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By UNNNY



Not right at all: FM on Panchjanya attack on Infy

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman Monday said the article published in the RSS-affiliated *Panchjanya*, which accused Infosys of being “anti-national” and working to “destabilise” the Indian economy, was “not right” and that the government was working with the IT major to resolve glitches in the new Income Tax e-filing portal.



Nirmala Sitharaman

To a specific query on the *Panchjanya* article, Sitharaman told *CNN-News18* in an interview, “That wasn’t right... and I think they also had a statement coming, distancing themselves from whoever wrote it. I think that was not called for and rightly, people have withdrawn themselves from associating themselves with it... that (article) wasn’t right at all.”

The RSS distanced itself from *Panchjanya*’s September 5 cover story, titled *Saakh aur Aghaat*

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WORLD



UN SEEKS \$606 MN FOR AFGHAN AFTR TALIBAN TAKEOVER

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Few takers for J&K domicile offer, govt extends deadline, sends teams to camps to register

ARUN SHARMA

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 13

THERE SEEM to be few takers for the Jammu and Kashmir administration’s offer of domicile certificates to former residents who, or their ancestors, moved out of the erstwhile state years ago, provided they register with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) at Jammu. The administration has now extended the scheme, announced on May 16, 2020, with a deadline to apply within one

year, to May 15, 2022.

The office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner has also decided to hold special camps to accept applications at places where a minimum of 50 such families are residing. One such camp was held in Delhi around a fortnight ago.

Announcing the extension, an order by the J&K Government’s Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction, said, “No further extension will be granted” thereafter.

EXPLAINED Political fallout

J&K SAW large-scale exodus of the migrant Pandit community, apart from Sikhs, around the time militancy began in the late 1980s. The addition of their numbers as domiciles would have political ramifications in the UT, at a time when it is in the midst of a delimitation exercise.

J&K saw large-scale exodus of the migrant Pandit community, apart from Sikhs, around the time militancy began in the late 1980s. The administration hoped they would avail the offer, which would make it easier for them to own land, as well as get jobs and educational opportunities in the Union territory.

However, even at the Delhi camp, the response was lukewarm. Of the nearly 25,000 unregistered Kashmiri Pandit families estimated to have settled in Delhi prior to 1989, only 3,000

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NEW GUJARAT CM TAKES OATH

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Governor Acharya Devvrat, outgoing Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and others at the swearing-in ceremony in Gandhinagar on Monday. Nirmal Harindran

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EMPOWERED GROUP DATA

Covid cases up in kids; experts say no alarm but caution key

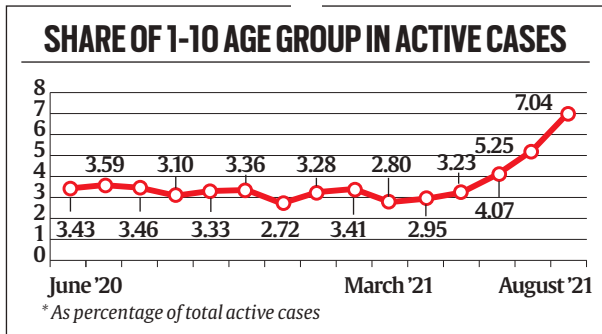
Share of 1-10 age group in active cases up from 2.8% to 7.04% since March; adults less vulnerable is one reason

HARIKISHAN SHARMA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

AS THE second wave ebbs, there has been a steady increase since March this year in the share of Covid-positive children below 10 years in the overall active cases, according to data available with the Empowered Group-1 (EG-1) that is tasked with formulating the nation’s Covid emergency strategy.

The data show that the share of children aged 1-10 years in the total active Covid-19 cases has increased steadily from 2.80% in March this year to 7.04% in



August (see chart). That is, of every 100 active Covid cases, around seven are of children.

Insisting that the “marginal shift” towards children can’t be

termed “dramatic”, experts say the rising Covid cases in the 1-10 years age group could be the result of reduced vulnerability of

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ED summons AAP national secy, Kejriwal links it to coming polls

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate has summoned Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national secretary Pankaj Gupta for investigation “under provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002”. Accusing the Centre of targeting the party, Delhi Chief Minister and AAP

chief Arvind Kejriwal linked the summons to the coming Assembly polls in Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and Gujarat.

Sources in the ED said Gupta has been summoned in connection with the case of money laundering registered against former Punjab AAP leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira, which flowed from a 2015 drug haul in Fazilka.

In a tweet, Kejriwal said, “In Delhi they tried to defeat us with

the IT Department, CBI, Delhi Police — but we won 62 seats. As we grow in Punjab, Goa, Uttarakhand, Gujarat — we get an ED notice! The people of India want honest politics — these tactics of BJP will never succeed, they will make us stronger.”

AAP spokesperson Raghav Chadha said the party was unaware of which case or investigation the summons was linked

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INSIDE



CONGRESS LEADER OSCAR FERNANDES DIES AT 80

TN CLEARS BILL TO EXEMPT STATE FROM NEET, BJP STAGES WALKOUT
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Sterlite firing is scar on democracy: Madras HC

ARUN JANARDHANAN

CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE FIRST Bench of the Madras High Court Monday directed the authorities concerned to drop all cases registered against protesters involved in the anti-Sterlite agitation, which had ended in police firing that killed 13 people in May 2018.

In oral observations, as reported by *PTI*, the Bench, including Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and Justice T S Sivagnanam, said the firing was a scar on Indian democracy and should not be forgotten.

Urging the State to ensure there was no repeat of such an incident, the Bench observed that while the protest might not have been legal or legitimate, citizens could not be fired at on behalf of a corporate body. In its order, the court asked the government to “go the extra mile” and “be seen to be with the families”.

The court was hearing a PIL filed by social activist Henry Tiphagne over a report by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the police firing not being made public. At the August 9 hearing, the court had directed the NHRC to submit its report, and it did so on Monday.

“The matter should be brought to its logical end, as expeditiously as possible, to give a meaningful closure to the matter and the circumstances in

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RESERVES INTERIM ORDER

No beating around the bush, did Govt use Pegasus illegally: SC

Citizens before us, alleging violation of privacy: CJI bench; Govt says no new affidavit, let panel probe charges

ANANTHAKRISHNAN G

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

TELLING THE Centre to stop “beating around the bush” on why it does not want to file an additional affidavit into allegations of unauthorised surveillance using the Pegasus software, the Supreme Court said Monday it only wanted to know “whether this software has been used by the government, by any method other than permissible under the law”.

Chief Justice of India N V Ramana, heading a bench also comprising Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta: “We are again reiterating that we are not interested in any manner or in any way to know the issues

which are concerned about the security or the defence or any other national interest issue. We are only concerned, in the face of allegations that some software was used against some particular citizens, journalists, lawyers etc, to know whether this software has been used by the government, by any method other than permissible under the law.”

The CJI made these remarks after Mehta reiterated the government stand that the issue was fraught with questions of national security, owing to which it did not want to put everything in a public affidavit to be filed in court and make it a matter of public debate. The government, Mehta said, was willing to have it examined by a committee of domain experts who could submit their report to

the court.

Reserving its interim order, the bench said even if the committee is formed and examines the issues and “the report has to be placed before us”, “it will come into the public domain”.

At this, Mehta said: “Your Lordships would decide whether it should or should not. If your Lordships feel, it can come.”

The CJI reminded him: “It’s (filing of affidavit) your prerogative. We have made it very clear... We thought that if something comes, we can take a call on what type of inquiry we have to order.”

When Mehta said “my position is clear”, the CJI told him: “See Mr Mehta, beating around the bush is not the issue.”

The Solicitor General replied: CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Bengal eases norms for setting up industrial parks, brick kilns

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

TO BOOST industrialisation, the West Bengal Cabinet on Monday gave its nod to allow private players to set up industrial parks on five acres of land instead of the minimum requirement of 20 acres to develop such facilities. The TMC government also relaxed norms to legalise illegal brick kilns in the state.

Speaking to mediapersons after the Cabinet meeting, which was chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi said: “In the 2020-21 budget, the government has set a target to set up 100 industrial parks across the state. To fulfil the target, it was neces-



CM Mamata Banerjee chaired the Cabinet meeting

RELATED REPORT

PRIVATE MEDICAL COLLEGES CAN NOW TRAIN STUDENTS IN GOVT HOSPITALS

PAGE 3

sary to change the existing framework of the industrial parks. We are hoping that after these changes, the demand to build industrial parks will increase.”

Months after he slammed system, India’s javelin coach for Tokyo sacked

NIHAL KOSHIE

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

UWE HOHN, the German great hired in 2017 to coach javelin star Neeraj Chopra, has been sacked by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). Hohn, 59, the only athlete to throw over 100 metres, was Chopra’s coach when he won gold medals at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in 2018, and remained in charge as the national javelin coach for the Tokyo Olympics.

On Monday, AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said after a performance review of athletes



Uwe Hohn was Neeraj Chopra's coach at Asian Games

and coaches at the two-day executive council meeting that Hohn was being “sent home”. However Klaus Bartonietz, the biomechanical expert who coached Chopra when he won the Olympic gold, is set to continue.

“We are changing Uwe Hohn. His performance is not good. We will bring two (new) coaches.

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PAGE 1 ANCHOR

RAJESH CHANDER SHARMA

UNA, SEPTEMBER 13

BEHIND HIMACHAL Pradesh’s coronavirus vaccination success are several unlikely heroes. Among them are office-bearers of its district- and state-level legal service authorities, and the para-legal volunteers who work with them. Through YouTube videos, online camps and door-to-door visits, they have been raising awareness about the virus and how to check it since the first Covid-19 wave.

At the office of the Nari Chintpurni gram panchayat in Una district, a group of people are gathered on September 9 to hear Vivek Khanal, secretary of the

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), at an online *nukkad* camp. Khanal, 44, describes the official duties of the DLSA, that is offering free legal advice to those who can’t afford it, before going on to congratulate the audience on getting themselves vaccinated and helping Himachal become the first state in the country to cover all those eligible with at least the first shot.

It may be months down the Coronavirus road, but Khanal doesn’t skip the part underlining Covid-appropriate behaviour. “When you wash your hands, it is not possible to look at the time. What I do is I keep washing my hands till I count up to 80,” Khanal says. “We have to learn to live with the virus. *Mere hisab se agli garmi tak aise hi chalega*

(According to me, things will continue like this till the next summer). Till then we should not lower our guard.”

Sanjay Kalra, a shopkeeper at Nari Chintpurni village, says he likes Khanal’s way of explaining things. “*Unka assi wala tarika bahut achcha hai* (His suggestion to count up to 80 is very good.)” Prem Pal Ranta, member secretary, Himachal Pradesh State Legal Services Authority (SLSA), says they have been holding similar camps across the state. Each district has a DLSA, and Himachal has 12 districts, with the two districts of Lahaul and Spiti, and Kullu sharing one authority.

Besides the online camps, and messages on WhatsApp and email, every DLSA runs a

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with healthcare workers in Himachal Pradesh. *PTI file*

YouTube channel that puts up videos on Covid-19. The Una DLSA has an animation series called Kaki Ki Karona Klass, which talks about the virus and

vaccination, the whys and wherefores, the do’s and don’ts, and basic instructions on everything from wearing a mask to using an oximeter.

Ranta says the SLSA has also advertised mobile numbers of DLSA secretaries as helpline numbers through the media. “People were indoors and in distress (during the lockdowns). They faced all kinds of problems, including financial and medical. I felt happy to help them out with whatever I could,” says Khanal. “One day, I received more than 200 calls during the first wave. Things were not that bad during the second wave.”

Ranta estimates that they were able to reach 1,17,157 people during the first wave. “Out of them, we reached out to 84,023 people through the 1,357 virtual camps. During the state curfew in the second wave this year, we organised 375 virtual camps and reached out to around 4,000 people.”

Besides counselling, Ranta says, they provided food and transit passes to 2,656 migrants, shelter to 224 people and ration to 1,186 people with the help of district administrations. They also made available essential commodities and travel passes to 1,059 residents of Himachal Pradesh stranded in other states.

Health Secretary Amitabh Awasthi told *The Indian Express*, “Spreading awareness about Covid-19 in the state has been a team effort. Many agencies and departments have been involved in this.”

Talking about the role of para-legal volunteers, Khanal says they acted as a bridge. “We have 19 para-legal volunteers in villages in Una district. They, along with former para-legal

volunteers, helped us communicate with people,” says Khanal. Para-legal volunteers are trained legal counsellors, but not professionally trained in the field of law. Paid Rs 500 per day for their services by the DLSA, they are appointed for two years. Their main job is to facilitate access to legal aid and justice.

Ritu Kalra, a para-legal volunteer at Nari Chintpurni, says they were asked to spread awareness about the virus. “We did it risking our lives, going door-to-door in our village and the surrounding areas.”

Sometimes, along with Covid volunteering, the legal expertise of the DLSA members too came in handy. Ranta says that with people forced together at home,

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Kolkata



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WEB EXCLUSIVE



'I DON'T SEE ANY LOGIC TO IT, BUT DON'T WANT TO NEGATE IT': SUPRIYA PATHAK ON BELIEVING IN SUPERSTITIONS

The actor, who has made her debut in an audio show, told indianexpress.com that she is waiting for the pandemic to end so she can pack her bags and travel the world again

ENTERTAINMENT



'ATTICA' AND 'HOLD YOUR FIRE'

Both films put focus on racism, visceral hate of the other

TECH



REDMI 10 PRIME REVIEW

Great budget phone, but a tad expensive

EXPRESS



AUDIO

UP's latest ban on alcohol and non-veg

Today on the 3 Things podcast, we talk about how the latest ban will affect a variety of businesses, and people from multiple communities in the region.

FROM PAGE ONE

ED summons Sitharaman

to. "We have just got a two-page notice, which says that Raja Ram Meena, Assistant Director, has summoned Pankaj Gupta as part of a PMLA investigation on September 22. There is no information about which case this is."

ED sources said that during a search of Khaira's residence in March this year, the department had found documents showing that in the run-up to the 2016 Punjab Assembly elections where AAP emerged as the second-largest party, it had received USD 1.19 lakh through a fund-raising campaign in the US. Khaira was Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly before he left AAP. He has since joined the Congress.

"There is no clarity on how this money was received by AAP, whether in cash or in cheque or through any other medium. There has been no declaration from AAP on this," a senior ED official said.

Sources said the ED has already questioned Khaira and a former AAP national secretary in this regard. "During his questioning, Khaira said the fundraiser had been organised by the AAP leadership and he did not know anything about it. We had also called the former national secretary to explain the source of funds. But he said he did not remember anything and since he was out of AAP, he did not have access to financial records of the party. That is why we have called the current national secretary," another ED official said.

In March, the ED had raided 12 locations across Punjab, Chandigarh and Delhi in all, including the premises of Indveer Johal, the grandson of former Punjab chief minister Darbara Singh. Officials had linked the raids to convicts in a 2015 Fazilka drug smuggling case, and a fake passport racket probe, for which the Delhi Police had registered an FIR. A senior ED official said that one of the kingpins of the drug syndicate was in the UK, and Khaira was allegedly in touch with them.

In the Fazilka case, the Punjab Police had arrested nine people for allegedly smuggling drugs across the Indo-Pak border, and claimed to have seized 1.8 kg of heroin, 24 gold biscuits, two weapons, 26 live cartridges and two Pakistani SIM cards.

Claiming a witch-hunt against AAP, Chadha said the party had nothing to hide and nothing to be afraid of. "This started even before the party was formed. In 2012, during the Anna Andolan (the anti-corruption protests), the MHA (Home Ministry) sent notices to leaders but later said in court that there were no irregularities. Different agencies, such as the IT Department, CBI, ED and Delhi Police have been unleashed on us between 2013 and now, but no one has found any wrongdoing," Chadha said.

He also referred to the 2015 raid by the CBI on Kejriwal's office, in connection with a corruption case lodged against Rajendra Kumar, the then Principal Secretary. "They went into his bedroom. They couldn't find anything. They raided Manish Sisodiaji's house twice, yet there is no chargesheet. They are being forced to file closure reports. Our MLAs have been disqualified and then reinstated; they have been arrested in different cases and then acquitted. In 2018, the Election Commission sent us a show-cause notice saying we had taken foreign funding and our registration could be cancelled... But this is the power of clean politics and integrity. We will not get scared of ED notices. Several have come in the past, we welcome you," Chadha said.

(Reputation and Harm)'. Saying Infosys has made "seminal contribution in progress of the country", RSS spokesperson Sunil Ambekar tweeted last week, "...the article published by Panchjanya in this context only reflects individual opinion of the author. Panchjanya is not mouthpiece of the RSS and the said article or opinions expressed in it should not be linked with the RSS".

Sitharaman said the "government and Infosys are working together" to ensure that issues related to the portal are resolved. "Strictly speaking, I think the government and Infosys are working together. I had, of course, called them twice, and also drew the attention of Nandan Nilekani. And they are working together with us. They are also being helped by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. They have also brought in some tax experts to work with them."

"And I am hopeful that Infosys will give us the product... yes, it has been delayed, it has hurt a lot of assesseees. We brought in a portal with a lot of expectations but... had glitches. All of that taken on board, I think we should work together to get that done and I am confident that Infosys will work it out," she said.

After nearly three months of glitches in the revamped e-filing portal of the Income Tax Department, Finance Ministry officials held two meetings with Infosys MD & CEO Salil Parekh last month. Sitharaman had summoned Parekh to explain the reasons for the continuing glitches. Infosys was in 2019 awarded the contract to develop the new system to reduce processing time for returns from 63 days to one day and expedite refunds.

In June, the morning after the launch, Sitharaman tweeted: "The much-awaited e-filing portal 2.0 was launched last night at 20:45hrs. I see in my TL grievances and glitches. Hope @Infosys & @NandanNilekani will not let down our taxpayers in the quality of service being provided. Ease in compliance for the taxpayer should be our priority."

Citing difficulties reported by the taxpayers and other stakeholders, the Central Board of Direct Taxes last Thursday decided to further extend the due dates for filing of Income Tax Returns and various reports of audit for the Assessment Year 2021-22.

Covid cases in kids up, experts say no alarm

The data was presented at a meeting of the EG-1 -- headed by NITI Aayog member V K Paul -- that had officials from different ministries in attendance, including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The data show that before March, in the nine months from June 2020 to February 2021, children aged 1-10 were in the range of 2.72% to 3.59% of the total active cases.

Out of 18 states and Union Territories for which data are available, in the month of August, Covid-19 cases among children were the highest in Mizoram (16.48% of total active cases) and the lowest in Delhi (2.25%). Eight states -- Mizoram (16.48%), Meghalaya (9.35%), Manipur (8.74%), Kerala (8.62%), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (8.2%), Sikkim (8.02%), Dadra and Nagar Haveli (7.69%) and Arunachal Pradesh (7.38%) -- recorded a higher proportion of children with Covid-19 than the national average of 7.04%.

No beating around bush, want to know if Govt used Pegasus illegally, says SC

"On the contrary... suppose I say we never used Pegasus, are they going to withdraw their petitions? Answer is clear no. Someone will have to go into it. That's all I am saying. Let us go into it, under Your Lordship's supervision."

Earlier, Justice Surya Kant told Mehta that the court had pointed out even during hearings in the past that it is not interested in matters related to national security. "That's a very sensitive issue and we are all concerned about it. The only limited affidavit that we expected you to file was that: there are citizens who are before us, alleging the violation of the right to privacy under Article 21, and if you can clarify in your affidavit that these rights have not been violated, and if those have been violated, whether there is permission by the requisite agency, or if there is no permission, has it been done by an outside agency. That it is your concern also and everybody's concern also if outside agencies are to snoop, interfere, spy into private phones."

When the CJI referred to the statement of former Union Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad in Parliament in 2019 about some WhatsApp users being

affected by Pegasus to buttress this, Mehta said it is a "previous statement". He took the bench through the statement of the current IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

The CJI said that the court was only on the point of allegations raised by the petitioners. "This is a serious allegation. Some software was used in the phone and it affected the privacy of the person. The minister also admitted in Parliament that the government has taken note of the use of the software. By whom, we don't know," he said.

Mehta clarified that the minister had only referred to the news and that it has no basis. He said the government is now stating that it is ready to examine the matter.

The CJI said: "There are different issues. One, according to your own minister's statement... without being subject to technical analysis, it is not possible to say if some spyware was used. The technicians have to look into it. Two, the minister's statement also reads that such services are openly available to anyone, anywhere, and anytime, and are commonly used by governmental agencies as well as by private companies worldwide."

Intervening, Mehta said it was only an extract from the

The SLSA was also instrumental in helping carry out the decongestion of jails during the pandemic.

Acknowledging the contribution of the DLSA at Una, Deputy Commissioner Raghav Sharma says, "DLSA secretary Khanal is very proactive and has covered almost the entire district."

Khanal contracted Covid during the first wave, but says that didn't deter him. "Savings lives is very important -- that's what we are trying to do."

Sterlite firing

which firing had to be resorted to against unarmed citizens must come out in the report," the court said.

Going through the NHRC report, the court said: "Since the report did not see the light of day or may not have been forwarded to the State, the recommendations have not been implemented. To the extent that the recommendations remain relevant and it may be possible to implement the same, all agencies should carry the matter forward. Equally, as indicated in the affidavit filed by the NHRC, the cases against the protesters should be dropped and the institution of the cases should not stand in the way of the future prospects of any of the protesters (so as) to disqualify them from any employment or other opportunities that may be available."

The court noted that the NHRC had recommended greater compensation to families of those who died and to the persons severely injured or impaired for life. "The State should consider a realistic quantum of compensation for either category, apart from others who suffered injuries," the order said.

"The State is requested to play the real parental role in providing counselling and psychiatric assistance to the members of the bereaved families, if necessary. The State must be seen to be with the families and not an adversary, despite whatever may have happened. The State

needs to walk the extra mile for such purpose and learned Advocate-General is requested to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to assuage the feelings of the families of the victims," the order said.

The matter will next be heard on October 25.

WITH PTI INPUTS

Few takers for J&K domicile offer

turned up to take application forms, 806 of whom were registered and issued domicile certificates on the spot, officials said.

Relief Commissioner (Migrants) Ashok Pandita said the applications of the remaining 2,200 families along with supporting documents, such as proof of their residence in the UT, were being brought to Jammu for further action.

Among the families who settled elsewhere in India after migrating from areas of J&K occupied by Pakistan in 1947, nearly 3,300 had approached the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner for application forms to register as migrants. However, only 100 ended up applying.

As per official estimates, while nearly 45,000 Kashmiri Pandit families are registered with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants), having left the Valley after the onset of militancy (and hence already figure as permanent residents of the UT), an equal number who migrated much earlier are missing from the records.

Similarly, 41,119 Hindu and Sikh families are believed to have migrated from the J&K areas occupied by Pakistan in 1947. Of them, 31,619, including 5,300 settled elsewhere in the country, are registered with the Provincial Rehabilitation Officer, who doubles as Custodian Evacuee Department. Of them, 26,319 families are already counted as permanent J&K resi-

dents.

Officials said that around 9,500 families had been denied registration by the then government in the late 1950s on the grounds that they either did not stay at camps set up by it, or did not come to the Indian side between 1947-54, or came to the Indian side unaccompanied by the head of the family, or the annual income of the head of the displaced family at the time of migration was more than Rs 300.

Officials estimate that the number of such migrants and displaced people might now be together more than 50,000 families. The administration understands that permanently settled elsewhere, these families might not want to return, and hence wants them to get registered for the purposes of "domicile only".

The problem is more complex when it comes to those who have migrated from areas now in Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). The online option seeks their original place of residence and for most of them, these are districts such as Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Bhimber, Kotli, Rawalakot etc. "When we try to register them online, our computers do not accept the names of their native places," Relief Commissioner Pandita said, adding that it wasn't just a software issue that they could correct from their end. "We have taken up the matter with the Home Department."

Now, members of a 'PoJK Visthapit Seva Samiti', including BJP leaders, have got into the picture, and are sending delegations under the banner to states and UTs where families formerly from PoK are settled, to persuade them to apply for domicile.

Ashok Khajuria, Convenor of the J&K BJP's Refugee Cell and a member of the RSS, who led a delegation to Rajasthan, said the Samiti has members from different organisations working for the cause of the displaced. He said the Samiti's members were also headed to Uttarakhanda, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

According to Khajuria, at the Delhi camp, many of the families were issued domicile certificates on the spot off line. However, their numbers were very less, he admitted.

The issue might have political ramifications as entry of these numbers into domicile and hence, possibly, voter records comes at a time when a delimitation process is on in the UT, with parties in Kashmir expressing the apprehension that it is meant to boost the seats in Hindu-dominated Jammu.

Khajuria said, "We have 24 seats reserved for PoJK areas in the J&K's Legislative Assembly and we can request the government to defreeze one-third of them as one-third of their population is residing here."

Bengal eases norms for industrial parks

clearance from various departments, including fire and environment," he added.

The Cabinet also gave its nod to legalise brick kilns that dig up to 1.5 metres from the surface by taking them out of the non-mining industry category. As a result, such brick kilns would not require clearance from the state environment department anymore.

"Many brick kilns in the state did not get environment certificates because they do not have the expertise to fulfil the condition of the environment department. They needed environmental clearance because they were treated as mining industry till date. Today, the Cabinet took a policy decision of not treating brick kilns that dig only 1.5 metres from the surface of the Earth as the mining industry," the chief secretary said, adding that there are 5,635 registered brick-fields in the state.

To boost the tourism industry, the Cabinet gave its approval to a scheme to enhance the skills of entrepreneurs associated with tourism.

"The Cabinet has given its approval for a scheme for recognition of tourism service providers of West Bengal under which the tour operators will be identified and categorised. Their skill will be developed through 'Utkarsh Bangla' and they will be given certificates," the chief secretary said.

The 'Utkarsh Bangla' project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry-ready.

—WITH PTI INPUTS

Kolkata

3 WEST BENGAL

Speaker summons CBI & ED: Explain action against TMC MLAs

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 12

ASSEMBLY SPEAKER Biman Bandyopadhyay Monday said he has summoned senior CBI and Enforcement Directorate officers on September 22 to explain why no permission had been taken from the Speaker's office before submitting charge sheets against legislators of the state recently.

Bandyopadhyay said the Speaker's office was not kept in the loop and no permission was taken from it while initiating action against the elected representatives.

Several ruling TMC MLAs, including ministers, had been charge sheeted and have been summoned in recent times by the two central probe agencies for their alleged involvement in ponzi scam cases and the Narada sting footage case.

"I have sought an explanation from CBI and ED why the speaker's office is not being informed while framing charge sheets against MLAs and summoning them... I have asked the ED and CBI officers to come to the Assembly on September 22 and give an explanation as to why the Speaker's office was not provided any prior information and why action TMC leaders like Sukhendu Sekhar Roy and Kunal Ghosh had maintained that the investigating agencies always inform the speaker of the Lok Sabha for any such action (charge sheet) against MPs but the practice is not followed concerning MLAs in Bengal," Bandyopadhyay said.

