FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021, JAIPUR, LATE CITY, 12 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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# Himachal nears total 1-dose cover; Bengal, UP, Bihar at bottom of pile

% OF ADULTS WHO

Himachal Pradesh 99.69

81.19

80.14

71.85

45.86

43.71

42.25

41.16

54.29

**HAVE GOT AT** 

Uttarakhand

Madhya Pradesh

**B**OTTOM **5** 

**Uttar Pradesh** 

Jharkhand

**INDIA** 

West Bengal

country, at least 40 per cent of

people have received at least one

vaccine dose. The lowest cover-

age is in West Bengal, where

about 41 per cent have been im-

munised with a single shot.

Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

and Tamil Nadu have done bet-

ter than West Bengal, but are still

well short of the share of vacci-

nated people nationally. In at

least eight big states, less than

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Tamil Nadu

Bihar

Gujarat

**LEAST ONE SHOT** 

**AMITABH SINHA** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2 SEVEN AND a half months into

the national vaccination drive, India has got more than half its adult population inoculated with at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.

In the two small states of Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh, and in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, almost every eligible person has received at least one dose of the vaccine,

As on September 1, nearly 51 crore people - which is 54 per cent of the estimated 93.8 crore people above the age of 18 years in India - had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Over 15.32 crore of these individuals have received their second dose as well.

Besides Himachal and Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh too have done well; over 70 per cent of their adult population have been administered at least one dose (see box).

In these states, over a quarter of the eligible population have been inoculated with the second dose as well.



### OPERATION SOCCER BALLS'

A photo provided to the Associated Press of members of the Afghan girls' soccer team and their families in Kabul on Aug 29, before blasts outside the airport scuttled plans to fly them out. The women's team managed to reach Australia last week

## CJI: Section of media gives everything a communal angle... country gets bad name

**ANANTHAKRISHNAN G** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana expressed concern Thursday over attempts by a section of the media to give communal colour to news and flagged lack of accountability of social media and digital platforms, saying they do not respond to complaints even from judges.

"The problem is everything in this country is shown with a communal angle by a section of the media... The country is going to get a bad name ultimately,"

**NAVEED IQBAL** 

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

his death on Wednesday night,

Hurriyat hardliner Syed Ali Shah

Geelani was given a quiet burial

at a cemetery near his house in

Naseem Geelani, alleged that

some police personnel barged

into their house at night, took

away the body, and held the last

rites on their own. Denying this,

the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)

Police said Geelani's "relatives

BUSINESS AS USUAL

participated in the last rites".

Geelani's younger son, Syed

the early hours of Thursday.

He made these remarks while hearing a batch of petitions - the Bench also comprised Justices Surya Kant and A S Bopanna — which sought action against news channels for presenting news of the Tablighi Jamaat meeting at the Nizamuddin Markaz in Delhi last year with alleged communal

Expressing anguish over the manner in which social media and digital platforms tarnish institutions at times, the CJI said: "There seems to be no control on web portals. They can publish

Geelani laid to rest, police deny

anything they like. If you go to YouTube, so much is shown in a minute. How much fake news and distortions take place! There is no control. Anybody can start any channel, any TV.'

He said the platforms do not respond to queries on what they publish. "These channels... there is no accountability... They never respond... This is the condition of institutions, forget individuals," he said, adding "they consider only people who are powerful. Institutions, common man, judges, they do not. This is what

Hegde, appearing for one of the petitioners, referred to the suspension of his account by

Twitter and said he had filed a

petition regarding this before the

Delhi High Court. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, said the government wanted viewers to get the news as it is. The government's attempt, he said, is to balance freedom of the press and the citizen's right to get unadulterated news.

Responding to the CJI's concerns, Mehta said there was also the problem of "planted stories" CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### **'LEAKED' PROBE REPORT**

# **Bid to subvert** probe, says CBI, arrests lawyer of Deshmukh

Daga brought to Delhi, CBI gets 2-day custody, criminal conspiracy charges

**ANAND MOHAN J** NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 2

THE CBI Thursday arrested Anand Daga, the lawyer of former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, in connection with the alleged leak of a probe report of the investigative agency on allegations of policemen being coerced by Deshmukh to collect bribes on his behalf from bars and restaurants in Mumbai.

Daga had been detained by the agency on Wednesday evening, along with Deshmukh's son-in-law Gaurav Chaturvedi, for questioning. While the agency let Chaturvedi go after a few hours, it arrested its own Sub-Inspector Abhishek Tiwari in connection with the alleged leak.

Following his arrest, Daga was produced at 1.40 am before Additional Metropolitan Magistrate in Mumbai, who granted his transit remand to Delhi. On Thursday afternoon, Daga and Tiwari were produced in a Delhi special court, which granted police custody to the CBI for two days.

In its remand application before Special Judge CBI Judge Vimal



Kumar Yadav, the agency submitted that Tiwari "entered into criminal conspiracy" with Daga "and unknown others and disclosed case sensitive and confidential documents" to the lawyer "for the purpose of subverting the investigation of the CBI in lieu of undue advantage and illegal gratification to himself".

In the application, which had sought seven-day police custody of Daga and Tiwari, the CBI stated that the "custodial interrogation of both the accused persons (is) necessary in the interest of the investigation of the case, in view of the facts and allegations".

