinese People's Liberation Army continues to

train and prepare for war...and will resolutely crush any form of Taiwan independence' separatism and foreign interference."

Tsai, meeting the lawmakers in her office, said China's exercises had greatly affected regional peace and stability.

"We are engaging in close cooperation with international allies...At the same time we are doing everything we can to let the world know that Taiwan is determined to safeguard stability and the status quo in the Taiwan Strait," she said, in video footage provided by the presidential office.

Markey told Tsai that "we have a moral obligation" to do everything to prevent an unnecessary conflict.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said 15 Chinese aircraft had crossed the median line of Taiwan Strait on Monday. REUTERS

LIBERATION DAY

Seoul's carrot to get North to denuke: aid for its economy

KIM TONG-HYUNG  
SEOUL, AUGUST 15

SOUTH KOREAN President Yoon Suk Yeol offered "audacious" economic assistance to North Korea on Monday if it abandons its nuclear weapons program, while avoiding harsh criticism of the North days after it threatened "deadly" retaliation over a Covid outbreak it blames on the South.

In a speech celebrating the end of Japan's colonisation of the Korean Peninsula, Yoon also called for better ties with Japan, saying their shared values will help them overcome historical grievances linked to Japan's brutal colonial rule before the end of World War II.

North Korea has a history of dialing up pressure on South Korea when it doesn't get what it wants from the US. Some experts say North Korea may stir up tensions around joint military exercises the US and South Korea start next week.

Kim Tae-hyo, Yoon's deputy national security director, said Seoul is willing to provide economic rewards at each step of a phased denuclearisation process if North commits to a "roadmap" and proceeds with the "freezing...and dismantlement" of its nuclear weapons program. AP



MALTA MARKS 'OP PEDESTAL' ANNIVERSARY: A re-enactor fires a cannon in Valletta, Malta, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Santa Marija convoy in the country. The convoy was part of Britain's 'Operation Pedestal', which saved Malta from falling to Axis forces during World War Two. Reuters

JAPAN MARKS WWII SURRENDER

### Ministers at war shrine, Kishida vows peace

IRENE WANG & ELAINE LIES  
TOKYO, AUGUST 15

JAPAN PRIME Minister Fumio Kishida vowed on the anniversary of Japan's World War Two surrender on Monday that his country would never again wage war, as members of his cabinet visited a shrine that honours war dead, angering South Korea and China.

Japan's ties with China were

already strained after China conducted unprecedented military exercises around Taiwan following the visit there by US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi this month. During the drills, several missiles fell in waters inside Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone.

"We will never again repeat the horrors of war. I will continue to live up to this determined oath," Kishida told a secular gathering in Tokyo, also attended

by Emperor Naruhito.

The anniversary is traditionally marked by visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which is seen by South Korea and China as a symbol of Japan's past militarism.

Yasukuni honours 14 Japanese wartime leaders convicted as war criminals, who are among some 2.5 million war dead commemorated there.

Kishida, on the dovish side of the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), faced a

tricky balancing act, hoping to avoid irritating neighbours while keeping happy the more right-wing members of the party—particularly after the killing of former prime Shinzo Abe last month.

Kishida sent an offering to the shrine without visiting, Kyodo news agency reported, and made just an oblique reference to Japan's wartime actions.

Despite that, South Korea and China denounced the visits to the shrine. REUTERS

### Ruto declared Kenya's president, some poll officials disown results

DUNCAN MIRIRI & AYENAT MERSIE  
NAIROBI, KISUMU, AUGUST 15

KENYA'S ELECTIONS chief declared Deputy President William Ruto the winner of a tight presidential race on Monday but some senior election officials disowned the result, fuelling fears of violence like that seen after previous disputed polls.

Hailing the electoral commission as "heroes", Ruto said: "There is no looking back. We are looking to the future. We need all hands on deck to move forward."

The 55-year-old had made Kenya's class divisions the centrepiece of his campaign to be-



Scuffles erupted before the results were declared. Reuters

come Kenya's fifth president, promising to reward low-income "hustlers" and pouring scorn on Kenya's political dynasties.

Minutes before the chairman of the electoral commission Wafala Chebukati announced

that Ruto had won the vote, his deputy Juliana Cherera had told media at a separate location that she and three other commissioners disowned the results.

"We are not able to take ownership of the results that will be announced, because of the opaque nature of this last phase of the general election," she said.

The electoral commission has seven commissioners.

Diplomats and international observers were whisked out of the tallying hall before Chebukati spoke, as scuffles broke out.

Before announcing Ruto as the winner, Chebukati said two commissioners and the panel's Chief Executive had been injured and were being treated. REUTERS

The advertisements contained false information about the country's upcoming election, such as promoting the wrong election date, incorrect voting methods and questioning the integrity of the election — including Brazil's electronic voting system.

This is the fourth time that

the London-based nonprofit has tested Meta's ability to catch blatant violations of the rules of its most popular social media platform—and the fourth such test Facebook has flubbed. In the three prior instances, Global Witness submitted advertise-

ments containing violent hate speech to see if Facebook's controls — either human reviewers or artificial intelligence — would catch them. They did not.

"Facebook has identified Brazil as one of its priority countries where it's investing special resources specifically to tackle election related disinformation," said Jon Lloyd, senior advisor at Global Witness. "So we wanted to really test out their systems with enough time for them to act. And with the US midterms around the corner, Meta simply has to get this right — and right now."

Brazil's national elections will be held on October 2 amid disinformation threatening to discredit the polling process. AP

Suu Kyi's jail term up by 6 yrs after ruling in more cases

GRANT PECK  
BANGKOK, AUGUST 15

A COURT in military-ruled Myanmar convicted the country's ousted leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, on more corruption charges on Monday, adding six years to her earlier 11-year prison sentence, a legal official said.

The trial was held behind closed doors, with no access for media or the public, and her lawyers were forbidden by a gag order from revealing information about the proceedings.

In the four corruption cases decided Monday, Suu Kyi was alleged to have abused her position to rent public land at below market prices and to have built a residence with donations meant for charitable purposes. She denied all the charges, and her lawyers are expected to appeal.

She already had been sentenced to 11 years in prison on sedition, corruption and other charges at earlier trials after the military ousted her elected government and detained her in February 2021.

Analysts say the numerous charges against her and her allies are an attempt to legitimise the military's seizure of power while eliminating her from politics before the military holds an election it has promised for next year.