Suvendu writes to Speaker, seeks disqualification of 2 BJP MLAs who joined TMC

Kolkata: Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly Suvendu Adhikari on Monday wrote to Speaker Biman Banerjee demanding disqualification of two MLAs who recently crossed over to the TMC after having won state elections on BJP tickets.

In two separate petitions, which also had documents pertaining to the switchover attached with it, Adhikari sought the disqualification of legislators Biswajit Das and Tanmoy Ghosh at the earliest.

"Both of them are free to join any party but they have to resign as BJP MLAs. Let's see what measures the speaker takes... We will then decide on our next course of action," Adhikari stated.

The TMC leadership, however, hit back, asking the leader of opposition to urge his father, Lok Sabha MP Sisir Adhikari, to show the way.

PTI

Private medical colleges can now train students in govt hospitals for a fee

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

THE WEST Bengal Cabinet on Monday gave its approval to a new policy that will allow the private sector to use state government hospitals as medical and nursing colleges even if they do not have 300-bed infrastructure as required by the Central policy.

"It has been decided that if the private sector is interested in setting up a medical college it will now be able to use the infrastructure of a government hospital for up to five years even if the hospital does not have the stipulated infrastructure of 300 beds," Chief Secretary HK Dwivedi said after the Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

The private medical and nursing colleges can be set up in state government hospitals in lieu of payment of user charges to increase the number of such institutes in the state, Dwivedi said, adding that the same rules will be

'PONZI SCAM' PROBE

CBI questions Partha Chatterjee for 2 hours

Minister: CBI wanted clarifications, ready to cooperate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

A TEAM of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday questioned West Bengal Commerce and industries Minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with an ongoing probe into the I-Core 'ponzi scam'. A three-member CBI team reached Chatterjee's office at Camac Street and questioned him for nearly two hours.

Earlier too, the agency had summoned him and in response, Chatterjee claimed that was "busy with pre-poll [Assembly bypoll] meetings". He requested the CBI to question him at his office, pointing out that he is a senior citizen and the risk amid the Covid-19 pandemic situation.

On September 6, the economic offences wing of the CBI had written to Chatterjee, who



'Had requested the CBI to meet me at my office'

is also TMC secretary general. He replied on on September 8.

According to sources, Chatterjee was questioned on Monday about an event organised by the now-defunct chit fund company [I-Core] that he had attended. They also showed him a video clip of the event, the sources said.

"I had asked them [CBI] to come if they wanted to meet [me], they showed the courtesy. They wanted to clarify a few things. I am ready to cooperate with them," the minister told the media later in the day. Sources claimed that the CBI asked him the reason for his attending an

event organised by the company and if he was aware of the fact that it was a chit fund firm.

"How am I supposed to know that? I can't verify every invite I get. I am responsible for development of industries. SEBI and RBI would know these things," added Chatterjee.

In 2014, the CBI registered an FIR against the I-Core Group after the orders of the Supreme Court. Like Saradha and Rose Valley chit fund companies, I-Core allegedly raised money from the public by several fraudulent schemes floated by it.

The Group's directors, Anukul Maity and his wife Kanika, were arrested by the agency last year. Maity died in November last year in hospital after he complained of chest pain when he was lodged at Jharpada jail in Odisha, sources added.

WITH PTI INPUTS



The site near Gorky Sadan in Kolkata's AJC Bose Road area where a businessman was injured in a shooting on Sunday night, according to the police. No arrests have been made yet. Express

Businessman injured in south Kolkata shooting, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

A 38-YEAR-OLD businessman was injured in a shooting in south Kolkata's Elgin area on Sunday night, the police said on Monday.

Pankaj Singh, a resident of Howrah's Salkia School Road, was driving back home with two of his friends after dinner when a group of about 15 unidentified people on five to six bikes allegedly forced the car to come to a halt opposite Gorky Sadan.

The incident happened between 11.15 pm and 11.20 pm, said a senior police official.

The businessman's friends said they got out of the car to confront the group. However, one of the men shot Pankaj in the shoulder, and fled with his companions.

The senior police officer said, "The shooter was on a motorcycle. He got down at the place of occurrence and had some argument with the victim and then fired at him."

Singh was taken to the Calcutta Medical Research Institute, where is now undergoing treatment. The police said they did not yet know if the attack was linked to some personal enmity or a business rivalry. Investigators said they were examining CCTV footage to identify the accused. No one has been arrested yet.

"We are talking to the eye-witnesses as well as his friends who were with him. The footage of the CCTVs in that area is being checked. Our investigation is on. The businessman is stable at the moment," said an officer from the Shakespeare Sarani police station.

The Trinamool Congress' Howrah North MLA Gautam Chowdhury expressed shock over the incident, and demanded a proper investigation.

Meanwhile, state BJP president Dilip Ghosh alleged that the law-and-order situation in the state had deteriorated, with shootings becoming a regular affair.

Referring to the attack on the businessman, he said people were afraid. "Incidents of shooting by anti-socials elements are taking place every day across the state. The police are not being able to take any action against them due to pressure from ruling party leaders. This kind of culture must end immediately as people are getting scared," Ghosh said at a press conference at the BJP office here.

— WITH PTI INPUTS

New Education Policy: What's changing and how?

Amit Khare
Secretary, Department of Education
Government of India

In conversation with

Ritika Chopra
Senior Assistant Editor
The Indian Express

A year ago, the government announced the new National Education Policy that made school and college education unrecognisable from what it had been since 1986.

In schools, the 10+2 pattern was replaced with a 5+3+3+4 structure of foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary education.

Higher education was opened to foreign universities, and the UGC and AICTE were dismantled. The undergraduate programme became four years long, but students who wanted to get off midway, could with a suitable degree.

And it was mandated that by 2040, there would be no single-stream institutions; only multidisciplinary colleges and universities.

With the pandemic hopefully near its end, the time for implementing the changes has arrived.

How will going to school and college change over the next year? How prepared are institutions, teachers, and students for the changes? How will we tackle the inevitable disruptions that will follow?

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No.F.NITA.2(519-Estt)/2019/3266 Date 10.09.2021

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Online applications are invited for recruitment to the post of **Group-A, B & C** at NIT Agartala in various Administrative and Academic Department. The application may apply through online application submission system available at the Institute website (<http://www.nita.ac.in/>). The candidates, who have already applied through advertisement No.F.NITA.2(519-Estt)/2019/7716 dated 02/11/2019 and No.F.NITA.2(519-Estt)/2019/7717 dated 02/11/2019 need not to apply again. If any candidate has achieved anything extraordinary etc., he has to apply as fresh. Details Vacancy, terms and conditions are available to our website (<http://www.nita.ac.in/>).

Opening date of online portal : **15.09.2021**
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3	Professor 'F' (Medical Oncology)	HBCHRC, Vizag & HBCHRC, Punjab
4	Professor 'F' (Pathology)	HBCHRC, Vizag & HBCHRC, Punjab
5	Assistant Professor 'E' (Medical Oncology) (Pediatric)	HBCHRC, Vizag
6	Assistant Professor 'E', Nuclear Medicine	HBCHRC, Vizag
7	Assistant Professor 'E', Medical Oncology	HBCHRC, Punjab
8	Assistant Professor 'E', Palliative Medicine	HBCHRC, Punjab & TMH, MUMBAI
9	Assistant Professor 'E' (Medical Oncology) (Adult Haematolymphoid)	HBCHRC, Punjab
10	Assistant Professor 'E' (Head & Neck Oncology)	HBCHRC, Punjab
11	Assistant Professor 'E' (Gynaec Oncology)	HBCHRC, Vizag
12	Assistant Professor 'E' (Transfusion Medicine)	HBCHRC, Vizag
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14	Medical Superintendent-I	HBCHRC, Punjab

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HRD OFFICER



Kolkata

Mamata visits Khidirpur mosque; she’s ‘sweating’, claims BJP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

CHIEF MINISTER and Trinamool Congress's (TMC) Bhabanipur by-poll candidate Mamata Banerjee made a pit stop in the constituency on Monday, kick-starting her campaign in what is considered to be her party's bastion.

Among other things,

Banerjee visited a mosque in Khidirpur, and interacted with local people. The BJP claimed that the visit to the mosque was not impromptu and indicated that Banerjee was "sweating" as she was not sure of her chances of winning the by-poll. The chief minister's visit to the constituency came on a day her BJP and Left Front rivals submitted their nomination papers for the September 30 election.

The chief minister, on her way back from state secretariat Nabanna around 4 pm, went to Kolkata Municipal Corporation's Ward 77 area to talk to people and her party workers. She visited the area in Khidirpur where the 25 Pally Durga Puja is held, and also visited the Sola Ana Masjid accompanied by state minister Firhad Hakim. At the mosque, she interacted with imams. After stepping out of the

mosque, Banerjee interacted with local people who had gathered to catch a glimpse of her.

At Ward 73, Banerjee went to a TMC meeting that was being addressed by senior leaders Partha Chatterjee and Subrata Bakshi. However, the chief minister did not participate in the meeting. The TMC chairperson is set to participate in a meeting with non-Bengali voters on September 16 at Uttam Udyan in

the Padmapukur area of Ward 72.

Taking a dig at Banerjee, BJP national leader Amit Malviya tweeted, "If you thought Bhabanipur was a 'no contest' and Mamata Banerjee was confident of winning hands down, forget it." He added, "She [Mamata Banerjee] is sweating. This visit to Sola Ana Masjid is not 'sudden' but a planned visit to seek votes from ward 77."

BHABANIPUR BYPOLL

Tibrewal files papers, says BJP will contest with ‘heart & soul’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

THE BJP's Bhabanipur by-poll candidate Priyanka Tibrewal on Monday filed her nomination papers, and said the party would contest the election "with our heart and soul". The election, in which she is up against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is scheduled for September 30.

BJP MLA and the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly, Suwendu Adhikari, MP Arjun Singh, senior party leader Dinesh Trivedi, and actor Rudranil Ghosh, who unsuccessfully contested the Assembly polls on a BJP ticket from Bhabanipur earlier this year, accompanied Tibrewal to Survey Building in south Kolkata as she submitted her papers.



BJP's Bhabanipur bypoll candidate Priyanka Tibrewal and senior party leader Suwendu Adhikari on Monday. *Express*

"Every fight is fought and we will contest this time with our heart and soul. The people of Bhabanipur has got the opportunity to do what their counterpart in Nandigram did earlier this year. All I can say is that the people of Bhabanipur will create history in this by-poll," said Tibrewal.

She was referring to Mamata Banerjee's electoral defeat at the hands of Adhikari in Purba Medinipur district's Nandigram seat by 1,956 votes. Banerjee is contesting the by-poll to retain her chair.

"This time our slogan is 'Save Bengal' and 'stop violence in the state'. Mamata Banerjee is contesting this election to save her seat. She does not want any other person to sit in her chair," added the BJP candidate who was among those who moved court following the declaration of the election results to call for an investigation into alleged post-poll violence by the Trinamool Congress (TMC). She represented some of the victims of the alleged violence, and was instrumental in ensuring a probe by the Central Bureau of InvestigCBI probe in incidents of

DEPLOY CAPF FOR PEACEFUL POLL, BJP URGES ELECTION PANEL

Kolkata: BJP on Monday appealed to the Election Commission (EC) to ensure "free, fair and peaceful poll in West Bengal" and demanded deployment of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel for security purposes. A BJP delegation led by party MP Arjun Singh met the state's chief electoral officer (CEO) and submitted a deputation in this regard. "The Election Commission should ensure that 100 per cent of booths in the three constituencies are manned by CAPF with no West Bengal or Kolkata Police within a 200-metre radius of any polling booths," read a portion of the deputation. **ENS**

rape and murder.

Adhikari told reporters, "If people are allowed to exercise their franchise and booths are not rigged then the BJP will win this by-poll. This young lawyer [Tibrewal] has fought against the state government [in court] and ensured justice to families affected by post-poll violence. This time too she will win. Democracy will win."

Reacting to the BJP leaders' comments, TMC Rajya Sabha MP Sukhendu Sekhar Ray said, "They filed nomination papers in such a manner [large gathering] that is bound to have violated the Election Commission guidelines. But we will not let them turn Bhabanipur into Gorakhpur. We will not let them divide the people on the basis of caste, creed and religion. There will be no religious polarisation in this by-poll. In last Assembly election, more than 50 per cent people did not vote for the BJP. It will be the same this time as well."

Meanwhile, Left Front candidate Shreejib Biswas of the CPI(M) also submitted his nomination papers.

HC set to hear PIL against Bhabanipur bypoll on Sept 20

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 13

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Monday refused to conduct an expedited hearing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) plea that has challenged the announcement of the Bhabanipur Assembly by-poll for being "unconstitutional", and posted the matter for hearing on September 20.

Petitioner and lawyer Sabyasachi Chatterjee had told the court last week, "The chief

secretary wrote only one letter to the [Election] Commission. Why did the chief secretary of a state ask for a vote in a particular constituency? The chief secretary cannot decide who will be the chief minister. Why was the polling day fixed only in the context of his letter? There are still by-elections in four other constituencies. This decision is unconstitutional."

With the Election Commission (EC) having announced the by-poll date on September 4, acting Chief Justice

Rajesh Bindal asked why it took the petitioner so much time after the notification of the poll date to file the plea. The EC has already said that the petition is not acceptable.

Lawyer Bikashranjan Bhattacharya who represented the petitioner asked the court why the by-polls in four more constituencies were not announced.

"There is a big difference between a general election and a by-election. Once the Covid situation is resolved, voting can still take place," he added.

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

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"OP PAWAN" 1988-90 (Sri Lanka)
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"OP RAKSHAK" 1992-2011 (J&K)
Maj Manoj Kumar Pandey, Maj Sobhit Tiwari, Sep Nathu Ram Karwasra, Hav Ghan Shyam, CHM Mohan Chand Joshi, LNK Banshi Dhar, SM, Sep Dharmender Prasad Bharati, LNK Raj Kumar Mahto, Sep Sultan Singh, SM, Sep Man Singh and Nk Parvin Kumar.
"OP MEGHDOOT/OP VIJAY" 1999 (J&K)
Nb Sub Rajbir Singh, LNK Vijaya Kumar Shukla, LNK Khadag Singh, SM, Sub Gardari Lal, Nb Sub Gulzar Singh and Sep Pawan Kumar.
"OP PARAKRAM" 2001-2002
Sub Mam Chand, CHM Siya Ram Gurjar, Hav Shishu Pal, Nk Sis Ram, Nk Dinesh Chandra, Nk Ram Sahay Mishra, Nk Rajender Singh, LNK Chandan Singh, Sep Mukesh Kumar, Sep Vinod Kumar, Sep Virendra Prasad, Sep Satish Kumar, Sep Parvender Kumar, Sep Savinder Kumar, Sep Sunil, Sep Mukesh, Sep Atar Singh, and Sep Ganesh Kumar.
On our 'Martyr's Day' we, once again, pledge to follow your personal example of dedication towards duty. You are no longer with us but your memories will be with us forever.
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CORRIGENDUM
With reference to the REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL vide No. 773/183/MPTB/IP/Vyayan/2020 dated 09.07.2021 for Development of Tourism Projects at Heritage Properties, Mahendra Bhavan Distt Panna, Rajgarh Palace Distt Daliya, Vijayraghavgarh Fort Distt Katni, Kyoti Fort Distt Rewa, on 90 years Lease to Private Investors. The Last date of bid submission is being extended to 22.10.2021 at 16.00 hrs. instead of 13.09.2021 and the technical bid opening date is being extended to 25.10.2021 at 12:00 Hrs instead of 15.09.2021.
(Approved by Managing Director)
JOINT DIRECTOR
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Prayagraj Nagar Nigam invites e-tender two bid system from the prospective bidders for **Engagement of third party inspection agency for municipal corporation**


s. no.	Description	Details
1	Tender fees (in Rs) (Non Refundable)	11200/- With Gst
2	EMD/Bid Security Money(in RS.) (Refundable)	Rs. 2.00 Lakhs
3	Bid Start Date	16.09.2021 at 4:00 PM
3	Pre Bid Meeting	21.09.2021 at 4:00 PM
4	Last date of pre bid query submission	20.09.2021 at 5:00 PM
5	Last date & Time of Bid submission	27.09.2021 at 3:00 PM
6	Date & Time for online Technical Bid Opening	27.09.2021 at 4:00 PM

Note:1 - Only e-Tenders shall be accepted. Further details are available on U.P. Government e-Procurement website <https://etender.up.nic.in> and PNN website
2. निविदा स्वीकृति/अस्वीकृति के सम्बन्धी अधिकार सखम अधिकारी नगर निगम प्रयागराज में निहित होगा।
3. For more Information contact Mr. Anil Kumar Maurya 7380584564

Sd/- (Satish Kumar)
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Open Tender Notice No.: 26-SDSTE-ASN-2021-22, dated 10.09.2021, Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Asansol invites e-Tender for the following work. **Name of Work/ Location:** Asansol Division - Signalling work in connection with track renewal work in various sections in Asansol Division. **Tender Value:** Rs. 42,74,119.35. **Date and time of Closing of the tender:** 08.10.2021 at 12.00 hrs. **Website particulars:** <http://www.reps.gov.in/>. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registered tenderer/bidders can participate in e-Tendering.
ASN-71/2021-22
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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13.09.2021

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NHP PIP Code : A1.7.01 NHP PIP Pkg No. NHP-2021-2022-OD-854492

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1. The SE, GWD & Procurement Officer (GW), SPMU (NHP_Odisha), Bhubaneswar invites Bids which shall be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal for the following Goods:

Sl	Item Description & Qty	Delivery Location	Delivery Period
1	GW Monitoring equipment (Geological Field Kit comprising of TEN (different items) : 18 Nos as per the Technical Specification of the Bid, Delta Square, Bhubaneswar, 751012 Odisha	Directorate of GWD, HP Administrative Building, Unit-8	60 days

2. Detailed Information for Bid is available on www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Bidding Document is also available online from dt. 14.09.21, 1100 Hrs to dt. 04.10.21 upto 1400 Hrs and can be downloaded free of cost by logging on to the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
3. The deadline for on-line submission of Bids is 04.10.21 at 1400 hours. Bids will be opened on-line on dt.04.10.21, 1500hours.
4. Bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the bidding documents. Interested Bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the Bidding Documents.
Name & Address of Purchaser:
Name:B K Pathi,
I/C SE, GWD & Procurement Office(GW)
SPMU (NHP_Odisha), Bhubaneswar.
Address: HP Admin Building, Unit-8, Delta Square, Bhubaneswar-751012
Telephone - 0674-2561038 E-mail: odishagwhp3@gmail.com
SE, GWD & Procurement Office(GW)
SPMU (NHP_Odisha), Bhubaneswar.
OIPR- 32002/11/0009/2122

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਨੈਸ਼ਨਲ ਬੈਂਕ  **punjab national bank** **Possession Notice**
(Govt. of India Undertaking) (Rule 8(1) Appendix-IV (For Immovable Property))

Circle Sastra Centre, Circle Office, Nazrul Sarani, B.S. Road , Dist- Malda, 732101(WB), E-Mail: cs8275@pnb.co.in

Whereas, Punjab National Bank / the Authorised Officer(s) of the Punjab National Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice/s on the dates mentioned against each account calling upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the date of notice(s)/ date of receipt of the said notice(s). The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules. The borrower's /guarantor's /mortgagor's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets
The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property(ies) and any dealing with the property(ies) will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amounts and interest thereon.

Sl. No.	1) Name of Borrower 2) Name of Branch 3) Account No	Description of the property mortgaged	1)Date of demand notice 2)Date of Possession Notice 3) Outstanding Amount
1.	1) Borrower: Bedrabad CS OFF & On Shop Prop Biswajit Roy 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250022932, 0882306935133	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Golapganj, JL No 176, RS Khatian No 497, LR Khatian No 9, Dag No RS 1173, LR Plot No 1197 measuring total area 7 satak comprises in Deed No 12583, 12616 of year 2011. Bounded by: North: Ganpati Saha; South: Primary School East: Debotto Property West: Bimal Deo	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 23,25,136.39 (Rupees Twenty Three Lakh Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Six and Thirty Nine Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges
2.	1) Borrower: Purbasha Hardware Prop Ataur Rahaman 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250023302, 0882306931030	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Sultanganj, JL No 31, Plot No RS 4117, LR 6977, Khatian No RS 120, LR 10831, 10833 measuring total area 3.00 decimal comprises in Deed No i15296 of year 2011. Bounded By: North :Safiur Rahaman, South : Road and Mosque, East :Safiur Rahaman, West: Road and Mosque	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 5,67,591.18 (Rupees Five Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Ninety One And Eighteen Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.
3.	1) Borrower: Sk Hamidur Rahaman S/o Arman Sk 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250025133, 0882306931544	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Bhagpanpur, JL No 60, Plot No 3075, Khatian No 300 (RS), 4505 (LR), measuring total area 5 decimal i.e 3.025 Kattah comprises in Deed No i6590 of 2012 Bounded by: North - Sabed SK; South- Taleb SK East- Own Land; West- Taleb SK	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 2,22,188.35 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight and Thirty Five Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.
4.	1) Borrower: Indrajit Sarkar 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250026503, 0882306931632	Equitable Mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Laxmipur, JL No 36, Plot No 1123, corresponding LR Plot No 1192, Plot No 1196 at present LR Plot No 1193, Khatian No 705, 619, LR 1419, 1444, 233 measuring total area 8.25 decimal comprises in the Deed No 10169, i10155 of 1988 Bounded by: North:Macadan Road; South: Own Land East:Own Land; West: Dinanath Sarkar	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 2,25,139.41 (Rupees Two Lakh Twenty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Nine And Forty One Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.
5.	1) Borrower: M.A Wooden Furniture Prop Aktar Alam 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250022899, 0882306931492	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Palgachi, JL No 34, Plot No 162/394 (RS), Khatian No 246 measuring total area 6 decimal comprises in the Deed No i8454 of 2011 & i11156 of 2012. Bounded by: North:Anisur Rahaman; South: Kalu Manna East:Road; West: Ismail SK	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 4,61,091.00 (Rupees Four Lakh Sixty One Thousand And Ninety One Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.
6.	1) Borrower: Emesh SK S/o Fazlur Ali 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250026372, 0882306931623	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Laxmipur JL No 36, Plot No RS & LR 13,14,15,16 Khatian No 65, at present LR Khatian No 5213 measuring total 8.25 decimal comprises in Deed No i16271 of 2012. Bounded by: North:Macadan Road; South: Macadan Road East:Rahaman Sk; West: Amir Sk & Sitara Bibi	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 2,70,268.49 (Rupees Two Lakh Seventy Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Eight And Forty Nine Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.
7.	1) Borrower: Md Safique Alam S/o Md Sadagar Sk 2) Branch: Khejuria 3) A/c No: 0882250022349, 0882306930970	Equitable mortgage of land and building situated at Mouza Baishnabnagar, JL No 32, Plot No RS 150/640, LR 295, Khatian No LR 1972, 884 present LR1700 & 2197 measuring total area 3.25 decimal comprises in Deed No i4168 of 1994. Bounded by: North:Saharab Ali; South: Own Property East:Swadhin Ghosh; West: PWD Road	1) 21.06.2021 2) 08.09.2021 3) Rs 5,40,011.89 (Rupees Five Lakh Forty Thousand Eleven And Eighty Nine Paise Only) as on 21.06.2021 with further interest and charges.

Date: 14.09.2021
Place: Malda
Authorised Officer
Punjab National Bank

**GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES
TENDER NOTICE FOR PURCHASE OF 60s DYED COTTON CONE WARP YARN
Sealed tenders with two cover system in the prescribed format are invited **only from the interested eligible parties** for the purchase of **60sC Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn** for Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties scheme Pongal 2022.

Sl. No	Variety of yarn	Required Quantity in MT	Required Earnest money deposit in (Rs.)	Sale period	Last date and time for receipt of tender	Date and time of opening of Tender	Supply Period
1	60sC Dyed Cotton Cone Warp Yarn	1922.00	5,00,000/-		14.09.2021 to 29.09.2021 upto 10.30 a.m	29.09.2021 upto 11.00 a.m	29.09.2021 at 12.00 noon 60 days

Eligibility of the Tenderer and Other conditions are stipulated in the Tender Schedule.
1. The tender Schedule can be downloaded at **free of cost** from Government tender website www.tenders.tn.gov.in and used for bidding.
2. **If requested to send through Post:**
By Demand Draft – Rs.5700/- in favour of “**Yarn Committee for FDS 2014**” payable at **Chennai City** (inclusive of 12% GST).
Interested tenderers are requested to submit the tender schedule duly filled, in **separate covers** and it should be sent in a **sealed envelope** super scribing “**Tender for Purchase of 60sC Dyed Cotton Warp Yarn**”
Addressed to : “**The Joint Director(Uniforms)/ Tender Inviting Authority, O/o Commissioner of Handlooms and Textiles, Kuralagam, II Floor, Chennai -600 108**”.
Contact : Joint Director (Uniforms)
Telephone : 044-25358715
Fax : 044-25351177
Mobile : 93603 18278
Email ID : tenderwing2020@gmail.com
Joint Director (Uniforms)/ Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/ 2680 /TENDER/ 2021



The University delves to foster 'academic niche' on modern learner-centric pedagogy, digital initiatives and entrepreneurship development as path-breaking endeavours and essence of its epistemology. 'Systems concept and thinking' occupies the centre-stage here in understanding of dynamism, holism and perturbations of teaching-learning process. It will really be a tryst with destiny to embrace the mentorship of MAKAUT for young aspirant minds, and rich posterity, to the trail blazing path and foot-prints of glory.

- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Security
- Gaming and Mobile App Development
- Telemedicine and Digital Health
- Economics
- Statistics
- Psychology
- Hospital Management
- Digital Marketing
- Media Science
- Blockchain Technology



- In order to achieve its goal, the University strives to create a robust ecosystem that can foster both academic excellence and economic prosperity for its students.



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

STEP BACK, PLEASE

Kerala Catholic Church's claim of a 'narcotics jihad' is unwise and disquieting, can unsettle communal peace

AN INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC bishop in Kerala has triggered a controversy by alleging that a “narcotics jihad” is being waged by Islamist groups to endanger youth belonging to other religions in the state. Christian girls were falling prey to “love jihad”, he also said, an allegation the church first made some years ago, which has then been weaponised by the Sangh Parivar. Christian and Muslim groups have been organising marches in support of, and against, the bishop's remarks while the BJP has asked for a central law to deal with “love and narcotics jihad”. The Catholic Church and the Kerala Congress (M), part of the Left government in the state, as well as the Nair Service Society, an influential community outfit, have backed the bishop whereas Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly and Congress MLA, V D Satheesan, and a host of civil society actors, including from the Catholic community, have criticised the Church. This face-off has the potential to unsettle communal peace in Kerala, which has an enviable history of three major religions coexisting with minimum conflict or confrontation for decades.