The document in question is said to be the purported Preliminary Enquiry (PE) report of the agency, which found that no cognizable offence was made out against Deshmukh on the allegations levelled by former Mumbai Police chief Param Bir Singh.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

A queue for Covid-19 vaccine at a government hospital in Nadia, Bengal, the worst-performing state in vaccination. PTI

### Police failure to hold proper probe to torment sentinels of democracy: Court in Delhi riots case

**ANAND MOHAN J** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

DISCHARGING FORMER AAP councillor Tahir Hussain's brother and two others in a Northeast Delhi riots case, a city court Thursday pulled up Delhi Police, saying "when history will look back at the worst communal riots since Partition" in Delhi. "the failure of the investigating agency" to conduct a "proper investigation... will surely torment the sentinels of democracy".

Criticising lack of supervision by senior police officers, Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav, in the discharge order, said the investigation tried to "merely pull wool over the court's eves" and this case is a "colossal wastage of the hard earned money of tax-payers, without there being real intent

of investigating the matter".

Yadav discharged Hussain's brother Shah Alam, Rashid Saifi and Shadab in a case related to alleged loot and vandalisation of a shop during the February 2020 riots in the Chand Bagh area of Delhi.

Of the 750 riot cases, 150 cases have been received by this court for trial. So far, charges have been framed in 35 cases.

The court said there are a "large number of accused persons who have been languishing in jail for the last about one-anda-half years merely on account of the fact that the trial in their cases are not being initiated".

"This Court cannot permit such cases to meander mindlessly in the corridors of the judicial system, sweeping away precious judicial time of this Court when the same is open CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Heavy security near Syed Ali Shah Geelani's house in

"They were putting pressure on us to bury him at night," Naseem told The Indian Express. "We said we would bury him at

Hyderpora, Srinagar, Thursday. PTI

10 am. When they didn't relent, we said we would bury him early in the morning. But at 3 am,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

#### **GEORGE MATHEW** MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

CREDIT OFFTAKE by India Inc and the services sector remained but retail loans, driven by gold loan and credit card business, have shown a significant uptick. Retail or personal loans — which account for 26 per cent of total bank credit - jumped 11.2 per cent over 12 months till July 2021 compared with 9 per cent over the previous 12 months.

Within retail loans, the gold loan outstanding soared by 77.4 per cent, or Rs 27,223 crore, to Rs 62,412 crore by July 2021 on a year-on-year basis. SBI, the



In a sign of distress, gold loans

veals that bank loans to industry and the services segment, continue to remain subdued. Personal loans have, however. grown across categories, except housing which accounts for more than 50% of retail lending.

largest bank, reported a 338.76 per cent growth in gold loans as of June 2021. "The total gold loan

book of the bank was Rs 21,293 crore," said an SBI official.

But the huge jump in the gold loans business is also an indicator of Covid-19-induced distress following a national lockdown, medical expenses. "People find it easier to get loans by pledging gold. Seeing an opportunity, banks stepped up lending since recovery in this business is not cumbersome," said an official of a nationalised bank, who did not wish to be named.

Credit card outstanding also jumped 9.8 per cent (Rs 10,000 crore) to Rs 1.11 lakh crore during the 12-month period ending July 2021. While this suggests

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Tokyo stars Neeraj Chopra, Bajrang Punia at Adda today



**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

LAST MONTH, on the day wrestler Bajrang Punia won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Games, javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra made history by winning India's first track and field Olympics medal. Chopra's gold helped India sign off Tokyo 2020 in style as they finished with their best-ever performance.

Chopra and Punia will be the guests at an online Adda hosted by The Indian Express on Friday evening. They will be in conversation with Sandeen Dwivedi sports editor, The Indian Express, and assistant editor Mihir Vasavda who covered the Tokyo Olympics.

Chopra, who became India's first track and field medalist and the country's second gold medalist after Abhinav Bindra, had won the junior world championship, Commonwealth and Asian Games gold medal. But heading into the Tokyo Olympics, the 23-year-old was CONTINUED ON PAGE 2







Medallists Neeraj Chopra (left); Bajrang Punia

# SN

complaint filed in August 2020

#### **INSIDE**



**TALIBAN PREPARE TO REVEAL NEW GOVT PAGE 10** 

**GEHLOT LAYS STRESS** ON NEED TO FOLLOW **COVID PROTOCOL IN** SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

# Fake owners, fake tenants in Bengaluru eviction racket

**JOHNSONTA** BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 2

THE MODUS operandi is simple

and yet, audacious. A nexus of operators creates fake documents and claims ownership to prime property. Then, a case is filed in the small causes court, which deals with civil matters, for eviction of a fictitious tenant named by the fake owner. Once a favourable decree is obtained, it is used to try and

forcibly evict the legal owner. So far, 118 cases have been unearthed in Bengaluru, where "fake decrees" were obtained by

the nexus including a former public prosecutor and at least six lawyers, in an investigation conducted by the CID after the racket came to the notice of the Karnataka High Court last year.

There have been at least 12 arrests so far and the CID is likely to file dozens of cases on charges of forgery, impersonation and hoodwinking of courts over the coming days, based on records maintained by the registrar of the small causes court.

The racket came to light in November 2020 when the High Court was hearing a case filed by a private firm, Shah Harilal Bikabai and Company, against its



118 cases have been found since the land racket came to the notice of the Karnataka High Court (above) last year

eviction from a 100x56 sq ft property in North Bengaluru in 2018 using a small causes court decree. The firm told the High Court that it had been in posses-

sion of the land since 1954. The High Court found that within a few days of the filing of the eviction case in the small causes court, the fake owners and tenants claimed to have reached a compromise on the eviction timeline. The fake owners obtained a decree for eviction — under police protection - and started efforts to evict the actual occupant.