The army seized power and detained Suu Kyi on February 1, 2021, the day when her party would have started a second year term after it won by a landslide in November 2020 polls. AP

'PEACEFULLY' TAKEN OFF LIFE SUPPORT, DAYS AFTER BEING DECLARED BRAIN DEAD

### Anne Heche, known for her '90s Hollywood roles, dies at 53

RICHARD SANDOMIR  
AUGUST 15

ANNE HECHE, an actress who was as well known for her roles in films like "Six Days, Seven Nights" and "Donnie Brasco" as for her personal life, which included a three-year romance with the comedian Ellen DeGeneres, died on Sunday in Los Angeles, nine days after she was in a devastating car accident there. She was 53.

Her death was announced by a representative, Holly Baird, who said late Sunday in an email



Heche (right) had alleged that Hollywood had blacklisted her for her relationship with Ellen DeGeneres. AP

Heche was a soap opera star before she became known to movie audiences. She won a Daytime Emmy Award in 1991 for outstanding younger actress in a drama series. By the mid-1990s, she was a rising star in Hollywood.

Heche began a relationship with DeGeneres in 1997, at a time when same-sex relationships in Hollywood were not fully accepted. The relationship became widely known in April of that year when they appeared, hand in hand, at the annual White House Correspondents' Dinner in Washington.

A few days later, DeGeneres' character on her sitcom, "Ellen," came out as gay.

Heche's decision to reveal that she was in a lesbian relationship, The New York Times wrote, "confronted Hollywood with a highly delicate problem: how to deal with a gay actress whose career has been built on playing heterosexual roles."

Heche told The New York Post in 2021 that she had been "blacklisted" in Hollywood because of her relationship with DeGeneres. "I didn't do a studio picture for 10 years," she was quoted as saying. NYT



Many of the 76,000 Afghans evacuated last year entered the US on temporary immigration status. Reuters

### US: Dems, Republicans sponsor Bill to provide citizenship to Afghans

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, AUGUST 9

BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION has been introduced in both houses of US Congress to establish a path to American citizenship for thousands of Afghan evacuees admitted to the US on temporary immigration status.

The Bill also would expand eligibility for Special Immigration Visas beyond Afghans who worked for the US government to those who fought alongside US forces as commandos and air force personnel, and to women who fought in counterterrorism teams.

Identical versions of the Bill were introduced days before the first anniversary of the final US troop withdrawal from Kabul.

"We must keep our commitment to provide safe, legal refuge to those who willingly put their lives on the line to support the US mission in Afghanistan," Democratic Representative Earl

E Widening the scope

IF PASSED, the law will allow Afghan evacuees to apply for permanent legal status if they submit to additional background checks, instead of applying for asylum or through Special Immigration Visas, which are beset by major backlog. It also will expand eligibility for SIVs to Afghans who fought alongside US forces.

Blumenauer, co-sponsor of the House Bill with Republican Peter Meijer, said in a statement.

A congressional aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the measure likely will face "resistance" from anti-immigration Republicans.

Indirectly referring to the powerful military establishment, Khan alleged: "A plot is hatched to disqualify me in Tashkhanha and the prohibited funding cases to pave way for PML-N supremo Sharif's return from London next month."

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah, who is considered close to Sharif, said that "certain amendments" might be made through the Parliament to undo the lifetime disqualification of the three-time premier. PTI



SENSEX: 59,462.78 ▲ 130.18 (0.22%) NIFTY: 17,698.15 ▲ 39.15 (0.22%) NIKKEI: 28,871.78 ▲ 324.80 HANG SENG: 20,040.86 ▼ 134.76 FTSE: 7,474.73 ▼ 26.16 DAX: 13,755.19 ▼ 40.66



GOLD

₹ 52,915



RUPEE

₹ 79.66/USD



OIL

\$ 98.45



SILVER

₹ 59,166

Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market, gold per 10g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as of August 11

## EBLR, RLLR INCREASE BY 50 BASIS POINTS

## Fifth rate hike since Apr: SBI raises MCLR by 20 bps; EMIs to get dearer

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

MUMBAI, AUGUST 15

STATE BANK of India (SBI) on Monday raised its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 20 basis points (bps) across tenures, a move that will make EMIs expensive.

MCLR for one year, which is considered important as long-term loans like home loans are linked to this rate, is now at 7.70 per cent, as per information on the lender's website. The bank also raised MCLR for loans of other maturities — shorter maturities at 7.35 per cent, six months at 7.65 per cent, two years at 7.90 per cent and three years at 8 per cent.

## 'EXPECT TO SUSTAIN 15% CREDIT GROWTH'

New Delhi: SBI Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara said the bank expects to sustain credit growth of about 15% this fiscal with rising demand from retail and corporate borrowers despite hardening of lending rate. PTI



bank has raised the policy interest rates by 140 bps since April. So far, major lenders like Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Yes Bank have raised their MCLR rates in the range of 5-10 bps. They have also raised their RLLR. While MCLR gets revised each month, a revision in repo rate by the RBI gets automatically reflected in the RLLR of banks.

SBI also increased interest rates on domestic term deposits of some maturities, effective August 13. For deposits below Rs 2 crore, it has raised interest rates by 15 bps. The new interest rates to be paid by the bank stand in the range of 5.45-5.65 per cent and are applicable on deposits maturing in 1 year to less than 2

years, 2 years to less than 3 years, 3 years to less than 5 years, 5 years and up to 10 years. On deposits above Rs 2 crore, the bank has increased interest rates on almost all maturities in the range of 25-100 bps.

The total deposit growth rate of the entire banking system is lagging the pace of credit growth, as per latest RBI data. The non-food credit rose 15.1 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) as of fortnight ended July 29 to Rs 123.7 trillion while deposits grew 9.1 per cent y-o-y to Rs 169.7 trillion during the period.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had said earlier that banks cannot rely on the central bank and will have raise deposits to support credit offtake. FE

It also raised the repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) and external benchmark lending rate (EBLR) by 50 bps each to 7.65 per cent and 8.05 per cent, respectively.

Since April, SBI has cumulatively hiked MCLR by 70 bps. In April, May and July, the state-run bank had raised the MCLR by 10

bps each, and in June, the same was increased by 20 bps.