Government must crack down on the production and supply of narcotics. But to paint the business in religious colours, to make it a communal dog whistle, is an act of irresponsibility that must be guarded against. In the name of speaking up for the laity, the Kerala bishop and his supporters may be contributing to the promotion of Islamophobia. This has the potential to build a discourse that scapegoats the Muslim community for the gathering social and economic worries, which of course have no communal basis, confronting people across denominational divides in the state. The crisis in agriculture, and the general economic slow-down, especially after Covid, have pushed the middle and lower middle classes into a precarious situation. Public policies, such as greater weightage given to Muslims in scholarships — an outcome of the Sachar Committee recommendations — have been projected as evidence of appeasement and as a sign of the disproportionate influence of Muslims in politics. International political developments — from the attacks on Christians in Africa to Sri Lanka, to the presence of Christian converts among recruits to ISIS, and the conversion of Hagia Sophia in Turkey to a mosque — too seem to have contributed to the Catholic Church's sense of insecurity and anxiety. That the non-Catholic churches have so far refused to back the Catholic clergy's allegations is also revealing.

In the larger interest of Kerala, the Catholic Church needs to halt this campaign that can stoke the fault-lines between communities. Economic worries and political concerns must not become grist for the politics of religious polarisation. The Catholic Church has an illustrious history of public service and contribution to the making of a secular Kerala. Hopefully, the current “jihad” campaign is a temporary aberration, which the clergy will step back from immediately.

FLATTENING THE HILLS

Haryana's narrow definition of Aravallis ignores range's ecological role. State government needs to rethink its plan

A NEW PLAN to draw the boundaries of the Aravallis in Haryana could deprive a big chunk of the world's oldest fold mountain system from enjoying the protection accorded to eco-sensitive regions in the NCR. A committee constituted by the state government has asked officials to identify areas under Aravallis on the basis of a 1992 MoEF order that limits the mountain range in Haryana to the erstwhile Gurgaon district — currently Gurugram and Nuh districts. That means more than 9,000 hectares in Faridabad will not come under the National Conservation Zone (NCZ), exposing the area to real estate activities and jeopardising the mountain range's ecological functions.

Extending for nearly 700 km from eastern Gujarat to south Haryana, through Rajasthan and Delhi, the Aravallis are the green lungs for large parts of the subcontinent. They moderate the velocity of hot winds that blow towards north India and resist the advance of the Thar Desert towards the Indo-Gangetic plains. Their forests are crucial to recharging groundwater. The NCR regional plan 2021, framed in 2005, slotted the Aravalli ecosystem in the area under the NCZ, most of which is out of bounds for construction activity. But the plan has been subject to vigorous stonewalling by successive governments in Haryana, which insisted that there was no clear definition of the Aravallis. In 2017, the state administration told the Union Ministry of Urban Development that there were no Aravallis in Haryana, except in parts of Gurugram and even there, the NCZ strictures on construction activity should not apply. Last year, it was pulled up by the Punjab and Haryana High Court for delaying the notification of NCZ.

Since 2002, a number of Supreme Court orders have placed strictures on mining in the Aravallis. However, real estate developers — as well as miners — have found ways to flatten the hills and appropriate land. In 2018, the apex court noted that the range had lost a quarter of its hills. In recent times, the apex court has come down heavily on illegal construction in the Aravallis — at times making no distinction between farmhouses of the rich and the dwellings of the poor. It would, however, be salutary to understand that such transgressions are a result of a complex interplay of socioeconomic factors and administrative failures. In Haryana, much of the administrative failure stems from poor appreciation of the ecological services provided by the Aravallis. The state government would do well to keep in mind the increasing pollution level in Haryana's cities, most of which are also groundwater stressed. A narrow definition of the Aravallis will not be in the interests of the well-being of the state's residents.

EMMA'S JOURNEY

Raducanu's Grand Slam win told the story of a prodigy. It also had a backstory of the immigrant's enterprise

CRUNCHING DOWN THE LINE BACKHANDS and smacking deep forehands cross-court saw Emma Raducanu keep it all crisp in her breakout Grand Slam title victory at the US Open. Even by women's tennis' non-jaded standards, where 20 different players have become Slam champs in the last 10 years, the all-teen final featuring 18-year-old Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez, 19, at Flushing Meadows, seemed to speak of dewey spring in the autumn tournament. Raducanu, with her backstory of immigrant upbringing in the United Kingdom, while being born in Canada to Romanian and Chinese parents, made it a persuasive watch. In an Olympic year, the history-making champion — British Virginia Wade last won a Slam in 1977 — is expected to edge out Tom Daley of August Tokyo Olympic vintage for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year honours.

Raducanu's story is different from so many other teenage prodigies. Call it the immigrant's enterprise or the genius of the young woman, Emma aces academics with straight-A's and could've taken her pick from among swimming, golf or table tennis. Tales continue to trickle out about her unwavering focus in training through the pandemic, on streets outside her home and at the neighbourhood tennis club.

Women's tennis doesn't recreate the Big Four aura of the men's game. With no one dominating, it tends to lean back and observe how many waves the likes of Angelique Kerber, Simona Halep, Garbine Muguruza, and most recently Naomi Osaka and Ashleigh Barty, can ride. Time will tell if Raducanu can hold aloft a few, or many, trophies and string together consistent seasons. There's the additional challenge to live up to British expectations, which are never tempered, nor proportional, and Sweet Caroline is a fluttering hope away.



KANWAL SIBAL

9/11 SET THE stage for America's “global war on terror”. The attacks by al Qaeda on September 11, 2001 against the military and economic symbols of the foremost global power were bound to trigger a global American response.

The attacks elicited outpourings of sympathy and solidarity worldwide, even from countries hostile to the US. The shocked realisation that well-organised terrorism could cause grand-scale mayhem anywhere must have sunk in. President Vladimir Putin was the first foreign leader to speak to President George W Bush. China sent condolences. Cuba, Libya, North Korea as well as Syria's Assad and Iranian leaders Khamenei and Khatami condemned the attacks.

Afghanistan was the first target of the war on terror, whose grandiose objectives as spelled out by the Bush administration were to defeat terrorists such as Osama bin Laden and destroy their organisations, end state sponsorship of terrorism, strengthen the international effort to combat terrorism, and abolish terrorist sanctuaries and havens. The Taliban regime, which harboured Osama, was ousted militarily.

In the heady phase of US unilateralism, it was used as a tool to achieve larger foreign policy goals in West Asia by eliminating leaders opposed to or no longer serving America's geopolitical interests in the region, beginning with Saddam Hussein. Military action against Iraq in 2003 was also labelled as part of the war on terror. The Arab Spring phenomenon of 2011 got US backing in the hope that the urge for democracy in the Arab world would prove an antidote to religious extremism and terrorism in Arab society. The regime change in Libya and the bid to topple the Syrian regime in 2011 on mixed grounds of terrorism and human rights were products of this belief deriving from the mood and policies that 9/11 generated in the US.

However, the signal failure in Iraq and Afghanistan to do “nation building” on democratic foundations, the chaos in Libya and the havoc in Syria exposed the political and military limitations of the war on terror as an instrument of state power in eliminating non-state actors inspired by a pan-national ideology

War and terror

Measured by its stated objectives and international consequences, US-led war on terror has failed

The US war on terror has been selective, marred by double standards, equivocations and geopolitical motives. The stated goal was not to make only America safe, but eliminate the terrorist threat globally as part of America's leadership role. The way it has withdrawn from Afghanistan has created doubts on whether it will honour its commitments elsewhere, leading countries to hedge. Europe sees the withdrawal as a foreign policy disaster for the western alliance. India is less safe with the Taliban-Pakistan takeover of Afghanistan under the accommodating umbrella of the US.

based on scriptural injunctions, cultural aversion and a deep sense of revenge for humiliations inflicted by the West. An upsurge in terrorism, civil conflict, refugee flows and unprincipled local compromises with extremism discredited the war on terror. President Barack Obama, in 2013, lowered his sights, discarded the war on terror phraseology, narrowing down the “boundless war on terror” to “a series of persistent, targeted efforts to dismantle specific networks of violent extremists that threaten America”. This signified already that America's anti-terrorism crusade would be limited primarily to protecting its own security, a view expressed more clearly by Trump. The unilateral retreat from Afghanistan broadly represents this reality.

Measured by its stated objectives and international consequences, the global war on terror has failed strikingly. Bin Laden's elimination might have provided a trophy to display, but Islamist terrorism and religious extremism got a tremendous boost with the rise of the Islamic State in parts of Iraq and Syria, and after its elimination, the pronounced spread in Africa of extremist movements affiliated with the al Qaeda and the Islamic State. Islamist terrorism has viciously struck Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and has targeted Southeast Asia. Europe has suffered dramatic terrorist attacks and an influx of refugees, with political and social consequences marked by the rise of anti-Islamic sentiment and right-wing nationalist forces.

America's post-9/11 war on terror impacted India's interests unfavourably. The removal of autocratic but secular regimes in West Asia allowed extremist Islamist movements that were consciously suppressed to rise, leading to serious concerns in India, a victim of jihadi terrorism, about the fallout in the subcontinent.

Ironically, though, the emergence of the Islamic State and a reinvigorated Muslim Brotherhood has had the collateral effect of drawing the Gulf states such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, concerned about the danger posed to their polities by these ideologies, closer to India. America's draconian sanctions on Iran, including for its alleged terrorist activities, have adversely affected our strategic as

well as energy interests in Iran.

The gap between the objectives of America's war on terror and actual achievement is clear in our region. The terrorists have neither been defeated nor their organisations destroyed, either in Pakistan or Afghanistan. Despite Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism, not only against India but also against US forces in Afghanistan, the US has looked to Pakistan to facilitate its withdrawal from Afghanistan through its Taliban links, allowing it in the process to obtain its longed for “strategic depth” in Afghanistan against India. The US has failed to “abolish terrorist sanctuaries and havens” in Pakistan, or to compel an unwilling Pakistan to act against the Haqqani group, which now controls Afghanistan's interior ministry. Ironically, whereas the US acted to destroy the Islamic State in West Asia, it has handed over a state to the Taliban, with the new Afghanistan government liberally composed of UN-designated terrorists. Ironically, Islamist extremists and terrorists have taken over a country without any democratic process with the consent of an America committed to democratic values.

As against all these negative realities, India-US counter-terrorism cooperation has productively expanded in important areas. The US recognition of the LeT, JeM, HuM as terrorist groups, and its references to “cross-border terrorism” have been diplomatically helpful, but this has not balanced the far larger unpunished space given to Pakistan despite its terrorist affiliations.

The US war on terror has been selective, marred by double standards, equivocations and geopolitical motives. The stated goal was not to make only America safe, but eliminate the terrorist threat globally as part of America's leadership role. The way it has withdrawn from Afghanistan has created doubts on whether it will honour its commitments elsewhere, leading countries to hedge. Europe sees the withdrawal as a foreign policy disaster for the western alliance. India is less safe with the Taliban-Pakistan takeover of Afghanistan under the accommodating umbrella of the US.

The writer is a former foreign secretary

CAPITAL FOR THEIR COURAGE

How financial service providers can enable women entrepreneurs



CHETNA GALA-SINHA

PARVATI SELLS vegetables in the weekly market of Mhaswad in Satara, Maharashtra. She has a savings account with the Mann Deshi Sahakari Bank. But whenever she needs money, she takes a loan from the local moneylender. One day, while buying vegetables at the weekly market, I struck up a conversation and asked her why. She responded, “Yes, I know I am paying Rs 10 interest per day on every Rs 100 I borrow from the moneylender, which is exorbitant. But I do not want to take a loan from your bank because I require a loan in the morning and want to repay it in the evening or maybe next week. I also would like to take the second loan immediately. And all this flexibility is given to me by the moneylender and not by your bank.”

Parvati's situation is not unique. Her business is one of the 63.4 million MSMEs in India, 99 per cent of which are micro enterprises with less than Rs 10 lakh in investment. These tiny businesses are run by nano-entrepreneurs, a burgeoning segment that is absolutely critical to the growth of our rural economy.

What is being done to bring these businesses into the formal economy? If we assess our progress against the definition of “financial inclusion”, which refers to the accessibility of banking and availability of credit, we can congratulate ourselves on significant progress. However, if we question the adequacy of the financial products that they find access to, we fall short. Parvati might be financially “included” but she is not financially “integrated”. The journey from inclusion to integration is

not only about making products available and accessible, but also about making them relevant, applicable, and acceptable. The first challenge in making products broadly available is bridging the gap between supply and demand of capital. In a financially integrated world, capital is agile. Yet owing to a limited risk appetite, low or thin-file data on customers and challenging regulatory oversight, capital remains a constraint in designing bespoke products. For India to overcome these challenges, the existing infrastructure must be adapted to our new purpose, providing easy-to-use, customer-centric experiences. Bankers and private financial institutions erroneously believe that a poor person takes a microcredit loan because she cannot save. In reality, if you go to any remote area in India and ask any woman how much she has saved in the post office, you will find huge numbers. They are able to save because of village postal agents who collect their savings from the doorstep. Greater accessibility has major benefits for not only the customer but also the supplier.

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It is also critical we recognise that the conventional method of one-size-fits-all is no longer viable. Products must be designed and delivered intelligently to meet the customer where they are, and by keeping in mind that they use products to reach their goals. This involves tailoring the products to the needs and income profile of the customer, including being cognisant of their environment, geography, and demography.

Parvati's case became an inspiration for the Mann Deshi Bank to design and launch a cash credit product for women. Since its launch, hundreds of women vendors in the area have benefited from the product.

In the traditional financial system, the design and distribution cost on financial products at sachet size is high. Expensive technology development and brick-and-mortar infrastructure all contribute to an impractical model. Financial service providers are consequently dissuaded from attempting to reach rural, financially excluded groups, and the availability of financial services, therefore, remains an urban privilege. By using the power of machine learning and cloud infrastructure, we can significantly lower operating costs while offering customers affordable, bespoke financial products that help them reach their goals.

While the above are supply side issues, the demand side has its own set of challenges. Financial literacy and technology readiness are two critical issues. Financial education assists people in making sound financial decisions. These are not just challenges of the Indian market, but other economies too.

Despite constraints, rural women entrepreneurs follow the motto “my courage, my capital”. It is our responsibility as financial service providers to create an ecosystem for them to deploy this capital of courage.

The writer is the founder of Mann Deshi Mahila Sahakari Bank

SEPTEMBER 14, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

REPORT ON RIOTS

THE REPORT OF the three-member judicial commission headed by Jitendra Narain, former judge of the Patna High Court, which probed the April 1979 communal riots in Jamshedpur bristles with strident strictures against the RSS, top district officials and the Bihar Military Police (BMP). Set up on May 15, 979, when the Janata Party was in power, the commission submitted its report to the government on August 31. The two others who served on it are K Ghosh, former chairman of the Tripura Public Service Commission and S Q Rizvi, former IG of police, Bihar. The riot which rocked Jamshedpur on April 11 and 12 took a toll

of 108 lives. Releasing the report, Bihar Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra said he would invite the attention of the Union government to the findings of the commission on the activities of the RSS, Jana Sangh (now BJP) and its labour wing, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh.

WARRANTS IN PUNJAB

THE POLICE HAVE been alerted all over Punjab to arrest Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale whose arrest warrant was obtained by the Ludhiana police from a local court under Section 134 of the IPC for his alleged abetment in the murder of Lala Jagat Narain. Warrants for the arrest of

Bhindranwale's nephew Swaran Singh, and another accused, Dalbir Singh, have also been issued.

UP FLOODS

Floodwaters of the Rapti entered Domariaganj town, in UP's Basti district, when the river breached the Mali-Mannaiya bund. The irrigation authorities were making efforts to plug the breach. The Rapti was flowing above the danger mark by 30 cm at Balrampur; by 43 cm at Bansi and 20 cm at Gorakhpur. The floods have brought misery to people in over 1,000 villages in UP, particularly the state's eastern part. The season's fatalities in the state have gone up to 329.



THE IDEAS PAGE

Don't bank on Shanghai group

While India must contribute to collective effort at this week's SCO summit to hold Taliban and Pakistan to their promises, it will be hard to bet on success



RAJA MANDALA
By C RAJA MOHAN

ON THE FACE of it, the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation this week in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, is well placed to lead the stabilisation of Afghanistan after the American retreat and the resurgence of the Taliban. Don't hold your breath, though.

For all the political hype, the SCO has not deepened regionalism in Central Asia. It does not shine in comparison with its peers in East Asia and Europe. Two decades after its formation — it was set up just weeks before the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington — the institutional promise of the SCO remains just that — a promise.

Seen from the subcontinent, the SCO certainly looks better than the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC). That India and Pakistan, whose differences have prevented even regular meetings of SAARC, are actively participating in the SCO, would point to its attractiveness. But then SAARC is such a low bar.

To be sure, the crisis in Afghanistan presents a major opportunity for the SCO to realise its regional ambitions. The SCO's importance for Afghanistan seems self-evident when you look at its sponsors and members. Its founding leaders are the two great powers of the east — Russia and China. Its other initial members were Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan to the north and northeast of Afghanistan. India and Pakistan were inducted as full members in 2017.

Besides Afghanistan, Iran, Belarus and Mongolia are observers. Iran is said to be on track for full membership. The SCO has a number of "dialogue partners". They include Armenia and Azerbaijan from the neighbouring Caucasus region and Turkey a step further to the West.

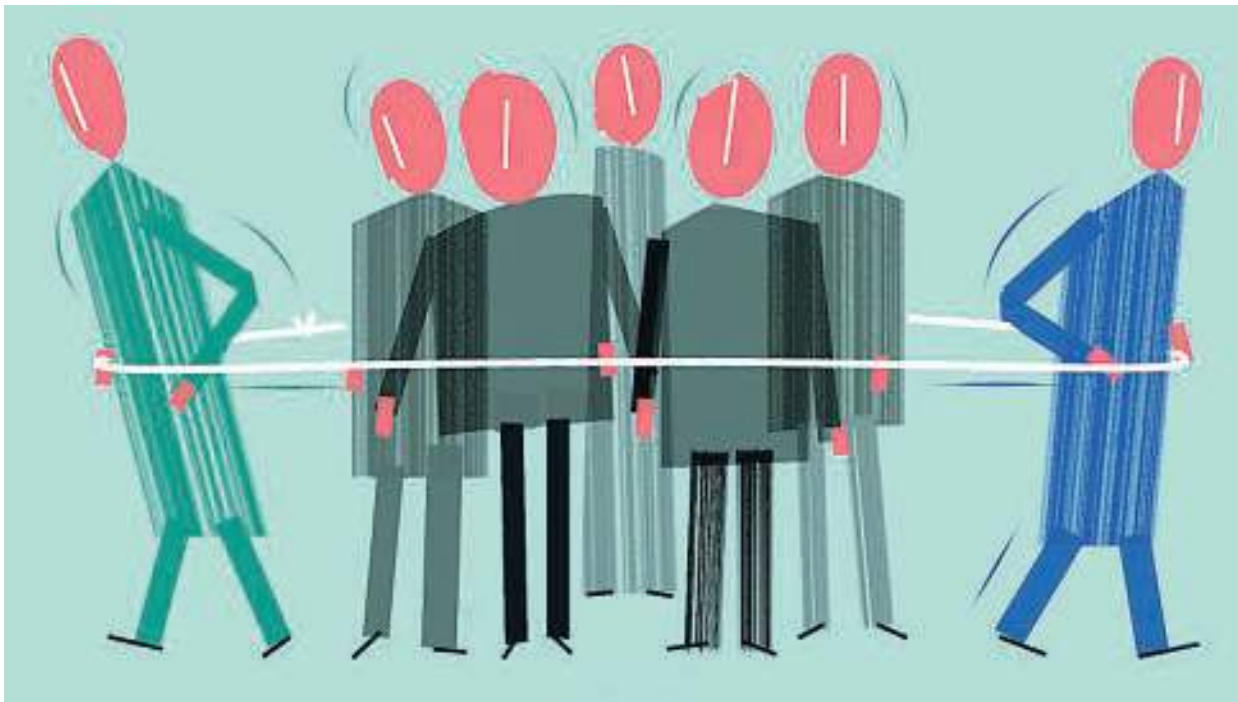
Nepal and Sri Lanka from the subcontinent and Cambodia from southeast Asia are also dialogue partners. For an organisation that bears the name of Shanghai, but is focused on Central Asia, its associates look disparate.

The SCO is expected to add Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia as dialogue partners. That diversity affects coherence is a major feature of regional institutions. As it broadened its membership, the SCO has, unsurprisingly, struggled to deepen institutional cooperation.

There is also one important country missing in the mix. It is Turkmenistan, which shares an 800 km border with Afghanistan and a 1,150 km border with Iran. The organising principle of Turkmenistan rulers is absolute "neutrality" — think of it as an extreme form of "non-alignment". It refuses to join any regional institution, political or military.

Russia's effort to build a regional institution in its Central Asian periphery ran parallel to its plans for the so-called "strategic triangle" with China and India.

The Russia-India-China strategic forum, which evolved into the BRICS, was about blunting, at the global level, the American "unipolar" moment that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The SCO was about limiting American reach into Central Asia.



C R Sasikumar

The SCO was preceded by the creation of a "Shanghai Five" — Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The three former Soviet republics shared a long frontier with China. The purpose of the Shanghai Five was to stabilise this frontier as well as build on the shared Sino-Russian interest in preventing American meddling in their Central Asian backyard.

Moscow and Beijing were also ill at ease with the American military presence in Afghanistan and its impact on Central Asia. The US military retreat from Afghanistan has brought cheer to both Moscow and Beijing, although publicly they criticise President Joe Biden's hasty retreat.

Would the US retreat weaken the glue that binds Moscow and Beijing in Central Asia or tighten it? Although Russia and China are closer to each other than ever before, their interests are not entirely the same in Central Asia.

While military confidence building measures have grown under the SCO banner, Russia had its own security organisation for the region, called the Central Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO). Three of the SCO members — Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan — along with Armenia and Belarus are members of the CSTO.

Russia sees itself as the sole protector of the former Soviet Republics and may not be ready to share that role with China — "yes" to coordination, but "no" to a Sino-Russian security dyarchy.

Moscow also appears reluctant to back Chinese proposals to promote trade integration under the SCO banner; it prefers the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) under its own leadership. China is not a member of either CSTO or EAEU. This is one reason for the weakness of SCO regionalism.

The Central Asian members of the SCO have quarrels of their own, and have struggled to develop collective approaches to their common regional security challenges. It is no surprise then that they are at variance on the Taliban.

Turkmenistan, which is not part of SCO, has been quite open to engaging the Taliban in sync with its principles of neutrality. Some Russian analysts see Turkmenistan as the po-

Like Moscow and Beijing, Tehran was happy to see the Americans leave in humiliation and appeared hopeful of a positive engagement with the Taliban. Those hopes may have been suspended for now, if not discarded. India and Pakistan, needless to say, are poles apart on the Taliban. Given this divergence, it is unlikely that the SCO can come up with a 'regional solution' for the Afghan crisis. The only real Afghan convergence today is between Pakistan and China. Expect them to try and nudge the SCO towards a positive engagement with the Taliban. Most others have serious concerns.

tential weak link in the defence against the Taliban's potential threats to the region. Uzbekistan seems open to a cautious engagement with the Taliban.

But Tajikistan, given its kinship with the Afghan Tajiks and direct links to the Panjshir valley across the border, has been sharply critical of Kabul's evolution under the Taliban. Iran, which has ethnic and linguistic links with the Persian-speaking Tajiks, appears equally worried about the Taliban's policies towards minorities.

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Given this divergence, it is unlikely that the SCO can come up with a "regional solution" for the Afghan crisis. The only real Afghan convergence today is between Pakistan and China. Expect them to try and nudge the SCO towards a positive engagement with the Taliban. Most others have serious concerns.

While the SCO is not an impressive regional institution, it remains an important diplomatic forum. Delhi has sought to make full use of the SCO's diplomatic possibilities without any illusions about its effectiveness.

At the SCO summit this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi should remind other leaders of the "three evils" that the SCO set out to defeat — terrorism, extremism and separatism. Few would disagree that the Taliban embodied all the three sins in the past. Today, the Taliban and its mentor Pakistan say the sinner wants to become a saint.

While India must contribute to the collective effort at SCO to hold the Taliban and Pakistan to their promises, it will be hard to bet on success. Delhi must focus on finding common ground with those members of the SCO who do share India's concerns about Afghanistan.

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

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"A wide-ranging crackdown and leftist rhetoric have stirred fears of a return to the apogee of Maoism."

—THE GUARDIAN

Challenge matters, not challenger

Opposition does not need an alternative to Modi, as much as it needs to convey fallibility of ruling party



GIRISH KUBER

SHARAD PAWAR'S RECENT "zamindar" dig at the Congress expectedly set a cat amongst the opposition's pigeons, who were chanting a mantra of unity against the BJP. The reactions that the old Maratha warhorse's statement triggered can be divided into two categories.

On the one hand is the secular camp, some of whose members are perennially wary about every move and statement of the Maratha strongman, for which he himself is to be blamed. This group comprises mainly of Congressmen who like to display their allegiance to the party's First Family and, as such, try to discredit any leader who can emerge as a challenger to Gandhi. Pawar unfailingly keeps providing ammunition to this group at regular intervals.

On the other hand are the BJP and RSS sympathisers. This group, having successfully sowed one thought in the politically-naïve middle class's mind, keeps posing the question: Where is an alternative to Narendra Modi? Helped unknowingly — but mostly knowingly — by the media, this question appears to have become a virtual political reality. The impression that there is no alternative to the BJP in general and to Modi in particular is the narrative successfully created and even more successfully marketed by the saffron camp. The situation on the ground unfortunately strengthens this, making the opposition's challenge even tougher. Before we deal with this "saamne hai kaun" (who can emerge as a challenger to Modi) question, some myths need to be busted.

The first and foremost myth is about how elections are won and lost in India. It needs to be said that in our "first-past-the-post" system, the opposition never wins. It is the ruling party that loses. And by virtue of the rulers' loss, the opposition gets a chance to lead. Our electoral history since 1951-52, when the first elections took place in independent India, will prove this often-overlooked fact. There is hardly an election which the opposition "won".

This negates the need to present a challenger to the ruler even before elections are held. It is always the electoral outcome that throws up the alternative. There was "no alternative" to Indira Gandhi in the post-Emergency elections, there was "no alternative" to Rajiv Gandhi after the historic mandate of 1984 and there was "no alternative" to Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the 2004 "India Shining" elections. It was after their losses that Morarji Desai, VP Singh and Manmohan Singh emerged. The situation was similar in the much-touted "positive vote-for-change-election" held in 2014 which catapulted Modi to the national stage. In 2014, it was due to the Congress's inept

handling of UPA II that the BJP succeeded in creating the "oust Manmohan Singh" feeling amongst the majority of voters. The exception, however, could be the subsequent election fought on a nationalist agenda, thanks to Pulwama and the following air strikes on Pakistan.

So the question that arises is: What makes the incumbent lose?