The company approached the High Court after a police

failed to stop the eviction process. On November 4, 2020, a single-judge High Court bench of Justice Krishna Dixit noted that the eviction suit was filed in the small causes court on April 26, 2018. "...strangely, a compro-

mise decree has been obtained on 31.05.2018, absolutely without any explanation for this rocket speed, even when the ink on the pleadings had not yet dried up," the High Court stated. Crucially, the High Court also asked the registrar of the small

causes court "to institute a police investigation in this serious matter and cause a domestic enquiry

the court, since fraud, forgery and fabrication ordinarily do not happen without the involvement of insiders".

against the suspect officials of

In the same month, the registrar filed a police complaint. But the probe picked up speed only after the case was handed over to the CID by the state government. On June 26 this year, Justice Dixit said that despite "the enormity of the scam that has been perpetrated by forging the court records and fabricating the seals of the sub-registrars and other offices", there was "no progress worth mentioning".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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THE VERDICT: PRITHVIRAJ, AJAY DEVGNAND THE MOST BIZARRE FILM IN YEARS

Raja Sen shares an entertainment report card of the month gone by. This August, one film dealt with communal hate, one film embodied the hate, and one film turned out too strange to hate

#### **EXPLIANED**



#### **COVID-19 QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS**

Karnataka takes step after cases surge in **Kerala following Onam** 

#### **TECH**



#### **DELL LATITUDE 15 9520 REVIEW**

A premium business laptop that deserves your attention

# **EXPRESS**

### **India-Taliban first** official contact, UP viral fever deaths, and Allahabad HC on cows

In this episode, we discuss the first official contact between India and the Taliban, the mysterious viral fever in UP and Allahabad High Court's observation regarding cows

gan just after 3:30 am and con-

tinued intermittently till dawn.

was over that senior police offi-

evening, police said "some

vested interests" were trying to

"spread baseless rumours about

a forcible burial". The statement

said such "baseless reports"

were part of "false propaganda

to incite violence", being spread

by "anti-national elements, es-

pecially across the border, who

are trying to take undue advan-

across the Valley remained

peaceful and no untoward inci-

dent was reported on Thursday.

According to the statement,

similar restrictions and Internet

shutdown will continue on

Friday, and the situation will be

"reviewed" in the afternoon.

India's best ever

The stars of

Police said the situation

tage of the situation".

cials started leaving the area.

It was only after the burial

In a statement in the

### **FROM PAGE ONE**

#### Bid to subvert probe, says CBI, arrests lawyer of Deshmukh

The Indian Express has, meanwhile, learnt that the supervising officer of CBI's Delhi unit probing the case has been transferred. DIG Abhishek Dular, who headed the unit (Anti Corruption V), was sent to Jammu and Kashmir early in August, sources said.

CBI officials, however, said the transfer was "routine" and followed Dular's empanelment as DIG in May and subsequent promotion. "He was sent to J&K as the CBI branch in the UT was until now headed by an SP and it was thought essential to have a DIG there," an official said.

At the CBI special court Thursday, Daga's lawyer, Advocate Tanveer Ahmed Mir, said that he is yet to receive a copy of the FIR, and that he had also sought a copy of the arrest memo. Tiwari was represented by legal aid counsel Santosh

Relying on a Supreme Court ruling, Mir told the court that "an accused is entitled to get a copy of FIR...They have lodged the FIR on August 31. So within 24 hours, they have to provide...Supreme Court has said all FIRs have to be put on a public platform, except in sensitive matters such as POCSO, terror,

Mir told the court that if the CBI hasn't put up the FIR online, "they are in clear violation of the Supreme Court order".

(WITH DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & OMKAR GOKHALE) CII: Section of media gives everything a communal angle... country gets bad names

on portals. "Not only communal, but also planted stories," he

The bench sought to know if he was saying that no regulation is required for such platforms. "You have a regulatory regime for TV and papers. Are you saying these web portals and YouTube channels don't require any regulation?". It asked if there is any self-regulatory mechanism in place.

Mehta said there is a regulatory regime now for SM and OTT platforms and referred to The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The Rules, he said, call for appointment of an Indian resident as the grievance redressal officer. He said the Rules have been challenged in various High Courts and the Centre has filed a

petition seeking transfer of all these cases to the Supreme Court.

He also cited the Cable Television Networks (Amendment) Rules, 2021, saying it provides for two layers of self-regulation and then oversight by a government committee. He said the government wants only minimum statutory

The bench said it will hear the matter again, along with the transfer petition by the Centre, after six weeks.

### Himachal nears total 1-dose cover; Bengal, UP, Bihar at bottom of pile

50 per cent of the adult population have been vaccinated.

Over 66 crore vaccine doses have been administered until now, of which Covishield – the vaccine developed by AstraZeneca and Oxford University, and manufactured in India under licence by Punebased Serum Institute in India - accounts for more than 87 per

Nearly 12 per cent of all doses have been that of Covaxin of Bharat Biotech; the remaining 1 per cent have been those of the Russian Sputnik V.

#### Police failure to hold proper probe will torment sentinels of democracy: Court in Delhi riots case

and shut case. The casualty in the matter is the pain and agony suffered by complainant/victim, whose case has virtually remained unsolved; callous and indolent investigation; lack of supervision by the superior officers of the investigation and criminal wastage of the time and money of the taxpayer," it

The court said "police seem to be still busy in filing supplementary chargesheets" and "precious judicial time of this Court is being wasted in giving dates in those cases" where there is "hardly any investigation carried out by the police".