Along with SBI, other banks too are raising lending rates. This comes in the wake of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increasing benchmark policy rates by 50 bps earlier this month to tame headline inflation. The central

SECTOR WATCH  
PETROLEUM

## ₹1.4L-cr for clean energy, petrochem, gas over 5 yrs: BPCL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

STATE-OWNED BHARAT Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) will invest Rs 1.4 lakh crore in petrochemicals, city gas and clean energy in the next five years as it looks to non-fuel businesses for growth.

BPCL, the nation's second-biggest oil refining and fuel marketing company, is "recalibrating its strategies to leverage emerging opportunities while mitigating risks," its Chairman and Managing Director Arun Kumar Singh said in the firm's latest annual report.

As countries across the world opt for cleaner, carbon-free fuel, oil companies are looking at businesses to de-risk their mainstay hydrocarbon operations. Gas is being seen as a transition fuel as electric mobility and hydrogen pick pace. "The company has firmed up plans to diversify and expand in adjacent and alternative businesses to create additional revenue streams and provide a hedge against any possible future decline in liquid fossil-fuel business," he said.

BPCL, which owns 20,217 out of 83,685 petrol pumps in the country — is looking at not just selling petrol and diesel at the bunks but also providing electric vehicle (EV) charging as well as fuels of the future like hydrogen

## 'FUELS OF THE FUTURE'

- BPCL — which owns 20,217 out of 83,685 petrol pumps in the country — is looking at not just selling petrol and diesel at the bunks but also providing electric vehicle (EV) charging as well as fuels of the future like hydrogen

## 'Inflationary impact on FMCG price, margin to continue in Q2'

Inflationary pressure on some raw material inputs for the FMCG industry is abating, but manufacturers expect its impact on price and margins to continue in this quarter

## MIXED APRIL-JUNE RESULTS

were delivered by listed FMCG companies, including HUL, ITC, Godrej Consumer Product, Nestle, Dabur and Britannia, with:

- Impact on their margins and mostly
- Drop in volume in some categories

**Margins were put under pressure for fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector in April-June quarter due to inflation in key raw materials, and packing materials**



Source: PTI

## Mahindra unveils 5 new electric SUVs, first launch by 2024-end

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON, AUGUST 15

WITH INCREASED consumer awareness and government support in place, it is the opportune time to enter the electric passenger vehicle (PV) segment, said Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra on Monday.

With an eye on gaining leadership in the electric four-wheeler segment, the Indian auto major announced that it will launch five new electric sports utility vehicles (SUVs) for both domestic and international markets, with the first four likely to hit the road between 2024 and 2026.

The company would introduce the first of the five e-SUVs towards the end of 2024, starting with the Indian market.

At present, Mahindra doesn't have a presence in the electric PV segment. It, however, is the leader in the domestic electric three-wheeler space with over 70 per cent market share.



Credit: Company

"Today with government support, rapid lowering of the cost of ownership and increased consumer awareness of environmental awareness issues, we believe that the time is ripe and right for us to enter the four-wheeler markets with our range of battery electric vehicles," Mahindra stated here.

Mahindra noted that BII has already committed to invest up to \$250 million in the company's electric vehicle venture.

**Deeper tie-up with VW**  
Meanwhile, Mahindra Group and global auto major Volkswagen said Monday they have inked a pact to further explore co-operation in the EV segment. The two have inked a term sheet on the supply of MEB (modular electric drive matrix) electric components for the Mumbai-based automaker's new electric platform INGLO, deepening the partnering agreement from earlier this year.

PTI

## VW testing EVs under Skoda brand for India mkt

New Delhi: German auto major Volkswagen group has started testing some electric vehicles from the ŠKODA brand in India as it evaluates the products to be brought to the country for electromobility targeting mass segment, according to a senior company official.

The group, which has given the responsibility of leading its growth in India to ŠKODA AUTO, will also continue to focus on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles as it feels that bringing EVs at a large scale will depend on the ecosystem and infrastructure development in the country, ŠKODA AUTO Volkswagen India MD Piyush Arora said.

"We recognise that there is demand in India for electric vehicles, so we have already launched Porsche Taycan and the Audi e-Tron which are doing extremely well in the Indian market," he said. PTI

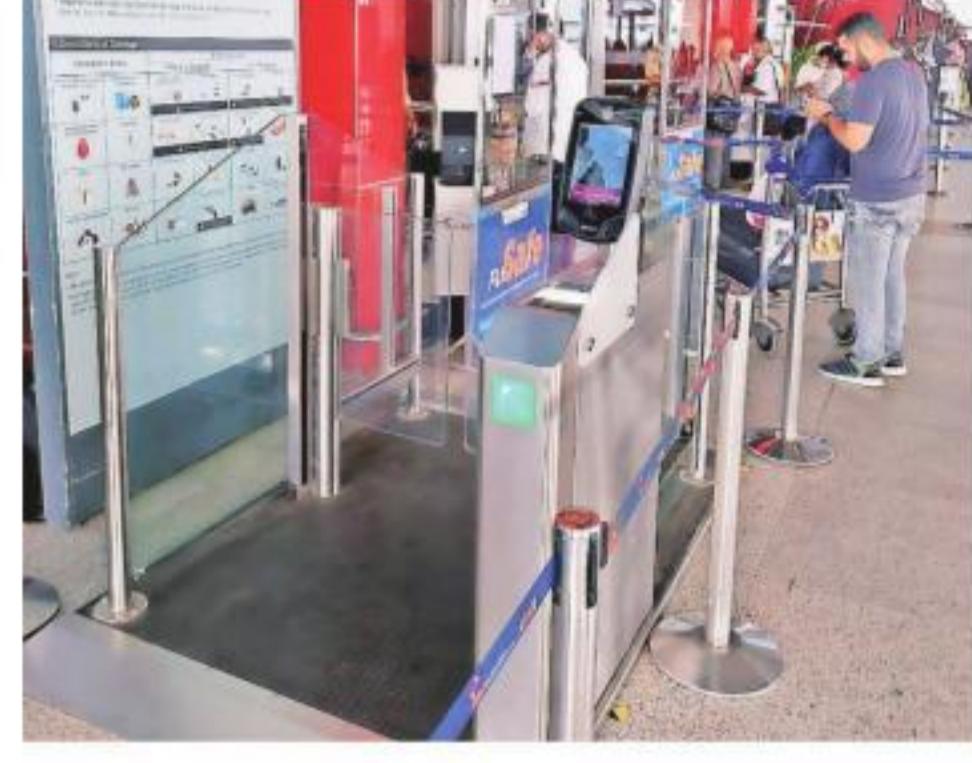
"We definitely have a full roadmap in the works in the car space... We will definitely have

of the shares.