The answers are many and are applicable more or less to all dethroned PMs. The hubris that invariably sets in during the second term has been the primary cause in many a PM's loss. Add to it the complacency and the air of invincibility created by over-enthusiastic cronies. The third reason could be the free import of leaders from other parties which voters experience ahead of every election. Though most of these leaders get defeated, that has hardly proved to be a deterrent to the ruling parties' poaching of the opposition.

In India, it is strange to note that though the economy also plays a crucial role in stoking the fire against the ruling party of the day, it doesn't get due importance in the election agenda. To become an election issue, the economy needs to be tagged with inflation and/or joblessness. Election campaigning gets spiced up if these issues are coupled with large-scale corruption allegations. Indians love to defeat so-called corrupt leaders. In a land full of the dispossessed, anyone, especially from the ruling elite, seen amassing substantial wealth is a strict no-no for the common man. Remember the BJP's smartness in linking the corruption allegations against hordes of UPA ministers in 2014 to rising prices? Along with these come caste, religious equations and an ability to form alliances.

Every point stated above, except one, applies to the BJP. History proves that the window for the opposition opens up every time the ruling combine appears unconquerable. However, this is not to suggest that the opposition should wait till the ruling party starts digging its own grave. The opposition's success depends on how skillfully it conveys the fallibility of the ruler.

This brings us to the key question: Where is Modi's challenger? This question was posed to a few national leaders from different parties. The answers are interesting. "The tide will start turning the moment the opposition combine, especially Congress, issues a simple, two-line statement," a veteran leader said. Another spelt out what that "ideal" statement could be. It reads like this: None from the Gandhi family shall run for the PM's post and, should the situation arise, they will unitedly bring in a reputed technocrat, like Raghuram Rajan, under whom the government shall be formed.

"The surge that the BJP witnessed in 2019 is due to its success in bringing non-BJP voters into its fold. No party can be propelled to power only on its dedicated vote bank. It's the outsiders' votes that give it a surge. This can easily be reversed if the opposition plays its own masterstroke like this one," he says.

The writer is editor, Lokstat

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A CORRECTION

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Chandan The Pioneer' (IE, September 6). Chandan Bhan Prasad says *The Washington Post's* South Asia Bureau chief Kenneth J Cooper sought my help to find a Delhi journalist. I am surprised that Prasad has swallowed this untruth from the Internet. I have never met, known or spoken with Cooper and he never asked me to do what Prasad says he did. The article of mine to which Prasad refers, though published 25 years ago, continues to be discussed and cited. Any piece of writing that attracts so much attention on the net is bound to gather a lot of dross. Some have even claimed that Cooper was the first to research the subject of Dalit presence in Indian media and that I merely picked the idea from him. Let me clarify that there never was any foreign journalist who asked me that question. If at all, he was a figment of my imagination, just a peg created to hang my story on. I must also tell my friend, Mr. Prasad, that I am very much "a civilisational Indian and a Hindu" and yet fairly capable of pricking a mud-caked conscience, Hindu or whatever. This should not be mistaken as my inability to appreciate Mr. Prasad's well-intended sarcasm. Only he could have turned out a phrase so incisive, yet so free of any malice.

BN Uniyal, via email

CHANGE IN GUJARAT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Shrinking the CM' (IE, September 13). It's clear all is not well in Gujarat BJP. That is why Vijay Rupani was asked to go. The BJP leader-

ship's approach may cost the ruling party the state.

Bal Govind, Noida

RESPECT HISTORY

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Stones of Sabarmati' (IE, September 13). Historic sites such as the Sabarmati Ashram and events bind us together as a people. Attempts to redevelop these sites must not destroy the essence and originality of these symbols of our heritage.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

MORE THAN TECH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'IT-Plus', (IE, September 13). It's heartening that the old IITs are trying to make their curricula more holistic and contemporary. They are giving students the option of choosing non-technical courses. This liberal approach fits in with the emphasis on interdisciplinary studies as advocated by the New Education Policy adopted last year.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

PALM OIL ROUTE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The aatmanirbharta challenge' (IE, September 13). The author suggests that a focus on oil palm at the cost of wheat, rice and sugarcane could reduce India's dependence on edible oil imports. Our policymakers would, however, be well advised to learn the lessons from the counterparts in Indonesia, where the environmental consequences of oil palm have been well documented.

Bandana Pradhan, Lucknow



PRITAM SINGH

SHEILA BHALLA (1933-2021), professor emeritus at Jawaharlal Nehru University, an internationally renowned agricultural economist with special expertise on Haryana agriculture and a scholar deeply engaged with progressive and democratic movements in India passed away on September 5, 2021. She and her husband, G S Bhalla, were my teachers at the Department of Economics, Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh, and were the kind of teachers with whom you kept lifelong contact. G S Bhalla passed away in 2013.

Sheila, as she was affectionately known, was Canadian by background. She met Gurdarshan (G S Bhalla) when both were carrying out their postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics. Both were attracted to the socialist vision of reorganising economies and societies; in Sheila's case, she was influenced by her father, J C W Scott, a Canadian physicist and a radar specialist who was also a committed communist. This shared intellectual and political vision led to Gurdarshan and Sheila getting married and deciding to move to India.

Bhalla came from a large family originating from the village of Badhni Kalan near Moga. To engage meaningfully with her new Punjabi family, she acquired an excellent understanding of the Punjabi language and reasonable proficiency in spoken Punjabi. For a considerable period during their academic careers in Chandigarh and Delhi, Sheila looked after her husband's elderly

The engaged scholar

Sheila Bhalla combined rigour of research with support for peasant movements

erly mother who could only speak and understand Punjabi and developed a loving relationship with her.

The Bhallas spent their entire lives combining their superb academic work with multiple forms of support for workers' and peasants' movements and for democratic rights in India. I have so many memories of them, but will share just one today. When they joined PU in 1969, I had just entered the second year of my undergraduate studies. On September 2, 1969, the Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh passed away and some of us organised a meeting in the university to pay homage to his revolutionary leadership. Many students turned up but only two faculty members from the whole university joined the meeting — the Bhallas. It was a great boost to our morale and the beginning of a lifelong relationship.

The management of PU was, for a very long time, controlled by pro-Arya Samaj right-wing groups supported by the Congress Party and the Jan Sangh, and later by the Bharatiya Janata Party. Together with her husband, Sheila played an understated but critical role in challenging the dominance of these parties. They were assisted in this by their friends Dharam Vir of the Chemical Engineering department (a man of remarkable intellect and moral stature who was a life-long friend of the Bhallas) and Gurbaksh Singh Soch of the English department (who died young). They developed the Panjab University Teachers

Association (PUTA) from an organisation of virtually no importance to one that had critical significance to the governance of PU. When Professor Bhalla successfully challenged a heavy-weight pro-Congress faculty member (V N Tewari) for the office of president of PUTA, Sheila played a key role in organising and strategising their group's election campaign. Many left-wing teachers such as D N Jauhar, Manjit Singh and Ronki Ram (not to mention myself) later became presidents of PUTA, but the influence of left-wing ideology on the organisation was first created by the Bhallas and Vir. Whenever the history of PUTA is written, their names will feature as guiding stars.

During their time at PU, the major opportunity and breakthrough in the research career of the Bhallas came with the award of a substantial research project grant by the Haryana government to study the development of the Green Revolution in the state. Their first major publication, *Changing Agrarian Structure in India: A Study of the Impact of Green Revolution in Haryana* (1974), resulted from this project. One important finding of the study was the inverse relationship between farm size and productivity, that is, when farm size increases, farm output per acre decreases. The study's finding that small farmers are more productive resonates today with the farmers' movement in India, which aims to defend small and marginal farmers against the onslaught of big agro-business firms.

Subsequently and especially after their move to JNU, a division of intellectual labour seemed to develop between them — Sheila specialised in Haryana and other regions of India such as Andhra Pradesh, while G S Bhalla specialised in Punjab and Gujarat, among other regions. Sheila pioneered the study of agrarian relations in Haryana and published outstanding papers on the subject.

The tribute paid to Professor Sheila Bhalla by the All India Kisan Sabha (AIKS) recognises the convergence between her intellectual and political work:

"AIKS expresses deep grief at the passing away of Professor Sheila Bhalla, a life-long fighter for the cause of peasants and workers. Her vast array of work helps us to understand the impact of capitalist development on Indian agriculture, the plight of the poor, agricultural labourers, tenant farmers and other peasant groups. An agricultural economist of great renown, after her retirement she continued to live an active life dedicated to studying the changing face of agriculture and the impact of neoliberal economic policies."

Bhalla is survived by her daughter Sharan Rastogi, and her sons Upinder Singh Bhalla and Ravinder Singh Bhalla (all three have doctorates in their respective fields in India), and Yoginder Singh Bhalla, together with eight grandchildren.

The writer is Professor Emeritus, Oxford Brookes Business School

Man accused of BJP worker’s murder arrested: CBI

Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Monday said it has arrested an absconding accused in ongoing investigation of a murder case.

The arrested accused was produced before a court and was remanded to four days’ police custody. It is alleged that accused Dilip was involved in the murder of BJP worker Gourav Sarkar. The incident took place on May 2 in West Bengal’s Birbhum District.

The CBI had registered the case on the orders of the Calcutta High Court and taken over the investigation of the case earlier registered by the State Police at Police Station Ilanbazar, Birbhum, West Bengal.

So far, the CBI has registered 34 cases related to post-poll violence in Bengal and 20 persons have surrendered or arrested since CBI took the probe. During the weekend, the CBI arrested 11 people in two different cases related to post-poll violence. The Calcutta High Court directed the setting up of a Special Investigation Team to help the central agency during its investigation. **ENS**

BENGAL POST-POLL VIOLENCE PROBE

SC to hear Mamata govt plea against HC order on Sept 20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

The Supreme Court on Monday said it would hear on September 20 the West Bengal government’s appeal against a Calcutta High Court order allowing a court-monitored probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in cases of rape and murder reported during alleged post-poll violence in the state. The High Court had passed the order on August 19 after accepting the recommendations of a National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) panel.

A bench of Supreme Court Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose deferred the matter to go through a chart submitted by the state government. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal,

appearing for the state government, pointed to the members of the NHRC committee and asked, “Can you imagine these people have been appointed to collect the data? Is this a BJP investigating committee my Lords?”

He said for cases such as rape and murder there was the CBI, and for other criminal cases, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) comprising state police officers had been set up.

The top court then observed, “If somebody had a political past and if he lands up in an official position by that very fact will we treat him to be biased?”

Sibal submitted that the members were still writing social media posts related to the BJP, and asked how the NHRC chairperson could appoint such members. He sought an interim

order in the meantime. The top court then said that it would hear the case on September 20. “Nothing will happen. We’ll have it on Monday,” said the Bench.

The state government, in its special leave petition, alleged that it did not expect a fair and just investigation by the central agency, accusing it of foisting cases against the functionaries of ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

Earlier, lawyer Anindya Sundar Das, one of the PIL petitioners on whose plea the High Court issued the August 19 verdict, had filed a caveat in the top court urging that no order be passed without hearing him if the state or other litigant move appeals.

A five-judge bench of the High Court, headed by Acting

Chief Justice Rajesh Bindal, had ordered a CBI investigation in all alleged cases of heinous crimes in West Bengal reported after the Assembly poll results were declared on May 2. The BJP has accused the TMC of targeting its workers. The High Court Bench, which also comprised Justices IP Mukerji, Harish Tandon, Soumen Sen and Subrata Talukdar, observed that there were “definite and proved” allegations that complaints of the victims of violence in the aftermath of the West Bengal assembly polls were not even registered.

Ordering a court-monitored SIT probe in all other criminal cases, the court said the team would include West Bengal cadre IPS officers Suman Bala Sahoo, Soumen Mitra and Ranveer Kumar.

Bhupendra Patel sworn in as Gujarat Chief Minister

Shah, other Union ministers attend 10-min ceremony

PARIMAL DABHI & AVINASH NAIR
GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 13

GHATLODIA MLA Bhupendra Patel was sworn in as the 17th Chief Minister of Gujarat on Monday at an event in Raj Bhavan that barely lasted 10 minutes.

Among Patel’s first executive actions — taken even before the swearing-in ceremony — was to direct the Jamnagar district collector to airlift around 35 people stranded after heavy rains led to flooding in three villages.

Among those who attended Monday’s function at Raj Bhavan and sat on the dais included Union ministers Amit Shah, Mansukh Mandaviya, Prahlad Joshi, Narendra Singh Tomar, Parshottam Rupala, Mahendra Munjapara and Darshanajardosh. Also in attendance were Central BJP leaders B L Santhosh and Tarun Chugh, and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Goa and Karnataka. Gujarat BJP chief C R Paatil and Speaker of Gujarat Assembly, Rajendra Trivedi, were also on the dais. The family members of the newly appointed Chief Minister sat in the front row of the audience.

Shah led the new Chief Minister, outgoing chief minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy CM Nitin Patel onto the stage.

Pankaj Kumar, the newly appointed Chief Secretary of Gujarat, managed the proceedings on the stage as Governor Acharya Devvrat administered the oath of



Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel withoutgoing Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and others at the oath-taking ceremony in Gandhinagar on Monday. Nirmal Harindran

office and secrecy to the new Chief Minister in Gujarati. Patel will be the fifth Patidar CM of Gujarat and the third of the BJP.

After he was sworn in, a little after 2 pm, the new CM was greeted by leaders on the dais with flower bouquets wrapped in bright orange paper.

Before the swearing-in ceremony, CM Patel had visited Rupani and Nitin Patel at their residences.

Rupani, to a question on Opposition allegations of shortcomings in his government, said, “There has been no shortcoming. But I want to say that such a smooth changeover is only possible in the BJP. It would not have been possible in the Opposition”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Patel on Twitter, saying, “I have known him for years and have seen his exem-

plary work, be it in the BJP organisation or in civic administration and community service. He will certainly enrich Gujarat’s growth trajectory.”

In another tweet, PM Modi praised Rupani’s five-year tenure and said, “During his five years as CM, Vijay Rupani ji has undertaken many people-friendly measures. He worked tirelessly for all sections of society. I am certain he will continue to contribute to public service in the times to come.”

Later, in an interaction with the media, Rupani said, “I hope that [Bhupendra Patel] walks further ahead on the path of development laid out by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Under his leadership, we will win the upcoming elections (for Gujarat Assembly).” He added that he has extended his help and guidance to the new CM.

Permission denied for Abhishek rally on Sept 15 in Tripura

DEBRAJ DEB
AGARTALA, SEPTEMBER 13

THE TRIPURA Police have denied permission for a Trinamool Congress (TMC) rally here that the party’s national general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee was scheduled to address on September 15.

The police claimed that the approval for the public meeting was denied because another political party had been given permission to hold a rally the same day. While TMC alleged that the police action was part of the BJP’s conspiracy, the ruling party in Tripura said the Mamata Banerjee-led party had no organisational standing in the state, and was planning to bring outsiders from Assam and West Bengal for the rally to create unrest.

TMC MP Kunal Ghosh told reporters, “It is proven today that BJP is scared of the TMC’s growing acceptance in Tripura. TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee’s ‘padayatra’ was scheduled here on September 15. The excitement around his rally is palpable. So, the BJP hatched a conspiracy to disrupt this rally and have used the administration to deny us permission.”

In response, state Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said, “We have come to know they were not given permission. They didn’t apply in proper time in a proper way. Law will take its own path.”

He added, “Since they cannot cope with BJP karyakartas politically, they are trying to bring people from West Bengal, Silchar and Karimganj of Assam. We have got reports that they had plans to bring people of a certain section, and create hooliganism and unrest in Agartala and other parts of Tripura. They intended to politicise these issues.”

506 new Covid cases, 10 more die in Bengal

Kolkata: Kolkata and Nadia recorded three more deaths each due to Covid-19 in the past 24 hours in Bengal, which saw 10 new deaths. The total toll in the state now stands at 18,587. As many as 506 new cases were recorded in the state, taking the total number to 15,57,414. In the past 24 hours, 587 persons were discharged. Till date, 15,30,731 patients have been cured in Bengal. At present, there are 8,096 active cases in the state, with 6,755 in home isolation and 250 in safe homes. In the past 24 hours, North 24 Parganas recorded 104 new cases, Kolkata recorded 93 while Nadia recorded 46 new cases. **ENS**

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E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E – AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
Date of e-Auction : 16.10.2021

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to UCO Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in the following loan account with our branch with a right to sell the same on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS**” for realization of Bank’s dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-Auction platform provided at the website: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp>

Sr. SL. No.	a) Financing Branch Name & Phone No. b) Name of Authorised Person & Mobile No.	Name & Address of the a) Borrower/ Proprietor's Name & address, b) Guarantor	a) Demand Notice Date b) Possession Date c) Outstanding Balance as per Demand Notice	Description of Immovable property	A) Reserve Price B) Earnest Money Deposit (E.M.D.) C) Bid Increment Amount D) Date & Time of e-auction
1	a) Bankra (0739) bankra@ucobank.co.in b) Mr. Sivaji Satyajit (Authorised Officer) Mobile No. 9708137400	a) Mr. Asit Ghosh, S/O Fatik Ghosh, Add: Pakuria, PO Lakshmanpur, PS Domjur, Howrah-711114	a) 20.01.2020 b) 16.01.2021 c) Rs. 11,82,798/- (Plus unapplied interest cost & charges.)	All that piece or parcel of Bastu land and 2 storey Building Situated at Mouza-Puillya, Paul Para, PS Jagacha, Howrah Municipal Corporation, Ward No 46, Dist Howrah, LR Dag No 21, RS Dag No 23, R.S Khatian No 45, LR Khatian No 14 & 347, JL No116, Area of land and Building 5 Cuttah, 9Chittack, 30 Sq ft Bastu, Land, Book No. 1, Vol No 8, Page No 1301 to 1316, Deed No 02649 for the year 2012, A.D.S.R Office Domjur, Property stands in the name of Asit Ghosh.	A) Rs.49,68,250.00 B) Rs.5,00,000.00 C) Rs.10,000.00 D) On 16.10.2021 from 1.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. (with unlimited extension of 10 mins.)
2	a) Kanchrapara (1018) kanchr@ucobank.co.in b) Mr. Ashish Kumar Verma (Authorised Officer) Mobile No. 9557141147	a) Mr. Tapan Kumar Mahajan b) Mrs. Dilley Mahajan (Co-Borrower) , Add:- 53/52/53 Acharjee Para Lane, Halisahar Municipality, P.S – Bizpur, Dist – 24 Pgs (N), Pin -743134. Guarantor – Mr. Chandan Deb , Vill.- Uttar Aranghata, P.O.- Aranghata, P.S.- Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia, Pin-741501	a) 26.04.2021 b) 03.08.2021 c) Rs.18,61,846.26 (Plus unapplied interest cost & charges.)	All That Piece and Parcel of land measuring area 3 Cottha or 2160 Sq.ft. with building thereon with covered area 874 Sq.ft. and located at Mouza- Halisahar, J.L.No. 6, Re. Sa. No-37, Hal Touzi No. 1, R.S. Khatian No- 4874, L.R. Khatian No- 4104, R.S. Dag No- 467/2135, Hal L.R. Dag No – 793, Under Halisahar Municipality, Ward No – 3, Holding No. 53/52/53, Acharjee Para Lane, P.S- Bizpur, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin – 743134, Deed No – I-8421 of 2010, Book No. I, CD Volume No. 22, Page from 3995 to 4004, Property in the name of Tapan Kumar Mahajan registered in the A.D.S.R. - Naihati, Dist. - North 24 Parganas. Butted and bounded by:- On the North - Property of Others. On the South - 15 ft. wide Road. On the East - Property of Jugol Sikder. On the West - Property of Sunil Mallick.	A) Rs.8,10,000.00 B) Rs.81,000.00 C) Rs.10,000.00 D) On 16.10.2021 from 1.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. (with unlimited extension of 10 mins.)
3	a) Barasat (0655) barasa@ucobank.co.in b) Mr. Naveen Kumar Jha (Authorised Officer) Mobile No. 9433229759	a) M/S PAL CHOWDHURY AUTOMOBILES , Add:- 4 NO SHOP, WIRELESS PARA, OPPOSITE LOKNATH MANDIR, BARRACKPORE , NORTH 24 PGS, KOL- 700122 b)MR ASHOK PAL CHOWDHURY (Partner) ADD:-578, S. N. BANERJEE ROAD, MISTRIGHAT, MONIRAMPORE, PO & PS- BARRACKPORE, 24 PGS(N), KOL-700128 MR ASIS PAL CHOWDHURY (Partner) KANONAPARTMENT, FLAT NO-1,TYPE-A,107, S. N.BANERJEE ROAD, DASPARA,MONIRAMPORE ,PO & PS- BARRACKPORE, 24 PGS (N),KOL-700120	a) 12.05.2021 b) 27.07.2021 c) Rs. 24,06,025.57 (Plus unapplied interest cost & charges.)	1) All that part and parcel of ground floor shop no. 4 (283 Sq.ft. covered area) and bathroom (12 Sq.ft. covered) total covered area 295 Sq.ft. more or less situated at Mouza- Chak-kanhaila, J.L.No. 6, Touzi No. 172, Khatian No. R.S. -115, L.R. Khatian no - 1191 & 1192, Dag No. R.S.- 86, L.R. Dag No- 187, inward no. 24, under Mohanpore Gram Panchayet, P.S- Titagarh, Dist. 24 Parganas (N). Being Deed No. I – 03206 for the year 2016, Book No – I, CD Volume No.1505, page from 81883 to 81907, which was registered at A.D.S.R.O.- Barrackpore, Property in the name of Mr. Ashok Pal Chowdhury & Mr. Asis Pal Chowdhury, All Them S/o- Late Dilip Pal Chowdhury. 2) All that part and parcel of a complete marble floor commercial unit being shop no. S-2 measuring about 165 sq.ft. Super built up area on the Ground Floor of the west side of the Building called “Eastern Tower” it is situated in G-4 storied building constructed on the plot of land measuring about 11 Cottas 01 Chittaks 03 Sq.ft. situated at Mouza-Monirampur, J.L. No. 2, Khatian No. C.S.- 252 & 550, L.R. Khatian No - 3401, Dag No. R.S.- 251/493 & 251, With in the Ward no. 19 (old), 22 (new), S. N. Banerjee Road of the North Barrackpore Municipality, P.S- Barrackpore, Dist. 24 Parganas (N). Being Deed No. 02426 for the year 2014, Book no. - I, CD Volume No. 6, page from 4464 to 4494, which was registered at A.D.S.R.O.- Barrackpore. Property in the name of Mr. Asis Pal Chowdhury, S/o- Late Dilip Pal Chowdhury & Mrs. Soma Pal Chowdhury, W/o Mr. Asis Pal Chowdhury.	A) Rs.11,72,000.00 B) Rs.1,17,200.00 C) Rs. 10,000.00 D) On 16.10.2021 from 1.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. (with unlimited extension of 10 mins.)
4	a) Dum Dum (0163) dumdum@ucobank.co.in b) Miss. Priyanka Goswami (Authorised Officer) Mobile No. 9831850714	a) M/S Ganesh Enterprise , Prop:- Mr. Animesh Mahaller Add:- 350/B, M.B.Road, “Pal Villa”, Flat No – 2/C, North DumDum Municipality, Birati, Kolkata - 700051 b) Mrs. Ananya Mahalder (Gurantor) Add:- 350/B, M.B.Road, “Pal Villa”, Flat No – 2/C, North DumDum Municipality, Birati, Kolkata - 700051	a) 27.12.2019 b) 04.03.2020 c) Rs.20,52,778.46 (Plus unapplied interest cost & charges.)	All that a flat being No. 2/C, measuring 650 Sq. Ft. at South-East on the Second Floor of the multi storied building named as “Pal Villa” within the plot of land measuring 5 Cottah 6 Chattak 36 Sq. Ft. compromised in R.S Dag No. 156, R.S Khatian No. 316, New Khatian No. 791 and 283, Mouza Gouripur, J.L. No. 06, Re. Su. No. 121, Touzi No.63/172, Municipal Holding No.175 (558), M.B. Road, Ward No. 18, under North DumDum Municipality, A.D.S.R.O Bidhannagar (Salt Lake City), P.S – Airport, Dist.- N-24 Parganas.	A) Rs.16,50,000.00 B) Rs.1,65,000.00 C) Rs.10,000.00 D) On 16.10.2021 from 1.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m. (with unlimited extension of 10 mins.)

Terms & Conditions:

1. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link: <https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp> and <https://ibapi.in> ; prospective bidders may also contact the Authorised Officers on cell numbers as mentioned in above list.

2. This is also a **30 days’ notice** to the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of the above said loan about holding of this sale on the above mentioned date.

3. The above properties/assets shall be sold on “**AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT ISBASIS “AND WITHOUT ANY RECOURSE BASIS**”. The intending bidder should make their own inquiries regarding any statutory liabilities, arrears of Property Tax, Electricity dues etc. relating to the above properties by themselves before participating in the Auction Sale process.

4. For inspection of the property/ies, the intending bidders may contact Respective Branches of UCO Bank, during office hours between **14.09.2021 to 15.10.2021**.

5. The successful bidder shall have to deposit **25%** (twenty five percent) of the bid amount, less EMD amount deposited, immediately and the remaining amount shall have to be paid within **15 days** from the date of auction. In case of failure to deposit the amount within the time as stipulated, the amount paid will be forfeited by the Authorized Officer and Authorized Officer shall have the liberty to cancel the auction and conduct a fresh auction.

6. On receipt of the entire sale consideration, the Authorized Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate as per rules.

7. All expenses relating to stamp duty and registration of Sale Certificate / conveyance, if any, shall be borne by the successful bidder.

8. The Authorized Officer will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrance, property tax or any other dues to the Government or anybody in respect of the property under sale.

9. The Authorized Officer has the absolute right to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason thereof. It may be noted that nothing in this notice constitute or deemed to constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the bank to sell the property.