It said the "case appears to have been solved merely by filing this chargesheet without any real effort being made to trace out the eye witnesses, real accused persons and technical evidence"

"This does not appeal to senses that nobody watched such a large crowd of rioters when they were on a spree of

Stalin announces memorial for

those killed in firing during

'87 Vanniyar quota agitation

# In a sign of distress, gold loans

In absolute terms, credit outstanding for the retail segment increased by Rs 2.88 lakh crore to Rs 28.58 lakh crore as of July 2021, according to the latest RBI data. When compared with this, credit offtake by the industry and the services sector were sluggish at one per cent and 2.7 per cent, respectively. These two segments account for more than half of the total credit outstanding of Rs 108.32 lakh

Within the retail segment, Ratings.

vandalism, looting and arson.

The complaint was required to

be investigated with a fair

amount of sensitivity and skil-

fulness, but the same is missing

ing this matter for so long, po-

lice have shown only five wit-

nesses in the matter -- the

victim, Constable Gyan Singh, a

Duty Officer, a formal witness

plainant gave two complaints

but "the investigating agency

did not start the investigation till

March 2 for the reasons best

March 3, 2020, Constable Gyan

Singh emerges in the picture

and the IO/investigating agency

leapfrogged that opportunity to

record his statement and con-

sequently arrested the accused

persons from Mandoli jail," the

It said this conduct of the in-

vestigating agency gives the

"impression that no real efforts

were made by it to sincerely col-

lect the evidence worth it and

apprehend the real culprits and

instead it has merely tried to

the part of Constable Gyan

Singh is not only fatal to the case

of the investigating agency, but

it also gives the impression that

"This silence and delay on

show the case as 'solved".

"Then all of a sudden on

It noted that the com-

and the IO.

known to it".

Noting that after investigat-

in this investigation," it said.

On the other hand, RBI data small industries also increased reveals credit to large industries contracted by 2.9 per cent to Rs 22.75 lakh crore in July 2021 against a growth of 1.4 per cent a year ago. As a result, overall credit growth to industry, which is yet to make new investments, remained more caused by the pandemic. or less flat at 1 per cent in the Credit growth to the serv-12 months up to July 2021 as

(reducing loans) and access to the bond market. According to the RBI, credit to medium industries registered a robust growth of 71.6 per cent at Rs 1.63 lakh crore in July 2021 compared with a contraction of 1.8 per cent a year ago. Credit to micro and

against 0.9 per cent in the pre-

vious 12 months. One reason

for the decline is de-leveraging

Non-food

credit

Agriculture

by 7.9 per cent compared with a contraction of 1.8 per cent a vear ago. This was driven by the government's initiatives like the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme extended to SMEs to overcome the stress

(Rs lakh crore)

ices sector slowed to 2.7 per cent in July 2021 from 12.2 per cent in July 2020, mainly due to deceleration in credit growth to NBFCs and commercial real estate, the RBI said. India's services sector remained in contraction territory for the third straight month in July, as business activity, new orders and employment declined further largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic and lojusted India Services Business Activity Index was at 45.4 in July, below the 50 mark indicating contraction. Vehicle loans rose by 7.3 per cent to Rs 2,65,951 crore by July

2021 as against 2.7 per cent growth in the previous year. Credit to agriculture and allied activities continued to perform well, registering an accelerated growth of 12.4 per cent in July 2021 as compared to 5.4 per cent in July 2020. Meanwhile, banks have cut

down their exposure to several sectors including telecom (13.5 per cent decline), cement (21.5 per cent decline) and metals and metal products (13.3 per cent decline) in the last 12 months amid the spectre of defaults, de-leveraging and access to the bond market for fund requirements. Loan outstanding to ports, construction, fertiliser, leather and sugar also declined during the period.

Banks, however, increased their exposure to the road segment by over Rs 54,000 crore or almost 30 per cent to Rs 2.37 lakh crore and gem & jewellery by over Rs 6,000 crore to Rs 61.404 crore

### Olympics, Neeraj Chopra and Bajrang Punia, to be guests at **Express** Adda today

under-prepared as he could not compete in important international meets for almost two years -- first due to an injury and then because of the pan-

However, he showed no signs of nerves or rustiness in Tokyo, where he demolished the javelin throw field. In qualification, he needed just one throw of 86.65 metres to seal a spot in the final, where he was virtually assured of a medal after his second attempt of 87.58 metres. Ultimately, that effort turned out to be the one that secured the gold medal.

It was a seminal moment, not just for Indian track and field but also for Indian sport overall, as Chopra's gold helped India surpass its previous best tally of six medals, won at the 2012 London Olympics. Punia made it to the podium

with a win over Kazakhstan's Daulet Niyazbekov in the bronze medal bout. The 27year-old had podium finishes in every major tournament - the World Championship, Asian Championship, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and was one of India's biggest medal prospects in the 65-kg weight class, considered to be one of the toughest. He lived up to the billing, defeating his Kazakh opponent 8-0 in the playoff to win India's seventh wrestling medal at the Olympics.

The Express Adda is a series of informal interactions organand features those at the centre of change. Past guests at the event include actor Manoj Bajpayee, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, CNN host Fareed Zakaria, actor Pankaj Tripathi, economist N K Singh, and writer and Morgan Stanley strategist Ruchir

ised by The Indian Express Group

#### Fake owners, fake tenants in Bengaluru eviction racket

Subsequently, a Division Bench of the High Court headed by then Chief Justice Abhay Sreenivas Oka converted the case into a PIL and began monitoring the CID probe. According to High Court recordings, the CID presented a report on August 17 stating that notices had been issued to revenue officials to "furnish records of suit properties involved in 71 small cause cases".

