

india75
DEAR INDIA, 2047
letter from..



I visualise that discrimination of caste, community is a ghost of the past

RAM NATH KOVIND

HINDSIGHT IS ALWAYS 20/20 but foresight is fraught with risks of unpredictability. I am certainly not endowed with a divine power to see the future. Yet, I take the opportunity of felicitating and addressing you on the centenary of Independence in 2047 while celebrating its 74th anniversary in 2021.

I wish I could do it in person. But life is so fragile that its longevity is beyond one's control. So I begin with certain constraints. Nevertheless, I can say with confidence that as you celebrate the 100th year of Independence in 2047, I can visualise India having progressed much farther on the path of development, guided by the trinity of justice, equality and fraternity. The social fault lines that existed earlier are substantially, if not wholly, obliterated. The discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, community and language is a ghost of the past buried deep in the sand of time.

I envision a prosperous, progressive and peaceful India gently striding on the world stage in a manner that is endearing and cooperative. The consolidation of India's influence in the world and its thought leadership a cen-

tury after Independence is benign and inclusive for the entire humanity.

And this is the true culmination of dreams conjured up by our sages in the ancient times, saints of the medieval era and great freedom fighters led by Mahatma Gandhi in the modern time. These sages and great men and women were gifted with the unique perspicacity to chart the future path for the country. They saw the world as one family and led India on a roadmap to promote compassion and cohesion not only within the country but across the world also. That is the rich heritage bestowed upon you by the great leaders of the country.

As we begin celebrating the 75th year of Independence, I am particularly worried about the climate challenge posed by the industrialised world. Today, India, as a responsible nation, is going well beyond its commitments to protect the environment. Following in the footsteps of our founding fathers, we are determined to bequeath a legacy not only for India but for the whole world; for its prosperity and peaceful coexistence. I am confident that your generation will take the country to greater heights, much beyond my limited imagination!

Wish you all the best.

THE WRITER IS PRESIDENT OF INDIA

Job, income, education incentives in UP law panel draft 2-child plan

AVANEESH MISHRA

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 16

THE UTTAR Pradesh Law Commission on Monday submitted the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Draft Bill to the Chief Minister's Office for consideration and further action.

The draft Bill aims to bring down the gross fertility rate by disincentivising more than two children per couple, and by offering a range of benefits to those who choose not to have more than two children.

The draft Bill proposes to deny government benefits to those with more than two children, and bar them from contesting local body polls, applying for government jobs, or receiving any kind of government subsidy.

An initial version of the draft Bill was published on the Law Commission's website on July 9, and suggestions from the public were invited until July 19.

"For every nationalist the in-

POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

CARROT...

Subsidy for plots; soft loan to build/buy house; rebates on water, electricity, house tax; health, insurance cover

& STICK

No govt subsidy to those with more than 2 children, can't contest local polls, get govt jobs and promotions

creasing population is a matter of concern. The Ayog has an opinion that there should be an independent law for population control, and those following the two-child family policy should be encouraged and those violating it should be prohibited from state welfare schemes and from contesting local body elections,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

SANDIP G

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

AS JOE Root crouched in dejection after getting out, the wicket-taker Jasprit Bumrah rushed towards him, his arms punching the air. Like an incensed boxer who had knocked out his champion adversary, he kept staring at Root. Skipper Virat Kohli was wheeling away in delirious joy in another corner of the field. They knew how defining that wicket was.

Getting Root, the pillar of England batting, out was as good as the battle won, as England's middle-order was flimsy and

bereft of the quality to either win the match or force the draw. Jos Buttler did his best to salvage a draw, but Mohammed Siraj's double-wicket burst sealed a famous, 151-run victory at Lord's Monday for India to lead the series 1-0 after two Tests.

Siraj didn't look like someone who had made his Test debut at the turn of this year. He was fearless and feisty, his in-your-face aggression a reflection of the ideals that Kohli keeps close to his heart. Thrice, his double blows shaped the match. In the first innings, he gobbled up Dom Sibley and Haseeb Hameed with the new ball. Then in the second,

in Kolkata.

Devi is the fourth high-profile young face of the Congress, and one of the noted members of 'Team Rahul', to leave the party in the last two years. While Devi was said to be unhappy over some of the decisions taken by the leadership in Assam, her resignation signals the increasing frustration among young leaders over the drift in the Congress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Devi is the fourth high-profile young face of the Congress, and one of the noted members of 'Team Rahul', to leave the party in the last two years. While Devi was said to be unhappy over some of the decisions taken by the leadership in Assam, her resignation signals the increasing frustration among young leaders over the drift in the Congress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

India's last-hour win at Lord's: 'Best I-Day gift'



Mohd Siraj celebrates after taking the last England wicket to win the match for India, ending with 4/32. AP

he grabbed the wickets of Moeen Ali and Sam Curran when the match seemed meandering towards a draw, before he dismissed Buttler and Anderson at the death.

It is another potential tryst-with-destiny moment for Indian cricket at the home of cricket. And Kohli would call the win, coming a day after August 15, "the best gift we can give to the people of India".

As characteristic as Kohli's celebratory excesses were, Bumrah's overly aggressive body language struck odd. Since his debut, he is known as the smiling assassin. But then, the sight

of the mild Bumrah turning into a mean, snarling fast bowler illustrated how intensely heated this Test match has rolled out.

The proceedings on Day Five, and a bit of Day Four and Three, could light the touch-paper on what could prove to be a fiery Test series.

No one symbolised the nature of this match as much as Bumrah. He was hustling in, wearing on his face the restlessness of a man out to take revenge. When battoning in the morning, en route to a match-defining ninth-wicket alliance of 89 runs, he had copped blows

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

7 KILLED IN CHAOS AS CROWDS THROG TARMAC

Day after the fall, fearful, desperate Afghans swarm Kabul airport in bid to flee Taliban rule

Taliban guard to Express: Kahan jaana chahte ho



EXPRESS IN AFGHANISTAN

SHUBHAJIT ROY
KABUL, AUGUST 16

NOTHING ILLUSTRATED more powerfully Kabul's rapid descent to chaos than the chilling scenes from the Hamid Karzai International Airport that played out on screens across the world Monday.

They showed crowds surging to the tarmac in a desperate bid to flee with gunfire echoing in the background, many of them scrambling up a ladder to board a parked plane, several running alongside an American military aircraft taxiing for takeoff, some clambering on to its wheels — and at least two spiralling down from the skies.

Each grainy image underlined the tragedy and despair that had engulfed a nation, abandoned by its main backers, the US and its Western allies, and overrun by the Taliban in a matter of days.

As night fell, at least seven people had reportedly died in the chaos at the airport, even as the US, France, Germany and New Zealand said they were working to get their citizens out — US officials even urged Taliban leaders in Qatar to not interfere

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



People clung on to the side of a US military plane as it taxied down the runway Monday. Twitter

Flights off, repatriation paused, Govt promises all help to Indians

KRISHN KAUSHIK & PRANAV MUKUL

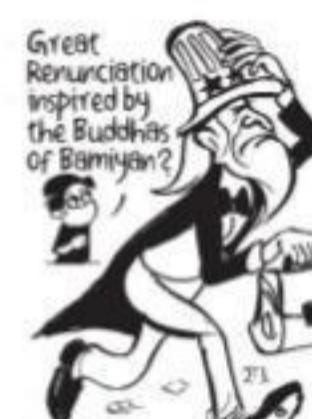
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

A DAY after the Taliban completed its rapid takeover of Afghanistan by storming into Kabul, the Ministry of External Affairs said Monday that it was monitoring the situation "on a constant basis at high levels" and is "in constant touch with the representatives of Afghan Sikh and Hindu communities".

"The Government will take

BUSINESS AS USUAL

BY UNNY



all steps to ensure the safety and

security of Indian nationals and our interests in Afghanistan," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said in a statement.

"We are aware that there are still some Indian nationals in Afghanistan who wish to return, and we are in touch with them... We will facilitate repatriation to India of those who wish to leave Afghanistan," he said.

However, the spokesperson said "commercial operations from Kabul airport have been suspended today", which "has forced a pause in our repatriation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

THE FALL OF KABUL TO TALIBAN



WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

A SERIES

THE CHANGING AF-PAK

By C Raju Mohan, P 10

THE PAKISTAN FACTOR

By Nirupama Subramanian, P 13

Imran says 'shackles of slavery' off Afghans

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, AUGUST 16

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan Monday seemed to endorse the heavily armed Taliban taking over Kabul by saying that Afghanistan has broken the "shackles of slavery" in the neighbouring war-torn country.

Khan made these remarks while addressing a ceremony to launch the first phase of the Single National Curriculum (SNC) from Grade 1 to 5, which was part of the manifesto of his ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party. (The remarks came hours ahead of US President Joe Biden's address on Afghanistan scheduled for late Monday night.)

Imran spoke on how the parallel education system led to the existence of English medium schools, resulting in the adoption of "someone else's culture" in Pakistan.

"When you adopt someone's culture, you believe it to be superior, and you end up becoming a slave to it," he said before pointing out that it is more difficult to break the shackles of mental slavery. "Jo abhi Afghanistan mein ghulami ki zanjeerein tod di unhone (In Afghanistan, they have now broken the shackles of slavery)," he said.

Pakistan is accused of facilitating the Taliban rebellion, which resulted in the militant

surveillance company NSO Group, the Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Anirudha Bose, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to tell the court by Tuesday, when it will hear the matter again, if he wanted to file any further affidavit in the matter.

The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana sought to know if the proposed committee would also be able to look into the questions raised by the petitioners — to this, the Centre said that the court could include it in the terms of reference of the committee.

Seeking to know why the government introduced the Tribunal Reforms Bill, 2021, Chief Justice NV Ramana told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, "I don't think any debate has taken place in Parliament. No reason has been given. We have absolutely no problem with Parliament making laws. Parliament has the right to make any law. But at least we must know what are the reasons for the government to introduce this Bill again after the same in an earlier Ordinance.

The probe has also found that 90 per cent of the money transferred to these accounts has been taken out, sources told *The Indian Express*. Sinha, who is absconding, is among five employees of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

'Not as simple as if Pegasus used', says Govt, offers panel to dispel 'wrong' talk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

THE CENTRE on Monday "unequivocally" denied all allegations made by the petitioners in the Pegasus matter; however, it told the Supreme Court in an affidavit that "with a view to dispel any wrong narrative spread by certain vested interests and with an object of examining the issues raised", it would set up "a Committee of Experts in the field which will go in to all aspects of the issue".

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana sought to know if the proposed committee would also be able to look into the questions raised by the petitioners — to this, the Centre said that the court could include it in the terms of reference of the committee.

After the petitioners pointed out that the Centre's affidavit did not disclose whether it had purchased or used Pegasus, the highly sophisticated spyware developed by the Israeli cyber

surveillance company NSO Group, the Bench, also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Anirudha Bose, asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to tell the court by Tuesday, when it will hear the matter again, if he wanted to file any further affidavit in the matter.

The Bench pointed out that the "petitions have nothing to establish that" the alleged "violation is done by the State".

Several petitioners have moved the court seeking a probe into the findings of a global media investigation, that the spyware may have been used to infiltrate phones used by a wide

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

proceedings on Day Five, and a bit of Day Four and Three, could light the touch-paper on what could prove to be a fiery Test series.

No one symbolised the nature of this match as much as Bumrah. He was hustling in, wearing on his face the restlessness of a man out to take revenge. When battoning in the morning, en route to a match-defining ninth-wicket alliance of 89 runs, he had copped blows

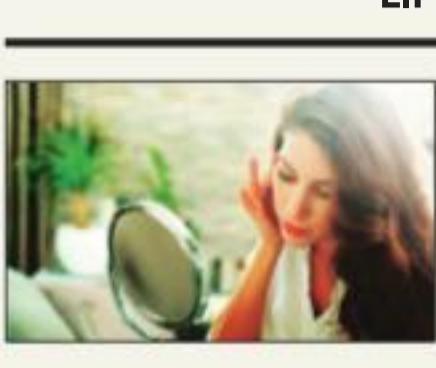
CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

DOWNLOAD APP

- VISUAL STORIES
- DAILY BRIEFING
- PODCASTS
- CUSTOMIZABLE NEWS EXPERIENCE

Indian Express ★★★★ 4.6

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD THE APP

WEB EXCLUSIVE**5 NINTENDO CONSOLES THAT ARE RARE, COLLECTABLE, AND (REALLY) HARD TO COME BY**

If you think you might qualify as an avid video game collector, here are five extremely rare Nintendo consoles that should be on your shortlist

LIFESTYLE**BODY DYSMORPHIA**
How obsession with 'good looks' impacts the mental health of today's generation**ENTERTAINMENT****URVI JAVED ON BIGG BOSS OTT EVICTION**
Urvi talks about what went wrong between her and Zeeshan Khan**EXPRESS AUDIO****Taliban takes over Kabul, vehicle scrapping policy, and PM Modi's speech**

Today we discuss about the Taliban taking over Kabul, and how it managed to do so. We also talk about the new vehicle scrapping policy, what it aims to do, and how it is expected to help the economy. And in the end, highlights from the PM's I-Day speech

FROM PAGE ONE**2-child plan**

the Commission said in a statement issued on Monday.

Commission Secretary Sapna Tripathi told *The Indian Express* that the revised draft had been submitted to the office of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The Commission had received 8,500 suggestions, including from judges and lawyers of the Supreme Court and High Court, and around 99.5 per cent people had favoured a population control law, Tripathi said.

According to the draft Bill, the policy shall come into force on a date notified by the government, which shall be a year from the date of publication of the Act in the Gazette.

A person would be considered in breach of the two-child norm if they have more than two living children, one of whom is born on or after the appointed date.

This also means that a person who already has two children can have a third with no repercussions, as long as they have it within a year of notification of the Act.

A person would be considered in compliance with the policy if they or their spouse undergo voluntary sterilisation, or if the wife has attained the age of 45 years and their youngest child is 10 years old.

According to the draft Bill, a person who adopts the two-child policy will receive subsidy benefits on the purchase of a plot or house site from the housing board or the development authority; a soft loan to build or buy a house on nominal rates of interest; rebates on water and electricity charges, house tax, and sewerage charges; and free healthcare and insurance cover for spouse.

In case the person follows the one-child policy, additional benefits will be available, such as free healthcare facility and insurance cover to the single child till the age of 21 years; preference to the single child in admission to all recognised educational institutions; free education up to graduation in prescribed manner; scholarship for higher studies in case of girl child; and preference to single child in state government jobs in their respective categories.

Public servants who adopt the two-child norm will be given incentives such as two additional increments during the pe-

riod of service; a 3 per cent increase in the employer's contribution fund under the National Pension Scheme; and free healthcare facility and insurance cover to spouse. Those who adopt a single-child policy will receive an additional increment.

The draft Bill mentions some exceptions: if a person with one child has two or more children through a single subsequent pregnancy after the appointed date, the children of the subsequent pregnancy shall be counted as only one child; a child who suffers from disability from birth will not be taken into account.

Imran Khan

group capturing the country after being ousted about 20 years ago.

Later, a high-level security huddle chaired by the Prime Minister endorsed Biden's decision to pull American troops out of Afghanistan, saying the presence of foreign troops for a longer period would not have produced a different result.

Senior political and military leaders, including Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, attended the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting, which deliberated on the emerging situation in Afghanistan.

PTI**PF accounts**

office who have been placed under suspension for their alleged involvement in the fraud. Sources said that as soon as the internal audit is wrapped up, the EPFO will move to hand over the case to the CBI.

While the probe has focused only on the Kandivali office, the case has sent alarm bells across EPFO, which is "one of the world's largest social security organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken" – directly and indirectly managing upto Rs 18 lakh crore in savings of individuals. Essentially, an EPF membership is an indicator of formal employment.

PF accounts

office who have been placed under suspension for their alleged involvement in the fraud. Sources said that as soon as the internal audit is wrapped up, the EPFO will move to hand over the case to the CBI.

While the probe has focused only on the Kandivali office, the case has sent alarm bells across EPFO, which is "one of the world's largest social security organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken" – directly and indirectly managing upto Rs 18 lakh crore in savings of individuals. Essentially, an EPF membership is an indicator of formal employment.

Desperate Afghans swarm airport to flee

in evacuation operations.

Inside the airport building, meanwhile, there was helplessness, hopelessness and desperation laced with panic on each face, and one fervent wish — to get out of "Taliban Afghanistan". "Kuch nahin karega Taliban. Aap aaram se raho (The Taliban won't do anything to you, stay calm)," a man in his 20s tried to assure this reporter.

But then, the chaotic sequence of events from early Monday morning told a different story.

At about 4.25 am, a group of about 40-50 Taliban entered the Serena Hotel, most of them in their 20s and 30s. Soon, a small group of five started inspecting the facilities.

By now, a group of people, including this reporter, had left the hotel to reach the airport at

about 4.50 am. The car stopped at the entrance of the airport, from where the terminal is a kilometre's walk away.

It was still dark, but there was a steady stream of men, women and children, all walking with bags and essentials towards the airport. Outside the terminal was a roundabout with the words "I Love Kabul", and six parked armoured vehicles manned by Taliban fighters to block access to the hundreds that had gathered.

Occasionally, the Taliban would fire in the air to intimidate the crowd.

This scene played out on a loop till 6 am before the armoured vehicles finally let the crowds pass through. Inside, the terminal had been ransacked with broken glass littering the floor, and printers and

bundles of A4 sheets looted from offices. There was chaos and mayhem all around.

Soon, the sound of gunfire echoed, with some reports claiming indiscriminate firing by the Taliban and rumours flying thick and fast of an exchange of fire between US and Taliban forces. US troops, meanwhile, fired in the air to stop people from trying to force their way onto a military aircraft.

Outside the airport, there was a palpable sense of fear as the traffic piled up and gun-toting Taliban stopped cars to check the occupants.

At the famed Green Zone, which houses the diplomatic enclave, the security ring was manned by the Taliban, and access to the embassies that were still functioning, including the Indian Embassy, was tightly controlled.

A Taliban guard at the entry gate said: "Till the Taliban structures come into place, we are not allowed to let people enter or exit the Green Zone."

At the Indian embassy, officials hunkered down and watched the unfolding scenes on their TV sets while trying to establish channels of communication with the new regime. They had already prepared plans for evacuation, and were waiting for clearances.

All of them were bracing for a tense week ahead. For this reporter, the one exchange that captured this tension took place at a check post. "Kahan jaana chahte ho?" asked a Taliban fighter. On hearing the response, he smiled menacingly and said: "India, ya India ke bahane Amreeka?"

He said: "If it's a fact-finding inquiry, I'm fully supporting [it]. But if it's for sensationalising ... then I can't say anything."

Appearing for petitioners senior journalists N Ram and Sashi Kumar and Editors' Guild of India, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal pointed out that the Centre's "affidavit doesn't answer the issues raised by us... But this fact will have to be stated by them if Pegasus was ever used or not by government or its agencies. If they haven't, our argument will have to be different. If they have, our argument will be different".

He also asked how the government could say the petitions are based on conjectures and surmises. "They must state why facts stated in petition are wrong. Only then can we demonstrate how the government says is wrong, and I will demonstrate that."

Sibal also sought to know how the government, which is accused of having used Pegasus, could set up a committee to go into the allegations.

Apparently referring to the names of some journalists and staffers of the Supreme Court that have figured in the reported list of potential targets, Sibal said: "I'm more concerned with institutions... the two pillars of democracy... and both have been infiltrated. If registrars of this court... have been infiltrated, its not about Pegasus, but about institutions... of the only institution which protects the rights of people in this country."

Sibal submitted that the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) deals with such infiltrations, and that under the 2009 IT Rules, the competent authority to authorise interceptions is the Home Secretary. However, the affidavit has been filed by the IT Ministry, he said.

On the SG's contention that national security implications were involved, Sibal said: "All that we want to know from the government is did they or any of their agency use Pegasus. There are no national security secrets there. It's just a statement of facts."

When the CJI responded, "When government is reluctant, can we compel them to file new affidavit?", Mehta intervened to say: "I'm not reluctant, I'm saying even if I say so (whether the government used Pegasus) they (the petitioners) will continue for other reasons."

The Bench told Mehta: "If you have any change of mind, we will hear tomorrow."

Win at Lord's from Mark Wood on the side of his helmet

And then, Jos Buttler and Wood, decided to apply some taunt into the hurt. Bumrah was infuriated and was heard telling Buttler: "I was not the one who was complaining to bowl slow, man." The umpires intervened and seemed to douse the flare-up. The embers kept burning.

The next ball, Bumrah walloped Wood through point. In return, the bowler blasted him on the helmet. He peppered him with more short-pitched balls at his body, but Bumrah either swayed away from the line. In the end, it only frustrated England's bowlers, as they withered in their futile pursuit to break the stand.

The short-ball barrage was a response to a similar treatment Bumrah had meted out to James Anderson late on the third day. The England veteran too was struck on the helmet and flush on the elbow. Anderson seemed furious when retreating to the pavilion. Bumrah walked up and patted him on his shoulder, but Anderson was still muttering something to himself. The incident could have been the spark that portents to light up the series.

FULL REPORTS ON www.indianexpress.com

Government promises all help to Indians

extending assistance to community members," he said.

"There are also a number of Afghans who have been our partners in the promotion of our mutual developmental, educational and people to people endeavours. We will stand by them," the spokesperson said.

"We have been issuing periodic advisories for the safety and security of Indian nationals in that country, including calling for their immediate return to India... We had circulated emergency contact numbers and had also been

saying airspace over Kabul had been released to the military, and that surrounding airspaces had been informed. It advised all transiting aircraft to reroute.

Consequently, several flights from the US and Europe to India and Southeast Asia had to take a last-minute detour. Air India's Chicago-Delhi and San Francisco-Delhi flights were rerouted to avoid Afghan airspace, and both aircraft made unscheduled refuelling stops in Sharjah in the UAE before continuing to Delhi.

The Afghan civil aviation authority issued a notice to airmen (NOTAM) on Monday,

Sushmita Dev

A former MP from Silchar, Dev is the daughter of the late Santosh Mohan Dev and was considered the face of the Congress in Assam's largely Bengali-speaking Barak Valley. Since it failed to oust the BJP from power in the recent Assembly elections, the Congress has now lost three leaders in Assam, including Rupjyoti Kurmi and Sushanta Borgohain.

In a letter to interim Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, Dev did not mention why she was resigning but said she cherished her "three-decade-long association" with the party. "May I take this opportunity to thank the party, all its leaders, members, and workers who have been a part of my memorable journey," Dev wrote.

She did not respond to several attempts to reach her.

Rahul's detractors point out that many of those leaving are second- or third-generation dynasts handpicked by him and rewarded over others. "The way the party is haemorrhaging... there will be no one left in the party. A party without a full-time president does not inspire confidence," a leader said, adding that even Sonia taking formal charge "would make a difference".

Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari, a member of G23, told *The Indian Express* that "there is a need for all of us to introspect as to why younger people are leaving. The Congress gave everything to a Priyanka Chaturvedi, a Jyotiraditya Scindia, a Jitin Prasada or a Sushmita Dev."

While Chaturvedi is now with the Shiv Sena, Scindia and Prasada are in the BJP. In Rajasthan, another prominent youth face, Sachin Pilot, is chafing as he is kept hanging by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.

Party leaders claimed Dev's resignation had taken them by surprise. Leader of the Opposition in Assam Debraj Saikia said Dev was present at a meeting that Sonia and Rahul held with Assam leaders in Delhi Saturday.