Date: 14.09.2021
Place: Salt Lake
Authorized Officer
UCO Bank



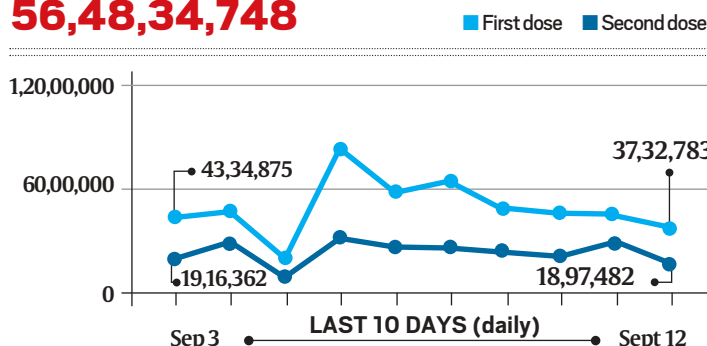
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

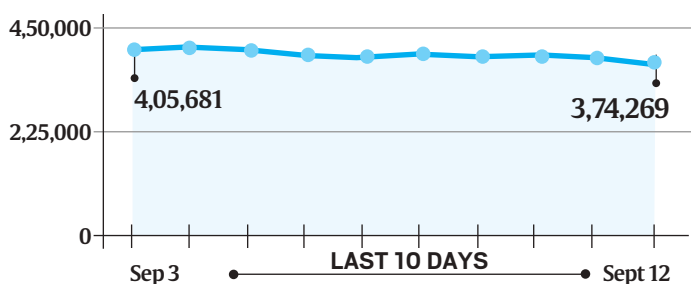
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)

56,48,34,748

TOTAL DOSES
74,38,37,643

(Sputnik V's 8,42,819 doses not represented in pie)

COVISHIELD
88.2%
COVAXIN
11.7%
DOSES ON SEPT 12: 56,30,265
SEPT 11: 76,17,690 (1ST DOSE: 45,60,538; 2ND: 30,57,152)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES
3,74,269


Note: The Sept 12 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 13

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,32,64,175

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on September 13

Masks do not increase body temperature during exercise in the heat, study shows

A NEW PAPER published in *Sports Health* has demonstrated that exercising in the heat with a face mask on does not significantly increase body temperature or heart rate during exercise. Ayami Yoshihara, director of Sport Safety at the University of Connecticut's Korey Stringer Institute, tested four kinds of face mask: a surgical mask; an N95; a gaiter (which covers the neck and goes over the nose and mouth); and a sport mask. None of them significantly increased body temperature or heart rate compared to the group without a face mask, UConn said in a press release.

Participants walked or jogged for 60 minutes in a 90°F (32°C) environment at low to moderate exercise intensities. Yoshihara and her team also measured the humidity and temperature inside and outside of the face mask. They placed a sensor inside and outside of the facemasks on participants' faces.

They found the sport mask and gaiter became significantly more humid as the materials absorbed more sweat and water vapour from exhaled air. While participants did report a greater degree of breathing discomfort during exercise with a facemask because of the changes in humidity and temperature inside of the face mask, there was no relationship between reported discomfort and measures of body temperature and heart rate.

According to the release, Yoshihara hopes this research can help shape guidelines for athletes who are exercising and competing during the summer and into the fall while ambient temperatures are still high. "It's feasible and safe to use masks during low to moderate intensity exercise in the heat," the release quoted Yoshihara as saying.

Source: University of Connecticut



NEW RESEARCH



RAVISH TIWARI

ONE HUNDRED and seventeen Indian nationals or persons of Indian origin were killed in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In the years that followed, the long shadow of the attacks touched the lives of a very large number of people in this country, and left a prominent signature on its domestic politics.

The 9/11 attacks lent global credibility to the concerns long expressed by India about cross-border (transnational) terror. The attacks made it easier for the Indian state to jettison the remnants of its Cold War mindset, and to be unapologetic about moving closer to the US.

Internally, the political fault lines that emerged as part of the complex social consequences of the attacks have continued to shape Indian politics in direct and indirect ways.

Some of the most commonly articulated binaries of the last two decades — secularism/pseudo-secularism (alleged vote-bank politics), jihadist terror/radical Hindutva, national/anti-national — have been informed by assumptions born out of global Islamophobia, and the clamour around the world for 'strong' or 'tough' government policy post-9/11.

The insecurity and anxieties triggered by Islamist terrorism fed into a reactionary jingoistic nationalism, and made the Hindutva rhetoric of the BJP more appealing to more people. They helped boost politicians such as Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, who would use this launchpad to spectacular effect, and eventually reshape domestic politics.

The most overt imprint of 9/11 was seen in the enactment and use of anti-terror laws such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), Gujarat Control of Organised Crime Act (GUJCOC), and National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, and amendments in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) over the last two decades.

POTA, India's version of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, was passed in March 2002, in the aftermath of the attacks in the US and on Parliament on December 13, 2001. The Congress and its allies, who were critical of the harsh provisions of the Bill, ensured its defeat in Rajya Sabha where they were in a majority — the government of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee then took the rare step of getting the Bill passed in a joint sitting of Parliament. The law was repealed within months of the Congress-led UPA coming to power in 2004.

Meanwhile, the government of then Chief Minister Modi had introduced the GUJCOC Bill



L K Advani's 'Mazboot Neta, Nirnayak Sarkar' pitch did not succeed in 2009. Five years later, Narendra Modi leveraged the image of a strong, decisive leader to spectacular effect. Express Archive

in the Assembly in 2003, drawing from POTA and the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999. But President APJ Abdul Kalam withheld his assent, and his successors Pratibha Patil and Pranab Mukherjee sent the Bill back to the Gujarat Assembly.

It wasn't until 2019, with Ram Nath Kovind, the BJP's own man, in Rashtrapati Bhavan, that the law — with some key changes — came into force. Amit Shah, who had piloted the Bill in Gujarat as junior home minister after it was rejected by the President in 2009, is now Union Home Minister. Through this period, the BJP underlined the seeming binary of its own muscular nationalism and patriotism, versus the alleged political appeasement of Muslims by the Congress, which, it was suggested, extended to a softness of approach towards Islamist terror.

So, when Congress president Sonia Gandhi referred to "maut ke saudagar" during the Gujarat election campaign of 2007, Modi hit back with barbs on the delay in hanging Afzal Guru, who had been convicted under POTA for his role in the 2001 Parliament attack case. "Sonabiens, if you cannot hang Afzal, hand him over to Gujarat. We will hang him," Modi taunted her, turning his provincial election campaign into virtually a national ideological battle.

Battered politically by a string of corruption scandals, the UPA government did hang Afzal Guru less than a year before the 2014 elections — but the BJP had by then seized the initiative on the 'national security' issue.

Earlier, worried about the political fallout from the attacks on Mumbai in November 2008, the UPA government had amended the UAPA and constituted the NIA, drawing from the same POTA provisions that it had repealed in 2004. Only months before the 26/11 attacks,

leged hoarding of it by the stock holders," Sensarma wrote. The government has asked for declaration of stocks held by traders, millers, stockists etc which would be verified by the state government. The latter have been asked to monitor prices of edible oil and oilseeds on a weekly basis.

This is the Centre's second such intervention since August, when it reduced import duty on soyabean oil and sunflower oil, from 38.50% to 30.25% (crude) and from 49.50% to 41.25% (refined).

The price rise

Edible oil prices have risen 20-30% year-on-year, fuelled by global trends. Average retail prices have risen from Rs 150.50/litre a year ago to Rs 177.91 now for of groundnut

the Union Home Ministry had filed an affidavit in the Gujarat High Court justifying the refusal to grant consent to the GUJCOC Bill.

The current government has used the laws enacted by the UPA after the repeal of POTA to prosecute 16 accused in the Bhima Koregaon case. The judicial deference towards the executive that is built into these laws has meant there is little reprieve to the accused irrespective of their age, gender, or medical condition.

The Hindutva politics of the Ram Temple and the political counter to the alleged appeasement of minorities, which propelled the BJP under Vajpayee and L.K. Advani, had its limitations — these were exposed in 2004 Lok Sabha elections that followed the political polarisation after the 2002 Gujarat riots. The series of terror attacks across the country during the Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh governments added to the national anxiety. The global post-9/11 Islamophobia had an India chapter; there was also a feeling that governments needed to be tougher on terror.

In his autobiography *My Country, My Life*, released ahead of the elections of 2008, Advani wrote: "No faith condones the killing of innocent persons and therefore, terrorists have no religion. Nevertheless, it is also an irrefutable fact that one of the most virulent forms of terrorism in our times seeks the cover of Islam... The ideological basis of terrorism in India has been unmistakably anti-national in its intent and pan-Islamic in its appeal."

Advani painted the repeal of POTA as emancipation of India's fight against terrorism, done for the alleged political appeasement of Muslims. As home minister, Advani had leveraged the provisions of POTA to ban over two

dozen organisations in the country, including SIMI. "I was deeply disappointed over the Congress party's proclivity to view POTA through the prism of vote-bank politics," Advani wrote in his book. "Together with its allies, it had conducted a contemptible campaign to project POTA as 'anti-Muslim'. But what filled me with agony was when the Congress-led UPA government repealed POTA in September 2004, and even advertised this blatant legislative disarming of India's battle against terrorism to be one of its proud achievements."

He went on to caution "all patriotic Indians to think about the grave security implications of such short-sighted and expedient policies, which have made India 'a soft state'."

Unlike the Ram Temple, which tapped into Hindu religious sentiments for a political purpose, the subtext of terrorism sought to use national security to burnish the BJP's ideological politics. Advani's campaign slogan for his 2009 prime ministerial bid was "Mazboot Neta, Nirnayak Sarkar". It did not bring Advani the electoral success he had hoped for — but five years later, his political protégé Modi would successfully tap into the yearning for a strong/hard government to unseat the flailing UPA with a historic majority.

The simplistic binary choice formulated by President George W Bush — "with us or against us" — came to inform several subtexts in domestic politics in the years after 9/11. The seeming preference for a decisive, centralised government that would hand out instant justice without wasting time in deliberation has entered the popular psyche.

Arvind Kejriwal caught the nation's imagination by promising swift retribution against allegedly corrupt people through his Lokpal agitation. The with-me-or-against-me political choice he offered came wrapped in nationalistic symbolism — and as Kejriwal now tries to expand the footprint of the Aam Aadmi Party, he is seeking to follow the Hindu nationalistic arch of the BJP.

Prime Minister Modi's demonetisation decision of 2016, taken with limited consultation, can be framed within the paradigm of the strong, decisive leader. The surgical strikes across the LoC were intended to be a decisive repudiation of the image of the 'soft state' that Advani lamented. Whether India is soft or hard in its response to the Chinese on the LAC in Ladakh, however, remains an open question — one that the opposition has not been able to spin enough to corner the government.

The dissent against the GST, the triple talaq law, the dilution of Article 370, the ban on cow slaughter, and the laws against inter-religious marriages, have all been presented by the BJP and government in terms of national/anti-national binaries.

(Ravish Tiwari is political editor and chief of political bureau)

Govt moves on edible oil prices: why now

PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS
 PUNE, SEPTEMBER 13

WITH MONTHS left for elections in five states including UP, the Centre has been taking various measures to control prices of edible oils.

Interventions so far

On Thursday, Manisha Sensarma, Economic Adviser of the Ministry of Public Distribution, Food and Consumer Affairs, wrote to the Chief Secretaries of all states and Union Territories directing their attention to the spurt in price of edible oil and oilseeds. "Recently despite reduction in import duty, a sudden spurt in prices Edible oils/oilseeds has been observed which may be due to al-

leged hoarding of it by the stock holders," Sensarma wrote. The government has asked for declaration of stocks held by traders, millers, stockists etc which would be verified by the state government. The latter have been asked to monitor prices of edible oil and oilseeds on a weekly basis.

This is the Centre's second such intervention since August, when it reduced import duty on soyabean oil and sunflower oil, from 38.50% to 30.25% (crude) and from 49.50% to 41.25% (refined).

The price rise

Edible oil prices have risen 20-30% year-on-year, fuelled by global trends. Average retail prices have risen from Rs 150.50/litre a year ago to Rs 177.91 now for of groundnut

oil, from Rs 104.27 to Rs 151.43 for soya oil, from Rs 126.17 to Rs 172.55 for mustard oil, and from Rs 94.18 to Rs 132.46 for palm oil. The price of even Vanaspathi, which is sold as an economical substitute for ghee or butter, has risen from Rs 94.18 to Rs 132.46 per litre.

Why interventions now

Two main reasons can be attributed to the decision so close to the start of the kharif harvest, expected to start next month. Ahead of Assembly polls, food inflation is the last thing any government would want to face.

The other reason is uncertainty over the harvest due to an uneven spread of monsoon rains. As of Friday, the country has received 720.7 mm rainfall as against the normal 777.3, an shortfall of 7%. While the monsoon has re-

vived over the last few days, the uneven spread has already taken its toll on crops. A long dry spell from July until the end of August has put crops under moisture stress.

In a recent crop status and health report, the Indore-based Soyabean Processors Association of India (SOPA) has indicated crops over 12.83% of the total 115.51 lakh hectare (lh) sown area is in poor condition.

Bimal Kothari, vice chairman of India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA), referred to the lull in the monsoon in August. "Although the kharif crop has been sown a little more than last year, the actual output will be known only during the harvest time. If the crops face heavy rainfall activity during harvest period, we may see some damage to urad and moong crop," he said.

Based on extensive industry engagement conducted by DTCC throughout 2020, early indications suggest market participants favour the move to T+1, especially during times of high volatility and stressed markets. "Based on simulations detailed in the paper, DTCC estimates that a move to T+1 could bring a 41 per cent reduction in the volatility component of NSCC's margin," DTCC said.

Based on extensive industry engagement conducted by DTCC throughout 2020, early indications suggest market participants favour the move to T+1, especially during times of high volatility and stressed markets. "Based on simulations detailed in the paper, DTCC estimates that a move to T+1 could bring a 41 per cent reduction in the volatility component of NSCC's margin," DTCC said.

T+1 settlement system: how it works, and how it will help investors

GEORGE MATHEW
 MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 13

IF STOCK markets agree to the proposal for the T+1 settlement system made by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), investors will get money for shares they sold or bought in their accounts faster, and in a safer and risk-free environment.

What has SEBI allowed?

On September 7, SEBI allowed stock exchanges to start the T+1 system as an option in place of T+2. If it opts for the T+1 settlement cycle for a scrip, the stock exchange will have to mandatorily continue with it for a minimum 6 months. Thereafter, if it intends to switch back to T+2, it will do so by giving one

month's advance notice to the market. Any subsequent switch (from T+1 to T+2 or vice versa) will be subject to a minimum period. A stock exchange may choose to offer the T+1 settlement cycle on any of the scrips, after giving at least one month's advance notice to all stakeholders, including the public at large.

Why T+1 settlement?

According to a SEBI paper, a shortened cycle not only reduces settlement time but also reduces and frees up the capital required to collateralise that risk. T+1 also reduces the number of outstanding unsettled trades at any instant, and thus decreases the unsettled exposure to Clearing Corporation by 50%. The narrower the settlement cycle, the narrower the time window for a counterparty insolvency/bankruptcy to impact the settlement of

a trade. Further, the capital blocked in the system to cover the risk of trades will get proportionately reduced with the number of outstanding unsettled trades at any point of time. Systemic risk depends on the number of outstanding trades and concentration of risk at critical institutions such as clearing corporations, and becomes critical when the magnitude of outstanding transactions increases. Thus, a shortened settlement cycle will help in reducing systemic risk, SEBI says.

How does T+2 work?

If an investor sells shares on Tuesday, settlement of the trade takes place in two working days (T+2). The broker who handles the trade will get the money on Thursday, but will credit the amount in the investor's account only by Friday. In effect, the investor will get

the money only after three days.

In T+1, settlement of the trade takes place in one working day and the investor will get the money on the following day. The move to T+1 will not require large operational or technical changes by market participants, nor will it cause fragmentation and risk to the core clearance and settlement ecosystem.

In April 2002, stock exchanges had introduced a T+3 rolling settlement cycle. This was shortened to T+2 from April 1, 2003.

Why are foreign investors opposing it?

Foreign investors have written to SEBI and the Finance Ministry about operational issues they would face while operating from different geographies — time zones, information flow process, and foreign exchange problems. Foreign investors will also find it difficult to

hedge their net India exposure in dollar terms at the end of the day under the T+1 system.

In 2020, SEBI had deferred the plan to halve the trade settlement cycle to one day (T+1) following opposition from foreign investors. According to an earlier schedule, the Sebi board was to decide on the issue at one of its board meetings in 2020.

What's the global scenario?

In February 2021, the US Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation (DTCC), the premier market infrastructure for the global financial services industry, released a two-year industry roadmap for shortening the settlement cycle for US equities to one business day after the trade is executed (T+1). DTCC highlighted the immediate benefits of moving to T+1, including cost savings, reduced market

ASSAM FOREIGNERS' TRIBUNAL

Assam to FTs: Give opinion, not orders on nationality

TORA AGARWALA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE ASSAM government has directed Foreigners' Tribunals (FTs) — which adjudicate citizenship in the state — to stick to giving "opinion" on a person's nationality, and refrain from passing any "consequential orders".

A written communication from Parijat Bhuyan, deputy secretary of the political (B) department of the Assam government, to members of FTs on September 4, said that the state judicial department had carried out a performance assessment exercise of "opinions" passed by FTs, and found that members had passed "consequential orders" while rendering opinion — something the state's judicial department "has viewed with seriousness".

Set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 1964, FTs are quasi-judicial bodies that adjudicate citizenship in Assam, and are now the last recourse for the 19 lakh excluded from the contentious National Register of Citizens (NRC). Apart from NRC dropouts, FTs have been adjudicating cases of 'doubtful voters' and other references made by the Border Police in Assam.

As per the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, FTs were constituted to give an "opinion" on whether a person is a foreigner or not, as per Foreigners Act, 1946 (31 of 1946).

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Maharashtra SEC announces bypolls to OBC seats in local bodies on October 5

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 13

BY-ELECTIONS WILL be held on October 5 for more than 200 seats in six Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis in Maharashtra that were vacated as per the Supreme Court's March 4 order striking down OBC reservations in local bodies until the state had enough empirical data on OBCs.

The State Election Commission on Monday announced the bypolls following a September 9 ruling by the apex court that the state government's August 11 Covid restrictions were not applicable to the by-election process. The court had also asked the commission to take a decision

on completing the remaining stages of by-elections.

The bypolls will be the first elections to be held in the state after the Supreme Court order on March 4 reading down the OBC quota. Elections to these seats had been held earlier subject to the outcome of the petitions challenging the quota that the Supreme Court was then considering.

Aside from ruling that there would be no OBC quota in local bodies until the state gathers empirical data on OBCs, the SC also ordered the immediate vacation of the OBC seats and asked the state poll panel to initiate by-elections for these seats.

The OBC seats were then converted to general category seats. A draw was held to reserve 50 per

HC sets aside FT order: Citizenship important right

TORA AGARWALA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

IN A significant judgment, the Gauhati High Court has set aside an ex-parte order by a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) declaring a Morigaon resident as a foreigner in his absence.

Passing an order on a petition filed by Asoruddin, a resident of Moirabari of Morigaon district, a Division Bench of Justice Manish Choudhary and Justice N Kotiswar Singh held that citizenship was an "important right of a person" and should be decided on the "basis of merit" by considering the material evidences that may be adduced by the person concerned and "not by way of default" as happened in the present case.

The judges said that the petitioner had pointed out that his name, along with that of his grandparents, parents, has appeared in the voters' lists of 1965, 1970 and 1971, as residing in Sahariapam village in Assam's Nagaon district. "Accordingly, it has been submitted that otherwise, there are sufficient documents and evidences to prove that he is an Indian citizen," order said.

The judges, however, did not overturn the order but sent the matter back to the FT, observing that there were "factual aspects which must be ordinarily considered by the Foreigners' Tribunal and not by this Court". It directed the petitioner to appear before the FT (2nd), Morigaon, on or before November 8.

Asoruddin's advocate, M A Sheikh, argued that he could not appear for his hearing because he was "very poor" and could not "readily collect the relevant documents". "He also could not communicate with the engaged counsel nor his counsel communicated with him the subsequent dates fixed by the Tribunal. Further, it has been submitted that the petitioner had to leave the State of Assam for Kerala for earning his livelihood," submitted Sheikh.

Asoruddin was marked as a D-voter or Doubtful Voter "without proper examination of his documents", he said, adding that on receiving notice from the Tribunal, Asoruddin on February 12, 2010, appeared before it "as he had no intention to evade proceedings".

The counsel representing the FT objected to Asoruddin's petition saying it "ought not to be entertained" as he was absent during the proceedings.

However, the judges said they had taken into account Asoruddin's circumstances and there were "sufficient reasons" for him not being able to appear before the FT. "We are inclined to afford another opportunity to the petitioner to appear before the Foreigners' Tribunal to prove that he is an Indian, not a foreigner," the order said.

The order added that Asoruddin will remain on bail during the proceedings, and that he should appear before the SP (Border), Morigaon, within 15 days from September 9 furnishing a bail bond of Rs 5,000.

NCP, BJP to field OBC candidates

Mumbai: The NCP and BJP on Monday said they will field OBC candidates in the bypolls for six Zilla Parishads in Maharashtra to be held on October 5. The bypolls will be held for 85 Zilla Parishad seats and 144 gram panchayat seats, with both state BJP chief Chandrakant Patil and NCP spokesperson and minister Nawab Malik confirming that their parties would field OBC candidates from seats that had turned "open" from "reserved for OBCs". PTI

He said he also prayed to lord Hanumana at the Hanumangarhi temple to bless the AAP to form a government in Uttar Pradesh so that the people of the state get good education, quality health services, electricity, water and employment ?like in Delhi".

The two leaders recited the verses of 'Hanuman Chalisa' at the Hanumangarhi temple.

The Delhi's ruling party launching its Uttar Pradesh campaign from Ayodhya — the city of the country's most disputed religious site — becomes symbolically important. Political parties including the BJP, the SP the BSP have used Ayodhya to kick start their campaigns as momentum builds for the 2022 polls.

AAP'S TIRANGA YATRA IN AYODHYA TODAY

Prayed for establishing Ram Rajya in UP: Sisodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
AYODHYA, SEPTEMBER 13

AAP LEADERS Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh offered special prayers at the Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanumangarhi temple here as they launched the party's campaign for the 2022 Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh.

They will also lead the Aam Aadmi Party's Tiranga Yatra Tuesday in Faizabad that will start from the 18th century mausoleum of Nawab Shuja-ud-Daulah and end at Gandhi Park in the city.

Sisodia, the Delhi deputy chief minister, and Singh, the AAP's in-charge for Uttar



Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia at a temple in Ayodhya on Monday. PTI

Pradesh affairs, offered their prayers amid the chants of mantras. They also took holy dip in the Saryu river and had a

lunch with sadhus. "I prayed to lord Rama for the establishment of the Ram Rajya in Uttar Pradesh," Sisodia said.

TN clears Bill to exempt state from NEET, BJP stages walkout

ARUN JANARDHANAN
CHENNAI, SEPTEMBER 13

ON A day the Opposition AIADMK blamed the DMK government for student suicides due to the unfulfilled promise of cancelling the National Entrance-cum-Eligibility Test, the Tamil Nadu Assembly passed a Bill to restore the medical admissions mechanism that existed in the state before the introduction of NEET.

The Bill, which allows for admissions to undergraduate courses in medicine, dentistry, Indian medicine and homoeopathy on the basis of class 12 marks, also provides for 7.5 per cent horizontal reservation for the students of government schools in medical admission. The Bill said the NEET "feters inequality, as it favours the rich and more privileged class of society who are able to afford special coaching, apart from pursuing class 12".

While the opposition AIADMK supported the move, the BJP staged a walkout to protest against the government's decision. BJP's Nainar Nagenthiran insisted NEET had its benefits like increased pass percentage.

Introducing the Bill, Chief



AIADMK MLAs outside Assembly on Monday; party blamed government for the suicides. PTI

Minister M K Stalin said the state government is moving this legislation as it has the competency, saying that admissions to "medical education courses are traceable to entry 25 of List III, Schedule VII of the Constitution".

The Bill was crafted on the basis of recommendations from a state appointed high-level committee by Justice A K Rajan to look at various aspects and impact of NEET, including "whether the NEET is an equitable method for selection of students and also to consider the effect of mushrooming NEET coaching centres on the educational system in the state".

"The committee recom-

mended that the state government shall pass an Act, like Tamil Nadu Admission in Professional Educational Institutions Act, 2006 (Tamil Nadu Act 3 of 2007)," Stalin said in the Assembly. "Medical admissions based on the qualifying examination will in no way lower the standard of education, since the higher secondary syllabus is of sufficient standard," he said.

Stalin also asserted that it was wrong to say that NEET improved the standard of medical examination and pointed out that Tamil Nadu had the highest number of medical and dental institutions even before 2017 with remarkable standards in

academics. The government's move to enact the law was projected as one to ensure social justice, uphold equality and equal opportunity, protect all vulnerable student communities, and ensure a robust public healthcare in the state that caters to the rural areas as well.

The committee findings pointed out that NEET had undermined diverse societal representation in MBBS and higher medical education, favouring affluent groups while thwarting the dreams of underprivileged sections.

The report said NEET is "not an equitable method of admission" and that the exam "has shattered the hopes and dreams of Tamil Nadu students", particularly, students from the socially and economically backward classes."

The committee said students of government schools, those with a family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum, and those from Most Backward Classes, SCs and STs were affected due to the NEET system.

After considering the recommendations of the committee, another committee headed by Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu was formed in July, which also recommended nullifying NEET.

Power minister asks why Mamata opposing Bill to de-license discoms

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

POWER MINISTER RK Singh has questioned the intention of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in opposing the electricity amendment Bill in a letter asking the West Bengal CM why she wants to protect monopolies in power distribution including one in Kolkata.

Banerjee had opposed the Bill, which aims to de-license power distribution, terming "anti-people" in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Banerjee has raised concerns that the entry of private discoms as competition would lead to these discoms "cherry picking" high paying industrial and commercial consumers leaving state discoms to serve poor and rural customers.

"There must be competition in this sector so that people can choose a distribution company which gives more efficient service at a lower price", Singh said in the letter adding that the private distribution company in Kolkata had one of the highest tariffs in the country and is a monopoly.

"Why you want to protect this private company from competition is not clear," Singh said.

Singh also said that cross subsidy would continue post delicensing and that new players would compete under a maximum ceiling tariff set by the regulator.

Cong questions disinvestment in CONCOR

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE CONGRESS Monday questioned the Centre's proposed disinvestment in the Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR), a Railways PSU and Navratna company. It accused the Railways of changing the terms of leasing its land to CONCOR in a way that would put the company at a financial disadvantage.

Congress spokesperson Gourav Vallabh asked the Centre to explain the rationale behind its decision. "Why a Navratna company that is of strategic importance, consistently generating a profit and declaring average dividends of Rs 365 crore per year in the last four years is decided for disinvestment?" asked Vallabh.

"CONCOR has over 60 ICDS, and 24 are situated on the railway land. The Railway Board last year notified a Land Licensing Fees (LLF) regime... The LLF being charged by the transporter now is 6% of land value in the first year of license; the rate will increase at a rate of 7% annually to factor in inflation. Now the Modi government is considering a change in the lease policy..." he said.



Fathima Thahiliya's removal from MSF leadership came days after IUML disbanded state committee of Haritha

issue was taken up with the IUML leadership, which, however, moved to take action against the complainants.

After the Haritha leaders moved the state women's commission, the IUML wanted them to withdraw the complaint as a settlement formula. The MSF leaders in the dock, on the other hand, were allowed to continue in office after offering an apology on social media. Last week, Navas was arrested in the harassment case, but the IUML put its weight behind him.

As the women leaders refused to withdraw their complaint, the IUML dissolved the Haritha committee and formed a new one with those seen as loyal to the party leadership.

When the IUML announced the new list of Haritha office-bearers, Fathima had expressed her displeasure.