During the hearing, the Division Bench also ordered for bar associations to be made parties to the case on account of investigations leading to the alleged roles of advocates. Records show that a former public prosecutor has filed for anticipatory bail in the case after at least three advocates were granted

Small causes courts are established by states to adjudicate civil matters of small value in a summary manner. In the Shah Harilal Bikabai case, records reveal that several persons linked to the small causes court decree have also claimed to be linked to other properties in Bengaluru -- either as holders of General Power of Attorney (GPA), land claimant, or fake tenant.

For instance, a person identified as Sendil Kumar claimed to be the GPA holder of B Mani, the alleged fake landowner. Kumar, records show, is involved in as many 22 small cause suits for eviction either as claimant or tenant. Arun, the alleged fake tenant in the Shah Harilal Bikabai case, is also claimant or tenant in as many as 31 small causes court cases for

Records show that such cases were "settled" within a period of as little as two days to a maximum of six months.

"Word had spread in the real estate sector that a group of operatives was capable of evicting land holders in disputed properties by using underhand methods. The group would get a percentage of the value of a property from those who sought its services or use fake decrees to obtain money from those in possession of disputed property," sources said.

the services of this group," they

"Many people had sought

### soar 77% in 12 months up to July a pick up in discretionary **CREDIT GROWTH** vey said. The seasonally ad-

■July 20

spending, it also points to consumers resorting to high cost borrowing to meet their needs. In the previous 12 months ending July 2020, credit card outstanding had grown 8.6 per

housing loans - with the highest share of 51.3 per cent growth slowed to 8.9 per cent to Rs 14.66 lakh crore as compared with double-digit 11.1 per cent growth during the previous 12 months. The housing loan segment took a hit during the brutal second wave of the pandemic, with no reasonable pick-up in the housing segment, according to Care

> he has been 'planted/ introduced' to solve the case in hand," it said.

The fact that police have been able to arrest only three persons in a case in which a mob of over 100 people were involved, the court said, "speaks volumes about the efforts put in by it in this regard".

### Geelani laid to rest, police deny family's claims of being kept out

they barged inside and took away the body," he said.

Naseem said they were later informed that Geelani had been buried. "None of us were allowed to participate in the funeral," he said.

The burial took place at around 4:30 am, amid heavy security deployment. Family members said they were only allowed to visit the grave in the

Relatives said they were not allowed to perform the last rites of the 92-year-old separatist leader, including the ritual funeral bath.

Denying this, Inspector General of Police (Kashmir) Vijay Kumar said: "The reported allegations against the police are baseless. In fact, police facilitated in bringing the body from his house to the graveyard as there was apprehension that miscreants may take undue advantage of the situation. Relatives participated in the last

Wednesday night, Geelani's Pakistan-based representative, Abdullah Geelani, had announced that the separatist leader would be buried at the martyrs' cemetery in Srinagar, in accordance with his will.

"We told them (police) to do whatever they had to do whether they wanted to impose a curfew or prevent people from attending his funeral – but to let us bury him at the martyrs' cemetery to fulfill his wish. But they didn't listen to our plea," said a relative who didn't want to be named.

This is unjust. This is against the Constitution and the law of the land. What do they want to convey by this (action)? They can't justify this wrong by making an excuse about a law and order situation," said Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam, the Grand Mufti of Kashmir. Geelani's death "is a great loss to the nation, we have lost a legend," he said. The news of Geelani's death

started doing the rounds just past 11 pm on Wednesday. Within an hour, the Valley saw a the state bifurcated. Mobile Internet services were shut down as a precautionary meas-Security forces manned every major crossing, and rolls of concertina wire and barricades blocked roads leading to Geelani's residence, as well as to

strict security clampdown, sim-

ilar to the restrictions imposed

on August 5, 2019, when I&K's

special status was revoked and

The original police plan, formulated over two years ago, was to delay the news of the death till 11 pm; their job was made easier as he died shortly before 11 pm. "Another issue was the concern that he would have to be hospitalised, but that situation was averted because of his demise at home," said a senior security official.

the airport.

By 1 am, armoured trucks barred entry beyond the Hyderpora Chowk that leads to the airport. On the road leading to Geelani's residence, family members who arrived in private cars were screened at the barricades, and only close relatives were allowed Senior government officials

also arrived at Geelani's residence. Over the next couple of hours, scores of buses and trucks drove past the barricades, carrying paramilitary personnel for deployment. The influx be-

#### A tiff and an insult later, Raipur theatre festival in Habib Tanvir's memory gets new name ing the department's name to gargroup, following a tiff with the tising five plays for some time and

#### **ARUN JANARDHANAN** CHENNAL SEPTEMBER 2

A MONTH after clearing the implementation of 10.5 per cent reservation for the Vanniyar community in admissions and government jobs, Chief Minister M K Stalin on Thursday announced construction of a memorial in Villupuram for those killed in police firing during an agitation to demand separate quota for the community in 1987.

In his statement, Stalin said it was a promise he made during the Vikravandi by-election of

spending Rs 4 crore for the memorial construction.