"We were not aware she was going to quit," said Saikia.

The court was hearing petitions against the central notification transferring the jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Jabalpur, to DRT, Lucknow, as there is no presiding officer in the former, and another seeking the setting up of the Goods and Services Appellate Tribunal.

While Dev said she had sent her resignation letter to Sonia on Friday evening, the Congress denied Sonia had received a letter from her. The chief spokesperson of the party, Randeep Surjewala, said the Congress had tried to reach out to Dev but her phone was switched off. "Sushmitaji is extremely versatile, talented and capable. Sonia Gandhiji and Rahul Gandhiji have always appreciated it," he told reporters.

Saying Dev had a "generational relationship" with the Congress, he added, "I am certain that she is mature enough to take whatever political decision that she takes with an appropriate consideration of her history, her legacy."

The Assam PCC called Dev's resignation "very shocking", adding, "She is the daughter of a Congress stalwart... whose rise in politics of Barak Valley and Assam was nurtured by our leaders like Indrajit and Rajivji."

Dev joined the TMC in the presence of Abhishek Banerjee. Later, she released a video statement hailing Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee, saying they had "excellent vision and clarity for the party". She said she would hold a press conference in Delhi Tuesday.

But the bench did not appear satisfied and said it had in many previous judgments laid out how tribunals should function. The CJI quoted from the SC judgment that had struck down certain provisions of the Ordinance.

The CJI went on to say that he had not come across any reason being discussed for the new Bill. "Nothing is there," he said, adding the only thing he saw was a newspaper report quoting the minister saying that the court has not struck down the Ordinance on constitutionality.

Wondering if "this was the debate and the reasons accorded in Parliament", he said, "this is a serious issue. What are we to understand from this Bill and Act? Tribunals have to be continued or have to be closed?"

The CJI clarified that "we are not saying you cannot make laws. You are entitled to make laws".

Mehta replied that on the question of vacancies, efforts are on at the highest level to complete the process of filling them up. On the issue of the Bill, he said "ultimately, this is the wisdom of Parliament".

The court was hearing petitions against the central notification transferring the jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Jabalpur, to DRT, Lucknow, as there is no presiding officer in the former, and another seeking the setting up of the Goods and Services Appellate Tribunal.

The court was hearing petitions against the central notification transferring the jurisdiction of Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Jabalpur, to DRT, Lucknow, as there is no presiding officer in the former, and another seeking the setting up of the Goods and Services Appellate Tribunal.

On August 5, the apex court had expressed displeasure over the vacancies in various tribunals and asked the Centre to take a stand in a week, failing which, it warned, it would summon top officers.

On Monday, the SG told the bench that "after the last hearing, the process has commenced, some of the appointments are made. The remaining are in the process of being made".

The CJI asked him to show one appointment that had been made, following which the SG said appointments have been made in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). He said he had a word with the government in the morning and added, "We can come with substantial progress" if the matter is posted after two weeks.

But the bench did not appear satisfied and said it had in many previous judgments laid out how tribunals should function. The CJI quoted from the SC judgment that had struck down certain provisions of the Ordinance.

The CJI went on to say that he had not come across any reason being discussed for the new Bill. "Nothing is there," he said, adding the only thing he saw was a newspaper report quoting the minister saying that the court has not struck down the Ordinance on constitutionality.

Woman who accused BSP MP of rape sets herself on fire outside Supreme Court

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

A WOMAN and a man set themselves on fire outside the Supreme Court on Monday morning -- both suffered severe burn injuries and are undergoing treatment.

Before immolating themselves, they recorded a Facebook Live video, wherein the woman said she had lodged a rape case against MP Atul Rai, and accused police of supporting him. "They have issued a non-bailable warrant against me. The judge has summoned me. They are all a part of nexus... Me and my witness were trapped," she claimed.

"Now, you (Uttar Pradesh Police) can file false cases and non-bailable warrants against us... This is Uttar Pradesh's judicial system," claimed the man before pouring oil and setting themselves ablaze.

Police said the injured woman hails from UP's Ghazipur and was allegedly raped by Bahujan Samaj Party MP Atul Rai in June 2019. Rai was sent to jail in connection with the case.

Meanwhile, his brother lodged a complaint in Varanasi against the woman in November last year for allegedly forging documents about her date of birth. A case was registered under sections of cheating, forgery, and criminal conspiracy. On August 2, a local court in Varanasi issued a non-bailable warrant against



forensic team at the spot. Prem Nath Pandey

her after police told the court she has "remained untraceable despite several raids".

On Monday, as they set themselves on fire, onlookers, security, and police staff rushed to help and poured water, but the two collapsed on the ground.

"The duo set themselves on fire after pouring kerosene oil. Police personnel at the gate saw them and rushed to save them with blankets. The fire was doused and the two were rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in a police van," said DCP (New Delhi) Deepak Yadav.

Police said the two are critical -- the woman sustained 85% burn injuries and the man 65%. Senior officers said they have shared details of the two with UP police and informed their families. "We have identified them but don't know how they are related. Both are unfit for statement. We

will have to ask UP police about their details," said a police officer.

In November last year, Rai's brother Pawan Kumar had told police that the woman produced a marksheet while getting an FIR registered in which her date of birth was June 10. In 2015, when she was allegedly molested by a student leader, she gave documents to the police then her date of birth was March 10, he claimed.

When contacted, Uttar Pradesh ADG (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar said, "We have filed a chargesheet against MP Atul Rai in the rape case and he has been in jail since 2019. A sub-inspector and deputy SP were suspended for misconduct earlier.

The incident about the woman has come to our notice... we are waiting for a report from the Delhi Police or will definitely take appropriate action based on the video."

Man held for drowning infant in water tanker

SAKSHI DAYAL
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

SIX MONTHS after an 18-month-old child was found dead in a water tanker near his home in Faridabad, police have arrested his 22-year-old neighbour. Police said he confessed to allegedly murdering the child following a fight with his father over Rs 50.

A similar committee had earlier been proposed by the Delhi government but did not get approval from the L-G. Officials at the L-G's office had said the committee was not deemed necessary as the Supreme Court was looking into the matter.

The accused was arrested on Saturday and has been identified as Naresh, a resident of Faridabad's Sector 56. Police said he is unemployed.

According to police, the incident took place on February 5 this year and an FIR was registered the following day. "During questioning, the accused confessed to the crime. He said he and the child's father would often get into arguments over different matters.

Two days before the crime, the accused grabbed Rs 50 from the complainant's eight-year-old daughter, because of which the two men got into another fight," said Sube Singh, PRO of Faridabad Police.

The accused held a grudge against the complainant because of this. On February 5, when he spotted his 18-month-old son playing alone, he picked up the child and took him to his flat. Later, he took the child to the roof of the house and allegedly drowned him in the water tanker. He then closed the tanker with a wire so that his crime would not be discovered," he said.

Officials said that when the child's parents discovered he was missing, they started searching for him and eventually found his body in the water tanker.

"The accused fled the spot soon after and changed his location frequently to avoid detection. He was arrested with the help of technical support and police sources. The thread and amulet that were tied around the child's neck have been seized from him," said PRO Singh.

"After questioning, the accused was produced in court and remanded to judicial custody," he said.

'Shouldn't hide oxygen deaths': Sisodia again seeks L-G nod for panel

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

DEPUTY CHIEF Minister Manish Sisodia said Monday that he has again submitted a file to L-G Anil Baijal, seeking approval for formation of a committee that will look into allegations of deaths because of scarcity of medical oxygen during the Covid wave.

"Recently, the Centre said in the Rajya Sabha that no state had recorded any death because of lack of oxygen during the second wave. The Delhi government later countered the Centre saying that it had not been possible to give any details as the committee that was supposed to look into the allegations for these deaths was not allowed to be formed.

"I wrote to him and told him how Delhi struggled for oxygen at the peak of the wave in Delhi. This is something he was also well aware of. I told him why the committee was being formed and that it aimed to compensate kin of people who may have died of the lack of oxygen. I also told him that without an enquiry, it is not possible to say how many may or may not have died due to the scarcity... I hope we get the permission to set up this committee soon," he said.

Two Delhi hospitals -- Jaipur Golden, Rohini and Batra Hospital near Badarpur -- had said that Covid patients died because of shortage in medical oxygen.

"I have sent the file to the L-G again today and am hoping for a quick approval. The Centre has also said that it wants to know

"मैं आर सी गोयल, प्रमोटर राजहंस रेजिडेंसी फेज 2 व्यक्तिगत कारणों से 30 प्र० रेरा मैं पंजीकृत परियोजना Rajhans Residency (phase-2) (संख्या UPRERAPRJ617228) को सरेंडर / कैन्सेलेशन/ निरस्तीकरण करा रहा हूँ। किसी व्यक्ति / संस्था आदि द्वारा इस परियोजना में यदि कोई बुकिंग कराई गयी हो तो कृपया अपना क्लेम / दावा प्रस्तुत करे। उक्त क्लेम / दावा विवरण सहित 15 दिनों के अंदर यूपी रेरा की ईमेल आईडी contactuprera@up-rera.in पर भी भेजा जाये तथा क्लेम / दावा विवरण को सूचित 30 प्र० रेरा मुख्यालय, नवीन भवन, राज्य नियोजन संस्थान, कालाकांकर हाउस, लखनऊ - 226007 को प्रेषित किया जाये।"

आर सी गोयल
प्रमोटर, डायरेक्टर

adani
Ports and
Logistics

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited

Registered office: "Adani Corporate House", Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421, Gujarat, India. | Tel: +91-79-2656 5555 | E-mail: investor.apsezel@adani.com
Website: www.adaniports.com | CIN: L63090GUJ1998PLC034182

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH
C.A. (CAA)/56 (AHM) 2021

In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013;

And

In the matter of Sections 230 - 232 read with other relevant provisions of the Companies Act, 2013;

And

In the matter of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited;

And

In the matter of Composite Scheme of Arrangement between Brahmi Tracks Management Services Private Limited and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited and Adani Tracks Management Services Private Limited and Sarguja Rail Corridor Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors;

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and now deemed to be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office at Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S. G. Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382 421, Gujarat, India.

... Applicant Company

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF NOTICE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS (WHICH INCLUDES PUBLIC SHAREHOLDERS), SECURED CREDITORS (INCLUDING SECURED DEBENTURE HOLDERS) AND UNSECURED CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that by an order dated the 9 August 2021, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Ahmedabad Bench ("NCLT") has directed separate meetings to be held of the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company, for the purpose of considering and if thought fit, approving with or without modification(s), the arrangement embodied in the Composite Scheme of Arrangement between Brahmi Tracks Management Services Private Limited and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited and Adani Tracks Management Services Private Limited and Sarguja Rail Corridor Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors ("Scheme") pursuant to Section 230 - 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the "Act") and other applicable provisions thereof and rules made thereunder.

In pursuance of the said order and as directed therein read with General Circulars No. 14/2020 dated 8 April 2020; No. 17/2020 dated 13 April 2020; No. 20/2020 dated 5 May 2020; No. 22/2020 dated 15 June 2020; No. 33/2020 dated 28 September 2020; No. 39/2020 dated 31 December 2020 and No. 10/2021 dated 23 June 2021 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India (collectively referred to as the "MCA Circulars"); and Circulars No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12 May 2020 and No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2021/11 dated 15 January 2021 (collectively referred to as the "Circulars issued by SEBI"), further notice is hereby given that separate meetings of the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company will be held through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OVAM"), as per the details mentioned below, without the physical attendance at a common venue.

| Sr. No. | Class of Meetings | Date of Meetings | Time (IST) | Place of Meeting |
|---------|--|---------------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Equity Shareholders (which includes public shareholders) | Monday, 20 September 2021 | 11.00 a.m. | Through VC/OVAM |
| 2. | Secured Creditors (including secured debenture holders) | | 12.00 noon | |
| 3. | Unsecured Creditors | | 1.00 p.m. | |

Copies of the Notice dated 11 August 2021, the Scheme and the explanatory statement, under Sections 230(3), 232(1) and (2) and 102 of the Act read with Rule 6 of the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamations) Rules, 2016, along with the enclosures to the said explanatory statement (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Particulars"), have already been sent (i) through electronic mode to those equity shareholders whose e-mail IDs are registered with Link Intime India Pvt. Ltd ("Link Intime") / depositories / the Applicant Company; and (ii) through registered post or courier, physically, to those equity shareholders who have not registered their e-mail IDs with Link Intime / depositories / the Applicant Company.

The aforesaid Particulars have already been sent (i) through electronic mode to those secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Applicant Company; and (ii) through courier, physically, to those secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors, who have not registered their e-mail IDs with the Applicant Company.

The Applicant Company has completed dispatch of the aforesaid Particulars to its equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors on 16 August 2021.

The aforesaid Particulars, which were sent by the Applicant Company to its equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors, will be available on the Applicant Company's website www.adaniports.com, website of the Stock Exchanges i.e. BSE Limited and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL") at www.evotingindia.com.

Hard copies of the aforesaid Particulars can be obtained free of charge within 1 (one) working day on a requisition being so made for the same by the equity shareholders / secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) / unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company at the registered office of the Applicant Company on all working days between 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or at the office of its advocates, M/S Singh & Co., Singh House, 1, Magnet Corporate Park, Off Sola Bridge, S. G. Highway, Ahmedabad - 380 059, Gujarat, India.

Since, the meetings are being held pursuant to order passed by the NCLT, MCA Circulars and Circulars issued by SEBI through VC/OVAM, physical attendance of the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors, have been dispensed with. Accordingly, the facility for appointment of proxies by the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors will not be available for the said meetings.

NCLT has appointed Prof. Ganesan Raghuram, Independent Director of the Applicant Company and in his absence, Dr. Malay Mahadevia, Director of the Applicant Company and in his absence, Mr. Karan Adani, CEO and Whole-time Director of the Applicant Company to be the Chairman of the meeting of the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders).

Further, NCLT has appointed Hon'ble Mr. Justice K.A. Puj (former judge of the High Court of Gujarat) and in his absence Hon'ble Mr. Justice J.C. Upadhyaya (former judge of the High Court of Gujarat) to be the Chairman of the meetings of the secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company.

The Scheme, if approved in the aforesaid meetings, will be subject to the subsequent approval of the NCLT.

Further Notice is hereby given that:

- the Applicant Company has provided the facility of voting through remote e-voting and e-voting during the relevant meetings so as to enable the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors to consider and approve the Scheme. The Applicant Company has engaged the services of CDSL for facilitating remote e-voting and e-voting during the respective meetings services;
- the Scheme shall be acted upon if a majority of persons representing three fourth in value of the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors of the Applicant Company, voting through remote e-voting and e-voting during the relevant meetings, agree to the Scheme in accordance with the provisions of Sections 230 - 232 of the Act;
- further, in accordance with the Master Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/DIL1/CIR/P/2020/249 dated 22 December 2020 issued by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the Scheme shall be acted upon only of the number of votes cast by the public shareholders (through remote e-voting and e-voting at the meeting of the equity shareholders) in favour for the approval of the Scheme is more than the numbers of votes cast by the public shareholders against it;
- the voting rights of the equity shareholders shall be in proportion to their shareholding of the paid-up share capital of the Applicant Company as on the cut-off date, i.e. Monday, 13 September 2021. A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositaries as on the cut-off date only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting as well as e-voting at the equity shareholders' (which includes public shareholders) meeting. Persons who are not equity shareholders of the Applicant Company as on the cut-off date Monday, 13 September 2021 should treat this Notice for information purposes only. Any person who acquires shares of the Applicant Company after the dispatch of the Notice of this meeting and holding shares as of the cut-off date may obtain login ID and password by sending a request at helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com;
- the cut-off date for determining the eligibility of the secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors for voting through remote e-voting and e-voting during the relevant meetings is Saturday, 31 July 2021. The secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors (as per the books of accounts of the Applicant Company as on the cut-off date i.e. Saturday, 31 July 2021, shall be entitled to exercise their right to vote in the said meetings. The voting rights of the secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors shall be in proportion to the value of their debts as per the records of the Applicant Company as on the cut-off date i.e. Saturday, 31 July 2021;
- voting through remote e-voting by the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors will commence on Tuesday, 14 September 2021 at 09:00 am IST (0900 hours) and end on Sunday, 19 September 2021 at 5:00 pm IST (1700 hours). The e-voting module shall be disabled by CDSL for voting thereafter and the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors will not be allowed to vote electronically beyond the said date and time. Any votes received after the aforesaid date and time [i.e. Sunday, 19 September 2021 at 5:00 pm IST (1700 hours)] will be treated as invalid;
- during the voting period, the equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors can opt for only one mode for voting i.e. either through remote e-voting or e-voting during the respective meetings. In case any equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors who have cast their votes through remote e-voting may attend the respective meeting but shall not be entitled to cast their vote again;
- the facility to join the aforesaid respective meetings will be opened fifteen minutes before the scheduled time of the relevant meetings and will be kept open throughout the proceedings of the respective meetings;
- equity shareholders (which includes public shareholders), secured creditors (including secured debenture holders) and unsecured creditors who need assistance before or during the relevant meetings may contact CDSL at helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com or call on toll free number 1800225533;
- in case of any query / grievance in relation to the voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rakesh Dalvi, CDSL, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathon Futurex, Mafatlal Mill Compound, N M Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400 013 or send an email to helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com or call on 022-23058542/43;
- as directed by the NCLT, Mr. Chirag Shah, Practicing Company Secretary (Membership No. 55

CORONAVIRUS
IN THE CAPITAL

| | Total | Vacant |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| HOSPITAL BEDS | 16,611 | 16,309 |
| ICU BEDS | 3,571 | 3,457 |
| Cases | | |
| Aug 15 | 53 | 18 |
| Aug 16 | 27 | 73 |
| Total | 467* | 14,11,582 |
| Deaths | 0 | 25,069 |
| Tests | 65,007 | 2,47,20,570 |
| Recovered | 14,11,582 | 25,069 |
| Total active cases | | |

MANY SEEK HELP TO GET THEIR RELATIVES TO INDIA, LITTLE CLARITY FROM OFFICIALS

Uncertainty at Afghan embassy: 'Fled 5 yrs ago, we know what Taliban can do'

ABHINAYA HARIGOVIND
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

SADAF HABEEB, a 22-year-old from Kabul, was outside the Embassy of Afghanistan in Delhi on Monday, hoping for some clarity on the possibility of help for her family members back home, and for someone to allay the uncertainty she has been feeling over her status in India now that the Taliban has established control over her country.

Officials at the embassy were non-committal and seemed unsure of what was coming next themselves, said Sadaf, who made the visit with her mother. She is frightened, she said, for her grandparents, uncles and friends who are in Kabul. "Having fled

with my parents from Taliban attacks five years ago, we know what they can do," Sadaf said.

Shukrollah Kareemi, a 23-year-old from Kabul, was similarly at the embassy on Monday afternoon to find help for his aunt and uncle who are back home in Afghanistan, and had sought his assistance with bank and payment card work. They have been holed up inside their house for a while now, he said.

Asked what it is like for his aunt and uncle to be in Kabul now, he shook his head and sighed. While he is grateful for the safety of being in India with the rest of his family for now, he hopes that his aunt and uncle will be able to move here as well. "Most of my friends and family members have moved, ei-



Outside the Embassy of Afghanistan, Monday. Praveen Khanna

ther to India or to other countries. If the embassy there and flight operations resume, my aunt and uncle are hoping to move out too

— hopefully in a month or so," said Shukrollah, who has lived in Delhi for three years now. The youngsters have been in

touch with their family and friends in Afghanistan, besides monitoring the news, and are heartbroken and hurt at the visuals they have been receiving.

Adeeba Qayoumi, who has been in touch with her older sister and aunts in Parwan, said that the situation there appeared to be somewhat "normal" now. But that's just the calm before the storm, she said. "It's just starting," she said, referring to the havoc that the Taliban could unleash on its people.

Adeeba, who works as a translator at a clinic in Delhi, said that she and her mother were headed to the Air India office here to find out if they can get her sister and aunts on a flight to Delhi. "They have been trying to get out. They wanted to leave ei-

ther today or tomorrow, but have not been able to," she said.

Security was tight around the embassy on Monday and several police persons were stationed on the streets around the building.

With their lives having been in a state of flux, Sadaf, Shukrollah, and Adeeba have all dropped their studies. Sadaf was a student of science at Kabul University when she had to drop out and move to Delhi. Similarly, Adeeba, who has been in Delhi for nearly two years now, was studying medicine in Afghanistan before she left. They are still picking up the pieces of their lives and are yet to return to their studies. Shukrollah, who completed class XII from Afghanistan, said he is hoping to go to college here this year.

EKTA MALIK

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

THE USUALLY crowded and bustling lanes of the Afghan quarter in Lajpat Nagar wore a deserted look Monday — the previous night, the locality had gone to sleep with news of Kabul falling into the hands of the Taliban. People sat glued to their phones and TVs, desperate for any news from home.

"It's been five days. I have had no news of my family. None. When I last spoke to them, they were planning to go to another province. Now, I don't even know if they are alive or dead," said an Afghan refugee who runs a grocery store in Lajpat Nagar and did not wish to be named.

"I know I should be worried about my own official status, but I can't even think of that. I came to India five years ago, and I was hoping to slowly get the rest of my family out as well, for a better life. Now I am just praying that they are alive," he said.

Over the past few weeks, many of them had been trying hard to get their families out.

Said a young Afghan woman, who works in a travel agency in Lajpat Nagar, "Earlier we would get about 20 calls a month for a Delhi-Kabul ticket. This week alone, we got about 100. Even the flight prices have shot up to almost 400 USD. Everyone is worried, especially those who have family back in Afghanistan. Now with flights

I came to India five years ago, and I was hoping to slowly get the rest of my family out as well, for a better life. Now I am just praying that they are alive"

AFGHAN REFUGEE

suspended between the two nations, everything is in a limbo."

Many Afghan residents came to India either as refugees under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or as students.

Mohammed Naseem, who runs a grocery shop, said: "I don't know what will happen. Half my family is here, the other half back home. We haven't had any contact with them for the last four days. We have seen a lot of turmoil in Afghanistan... and we, who are here, don't want to pay the price for what's happening back home."

Khatera Munsifzada (30), a former radio-producer, said: "I

came to India five years ago, and I was hoping to slowly get the rest of my family out as well, for a better life. Now I am just praying that they are alive," he said.

Over the past few weeks, many of them had been trying hard to get their families out.

Said a young Afghan woman, who works in a travel agency in Lajpat Nagar, "Earlier we would get about 20 calls a month for a Delhi-Kabul ticket. This week alone, we got about 100. Even the flight prices have shot up to almost 400 USD. Everyone is worried, especially those who have family back in Afghanistan. Now with flights



Khatera Munsifzada (30), who used to work as a radio-producer, said she came to India in 2011. Praveen Khanna

Afghan students reach out to varsities to extend stay

SUKRITA BARUAH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

WITH THE Taliban takeover of Afghanistan complete, Afghan students at Delhi's universities are hoping that being here might offer them some stability and security from the turmoil at home.

A second semester Masters in Sociology student in JNU, who is a recipient of a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), had been attending classes and college work remotely from Afghanistan so far, but fears that if she does not come to the university immediately now, her education might come to an end.