The DigiYatra Foundation will be the custodian of the passenger ID validation process. It will also define the criteria for compliance and guidelines for the local airport systems. There will be regular audits of the various compliances and guidelines (including guidelines on security, image quality, and data privacy) defined by the DigiYatra guidelines for the local airport Biometric Boarding Systems.

## Which other airports will have DigiYatra?

In the Consultative Committee meeting, it was proposed that in the first phase, DigiYatra will be rolled out at Varanasi and Bengaluru this month, and at five airports — Pune, Vijayawada, Kolkata, Delhi and Hyderabad — by March next year. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) will identify the airports where DigiYatra will be implemented in a phased manner.



The DigiYatra processing e-gate at Terminal 3 of the Delhi airport. via DIAL.

code, after which the credentials will be shared with the airport.

For entry into the airport, passengers will need to scan their boarding pass at the e-gate and look into the facial recognition system camera installed there. A similar method will be applicable for entry into other checkpoints.

## How is DigiYatra being implemented?

Last month, the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Civil Aviation met to discuss the DigiYatra project. The project is being implemented by the DigiYatra Foundation — a joint-venture company whose shareholders are the Airports Authority of India (26 per cent stake) and Bengaluru Airport, Delhi Airport, Hyderabad Airport, Mumbai Airport and Cochin International Airport. These five shareholders equally hold the remaining 74 per cent

## Ola Electric to enter EV car segment, eyes first model by 2024



BHAVISH AGGARWAL

Founder &amp; CEO, Ola PTI file

Cars at the entry price market. We're starting with a premium car and that comes out in 18 to 24 months," he said when asked about the company's plans for electric cars.

He further said, "We are envisioning across all the products (that) we will launch, maybe by 2026 or 2027 we will target a million cars a year by volume".

"Aggarwal's fresh announcement comes at a time when the company is under fire for its scooters catching fire, numerous customer complaints, and late deliveries. Aggarwal said Ola Electric aims to provide a range of electric two-wheelers and electric cars, priced in the range of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

"We definitely have a full roadmap in the works in the car space... We will definitely have

PTI

when it was launched on June 7 last year and since then it has seen glitches happening on and off. Asked if the glitches been resolved, Parekh affirmed all those had been sorted out.

"In fact, July 31 was the deadline and... on the last day, we had something like 70 lakh returns that were filed. And in some of the hours... more than 5 lakh (returns were getting filed per hour)," Parekh said. PTI

## Income tax e-filing, GSTN portals working 'pretty well': Infy CEO



SALIL PAREKH

CEO, Infosys PTI file

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## PBOC CUTS RATE ON ONE-YEAR LOAN TO 2.75% FROM 2.85%

## China cuts rate to shore up sagging economy

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING, AUGUST 15

The People's Bank of China headquarters, Beijing. Reuters file

## Oil falls over \$5/bbl on weak Chinese data

Singapore: Oil prices fell by more than \$5 a barrel on Monday after disappointing Chinese economic data renewed concerns of a global recession that would be expected to reduce fuel demand.

Brent crude futures fell \$3.88, or 4 per cent, to \$94.27 a barrel by 1634 GMT after settling 1.5 per cent lower on Friday. US West Texas Intermediate crude was down \$3.68, or 4 per cent, at \$88.41 after dropping 2.4 per cent in the previous session.

Brent futures were close to their lowest since before Russia sent troops into Ukraine on February 24, while WTI futures touched their lowest on Monday since early February.

A damaged oil pipeline component that disrupted output at

several offshore US Gulf of Mexico platforms was repaired later Friday, prompting oil producers to reactivate some of the halted production, a Louisiana official said last week.

"Supply disruptions at several offshore oil platforms within the Gulf coast region that added to last week's price strength appear to have stabilized for now with output resuming," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates LLC in Galena, Illinois. Brent crude open interest this month is down by 20 per cent from August last year. The central bank in China cut lending rates to revive demand as data showed the economy slowing unexpectedly in July. REUTERS

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# Cricket would probably end up being a franchise-based competition: Houghton

Zimbabwe head coach feels the sport will follow football, and there will only be a 3-month window for International action in future

**PRATYUSH RAJ**  
AUGUST 15

LIFE HAS come full circle for Zimbabwe's head coach Dave Houghton. He was his country's first Test captain, scoring a fantastic 121 against India in the drawn match at Harare. Thirty years later, Houghton, in his second spell as a coach of Zimbabwe, is ready to take on India with his new 'fearless' brand of cricket.

Houghton, 64, took over from Lalchand Rajput and immediately produced the results. Zimbabwe secured its first ODI series over a fellow top-tier team since 2017 when it chased down 291 in the second ODI against Bangladesh. They also won the T20I series 2-1 for its first-ever T20 series win over a top-tier team.

The Indian Express caught up with Houghton, who had probably played the best knock of the 1987 World Cup (142 off 137 against New Zealand), spoke at length about cricket in Zimbabwe, its decline, the future of international cricket, and the upcoming three-match ODI series against India.

## Excerpts

**India will present a more formidable challenge than Bangladesh. What are your expectations from your team, and what kind of cricket do you want them to play against India?**

Let's not disrespect the Bangladesh cricket team because they are a good side, particularly in white ball cricket. We are playing good attacking cricket. We are enjoying playing the aggressive brand of cricket, and it had led to some recent success. It will be a good test for us, considering the strength of India. The series will tell us whether we are progressing or if it was just a flash in the pad.

**Fearless cricket has become a new buzzword these days, with 'Bazball' in England being a trendsetter, you have spoken about instilling fearlessness in the Zimbabwe players. Can you define what precisely this fearless cricket is?**

I don't set to relate what we are doing to what Brendon McCullum has done with England's Test team. For me, fearless cricket is when cricketers express themselves in the middle, no matter who the opposing team is.

It worried me when I took over this side; the players I have seen playing some breathtaking shots in the local cricket were too scared to play similar strokes while playing for the national side. They were too afraid to play reverse sweep or improvise because they were worried about the repercussions of getting dropped in the next game. That was the fear that I am trying to get rid of.