S Ramadoss, founder of the PMK, which is an AIADMK-BIP ally and has the backing of the Vanniyar community in northern Tamil Nadu, welcomed Stalin's announcement. He termed the 1987 movement as a major struggle for social justice in India. Incidentally, the PMK was one of the major challenges for the DMK in the last assembly elections as it claimed to have rallied almost the entire community for the AIADMK-BIP alliance in the elec**GARGIVERMA** RAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 2

A TWO-DAY theatre festival to mark the 99th birth anniversary so because of its in-your-face title Baap Ka Nahin Natya Mahotsav" and the backstage story.

of theatre stalwart Habib Tanvir, which got underway here on Wednesday, has generated keen interest among the people. More "Sanskriti Vibhaag Tumhaare

The free-entry event is being seen as a move of defiance by its organisers, a Raipur-based theatre

Chhattisgarh Culture Department over holding the festival. Organiser Yog Mishra from

Abhinat Film and Drama Foundation said the event's name is drawn from an insult hurled at him when he approached the Culture Department with a proposal to hold the festival.

The original plan was to hold a five-day event, Habib Tanvir Theatre Festival, for which Mishra said he approached the Director of Culture Department for support on August 5.

"My students had been prac-

we thought of organising this event. When I went to the Culture Department looking for help, the Director told me, Sanskriti Vibhaag tumhaare baap ka nahi hai,' Mishra, a close associate of Habib Tanvir, told *The Indian Express*.

"All I had asked in my proposal was Rs 2.5 lakh for the five-day event. I was ready to take any help, be it for lights or venue. I had taken an official proposal and was looking for support, instead I got insulted," the 60-year-old said.

**Culture Department Director** Vivek Acharya said Mishra was us-

ner publicity for his event.

There is an official procedure for submitting such proposals. He never submitted any formal proposal. He was rude and insulting to me in my office on August 5,' Acharya said. "He [Mishra] had planned to organise five days of the play Dayashankar, which the department had funded for the same organisation in January 2020. Since it was a repeat, and because there are Covid-19 guidelines in place. I told him to organise a one-day event, for which the

department would have provided

Jaipur

help. But he was adamant to hold the programme his way."

eventually Department ka koi maai-baap nahi hai (the department is running without any authority). Which is when I had to tell him, Agar department ka maai-baap nahi hai to department aapke baap ka bhi nahi hai (if there is no authority running the department, the depart-

> erty)," the Director said. Mishra accused Acharya of lying. "Why would I go to him with only one play, when we had prepared five plays? He is lying to save

face and accusing me of being rude," he said. Mishra, who is associated with

theatre for past 40 years, said he decided to rename the festival's name after his meeting with the Director. "I told him that he had not seen the end of me, and I started working on getting as much private support as possible." Eventually, a friend, Hindi film

ment is not your personal propactor Sanjeev Batra, helped him secure the venue - Old Rang Mandir Bhawan. "Help poured in from friends in Raipur and Mumbai, which is how we could organise the event," Mishra said.

# EXPRESS NETWORK

MHA extends visas of foreigners stuck in India till September 30

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

OWING TO continued Covid-19 restrictions on international commercial flights, the government on Friday extended visa validity of foreigners stuck in India since March last year to September 30, 2021. Earlier, it had been extended till August 31.

However, Afghan nationals already in India on any category of visa will be granted extension of visa under guidelines issued separately for them, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Thursday.

India recently granted e-visas to Afghans fleeing the Taliban rule under Emergency X Misc category, valid for six months.

For extension of visa beyond September 30, foreigners would have to apply on the online e-FRRO platform on payment basis.

**VISHWAS WAGHMODE** 

IN A move towards resolving the

long-pending impasse with

Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari

on nominations to the Legislative

Council, the delegation led by

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray

to Raj Bhavan has submitted a let-

ter dropping one name from the

previous list, and recommending

Aghadi government hopes to

complete the nomination process

to fill 12 vacancies in the

Legislative Council, the upper house of the state Assembly.

said that Raju Shetti has been

dropped from the list. He was an

NCP nominee. The party has rec-

Koshyari during the meeting, The

*Indian Express* has learnt — one

about the change of nomination,

and another reminding him to ap-

prove the list at the earliest. The

governor gave no commitment on

clearing the new list, sources said.

to the Raj Bhavan by Deputy Chief

Minister Ajit Pawar, Revenue

Minister Balasaheb Thorat and

Chief Secretary Sitaram Kunte,

and met the governor at Raj

about the replacement for Shetti.

On Thursday, Pawar indicated that

Shetti's name had been dropped

The NCP was tightlipped

Bhavan.

Thackeray was accompanied

Thackeray gave two letters to

ommended a new name.

Sources in the government

With this, the Maha Vikas

a new name in its place.

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

**MAHARASHTRA COUNCIL NOMINATIONS** 

In CM's letter to

Governor, one

name dropped

# MEA: Meeting with Taliban focused on ensuring no anti-India terror

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

TWO DAYS after India's envoy to Oatar held talks with a top Taliban leader in Doha, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said that New Delhi's immediate focus is to ensure that Afghan soil is not used for terrorist activities directed against the country.

India had used the meeting in Doha to convey this concern, and to discuss the return of the Indians who still remain in Afghanistan, MEA official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said on Thursday.

"We received a positive response," Bagchi said, referring to the meeting between India's Ambassador to Qatar Deepak

from the list of 12 names recom-

mended last year by the state cab-

to the fore that those who have lost the election are not appointed

to the upper house of the state leg-

islature. We are verifying this new

information. If there is any issue

in it, then the chief minister will

take the decision on it," Pawar said

while speaking to mediapersons.

has taken an aggressive stand

against the ruling NCP in the last

couple of weeks over multiple is-

sues in Kolhapur and Sangli dis-

tricts. This too could have played a

role in the NCP dropping his name

from the list and recommending

NCP on dropping another name.