"I want my visa to come to India and to join my university immediately because I'm sure that very soon, it will be impossible for me to leave the country by saying that I need to go study. If I stay here, I won't be able to study and I fear that even studying online will not be possible, that electricity and internet connections might be snatched... My father wants to shift us all elsewhere outside Afghanistan and going to India and completing my education is my best hope... I had con-



Afghan residents in Lajpat Nagar, Monday. Students are hoping that being here might offer them some stability and security from the turmoil at home. Praveen Khanna

tacted the university administration but didn't get a proper response. I have contacted ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations: Home) and am now waiting to hear from them, I have

been told that it will take around 15 days for the visa procedure," she said over the phone, requesting not to be named.

While JNU registrar Ravikesh did not respond to calls and mes-

sages from *The Indian Express*, he had issued a circular on Saturday stating: "Some Afghan students of JNU have requested the administration to facilitate their return to campus. As the university

has remained closed as directed by the DDMA, government of NCT of Delhi, this matter is being looked into."

Some Afghan students who are already in India and are nearing the end of their programmes fear that it is not possible to return to their country and said they hope to extend their study and stay in India.

"I am an ICCR scholar and I have just completed my MA in International Relations from JNU and am awaiting my degree. The previous government had offered a two-year job with them on my return to Afghanistan, but I'm afraid that I'll face persecution there now. I haven't even been able to contact my family for two weeks; they are not reachable. My visa will expire in a month. I hope that our scholarships can be extended; I am willing to study in any Indian university and do my PhD. The Indian government gives 1,000 Afghan students scholarships every year. No one will be able to come now with this situation, the government should just extend the scholarships to those who are already there," said Shafiq Sultan from Wardak province.

In Delhi University, the ad-

ministration has in the last month facilitated the arrival of a number of its Afghan students but is worried about whether its new students from the country will be able to join. The university's Deputy Dean (Foreign Students) Dr Amarjiva Lochan said that around 40 Afghan students, mostly those on scholarship, have reached out to him for admission to Delhi since July.

"We facilitated the return of these enrolled students even though studies are happening remotely because they were finding it difficult to manage their studies, with time zone and internet problems... But we are worried about the next batch for whom admissions are ongoing. We have given seats to 80 ICCR scholars and we have received applications from another 79 Afghan nationals. Their classes will only begin earliest in October, and I wonder if it'll even be possible for them to join us," he said.

Jamia Millia Islamia also has a large number of Afghan students, but university administrators said their students have not reached out to them for support "because our campus has been fully closed and everything has been happening remotely".

'State cannot withdraw maternal embrace': Court calls for rehab of teen accused of theft

BRIEFLY

Dalit girl's death: HC to hear plea by parents today

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday will hear a petition filed by the parents of a nine-year-old Dalit girl, who was found dead at a crematorium earlier this month, for a court-monitored Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe in the case. The petition also seeks additional safety and security for the parents as well as witnesses. Her family has alleged she was raped and murdered. Four men, including a priest at the crematorium, have been arrested in the case. ENS

Man on bike dies after manjha slits his throat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

A 23-YEAR-OLD man died after his throat was slit by a stray Chinese kite string while he was heading to his relative's house on a two-wheeler. The incident took place on Outer Delhi's Mangolpuri-Sultana flyover on Saturday.

DCP (Outer) Parvinder Singh said the victim was identified as Saurav Dahiya, a resident of Najafgarh. He had just completed his graduation. "The incident was reported from Saroj hospital, which said a man, with injuries to his neck, had been declared dead on arrival," he said.

A case has been registered against unknown persons and police are trying to find the person who was using the string.

As per a Supreme Court directive, there is a nation-wide ban on the procurement, sale and use of Chinese manjha.

Singh said it was found that Saurav was driving his motorbike on the flyover between Madhuban Chowk and Peeran Garhi Chowk when the kite string got entangled around his neck. He fell from his bike and sustained injuries to his neck: "A passerby took him to the hospital. His post-mortem was conducted on Sunday; the doctor confirmed his death was due to excessive bleeding from the cut in his neck."

Additional Sessions Judge Vishal Gogoi, in his order passed on August 13, said that while it

appreciates the prayer for bail, it wonders whether release on bail simpliciter would be justice to the plea". The judge, in this bail order, also called for a social investigation report to understand why the accused got involved in the first crime of his life.

After perusing the report, the court directed the accused to report to a de-addiction centre, and enroll with Project Avsar that offers counselling, training, and employment to undertrial prisoners. "After all, a plea for bail is essentially rooted in the fundamental right to liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution of the country... The court has thus wondered whether liberty with-

out meaningful exercise of the same is liberty at all of the expansive contemplated by the Constitution," the court said.

It said that "perennial quest of a judge to understand the dispensation of meaningful justice leads the court, in this instance, to the Preamble which highlights the social and economic (apart from political) facets of justice".

"The exercise of passing a just order in the case of young offenders, especially in the age group 18-20 years, entitled to be termed neo adults, must be visited with knowledge of their social and economic bearings. Only then would a court understand the circumstances which may have con-

tributed to a first offence at the hands of a neo adult," it said.

The court said the "release on bail with such perspective would consequently involve some measure of social and economic rehabilitation of these young alleged offenders and maybe prevent their deeper decline into frequent crime".

The court said the applicant's offence of housebreak and attempted theft may not really be dissimilar to a child in conflict with law who may be just a touch under 18 years of age. "This court felt that calling for a report akin to SIR (social investigation report) qua applicant would better inform the order to be passed upon

his release on bail," the court said.

It noted that the report has indeed "painted a vivid picture of the socialisation, disconcerting social engagement, and rank financial incapacity of the accused and his family".

"The data from the report is quite incisive. It would, therefore, not be a case of conjecture and surmises for the court to prima facie express that the want of one parent, a low family income, early dropout from school, drug use among peer group, and the possible drug use by the applicant himself may have together propelled him to allegedly have committed the house break and attempted theft," the court said.

PARENTS WARY

Noida schools open doors for classes IX-XII, but turnout low

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

SCHOOLS IN Noida opened their doors after nearly three months on Monday, but most institutions saw little to no turn out as parents continued to remain wary of sending their children.

According to government officials, schools across UP can resume offline teaching for classes IX-XII with 50% capacity while maintaining Covid norms.

School authorities claimed most parents did not submit consent forms necessary for attendance. Dr Renu Sehgal, Principal, GD Goenka Public School Greater Noida, said: "The protocol is in place and infrastructure ready for children to rejoin. But around 90%

parents did not sign the consent form. Our entire school has been shifted online and families prefer to continue it. There is a dual system in place and students have the option to come to school for problem solving or practical classes. Parents are waiting for further word on vaccinations. We will have to wait a while before children come to school."

Teaching staff and other members of administration have been coming to schools since Covid norms were relaxed in the state. At Delhi Public School in Sector 30, a total of 20 class XII students came for practical classes on Monday. The students who came are in their board years. Parents from other classes are yet to give us a positive confirmation about their wards' attendance," said a

staff member from DPS. Schools, on their part, have arranged seating in accordance with social distancing norms. Timings for classes have

also been reduced since most offline teaching presently constitutes lab sessions. Number of

games periods have also been cut down in several schools. "We are fully prepared to welcome students back to school. We have followed the Covid protocol... Unfortunately, we have received a lukewarm response from parents. But we look forward to resuming classes. Very few children came on Monday," said Renu Singh, principal, Amity International School, Noida. Some schools remained closed altogether. "Respecting the sentiments of a majority of parents regarding re-opening of school, as per government directives, we have decided to continue with only online mode of classes for now. The consent in affirmations were less. We completely understand concerns and apprehensions of parents, but we will



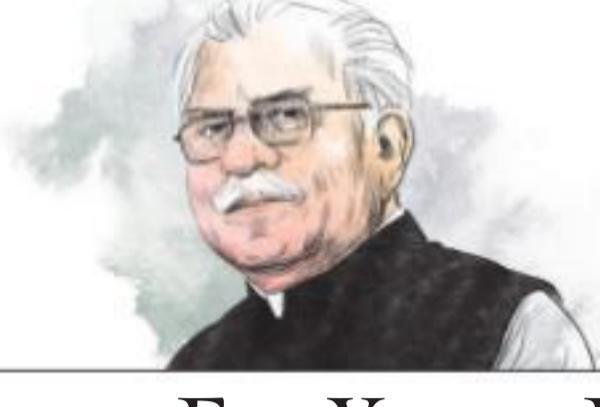
Schools can resume offline teaching for higher classes with 50% capacity. Abhinav Saha

32 low-floor AC buses added to existing fleet

New Delhi



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



BATTING FOR YOUNG LOT

HARYANA CHIEF Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's remarks hinting that Union minister Bhupender Yadav could take up the leadership baton from senior BJP leaders in Haryana has triggered a lot of talks in the party. During Yadav's Jan Ashirwad Yatra in Gurgaon, Khattar said people in the age group of 60-70 years would not be able to continue for long in leadership positions, and that younger leaders such as Yadav should be at the forefront. "How long will the 60-70-year-old people continue? You are young... 52 years is young," Khattar said. Calling Yadav Haryana's "son of the soil"—the Union minister's family comes originally from Haryana, and he has mentioned in his speeches that he has come up in politics from the state—Khattar also mentioned that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has made Yadav a Cabinet minister "certainly with something in his mind". Absence of local MP Rao Inderjit Singh in Yadav's meetings has added fuel to the fire.

CAMPUS CALLING BACK

THE CORONAVIRUS-INDUCED shutdown in higher educational institutions has created several challenges, especially for residential campuses such as the IITs. While most have been successful in moving teaching and conducting examinations online, they are struggling with PhD students, as the latter have to be on campus to continue their research. Among the older IITs, most have started calling their PhD students back on campus. IIT-Bombay, for instance, has managed to bring almost three-fourths of its PhD student strength back. However, at IIT-Kharagpur the teaching community is growing increasingly restless and has now written to Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and sought his intervention in bringing back research candidates. The teachers, it is learnt, have complained that the incumbent director of the institute has shown little interest in calling research students back, and that only a quarter are currently on campus. They now want the government to intervene and get the institute to help research candidates, who have already lost time due to the pandemic.

ON DUTY, MUSICALLY

THE GOVERNMENT is pulling out all the stops to make the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations a success. It has decided to rope in its own officials as well to participate. The first all-India civil services song and dance competition will be held in Delhi this September, where officials from across the country are expected to participate and show their musical prowess, displayed on songs on the theme of Independence. All states and departments are invited to send in teams, and the fine print says those participating will be treated as "on duty".

All-party govt to be set up in Nagaland for solution to Naga issue



The resolution to form NUG was signed by nine leaders, including CM Neiphiu Rio

Muivah aide's assets attached

New Delhi: The ED on Monday said it has attached assets worth Rs 6.88 crore of a close aide of top NSCN-IM leader T Muivah and others in a money laundering case. The Nationalist Democratic Progress Party (NDPP) and BJP and two independent MLAs which are supporting the PDA government. Modalities to include the principal opposition party—NPF—in the proposed NUG government was also discussed and adopted unanimously, state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Neiba Kruo said.

According to sources from the government, the development is rooted in a meeting between Union home minister Amit Shah, CM Rio and Opposition leader Zeliang on the Naga peace issue a few months back. In it, Shah had asked the parties to work together to facilitate the peace process.

The resolution to form the NUG was signed by nine legislators including Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton and Leader of the Opposition T R Zeliang besides party presidents of NDPP, Chingwang Konyak, state BJP chief Temjen Imna Along and NPF president

Shurhozelie Liezetsu.

The NPI is a crucial issue which has been pending for decades and the parties have resolved to stand united to achieve a peaceful and amicable political solution, the resolution said.

The Naga movement is considered India's longest-running insurgency. In 1997, the government had signed a ceasefire agreement with the largest Naga rebel group, National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-IM). In 2015, negotiations for a solution to the Indo-Naga political problem began between the NSCN-IM and the Centre.

PTI

KOHIMA, AUGUST 16

ENS & PTI

KOHIMA, AUGUST 16

NAGALAND PARTIES Monday agreed to come together and form an all-party government in the state to facilitate an early solution to the vexed Naga political issue (NPI) and to achieve an acceptable solution.

This is the second time that the northeastern state will have an all-party government.

The first such government was seen in 2015 when eight Opposition Congress MLAs merged with the then ruling Naga People's Front (NPF).

The decision on the formation of the Nagaland United Government (NUG) was taken unanimously by the ruling People's Democratic Alliance (PDA) partners—the Nationalist Democratic Progress Party (NDPP) and BJP and two independent MLAs which are supporting the PDA government. Modalities to include the principal opposition party—NPF—in the proposed NUG government was also discussed and adopted unanimously, state Parliamentary Affairs Minister Neiba Kruo said.

According to sources from the government, the development is rooted in a meeting between Union home minister Amit Shah, CM Rio and Opposition leader Zeliang on the Naga peace issue a few months back. In it, Shah had asked the parties to work together to facilitate the peace process.

The resolution to form the NUG was signed by nine legislators including Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton and Leader of the Opposition T R Zeliang besides party presidents of NDPP, Chingwang Konyak, state BJP chief Temjen Imna Along and NPF president

PTI

KOHIMA, AUGUST 16

OBC Bill amendment fraud on states, hold caste count: Pawar

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16



Flays use of marshals in RS recently

NATIONALIST CONGRESS Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Monday criticised the Centre for pushing through the 127th constitutional amendment that restores to states the power to make their own OBC lists, saying the move was akin to cheating the OBC community, which would not benefit from the move.

Pawar also sought the removal of the 50 per cent cap on reservations, and demanded that the Centre conduct a caste based census in the country.

"The majority of states have already passed the 50 per cent reservation limit. For these states it is impossible to meet the geographical and social parameters that have been set by the Supreme Court's May 5, 2021 order. Therefore, giving states the right to exceed the 50% maximum reservation limit is a fraud that is being committed on the people," Pawar told a press conference in Mumbai.

The 127th Constitution Amendment Act, 2021, restores the power of states to identify socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), usually called OBCs. The Bill was passed to negate the Supreme Court's interpretations of some provisions of the 102nd Constitution Amendment Act, which had inserted Articles 338B and 342A (with two clauses) after Article 342.

"Unless the 50 per cent cap is relaxed, the Maratha quota cannot be restored. Similarly, the empirical data on OBCs should be shared with the states. Unless the data are available, it cannot be known how much representation needs to be given to smaller castes," Pawar said. He added that reservation in most of the states is already above 60 per cent.

Pawar said that even with the amendment, the states have no power to list the SEBCs. "There was an impression that with the Constitution amendment, states have again got the power to list SEBCs. But this is misleading, as the 50 per cent quota limit still exists," Pawar said.

In spite of the amendment, therefore, states will not be able to provide quotas to OBCs and this was injustice, he said. "It is akin to inviting people to a banquet, tying their hands, and then asking them to eat," Pawar said.

The NCP, he said, would take the lead to unite all OBCs and make them aware of the fine print of the amendment, and also create a pressure group to ensure changes were made to the amendment.

"The Centre should amend the Constitution and make necessary changes in Articles 15(4) and 16(4) to reduce the effectiveness of the Indra Sawhney judgment and increase the reservation limit beyond 50% and empower state governments to increase the reservation limit to more than 50 per cent,"

Pawar said. The Supreme Court's landmark 1992 *Indra Sawhney vs Union of India* judgment, also known as the Mandal judgment, had capped reservations at 50 per cent of total seats.

Pawar condemned the use of force by marshals in Rajya Sabha during Parliament's tumultuous Monsoon Session as an "indirect attack on parliamentarians". In his over half-century-long parliamentary career, he had never seen 40 marshals being deployed in the House, he said.

"The Government deployed seven ministers (before the media) who sought action against opposition MPs. The fact that they had to deploy seven ministers to justify their actions shows that they are on a weak wicket," Pawar said.

On the Pegasus issue, Pawar said: "The Supreme Court has decided to set up a committee... People like Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Kapil Sibal, P Chidambaram have done a lot of study on this subject. My opinion is that taking one of the three in the committee will increase transparency..."

SC remarks on tribunal law latest flashpoint between legislature, judiciary

APURVA VISHWANATH
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

CHIEF JUSTICE of India NV Ramana's remarks questioning the law passed last week relating to the process of appointment of tribunal members has triggered a fresh stand-off between the legislature and the judiciary over the powers of and limitations on law-making.

The Tribunal Reforms Act, 2021, passed in the Lok Sabha on August 2 and in the Rajya Sabha on August 9, apart from abolishing at least seven appellate tribunals under various statutes, has provisions relating to the tenure, age criteria, and search-cum-selection committee for tribunal appointments.

These provisions, which alter the process of appointment of tribunal members, were earlier brought in through the Tribunals Reforms (Rationalisation and Conditions of Service) Ordinance, 2021.

In July, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court in a 2:1 verdict in Madras Bar Association versus Union of India struck down similar provisions of the Ordinance as unconstitutional as it interferes with the independence of the judiciary.

"Impartiality, independence, fairness and reasonableness in decision-making are the hallmarks of the judiciary," the bench comprising justices Nageswara Rao, Ravindra Bhat and Hemant Gupta had said. While Justices Rao and Bhat formed the majority, Justice Gupta dissented, upholding the changes.

Among the thorny provisions in the law is the minimum age criterion of 50 years for appointment of advocates as members of tribunals and the four-year tenure that the amendment prescribes. While the court found the caps arbitrary, the government has argued that the move will bring in a specialised talent pool of advocates to pick from.

Incidentally, the verdict had also discussed the possibility of a

legislation overriding the court's directions. "Setting aside a decision of the Court without removing the defect pointed out in the judgment would sound the death knell of the rule of law. The rule of law would cease to have any meaning, because then it would be open to the government to defy a law and yet to get away with it," the court had said.

Attorney General for India KK Venugopal, who had defended the Tribunals Reforms Ordinance in court, on Monday said at an event that the fresh tussle would be "worth waiting and watching".

"Now this means that at a certain stage, even Parliament wonders, are we not having any powers if the judiciary is interfering to this extent? It is a matter of policy, whether four years or five years. The policy cannot be interfered with. Similarly 50 years," Venugopal said. He was speaking at an event organised in memory of former Advocate General of Kerala, KM Damodaran.

Apart from the Madras Bar Association ruling, in other cases too, the SC and Parliament have been at loggerheads on the issue of rationalisation of tribunals.

In the Roger Mathew v Union of India case, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi struck down an amendment to the 2017 Finance Act, passed as a money Bill, that altered the structure and functioning of various tribunals.

The bench, which also comprised Justices Ramana and DY Chandrachud, directed the government to formulate fresh norms on the appointment of tribunal members.

The Madras Bar Association had in two other instances—in 2010 and 2015—challenged various provisions relating to the establishment of the National Company Law Tribunal. In two judgments, the SC had interpreted provisions relating to the appointment of members to align with the independence of the judiciary.

Amid the thorny provisions in the law is the minimum age criterion of 50 years for appointment of advocates as members of tribunals and the four-year tenure that the amendment prescribes. While the court found the caps arbitrary, the government has argued that the move will bring in a specialised talent pool of advocates to pick from.

Incidentally, the verdict had also discussed the possibility of a

Old guard makes way for fresh faces in TMC revamp



Abhishek Banerjee

PTI & ENS
KOLKATA, AUGUST 16

IN A major organisation overhaul focusing on a 'one person, one post' policy, the Trinamool Congress on Monday brought in several fresh faces in place of the old guard, with a thrust on areas where it has ceded ground to the BJP.

Taking a cue from BJP's books, the TMC for the first time divided 23 districts into 33 organisational districts. The party dropped six state ministers and two MPs from their district president posts.

TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's imprint was visible in the reshuffle as his policy of 'one person, one post' led to several old guards losing their posts. At the same time, the ruling party in West Bengal formed several new district

committees with a mix of experienced leaders and young turks.

State cabinet ministers Jayoti Priyo Mullick, Arup Ray, Soumen Mahapatra and Swapnil Debnath were relieved of their responsibilities as the TMC district presidents of North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Purba Medinipur and Purba Krishnanagar MP Mahua Moitra too was dropped as the party's Nadia district chief.

The party's youth wing, the Trinamool Youth Congress, also underwent sweeping changes.

Community drives Odisha's 'Mo School' revival

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, AUGUST 16

THE WALLS of the only primary school in Tolakanji village, in Odisha's Jajpur district, are freshly painted. The school has a 'knowledge house' with books and magazines and it will soon have smart classrooms with projectors and interactive whiteboards, and a sports complex too.

The village school's transformation from a run-down structure to one of the most sought-after in these parts came about in the last one year, thanks to Hrudananda Prusty, a 22-year-old metallurgical engineer working in Bengaluru who pledged two months of his salary for the school. Prusty—who studied in the Tolakanji school till his Class 3 before shifting to a hostel in Cuttack—will now contribute 10 per cent of his monthly salary to revamp the school.

According to sources from the government, the development is rooted in a meeting between Union home minister Amit Shah, CM Rio and Opposition leader Zeliang on the Naga peace issue a few months back. In it, Shah had asked the parties to work together to facilitate the peace process.

The resolution to form the NUG was signed by nine legislators including Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton and Leader of the Opposition T R Zeliang besides party presidents of NDPP, Chingwang Konyak, state BJP chief Temjen Imna Along and NPF president



Campaign connects 33,000 schools. Karadakna High School in Ganjam among those to have seen a transformation. Express

village, also began a 'Chalk and Duster' initiative, roping in retired teachers and professionals to teach academically weaker students in the village. "The idea is not just to push them for studies but to also discover their talent. Say, if a student is struggling academically but is good in sports or singing, we

can help that student pursue her talent," said Prusty.

Besides alumni involvement, the campaign has two other components—school adoption and ST school transformation.

Under the school adoption programme, any member of the society can come forward to adopt

a government school of her choice and contribute half of the development cost, with the government sharing the rest.

Apart from financial support, the mentors can organise coaching classes or career counselling sessions for students, invite motivational speakers, set up awards or incentive schemes to motivate students, run mentorship programmes and influence alumni to come forward for the development of the school.

Since the launch of the adoption scheme in January this year, 1,380 people—including judges, state ministers, lawmakers, bureaucrats, administrative officers, corporates, among others—have expressed their interest.

Under the ST transformation scheme, which was launched in February, the focus is on providing quality infrastructure and ensuring basic amenities in high schools across the state.

In Bankipali village of Sonapur district, Himanshu Bisoi, a BSF jawan, has pledged Rs 1,000 every month as his contribution to develop the panchayat high school where he studied.

When he visits school while on leave, he conducts yoga and PT classes for the students.

"This is a transparent method to donate to schools. Our contribution does not end at just giving money, but we also participate in decision-making with other members of the village and community," said Bisoi.

Rengalpatra village of Bargh district recently got its first primary school, with villagers pooling in land and contributing Rs 12,06,030 towards the school.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

32 lakh Pakhtoons here getting frantic calls, govt must intervene: Frontier Gandhi granddaughter

RAVIK BHATTACHARYA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 16

A PICTURE of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, popularly known as Frontier Gandhi, hangs high on a wall in a small room in Karim Hussain Lane near Park Circus. Below, his granddaughter Yasmin Nigar Khan (50) is worried about the "common people of Afghanistan" and "32 lakh Pakhtoons who are living for generations in India".