"The issue would be raised within the IUML again. I would continue to support the Haritha leaders, until they get justice in the party," she said.

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 13

THE INDIAN Union Muslim League (IUML), an ally of the Congress in Kerala, on Monday removed the national vice-president of its student outfit Muslim Students Federation (MSF), Fathima Thahiliya, who had backed the women leaders who raised sexual harassment charges against their male counterparts in the outfit.

Fathima's removal from the MSF leadership came days after the IUML disbanded the state committee of Haritha, the women's wing of the MSF. The IUML cracked the whip on Haritha leaders after they refused to withdraw their sexual harassment complaint lodged with the state women's commission.

On Monday, IUML general secretary P M A Salam said Fathima was removed from the post on charges of indiscipline.

The first woman to rise to the national leadership of the MSF when she was made the vice-president in 2016, Fathima had stood by the women leaders of Haritha, who had taken their sexual harassment complaint to the state women's commission after the IUML failed to address the complaint against three MSF leaders, including state president P K Navas.

The women had alleged that during a state committee meeting of the MSF in June this year, Navas and two other MSF leaders had allegedly made sexually explicit comments against the Haritha leaders. The

Teen run over in Alwar, family alleges role of cow vigilantes

DEEP MUKHERJEE
JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 13

A 16-YEAR-OLD boy in Rajasthan's Alwar district, who was out jogging with his friends early Sunday morning, was run over deliberately by vehicles driven by self-styled cow vigilantes, his family members have alleged.

While police said the boy, identified as Sabir Khan of Sare Kalan village in Tijara tehsil, died after being hit by two vehicles — one carrying suspected cow smugglers and another a group of people chasing them — the family members alleged that the boy was deliberately targeted over a tiff he had with one of the cow vigilantes last week.

They accused the police of trying to suppress the case, a charge denied by senior police officers who said the matter was still under investigation.

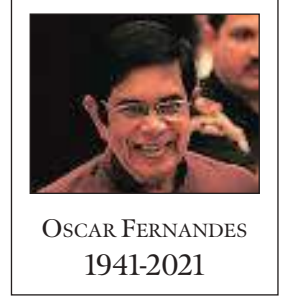
The incident took place around 5.45 am on Sunday near Nehar Khedi Road.

In the FIR, the family members said Sabir along with his friends would go jogging every morning, and 4-5 days ago, they had an argument with one Anil, who is from a nearby village in bordering Haryana, over the latter's careless driving.

"On that day, Anil had threatened my nephew and his friends that 'after today if I see you running on this road, I will run you down with this car and you won't be able to do anything to me...'," Sabir's uncle Juber stated in the FIR. Anil had flaunted his ties with Gauraksha Dal and Bajrang Dal, he alleged.

After running over Sabir, the accused also reminded his friends of the threat, he alleged.

"Each day, several of our friends would go jogging on that road. Some time back, we had an argument with Anil when we asked him not to over-speed since we run on that road. Anil had threatened us at that time."



theatre to run the slide. The next day when we met Rajiv ji... we told him... Rajivji we are young boys... at least we should be allowed to enjoy the night," Pandey said. "Fernandesji was so committed and so passionate about work," he added.

Former prime minister

who was in charge of the frontal organisations. The three had been given some organisational tasks and Fernandes was waiting to hear from them till late in the night. When there was no word from them, Fernandes reached the NSU(I) office only to hear that the three had gone for a movie. The folklore in the Congress circles was that Fernandes got a senior police official to direct some of the movie halls in the city to insert the slide.

Pandey, or for that matter several senior leaders of the party, remember Fernandes as a 24x7 politician in every sense of the word. It was a common sight to see a lone queue of visitors at Fernandes's residence even after midnight when he was the Labour

Minister in the Manmohan Singh government.

A member of the Congress central election committee, Fernandes has in the past been a general secretary of the party and headed the central election authority.

Party leaders remember him as an affable, soft-spoken and humble personality who believed that politics was about working for the "have-nots", and was out and out an organisational man.

Pandey fondly remembered that he later complained to Gandhi that they should be allowed some free time at least at night. "I think it was Odeon cinema or Plaza. And the movie, if I remember correctly, was Prem Rog... I think Fernandesji urged the Commissioner to ask the

Mannohan Singh said he was deeply shocked and saddened. "With his hard work, pleasant nature and popularity, he became one of the tallest leaders of the Congress party from Karnataka who helped the Congress party in making many important decisions. His popularity among the common people of Karnataka is evident from the fact that Oscarji was elected five times to the Lok Sabha and two times to the Rajya Sabha," he said. Fernandes, he said, was a gifted leader and an efficient administrator who served as a minister in the UPA government.

"A Congressman to the core, a veteran Parliamentarian, a sensitive Minister who championed the cause of labour and underprivileged, a dedicated organisation



IRFAN PATHAN
FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER

You've reached such heights at the beginning of your career. How do you continue the momentum? How do you deal with controversies that surround our sports stars?

Neeraj: Many people used my name and spread a lot of lies. They didn't know the rules. But I was sure about the truth, and the rules, so I spoke about it. As for early fame, I have a long way to go in my career with my team. I have many other competitions to take part in and do much more such as getting back to my fitness and give results.



VINOD RAI
FORMER COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

Neeraj, when you held the javelin, what was going on in your mind? Bajrang, you had an injury in your right knee. How did you face that challenge?

Chopra: When we are standing for the run-up, everything is blank. The only thing on our mind is to give it our 100 per cent. I would have done thousands and lakhs of throws. But at the run-up we just think of giving our maximum.

Punia: In wrestling, many players play with injuries. The game teaches us a lot. Neeraj also came back after an injury. My injury was bad. During the Olympics, every athlete wants to win a medal for the country. I thought that after this if I need surgery, it is not a big deal. When we are on the mat we need to forget those things, otherwise we can't perform. Your support staff matters, how they motivate you matters. We thought the injury can go to hell, we have to perform.



ANIRUDH CHAUDHRY
FORMER BCCI TREASURER

With your medal, there is an interest among young children in javelin. How do we hone their talent so that we can hope for medals in 2025? Also, will easy access to sports psychology in terms of nutrition impact the growth of developing athletes?

Chopra: In rural India we have a lot of natural talent. Many kids have what is called a 'fast arm'. We throw stones with natural ease. Similarly, in javelin, we have to throw things, mixed with technique and body strength. We have that talent in India which can be used in javelin, cricket, and even baseball, which is still not very prevalent in India. We have academies that train youngsters in cricket, but sadly we don't have any for javelin. We are trying and looking for senior athletes who can train in javelin and start something. It's quite technical, so they need guidance. I am just happy that people now recognise javelin, and I would like to be able to guide people who want a future in javelin.



Neeraj Chopra and Bajrang Punia (right) were in conversation with *The Indian Express* National Sports Editor Sandeep Dwivedi (left) and Assistant Editor Mihir Vasavda

'We are still improving... We will be learning till the end of our careers'

At the e.Adda last week, Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra and bronze medal-winning wrestler Bajrang Punia spoke on preparing in the time of the pandemic, on life after their medals and what needs to be done to support emerging athletes

On the excitement over the Olympics and the challenge of the pandemic

Bajrang Punia: We have been receiving a lot of love and respect after winning medals for the country. It has continued for over a month now, but that also means we have more responsibility, and we need to do more for the country. People came to the airport (to greet us) because they love us and support us. When we saw Sushil *bhai* (wrestler Sushil Kumar) being honoured at the airport in 2008, we had hoped that one day, people would do the same for us. That also motivated us to get an Olympic medal for the country. It was difficult for everyone to go to the Olympics this year. The rules and regulations were new for everyone. We thought the extra one year that we got because the Olympics were postponed would help us prepare better and we kept a positive attitude. We had to keep ourselves safe from infection and prepare.

Neeraj Chopra: Players (who did not win), too, had put in a lot of hard work. They should have also been thanked because they too played for the country. I think this year we got maximum medals in the Olympics and Paralympics. (In javelin) We have two gold medals, one silver, one bronze — a total of four medals. Javelin has also become popular in India. Our flag is reaching world level in javelin throw. It feels really nice.

On how their life has changed after the Olympics

Chopra: Earlier we could go anywhere, sit on the roadside and eat something... that is less now. Nowadays, due to COVID-19 we have to wear masks, but one day, people recognised me at Mumbai airport even though I had a mask on. It was good for us that so many people followed the Olympics this time. Now, people recognise us. Our performance was seen by everyone and the youth who want to join sports will also be inspired.

On going in for the win

Punia: When we go for a bout, we don't think we will win by 8-0 or 10-0. When we start the bout, we just think we have to do our best. The score doesn't matter, we have to focus on winning the bout, which will get us the medal — whether it is by 8-0, 4-4 or 10-0.



KATRINA KAIF
ACTOR

Neeraj, your performance at the Olympics and what you have achieved, is an inspiration not just for the whole country, but also a personal inspiration for someone like me, who invests a lot of time in fitness. To see how you have pushed yourself, trained, and what you have achieved, it's really inspiring. Bajrang, I saw your training videos and felt very emotional seeing them. I have not seen physical training like that in India. One can see the amount of effort and hard work you've put into it. You both have inspired the whole country.

Chopra: It feels nice when someone of her stature acknowledges our hard work.

Punia: When people see how hard we work, and they share their blessings with us, it motivates us to work harder and foray ahead. It's good to see people pushing and rooting for us.

We have to do our best.

Chopra: Just two days before the bout Bajrang *bhai* and I were at the gym. Bajrang *bhai* was wearing a sauna suit and running to reduce weight. He got a knee injury while wrestling in Russia but he kept saying, 'this is the Olympics, I am not even thinking of the injury'. He had a plaster on his knee and wanted to give his best. When we talk to each other and see that spirit, it is very motivating.



JOHANNES VETTER
GERMAN JAVELIN THROWER

Mr Chopra, how does it feel to be an Olympic champion? I look forward to competing with you and against you in the next season.

Chopra: This has got to be the best message for me. I had wished to speak with Vetter after the Olympics. I had seen him, but then I couldn't make myself go and speak with him. He is a world class athlete who had worked his way to such a level, but for him to not even score in the top eight was quite disheartening. He was close to setting a world record and didn't even get into a best eight-slot, so I didn't feel that it was the right time to speak to him. It was not his day. He is a great athlete. I wanted to hug him and make him believe that he is the best. I hope he makes a world record soon... When we went to Finland, we had gone in the same car. He was number one at that time. We talked a lot, about our families, our countries, I learned a lot about Germany.

On performing despite an injury

Punia: The doctor had said you are responsible if you play because your injury can become worse and you might need surgery. With the tape that was put on, my movement was restricted. In the last bout, I told the doctor I don't want to put the tape on so he said put the kneecap instead. I said if I don't win a medal now, even if it breaks, it doesn't mat-

ter.... An Olympic medal comes first.

Chopra: In Haryana, we have a saying, *Ke karegi tayari jab ladegi jidd aari*, meaning sometimes our preparation may not be as good, but it's about winning on the final day with one's will power. We did it without any fear.

Punia: We had been preparing. Even if we could not train in the last 15-20 days, it didn't matter.

On making sacrifices and never having seen a film in a theatre

Punia: I have never been inside a cinema hall, but I haven't left any film on TV. I wanted to win an Olympic medal and then do other things. To win something, we have to lose something. Even now, I haven't gone to a theatre to watch a movie. During those three hours, we can rest, do training, so we think about the time.

On learning javelin in a place that has no culture of the sport

Chopra: There is a network problem in our village, so YouTube wouldn't work but I saved videos on my phone. I trained with my heart. It was a new sport and I didn't know what lay ahead. I understood what javelin is. I'm still learning and perfecting it. I wanted to train well and give it my 100 per cent. The result might come later because it is a physical and technical sport and we reach that level gradually... We are still not perfect. We are still improving. I think till the end of our careers we will be learning.

Punia: Coaches, too, are learning. There is no age to learn. It takes a lifetime.

Chopra: Coaches also learn from each athlete they work with.

On what can be done for emerging athletes

Chopra: I'm lucky because when I first went there (JSW's Inspire Institute of Sport), I got help. Most athletes don't. They go to the stadium, no one knows what the facilities are, so even talented people find it hard to continue due to lack of facilities and guidance. Many people are from middle-class families or poor homes. Most come from villages, so they should get facilities of this level. We need good coaches and supporting staff who can guide us.

For longer version, go to www.indianexpress.com



MOHAMMAD KAIF
FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER

When we display aggression while playing cricket, people think we are fighting with our opponents. Off the ground we share our life stories and befriend them. Bajrang, you play a contact sport, you come off as a lot more aggressive. What's your message for the people who are watching you?

Punia: Recently this issue of Neeraj and this Pakistani player came up. Let's assume that when we are competing on the field, we are enemies. Yes, we have to defeat them. But when we come off the ground, we are friendly, we don't discriminate. As a wrestler, we have to deal with close contact. When you are off the mat, those feelings are different. We talk, we sit together and joke as friends.

Chopra: This time, there was this quote in the Olympics, 'Stronger together'. I believe that everyone comes to compete and win. We have to give our 100 per cent, irrespective of the fact that our own brother is competing against us. We live together in the games village, eat together. It's a feeling of a village, just like my own village, where everyone lives together. But in the stadium, we compete.



ZARINE KHAN
CO-FOUNDER, THE HINDU ZONE

How has the attitude of the family, people, and society changed towards you? Also, as an athlete, how easy or difficult is it for someone with only their talent to take them forward, to become an international star?

Neeraj: A lot of talent goes to waste due to the lack of equipment, stadiums and coaching. If we have these things under control, the level of sports will go up in this country.

Punia: Well, the love and affection that we have received after coming back, we have never seen it before in our lives. Even small kids come to us and get their pictures clicked with us, or when they tell us that they watched my wrestling or that they saw Neeraj's throw, it's quite a nice feeling.



SANJIV NAVANGUL
MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO, BHARAT SERUMS & VACCINES

My friend Abhinav Bindra speaks a lot about mental fitness along with the physical one. You both were looking so relaxed when you entered your respective match-winning bouts.

Chopra: Great training contributes to our confidence. Our body needs to be in control. Sometimes because of overtraining in the off-season, we feel the body is tight. I was listening to music the previous night and was just playing the scenario in my head. I kept thinking that this is the day that I have worked so hard for.

Eminent guests who participated in the e.Adda include Mridu Dalmia, Trustee, Dalmia Group Holdings; Vivek Jain, MD, DCW; Sandip Sen, Lead Director, Litmus World; Harsh Goenka, Chairman, RPG Enterprises; Yoginder Alagh, Vice Chairperson, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research; Meher Pudumjee, Chairperson, Thermax; Arvind Paranjpye, Director, Nehru Planetarium; Paroma Roy Chowdhury, Chief Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Dream Sports; Ajit Shriram, Joint Managing Director, DCM Shriram; Atul Choksey, Chairman, Apcotex Industries; Rajendra Kasliwal, Board Member, Jai Vakeel Foundation; Sriram Narayanan, Managing Director, Meghraj Capital; Veena Sikri, Founding Trustee and Convener, South Asia Women's Network (SWAN); Uttara Singh, Director, The Shriram Millennium School; Ayaz Memon, Columnist; Anu Malik, Indian Music Composer



JAYESH RANJAN
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE (I&C) AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT), TELANGANA GOVERNMENT

You must have dealt with various sports associations, like the one in your state, and then international ones. We have them in our country too but what more can be done?

Chopra: There are many empty grounds all over, we need coaches over there. We need more competitions. We need opportunities to perform. We, at times, are not able to show our range, as there are fewer opportunities. You can keep increasing our facilities — from stadiums to equipment, to javelins — and many kids in our country will join in.



NIKITA RAWAT
HEAD, MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION, STEADFAST NUTRITION

What is the importance of nutrition and what is the message that you have for the youth of the country in terms of sports nutrition?

Chopra: Nutrition plays a key role in sports. Imagine, if we train properly and then go eat *tikki-chholey*, then what's the point. We face

a lot of problems when we travel abroad to play. We don't get food which we like or are familiar with, we largely get boiled food. We end up adding ketchup in rice to make it palatable. An athlete's body needs specific nutrition, and when we get swayed by taste, we compromise on nutrition and our performance. Young athletes need to embrace nutrition to play better.

TOPOF THE
WORLD

The semi-autonomous four-wheel-drive 'REX MKII'. AP

ISRAEL

Firm unveils armed robot to patrol borders

AN ISRAELI defence contractor on Monday unveiled a remote-controlled armed robot it says can patrol battle zones, track infiltrators and open fire. The unmanned vehicle is the latest addition to the world of drone technology, which is rapidly reshaping the modern battlefield. Proponents say such semi-autonomous machines allow armies to protect their soldiers, while critics fear this marks another dangerous step toward robots making life-or-death decisions. The four-wheel-drive robot presented Monday was developed by the state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries' "REX MKII." AP

NIGERIA

75 abducted children released amid crackdown

SEVENTY-FIVE CHILDREN who were kidnapped from their school in Nigeria's northwestern Zamfara State have been released after their abductors came under pressure from a military crackdown, a state official said on Monday. Gunmen took the students from the village of Kaya on Sept. 1, the latest in a spate of mass kidnappings from schools across the region. More than 1,100 children have been seized since December last year. Authorities say they were abducted by heavily armed gangs of bandits seeking ransoms. REUTERS

RUSSIA

4 killed as plane makes emergency landing in Siberia

FOUR PEOPLE were killed when a small Russian passenger plane with 14 passengers and two crew on board made an emergency landing in a forest in southeastern Siberia on Sunday, the emergency ministry said. The L-410 aircraft flying from the city of Irkutsk came down 4 km from its destination, Kazachinkoye village, the Investigative Committee law enforcement agency said. According to preliminary reports by local emergency services, there was an equipment failure, which the crew reported before making the hard landing. Interfax news agency reported. REUTERS

Donors pledge \$1.1 bn for Afghanistan

UN rights chief accuses Taliban of breaking promises, including on women

EMMA FARGE & MICHELLE NICHOLS
GENEVA, NEW YORK, SEPT 13

DONORS HAVE pledged more than \$1.1 billion to help Afghanistan, where poverty and hunger have spiralled since the Islamist Taliban took power, and foreign aid has dried up, raising the spectre of a mass exodus.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, speaking halfway through a UN conference seeking \$606 million to meet Afghanistan's most pressing needs, said it was too early to say how much had been promised in response to the appeal.

After decades of war and suffering, Afghans are facing "perhaps their most perilous hour", he said. "The people of Afghanistan are facing the collapse of an entire country — all at once."

He said food could run out by the end of this month, and the World Food Programme said 14 million people were on the brink of starvation.

The Taliban ruled Afghanistan according to their strict interpretation of Islamic law from 1996-2001 and were toppled in an invasion led by the United States, which accused them of sheltering militants behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

They swept back to power last month in a lightning advance as the last US-led NATO troops pulled out and the forces of the Western-backed government melted away.

With billions of dollars of aid flows abruptly ending due to Western antipathy and distrust towards the Taliban, donors had a "moral obligation" to keep helping Afghans after a 20-year engagement, several speakers in Geneva said.

Neighbours China and Pakistan had already offered help.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres at an aid conference for Afghanistan in Geneva. Reuters

But UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet, also in Geneva, underlined the Western misgivings. She accused the Taliban of breaking recent promises by once more ordering women to stay at home rather than go to work, keeping teenage girls out of school, and persecuting former opponents.

Beijing last week promised \$31 million worth of food and health supplies, and on Friday said it would send a first batch of 3 million coronavirus vaccines.

Pak sends aid

Pakistan sent food and medicine, and it called for Afghan assets frozen abroad to be released. Iran said it had dispatched an air cargo of aid.

"Past mistakes must not be repeated. The Afghan people must not be abandoned," said Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, whose country has close relations with the Taliban and would most likely bear the brunt of an exodus of refugees. REUTERS

Afghanistan blame game shifts to US Congress as Blinken testifies

PATRICIA ZENGERLE & HUMEYRA PAMUK
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 13

SECRETARY OF State Antony Blinken will testify twice to Congress this week about the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, as lawmakers kick off what could be a long series of high-intensity hearings about the chaotic end to America's longest war.

Members of Congress — President Joe Biden's fellow Democrats as well as opposition Republicans — have planned hearings since the Taliban seized control of the country last month after a rapid advance.

Blinken will appear on Monday before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken

Committee and on Tuesday before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the first Biden administration official to testify publicly to lawmakers since the Islamist militant group's takeover.

Fireworks are expected, given the amount of finger-pointing over how the two-decade-long US presence in the country ended. Some Republicans have called on Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Blinken all to resign. "We expect a confrontational hearing," a Senate aide said. REUTERS

Afghan pilots who sought safety in Uzbekistan transfer to US base

Washington: An initial group of Afghan pilots who flew themselves and their family members to safety in Uzbekistan aboard Afghan Air Force aircraft were transferred to a US military base in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday, according to the office of Representative August Pfluger, which has been in contact with one of the pilots and his wife. Two other groups of Afghan pilots and their relatives are expected to fly out in the next day or so under an arrangement the United States negotiated with Uzbekistan to move more than 450 Afghans. Taliban leaders have been pressuring the Uzbek government to turn over the pilots, who fear for the safety of themselves and their families. NYT

PIA runs its first flight to Kabul since Taliban takeover

Islamabad: Pakistan's national flag-carrier on Monday ran its first commercial flight to Kabul since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in mid-August. The Pakistan International Airline (PIA) flight — PK 6429 — took foreign journalists to Kabul and returned with a team of World Bank and international media organisations, Radio Pakistan reported. This was the first international passenger flight since the Taliban took over the Afghan capital last month and announced a hardline interim government. In a statement, PIA Chief Executive Officer Air Marshal Arshad Malik said the objective of the flight is to promote goodwill between Pakistan and Afghanistan. PTI



Long-range cruise missile tests in North Korea. Reuters

North Korea says it test fired new long-range missiles

KIM TONG-HYUNG
SEOUL, SEPTEMBER 13

NORTH KOREA says it successfully test fired newly developed long-range cruise missiles over the weekend, its first known testing activity in months, underscoring how it continues to expand its military capabilities amid a stalemate in nuclear negotiations with the United States.

The Korean Central News Agency said Monday the cruise missiles, which had been under development for two years, demonstrated an ability to hit targets 1,500 km away during flight tests on Saturday and Sunday.

The North hailed its new missiles as a "strategic weapon of great significance" that meets leader Kim Jong Un's call to strengthen the country's military might, implying that they were being developed with an intent to arm them with nuclear warheads. North Korean state media published photos of a projectile being fired from a launcher truck and an apparent missile with wings and tail fins traveling in the air.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military was analysing the North Korean

POSED A
renewed
threat

NORTH KOREA'S ballistic missile tests usually garner more outside interest than cruise missile tests, because the former are explicitly banned under UNSC resolutions. But in a first, the country described its new cruise missiles as "strategic weapons", which means it is likely to be a nuclear capable system. Experts say these missiles are likely to be easier to maneuver and more difficult for others to track, making the possibility of them being nuclear capable a worrying development for the region, especially South Korea and Japan.

launches. The US Indo-Pacific Command said it was monitoring the situation with allies and that the North Korean activity reflects a continuing focus on "developing its military program and the threats that poses to its neighbors and the international community." Japan said it was "extremely concerned." AP

Myanmar's Suu Kyi dizzy and drowsy, skips court appearance

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 13

DEPOSED MYANMAR leader Aung San Suu Kyi was unable to appear at a court hearing on Monday for legal reasons, a member of her legal team said, describing her condition as dizziness caused by motion sickness.

Suu Kyi, 76, who has been detained on various charges since her overthrow in a Feb. 1 military coup, did not have the coronavirus but felt ill having not traveled in a vehicle for a long time, lawyer Min Min Soe said.

The popular Nobel Peace Prize winner has spent about half of the past three decades in various forms of detention over her non-violent struggle against dictatorship and her health is closely watched.

"It is not serious sickness ... She suffered car sickness. She cannot stand that feeling and told us she wanted to take a rest," Min Min Soe told Reuters.

Suu Kyi's only communication with the outside world has been through her legal team, which says its access to her is limited and monitored by authorities.



Aung San Suu Kyi

She is due to appear in court on Tuesday. Contacted again on Monday evening, Min Min Soe said the legal team had no access to determine Suu Kyi's latest condition but reiterated that her sickness was only minor.

A spokesman for the ruling military did not respond to calls seeking comment.

She is on trial in the capital Naypyitaw over charges that include illegal importation and possession of walkie-talkie radios and violating coronavirus protocols.

She has been accused of accepting big bribes, and has been charged with unspecified breaches of the Official Secrets Act in a separate and more serious case, which is punishable by up to 14 years in jail.

Japan warns citizens of possible attack in Southeast Asia

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 13

JAPAN'S FOREIGN Ministry urged its citizens on Monday to stay away from religious facilities and crowds in six Southeast Asian nations, warning of a possible attack.

The ministry said it had obtained information that "there are increased risks such as suicide bombings."

The warning applies to Japanese citizens in Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar.

The advisory was met with puzzlement in several of those nations, which said they had no knowledge of such a threat, or details from Japan as to the source of its information.

Tanee Sangrat, spokesman for Thailand's Foreign Ministry, said Japan had not revealed the origin of the warning and that the Japanese Embassy had no further details other than to say it was "not specific to Thailand."

Thai security agencies have no information of their own about a possible threat, said deputy police spokesman Kissana Pathanacharoen.

New York schools fully reopen after 18 months of Covid curbs

ELIZA SHAPIRO
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 13

NEW YORK City's classrooms reopened on Monday to roughly a million children, most of whom were returning for the first time since the US' largest school system closed in March 2020.

While the city reopened schools last fall for part-time learning, the vast majority of students chose to keep learning remotely. But with no remote option now available to almost all parents, classrooms will be full for the



About 600,000 families kept their children learning from home last year. NYT

first time in a year and a half.

For months, Mayor Bill de Blasio had forecast the first day of school to be a triumphant coda in New York City's long recovery from the pandemic. But the spread of the highly contagious Delta variant has complicated the city's push to fully reopen schools and left many families and educators anxious about what the next few months will hold.

At a news conference on Monday morning, de Blasio asked parents to put aside their worries and focus on reorienting their children to in-person learning. "I'm appealing to all parents right now," he said. "Work past the fear, help your kids move forward." NYT

Uber drivers are employees, not contractors, says Dutch court

ANTHONY DEUTSCH & TOBY STERLING
AMSTERDAM, SEPTEMBER 13

UBER DRIVERS are employees, not contractors, and so entitled to greater workers' rights under local labour laws, a Dutch court ruled on Monday, handing a setback to the US company's European business model.

It was another court victory for

unions fighting for better pay and benefits for those employed in the gig economy and followed a similar decision about Uber in UK.

The Amsterdam District Court sided with the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions (FNV), which had argued that Uber's roughly 4,000 drivers in the capital are employees of a taxi company and should be granted benefits in line with the taxi sector. Uber said it would appeal

against the decision and "has no plans to employ drivers in the Netherlands".