"In one of the cabinet meetings

last month, there was a discussion

about dropping two names from

the 12 names and recommending

two new names. All rights have

been given to the CM to decide on

it." said a cabinet minister, on con-

 $There \, is \, also \, a \, discussion \, in \, the \,$ 

the new one, the sources said.

Sources pointed out that Shetti

"New information has come

Mittal and the head of the Taliban's political office in Doha, Mohammad Abbas

New Delhi made this first official contact with the Taliban on Tuesday, hours after the last US military aircraft flew out of Kabul, marking the end of the 20-year

In response to a volley of questions on whether India would recognise the Taliban regime in the backdrop of the meeting, Bagchi said: "It was just a meeting. I think these are very early

Asked if India would have more meetings with the Taliban, the spokesperson said he did not want to speculate. "I would not like to speculate on the future. I have no update to share on that,"

On bringing back the remaining Indians from Afghanistan, Bagchi said India would be able to revisit the matter once the airport in Kabul resumes operations.

In a statement on the meeting in Doha, the MEA had said earlier this week that Mittal and Stanekzai had met at the Indian Embassy on the request of the Taliban side.

"Discussions focused on safety, security and early return of Indian nationals stranded in Afghanistan. The travel of Afghan nationals, especially minorities, who wish to visit India also came up," the statement said.

"Ambassador Mittal raised India's concern that Afghanistan's soil should not be used for anti-Indian activities and terrorism in

any manner. The Taliban representative assured Ambassador that these issues would be positively addressed."

Mittal was Joint Secretary (Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran) in the MEA until last year. India's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Rudrendra Tandon, was JS (PAI) before Mittal.

The two Ambassadors have been playing a key role, along with Mittal's successor as JS (PAI), JPSingh, in shaping the Indian response to the situation in Âfghanistan.

Mittal and Singh met Afghanistan leader Abdullah Abdullah in Doha in the days before Kabul fell on August 15. Abdullah, a former Chief Executive of Afghanistan and Chairman of the High Council for

National Reconciliation, is believed to be in talks with the Taliban for a role in the new government.

The meeting between Mittal and Stanekzai took place after Prime Minister Narendra Modi directed that a high-level group comprising External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, along with senior officials, should focus on India's immediate priorities.

Over the weekend prior to the meeting, Stanekzai had said that India was "very important for this subcontinent", and that the Taliban regime would like to continue Afghanistan's "cultural", "economic", "political", and "trade ties" with India "like in the

### raised via fuel hikes in 7 yrs; where is that money: Rahul

KANNUR (KERALA), SEPTEMBER 2

ACCUSING THE Centre of mishandling the country's economy, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the nation was at a "critical crossroad" and the Congress, as a major opposition party, has a moral duty to fight the forces that threaten the very idea of

rising prices of fuel, Gandhi said the government has come up with a new concept of GDP, wherein a rise in GDP means a rise in prices of gas, diesel and petrol. "While international prices for crude and gas has gone down since 2014, there has been huge increase in prices in GDP in last 7 years. Rs 23 lakh crore has been earned by increasing prices of GDP in the last seven years. Where has this money gone," he asked, joining a function organised virtually on the occasion of inauguration of the District Congress

vatisation plan had a logic.

INDIAN

EXPRESS

GROUP

# 'Rs 23 lakh cr'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Attacking the Centre over Committee office in this north

Kerala district. "Modi government has clearly mishandled the economy. And, what this country has built over the last 70 years, is being given away to select few friends of Modi-ji," Gandhi said. He said the Congress was not against privatisation but its pri-

#### **DECLINING SALES, POPULATION**

# Camel breeders, conservationists hopeful after HC notice to state govt

**DEEP MUKHERJEE** JAIPUR, SEPTEMBER 2

FOLLOWING THE notice by Rajasthan High Court to the state government over declining sales and population of camels, camel breeders and conservationists are hopeful that their grievances will be addressed.

"We welcome the court decision. We are hopeful after the High Court notice to the government that our longstanding grievances will be addressed. We will be consulting with legal experts to decide whether we will move an application to be a party in the suo motu petition," said Hanwant Singh, director, Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan, an organisation working for the welfare of camel breeders.

He added that camel breeders have also raised the issue with the opposition BJP, urging the party to take it up during the upcoming monsoon session of the Assembly.

The suo motu cognisance was taken by the HC after The Indian Express reported last month about the plight of camel breed-

ers in the state, who say that the provisions of The Rajasthan Camel (Prohibition of Slaughter and Regulation of Temporary Migration or Export) Act, 2015 have resulted in decline in camel sales, endangering their livelihoods.

In the petition, the court had cited reports published in The Indian Express about declining population of camels in the state and difficulties faced by breeders.

In its order, the court has also requested advocate Prateek Kasliwal to act as an amicus curiae in the matter.

"My role will be to assist the court, which will incept from collection of feedback and statistics from various stakeholders; comprehensively assessing the plight of the camels whilst focusing on the methods to increase their population thereby facilitating appropriate relief mechanism for the cattle breeders through seeking either suitable amendment(s) to the Act of 2015 and/or directions to the government," Kasliwal told The Indian

The matter will be heard again on September 22.