Yasmin, as president of the All India Pakhtoon Jirga-e-Hind (an organisation of Pakhtoons or Pathans in India), said Pakhtoons in the country are getting "frantic phone calls" from their family and relatives in Afghanistan amid the Taliban's near-complete takeover. "Everyone is so scared... No one



All India Pakhtoon Jirga-e-Hind president Yasmin Nigar Khan at her Kolkata house. Partha Paul

knows what will happen next."

"I appeal to the Indian government, to our Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other pow-

erful countries that they should immediately intervene. A return of the Taliban government will bring doom to the people of

The Pakhtoon Jirga-e-Hind was set up in 1949 by Lala Jaan Khan, the adopted son of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan who was sent by Frontier Gandhi to India the same year. After a brief stay in Delhi, Lala Jaan Khan settled in Kolkata. In 1996, Yasmin became the head of the organisation.

"We are hearing that they have already asked women not to go for jobs. Earlier, when there was Taliban rule, we saw that widows from the age of 15 to 45 were taken by the Taliban under the pretext that they will be taught Islam. But they were all forcefully married off to the

Taliban. Islam does not permit this. The Taliban is against modern education for girls. We practice Islam here. But are there any restrictions on education, movement and jobs?... The Taliban cannot be trusted," she said.

For years, Yasmin has approached the Central and state governments for setting up a university in the name of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan. "But somehow it did not happen. I am still hopeful," she said.

Yasmin said Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan "opened a school for girls in North West Frontier Province way back in 1921".

"It is not that Afghan people do not want to progress, but forces like the Taliban are ruining it. Whenever there is development and progress, Taliban returns to destroy it," she said.

Govt must wake up and protect Indians in Afghanistan: Congress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

THE CONGRESS on Monday said that the Modi government should "wake up from its slumber" and protect Indians in strife-torn Afghanistan.

Describing the situation in Afghanistan as "extremely alarming", Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said India's strategic interests were at stake. "But the government has not put in place any plan to evacuate its citizens there, which is a gross abdication of duty," he said.

"The Congress party stands solidly behind protecting India's interests and expects a mature political and diplomatic response from our Government over the complete collapse of government in Afghanistan and Taliban takeover," he told reporters.

"The Modi government's refusal to set in motion a well thought-out plan to evacuate our citizens is a gross abdication of its duty and is totally unacceptable," Surjewala said.

"Situation in Afghanistan is extremely alarming. India's strategic interests are at stake.



Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala

Safety and security of our embassy and its personnel and Indian citizens is at stake. Modi government needs to wake up from its slumber and protect Indian citizens in Afghanistan," Surjewala later tweeted.

The Congress leader said the Taliban and Haqqani Network connections with Pakistan's ISI and JeM, LeT, JuD are well known.

"The Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister need to clearly spell out our policy for safe return of our citizens, embassy personnel as also our future relationship. This silence gives rise to the apprehension that the government is hiding something from the country," he said.

Afghan students of IIT-B seek help for visa to return to India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

STUDENTS FROM Afghanistan who are pursuing courses at IIT Bombay have sought help from the institute to arrange for their visas so that they can come back to India to continue studies. IIT Bombay authorities have taken up the matter with the Education Ministry and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

In a Facebook post, IIT Bombay Director Subhasis Chaudhuri said, "...Due to rapidly deteriorating conditions in their homeland, they wanted to come out of their country and join the hostels in the campus. Although we have approved their request to come to the campus as a special case, we are not sure how late it is for them to pursue their dreams. We hope that they are all safe and can join us soon."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Chaudhuri said, "They requested us to help them arrange their visa. We took up the issue with ICCR and the Education Ministry. But it seems it's too late. It's very unfortunate. But we are hoping for the best."

Mother of Kerala woman in Kabul jail cries for help

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,
AUGUST 16

THE MOTHER of Nimisha Fathima, a Kerala woman jailed in Afghanistan following the death of her husband, an alleged Islamic State fighter, a couple of years ago, on Monday said she was concerned about her daughter's safety after the Taliban captured power in that country and hoped that the Central government will make efforts to bring her back to India.

"I don't know what to do. I believe that she is still in jail there (in Kabul). I appeal to the Central government to make efforts to bring her back to India," Bindu Sampath, Fathima's mother, said.

Appealing to the media to bring the matter to the notice of the government authorities, Sampath said, "This is the pain of a mother...this is an emergency situation. I hope the government will take steps to deport her to India."

Sampath said she had been constantly sending emails to the Central government authorities and contacted the office of Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan, who hails from Kerala, requesting their

intervention to bring her daughter back to India and put her under trial in the country for her crime as per the law of the land.

"I haven't hidden anything from the government authorities (about Nimisha). This is the 1882nd day of my efforts to rescue my daughter," Sampath told PTI.

After reports that the Central government was not interested in bringing back her daughter and three other IS widows of Indian origin, now lodged in a Kabul jail, some of their families have sought the legal route seeking the Centre's intervention.

Nimisha Sampath was a Hindu before embracing Islam.

She changed her name to Fathima Isa. She married an alleged IS operative from Kerala and both were reported missing,

along with 19 others from Kerala in June 2016 before reaching an IS-controlled territory in Afghanistan. Fathima and three other women had surrendered to the Afghanistan government in 2019 after their husbands were killed.

When reports about the government's disinterest appeared in the media on Saturday, Sampath had said she feared that her daughter would fall into the hands of Taliban once US troops withdrew from Afghanistan.

HC asks for Centre's reply on plea for CERT-In probe into data leaks

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

THE DELHI High Court has asked the Centre to respond to a petition alleging inaction by Computer Emergency Response Team India (CERT-In) on a complaint seeking an investigation into recent incidents of data leaks at various digital entities.

"The grievance raised in the present petition is that the respondent is not taking any action in the incidents of cyber security breaches and data leaks committed by various entities, despite the same being brought to

its notice by the petitioner, vide its detailed representation," noted Justice Rekha Palli in an order, while listing the case for hearing on September 23.

The general secretary of Free Software Movement of India, Yarlagadda Kiran Chandra, in his representation before CERT-In – which comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology – has sought an investigation and review of the recent data breaches at BigBasket, Domino's, MobiKwik and Air India. Chandra has said that these data breaches have compromised sensitive personal and financial information of millions

of users of these services.

Chandra, in the petition, has

alleged there has been no re-

sponse to his representation

from the authority.

"The address data, emails, contact numbers, financial details – credit and debit card details, KYC details leak pose a grave threat to security of users since there is no law governing data protection in India... The aggrieved users do not have any legislative recourse against such breaches. Therefore, an investigation and review by CERT-In on frequent data breaches at mass level becomes important to safeguard the privacy of users," reads the plea.

62-YEAR-OLD ARRESTED FOR VIDEOS AGAINST PM, ADITYANATH

Chennai YouTuber 'just opinionated old man': family

ARUN JANARDHANAN &
AVANEESH MISHRA
CHENNAI, LUCKNOW,
AUGUST 16

AT 3RD Cross Street, VRD Nagar, in the north Chennai neighbourhood of Madhavaram, the buzz around Mammoan Mishra hasn't quietened since the 62-year-old YouTuber was arrested last week over his videos.

"Always clad in saffron," said a neighbour. "He is the Ramdev man here," said another, referring to Mishra's association with Patanjali products. "Man of few words. Calm and peaceful", said a third, "except at night, when he is shooting his videos. He is like a public speaker then... gives loud speeches."

On Friday evening, a team of 10 policemen, including a CB-CID officer, came all the way from Uttar Pradesh and arrested Mishra following an FIR regis-

tered against him in UP's Jaunpur, from where he originally hails, for allegedly making unrestrained statements regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and creating fear among the public through his videos.

Most of Mishra's videos – self-shot on his cellphone – have him sitting in his room, against a blue curtain, railing against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the RSS, and the policies of the BJP government at the Centre.

Senior police officials in Jaunpur said the FIR has no mention of his statements against PM Modi and the others, and that the case against him is under IPC Section 505 (statements relating to public mischief), along with provisions of the Information Technology Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act.

Sanjeev Mishra, SHO of the Kotwali police station, where the FIR has been registered, said, "In

his videos, he says things like at least three people will die from each family in the third wave... and around 54 crore people will die in India. All this was creating panic among the public."

Asked why the Jaunpur police took cognisance of the matter when Mishra lives in Tamil Nadu, the official said the 62-year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

A relative of Mishra's, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he used to run an agency that helped people apply for PAN cards and other government services. "But after many of these services turned online, he stopped his business," the relative said.

Mishra later started working with Bharat Swabhiman, a Trust that promotes swadeshi products, especially Patanjali Ayurveda, earning him the image of "Ramdev's man" in the locality.

Asked why the Jaunpur police

took cognisance of the matter

when Mishra lives in Tamil

Nadu, the official said the 62-

year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

Calling Mishra a "patriot" and a "staunton nationalist", the relative said, "He used to be a supporter of Modi too... Politically, he is not attached to any group. He is just like so many people you see these days who are very loud about their views. He is just another opinionated old man... not a troublemaker. How many people will you arrest for airing an opinion," said Mishra's relative.

Mishra later started working with Bharat Swabhiman, a Trust that promotes swadeshi products, especially Patanjali Ayurveda, earning him the image of "Ramdev's man" in the locality.

Asked why the Jaunpur police

took cognisance of the matter

when Mishra lives in Tamil

Nadu, the official said the 62-

year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

Calling Mishra a "patriot" and a "staunton nationalist", the relative said, "He used to be a supporter of Modi too... Politically, he is not attached to any group. He is just like so many people you see these days who are very loud about their views. He is just another opinionated old man... not a troublemaker. How many people will you arrest for airing an opinion," said Mishra's relative.

Mishra later started working with Bharat Swabhiman, a Trust that promotes swadeshi products, especially Patanjali Ayurveda, earning him the image of "Ramdev's man" in the locality.

Asked why the Jaunpur police

took cognisance of the matter

when Mishra lives in Tamil

Nadu, the official said the 62-

year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

Calling Mishra a "patriot" and a "staunton nationalist", the relative said, "He used to be a supporter of Modi too... Politically, he is not attached to any group. He is just like so many people you see these days who are very loud about their views. He is just another opinionated old man... not a troublemaker. How many people will you arrest for airing an opinion," said Mishra's relative.

Mishra later started working with Bharat Swabhiman, a Trust that promotes swadeshi products, especially Patanjali Ayurveda, earning him the image of "Ramdev's man" in the locality.

Asked why the Jaunpur police

took cognisance of the matter

when Mishra lives in Tamil

Nadu, the official said the 62-

year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

Calling Mishra a "patriot" and a "staunton nationalist", the relative said, "He used to be a supporter of Modi too... Politically, he is not attached to any group. He is just like so many people you see these days who are very loud about their views. He is just another opinionated old man... not a troublemaker. How many people will you arrest for airing an opinion," said Mishra's relative.

Mishra later started working with Bharat Swabhiman, a Trust that promotes swadeshi products, especially Patanjali Ayurveda, earning him the image of "Ramdev's man" in the locality.

Asked why the Jaunpur police

took cognisance of the matter

when Mishra lives in Tamil

Nadu, the official said the 62-

year-old is a permanent resident of Jaunpur.

Though Mishra has lived in

Chennai for 35 years and is known to speak Tamil fluently, his videos on YouTube, where he has 695 subscribers, are mostly in Hindi.

Calling Mishra a "patriot" and a "staunton nationalist", the relative said, "He used to be a supporter of Modi too... Politically, he is not attached to any group. He is just like so many people you see these days who are very loud about their views. He is just another opinionated old man... not a troublemaker. How many people will you arrest for airing an opinion," said Mish

Karnataka HC seeks details of govt withdrawal of prosecution against former or sitting legislators

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 16

THE KARNATAKA High Court on Monday asked the state government to provide details of cases dropped against sitting or former MPs or MLAs in the state after September 16, 2020. This comes in the wake of a Supreme Court order last week barring states from dropping cases against MLAs and MPs without clearance from the high courts.

Advisory bench led by Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka sought the details in the course of disposal of a petition filed against an August 31, 2020 order

6 held in Gujarat over 250 fake Covid vaccine certificates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, AUGUST 16

SIX PERSONS, including contractual health staff and travel agents, were arrested in Devbhumi Dwarka for allegedly generating around 250 fake vaccination certificates over the past six months for those who wanted to travel.

An FIR was registered with the Salaya police station in Devbhumi Dwarka on August 14 on a complaint filed by Jamkhambaliya taluka health officer Dr Mehbhulai Jethwa.

"Three contractual staff were found to be involved – a health worker, a case writer and a peon," said Dr Jethwa. The accused were charged under relevant IPC sections.

Special operations group (SOG) sub-inspector Prashant Singarkhiya said, "The travel agents had contact with contractual staff in the health department and hospitals who were functioning as operators who would use the login ID and password of the nurse who was administering the vaccine to issue the certificate without her knowledge. We found that the nurse was not involved..."

Forced to chant Jai Shri Ram slogans: Indore comedian

IRAM SIDDIQUE
BHOPAL, AUGUST 16

INDORE-BASED comedian Nalin Yadav, who was arrested along with Munawar Faruqui and three others for allegedly hurting religious sentiments on January 1, has now alleged that he was forced to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" during a visit to a bar in Indore last week.

Yadav, who got bail over a month after his arrest, said he was in a bar on August 12 when a group of men approached him and asked why he supported the "mullahs" and about the controversial git that landed him in jail. Yadav tried explaining his position, but the group was not convinced, and forced him to chant "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata Ki Jai". "They asked why are you taking the name of god with a cigarette in hand and snatched the cigarette from my hand... I tried to tell them that God was everywhere but they did not listen. I felt helpless and so apologised," Yadav wrote on Instagram.

Yadav said he is struggling to make ends meet and had to even work in a factory as a labourer following his arrest. He said he has not approached the police. "I have seen very closely how the police and administration dealt with us during the arrest," he told *The Indian Express*.

VENKATESHWAR HOSPITAL
Sector 18 A, Dwarka, New Delhi
PUBLIC NOTICE
This is for public information that Indoor Patient Medical Record excluding New Born MLC & Death patient records from Oct-2016 to June-2018 shall be destroyed as per the hospital policy and other regulatory norms. Any patient / relative of the patient/s or any other person related to patient desires to preserve the Indoor Patient Medical Record for future reference are requested to contact the medical record department of the hospital for the same on the hospital telephone no (011-48-555-555 Extn-1740, 41, 42) or mail to mrd@venkateshwars.hospitals.com within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

By Order
Medical Superintendent

of the state government to withdraw 62 cases.

Of these, as many as 21 cases involving communal violence and violence linked to cow protection were dropped by courts in Karnataka between October 2020 and December 2020 based on the BJP government's order benefitting 205 members of Hindutva groups, BJP MP from Mysuru Prathap Simha and 106 Muslims.

Prosecution was dropped on the basis of requests by the Law Minister, J C Madhuswamy, BJP MLA from Bhatkal Sunil Naik and Animal Husbandry Minister Prabhu Chavan, among others. The cases were dropped despite

A division bench sought the details in the course of disposal of a plea filed against an order of the state to withdraw 62 cases

written objections related to each case by the state police, prosecution and legal departments.

"As directed by the apex court, the legality of the action of the state government taken after September 16, 2020, of withdrawal of a petition filed against an August 31, 2020 order

the sitting or former Members of Parliament or Members of Legislative Assembly will have to be considered and examined," the court said.

J C Madhuswamy sought dropping of 13 cases related to Hunsur region of Mysore district between 2015 and 2018. This included an incident in December 2017, when BJP MP Prathap Simha allegedly drove his jeep into a police barricade that was erected as part of efforts to regulate a Hanuman Jayanti procession in the communally sensitive Hunsur town.

A Hunsur court dropped the charges against the BJP MP on October 10, 2020, based on the leave of the High Court".

August 31, 2020 order. Simha had been accused of disobeying a public order by the police, rash driving, preventing a public servant from doing his duty and voluntarily hurting a public servant.

While dropping the case against Simha, the court noted that "the state government has withdrawn the case".

The Supreme Court in an order dated August 11, in the case of Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India and another, stated that "no prosecution against a sitting or former MP/MLA shall be withdrawn without the leave of the High Court".

SEDITION CASE AGAINST BIDAR SCHOOL

HC: Police questioning kids prima facie violated rights

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, AUGUST 16

THE INTERROGATION of children by armed policemen in uniform at a school in Bidar region of Karnataka last January in a seditious case was prima facie a "serious case of violation of the rights of children" and provisions of the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act, Karnataka High Court observed on Monday.

The case was filed over a play opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

"Prima facie this is a serious case of violation of the rights of children and provision 86(5) of JJ Act 2015," a division bench of the High Court observed in the course of hearing a petition against the questioning of children over the play against CAA, staged in January 2020 at a primary school run by Shaheen Education Society in Bidar.

The court had earlier asked the Karnataka government to report on whether children at the private school were interrogated by uniformed police personnel.

The HC bench pointed to pictures of interrogation of three children from the school by five policemen and stated that rights of the children had been violated during the probe. The validity of the pictures were not denied by Bidar district police in submissions to the court.

The HC sought details of action taken against police personnel who violated child rights and asked the state to issue orders to prevent similar situations from arising in the state.

An advocate, Nayana Jyothi Jwahar, and the South India cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring had filed the writ petition in 2020, stating that children between nine and 12 years were questioned by police in a "hostile environment" in violation of JJ Act and rights of children as enshrined in the Constitution.

The petition has sought compensation for the children, who were randomly selected and questioned by police, and has also sought directives from the High Court to the police on rules of conducting investigations in cases involving children.

The petition stated that the police questioned 85 students of Shaheen Primary School in violation of procedure laid down under Juvenile Justice Act and its model rules, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973, and Article 21 of the Constitution.

The petition has pointed out that the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued notices to Bidar police over the violation of JJ Act.

Following an inquiry into the incident, and the arrest of the widowed mother of a 11-year-old student from the school who had taken part in the skit concerned, the KSPCR had pulled up Bidar police for violating child rights and norms of Juvenile Justice Act.

KSPCR chairperson Dr Antony Sebastian had sent a letter to Bidar district officials on February 6 last year, with copies marked to the Karnataka DGP, stating that rights of children were violated and an atmosphere of fear was created at Shaheen Primary School by the police investigations.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

NEW CASES: 25,657
DAYS SINCE PANDEMIC BEGAN
ACTIVE CASES: 3,70,910
TOTAL VACCINATION: 54,58,57,108

DAILY DEATHS | TOTAL DEATHS | WEEKLY CFR | OVERALL CFR

492 | 4,32,134 | 1.21% | 1.36%

TESTS TODAY: 14,70,876 | TOTAL TESTS: 49,62,76,528
WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.98% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.50%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

| STATE | NEW CASES | ACTIVE CASES | WEEKLY CFR | TOTAL VACCINATION |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-------------------|
| ■ Kerala | 12,294 | 1,72,686 | 14.67% | 2,42,71,938 |
| ■ Maharashtra | 4,145 | 62,452 | 2.81% | 4,94,18,060 |
| ■ Tamil Nadu | 1,851 | 20,370 | 1.21% | 2,67,80,207 |
| ■ Karnataka | 1,065 | 22,074 | 1.03% | 3,46,47,267 |
| ■ Goa | 1,062 | 1,873 | 4.57% | 14,47,325 |

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

| STATE | TODAY'S DEATHS | TOTAL DEATHS | WEEKLY CFR | OVERALL CFR |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-------------|
| ■ Kerala | 142 | 18,822 | 0.63% | 0.55% |
| ■ Odisha | 119 | 7,006 | 3.86% | 0.71% |
| ■ Maharashtra | 101 | 1,38,609 | 2.45% | 2.19% |
| ■ Karnataka | 28 | 37,007 | 1.57% | 1.27% |
| ■ Tamil Nadu | 28 | 34,547 | 1.56% | 1.35% |

Note: Data as on Aug 16; vaccination numbers as of Aug 15. Deaths include those caused by comorbidities.

Centre allows Kerala firm to buy Covid vaccine from private quota

New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry has allowed KMSCL, a fully owned Kerala government company, to purchase 10 lakh Covishield doses from the 25 per cent quantity earmarked monthly for private hospitals, with a rider they be administered only at private facilities, official sources said Monday.

Amid a rise in daily Covid-19 cases in the southern state, the Kerala Medical Services Corporation Ltd (KMSCL) approached the Serum Institute of India (SII) earlier this month to procure Covishield doses for vaccinating undergraduates and postgraduates in the state.

"Following a deliberation, the health ministry has decided to allow the purchase of the doses by KMSCL.. at the rate of Rs 630 per dose, from the 25 per cent of the monthly production earmarked for purchase by private hospitals," an official source said. It has been communicated to the state that these doses should be administered at private hospitals only and recorded on the CoWIN portal, the source added. PTI

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

Half of Kerala vaccinated with 1 dose; women outnumber men: minister

Kochi: Kerala on Monday announced that half of its projected population in 2021 had been administered at least the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.

Health Minister Veena George said a total of 1,77,88,931 (1.77 crore) persons have been given the first jab as of Monday. This amounts to 50.25% of the state's projected population of 3.54 crore. The milestone was marked in 213 days since vaccination in the state began on January 16 this year.

Statistics show 1.27 crore women got at least one dose of the vaccine

compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

To track the variant, compared to 1.17 crore men.

"I especially congratulate all the health workers, officials, public representatives, and volunteers who set aside their leaves and holidays to take part in the vaccination campaign," she said.

Kerala has so far administered 2.45 crore doses, out of which 1.77 crore doses were given as first jab and 67 lakh doses as the second jab. A total of 61.98 per cent of the eligible beneficiaries above the age of 18 have been given the first dose while 23.43 per cent are fully vaccinated with both doses. ENS

Punjab to give Rs 10,000 monthly allowance for kin of 8 killed by ISIS

Chandigarh: The Punjab Cabinet on Monday approved subsistence allowance for family members of eight of the 27 people from the state who were killed by the ISIS terror group in Mosul, Iraq, in 2014.

The Cabinet led by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh gave ex-post facto approval for payment of subsistence allowance of Rs 10,000 a month, with effect

from October 24, 2019, for the family members of eight of the 27 Punjabis killed in Mosul in 2014," an official spokesperson said.

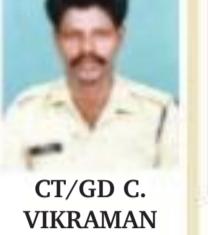
Thirty-nine Indians, including 27 from Punjab, who went to Iraq for employment opportunities, were abducted and killed by the ISIS in Mosul.

The state has provided employment to one family member each of the remaining victims. ENS

SALUTE THE SOLDIER



CT/GD HAR-BANSH LAL
SCCL BELAM-PALLI 17/08/1998



CT/GD C.
VIKRAMAN
SCCL BELAM-PALLI 17/08/1998

Martyrs of CISF on 17th August

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty while fighting with the IWE outfits. Their courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

Government of India

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying e-Tender for Appointment of Programme Management Agency (PMA)

The Department invites e-tender from interested applicants for Appointment of Programme Management Agency (PMA) for Assistance in Implementation of Schemes and related Activities in the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Eligibility criteria and other details are available at <http://eprocure.gov.in> and <http://dahd.nic.in>. Interested applicants may submit their responses on or before 03.09.2021 by 3:00 PM.