"We are disappointed with this decision because we know that the overwhelming majority of drivers wish to remain independent," said Maurits Schönfeld, Uber's general manager for northern Europe. "Drivers don't want to give up their freedom to choose if, when and where to work." REUTERS

AMERICA'S POST-9/11 TURN TO TORTURE

US grapples with legacy of brutal interrogations

CAROL ROSENBERG
NOUAKCHOTT, SEPTEMBER 13

MOHAMEDOU OULD Slahi is almost clinical as he recalls details of the torture he endured in the summer of 2003 at Guantánamo Bay.

There were the guards who menaced him with attack dogs and beat him so badly that they broke his ribs. The troops who shackled him, blasted him with heavy metal music and strobe lights, or drenched him in ice water to deny him sleep for months on end. The mind-numbing isolation in a darkened cell without his Quran. The female guards who exposed themselves and touched



Mohamedou Ould Slahi, who underwent brutal interrogations while he was held at Guantánamo Bay, is a free man in Mauritania after nearly 15 years as a detainee. NYT

him sexually in an effort to undermine his adherence to Islam.

But what left Slahi in utter despair, he said, was the interrogator who tried to threaten him into acknowledging that he was complicit in plotting a terrorist attack.

"If you don't admit to it, we are going to kidnap your mother, rape her," the interrogator said,

by Slahi's account.

"I remember telling them: 'This is unfair. This is not fair,'" Slahi recalled. The interrogator, he said, responded: "I'm not looking for justice. I'm looking to stop planes from hitting buildings in my country."

To which Slahi said he replied, "You need to get those

people, not me."

Today, Slahi, 50, is a free man in Mauritania, his homeland in West Africa, after nearly 15 years as a detainee, an early portion of that time with the threat of a death-penalty trial hanging over him.

In the end, he was released in 2016 without ever being charged, the confessions he made under duress recanted, a proposed case against him deemed by the prosecutor to be worthless in court because of the brutality of the interrogation.

For the US, as for Slahi, the legacy of the torture remains complex and multifaceted two decades after 9/11 led the George W. Bush administration to set

aside legal and moral constraints in the name of national security.

The US has long since stopped employing the so-called enhanced interrogation techniques used in what studies have concluded was a fruitless or counterproductive effort to extract lifesaving information from detainees in secret CIA prisons and at Guantánamo Bay.

But the choice to turn to government-sanctioned torture remains a stain on the country's reputation, undercutting its authority to confront repression elsewhere. Even today, some former Bush administration officials risk questioning when travelling to Europe by investigators invoking the UN Convention Against Torture. NYT

Pentagon reliance on contractors hurt US in post-9/11 wars: study

ELLEN KNICKMEYER
SEPTEMBER 13

UP TO half of the \$14 trillion spent by the Pentagon since 9/11 went to for-profit defense contractors, a study released Monday found. While much of this money went to weapons suppliers, the research is the latest to point to the dependence on contractors for war-zone duties as contributing to mission failures in Afghanistan in particular.

In the post-9/11 wars, US corporations contracted by the Defence Department not only handled war-zone logistics like running fuel convoys and staffing cook lines but performed mission-crucial work like training and

equipping Afghan security forces — security forces that collapsed last month as the Taliban swept the country.

Within weeks, and before the US military had even completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Taliban easily routed an Afghan government and military that Americans had spent 20 years and billions of dollars to stand up. President Joe Biden placed blame squarely on the Afghans themselves. "We gave them every chance," he said last month. "What we could not provide them was the will to fight."

But William Hartung, the author of Monday's study by Brown University's Costs of War project and the Center for International Policy, and others say it's essential

that Americans examine what role the reliance on private contractors played in the post-9/11 wars. In Afghanistan, that included contractors allegedly paying protection money to warlords and the Taliban, and the Defence Department insisting on equipping the Afghan air force with Blackhawk helicopters and other aircraft that few but US contractors knew how to maintain.

"If it were only the money, that would be outrageous enough," Hartung, the director of the arms and security programme at the Center for International Policy, said of instances where the Pentagon's reliance on contractors backfired. "But the fact it undermined the mission and put troops at risk is even more outrageous." AP

SECTOR WATCH
AUTOMOBILES

Ola to set up 'world's largest women-only plant' for e-scooters; employ over 10,000

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE 1-CRORE units a year electric two-wheeler manufacturing plant being set up by Ola will be entirely run by women, the company's co-founder Bhavish Aggarwal said Monday in a blog post, adding at full scale, the factory will employ over 10,000 women.

"We welcomed the first batch this week and at full capacity, Futurefactory will employ over 10,000 women, making it the world's largest women-only factory and the only all-women automotive manufacturing facility globally," Aggarwal wrote.

Last month, Ola unveiled its S1 electric scooter, which was expected to go on sale starting September 8 but was subsequently delayed to September 15, on account of "technical difficulties" with the company's website.

At the Tamil Nadu facility, which Ola claims will be the world's largest scooter manufacturing plant, the company will initially start production at a capacity of 10 lakh units a year, later expanding it to 20 lakh units annually, as part of the first phase. The company has plans to deploy more than

5,000 ROBOTS

■ The company has plans to deploy more than 5,000 robots across functions

5,000 robots across various functions. Ola had stated earlier that it would manufacture these vehicles on Industry 4.0 principles. For the same, it has tied up with Siemens and ABB to leverage their tech. As part of the agreement with Siemens, Ola has access to the company's integrated 'Digital Twin' design and manufacturing solutions to digitalise and validate product and production ahead of actual operations.

Also, Ola has deployed ABB's automation solutions in its factory's key manufacturing process lines, including its painting and welding lines, while the ABB robots are being deployed extensively for the battery and motor assembly lines. Aggarwal said the company has invested significantly to train and upskill women workers in core manufacturing skills and they will be responsible for the entire production of every vehicle at Ola Futurefactory, towards which the company has announced investment of Rs 2,400 crore.

SAY DEFINITION CHANGE MAY HURT INDIAN COS, BENEFIT CHINESE

Telco players object to revised locally sourced product policy

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) has received several objections from domestic telecom equipment manufacturers and trade bodies over the past 10 days for changing the definition of locally sourced products, which qualify for public procurement, sources said.

In separate letters to Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the DoT, and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary, the Telecom Equipment Manufacturers Association of India (Tema) has said the DoT's move to classify even imported telecom products as local for public procurement purposes was "retrograde" and would hurt the government's 'Make in India' policy.

The move, Tema said in its let-

THE CHANGES

■ On August 31, the DoT issued a list of 25 telecom products, which it said will qualify as local products even if they used imported parts for domestic manufacturing.

ter to Vaishnaw, would permit 100 per cent import from China and other countries and make them eligible for public procurement preference "by simply assembling without even having 0.1 per cent of local components and without any emphasis on R&D, design development or IPR".

On August 31, the DoT issued a list of 25 telecom products, such as satellite phones, optical fibre and cables, ethernet switches, and optical fibre, which it said would

qualify as local products even if they used imported components for domestic manufacturing.

The new notification, which is in supersession of August 2018 notification, says some of the products, even if brought to India in completely knocked down stage would be considered local and be eligible to be used in works of public sector companies. The DoT's move, executives said, would hurt local companies which had been "aggressively planning expansion" owing to Make in India and preference planned for domestic firms.

"These products and services are now not required to comply with the Telecommunication Engineering Center (TEC)'s general and interface requirements. It pits the likes of Nokia, Cisco, and Ericsson against small domestic companies, who have spent so much time and energy for R&D and design so that their products meet Indian TEC standards," a tele-

com equipment maker said.

Industry executives have also questioned the rationale behind the decision, asking how the DoT decided that the domestic capacity and capability of these products disappeared since 2018, when the initial notification was issued.

"There were 63 products which were brought in the list after due consultation from all trade bodies, domestic and foreign companies. This time the list has been brought down to 25, without any consultation from us," another industry executive said.

The Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (Tepc), which also has government nominated members, has also written to the DoT Secretary, arguing the policy would encourage "multi-national companies" to "inflate the prices of the imported parts, components to achieve the requisite level of local contents" of their telecom products.

'Credible steps needed to return to fiscal rectitude'



15th Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh. File

New Delhi: The country should take credible steps to return to the path of fiscal rectitude once the Covid pandemic is over, 15th Finance Commission Chairman N.K. Singh said on Monday.

Speaking at the CSEP-World Bank Seminar on fiscal governance, Singh said, "If you look at total fiscal stimulus of the... government which is upwards of 12-13 per cent, when some people advocate greater fiscal stimulus, I think we need to be careful." **ENS**

'NBFC AUM shrinks in Q1 on lower disbursements'

The asset under management (AUM) of non-banking financial company segment fell in Q1 FY22 due to lower disbursements and portfolio rundown, said an Icrs Ratings report

AFTER WITNESSING an uptick in Q3 and Q4 FY2021, disbursements for NBFCs and

housing finance companies (HFCs) declined again in Q1 FY22

THE SECOND wave has temporarily pushed back revival

Source: Icrs/PTI

Asset quality for the non-bank entities weakened quite sharply in Q1 FY2022 because of the localised lockdowns imposed by various states on account of the second wave of Covid

NFRA: ICAI understanding of our role way off the mark

New Delhi: The National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) has brushed aside concerns raised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) about overreach by the former, calling its understanding of NFRA's role "way off the mark". The ICAI had also disagreed with conclusions by the NFRA in a report published in March that auditing was facing a "crisis of confidence".

The ICAI also raised the issue that the regulator was not consulted when the NFRA issued the form 'NFRA 2', to be filed by statutory auditors. The regulator also said it was not part of the NFRA's role to form consultative and advisory groups for which it had sought public comments and that this was the domain of the ICAI. The ICAI added the NFRA had taken key decision while keeping its own board, which has three member nominated by ICAI, "in the dark".

The Corporate Affairs Ministry and the ICAI did not immediately respond to requests for comment. **ENS**

Resolution before NCLT can't be modified: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE SUPREME Court on Monday ruled that Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) carried out under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) must be completed within 330 days as laid down by the Code.

The Supreme Court held that the adjudicating authority cannot allow modifications or withdrawals of Resolution Plans ap-

SC on GST refund

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has allowed the plea of the Centre by holding that goods and services under the CGST law and Rules cannot be treated at par for the purposes of refund of unutilised input tax credit (ITC). **PTI**

proved by the Committee of Creditors at the behest of the successful Resolution Applicant, once

the plan is submitted to it.

A Bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and M.R. Shah ruled that the time limit can be extended only in exceptional circumstances as otherwise, the "open-ended process for further negotiations or a withdrawal, would have a deleterious impact on the Corporate Debtor, its creditors, and the economy at large as the liquidation value depletes with the passage of time." It asked the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the National Company Law

Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to stick to this should therefore, while deciding IBC matters, respect the deadline keeping in mind the "effect of such delays on the insolvency resolution process".

"Judicial delay", it said, "was one of the major reasons for the failure of the insolvency regime that was in effect prior to the IBC" and added that "we cannot let the present insolvency regime meet the same fate". The judgment came on an appeal against an order of the NCLAT.

New trade credit cover to free up India Inc capital

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 13

THE INSURANCE Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (Irdai's) decision to unveil a new trade risk cover is expected to aid corporates, suppliers, banks and financial institutions in opening up access to new markets and managing country political risk and non-payment risks, associated with the trade financing portfolio.

Moreover, corporates will now be able to free up capital and invest in businesses as trade credit insur-

ance policy will enable them to monetise the account receivables, experts said.

The new trade credit insurance cover which protects businesses against the risk of non-payment for goods and services by buyers comes at a time when a sustained recovery in global trade and demand from key external markets like the US and the European Union in product categories such as textiles and garments have helped boost India's exports, which recorded the sixth consecutive month of growth in August.

The total trade credit outstand-

ing was Rs 6,14,336 crore as of June 2021, growth of 11.1 per cent on a year-on-year basis, as per RBI data.

Trade credit insurance usually covers a portfolio of buyers and indemnifies an agreed percentage of an invoice or invoices that remain unpaid as a result of protracted default, insolvency/bankruptcy. "It contributes to the economic growth of a country by facilitating trade and helps in improving economic stability by addressing the trade losses due to payment risks," Irdai said. According to Sanjay Kedia, country head and CEO, Marsh India Insurance Brokers, the

revised guidelines on trade credit will help the suppliers as well as licensed banks and other financial institutions to get insurance protection, which will help them to manage country political risk, open up access to new markets and to manage non-payment risk associated with trade financing portfolio. Trade risk insurance can be issued to seller or supplier of goods or services, factoring company as defined in the Factoring Regulation Act 2011 and banks and financial institutions, it said.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

JET AIRWAYS 2.0, backed by businessman Murali Lal Jalan and the UK-based Kalrock Capital, announced Monday that the airline will resume operations in first quarter of next year, with the first flight to operate between New Delhi and Mumbai. Its shares on Monday gained 4.97 per cent to close at Rs 83.50. Jet Airways 2.0 is the revived avatar of Naresh Goyal's Jet Airways that has been grounded for over two years.

What are the biggest impediments to the resumption?

Firstly, the airline still doesn't

have a ready fleet. In the statement, the consortium has noted that it plans to have over 50 aircraft in three years, while it aims to restart domestic operations by Q1 2022, and short haul international operations by Q3/Q4 2022. However, it is yet to finalise even on the aircraft that it will operate.

So, will the airline take off?

The airline said it has already hired over 150 full-time employ-

ees and is looking to onboard over 1,000 staff in the current fiscal. The employees of the erstwhile airline have filed an appeal in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal against the revival plan. Punjab National Bank has also approached the appellate

tribunal, seeking to quash the plan. Jet will require some prime slots it held in its first avatar, which have been reallocated to other airlines.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

BRIEFLY

FM to India Inc

New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said that the trust between government and industry is critical for leveraging the opportunities thrown up by the COVID-19 pandemic. She also held an interactive session with Ficci.

NCLAT Chairperson

New Delhi: Justice M Venugopal has been appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT). This is the third time in a row that an Acting Chairperson is at the helm of the NCLAT.

EPFO, Aadhaar

New Delhi: The EPFO has deferred implementation of its order mandating filing of PF returns with Aadhaar-verified universal account numbers (UAN) till December 31, 2021, for all seven states in the northeast and for certain class of industries. **PTI**

AUGUST: EASING FOOD PRICES, HIGH BASE

At 5.3%, retail inflation softens to 4-mth low

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

RETAIL INFLATION based on Consumer Price Index (Combined) eased to a four-month low of 5.3 per cent in August due to moderation in food prices along with a high base effect, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday showed. Supply-side improvements aided a lower core inflation print while lower cereals and poultry prices helped ease food inflation to 3.11 per cent in August from 3.96 per cent in the previous month.

CPI inflation rate was recorded at 6.69 per cent in August 2020 and at 5.59 per cent in July this year.

The August inflation print is within the targeted range of 2-4 per cent of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) though this is the seventh consecutive month of an inflation print higher than 5 per cent and 23rd consecutive month of it




Food inflation eased to 3.11% in August from 3.96% in the previous month. File

being above the RBI's target of 4 per cent. Economists said the RBI will maintain its pause mode for this fiscal though it may revise down its inflation forecast.

"... Inflation is expected to fall at least till November 2021 due to base effect and in 3QFY22, it is expected to decline to closer to RBI's targeted 4 per cent level. However, in 4QFY22, it is expected to rise again. Ind-Ra believes RBI will remain in pause mode for the rest of FY22," said Sunil Kumar Sinha, principal economist, India Ratings.

सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर (छत्तीसगढ़)				
(सैनिक स्कूल सोसायटी, रक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा संचालित)				
निविदा सूचना				
सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर मेण्ड्राकल, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) में निम्नलिखित सामग्री को आपूर्ति/सेवाओं के लिए पंजीकृत फर्मों या अधिकृत विक्रेताओं से निविदाएं निश्चित प्रारूप पर आमंत्रित की जाती हैं:-				
क्र.	निविदा	निविदा फार्म की कीमत (अप्रतिदेय)	धरोहर राशि (EMD)	अनुमानित खारिदी
1	अनाज (Cereal) की आपूर्ति	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 20 लाख
2	किरण (Grocery item) के सामान की आपूर्ति	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 20 लाख
3	ब्रेड व अन्य बैकरी (Bread & Bakery items) सामानों की आपूर्ति	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 20,000.00	Rs. 04 लाख
4	कार्यालय सामग्री (Office Stationary) की आपूर्ति	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 5,000.00	Rs. 02 लाख
5	पशु आहार (Horse Feed) की आपूर्ति	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 15,000.00	Rs. 03 लाख
6	टेलीफोन एवं इंटरनेट (Telephone and Internet) की सेवाओं	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 10,000.00	Rs. 04 लाख
7	घुलाई व इस्त्री (Washing &) कार्य की सेवाओं	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 20 लाख
8	नाई (Barber) कार्य की सेवाओं	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 5,000.00	Rs. 02 लाख
9	मुद्रण कार्य (Printing Work)	Rs. 100.00	Rs. 30,000.00	Rs. 06 लाख
GeM availability ID: GEM/GARPTS/13092021/CUHG55C13FA7				
निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रुपये 100/- है। जमा की गई निविदा प्रपत्र की किमत वापस नहीं होगी। निविदा फार्म अहस्तांतरणीय होंगे। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 14 सितंबर 2021 से 04 अक्टूबर 2021 के मध्य सभी कार्यालय दिवसों पर सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेण्ड्राकल, जिला- सरगुजा (छत्तीसगढ़) पिन कोड- 497001 से निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क जमा करके प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा प्रपत्र केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल (CPP) https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app एवं सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट www.sainikschoolambikapur.org.in से भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। पूर्ण रूप से भरे हुए निश्चित निविदा फार्म को सिलबन्ध लिफाफे में अंतिम तिथि 04 अक्टूबर 2021 को सुबह 11.00 बजे या उससे पहले हाथों-हाथ या डाक के माध्यम से सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर में जमा किया जा सकता है। निविदा पेटी सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर, मेण्ड्राकल में दिनांक 04 अक्टूबर 2021 को सुबह 11.30 बजे खोली जाएगी।				
सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर की वेबसाइट या केन्द्रीय सार्वजनिक खरीद पोर्टल (CPP Portal) से डाउनलोड किये गये निविदा फार्म के साथ निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रुपये 100/- (अप्रतिदेय) का डिमांड ड्राफ्ट जो 'प्राचार्य सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर' के नाम से देय हो को संलग्न करना अनिवार्य है। अन्यथा निविदा प्रपत्र स्वीकार नहीं किया जायेगा एवं निरस्त माना जायेगा। डाक विभाग द्वारा किसी भी प्रकार की देरी के लिए सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर प्रशासन जिम्मेदार नहीं होगा। प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर के पास किसी भी निविदा को किसी भी स्तर पर स्थगित/रद्द करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित है।				
0633 प्राचार्य, सैनिक स्कूल अम्बिकापुर				

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TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001336/21-22 Network Survey and Digitization in GIS for 1 year	80 Lacs/ 2,00,000.	16.09.2021	07.10.2021:1700 Hrs/ 07.10.2021:1730 Hrs
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION			
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids	
TPDDL/ENG/ENQ/200001326/21-22 Supply & Installation of Air Conditioners 1.5 Tr at TPDDL various offices (SAC & WAC)	18.08.2021	20.09.2021 at 1500 Hrs/ 20.09.2021 at 1700 Hrs	
Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents			
Contracts - 011-66112222			

Not impossible to leave Ronaldo out: Solskjaer



Cristiano Ronaldo marked his comeback at Old Trafford with two goals in Saturday's 4-1 Premier League win over Newcastle United. Reuters

London: MANCHESTER UNITED manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said he will carefully manage Cristiano Ronaldo's playing time but has to balance that with getting the 36-year-old Portugal forward settled into the side.

Ronaldo, who has rejoined United after 12 years away, marked his comeback at Old Trafford with two goals in Saturday's 4-1 Premier League win over Newcastle United. United return to action in Tuesday's opening Champions League group stage match against Swiss club Young Boys and Solskjaer said he would not rule out resting Ronaldo.

"It's not impossible to leave him out," Solskjaer said. "He is 36. Mason (Greenwood) is 19 so it's the same, I have to manage his

minutes and I have to manage a 36-year-old's minutes as well. The other thing with Cristiano is that he looks after himself so much so I know he will recover quickly and he has had a pre-season. Of course, it's important that we get everyone up and running and to get him up and running and to give him 90 minutes."

Jesse Lingard put himself in contention for a start against Young Boys after coming off the bench to score the fourth against Newcastle.

United are joint top of the Premier League on 10 points after four matches. They travel to West Ham United on Sunday for their next league match.

REUTERS

Mohun Bagan great Roy dead
New Delhi: FORMER INDIA international and Mohun Bagan legend Bhabani Roy, who excelled as the country's first 'overlapping full-back' under the tutelage of the great Amal Dutta, died in Kolkata on Monday following a prolonged illness. He was 75. Roy was admitted in a city hospital for the last few days. Dutta was the first to use Roy as overlapping fullback in his 4-2-4 formation in the 1960s. Roy who made his international debut in the Merdeka Cup in 1969 represented India in three matches. At the domestic level, he was part of West Bengal's Santosh Trophy squad in 1968 and the triumphant team of 1971. He played his club football for Mohun Bagan from 1968 onwards wherein he captained the green and maroons in 1972 which was his last year in the club as a player. But he started his career with Mohun Bagan's arch-rivals, East Bengal, in 1964. He scored five goals in the process, and helped the club win the CFL in 1969. Bagan also won the IFA Shield that year.

PTI

Pak appoint Hayden, Philander as coaches for T20 World Cup
Lahore: FORMER AUSTRALIA Test opener Matthew Hayden and ex-South Africa pacer Vernon Philander have been appointed as coaches of the Pakistan team for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in the UAE, the board announced on Monday. The appointments were announced by the newly-elected Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja. The appointments of Hayden and Philander come a week after head coach Misbah-ul-Haq and bowling coach Waqar Younis resigned after two years in the job. "The Pakistan team needs a new direction. We have appointed Hayden and Philander for the World Cup," Raja said. "Going forward, we will have to carry out an extensive exercise in this regard in order to look for people who fit our model. Our objective is to give this team the best possible options so that it leads to improvement in performance," he added. The PCB had roped in former Test spinner Saqlain Mushtaq and all-rounder Abdul Razzaq as interim coaches for the home series against New Zealand.

PTI

Jaspal to travel to Jr Worlds despite unresolved issues

Labelled as 'negative influence' in the lead-up to Tokyo Olympics, Rana will serve as the chief coach for junior national pistol team in Peru this month

MIHIR VASAVDA
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 13

SHOOTING COACH Jaspal Rana, who was labelled as a 'negative influence' on the Indian team in the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympics by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president Raninder Singh, will be accompanying the junior national pistol team as the chief coach during the Junior World Championship later this month.

Headlined by Olympian Manu Bhaker, a team of 36 pistol shooters – 18 boys and 18 girls – will compete in eight events at the junior worlds that will be held in Lima, Peru, starting September 27. Raninder had also mentioned a rift between Bhaker and Rana, which he said could have impacted the teenage shooter's performance in her maiden Olympics.

Ronak Pandit and Samresh Jung had travelled as pistol coaches to Tokyo after a string of events had increased the rancour and broken down communication between Bhaker and Rana. While announcing the team on August 27, the NRAI did not release the names of coaches who would travel with the team. On Monday, the NRAI told The Indian Express that Rana will continue in his role as the junior pistol team's chief coach despite the allegations made against him until the review of the Tokyo Games performance is complete. The preparatory camp for the championship will begin in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Rana said his 'interest will be the performance of the national team'. "I am going as a national coach. I am not playing as anybody's personal coach. If any player needs me, I am there," he said. A record number of Indian shooters had qualified for the Tokyo Olympics and they were expected to win a few medals. However, the team returned empty-handed for the second consecutive Games. Last month, it was reported that a three-part review – in which the roles of the athletes, coaches and executives of the national federation would be examined – was underway.

The NRAI said in a statement that the review process will restart only after the federation's election concludes on September 18. "The review process as you know is still on and many sittings and sessions are yet to be completed. Once the election notice is issued, the President is in a caretaker capacity as well," the statement read.

The federation added: "In such a situation it would be extremely prejudicial as well as unfair on everyone involved if this dispensation were to take any decision in a hurry



NRAI chief Raninder Singh had earlier said that a rift between Jaspal Rana and Manu Bhaker could have impacted the teenage shooter's performance in Tokyo. File

Tougher trials for athletes to ensure form

New Delhi: To ensure that the track and field players competing at major events are in peak form when it matters, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is set to conduct a competition which will serve as a trial, especially for those who qualified early.

"We have also seen that 'action' would be taken against athletes who don't perform at the World Championships is a very, very long one. And there are instances when athletes have qualified, sometimes even a year before. Before the Games when we want a fitness trial, everybody is up in arms. We have seen exactly what has happened at the Olympic Games. All the suspects did not perform. Now we have made a decision that there will be one final trial where they have to perform. Only those who perform in the trials... we will have a championship actually... will be selected," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla said after a review of performance of athletes and coaches at the

executive council meeting on Monday.

Before the Olympics, trials were conducted for long jumper M Sreesankar and walker KT Irfan. Sreesankar finished 13th in the qualification round and Irfan finished 52nd in the 20 km race walk in Tokyo. The AFI had said that 'action' would be taken against athletes who don't perform at the Olympic Games.

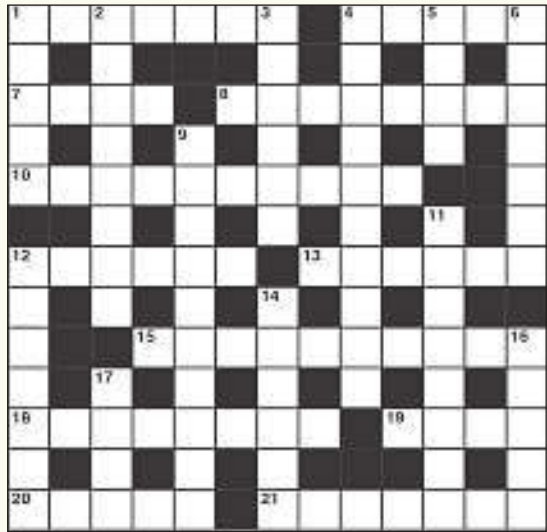
"The federation's stand is clear. We were not happy with Sreesankar's training programme, which is not professional or scientific, and the coach (his father). His coach had given in writing that if he does not cross 8 metres, we will stop coaching and he will listen to us. So the first action has already been taken, we have changed his coach," Sumariwalla added. The AFI is also on the lookout for foreign coaches for juniors in 400m, javelin throw, race walk, long jump and triple jump, events which have been identified as 'medal potential'. ENS

and without giving proper representation to all athletes, coaches, support staff and officials. Therefore, the review process is still on and will have to be taken forward by the new dispensation post September 18. Till then status quo naturally remains."