In cricket, you live and die by your success individually as well as the team. So that responsibility is still there, but they won't be lambasted in the change room because they have played a rash shot. And if you are that fearful, you can never progress. So that is the fearlessness I am trying to instill in this team.

**What is the difference between fearlessness and foolishness, and how do you explain this to your boys?**

There is a fine line. They will only learn the difference between fearless and reckless with experience. It is not what coaches have told you in the team meeting; one

must use their senses during the game and learn from others, be it the teammates or the opposition.

**You've been involved with Zimbabwe cricket for almost half a century. From being a competitive side in the 90s, it declined drastically, and after that, they failed to produce players with the same skill sets.**

It was a very experienced team. A lot of the players played in that era, including me; we got to play more international cricket. We didn't even have domestic cricket back then, other club cricket. We learnt at the international scene. By the time we got to 1999, and we had a couple of good additions too, Murray Goodwin coming back from Australia, Neil Johnson from South Africa. Shortly after that, players left the country; there was a collapse in cricket around 2003. A lot of people retired; some went off to play in England. And we had to start again. And in the restart, the board started first-class cricket, which is now known as franchise cricket. It took them a long time to start producing their homegrown talent. People like Sikandar Raja, Craig Ervine, and Sean Williams are the product of the aftermath of the collapse.

**From its traditional white strongholds, how far has the game spread to the average Zimbabwean?**

Now you can see the influx of young players coming through the first-class system. That's the big difference between now and how it was in the mid-2000 and early 2010s. The late 90s side had a good 13-14 players, but there was no depth, and that's why the collapse happened. But things have changed now.

T20 franchise tournaments have become the most preferred option for cricketers now. Do you think ODI cricket, the bilateral series, will soon be a thing of the past?

Tough to guess. Everyone is guessing. But in my own opinion, I think cricket has almost reversed itself, instead of having so much international cricket throughout the year, I believe cricket will probably end up like football. There would be more franchise-based competition globally, and there will be only a three-month window for International cricket.

**Can you name a few promising youngsters from your team whom you think are capable of playing in the overseas T20 leagues in the future?**

Wessly Madhevere: Top order batter, very, very exciting prospect. An all-format cricketer and he is only 21. He is a stylish right-handed batsman and bowls some decent off-spin, and is an excellent fielder as well.

**Tony Munyonga:** A right-handed middle-order batter, played a couple of brilliant cameos against Bangladesh in the recently-concluded series. He is a finisher, and I look forward to seeing him excel in that role.

**Blessing Muzarabani:** We are without Blessing, which is disappointing. He suffered a thigh muscle tear during the ICC T20 Men's World Cup qualifier. But a top-class bowler.

**Victor Nyauchi:** Another outstanding seam bowler. Slightly wrong-footed but can surprise the batters with the extra pace and bounce.

**TV: : LIVE on SONY SIX (English), SONY TEN 3 (Hindi) & SONY TEN 4 (Tamil & Telugu) at 12:45 pm from August 18.**



Zimbabwean coach Dave Houghton greets John Masara after the 2nd ODI against Bangladesh at Harare Sports Club.

England excited by 'Bazball' ahead of S Africa series: Anderson

**REUTERS**  
LONDON, AUGUST 15

**ENGLAND SEAMER** James Anderson says his side now only know one way to play and will not deviate from their attacking brand of cricket even if they are under pressure in the three test series against South Africa that starts at Lord's on Wednesday.

New coach Brendon McCullum and captain Ben Stokes have orchestrated four thrilling test wins in a row this summer, chasing over 275 in the fourth innings on each occasion. Those wins over New Zealand and India have come via their new 'Bazball' style of relentlessly attacking with bat and ball, even when the side is seemingly in trouble.

The switch in fortunes comes after England had won just once in their previous 17 tests before the new leadership group took over. "At the minute, Ben and Brendon have an idea of how they want us to play our cricket so we are buying into that and trying to play our way and we are absolutely loving doing it," Anderson told reporters on Monday. "There might be times when we do come unstuck and moments when things don't go our way, but I think the fact that we are buying into this and enjoying doing it is exciting for the whole group."

Anderson, who is England's all-time leading test wicket-taker with 657, turned 40 last month, but believes he still has plenty to offer for the team.

"I don't feel old or like I'm slowing down or anything," he said. "The last few weeks I've been working hard at training, trying to work on my bowling again and keep that ticking over. The last couple of days I've felt in great rhythm and hopefully I can show that on the field."

England will have the chance to climb the ICC Test Championship ladder from their current seventh position as they host table-topping South Africa, who have a number of injury concerns and a relatively inexperienced top six batting line-up that Anderson will be keen to get stuck into.

**1st Test: 3:30pm, 17th August (Lord's, London)**  
**2nd Test: 3:30pm, 25th August (Old Trafford, Manchester)**  
**3rd Test: 3:30pm, 8th September (The Oval, London)**

Live on Sony Sports Network



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**JAMES ANDERSON**  
ENGLAND PACER

**TUSHAR BHADURI**  
AUGUST 15

**BEATING BANGLADESH** in T20 and ODI series may not prepare Zimbabwe to face the might of India — even a side missing several of the top stars — but it can certainly inject some much-needed confidence through the ranks.

For a team that didn't make it to the 2019 50-over World Cup and last year's T20 World Cup, any victory is good news, especially a first ODI series win over a Test-playing nation since 2017 and a first-ever T20 series win over such opposition.

The upheaval in Zimbabwe cricket over the last several years has forced a reset. The team that beat Bangladesh was missing a few regulars and stand-in skipper Regis Chakabva, who will be at the helm again, feels it's a start of better times.

"It was a very important series for us. But we have come down from that high now and are back in the trenches. We have had some good success in the most recent past, and are just trying to focus on the process, which is trying to play good competitive cricket," Chakabva told The Indian Express ahead of the three-ODI series against India, led by KL Rahul.

One of the players that India may have to watch out for is 36-year-old Sikandar Raza, the Pakistan-born all-rounder who starred against Bangladesh with two hundreds and contributes regularly with the ball as well.

"He (Raza) is one of the senior-most players in our squad and has had a fabulous run over the last few months. He is a very big player for Zimbabwe," Chakabva said.

The hosts chased down two big totals in the ODIs against Bangladesh, with the



Skipper Regis Chakabva, who will be at the helm again, feels it's the start of better times for his nation.

stand-in skipper also hitting a hundred in the series-clinching win.