Joint Commissioner (RGM)
Contact No. 9318362380

ANDHRA PRADESH MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Plot No.9, Survey No.49, IT Park, Mangalagiri-522503, Guntur District, Amaravati Region, Andhra Pradesh, email : ce.apmhnic@gmail.com

Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for T.N. No.10/APMSIDC/TECHNICAL/2021-22, Dt.13.08.2021. **CIVIL WING: 1** Up-gradation of Primary Health centre into 50 bedded Community Health centre at Penumuru, Chittoor Distt-Rs.9.78 Crs **2**Up-gradation of Primary Health Centre into 50 bedded Community Health Centre at Karvetinagaram, Chittoor District-Rs.9.78Crs **3**) Construction of Multi Purpose Hall, Class Rooms over the existing building (4th Floor) in Government College of Nursing, Kurnool (3rd Call)-Rs.2.62 Crs **4**) Construction of New OPD Block in the premises of District Hospital at Nandyal in Kurnool District (Balance Works) (4th Call)-Rs.2.49 Crs. **5**)Construction of building for "National Programme for Prevention & Management of Burn injuries" at SVMedical College, Tirupati in Chittoor District(4th Call)-Rs.1.78Crs **Electrical Wing: 6** Providing of Transformers Sets in various Government Hospitals of Andhra Pradesh in Srikakulam, Vizianagram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari Districts under Package-I -Rs.7.50Cr. **7**) Providing of Transformers Sets in various Government Hospitals of Andhra Pradesh in Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam, Nellore Districts under Package-II **8**) Providing of Transformers Sets in various Government Hospitals of Andhra Pradesh in Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur, Kurnool Districts under Package-III- Rs.11.70 Crs. **Equipment Wing:** Tender No:120/APMSIDC/Medicine Wing/2021-22. **1**Tender is invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement and supply of Surgical Consumables. The other details can be seen at the website <http://msidc.ap.nic.in>

Sd/- Managing Director

DIPR No.328PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22, Dt: 16/08/2021

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, “e”-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT

E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com

RFP Identification No. CE-DPI & R-01/2021-22

1. The Chief Engineer, D.P.I. & Roads, Odisha (Authority) on behalf of the Works Department, Govt. of Odisha is engaged in the Development of State Roads and Highways in Odisha, and as part of this endeavour, Govt. of Odisha has decided to undertake the following "Project" under EPC Contract (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, and has decided to carry out the bid process for selection of the parties Joint Ventures to whom the Project may be awarded eventually.

- 2. Nature of project : Bridge work
- 3. No. of project : 1 Nos.
- 4. Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
- 5. Class of Contractor : Super Class.
- 6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 17.08.2021 to 5.30 PM of 17.09.2021
- 7. Date of Pre-Application conference : 31.08.2021 at 12.30 P.M.
- 8. Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 21.09.2021 at 03.00 PM

9. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha
OIPR-34117/11/003/2122

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer Cabinet (Election) Department Sector 2, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004

Very Short Tender Notice

This Tender Notice is issued by the Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand, Ranchi for inviting request for proposals from experienced and reputed organizations for "Establishment, Operation & Maintenance of security infrastructure for implementation of Password Management Policy for ERONET" at CEO Office, Cabinet (Election) Department, Sector-2, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004.

The time schedule for various activities flowing from the issue of this Tender Notice shall be as follows:-

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 1. | Date of Publication:- | 14/08/2021 |
| 2. | Submission of Tender :- | 25/08/2021 up-to 04.00 PM |
| 3. | Date of opening of Technical and commercial bid:- | Technical: 26/08/2021 at 02.30 PM Financial: will be after technical. |
| 4. | Address for communication/submission of the Tender:- | Office of The Chief Electoral Officer, Cabinet (Election) Department, Near Gayatri Mandir, Sector-II, Dhurwa, Ranchi – 834004, Jharkhand, Phone: 0651-2440077 |
| 5. | All term, conditions and other features for this RFP is available on the CEO, Jharkhand's Website- http://www.ceo.jharkhand.gov.in . | (K. Ravi Kumar) Chief Electoral Officer, Jharkhand. |

PR.NO.251480 Election(21-22):D

Drones to deliver healthcare services in remote areas in Maharashtra's Palghar

YOGESH NAIK
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

PALGHAR DISTRICT will soon witness essential healthcare items being delivered via drones in the tribal areas of Jawhar, officials said.

District Collector of Palghar Manik Gursal said drones will be used to deliver medicines, Covid-19 vaccines and injections in the remote areas. "Our health authorities have been trying to launch this drone system for the past two months for which we sought clearance."

The Ministry of Civil

Aviation (MoCA) and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) gave nod to the project on Monday, allowing 10 organisations, including state governments and private companies, which will enjoy conditional exemption from the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021.

The initiative in Palghar district will be undertaken by the National Health Mission, which has got the permission to conduct experimental BVLOS (beyond visual line-of-sight) drone flights to deliver essential healthcare items in the tribal areas of Jawhar.

"The proposal is part of a pilot project through which we are planning to send vaccines and emergency medicines to remote areas. We will use the services of an agency, which has shown interest," said Dr Suryawanshi, the district health officer.

Palghar, a tribal-populated district, is located along the Maharashtra-Gujarat border. It has been facing deaths due to malnutrition deaths and other health problems. Health officers said if the drone network becomes successful, more drones would be used to replace physical distribution of medicines.

The other nine companies that have got exemption are Gangtok Smart City Development project, Steel Authority of India's (SAIL) plant at West Bengal's Burnpur, Hyderabad's Asia Pacific Flight Training Academy, Gujarat's Blue Ray Aviation, Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bayer Crop Science, and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.

The Karnataka government has received permissions for drone-based aerial survey to create urban property ownership records in Bengaluru.

75 'Hunar Haats' to be set up across country: Naqvi

New Delhi: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Monday said that a target has been set by the ministry to provide job opportunities to 75 lakh artisans and craftsmen through 75 'Hunar Haats' (fairs) which will be set up over the coming months. To be organised across the country, the 75 Haats will be a part of the 'Amrit Mahotsav' and will mark 75 years of India's Independence.

Naqvi said that 75 'Amrit Mahotsav Parks' will also be constructed on the vacant Waqf lands across the country under Waqf Taqqat Scheme and Pradhamantri Jan Vikas Karykram of the Union Minority Affairs Ministry. Naqvi said that under the 'Amrit Mahotsav', 'Mera Watan, Mera Chaman' muissharas and kavi sammelans will also be organised across the country till 2023, where poets will deliver the message of 'Ek Bharat-Shrestha Bharat'. The minister said that the 75 haats will be organised with the resolve of 'Vocal for Local' in all parts of the country. There will also be a section for traditional culinary experts, where people will enjoy traditional dishes from different regions. ENS



LALMANI VERMA
LUCKNOW, AUGUST 16

THE UTTARAKHAND Cabinet on Monday decided that the word "Poorvi Pakistan" will not be mentioned in caste certificates issued to children of people from the Bengali community who had come from erstwhile East Pakistan — before Bangladesh won nationhood in 1971 — and were rehabilitated in Udhampur.

The decision was taken on a proposal tabled by the state Social Welfare Department. The proposal was moved on the demand of people from the community and others in the district, an official said.

"The current generation of migrated Bengalis rehabilitated there were born in Uttarakhand; their sentiments are against Pakistan. They do not want to be linked with Pakistan," an official said. "So they were demanding that the government stop mentioning 'Poorvi Pakistan' in caste certificates issued to them."

Caste certificates enable their children to benefit from student scholarship as migrants from the then East Pakistan, the official added.

Sources said the proposal tabled in the Cabinet was to replace "Poorvi Pakistan" se visvasthipat (displaced from East Pakistan)" with "Poorvi Bengal se visvasthipat (displaced from East Bengal)" in the certificates. But the Cabinet decided against mentioning any of these words in caste certificates to be issued in future.

Following Law Department's opinion, the proposal, it is learnt, was also examined in the context of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to avoid any contradiction in future. After scrutiny, it was mentioned that the NRC Act is applicable at present only in Assam.

Sanjay Bachar, a member of the Bengali community whose

Two from Gujarat held in Bengaluru in Rs 3.5-crore cryptocurrency cheating case

Chandrana, is absconding.

According to a senior police officer, businessman Gowtham's friend Ramesh T V had claimed that he had made profits in cryptocurrency trading and encouraged Gowtham to invest in the same. In his complaint, Gowtham said that "as he lacked knowledge in cryptocurrency, he sought Ramesh's help to befriend Chandrana who claimed to be an expert".

On May 15, Gowtham transferred Rs 3.5 crore to two bank accounts provided by Chandrana to purchase cryptocurrency.

However, Chandrana neither bought cryptocurrency nor returned the money, leading Gowtham to file a complaint with South Cyber, Economic and Narcotics (CEN) police station.

After police called Chandrana to appear before them, he approached a local court, seeking anticipatory bail. On August 10, the court rejected the bail plea and said, "The investigation officer must recover the currency and record his statement." Meanwhile, police managed to trace Piyushbhai and Rajeshbhai and said a probe is underway.



NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

E-TENDER NOTICE

E

BRIEFLY



Accident took place around 9 am near Ayyanthole in Thrissur

KERALA

Man dead after peacock hits motorbike

Kochi: A peacock flew into a couple riding a motorbike in Kerala's Thrissur district, killing one person. The bird was also killed in the accident. The accident occurred around 9 am Monday near Ayyanthole when the peacock flew across the road, crashing into a bike that Pramosh (34) and his wife Veena (26) were riding. Following the collision, Pramosh lost control of the bike which hit another bike before crashing into a wall. While Pramosh succumbed to injuries, Veena and Dhanesh, who was riding the other bike, suffered injuries and were taken to hospital. ENS

GUJARAT

Probe after anti-RSS graffiti found in Surat

Surat: The Surat city police has begun a probe into an anti-RSS graffiti that emerged on the wall of the civil hospital compound on the main road at Chowk Bazaar area in Surat on Sunday. Police said the incident came to light on August 15 morning after a passerby took a video of the graffiti written in English with black spray paint and shared on social media. CCTV footage are being checked to identify the miscreants, they said. Several leaders of the VHP and Bajrang Dal leaders reached the spot where personnel from Athwalines police station were deployed and the wall was repainted. ENS

PUNJAB

2 linked to 'UK terrorist' held, arms recovered

Chandigarh: The Punjab Police have arrested two terrorists, allegedly associated with a UK-based terrorist entity, and recovered two hand grenades and as many pistols from their possession, DGP Dinkar Gupta Monday said. The arrests, on Sunday night from Amritsar, came days after the recovery of an improvised explosive device concealed in a tiffin box along with five hand grenades and 100 rounds of 9 mm pistol from a village in the border district. A spokesperson said a case under sections of the Arms Act, and the Explosive Substance (Amendment) Act 2001, has been registered at Gharinda Police Station in Amritsar. ENS

WEST BENGAL

Cartoon case: Order reserved as judge gets Covid

Kolkata: The court of the Alipore Chief Judicial Magistrate here on Monday reserved for September 14 its order in the cartoon case against Jadavpur University (JU) professor Ambikesh Mahapatra after the judge contracted Covid-19. The court had heard the case, filed against Mahapatra under the scrapped Section 66A of the Information Technology Act for e-mailing a cartoon on Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2012, on Friday. The hearing came a month after the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, in a directive dated July 14, asked states to withdraw cases registered under Section 66A. ENS

MUMBAI

Man held, drew Rs 43.31 lakh salary as 'municipal worker' for over 24 yrs

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

A 53-YEAR-OLD MAN was arrested on Monday by Azad Maidan police for allegedly impersonating a Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) employee and drawing salary for over 24 years.

The police said the accused, Ramesh Maruti Shelar, had started working as a gardener in the BMC in 1989. After realising that he got the job by procuring fake documents and drew Rs 43.31 lakh as salary, the corporation lodged a complaint. Shelar was produced in court and remanded in police custody till August 20.

The police said Shelar had

The fraud came to light following an audit of all the civic employees' service records

managed to get his hands on the documents of one Sopan Maruti Sabale, a building mukadam in the BMC's F-south ward. "Shelar said the documents he used to apply for the job were given to him by a government official," said an investigator, adding that they are trying to find the official.

Shelar worked in the BMC's water department in Byculla till 2017. The fraud came to light following an audit of all the civic employees' service records.

"In the records of both the workers, the name, date of birth and school leaving certificate details were the same. In 2017, it was noticed and accordingly, an inquiry ordered. Both of them were asked to submit their original caste certificates that they had submitted during the time of recruitment," said an officer.

After the notices were issued, Sabale submitted his original documents, but Shelar stopped reporting to work.

In March 2017, the BMC issued a show-cause notice to Shelar, asking him to resume work. However, the show-cause notice reached the residence of Sabale at Junnar in Pune.

"Sabale's father received the notice and called his son to ask

why he had stopped reporting to work," the officer said, adding that he then went to the BMC headquarters to get details on the same. Eventually, the BMC officials learnt about the fraud.

The BMC inquiry continued till the start of 2021 in which they concluded that Shelar had duped the civic body by submitting fake documents. The BMC then submitted an application following which a case was registered on July 15.

An official added that the BMC officials in their statement had revealed that when Shelar stopped reporting to work in 2017, he was being paid Rs 40,000 per month.

"His total salary for 24 years summed up to be Rs 43.31 lakh," said an officer.



A demonstration in Aldona area of Goa on Monday. Express

Body on Goa beach: cops say drowned; kin allege murder, demand probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, AUGUST 16

HUNDREDS GATHERED in north Goa's Aldona on Monday for a candle light vigil demanding justice for a 19-year-old woman who was found dead on Calangute beach on August 12.

The woman's family members, villagers, activists and political workers also joined in the demonstration. While the Goa police had said that sexual assault or violence was ruled out as a post-mortem report indicated that the woman may have died due to drowning, most who turned up in Aldona on Monday evening demanded an explanation for why the woman's body was found semi-clad.

"We have reason to think that this was a case of murder. If it was a case of drowning, why would all her clothes not be on the body?

BAGHPAT

Police: 4 held in violence over 'biryani cart' near Jain temple

AMIT SHARMA
MEERUT, AUGUST 16

BAGHPAT DISTRICT police have ordered an inquiry and have so far arrested four people suspected to be involved in an attack on a group of Jain devotees from Ghaziabad in Badagaon village of Baghpur following a row over a chicken biryani banner on a cart selling lemon juice stationed near the temple.

The incident took place Sunday night. The devotees were visiting a Jain temple in the village when they apparently took objection to the chicken biryani banner near the temple.

According to Novendra Singh, in charge of Khekra police station, where the case was registered, as the verbal spat turned ugly, a group of people, suspected to be from another community, allegedly hit the Jain devotees with stones and lathis; their bus was allegedly vandalised, and an attempt was made to burn the vehicle by pouring petrol on it.

The injured people were admitted to a local hospital and a massive manhunt has been lodged to nab the other accused persons, either named or unidentified in the FIR.

"We have arrested four persons so far. An inquiry has been ordered," Baghpur SP Neeraj Jadaun said. "A sweet lemon juice cart had a banner of chicken biryani on one side, which the devotees objected to. This led to an altercation."

Khekra station in-charge Novendra Singh said that as the verbal spat wore on, the man selling lime juice sent an SOS to local residents in Badagaon, who came in groups during the night.

The fraud came to light following an audit of all the civic employees' service records

"In the records of both the workers, the name, date of birth and school leaving certificate details were the same. In 2017, it was noticed and accordingly, an inquiry ordered. Both of them were asked to submit their original caste certificates that they had submitted during the time of recruitment," said an officer.

After the notices were issued, Sabale submitted his original documents, but Shelar stopped reporting to work.

In March 2017, the BMC issued a show-cause notice to Shelar, asking him to resume work. However, the show-cause notice reached the residence of Sabale at Junnar in Pune.

"His total salary for 24 years summed up to be Rs 43.31 lakh," said an officer.

WMO tasks India to coordinate global research on monsoons

ANJALI MARAR
PUNE, AUGUST 16

THE WORLD Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has entrusted India to coordinate the global research on monsoons. A dedicated office in this regard – International Monsoons Project

Office (IMPO) – was established recently at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

Since 2012, this Pune-based institute operating under the Ministry of Earth Sciences has been leading India's Monsoon Mission, of which the second phase is nearing completion.

"The monsoons have been a major challenge for meteorologists. If they are not represented correctly, the weather models will have problems in their results in other regions too. So, research on the monsoons is also a scientific requirement," said Rupa Kumar Kohli, head, IMPO.

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
HOME (GENERAL) DEPARTMENT
'A' WING, 5th LEVEL, DELHI SACHIVALAYA, I.P.ESTATE, NEW DELHI-2

DELHI BRAVERY AWARDS 2022

Delhi Government has constituted Delhi Bravery Awards to recognize and honour people who have displayed exemplary courage, presence of mind and bravery in the face of acute danger and who have performed deeds of outstanding Bravery and selfless service risking their lives to protect others. Persons in all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The acts of bravery would be recognised and honoured in Government function on Republic Day 2022.

It may be noted that the recommendations for this award are considered by Awards Committee within a period of two years from the date of performance of the Bravery act. Therefore, for **Delhi Bravery Award 2022**, any application in respect of which the date of performance of the act falls between **1st September, 2019 to 31st August 2021** would only be considered. Any performance of act that falls **prior to 1st September 2019 will not be considered.**

The eligible applicants/ their legal heirs / any other person on behalf of applicant can deposit their applications / recommendations to their respective Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), Govt. of NCT of Delhi, **latest by 15th September, 2021**. The circular and prescribed proforma can be downloaded from www.delhi.gov.in/departments.html Home department.

Sd/-
DY. SECRETARY (HOME)

10

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

KABUL CHALLENGE

Return of Taliban has implications for India — immediate challenges include evacuation of staff, rise in border tensions

THE DRAMATIC EVENTS in Kabul over the weekend have shocked India, which seemed quite unprepared like much of the world for a precipitous collapse of the government headed by Ashraf Ghani. Through the last few weeks, Delhi had stiffened its opposition to the Taliban and doubled down its support for Kabul. This was reinforced by the broader Indian elite and popular sentiment in favour of Kabul. The genuine warmth for the Afghan people and a deep commitment for their welfare might have prevented India from recognising the weaknesses of the government in Kabul. Delhi had also perhaps overestimated the domestic political support in Washington for a strong posture against the Taliban and the Biden Administration's ability to manage the end-game of its plan to withdraw all troops from Afghanistan. While a post-mortem of the developments in Afghanistan must take place at an appropriate time, Delhi's current focus must be on addressing the immediate challenges confronting it in Afghanistan.

The first is to securely evacuate Indian diplomatic personnel and other citizens from Afghanistan. This will require a major logistical effort. The government of India must also offer refuge to a large number of those Afghans who have worked with Indian initiatives and are desperate to avoid potential retribution from the Taliban. The second is diplomatic. As the world deals with new facts on the ground created by the Taliban, Delhi must make all possible efforts to get the international community to hold the Taliban to its word on letting all foreigners leave in peace, protecting the lives of all Afghan citizens, including those who worked with the government and foreign institutions, and respecting international humanitarian law. The reports from various cities in Afghanistan, including from Kabul, suggest the opposite.

As a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Delhi will have a voice in shaping the international debate on the situation in Afghanistan. India also chairs the Taliban Sanctions Committee of the UNSC and will have an important role in framing the international response to the Taliban's demands for the lifting of all sanctions against its leaders. India also must step up its diplomatic outreach to all the major powers and key regional actors to develop political and policy coordination in responding to the dynamic situation in Afghanistan. Meanwhile, delivering international humanitarian assistance to the large number of Afghan people displaced by fighting in the last few weeks must be taken up as a high priority at the UN. The final challenge is domestic. As Islamabad's triumphalism at the successful re-installation of the Taliban begins to rise and Pakistan-based jihadi groups turn their attention to Kashmir, tensions are bound to rise on India's western borders. Delhi must maintain vigil against a resurgence of cross-border terrorism that could quickly destabilise Kashmir and escalate the conflict between India and Pakistan.

LAME EXCUSE

'Operation Langda' is of a piece with Uttar Pradesh's encounter culture. In effect, it criminalises the police force

IN 2017, A little over two months after assuming office as chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath said in an interview — "agar aap apradh karenge, toh thok diye jayenge" (if you commit a crime, you will be bumped off). Since that time, the UP police have officially shot at and injured at least 3,302 alleged criminals in 8,472 "encounters", and killed 146 people. As reported by this newspaper, the unofficial use of excessive violence by the police has a name — "Operation Langda (lame)". Given the political context, it is difficult not to put two and two together, and conclude that the subversion of the rule of law has political and government sanction.

The UP police is not the only force in the country that is accused of using excessive force. However, few state governments highlight this violence as an achievement. For example, in the run-up to Republic Day earlier this year, the Chief Secretary asked district magistrates to publicise "Ab tak 3,000" — referring to the high number of encounters — as one of the state government's primary achievements. As recently as August 3, official UP BJP social media handles shared a video of an alleged criminal after an encounter, limping and injured, pleading for help and crying out his desperate apologies. The video carried the following description: "Look, how a criminal begs for his life... this is UP." The political support for encounters and extra-judicial killings is backed, *prima facie*, by legal impunity. As of July 2020, 74 probes had been conducted into extra-judicial killings, and the police were given a clean chit in all of them.

"Operation Langda", then, is no aberration. It is of a piece with the UP government's policy towards crime and punishment, where the accused are treated as guilty and the police seem to be the agents of vigilante justice. It is also part of a political calculus that sees "hard on crime" as an aspect of good governance though, on the ground, it does the opposite. For many Indians, the police is the primary representative of the state, and the police station the most visible institution. If that basic unit of government ignores due process, replicates prejudice and inspires fear, it blurs the line between those meant to protect citizens from violence and those inflicting it. In effect, the encounter culture criminalises the police. To arrest this slide, the first step must be for the government and political class to condemn extra-judicial violence and ensure that those who violate the law are held accountable.

SABRINA'S NO

Her search for justice for sister Jessica Lall inspired a new middle-class solidarity, but she did not give in to hate

WHAT PRICE DOES a woman pay for saying no? In the case of Jessica Lall, the answer was her life. On April 29, 1999, the 34-year-old woman refused to serve a drink to the son of a Haryana Congress politician because the bar had closed. Manu Sharma pumped a bullet into her head — in the presence of several witnesses, some of Delhi's richest and shiniest. All of whom had the same advice for Lall's family: Don't mess with the powerful. She was the quieter and more diffident of the two sisters, but Sabrina Lall, who died in Gurgaon on Sunday, too, said no.

Sabrina's fight for justice exposed much that was wrong in the Delhi of the late 1990s, where a macho culture of entitlement met post-liberalisation money in a toxic rush. It exposed the brazenness with which the powerful bent justice, intimidated witnesses and bought off the willing. It shattered her family. Jessica's mother died of heartbreak in 2002. Their father died two months after the February 2006 trial court ruling that acquitted Sharma. He had not known a night's peaceful sleep since his daughter's death.

"No one killed Jessica," the headlines said, voicing the outrage of the metropolitan middle class that saw Jessica as one of their own. Prime-time TV coverage, candlelight vigils and SMS polls for justice laid a template for public protests for the next two decades — and took Sabrina, who till then had fought a lonely dispirited battle that swallowed up all her joys, by surprise. In 10 months, the verdict was reversed, and Sharma convicted. In later, less-innocent years, if protests prompted by violence against women would turn into calls for vengeance and death, Sabrina refused to walk that path. In 2020, she wrote to Tihar jail, saying she had no objection to Sharma's early release. She had won, but there was no hate in her heart.