During the Olympics, Raninder had said: "There was just one person who was the neg-

ative factor in the whole thing (wrangling within the team)." He added that Rana and Bhaker, the junior team's star shooter, did not share a cordial working relationship and although Raninder insisted that India's debacle at the Games was not 'Jaspal's fault', the incident between the two 'might have had an impact on Manu to some extent'.

CROSSWORD 4534



- ACROSS**

1 Replying on one's inclination (7)

4 Householder in no hurry to move (5)

7 At end of evening, general merriment (4)

8 Rousing game in Dutch city (8)

10 Many members naturally support them (10)

12 They keep sharp eyes on German and American arms (6)

13 Saucy antics? (6)

15 The odd sliced loaf may be dug out (10)

18 The actors have to press hard (4-4)

19 The king to work as a key operative (4)

20 Doubtful being kept somewhat in the dark? (5)

21 Determined men out to catch criminals in action? (7)
- DOWN**

1 It stands to reason (5)

2 Fireproof third party (8)

3 Where food is prepared on board an old Greek warship (6)

4 City's teams organised according to plan (10)

5 These days it follows an opening of mine (4)

6 Tugboats? (7)

9 It's owner will be self-assured (4,6)

11 Extensively used troops (8)

12 Waits for word used by Nelson in a signal (7)

14 Old man cracks a nut (6)

16 Skinhead drove off with a lively horse (5)

17 Every atlas I approve includes it (4)

Solutions Crossword 4533: Across: 1 Drop the case, 9 Cursory, 10 Aesop, 11 Nile, 12 Sack race, 14 Wither, 16 Ironer, 18 Epilogue, 19 Icon, 22 Groom, 23 Timbale, 24 Astronomers. Down: 2 Rural, 3 Pooh, 4 Heyday, 5 Crackers, 6 Sustain, 7 Acknowledge, 8 Appearances, 13 Reformer, 15 Tripods, 17 Sultan, 20 Chair, 21 Imam

JUMBLED WORDS

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

—repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce. – Karl Marx (7)

BMOOR

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

AERTTY

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

SSYIS

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

ABELRH

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

Answer: History repeats itself, first as tragedy, second as farce. – Karl Marx

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



Difficulty Level 5s

Instructions

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

Difficulty Level

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

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4593

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**

Professional Arians still seem to have more going for them than those who are travelling, on holiday or temporarily resting. If you should be feeling left out, take the lead and accept responsibility in a community enterprise. And if you don't receive the right offers, try to create the opportunities for yourself.
- LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)**

You're still in a phase of preparation rather than action, which means that you can afford to put off the big day for a little while longer, if you wish. Above all, avoid financial complacency for, the moment you let down your guard, someone may try to over-charge you.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**

Faraway places seem to be very much more enticing than anything near at hand. You may even have been dreaming of life abroad. However, there seem to be more important personal matters to deal with, and you should do your best to complete everything in the right order.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)**

There'll be a remarkable series of planetary aspects within a few days, and the consequences could be far-reaching. If you wish to stay out of the firing-line, keep your head down, and if you wish to preserve your position, you must be flexible. That's the least that partners expect.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**

It's time to reflect on the many changes that have taken place recently, and which have left you feeling older, and much, much wiser. This is a moment to make sure that you are able to grapple with practical questions, rather than being obsessed by purely imaginary fears.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)**

Keep material affairs in order, and concentrate on anything which guarantees your day-to-day survival. You will have enough on your plate coping with questions of principle later in the week. What that means is minor matters might have to be postponed until you have more time.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**

You must now devote more attention to emotional ties and make others see sense, although you shouldn't expect them to view things exactly the way you do. You shouldn't be embarrassed about wanting change; the need for diversity is a very human one.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**

You're still in the driving-seat, but if other people expect you to do the fetching and carrying, you'd better oblige. However, you are not without influence, and there is much you can do to shape partners' desires and wishes, even without them knowing.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**

Pay whatever attention is needed to chronic complaints, and spare no effort in getting yourself into shape, emotionally, intellectually and physically. The simple reason is that you'll need all your powers of persuasion and concentration later in the week.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**

The major message coming from today's stars is that it is your inner perceptions and preconceptions which shape your point of view. Material pressures are less important than you might imagine. In other words, focus on what you want to happen rather than worrying about what other people might do.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept. 23)**

Now that Venus is charging through your chart you should begin to feel more hopeful, especially in the romantic department. Yet, please do be careful that your expectations are not too high to be satisfied. A little realism now will sow the seeds for success later on.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**

One of the many fascinating things about your life at the moment is the extent to which you are operating according to your own inner wishes rather than in line with what other people want, partners included. You need to keep family members happy, but it should be easy.
- Kolkata

Uncapped Australian fast bowler Ben Dwarshuis was on Monday named as Chris Woakes' replacement in the Delhi Capitals squad for the second half of the Indian Premier League. Dwarshuis, 27, a left-arm pacer, has picked up 12 and 100 wickets from seven and 82 List A and T20 matches so far. He represents New South Wales in List A while plays for Sydney Sixers in the Big Bash League.

PTI

No captaincy change as long as team performing: BCCI secy Jay Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 13

A MONTH before the T20 World Cup, BCCI secretary Jay Shah has thrown his weight behind captain Virat Kohli.

"As long as a team is performing while on the crease, the question of change in captaincy doesn't arise," Shah told The Indian Express. His comment comes in the wake of media reports predicting split captaincy in the days to come. It has been suggested that Kohli will be making way for his deputy at the T20 World Cup, Rohit Sharma, in the game's shorter versions to focus exclusively on Test cricket as far as captaincy is concerned.

Shah's linking of "captaincy" and "performance" alludes to India's 2-1 advantage in the unfinished Test series against England and its fine run in T20 cricket. Under Kohli, India has n't lost a series in the game's shortest format. They have got the better of England (3-2), Australia (2-1), Sri Lanka (2-0) and New Zealand (4-0). However, Kohli's record as captain in major ICC tournaments has not been great as India hasn't won the big-ticket white-ball events - Champions Trophy, World T20 or the 50-over World Cup since he took over.

Last week, the BCCI strengthened India's T20 World Cup support staff, bringing in India's most decorated white-ball captain MS Dhoni as the team's mentor. Those in the know said that the decision was made keeping in mind the team's unimpressive white-ball record in ICC events under Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri. While Kohli is yet to win an Indian Premier League title, Dhoni has led Chennai Super Kings to three titles.

At the media briefing, Shah had said that he had approached Dhoni for the mentoring role and the latter had agreed. "He was okay with my decision and agreed to be the mentor for Team India for the T20 World Cup only. I am glad that MS (Dhoni) has accepted the BCCI's offer and is keen to contribute to the national team once again. MS will work closely with Ravi Shastri as well as other support staff to provide support and direction to Team India," the BCCI secretary said.

He added that both Kohli and Shastri were kept in the loop. "I spoke to the captain and vice-captain, as well as Ravi Shastri. They all are on the same page, so that's why this matter has reached this conclusion."

'Standalone' Test should be treated as 5th test, says Ganguly

PTI/ADDS:

The proposed "standalone" Test between India and England should be treated as the series-deciding fifth match that was cancelled last week owing to a COVID-19 outbreak in the Indian camp, BCCI President Sourav Ganguly said on Monday and ruled out the possibility of it being considered a one-off game. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has written to the ICC seeking a Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) verdict on the fate of the cancelled match that was to be played at Old Trafford, Manchester.

"We want the series to be completed as this will be our first series win (in England) since 2007," Ganguly told PTI. "The BCCI maintains that Test cricket is the ultimate format and we won't compromise it for anything."

India were leading the series 2-1 when the match was called off after the visiting players refused to take the field following positive COVID-19 cases among its support staff, including head coach Ravi Shastri. A forfeiture will allow the ECB to get insurance payout of 40 million pounds that, it claims, would help offset losses because of the cancellation.

If the ICC deems that the match was abandoned due to COVID-19, India will officially win the series 2-1 as such a cancellation is considered "acceptable non-compliance" under World Test Championship rules.

How the titanium halo saved Hamilton's life after crash with Verstappen

SHASHANK NAIR

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 13

AN ACCIDENT between Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen at the Monza GP once again brought to light what an important invention the halo cockpit protection device has been for the sport of motor racing, especially Formula One.

When introduced in 2018, the reception to the halo was lukewarm to say the least. Drivers had many issues with the protective device, including reasons such as the device impairing visibility and taking away from the allure of open cockpits in an F1 car. But its usefulness has been highlighted repeatedly and none more so than now.

What happened?

The incident took place in the Rettifilo chicane between Hamilton and Verstappen. Hamilton had just made a pitstop and was opening up his Mercedes on the opposite side of the racing line. On that end, Verstappen was quickly attempting to overtake Hamilton.

The pair entered the two corners together

KNOWING THAT I MANAGED TO STOP HIM, IT DEFINITELY MAKES IT SWEETER, AND BRINGS ME CONFIDENCE FOR WHAT IS TO COME
DANIIL MEDVEDEV, after beating Novak Djokovic in the US Open final and denying the Serbian a career slam

No Hollywood ending

Novak Djokovic is denied his 21st Grand Slam title for now as Medvedev takes down the Serb 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 in New York

GAURAV BHATT
SEPTEMBER 13

BRAD PITT was galvanising Novak Djokovic when everyone in the Serb's box was sitting shell-shocked. Leonardo DiCaprio was miming a forehand, explaining to a companion after a straightforward miss from Djokovic. But the two stars couldn't script a win for the World No. 1. This wasn't Once Upon a Time in Hollywood, there was no revisionist, happy ending. Rewriting all scripts was a 25-year-old from Russia.

In the Australian Open final at the start of the year, Daniil Medvedev was dismantled by Djokovic, who then consoled: "It's a matter of time when you're going to hold a Grand Slam... if you don't mind waiting a few more years."

The wait lasted seven months. Medvedev won his maiden Grand Slam title, thwarting Djokovic's bid to clinch all four Majors in the calendar year. But it was his under-the-radar run to the final that projected Medvedev as a non-entity.

The fortnight saw storylines aplenty. Djokovic himself was the subject of a narrative other than the calendar Grand Slam. He had lost four opening sets in the tournament. So when he lost the fifth on Sunday, the odds actually leaned even more in his favour.

But who knew that when Djokovic said he was going to treat Sunday's final as the "last match of his career", he would actually play like that. Overwrought and outplayed. The ultimate baseliner was beaten at his own game. Early on in the contest, he pummelled his quads — "my legs were not there" — desperately trying to locate the 'On' button.

The emotions weren't in check either. He almost launched a ball into the stands, a ball girl nearly caught in the crossfire, left cowering, perhaps replaying the moment from last year when a wayward ball off Djokovic's racquet hit an umpire in the throat. The Serb stopped just in time. Moments later, he destroyed his racquet hammering the floor.

Cool customer

Still under the radar, watching tennis' marathon man crumble and combust across the net, was Medvedev, whose life has been about revelling in Dostoevsky-esque ironies. The first Russian man to win a Grand Slam title would have been born in France as planned, if not for preterm birth. The minor health complications meant he is deemed unsuitable for compulsory military service, even though the 6'6 lanky player is one of the fitter, faster men on tour.

He swore off video games at tournaments after one 8 pm-to-7 am romp led to a heavy defeat. Yet, his first celebration on Sunday saw him flop to the blue concrete, an ode to the 'dead fish celebration' from the FIFA video game series. "Only legends will understand... 12 + left," he said.

"I talked to the guys in the locker (room)... They were like, 'That's legendary'," Medvedev said.

The biggest irony is that his coronation came at the US Open. It was his breakout run to the final two years ago that made him public enemy No. 1. Boored vociferously for his antics, Medvedev soaked it in, taunted and showed the middle finger, playing the perfect villain.

New York — the longest-reigning champion of embarrassing tennis crowds — took an active part in the match on Sunday. And with Medvedev finally misfiring in the third set, the crowd began cheering for double faults, jeering, whistling and booing during his service. He squandered a championship point and conceded a break while trying to hustle through



Daniil Medvedev won his maiden Grand Slam title, thwarting Novak Djokovic's bid to clinch all four Majors in the calendar year. AP

his serves as spectators refused to pipe down.

Shaken and under the spotlight, Medvedev could have let loose again. Unlike 2019, he carried on unwavering.

The Russian was standing between Djokovic and the Grand Slam. Between the audience and several thousand 'I-was-there' moments. For a moment, Djokovic spurred into life. He flashed his first genuine smile of the match, then buried his face in the towel and bawled. Tears in his eyes, the crowd chanting his name, 'Nole' the veteran gunslinger stood up to the quick-drawing youngster one last time. And failed.

Solace in failure

By his own admission, there was relief after defeat. Apart from his dominance and imperious game, a facet of the 34-year-old's career has been the need to be loved. He would hand out candy in the press room and devise corny signature celebrations. He is quick to point out that he is not as loved as Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

New York has been especially unkind. His three US Open titles and six runner-up finishes have been set to the chorus of unrelenting, obnoxious boos. Clubbed with the previews for Sunday's final were features dissecting why New York has cheered against him and wouldn't embrace his quest for a Grand Slam.

But whether it was the desire to see history being made, or seeing a champion out of sorts, New York was all Djokovic on Sunday.

"You guys touched my soul. I have never felt like this in New York even though I have not won the match, my heart is filled with joy and I am the happiest man alive because you guys made me feel very special on the court," Djokovic fought tears at the ceremony.

The cherry on the sundae was securing Medvedev's vote in the GOAT debate. "I want to say sorry to the fans and Novak. For me, you are the greatest tennis player in history," Medvedev said.

The once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has gone. But Djokovic can find solace in the bittersweet defeat. Which came from Russia, with love.

How Djokovic was beaten at his own game

GAURAV BHATT
SEPTEMBER 13

DANIIL MEDVEDEV played the spoiler for Novak Djokovic's Grand Slam dreams, beating the world No. 1 in straight sets, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, in the US Open men's singles final. The 25-year-old Russian won his maiden Major title with his overwhelming brand of tennis, dropping just one set overall. In his first defeat at the Grand Slams this year, Djokovic was out-served and beaten at his own game. Here is how Medvedev won the battles within the battle.

Service and return

It was a game of tennis when Djokovic served and shooting practice when Medvedev did. The Russian fired kryptonite bullets at the Superman of returners, hitting the mark consistently.

A lot about his playing style is unorthodox, but Medvedev is old school with his service motion and efficiency. Rather than going lateral across the ball, the racquet's follow-through is forward through the ball. The flattened serve is further accentuated by his 6'6 frame and high toss, the limited knee-bend and the upper body leaning forward, resulting in an average first-serve speed of 196 kmph.

The placement, too, was clockwork on Sunday. When in doubt or under pressure, from both deuce and ad-court, he went down the T. He won 22 such points, including 9 aces. And when he was feeling it, he would serve it big, out wide from ad-court. He also intermittently followed his first serves with 200+kmph second serves.

"He was hitting his spots very well," said Djokovic after the match. "If you're playing someone like Medvedev who hits his spots so well, just aces, gets a lot of free points on his first serve, you're constantly feeling pressure

on your service games." Overall, Medvedev fired 16 aces and 22 unreturned serves.

In his previous six matches, Djokovic was able to break his opponent within the first two games of the second set, setting the tone for the remainder of the contest. He had a similar chance with Medvedev down 0-40 in the second game of the second set. The Russian served himself out of trouble with two aces and errors from Djokovic.

The world No. 1 - who called the missed break the "turning point" in the press conference - could convert 1 of 6 breakpoints, the lone break coming late in the third set.

Djokovic meanwhile had a terrible day with his service. Over the five sets against Alexander Zverev in the semifinal, he landed 66 per cent of his first serves. On Sunday, the percentage was 54. It was never going to be enough against Medvedev, whose first-serve return rate was 81 per cent this fortnight, the tournament's highest.

Baseline and the net

The reason behind Medvedev's returning success is his deep returning position. He stations himself way behind the baseline to give himself more time. For a tall (but lean and without excess weight) player, his lateral movement is superb. Together, the movement and the time to set up a stroke makes him a brutal counterpuncher. At the US Open, Medvedev won the most points from defensive situations, at 39 per cent.

On Sunday, Medvedev played almost one-third of his shots beyond 2m of the baseline and won 62 per cent of baseline battles.

Djokovic scored a solitary passing winner. In fact, 8 of his winners came from volleys. The ultimate baseliner had to switch up his game. He slowed down his second serve to bring Medvedev forward. And he rushed to the net often. In his first five matches, Djokovic came

to the net at an average of 7.9 times per set. Against Zverev, he came in 8.6 times, winning 35 of those 43 points. Against Medvedev, he tried it nearly 16 times per set, winning 31 out of 47 net points. He also serve-and-volleyed to disrupt Medvedev's rhythm. But the bread-and-butter groundstrokes from the baseline were largely ineffective. While his strokes were a lot crisper in the third set, Djokovic couldn't stay in the points.

Body and mind

With four four-setters in his first five matches and a five-setter semifinal against world No. 4 Zverev, Djokovic came into the final having spent 17 hours and 26 minutes on the court. Medvedev's on-court time before Sunday was 11 hours and 51 minutes.

"Could be, could be," Djokovic replied when asked if the long run had any effect on him. "I had more hours on the court spent from Daniil, that's for sure... I was just below par with my game. My legs were not there, just energy-wise I felt slow."

But Djokovic hinted that the mental toll of playing at the highest level and the mounting expectations of, first the Golden, and then Grand Slam caught up to him.

"...also emotionally, very demanding period for me in the last five, six months. Slams and Olympics and playing at home in Belgrade," he said. "Everything was coming together for me here and kind of accumulating all the emotions that I've been through."

His emotions consistently got the better of him on Sunday. In the fourth game of the second set, with mishits, unforced errors and wasted break points mounting, a frustrated Djokovic almost swatted the ball into the stands before stopping himself. A couple of points later he smashed his racquet and received a code violation. He also broke down in tears towards the end of the match.

Across the net, Medvedev was calm and uncharacteristically understated.

The wheel also hit Hamilton's head but because the force of impact had already been reduced, the blow to the defending champion's head was not severe.

my head is quite far forward. I have been racing for a long, long time and I am so, so grateful I am still here and feel incredibly blessed that someone was watching over me today."

Hamilton also said that after the crash, Verstappen simply walked away from the wreckage without enquiring on his health. Usually after a crash, drivers tend to make sure that the other driver is safe as well, according to Hamilton.

Halo proved useful again in F1

In 2017, French driver Romain Grosjean was the president of the Grand Prix Drivers' Association. He called the introduction of the halo as a 'sad day for Formula One'.

In 2020, Grosjean was competing at the Bahrain Grand Prix. A collision with Daniil Kvyat



Lewis Hamilton suffered from a blow to the head, but was largely protected because of the halo taking brunt of the impact. AP

out of turn 3 saw the Frenchman crash into the barriers. His car split in two and caught fire. Grosjean managed to escape the fatal crash with only second-degree burns on his hands.

Later an investigation showed that Grosjean had hit the barrier at 140 miles an hour while his car's force of impact was 53G's, splitting it in two. The investigation also showed that the halo took the brunt of the crash and protected Grosjean from lasting damage to the head or his body.

At the 2018 Belgian Grand Prix, Charles LeClerc was handed a reprieve as well. Fernando Alonso's McLaren was hit from behind and launched into the air. The car landed on LeClerc's Sauber — where the halo protected the now-Ferrari driver.

What is the halo made of?

The halo is made of titanium and is joined to the cockpit of the car at three different places. It initially weighed 7 kilos but that was increased to 9 in 2017. It is manufactured by three approved external companies that all provide the same cockpit safety specifications.

Research by the FIA showed that the halo increased the survival rate of a driver by 17%. The tests were conducted using simulations of 40 real life incidents.



CELEBRATING INDIA'S BRAVEHEARTS @ TOKYO PARALYMPICS 2020



THE ABILITY TO SCRIPT VICTORY

Indian athletes created history at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games with 19 medals, their highest medal tally ever. It's time for every Indian to join in the celebrations of what is truly a special moment in sports, says **Ivor Vaz**

FOLLOWING A BEST-EVER PERFORMANCE at the Tokyo Olympic Games, our athletes gave the nation plenty more to cheer about at the Summer Paralympics, with a number of record-breaking, truly inspiring and heart-winning achievements. With a total of 19 medals, our differently abled champions not only scripted history but proved that they had a rare ability to jump over the toughest of obstacles.

The 16th edition of the Paralympic Games, a major international multi-sport para-sports event governed by the International Paralympic Committee, was held in Tokyo between August 24 and September 5. Like the 2020 Summer Olympics, this event too was postponed to 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Given



Sumit Antil wins India's 2nd gold at the Paralympics with a world record throw of 68.55 m

the state of emergency in Tokyo, it was held entirely behind closed doors with no physical audience permitted. For the record, this was

the second Summer Paralympics hosted by Tokyo since the 1964 Games, and the third to be held in Japan (it also hosted the 1998

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

"A true sportsperson does not get bogged down by defeat or victory, and keeps on moving forward. You all are ambassadors of the country, and you have increased the prestige of the nation on the world stage through your remarkable performance. Your achievement will significantly boost the morale of the entire sporting community in the country, and budding sportspersons will feel encouraged to come forward to take up sports. This performance has led to awareness about sports that is increasing by leaps and bounds in the country."

— **Narendra Modi**
Prime Minister of India

"Delighted to see our Paralympians bring more glory to the nation. Congratulations! India is elated by your stellar performance. Our tricolour flies high at the podium due to your phenomenal feats. Every Indian is celebrating your success."

— **Ram Nath Kovind**
President of India

#	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
1	China	96	60	51	207
2	Great Britain	41	38	45	124
3	United States	37	36	31	104
4	RPC	36	33	49	118
5	Netherlands	25	17	17	59
6	Ukraine	24	47	27	98
7	Brazil	22	20	30	72
8	Australia	21	29	30	80
9	Italy	14	29	26	69
10	Azerbaijan	14	1	4	19
24	India	5	8	6	19

GOLD CLASS

Avani Lekhara

Rifle shooter Avani Lekhara won two medals for India – gold in 10 m air rifle standing and bronze in 50 m air rifle standing at Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Currently the World No 5 in Women's 10 m Air Rifle standing SH1, Avani became the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic gold medal. She is also the first Indian woman to win multiple medals in a single Paralympic Games. A car accident in 2012, at the age of 11, left her paraplegic. Her father encouraged her to join sports. She began training in archery but moved to shooting where she found her true passion. She currently studies law in Rajasthan.



Manish Narwal

Para pistol shooter Manish Narwal won a gold medal for India in Mixed P4 – 50 m pistol SH1. Ranked fourth in the world in Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1, Manish started out in 2016 at Faridabad in Haryana, where he made history by setting a world record while clinching gold in the P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1 event at the 2021 Para Shooting World Cup. He has won several medals, including gold, silver and bronze medals in national and international events. In 2020, Manish received the Arjuna Award, the highest sporting honour in India for "Outstanding Performance in Shooting Sports."



Sumit Antil

On August 30, 2021, Paralympian and javelin thrower Sumit Antil won the gold medal with a world record throw of 68.55m in the men's javelin throw in the F64 category at 2020 Summer Paralympics. Born in Sonapat, Haryana, he wanted to pursue a career in wrestling and join the Indian Army. But in 2015,



at the age of 17, while returning home from training, his motorbike was hit by a speeding truck. His left leg got amputated, shattering his dream of becoming a wrestler. Antil, however, was introduced to para-athletics by another para-athlete. He competed on various national and International platforms and was inducted into the Para Champions Programme in 2019.

Pramod Bhagat

Para-badminton player Pramod Bhagat won a gold medal at the 2020 Summer Paralympics in Men's singles SL3. A professional para-badminton player from Bihar's Vaishali district, he is currently ranked World No. 1 in para-badminton men's singles SL3. He developed a defect in his left leg when he was five. But when he went to watch a badminton match at age 13, he was fascinated with the game. For the next two years, he mastered the game with his footwork, fitness and fixture. Pramod played his first tournament against normal category players when he was 15, which motivated him to move ahead in his badminton career.



Krishna Nagar

Para-badminton player Krishna Nagar won the gold medal in men's singles SH6 at the 2020 Summer Paralympics in Tokyo. Prior to the Games, he had been ranked World No. 2 in para-badminton men's Singles SH6. The 22-year-old from Rajasthan has overcome many obstacles to be where he is at the moment. He was allotted the Paralympic Games quota to participate in the men's singles short stature 6 (MS SH6) category by the Badminton World Federation (BWF). A rising star in the sport, Nagar represented India in the 2019 World Championships and came back with silver and bronze medals in para-badminton.



India at 2020 Tokyo Paralympics

Gold	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Rifle SH1
Gold	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F64
Gold	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Mixed 50m Pistol SH1
Gold	Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3
Gold	Krishna Nagar	Badminton	Men's Singles SH6
Silver	Bhavina Patel	Table Tennis	Women's Singles C4
Silver	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T47
Silver	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's Discus Throw F56
Silver	Devendra Jhajharia	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46
Silver	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63
Silver	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T64
Silver	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	Men's 50m Pistol SH1
Silver	Suhas Lalinakere Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4
Bronze	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F46
Bronze	Singhraj Adhana	Shooting	Men's 10m Air Pistol SH1
Bronze	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's High Jump T63
Bronze	Avani Lekhara	Shooting	Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1
Bronze	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve Open
Bronze	Manoj Sarkar	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3

Winter Paralympics). Tokyo is now the only city to host the Summer Paralympics more than once.

Everyone expected the whopping 54-member contingent (40 men, 14 women across nine sports) from India to have a successful run, but nobody had envisaged a record harvest like this. India ended up winning more medals in one edition than in the country's entire history. Also, given the number of fourth-

place finishes (six) and one medal that was taken away, that number could well have been even higher but for some fine margins. Now that our Paralympians get almost the same kind of sports infrastructure backup and a more organized talent conversion mechanism, they are just as good, if not better, than able-bodied performers.

China topped the medal table for the fifth consecutive games, with 96 gold

and 207 total medals. Great Britain, the US and the Russian Paralympic Committee finished in second, third and fourth place respectively.

India finished 24th, marking its best performance in the Paralympic Games (among 162 nations; including Refugee Paralympic Team and Russian Paralympic Committee). The 2020 Games saw India's best-ever medal haul with a total of 19 medals (5 gold, 8 silver, and 6 bronze).



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We are proud to champion a group of **16 exceptional para athletes** supported through our **Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives**.



Tokyo Paralympics 2020

9 Medals

8 Para athletes

5 States

Krishna Nagar
Men's Singles Badminton (Gold)

Devendra Jhajharia
Men's Javelin Throw (Silver)

Mariyappan Thangavelu
Men's High Jump (Silver)

Yogesh Kathuniya
Men's Discus Throw (Silver)

Nishad Kumar
Men's High Jump (Silver)

Singhraj Adhana
Mixed 50m Pistol (Silver)
Men's 10m Air Pistol (Bronze)

Praveen Kumar
Men's High Jump (Silver)

Harvinder Singh
Men's Individual Recurve Open
Archery (Bronze)

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