The recent wins have come as a breath of fresh air for Zimbabwe cricket, which was reeling after failing to qualify for the last two limited-overs ICC showpiece events. That, coupled with the frequent instances of administrative troubles and financial strife, resulted in the team losing several quality players with some casting apprehensions over the future of the game in the African nation.

"It was a big blow and very painful for all of us, especially the fans who are always looking forward to seeing the team play in all the big tournaments. But all that is in the past and we have taken our lessons from that. Now with the ODI Super League in place, which is the pathway to World Cup qualification, we hope to get as many points as we can along the way," Chakabva said.

"Majority of our guys are young. One can say they are inexperienced at the in-

ternational level, but it's very exciting for these guys coming in to showcase what they can do. In the recent games, it was nice to see a few of these players putting their hands up, which is what is needed when we are missing a good number of our senior players.

With Dave Houghton (head coach) and Stuart Matsikenyeri (assistant coach) back in the dressing room, there is reason for optimism.

"It has been good for pretty much everyone who has come up in the various phases in the domestic set-up that a good number of guys who had left are back coaching and things like that.

"It has been really good having those guys (Houghton and Matsikenyeri) with us because they bring an understanding and different knowledge about all the players they have come across. I have played with Stuart for quite a long time and he has a very good understanding of me and my game. He is somebody I can look up to," the stand-in skipper said.

With the feel-good factor back in Zimbabwe cricket, the public will expect their team to put up a good performance against India, even if hardly anyone would expect a repeat of the results against Bangladesh.

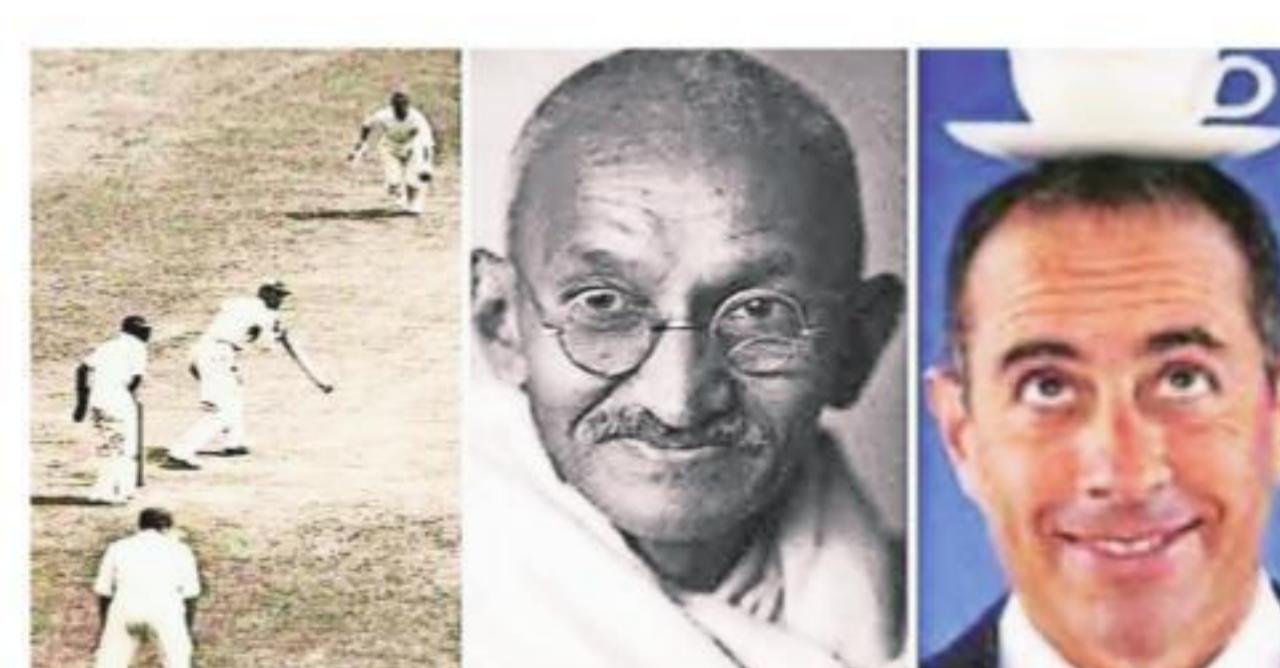
"The Zimbabwe public has always backed us, even though we haven't always had the best of results for them. The last few series have been good, as we have managed to produce some good results for them. After the India series, we leave for Australia for three one-day games, which are part of the World Cup qualification process. So, there are two huge series coming up for us, and of course the T20 World Cup in a couple of months' time. We look forward to as much cricket as we can get," Chakabva added.

ered of Indo-Iranian in its origins, and it could be argued that it was more indigenous than cricket, which came from the British. But in the 19th century Bombay, polo wasn't a common-man's sport. Who could afford a pony, after all?

As the popular line from Jerry Seinfeld's eponymous sitcom goes, "I hate anyone that ever had a pony when they were growing up." And when the Polish grandmother character is hurt and leaves the dinner table, Seinfeld would let out an anguished stream: "I didn't know she had a pony. How was I to know she had a pony? Who figures an immigrant's going to have a pony? Do you know what the odds are on that? I mean, in all the pictures I saw of immigrants on boats coming into New York harbor, I never saw one of them sitting on a pony. Why would anybody come here if they had a pony? Who leaves a country packed with ponies to come to a non-pony country? It doesn't make sense. Am I wrong?"

The Indian cricketers didn't quite use those lines but their direct formal plea worked.

"No Government, and no governing class in the world, ever gave to the governed voluntarily, readily, or cheerfully any rights or



Cricket was at the heart of an early struggle over the rights of citizenry. (Mahatma Gandhi and Jerry Seinfeld in photo)

in England there are vast grounds reserved for cricket alone and the very idea of the turf being spoilt by the polo ponies would not be for a moment tolerated by the authorities' (or indeed, by the cricketers').

Harris sorted out the conflict by allotting

land, 'reclaimed' from the sea for the exclusive use of native Indian cricketers. The land was carved up in three plots: for Parsis, Hindus, and Islam Gymkhana.

Cricket got its piece of land. Of course, never mind the fact that polo itself is consid-

er privileges which in fairness belonged to them. These are always, as history teaches us, obtained after struggles of more or less persistency," wrote the historian Shapoorjee Sorabjee, the author of *The Struggle: Polo versus Cricket*.