C Raja Mohan

AS WE REFLECT on the rapid collapse of the Afghan government and the triumphant return of the Taliban, it is worth recalling the insight of K M Panikkar on the relationship between Kabul and Delhi. Panikkar affirmed that developments in the Kabul Valley inevitably affect the empires of the Gangetic plains. He was referring to the innumerable invaders consolidating in the Herat and Kabul valleys before attacking northern India's heartland.

Recent developments in South Asia certainly point to a recurring dynamic between Afghanistan and India. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in 1979 and the 2001 terror attacks on New York and Washington followed by the US intervention have had profound effects on the domestic, intra-regional and international politics of the subcontinent.

There is no question that the Taliban's entry into Kabul on Sunday marks the beginning of a new phase in the relationship between Afghanistan and India. The pattern gets more interesting when we consider the "Indus Rider" to the "Panikkar thesis". Put simply, the kingdoms on the Indus have had a powerful role in shaping the contests between alien forces and the heartland empires. That rings true when you consider Pakistan's persistent politics of balancing against India, with the help of external powers, in the post-Partition international relations of the subcontinent.

The restoration of Taliban rule in Afghanistan with Pakistan's support undoubtedly presents some very serious potential challenges for Indian security. But the gloom and doom that descended upon Delhi since the swift meltdown of the post-2001 political order in Kabul is excessive. India has seen much worse before on its northwestern frontiers. A measure of strategic patience could help Delhi cope with the adverse developments in Afghanistan and find ways to secure its interests in the near future. But first to 1979 and 2001 and how they changed the subcontinent.

At the end of 1979, the Soviet Union launched a massive military invasion to protect a communist regime in Kabul. The US and Pakistan responded by unleashing a religious jihad that bled the Russian bear and compelled it to withdraw by 1989. The 1980s would transform the region irrevocably. The jihad against the Soviet Union facilitated General Zia ul Haq's rapid Islamisation of Pakistan's polity. It also gave great impetus to violent religious extremism across South Asia. Pakistan's critical role in the Afghan war against Russia allowed Zia to

The changing Af-Pak

The Taliban takeover is cause for concern. But India will have opportunities in Afghanistan

secure the political cover for the country's acquisition of nuclear weapons.

The Pakistan army turned the jihadi armies to gain control of Afghanistan and launched a proxy war against India, especially in the Punjab and Kashmir regions. The turbulence of the 1990s saw deepening conflict between India and Pakistan, both countries conducting nuclear weapon tests, and the establishment of Pak-backed Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's triumph in Kabul, however, turned out to be short-lived. Al Qaeda, hosted by the Taliban, launched terror attacks against the US on September 11, 2001. Swift US retribution brought an end to Taliban rule and compelled Pakistan to reconsider its policies.

America's ambition to undo the sins of 1979 by "draining the swamps" of international terrorism in the Af-Pak region, and Musharraf's plans for "enlightened moderation" at home, seemed to open up new pathways for the region. Tensions between India and Pakistan yielded to a productive dialogue that produced tantalising possibilities for normalisation of bilateral relations, including a resolution of the Kashmir dispute. After 2001, there has also been a significant expansion of the India-US strategic partnership.

By the end of the decade, though, Musharraf had been dethroned and the Pakistan Army had swung back to its default positions — renewed support for the Taliban in Afghanistan, expanding attacks on the Kabul government's positions, and scuttling of civilian leaders' efforts to expand the engagement with India. Pakistan also teased an increasingly war-weary Washington into a negotiation with the Taliban for a peace settlement.

Last week marks a huge triumph for Pakistan's Afghan policy. It not only ensured a swift Taliban advance across Afghanistan but also a peaceful surrender of Kabul. The Taliban leaders are also saying all the right things about letting the foreigners leave, protecting lives and properties of Afghan people, and respecting the rights of women. Reports from the provinces, however, point to gross human rights abuses by the Taliban. If the new Taliban dispensation demonstrates a better record in Kabul, it might encourage the world to respond positively. That of course is a big "if".

For Delhi, a bigger question mark will be about the Taliban's renewed support for international terrorism and Pakistan's re-direction of jihadi groups that have allegedly fought with the Taliban towards India. Delhi, however, will

go by evidence from the ground rather than verbal promises.

What about the Taliban's ideology? Like all radical groups, the Taliban will have trouble balancing its religious ideology with the imperatives of state interests. Delhi would want to carefully watch how this tension plays out.

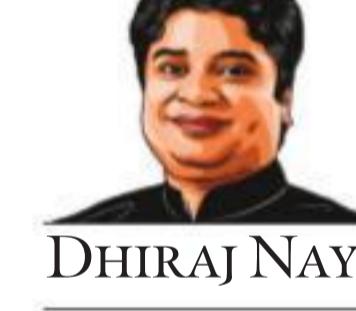
Equally important is the nature of the relationship between the Taliban and Pakistan. Although Pakistan's leverage over the Taliban is real, it may not be absolute. The Taliban is bound to seek a measure of autonomy from Pakistan. India will have to wait a while, though, before the current chill between Delhi and the Taliban can be overcome.

While Delhi must fully prepare for a renewal of cross-border terror, the international conditions of the 1990s and 2020s are rather different. There is a lot less global acceptance of terrorism today than in the permissive 1990s. No major power would like to see Afghanistan re-emerge as a global sanctuary of terror. The world has also imposed significant new constraints on Pakistan's support for terror through mechanisms like the Financial Action Task Force. Unlike in the 1990s, when Delhi simply absorbed the terror attacks, it now shows the political will to retaliate forcefully.

What about a regional geopolitical alignment against India after the American scramble out of Afghanistan? While the US retreat has been humiliating, there is no question that the US would have left sooner or later. It is also important to note that the US and the West will continue to have a say in shaping the international attitudes towards the new regime. The Taliban and Pakistan appear to be acutely conscious of this reality. Meanwhile, the US withdrawal compels the creation of a new balance of power system in and around Afghanistan. On both fronts, the contradictions facing the Taliban and Pakistan are real.

Structuring the internal balance of power within Afghanistan has always been hard. It remains to be seen if the Taliban and Pakistan can do any better than the last time when the Taliban ruled. A deeper Sino-Pak partnership in Afghanistan will inevitably produce countervailing trends. For a patient, open-minded and active India, there will be no dearth of balancing opportunities in Afghanistan.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



DHIRAJ NAYYAR

INDIA LOVES a champion in sport. It wants many more. That it requires more money and better infrastructure spread out across the country is well known and often repeated. But what is also needed is a less tangible element which is often missed out in the discourse on how to create more medalists at the highest level — empathy, love and reward for those who will never win a Gold, Silver or Bronze. India celebrates achievement, now it even embraces failure (provided it is followed by success). But it has antipathy for those who straddle the vast middle between the top of the class and those detained for a repeat year.

That may sound counter-intuitive given that the vast majority falls in precisely the "in-between" or "average" category. It's human instinct to be comfortable amongst one's own type, so it would be reasonable to assume affinity with other unexceptional people. But it is overpowered by another human instinct — the Darwinian one — to be the fittest (best). Since, by definition, it's impossible for everyone to be the best, there is vicarious comfort in seeing one's own become a champion. Society is ready to shower them with recognition and reward.

That is not particularly useful in creating champions. Rarely, if ever, do sporting greats come readymade. Raw talent needs to be nurtured. But it is only in very few individuals that talent converts to greatness.

MANUFACTURING CHAMPIONS

A bigger talent pool in sports needs better educational and employment prospects

Rarely, if ever, do sporting greats come readymade. Raw talent needs to be nurtured. But it is only in very few individuals that talent converts to greatness.

Therefore, the bigger the talent pool, the likelier it is that more champions will emerge. But it is only in very few individuals that talent converts to greatness. Therefore, the bigger the talent pool, the likelier it is that more champions will emerge. However, if there is no reward for striving hard but falling short, parents are unlikely to send their children into sports. The risk is too high.

talent converts to greatness. Therefore, the bigger the talent pool, the likelier it is that more champions will emerge. However, if there is no reward for striving hard but falling short, parents are unlikely to send their children into sports. The risk is too high.

It is a folly to equate being average with being mediocre. One can strive to the best of one's ability and not become a champion. Mediocrity describes those who do not put in their best effort. Two things need to change fundamentally for India to create more champions. First, the education system needs to be more flexible to enable the young to maximise sporting ability without being treated as pariah "quota" students. The choice that is usually forced upon students in the Indian system is between doing well in academics and excelling in sports. In the West or even in an emerging sporting nation like China, this is a false binary.

For those who don't become world beaters in sports, a good education would ensure a high standard of life in some other profession.

There may be some sports which will never deliver the kind of monetary returns that cricket does. An alternate post-retirement career path for students who pursue such sports is also required. A second change must come from employers. It is important to recognise that people who have spent a long time playing professional or even semi-professional



AUGUST 17, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

BITTER FIGHT AHEAD

ON THE EVE of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, the government and Opposition appeared all set for a confrontation over the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance promulgated last month. While Prime Minister Indira Gandhi warned the Congress (I) Parliamentary Party meeting of a stormy session ahead, Opposition leaders got together in a hurry to chalk out a floor coordination programme to oppose tooth and nail the government on the utter failure on the price front. A symposium on television, "Issues before Parliament" also gave an indication of things to come when the tone and tenor of the spokespersons of the two sides made it abund-

dantly clear that there would be a bitter fight over these issues. Leaders of major communist and non-communist parties met on August 16 and decided to mount a united attack on the government.

UP MINISTERS RESIGN

CHEDALAL CHAUDHARY, UP minister for social welfare and two ministers of state K P Tewari and Ajit Singh Sethi resigned from the state cabinet. Chaudhary and Sethi said they have resigned on personal grounds while Tewari quit after his election to the Lok Sabha. However, it is learnt that Chaudhary and Sethi were asked to quit by the Chief Minister who was not satisfied with their performance.

AFGHAN TALKS

IN A MAJOR new development in Afghanistan, the Babrak Karmal government and the Pakistan government have agreed to pursue talks with UN officials to resolve the situation in the country. Tehran has refused to participate in any negotiation till the Soviet Union withdraws from Afghanistan.

DACOITS KILLED

IN A MAJOR swoop on August 17, the Delhi Police claimed to have arrested three members of the notorious Tyagi gang responsible for gruesome killings and dacoity. Vinod Tyagi, the kingpin, was arrested earlier.

THE IDEAS PAGE

Her own land

Gender equal land rights remain a distant goal 75 years after Independence



BINA AGARWAL

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER India's Independence, 65 years after the passing of the Hindu Succession Act (HSA), 1956, and 15 years after the enactment of the Hindu Succession Amendment Act (HSAA), 2005, are Indian women anywhere near equality in owning agricultural land, the most important property in rural India?

The case for women's land rights is as strong today as it was at Independence. A large global literature shows that owning land would enhance a woman's well-being, improve children's health and education, reduce domestic violence, raise farm productivity, increase family food security, and empower women socially and politically. Gender-equal land rights is also a key target in SDG 5 on gender equality. Yet policy is far behind.

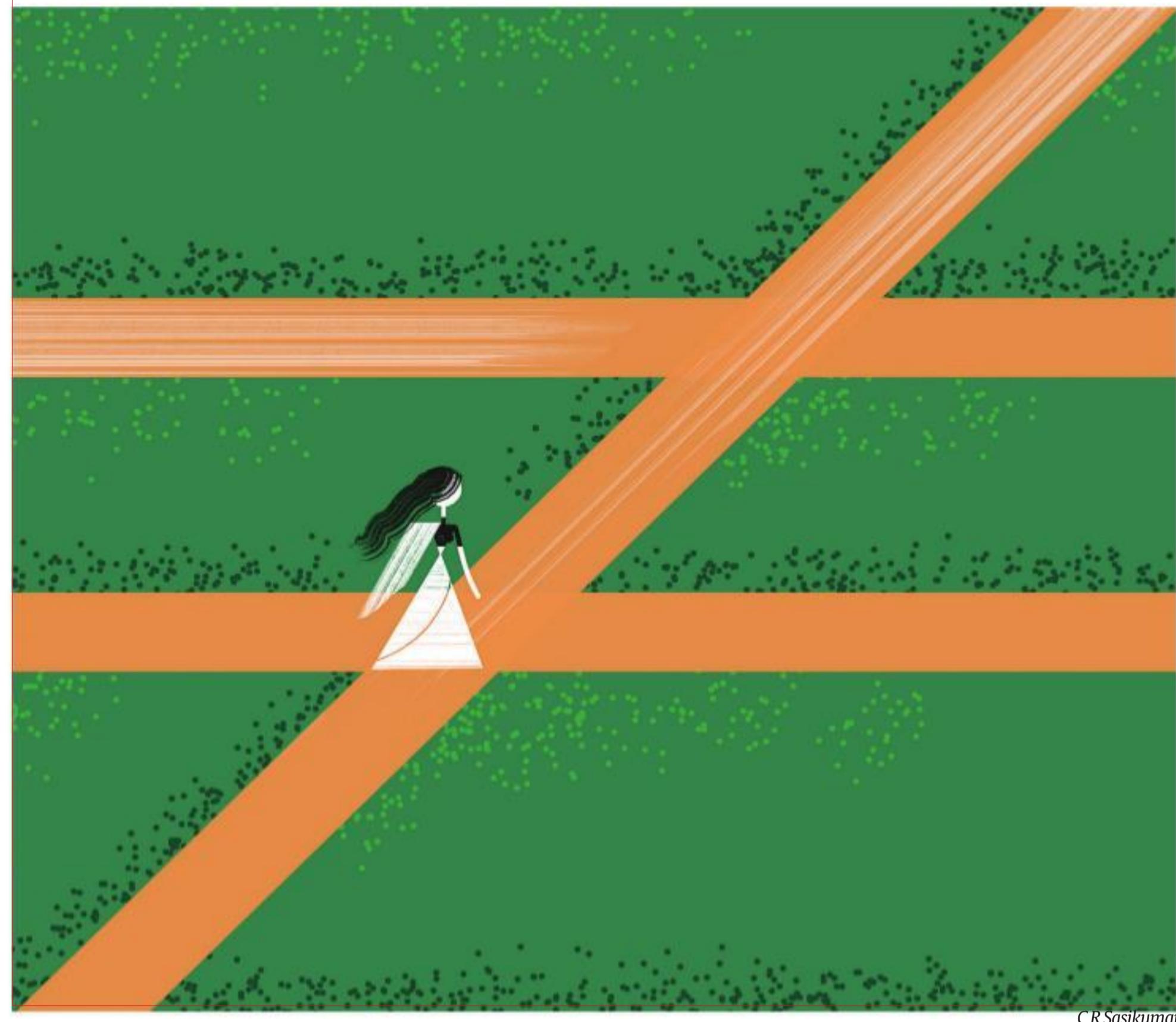
I first made a strong case for women having independent rights in agricultural land in my 1994 book, *A Field of One's Own: Gender and Land Rights in South Asia*, and traced inequalities in both law and practice across five countries.

There was little prior research then. In 1956, the HSA had given Hindu women substantial rights in property, but two major inequalities remained. First, the inheritance of agricultural land devolved according to land reform laws which were highly gender unequal, especially in six northern states. Second, daughters were excluded from coparcenary rights in joint family property. In 1976, Kerala abolished joint property altogether while between 1986 and 1994, four states (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra) amended the HSA to recognise unmarried daughters as co-parceners on par with sons. But the discriminatory clause for agricultural land remained.

The HSAA 2005, however, following a civil society campaign that I led, brought about gender equality in law on both counts across all states.

What about practice? Until recently this question could not be answered, given a lack of gender-disaggregated data on land ownership. Neither the agricultural census nor the NSSO surveys on ownership holdings disaggregate by gender, and people often incorrectly cite gender figures on operational holdings as ownership figures. Some smaller data sets provide limited insights. Now, however, we have more answers. Using ICRISAT's longitudinal data (2009–2014) for nine states, I analysed with two colleagues (Pervesh Anthwal and Malvika Mahesh) "How many and which women own land in India". Our paper in the *Journal of Development Studies*, April 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2021.1887478>, does not bring good news.

Before I share the results, two points are worth noting. First, to effectively assess inter-gender (male-female) gaps in land ownership we need not one but several measures such as: What percentage of rural landowning households have women owners? What percentage of all landowners are women? What percentage of women own land and how much land, relative to men? Second, we need to ask: Which women in the family own land? Legally today under Hindu law, both daughters and widows have equal inheritance rights in a man's separate property, but daughters additionally have shares in joint family property. Although legal



CR Sasikumar

amendments have expanded daughters' rights, socially widow's rights have always carried greater legitimacy, since the time of the Dharmashastras.

In our study – the first for India – we covered both inter-gender gaps in land ownership and intra-gender differences between women. Despite significant advancement in inheritance laws, women were found to own land in only 16 per cent of the sampled 1,114 rural landowning households, and just 8.4 per cent of all females owned land, averaged across states. Overall, women constituted barely 14 per cent of all landowners and owned only 11 per cent of the land, with an average area of 1.24 ha relative to 1.66 ha for men. These figures changed rather little over 2009–2014.

Also, strikingly, most of the landowning women had acquired land through their marital families, typically as widows and not as daughters through parents, despite the legal strengthening of daughters' rights since Independence. Very few women were co-owners in joint family property, and over half the owners of both genders were aged 50 or more. Hence, even women who own land receive too late in life to notably improve their well-being or bargaining power in families.

There are of course state-wise differences (the dataset did not include Kerala). Female landowners constituted 32 per cent of all landowners in Telangana but only 6 per cent in Odisha. Telangana's success lies in a long history of government and NGO efforts to help women acquire land. N T Rama Rao, thrice chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh, introduced policies to help women, especially Dalit women, acquire land in groups. He was behind Andhra's early amendment of the HSA

Despite significant advancement in inheritance laws, women were found to own land in only 16 per cent of the sampled 1,114 rural landowning households, and just 8.4 per cent of all females owned land, averaged across states. Overall, women constituted barely 14 per cent of all landowners and owned only 11 per cent of the land, with an average area of 1.24 ha relative to 1.66 ha for men. These figures changed rather little over 2009–2014.

1956 to make unmarried daughters co-parceners in joint family property. But laws alone are not enough. For example, in Maharashtra, which made a similar amendment in 1994, only 11 per cent of landowners are female. What we need is a change in rigid social attitudes.

Fathers fear losing control over land if given to married daughters. Daughters fear damaging family relations if they claim their shares. Policymakers say they fear land fragmentation. But relations based on gross inequality are already damaged. And ownership need not cause fragmentation if plots are still cultivated together by families, as is common in northwest India, or with neighbours.

Looking ahead, we urgently need more gender-disaggregated data on land ownership, and innovative policies to increase women's actual ownership. Telangana's example shows that state leadership, starting with chief ministers, can make a big difference. So can civil society. Women themselves need to raise their claims more vocally, as they did in the 1930s and '40s. Notably, despite vast numbers of women joining the ongoing protests against farm laws, we hear barely a whisper about their claims in family land.

Also new ideas deserve attention, such as joint ownership and group cultivation (which can bring scale economies). Group farming by women is already practised in several states, including Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Bihar and West Bengal. The idea of group ownership still awaits attention.

The writer is Professor of Development Economics and Environment, GDI, University of Manchester, UK

Start up and stand tall

New ecosystem can help India become a powerhouse of global economy



BYJU RAVEENDRAN

INDIA HOLDS a unique position in the world for several reasons, and having one of the youngest populations is perhaps the most pivotal. With 62 per cent of the population in the working age group and 54 per cent below the age of 25, we have the advantage of leveraging the skill and ability of our youth to drive the nation forward through productive output and innovation.

While India has historically and culturally been an entrepreneurial-driven nation, the last decade-and-a-half has seen a significant change in the landscape – from the founding of new startups, to global investor interest, to the advances made in infrastructure and policies. In 2021 alone, Indian startups have so far raised upward of \$20 billion in funding, achieved unicorn statuses, and more.

The proliferation of this startup economy has brought with it new business opportunities, innovation, tech-centric approaches and job creation across sectors. While the flow of investments from traditional industries into tech-focused sectors has been instrumental for entrepreneurs, India's own growing tech prowess has had an inspirational journey in the last few decades.

From 2011, when India's first private company achieved unicorn status, to being on track to have a 50-plus strong "unicorn club" in 2021 according to Nasscom, the country now finds itself at the epicentre of entrepreneurship. A mature startup ecosystem, with seasoned entrepreneurs and technology-led solutions, paves the way for innovation and expanding

its global footprint. And if we look back at the seven-and-a-half decades since India's independence, the economy has rapidly diversified and grown beyond agriculture to become a potential technology powerhouse, where entrepreneurs are creating world-class products and services to solve real-time challenges.

While value creation lies at the centre of entrepreneurship, Indian startups are also taking big strides in building synergies and partnerships with global entities, further demonstrating the evolution of the startup ecosystem and its appetite for innovation, collaboration and disruption.

Even amid the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian startups have rapidly innovated to provide indigenous, tech-enabled solutions to combat challenges from testing kits and ventilators to remote monitoring, and preventive technologies, as well as innovations in supply chain management, logistics, and education. In fact, one of the paradigm shifts brought about through technology during the pandemic has been systemic shift to online education and remote learning at scale. Solutions built by Indian startups saw widespread adoption not just domestically but also on a global scale, firmly establishing the country as a cornerstone of tech and innovation in the world.

The steady rise of Indian IT companies in the 2000s, a large talent pool of skilled work-

force, increased expendable income, and rising capital inflows have collectively contributed in large part. Today, India is home to more than 40,000 startups and is building a robust tech and internet infrastructure. Moreover, the ability of the young generation to take risks, move fast, and disrupt things without fear, has become our biggest asset today. The fact that Indian startups are becoming global entities by creating products and solutions for world markets is a testament to this approach.

From industrial conglomerates, banks, automobile giants, software pioneers to tech startups, India has been steadily scripting its growth story. Global investors too are realising the potential upside in India's huge, underpenetrated market as the country steadily makes a place for itself as a leading R&D hub for many Silicon Valley companies.

However, in order to transition beyond the current capabilities and achieve the demographic dividend, education, and reskilling, and upskilling of our workforce is crucial. We must also recognise and acknowledge that apart from the domestic policy environment, the global environment and technological advances are also changing, and it is imperative that India is prepared for this revolution. And so, apart from policy-level decisions that promote entrepreneurship, the onus is also on

India's corporate sector to foster entrepreneurship, and create synergies to build impactful technology solutions, sustainable and resource-efficient growth.

With Indians set to make up one-fifth of the world's working-age population in the next five years and likely to have an estimated 850 million internet users by 2030, the country stands at the cusp of unprecedented economic growth, and the opportunity to be a global game-changer. Speed, inclusion, and sustainability are key elements in this mission, as is the youth of the country. Coupled with the nation's focus on strengthening digital infrastructure in healthcare and education, and boosting employment in manufacturing, there is little doubt that India@100 will be a powerhouse of the global economy.

The collective future efforts of the public and private sectors to improve physical and digital connectivity will also help unlock the untapped potential of rural and semi-urban India to truly lead Industry 4.0 and beyond. In view of achieving this transformation at scale, the Indian startup ecosystem must focus on developing solutions that allow businesses in key sectors to meet goals of national importance. It also must view India's economic and social challenges as opportunities for growth and leverage new technologies. While India@75 is on the precipice of change, I hope for a golden era of global entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation for India@100.

The writer is founder & CEO, BYJU'S



India 75
75 years of India's independence

India@100
India's future is in your hands

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Today, more public sector investment, a job guarantee for the long-term unemployed and mini-furlough schemes could help kickstart and smooth the process of creative destruction."

— THE GUARDIAN

It's Congress that needs repair

Instead of disrupting Parliament and practising vote-bank politics, party must reflect on its decline



RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD

DEMOCRACY IS indeed the best form of government, in spite of some shortcomings. Debate, discussion, bipartisanship and accountability are significant traits of this form of government. However, respecting the popular mandate constitutes its cornerstone. In fact, in the last 74 years, the biggest lesson of independent India is that people know they can change a government led by any party or leader through the power of the vote. The real problem of the Congress party, including its leader Sonia Gandhi, is the refusal to acknowledge the back-to-back mandate Prime Minister Narendra Modi received in 2014 and 2019. The tone and tenor of her article, 'In need of repair' (IE, August 6) reinforces this point.

The Congress, having dominated the polity for so many years, is reluctant to reconcile with its present status: It failed to get the numbers to be acknowledged as the leading Opposition party in the Lok Sabha. Recent Vidhan Sabha elections, too, confirm the party's consistent decline. An otherwise great party has become a family concern. Curiously, Mrs Gandhi wrote her article on a day when a woman leader left her party and another leader questioned the ability of some family members to lead the party.

In his very first prime ministerial address on August 15, 2014, PM Modi gave due credit to all the previous prime ministers, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, besides recognising the role of other giants of our freedom struggle, like Sardar Patel and Lal Bahadur Shastri. He appreciated their role in this year's address too.

However, it was surprising to see Sonia Gandhi mentioning Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose in her article. After independence, the Congress governments led by the Gandhis ignored these leaders' contributions in the making of modern India. Patel, who unified India, died in 1950, but he was given the Bharat Ratna only after 41 years, in 1991. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, another giant of the freedom movement, died in 1958 and he got the Bharat Ratna only in 1992. The prime minister in 1991–92 was P V Narasimha Rao, a non-family leader. The insult meted out to Rao after his death is well known — his body was not allowed to be kept in the Congress office in New Delhi. When Mrs Gandhi talks about the need to repair institutions, she would be well advised to repair the institution that was the Congress in the past.

Yes, debates are very important in Parliament. The government had repeatedly offered to debate all the issues, ranging from the farm laws to price rise and from Covid to Pegasus. However, papers were thrown at

the Chair, members were blocked from speaking, Parliamentary staff and marshals were physically abused and documents were snatched from the Minister of Electronics and Information Technology when he was making a statement on the Pegasus issue. Many issues of national importance were not allowed to be raised. Congress members, along with MPs from other parties, climbed on the table in the Rajya Sabha and threw the rule book at the Chair and then publicly justified this. A forcible attempt was made throughout the Monsoon Session to disallow Parliament from functioning so that the government could be embarrassed.

Parliament is meant for debate, but legislative work is also important. Bills to strengthen the Juvenile Justice Act, protect small investors' investments in the banks and undo retrospective tax were all important. If the Congress could participate in the debate on the OBC Bill, what prevented them from participating in debates over other Bills?

Mrs Gandhi has to answer for her party's flip-flop on the fight against Covid. In the last session, there was a good debate in the Rajya Sabha. Why was this not allowed to happen in the Lok Sabha? The PM called the leaders of all the political parties for an extensive briefing on the fight against Covid. Why did the Congress boycott it? Is it not a fact that in the last one year, Rahul Gandhi has done his best to mock, oppose and derail the government's efforts in the fight against Covid? When a 'Made in India' vaccine is today being recognised as a global success story, did he not make fun of it? The PM personally visited the vaccine laboratories and inspired them to work harder. This shows leadership. Today, 55 crore Covid vaccine doses have been administered, an impressive figure as 25 per cent of India's population is below the age of 12.

Mrs Gandhi talks of inclusive politics in her article. Then why did a party under her leadership oppose a Bill to ban triple talaq? I need to remind you, Soniji, that in 1986, the Congress made dowry harassment a non-bailable offence (which was a good step) and in the same year reversed the Shah Bano judgment. It is vote bank and not inclusive policy that governs the Congress — be it about Shah Bano or Shayara Bano.

Today, initiatives like direct benefit transfer, Ujjwala Yojana, Digital India, Ayushman Bharat, digital payments etc, are empowering the common person. When 80 crore Indians are being given free rations without any religious bias, it shows sabka saath sabka vikas. Middlemen no longer play a role in the government's decisions. The way the country's safety and security has been assured and the way Jammu and Kashmir has seen the unfurling of the Tricolour in every corner shows a resurgent India under the leadership of PM Modi. Congress leaders had even questioned the courage and sacrifice of our armed forces during Uri and Balakot. Really, it is the Congress which is in urgent need of repair.

The writer is member of Lok Sabha from BJP and a former union minister

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ROAD AHEAD

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'India's road ahead: The challenge and compass' (IE, August 16). The Prime Minister's policy slogan "sabka saath sabka vikas" has failed to achieve the *vikas* (development) of *sabka* (all). But his addition of "sabka vishwas" (trust of all) and now "sabka prayas" (efforts of all) aims at the involvement of the people and government together. But the PM should also realise that such a joint effort is not possible unless his governance gains the trust of every citizen and ensures full inclusiveness as enshrined in the Constitution.

Y G CHOUKSEY, Pune

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'India's road ahead: The challenge and compass' (IE, August 16). On Independence Day, we were shaken by Kabul's fall to an ascendant Taliban, which in turn makes us ponder the true value of freedom. We must never forget that even the fundamental Right to Freedom of Speech & Expression is a logical corollary of the independence we wrested from the colonial powers. It pains one to see how for granted do we treat our independence, the struggles made to gain it and the ones who never cared about their lives so that we could breathe under a free sky.

Vinay Saroha, Delhi

A DEAF CENTRE

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Next 25 years crucial for India's development: PM' (IE, August 16). When the prices of petrol are skyrocketing and people are reeling under dire financial straits, accomplishing the goals stated by the PM

is easier said than done. Bills are rushed through Parliament sans discussion and deliberation. The government should focus on democratic decision making and not mar the world's largest democracy. Aanya Singhal, Noida

SCIENCE & RELIGION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'RSS chief: Will have to bow to China if dependence rises' (IE, Aug 16). Mohan Bhagwat's reference to the internet acknowledged that we don't have original technology it comes from outside — this contradicts Biplob Kumar Dev's claim that the internet and satellites existed during the Mahabharata. Bhagwat calling for mass production by masses is good, but one ought to underscore that, unlike India, China had negated religion as the opium of the masses.

L R Murmu, Delhi

Classifieds

PERSONAL

Indira W/O, Srinivasan Thiagarajan R/o Rzh-15, H-block, Tamil Enclave, Vijay Enclave, Palam Village, New Delhi-110045 have changed my name to Indira Thiagarajan 0040580685-1

I/Beena W/O Krishan Kumar R/o 381, Begmabad, Modinagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201204, have changed my name to Minaksi 007050371-1

I/hitherto known as Kiku Lal D/o Ajay Kumar Lal residing at C-1/136, First Floor, Janak Puri, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Reva Gautam. 007050369-1

It is for general information that I, Anil Setia, S/o-Krishan Lal Setia, residing at-1/1954, West-Rohtash Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032, declare that name of mine has been wrongly-written as Anil Kumar in my PPF A/C No.1025932517 in State Bank of India. The actual-name of mine is Anil Setia which may be amended accordingly.

0040580702-7

I/Virender Kumar, S/o-Late Sh.Santram, R/o-163, Nizam Pur, Rashid Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110081, in my children school record my name has wrongly mentioned as Virender Chhillar instead of Virender Kumar. 0040580733-7

I/Syid Mohd Sikander S/o Khwaja Qamaruzzama R/o-H.No.60-A, Kavita Colony, Nanglohi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to Khwaja Sayed Soheluzzama permanently. 0040580694-3

I/Shriya Rawat D/o. No.4074543A ExNk Yashpal Singh R/o-H.No.16, Block-D, Road-6, Gali-no.1, Shyam Vihar, Phase-1, Najafgarh, Delhi-43, have changed my name to Shreya Rawat for all purposes.

0040580706-6

I/Shanti Devi W/o-Budhi Singh Negi R/o-203, Gali No.15, Sainik Enclave, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059, have changed my name to Shanti Negi. 0040580694-5

I/Shakun Taneja,W/o Sanjay Kumar Taneja R/o-80, Second-Floor, DDA-Site-1, New Rajinder Nagar, N.Delhi-60 have changed my name to Shakuntala.

0040580694-2

I/Sarvesh Devi, W/o-(51340373F) NK Sundar Singh, R/o-Damuanika, Post- Shadipur, Teh-Khair, District-Aligarh, inform that in my husband's service record my name wrongly-written as Sarvesh instead of Sarvesh Devi. 0040580702-2

I/Sangeeta Devi W/o-No.4074543A EXNk Yashpal Singh R/o-H.No.16, Block-D, Road-6,Gali.no.1,Shyam Vihar,Phase-1,Najafgarh,Delhi-43, have changed my name to Sangeeta Rawat for all future purposes. 0040580706-7

I/Ratika Raman D/o Late Ldr V.K. Gupta R/o-J7, Sector-25 Jal Vayu Vihar, Noida, G.B.Nagar.(U.P.) have changed my name to Ratika Gupta for all future purposes. 0040580687-1

I/Rajesh Kumar S/o Bhagwan Das Sharma R/o-4/70 Galli No.12, Bhanot Nagar, Shahdara Delhi-110032, have changed my name to Rajesh Sharma, for all purposes.

0040580702-6

I/Piyush S/o Raj Babu Rihalia,R/o O 12 Bharat Nagar New-Friends Colony New Delhi-110025,Have Changed My Name To Piyush Rihalia.

0040580702-1

I/No.4074543A EXNk Yashpal Singh R/o-H.No.16, Block-D, Road-6,Gali.no.1,Shyam Vihar,Phase-1,Najafgarh,Delhi-43, have changed my minor daughter's name from Mahak Rawat to Mehak Rawat for all purposes. 0040580706-8

I/hitherto known as Dharampal Singh alias Dharam Pal,S/o Sh.Chand Singh,R/o House,No.350, Kakrola-Village,South-West-Delhi, Delhi-110078,have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dharam Pal.

0040580694-9

I/No.JC594048M,Sub.Maj Vikram Jeet Singh Bhadwal, Vill/P/O-Ghaut, Tehsil/District-Kathua,in my service records, name of my daughter has been wrongly mentioned as Samiksha Bhadwal instead of Kamakshi Bhadwal. It needs correction. Objections be filed to concerned authorities within seven days.

0020425459-1

I/Pradeep Kumar S/O Rattan Lal, R/o H No- 122, DDA Flats, New Ranjeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Delhi- 110008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Pradeep Musawat. 007050311-1

007050316-1

I/Faiz Alam s/o Dr. Shah Alam, R/o 302, Sai Angan, Bharat Vihar, Dwarka, New Delhi 110078 have changed my name to Faiz Shah Alam.

0040580704-1

paper.indianexpress.com

www.indianexpress.com

www.indianexpress.com</p

15

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021

ECONOMY

SENSEX: 55,582.58 ▲ 145.29 (0.26%) NIFTY: 16,563.05 ▲ 33.95 (0.21%) NIKKEI: 27,523.19 ▼ 453.96 HANG SENG: 26,181.46 ▼ 210.16 FTSE: 7,136.07 ▼ 82.64 DAX: 15,907.04 ▼ 70.40



GOLD

₹45,960



RUPEE

₹74.24*



OIL

\$70.45



SILVER

₹61,469

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on August 13, 2021

*Domestic forex market was closed on Monday on account of Parsi New Year; International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH OIL & GAS

To reach green energy milestone, ONGC charts buyout route

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

THOUGH NOT in a "tearing hurry", state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking at acquisitions to reach its target of 10 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2040.

"Renewables seem to be making a lot of business sense today. We are looking at the possibility of inorganic investments," said ONGC Chairman Subhash Kumar in an analyst call. He, however, said the company was not in a "tearing hurry" to reach its target quickly as it was not immediately necessary from a marketing perspective, since India imported about 85 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

"No significant allocation (for renewables) is there in this Rs 32,000 crore (capex plan)," he said.

ONGC had about 178 MW of installed renewable energy capacity at the end of FY20.

Both upstream and downstream oil and gas players in India are making investments in renewable energy, mindful of a potential shift in energy consumption away from fossil fuels. India's largest oil marketing company, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), has already installed renewable energy capacity of 233 MW, of which 167.6 MW is wind power capacity and 63.4 MW is solar

RE draft rules

New Delhi: The Power Ministry said on Monday it has circulated draft rules on renewable energy for seeking comments from stakeholders within 30 days. PTI

power capacity. The company has launched pilot projects for fuel stations, offering battery swapping for electric vehicles.

The state-owned refiner is also planning on building a green hydrogen plant in Mathura, the country's first, for use in its refineries.

At present, brown and grey hydrogen, which are produced through coal gasification or by using natural gas, are employed in refineries in the production process of petroleum products.

Highlighting the green credentials of the proposed Mathura plant, IndianOil Chairman S M Vaidya said the company would use power sources from its own wind power projects in Rajasthan to "produce absolutely green hydrogen through electrolysis."

The government has set installed renewable energy capacity target of 450 GW, up from the current 100 GW.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day address, announced the National Hydrogen Mission, with the aim of turning India into a global hub of green hydrogen.

FM: ANNOUNCEMENTS TO BE MADE IN DUE COURSE

Gati Shakti to build on NIP; focus on infra investment 'integration'

SUNNY VERMA &
ANCHAL MAGAZINE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

EXPLAINED

NIP
road map

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi's latest announcement of Gati Shakti infrastructure plan will build upon the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), rolled out earlier by the government.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Monday the Gati Shakti project is aimed at creating "an integrated framework" for infrastructure development across the country, which will ensure that various economic hubs are able to better utilise the investments on the sector being done by the government and private players.

The government felt the need for creating a kind of a master plan for infra investments, she added.

"It's a framework which is of great importance and work has been going on ... in due course announcements will be made," she said in a briefing with reporters.

A multimodal connectivity of various economic hubs with roads, ports and airports will be part of the Gati Shakti masterplan, which will provide manufacturers faster access to domestic and interna-

tional markets.

Modi in his Independence Day speech on Sunday said that the government is going to launch a National Infrastructure Master Plan, Gati Shakti, of more than Rs 100 lakh crore that will result in new employment opportunities for lakhs of youth.

"Gati Shakti will be a National Infrastructure Master Plan for our country which will lay the foundation of holistic infrastructure and will lead to an integrated and holistic pathway to our economy. Right now, there is no coordination between our means of transport. Gati Shakti

'Size of infra plan growing faster than GDP'

New Delhi: Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday cited previous Independence Day announcements on infrastructure plan by Prime Minister Narendra Modi while saying "be happy" that the size of the plan is growing faster every year than GDP. PTI

will break the silos, and will remove all these obstacles. This will reduce the travel time for the common man and the productivity of our industry will also increase," Modi said.

With the economy battered by the pandemic, a government task force had in April last year formed up a road map for capital investments of Rs 111 lakh crore in infrastructure under the National Infrastructure Pipeline over six years through FY25.

With the economy battered

by the pandemic, a government task force had in April last year

formed up a road map for capital

investments of Rs 111 lakh crore

in infrastructure under the

National Infrastructure Pipeline

over six years through FY25,

pledging 71 per cent of the ex-

penditure for energy, roads, ur-

ban development and railways,

he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-

frastructure. "This will generate

employment; will develop new

systems and various aspirations

will be met. Be it Sagarmala

Project or Bharat Mala Project,

modern railway stations ... we

want to develop entire infrastruc-

ture," he had said.

On August 15, 2019, he said the government has decided to invest

Rs 100 lakh crore for modern in-</

Cricketing activities on schedule despite regime change: Afghan board

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

THE DAY after Taliban took control of the Afghan capital Kabul, the country's cricket board said its team's assignments would be honoured as there has been no interference from any quarters.

Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) chief executive officer Hamid Shinwari said players and officials were safe and ACB is planning to have its third camp before the team flies to Sri Lanka next week.

"We are going there (Sri Lanka) and playing Pakistan for a series. Overall situation is great (in Afghanistan). It was like, two days was needed for regime change and at that time people were in fear, but now we have normal traffic for people and other official activity. Most probably, all offices will be open from tomorrow,"

Shinwari told *The Indian Express*.

He stressed that the situation was under control. "All is well with cricket. Even there, was no interference in cricketing activities in Afghanistan. We have support from there too and we are playing all our activities as per schedule."

The two marquee players of Afghanistan-Rashid Khan and Mohammad Nabi - are not in the country. Khan is playing The Hundred in England, but his family is stuck in Kabul while Nabi is in Dubai. On August 11, Nabi had urged leaders of the world to come forward in helping Afghanistan.

"As an Afghan, I bleed to see where my beloved country is today. Afghanistan descends into Chaos and there has been a substantial rise in calamity and tragedy and is currently in humanitarian crisis. Families are forced to leave their homes behind and head to Kabul with an unknown future, as

It's not clear whether the new regime will have an impact on cricket. When asked whether Taliban would support cricket, Shinwari said, "Since the last 20 years, we have been getting support from all factions of the society including Taliban."

their homes are being seized. I appeal to the leaders of the world; please don't let Afghanistan go into chaos. We need your Support. We want Peace," he had tweeted.

It's not clear whether the new regime will have an impact on cricket. When asked whether Taliban would support cricket, Shinwari said, "The beauty of cricket is that

it is loved by everyone. Be it any situation. Since the last 20 years, we have been getting support from all factions of the society including Taliban. We don't see any harm for the cricketers, we haven't witnessed one casualty in the past 20 years. I don't see any problem with the sports, particularly with cricket."

As per Shinwari, the common man does not know politics and just live their lives. "The regime has changed here, they (common man) have to feed their family and kids. Generally speaking, the situation is getting far better compared to last week," he explains.

The ACB has appointed Shaun Tait as the bowling coach and is in talks with former Sri Lanka batsman Hashan Tillakaratne to be their batting coach. Former South Africa all-rounder Lance Klusener is the head coach. As per Shinwari, all will be available in Sri Lanka with the Afghanistan team.



The two marquee players of Afghanistan - Mohammad Nabi (left) and Rashid Khan - are in Dubai and England respectively. File

The 3 Root mistakes

Day 5 (First session): Bumper barrage

It seemed almost personal. A gripe against what the Indians dished out to James Anderson on the end of Day 3 when Bumrah peppered James Anderson with shorters. In carrying out the payback, Joe Root lost the plot. Too micro, too much adrenaline, not much sense. To score points in a battle, they lost the war. Perhaps, he relaxed after the wicket of Rishabh Pant and thought he could afford to indulge. Surprisingly, the course correction too didn't come quickly enough as Root and by extension, his bowlers, barring Ollie Robinson, went on a mindless bumper barrage. The Indians didn't take a step back. Not once did Bumrah back away. Not once did Shami slog in that phase.

Day 4 (Final session): Decision to call stumps

The Indians were panicking on the balcony in darkness. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma were gesticulating wildly to the Indian batsmen in the middle, Rishabh Pant and Ishant Sharma to complain to the umpires about bad light. It was clear that Indians didn't want to bat on in fading light in conditions where Moeen Ali was turning the ball sharply and troubling. Instead of pressing on, Root made a tactical decision to call stumps by bringing on the seamers and forcing the hands of the umpires. "One party (within the team) didn't want to stay, one party wanted to stay," Moeen Ali would say at the end of the day to Sky Sports. Ishant looked in trouble against Moeen; even Pant didn't look comfortable.

Day 3 (Final session): Decision to expose Anderson

It was relatively minor in the scheme of things but who knows had the two battered on the next day, the lead could have been extended to 50. The decision stands out like a sore thumb because it had no logic. Anderson had been hit on the helmet, a concussion check was carried out, and it was clear that he was barely holding on. It was the last over of the day and Root played out the first three balls. Then the brain fade came. He took a single of the fourth and exposed Anderson.

SRIRAM VEERA

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
AUGUST 16

EVENTUALLY, A slower ball from Jasprit Bumrah did the trick. With a resolute partnership between Jos Buttler and Ollie Robinson frustrating India and the mea culpa of a dropped catch writ large on Virat Kohli's face, Bumrah rolled his fingers over a delivery from around the wicket to trap Robinson leg-before. Richard Illingworth, the on-field umpire, had negated the appeal assuming that the ball had pitched outside the leg-stump, but DRS proved him wrong. The excellent Mohammed Siraj removed Buttler in the next over and the game was done and dusted. With India sealing a memorable 151-run win.

During the 76-ball partnership between Buttler and Robinson that took the second Test into the final hour, it felt like Kohli's dropped catch could be costly. The India captain had given Buttler a reprieve off Bumrah on two. But this England team aren't good at grabbing their opportunities; tactically or with the bat. Against a spirited and top-quality Indian side, they duly paid the price.

England's second innings lasted less than the duration of two Hundred games, the latest cricket had in the Blighty. Overshadowed by its razzmatazz, their Test team recoiled against India's fighting spirit, embodied by the gritty batting of Mohammed Shami and Bumrah, and sustained aggression with the ball. A tactical blunder from Joe Root on the final morning facilitated India's progress to a 1-Series lead. Against a victory target of 272 in 60 overs, England folded up for 120 in 51.5 overs. Four fast bowlers did the job for India on a fifth-day pitch and the team management's decision to play all of them was vindicated. As the tourists broke into a high-octane celebration, Sam Curran, who bagged a pair in this Test, cut a forlorn figure.

No praise is enough for the unbroken 89-run ninth-wicket partnership between Shami and Bumrah that set up India's victory. It was India's highest ninth-wicket partnership, during which Shami scored a half-century. Early on Day Five, the hosts had the game, before they served it to their guests on a platter.

The entire Indian team trooping downstairs at lunch had the feel of a Durban re-enactment; the David Warner and Quinton de Kock stairwell scenes three years ago that captured the two players having a go at each other.

The cricket was attritional at Lord's on the final day. Temps ran high, verbals flew thick



The cricket was attritional at Lord's on the final day as tempers ran high and verbals flew thick and fast. Reuters

and fast. Two days ago, Bumrah had battered James Anderson with short deliveries. As the Indian fast bowler came out to bat, England wanted revenge. They targeted Bumrah's body rather than the stumps. That was where Root missed the plot. When Rishabh Pant got out to Robinson in the morning, the tourists were just 167 runs ahead with their last recognised batsman back in the hut. Ishant Sharma showed resolve but departed for 16. Shami and Bumrah, with their respective Test averages of 11 and 3, paired up as the end looked nigh.

To start with, Root chose Mark Wood's pace over Anderson's mastery, spread out the field with six men in the deep and rib-music on the menu. The pitch-map showed less than 10 per cent of the deliveries during that period targeting the stumps. Not a single yorker was bowled and just two per cent hit full-length.

Nearly 50 per cent of the balls were dug in short. The ploy took bowled and LBW out of the equation.

Bumrah didn't mind. England wanted to intimidate him. He was happy to face the intimidation till the cows came home. On Sky Sports commentary, Michael Holding tore into Root for the tactical blunder. From far afield in Australia, Shane Warne called England's tactics "terrible" through a tweet, while lavishing praise on the Indian duo.