It would eventually lead to formation of a Pentangular cricket with Parsis, Hindus, and Europeans in a triangular contest. Later, a team of Muslims would join to make it four-pronged. Later, a team of "Rest" was formed to accommodate the other religious denominations.

Years later, just before independence, Mahatma Gandhi would urge the countryman to stop the "communal" pentangular tournament, and it would soon be disbanded.

"I would like the public of Bombay to revise their sporting code and erase from it communal matches. I can understand matches between colleges and institutions, but I never understood reasons for having Hindu, Parsi, Muslim and other communal Elevens. I should have thought that such unsportsmanlike divisions would be considered taboos in sporting language and sporting manners," wrote Gandhi. "Can we not have some field of life which cannot be touched by the communal spirit?"

**SRIRAM VEERA**

AUGUST 15

EVEN BEFORE the Indian National Congress was officially formed in 1885, under the presidentship of Womesh Chandra Banerjee, cricket was at the heart of an early struggle over the rights of citizenry. In October 1881, a petition was floated by the cricketers, addressed to the Governor of Bombay, James Ferguson, asking the ground encroached by the European polo players to be cleared for cricket.

This is how it read: "Bombay, India, 1881. Ever since the British introduced the noble game of cricket among the natives of Bombay nearly twenty years ago, more than five hundred young men of all ages and of all castes pursue this healthful sport on the Parade Ground where alone they are permitted to play and which is the only ground suitable for cricket. Therefore, we cannot understand the comforts and convenience of the half-a-dozen English gentlemen, who generally play polo, should be preferred to the necessary healthful recreation of over five hundred native youths. The polo ponies completely ruin the turf and render the ground unsuited to cricket. Under the cir-

cumstances, will your Excellency and council please request that the English play polo on another spot or allow your Petitioners to play along with the English on the ground at present reserved for the exclusive use of the English cricketers and which is much too large for their requirements?"

The petition did the trick, and they got their ground cleared off anything apart from cricket. But within a year, the Polo players were back, claiming the grounds for two days a week. Cricketers sulked again.

But news came in 1891 that the new Governor from England Lord Harris had arrived. There has been a lot of hagiography about Harris and his relationship with cricket in India in the distant past, which has been effectively dispelled by the historian Ramachandra Guha in his numerous works, but for now, the focus is just on his initial foray into cricket in India.

The cricketers realised that Harris was a famous cricketer, a former captain of England, an esteemed member of London's MCC — and so he could be in theory coaxed to give full control of the ground to cricketers. And so they petitioned him.

This is what they wrote: "... fully believe that your Excellency is fully aware that even

FIFA firm on 'eminent' players stand, ministry tells CoA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 15

WORLD FOOTBALL governing body FIFA has informed the Sports Ministry that it remains firm in its opposition to individual members' inclusion in the electoral college for the upcoming All India Football Federation's (AIFF) elections. Seeking clarity on FIFA's demands and the sports ministry's stand on the Indian football imbroglio, the Committee of Administrators (CoA) on Monday received a communication from the ministry, sources in the know of things said.

"In the letter, the union sports ministry has mentioned everything about the suggestions given by FIFA during their meeting with the ministry," a source said.

FIFA wants individual members of electoral college to come from the state associations and other entities. The letter from the ministry was received a day after the CoA wrote to them asking for concrete advice based on FIFA's requirements and the ministry's stand on the same. "We have given our stand on AIFF in a written reply to CoA which will be put before the court in the next hearing," a ministry official said.

Everything will be placed in front of the Supreme Court on August 17 — Wednesday — which is also the last date of filing nomination for the post of AIFF president, left vacant since Praful Patel's ouster by the top court.

FIFA had also earlier said that it was "not a prudent idea" to have equal number of eminent players alongside the state association representatives. However, the world body is okay with the executive committee having 25 per cent former players as Co-opted members. The elections to the executive committee of the AIFF will be held on August 28 and the poll process had started following the notification by the Returning Officer, according to the order of the SC which is hearing the matter.

The top court had approved the time-line of the AIFF elections prepared by the CoA which is currently running the affairs of the national federation.

**Everything will be placed in front of the Supreme Court on August 17 which is also the last date of filing nomination for the post of AIFF president**

# Post derby, sparks fly

Chelsea, Spurs managers charged with 'improper conduct' following 2-2 draw

REUTERS  
AUGUST 15

THOMAS TUCHEL and his Tottenham Hotspur counterpart Antonio Conte have been charged by the Football Association (FA) following their confrontation after Sunday's heated Premier League draw at Stamford Bridge.

The two managers shook hands after a 2-2 draw where tempers flared but then faced off on the pitch before being separated by players and staff from both teams.

Both managers were also shown red cards by referee Anthony Taylor as a result of the fracas. "It is alleged that the behaviour of both managers was improper following the end of the fixture," the FA said in a statement. Theys have until Thursday to respond to the charges.

The FA is also investigating Tuchel's comments after the German coach slammed Taylor for his decisions.

Tuchel said he felt that Kai Havertz had been fouled in the build-up to Tottenham's first equaliser and that Richarlison was offside and blocking the view of keeper Edouard Mendy.

He added that new signing Marc Cucurella had had his hair pulled by Tottenham centre back Cristian Romero shortly before Kane's dramatic leveller. "Pull someone else's hair, stay on the pitch and attack the last corner. This is for me without any explanation and I don't want to accept it," Tuchel told reporters. "Both goals should not stand and it's a fair result because we were brilliant, deserved to win. This is my point of view."

An online petition calling for referee Taylor to not be given Chelsea games was launched on change.org shortly after the draw and has received more than 64,000 signatures. When asked about Chelsea fans' view that Taylor should not be allowed to officiate the club's matches in future, Tuchel said, "Maybe it would be better."

## Huge misinterpretation'

"But honestly, we also have VAR to help make the right decision," Tuchel, who could face sanctions for his criticism of the referee, added. "If he does not see it, I do not blame him. I didn't see it. But we have people at VAR who check this. Then you see it and how can this not be a free kick and a red card? This doesn't even have to do with the referee in this case."

"Huge, huge misinterpretation of situations. I'm happy to let the game go, but let it go in every direction please and not like this. I don't even know if I will get punished for my sentences now."



Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel clashed with Tottenham Hotspur manager Antonio Conte after Sunday's 2-2 draw in London. Reuters

## Real's strategy backfires, Barca struggle, Gattuso's Valencia shine

AGENCIES  
AUGUST 15

REAL MADRID recovered from conceding an early goal to beat newly-promoted Almeria 2-1 as Barcelona were held to a goalless draw by Rayo Vallecano on the opening match of La Liga on Sunday. Gennaro Gattuso, meanwhile, debuted as Valencia coach with a 1-0 win against promoted Girona. Here are the talking points from the season's opening weekend:

## LEWANDOWSKI STRUGGLES

Rayo Vallecano spoiled Robert Lewandowski's Barcelona debut as they held the Spanish giants for a disappointing goalless draw in front of their home crowd.

It was the first time in the eight seasons that the Bundesliga's second-highest all-time scorer behind the late Gerd Mueller didn't score in a season debut. Against Rayo Vallecano, Lewandowski struggled against Rayo's five-man defence who did a superb job in shackling the twice FIFA Best Player of the Year winner. The Polish striker, who will turn 34 this month, barely touched the ball the entire game as Xavi Hernandez Barca showed some of the same problems of last season, lacking aim and effectiveness despite controlling most of the possession.

It was a far from ideal season debut for

Barcelona, who were Europe's biggest spenders in the close season as they splashed out around 150 million euros trying to end their three-year LaLiga title drought.

## GATTUSO'S WINNING DEBUT

Gennaro Gattuso debuted as Valencia coach with a 1-0 win against promoted Girona in a match in which his team played a man down during most of the second half.

Carlos Soler converted a penalty kick in first-half stoppage time, then the hosts held on despite Rayo Comer's sending off with a straight red card shortly after halftime at Mestalla Stadium. Gattuso took over from Josep Bordalás, who was fired despite leading Valencia to the Copa del Rey final in his single season in charge.

## REAL'S ROTATIONS BACKFIRE

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti started the season with several rotations to his starting 11 and his gamble almost backfired with his team forced to fight back to beat newly promoted Almeria 2-1, leaving questions about the depth of group.

Ancelotti went through an evening of high nerves as Almeria defended in numbers and constantly threatened Real with counter attacks. It wasn't until he sent on veterans Luka Modric, Eden Hazard and David Alaba from the bench that Real managed to recover.

Ciudad - where he plays for the first time since 2017 - is likely to be a test of his physicality more than a title push.

This could leave the door open for a few others. Casper Ruud and Hubert Hurkacz come into the event on the back of an excellent week in Montreal. Alcaraz, placed in a less crowded part of a draw, will be looking to gain some momentum ahead of the US Open. The Spaniard's meteoric rise to the top of the men's game has been marred by a few nervous final losses recently, and he will be looking to add to his breakthrough year.

Kyrgios, having won in Washington and reached the final at Wimbledon, is undoubtedly the one to watch though.

Serena Williams is on a farewell tour.

## Nadal's comeback, Serena's farewell raise stakes at Cincy

NAMIT KUMAR  
AUGUST 15

THE WESTERN and Southern Open is one of the biggest non-Grand Slam events on the professional tennis tour.

America's midwestern city of Cincinnati plays host to one of the few events on the circuit that concurrently runs men's and women's draws, and the occasion acquires added significance with it being the final tune-up ahead of the US Open.

This year, the event is not bereft of story-lines, and with huge names highlighting an uncharacteristically stacked main draw, the stakes are that much higher.

## Nadal, Medvedev look for form

The narrative in Cincinnati is likely to be tailored around the top two seeds – the winners of two of the last three US Opens and the reigning hardcourt Major champions – Rafael Nadal and Daniil Medvedev.

World No. 1 Medvedev, the best vaccinated hard-court on tour, has a lot of points to defend until the end of the year, including his US Open title. The Russian has had a quiet season ever since losing his two-set lead in the Australian Open final. The Russian won in Los Cabos earlier this month, but his early defeat in Montreal to Nick Kyrgios, who is a good pick to go deep in Cincinnati and New York himself, puts him in desperate need of form.

Nadal, on the other hand, faces a different kind of challenge. The Spaniard has been sensational this year, still unbeaten in Majors and his loss to Carlos Alcaraz in Madrid being his only defeat not related to an injury.

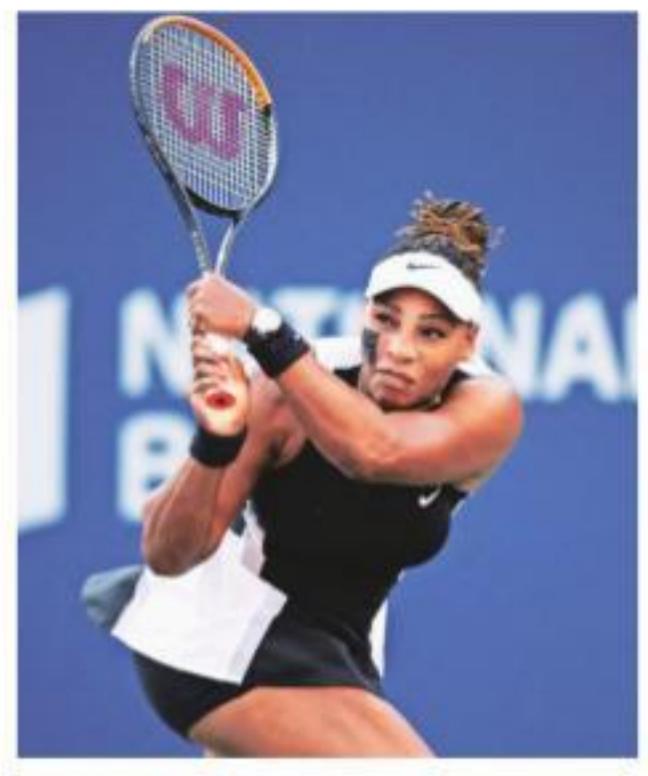
But the Spaniard's success comes despite his mounting physical issues. He started the year fresh off a minor operation for his chronic foot issue, which flared up again at the French Open where he won after using anaesthetic injections. A rib injury broke him down in the Indian Wells final and curtailed the start of his clay season, and an abdominal tear led to his withdrawal from Wimbledon.

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Serena Williams is on a farewell tour.



Serena Williams is on a farewell tour.

MARUTI SUZUKI

THE ALL-NEW

**XL6**  
TIME TO INDULGE



NEXA

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