Root's mistake, though, doesn't undermine Bumrah's courage. Wood hit him on the helmet, the ball ran down to third man but Bumrah refused the single, belting out to Shami that he wanted to face the bowler again. Asting four was the response. On the dressing-room balcony, Kohli went ballistic in his applause. Even the normally ice-cool Ajinkya Rahane clapped animatedly.

Tail wags, then stings

For so long, India's tail has been ridiculed for its virtual non-contribution. However, with plenty of time to practise and acclimatised ahead of this series, the Indian bowlers put their heads down at the nets and worked on their batting. It showed at Trent Bridge. The partnership between Shami and Bumrah at Lord's was a heartening tale of redemption. At lunch, their team mates trooped down to greet the duo.

After bedding in, Shami started to play glorious cover drives. He was picking Moeen Ali's length beautifully and reached his half-century with a towering six against the off-spinner. Both Shami and Bumrah put a price on their wickets. Yes, they had their share of luck, but fortune favoured the brave.

Playing nine balls post-lunch before declaring allowed very little preparation time for the

SCORECARD

ENGLAND vs INDIA

LORD'S

Toss: England, chose to field

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| IND 1ST INNS | 364 |
| ENG 1ST INNS | 391 |
| INDIA 2ND INNS | 298/8d (o/n 181/6) |
| R Pant c Buttler b Robinson | 22 (46b, 1x4) |
| I Sharma lbw b Robinson | 16 (24b, 2x4) |
| Mohd Shami not out | 56 (70b, 6x4, 1x6) |
| J Bumrah not out | 34 (64b, 3x4) |
| ■ Extras (b 2, lb 12, nb 1) | 15 |
| ■ FoW: 1-18 (Rahul, 9.2 ov), 2-27 (Rohit, 11.6 ov), 3-55 (Kohli, 23.1 ov), 4-155 (Pujara, 72.4 ov), 5-167 (Rahane, 75.6 ov), 6-175 (Jadeja, 79.1 ov), 7-194 (Pant, 85.3 ov), 8-209 (Shami, 89.3 ov) | |
| ■ Bowling: J Anderson 25.3-6-53-0, O Robinson 17-6-45-2, M Wood 18-4-51-3, S Curran 18-3-42-1, M Ali 26-1-84-2, J Root 5-0-9-0 | |
| ENGLAND 2ND INNS | 120 |
| R Burns c Siraj b Bumrah | 0 (4b) |
| D Sibley c Pant b Shami | 0 (4b) |
| H Hameed lbw b Sharma | 9 (45b) |
| J Root c Kohli b Bumrah | 33 (60b, 5x4) |
| J Bairstow lbw b Sharma | 2 (24b) |
| J Buttler c Pant b Siraj | 25 (96b, 3x4) |
| M Ali c Kohli b Siraj | 13 (42b, 2x4) |
| S Curran c Pant b Siraj | 0 (1b) |
| O Robinson lbw b Bumrah | 9 (35b) |
| M Wood not out | 0 (1b) |
| J Anderson b Siraj | 0 (3b) |
| ■ Extras (b 17, lb 12, nb 4, w 1) | 29 |
| ■ FoW: 1-1 (Burns, 0.3 ov), 2-1 (Sibley, 1.4 ov), 3-44 (Hameed, 15.3 ov), 4-67 (Bairstow, 21.6 ov), 5-67 (Root, 22.3 ov), 6-90 (Ali, 38.1 ov), 7-90 (Curran, 38.2 ov), 8-120 (Robinson, 50.5 ov), 9-120 (Buttler, 51.2 ov), 10-120 (Anderson, 51.5 ov) | |
| ■ Bowling: J Anderson 15.3-3-33-3, Mohd Shami 10-5-13-1, R Jadeja 6-3-5-0, Mohd Shah 10-5-3-2, I Sharma 10-3-13-2 | |
| ■ India win by 151 runs | |

England openers and both Rory Burns and Dom Sibley departed without troubling the scorers. For the first time in a home Test, two England openers were out for nought. A brilliant review at the stroke of tea accounted for Jonny Bairstow. But from India's point of view, it was about getting Root's scalp.

Pant spilled a tough chance down the leg side off Siraj, when the England captain was on 21. But Bumrah had him caught at first slip with a beauty – the ball coming in with the angle before holding its line. The wicket broke the Poms' back.

'GLIMMER OF HOPE'

Federer to have another knee surgery; playing future in doubt

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

THE TENNIS world waited for 14 months for Roger Federer to get back to the tour. Waited, but didn't stop. The week he returned, in March this year – after two knee surgeries – Novak Djokovic extended his hold on the World No. 1 spot to 311 weeks, breaking the Swiss' record for most time spent in that coveted position.

Federer had watched from the sidelines how the younger players were getting stronger, while the older Djokovic (34) and Nadal (35) kept on winning Grand Slams as he struggled to get his body match-fit. His comeback was cheerfully received by colleagues and fans alike. But the start-stop return has shuddered to another breakdown.

In the early hours of Monday, the 40-year-old announced on social media that he will undergo another knee surgery. A few hours later, World No. 2 Daniil Medvedev won a fourth ATP 1000 Masters event (Canadian Open) at the end of a week

that saw Stefanos Tsitsipas overtake Nadal to become the new World No. 3.

The wheels for a New World Order in tennis have long been in motion. Federer's once seemingly-unassailable tally of 20 Grand Slam titles has been matched by both Djokovic and Nadal. He's no longer the one being chased. And once he comes back, he'll be the one playing catch-up.

Not the end
Surely for somebody who has achieved as much as he has, with a game so easy on the eye that an image of him playing a backhand was compared to a move by a ballerina, the 'goodbye' cannot come from a hospital bed.

He had made a successful comeback once before. Federer returned in 2017 after a lengthy gap to win the Australian Open, and then defended that crown a year later with the Wimbledon 2017 title in between. Making a comeback at 36 though is much less taxing than at 40.

But importantly, he wants to return.

"I've been doing a lot of checks with the doctors as well on my knee, getting all the in-

I'll be on crutches for many weeks and also out of the game for many months, so it's going to be difficult of course in some ways, but at the same time I know it's the right thing to do because I want to be healthy, I want to be running around later as well again and I want to give myself a glimmer of hope to return to the tour in some shape or form."

ROGER FEDERER, 20-TIME GRAND SLAM CHAMPION, ON THE KNEE SURGERY

formation as I hurt myself further during the grass-court season and Wimbledon," Federer said in a video uploaded on Instagram. "That's just not the way to go forward, so unfortunately, they told me for the medium to long term to feel better, I will need surgery. I decided to do it... I'll be on crutches for many weeks and also out of the game for many months, so it's going to be difficult of course in some ways, but at the same time I know it's the right thing to do because I want to be healthy, I want to be running around later as well again and I want to give myself a glimmer of hope to return to the tour in some shape or form."

With the way Djokovic has been playing this year – capturing the first three Slams of the season to take his tally to 20 – he's the

firm favourite to win the upcoming US Open as well. Should that happen, for the first time since the 2009 French Open, Federer will not hold the record for most Grand Slam titles won.

Catch-up

Federer did know his record would be broken though. At the Geneva Open in May, he said: "Rafa and Novak will win more Majors than me because they are that good. After that knee injury in 2016, I would have taken one more Major and was able to grab three amazing ones. I had my moment and always said everything that comes after 15 was a bonus."

For the first time in his career, he'll be trailing his biggest rivals – both much younger.

The last match Federer played this season was the Wimbledon quarterfinal where he felt the full force of the younger guard. Poland's Hubert Hurkacz, the Miami Masters champion and highly understated World No. 11, handed Federer a straight-sets loss with what was only the Swiss' second 'bagel' (6-0) suffered in the 21st century –

the other came against Nadal in the 2008 French Open final.

If Federer looked uncomfortable in the match, the 24-year-old made it that way. Remarkably, after the win, the Pole lost to Italy's Matteo Berrettini, who had been schooled by Federer in the fourth round of Wimbledon in 2019. But the Italian grew rapidly after the loss to Federer and reached his first Grand Slam final in London this year.

And then there's the likes of (but not limited to) Alexander Zverev, Andrey Rublev, Denis Shapovalov, Tsitsipas, and the older 25-year-olds Medvedev and Berrettini, who have found their footing on the tour and are irreverent to Federer's reputation.</p

PM Modi's pep talk to Vinesh: 'Don't get bogged down by defeat'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 16

AT THE breakfast meeting with Tokyo 2020 Olympians at his residence, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is learnt, had a special chat with grappler Vinesh Phogat, currently suspended by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for alleged indiscipline.

Mindful of reports about her 'not meeting anyone' after her loss at the Tokyo Games, sources said, the Prime Minister told Vinesh that he was not only 'fond' of her skills but also 'respected' her family's contribution to wrestling. He also told her that 'self-anger and dejection' were emotions that needed to be avoided.

"Jeet ko sar par chadhne na do, haarko man mein basne na do (Do not get arrogant in victory and do not get bogged down by defeat)," he is believed to have told Vinesh.

Modi's words come at a time when Vinesh has been issued a show-cause notice by the WFI, which is headed by BJP Member of Parliament Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. She has been accused of staying and training away from the Indian team and not wearing the official team jer-



PM Modi's words come at a time when Vinesh has been issued a show-cause notice by the WFI, which is headed by BJP Member of Parliament Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

sey for her bouts. Vinesh has refuted two out of the three charges while admitting that not wearing the jersey was an 'unintended' error.

Last week, after the WFI suspended her, she wrote in a column in The Indian Express that she was 'broken' following her defeat in the quarterfinals of the 53kg weight class at the Tokyo Olympics.

"I slept once since I reached home. I slept for two hours on

the flight and sometimes in the Village. There, I would walk alone and drink coffee. I was alone. When the sun would rise, I felt sleepy," she wrote. "I don't know when I will return (to the mat). Maybe I won't. I feel I was better off with that broken leg (suffered at the 2016 Rio Olympics). I had something to correct. Now my body is not broken, but I'm truly broken."

The Prime Minister treated gold medallist Neeraj Chopra to

churma and kept the promise made to two-time badminton medalist PV Sindhu that he would have ice-cream with her if she won a medal in Tokyo.

When he met wrestler Ravi Dahiya, who won a silver in the

The PM treated gold medallist Neeraj Chopra to churma and kept the promise made to 2-time badminton medalist PV Sindhu that he would have ice-cream with her if she won a medal in Tokyo.

57kg weight category, Modi is believed to have told him, "You belong to Haryana. The people from Haryana are very happy by nature. Then, why were you sad, even on the podium (despite winning a medal)? You have done so well. You have to smile."

He was referring to Dahiya's disappointment after winning 'only' a silver medal in Tokyo. The wrestler wore a dejected look on the podium after losing to Russia's Zaur Uguev in the gold medal bout.

The Prime Minister, it is learnt, requested each player to visit 75 schools by August 15, 2023, as part of the Amit Mahotsav. He urged them to talk about malnutrition and play a sport with the children of the schools they visit.

Wrestling federation got its numbers wrong for coaches, physios at Tokyo

SHIVANI NAIK
MUMBAI, AUGUST 16

NOT ONLY did the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) overshoot its quota of a maximum 33 per cent support staff allotted for their seven competitors at the Tokyo Olympics, the number of coaches was also skewed in favour of the male grapplers.

While the three male grapplers at Tokyo were allotted six coaches, the 4-women team had just one head coach. WFI could not find space for Poornima Raman Ngomdir, Vinesh Phogat's physio, despite the 53kg wrestler being a medal contender.

Brajesh Kumar went as the physio for the male wrestlers.

Indian men's freestyle wrestlers won two medals at Tokyo, while Vinesh was left rueing a missed chance, even as her desperate plea for her personal physio - voiced a week before her competition day - went unheeded.

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA), who allotted the accreditations for the support staff, said it was the wrestling federation's (NSF) prerogative to choose its staff to go to Tokyo, and they were helpless if Poornima's name wasn't submitted in the long list.

"The name should be there in the long list else the process becomes very long. There is provi-

sion even if someone falls sick, for instance. But if you say we haven't given the name in the long list because we forgot... there were names of three or four physios in wrestling. One physio went from that list," IOA president Narinder Batra told *The Indian Express*.

It has been learnt that the names verbally requested and forwarded in writing in the 'long list' in March, did not include Poornima's, despite Vinesh - a Commonwealth Games-Asian gold medalist and World Championship bronze winner - expected to be on the podium.

The long list had to be submitted in advance to the Tokyo Olympic Organising Committee, and no one outside of that, could rustle up a last-minute accreditation. "WFI's early communication was verbal, they didn't clarify in writing about the long list so Vinesh was in the dark that the physio wasn't even penned in," a source close to the development, said.

Skewed support

Male wrestlers Ravi Dahiya, Bajrang Punia and Deepak Punia had a robust support staff of

three foreign coaches - Kamal Malikov, Gaidarov Murad and Emzarios Bentiniidis besides Indians Jagmander Singh, Anil Maan and Rajeev Tomar. The three women - Seema Bisla, Anshu and Sonam - were under

head coach Kuldeep Singh, while Vinesh's Hungarian coach Wolter Akos was drafted in for her bouts. The women, except Vinesh, two of whom were coming off injuries, had no dedicated physio.

Batra said that the final shortlist was forwarded by IOA on July 5, and they had no say in the unpruned one either. "The long list has to come from the NSF, we cannot do anything for that," he said.

When told of seven wrestlers qualifying, Batra confirmed: "So you have entitlement of 3 coaches..."

WFI secretary Vinod Tomar, who went to Tokyo as 'Team Leader' had told *The Indian Express* earlier, "At an international event where a team goes, the federation doesn't send a personal physio. For an event like the Olympics, we need accreditation. The number of players who qualify, we get only 33 percent of that for support staff. Vinesh wanted her physio, but it would not be possible to send every wrestler's personal physio and coach."

WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan did not respond to messages or calls.

When asked if the prioritising of male wrestlers and ignoring Vinesh's request smacked of gender discrimination, Batra said, "I disagree. For IOA or NSFs, gender has never been an issue. Whoever has qualified has gone. It's factually and totally incorrect."

Tokyo Paralympics to be held without spectators

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, AUGUST 16

ALL FANS will be barred from the Paralympics in Japan because of the coronavirus pandemic, just as they were from the recently-completed Tokyo Olympics, organisers said Monday.

There were a few exceptions made during the Olympics with some fans allowed in outlying areas away from Tokyo. This time, all fans will be barred except the possibility of some children attending a few unspecified events.

Organizers have also asked the public not to come out to view road events.

The decision was announced after a meeting with International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons, organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike and Olympic Minister Tamayo Marukawa.

The Paralympics open on Aug. 24 with about 4,400 athletes, a far smaller event than the Olympics with 11,000 athletes. But the Paralympics come as new infections have accelerated in Tokyo, which may expose an athlete population that is more vulnerable to COVID-19.

Parsons, speaking at a news conference, said there was no room for complacency in the wake of the Olympics.

On Friday, Tokyo logged 5,773 cases, a new high.

"In light of the current case



Tokyo Governor Yuriko speaks during a virtual meeting on Monday. Reuters

numbers in Tokyo and wider Japan, everyone attending these games must be vigilant," Parsons said. New infections in Tokyo tripled during the 17 days of the Olympics, although medical experts said the surge was not directly linked to the Tokyo Games.

Rather, experts suggested an indirect effect as the public was distracted and lulled into a false sense of security that staging the Games offered.

With the situation growing worse, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on Monday said a state of emergency in Tokyo and other areas will be extended until Sept. 12. The state of emergency has been in force since July 12 and was to end later this month.

The Paralympics end on Sept. 5. "The surge in infections is reaching alarming record highs," Suga said after meeting with other government ministers.

On Friday, Tokyo logged 5,773 cases, a new high.

BRIEFLY

Aditi qualifies for British Open

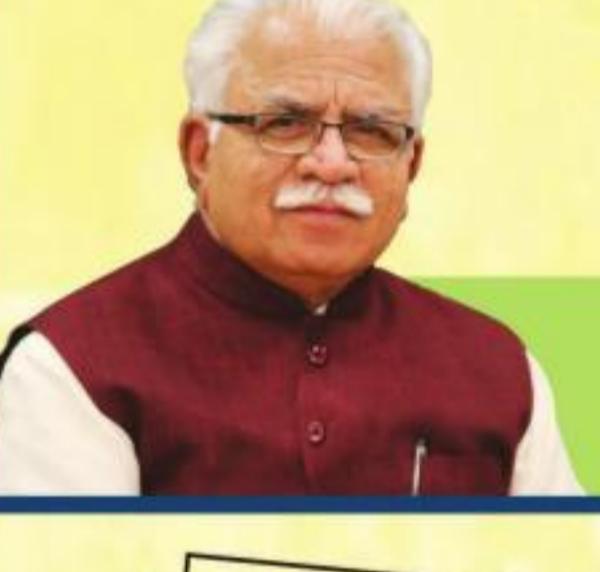
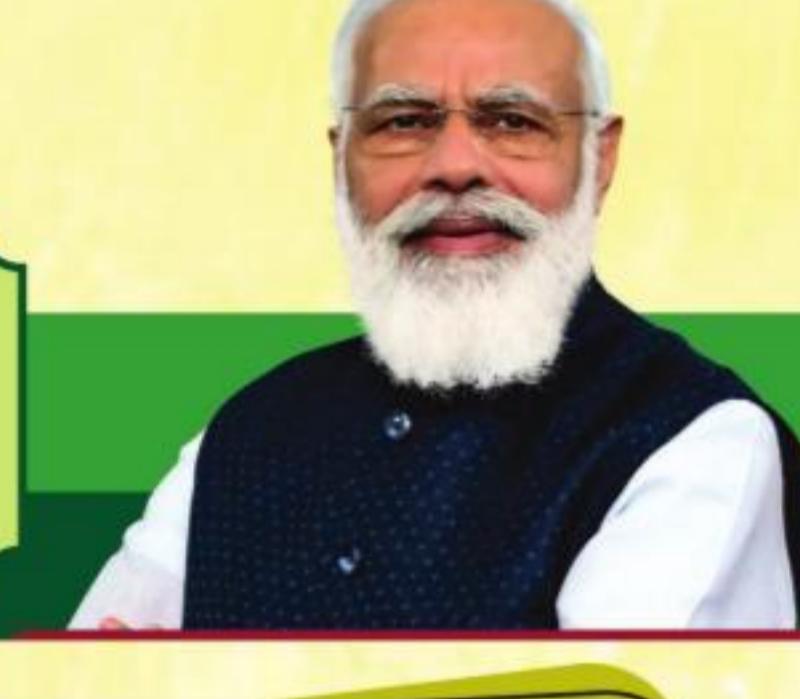
US football star Lloyd retires

New York: Carli Lloyd, one of the greatest women's football players to ever grace the game, has announced her retirement, U.S. Soccer said on Monday. The 39-year-old Lloyd, who was twice named the FIFA Women's Player of the Year, became the second-most capped player in world football history (312) during a career that includes two Women's World Cups and two Olympic gold medals.

AFI deepens ties with Iran

New Delhi: The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has signed an agreement with its Iranian counterparts to "formalise one another's support" towards achieving success in track and field events. AFI President Adille J Sumariwalla and Athletics Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran chief Hashem Siami said the cooperation agreement was an extension of the close relationship between the two organisations.

AGENCIES

 
**Under New Vehicle Scrappage Policy
Establishment of Electric Three Wheeler Eco-system at Gurugram, in Haryana**

“Haryana has taken prompt action under the new policy and has implemented it instantly in the state. In order to minimize the pollution in the cities, we took an initiative to arrange e-three wheelers in Gurugram.” - Manohar Lal, Chief Minister

“The new scrapping policy will play a significant role in the “Waste to Wealth” campaign and circular economy. This policy will boost the self-reliance of the country in the auto and metal sector. It will eliminate pollution from the cities and protect the environment. This policy will bring new investment and generate countless employment opportunities in the country.” - Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

All diesel autos older than 10 years to be scrapped and replaced with E-Three Wheelers

Subsidy of up to Rs. One lakh and the facility of easy loan for auto drivers

Haryana's Resolution - Environment Conservation

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | @DiprHaryana

TOYOTA

Celebrate the Freedom Spirit with TOYOTA BUY NOW & PAY IN DECEMBER 2021



Benefits upto ₹30 000* and Attractive EMI Starting Price ₹7.34 Lakh*



Benefits upto ₹20 000* and Attractive EMI Starting Price ₹8.83 Lakh*



Attractive EMI Starting Price ₹18.41 Lakh*

Additional Benefits upto ₹3000 in select Rural Markets^{▲▲} (Subject to Terms & Conditions)

Bookings Open Online | Toyota Urban Cruiser, Toyota Glanza & Toyota Innova Crysta Available In CSD^A

Dual Front SRS Airbags, ABS with EBD & Pretensioner Force Limiter [PTFL] standard across all Toyota cars

3 Years or 1 00 000 km Unmatched Vehicle Warranty**

| WEST DELHI | GALAXY | MOTI NAGER CROSSING | 8448293658, 418 77 777 | SOUTH DELHI | GALAXY | MATHURA ROAD, N.DELHI | 7290095001, 9599788513, 465 77 777 | NORTH DELHI | GALAXY | MATHURAPUR ROAD, N.DELHI | 7290095001, 9654999635, 400 11 111 | NOIDA | ESPIRIT | D-37 & 38, SURAJPUR | 7290095001, 9654999635, 1800 103 5686 | GURUGRAM | MGF | M.G. ROAD, GURUGRAM | 8527565522, 9810987328, 0124-4415566 | FARIDABAD | THIRTY SIX | 14/7, MAIN MATHURA ROAD, FARIDABAD | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| GALAXY | MOTI NAGER CROSSING | 8448293658, 418 77 777 | | GALAXY | MATHURA ROAD, N.DELHI | 7290095001, 9599788513, 465 77 777 | | GALAXY | MATHURAPUR ROAD, N.DELHI | 7290095001, 9654999635, 400 11 111 | | ESPIRIT | D-37 & 38, SURAJPUR | 7290095001, 9654999635, 1800 103 5686 | | ESPIRIT | D-37 & 38, SURAJPUR | 7290095001, 9654999635, 1800 103 5686 | | MGF | M.G. ROAD, GURUGRAM | 8527565522, 9810987328, 0124-4415566 | |
| Dwarka, Nr. Sec-9 Metro Station | 8448293658, 418 77 777 | | | Ring Road, Opp. Moolchand Hospital, Lajpat Nagar-IV | 9870191014 | | | G-1 Station Box, CHATTARPUR METRO STATION | 66763666 | | | Shahpur Place, Outer Ring Road, N.R. Puram | 7290095001, 9654999635, 400 11 111 | | | MGF | M.G. ROAD, GURUGRAM | 8527565522, 9810987328, 0124-4415566 | | | | | |
| 7838193193, 434 77 777 | | | | 1800 103 5686 | | | | Chattarpur Metro Station | 400 11 111 | | | Site-4, Kasna, Gr. Noida | 7290095001, 9654999635, 1800 103 5686 | | | MGF | M.G. ROAD, GURUGRAM | 8527565522, 9810987328, 0124-4415566 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Terms & conditions apply on all schemes & offers. Offer valid till 31st August 2021. **Benefits applicable on Glanza G MT Suffix Model. Finance at the sole discretion of Financier. Scheme inclusive of Exchange and Corporate/Government/Exclusive Community benefits. ***Subject to customers satisfying the requirements of T&C for a rural market.