Rajnath Singh with Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani at Kevadia on Thursday. Bhupendra Rana

# No major terror attack after Modi took over govt: Rajnath

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KEVADIA. SEPTEMBER 2

**DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath** Singh on Thursday said not a single major terror attack has taken place in the country ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi assumed office in 2014, and asserted that terrorists were scared of the BJP government at the

dition of anonymity. According to a minister, Eknath Khadse could be the second person, but only if the need arises. Khadse left the BJP to join the NCP before the state assembly elections. Shetti too was close to the BJP earlier, but has better relations with NCP now. Dropping one or both would also signal ac-(OROP) unresolved for 40 years. commodation of the BJP, a rare act

of political compromise between the two sides. **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

Addressing the Gujarat BJP leaders on the second day of the party's three-day state executive meeting at Kevadia in Narmada district, Singh also slammed the Congress saying the party was not sensitive enough towards the Army jawans as it kept the issue of One Rank-One Pension

"No matter what it takes, we will not let terrorists succeed. Forget about Jammu and Kashmir, no major terrorist attack took place in any part of the country after the arrival of Modiji. This is our major achievement. It seems that terrorists are now scared of the BJP government. This is not a small thing,"

"Terrorists now realise that they are not secure even in their safe havens. What we did (surgical strike in PoK) after the Uri attack gave a clear message to the world that we can kill terrorists on this side as well as by crossing the border if need arises," Singh added.

If the previous Congress governments were sensitive towards Army jawans, the issue of OROP, which the jawans had been demanding for 40 years, would have been resolved, he said. But the Congress did not accept the demand, the minister said. "But, Modiji implemented it immediately. This shows the difference between a Congress

government and a BJP government," he said. Singh attacked the Congress

and its leaders saying that they only used Mahatma Gandhi's name, but failed to follow in his footsteps. Referring to Ram temple at

Ayodhya, he said such issues are not mere slogans, but BJP's commitment, for which, the party had sacrificed three of its state governments after the Babri mosque was demolished. "We always fulfil what we

omise. These are not mere election slogans...it's our cultural commitment. Now, no force can stop the construction of a grand Ram temple. We had sacrificed three of our state governments after the structure (mosque) was razed. Though the Centre had dismissed three of our governments, we never diluted our commitment and movement," Singh added.

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Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 on their last known address however the same have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by wa of public notice about the same Date and Amount of Description of

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	Loan Account No.	p. 1, 1, 1, 1, 1
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# EXPRESS NETWORK



Raj Kundra and actor Shilpa Shetty

**NEW DELHI** 

#### Plea seeks FIR against Kundra, Shilpa; court seeks ATR

Lucknow: A Delhi court has directed Delhi Police to submit an action taken report (ATR) in an application seeking registration of FIR against businessman Raj Kundra and actor Shilpa Shetty for allegedly misappropriating Rs 41 lakh for production and circulation of porn movies. Metropolitan Magistrate Mansi Malik directed police to submit the ATR on November 9. The complainant, Artec Builders LLP, through its partner Vishal Goel, filed the application seeking registration of FIR against Kundra, Shetty and five others, who are directors and promoters at Vivaan Industries Ltd.

**MIZORAM** 

#### Construction staff 'abducted' by Assam police

Aizawl: Mizoram on Thursday accused the Assam police of assaulting and kidnapping a civilian construction worker from the disputed border. In a letter written to his counterpart in Assam's Hailakandi district, Mizoram's Kolasib Deputy

Commissioner Lalthlangliana alleged that one Lalnarammawia, operator of an earth excavator was blindfolded and kidnapped at gun point by Assam Police personnel in commando fatigues from Aitlangarea, a few kilometers from Vairengte village. The incident occurred on Thursday afternoon, when Lalnarammawia and others were working at a road construction site, the letter

**GUJARAT** 

#### Civic body plans to limit free child birth policy to 2

Ahmedabad: Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation is planning to limit the free child delivery facility upto two children in its hospitals. For delivery of a child above two, the hospitals will charge, the rates of which are being framed as per the bed category and other facilities availed. The proposal that is expected to be tabled in the standing committee in coming weeks will apply to VS Hospital, Shardaben Hospital and LG Hospital where over 63,000 deliveries were reported in last three years.

#### **MAHARASHTRA**

#### Retired central govt staff duped of Rs 1.14 crore

Mumbai: A senior citizen who was employed in a central government service was cheated of Rs 1.14 crore by cyber criminals earlier this week. The fraudsters asked him to pay Rs 4.5 lakh to gain access to his insurance money but ended up defrauding him, police said. The complainant, S Prasad, a Trombay resident, approached the police after which an FIR has been registered against nine people who the police suspect are from outside the state.

# After row, Bihar univ named after JP restores chapter on his views

**SANTOSH SINGH** PATNA, SEPTEMBER 2

FOLLOWING AN uproar, the Bihar government has asked JP University in Chhapra to restore chapters on socialist icons Jayaprakash Narayan and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia that were taken off the university's political science Master's syllabus three

The administration of the university, which is named after Jayaprakash Narayan, has said it was a mistake to accept the new syllabus from which the chapters on JP, Lohia, and the communist revolutionary MNRoy had been dropped.

Bihar Education Minister Vijav Kumar Choudharv took note of the matter after protests from students, academics, and opposition leaders including RJD president Lalu Prasad.

LANDSLIDE IN SHIMLA

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** 

A DAY after the Calcutta High

Court said it was aware that a

Special Investigation Team (SIT)

constituted by a Division Bench

was yet to begin probe into al-

leged incidents of post-poll vio-

lence in Bengal, the state govern-

ment has formed a team of ten

ployed for north, west and south

zones of the state as well as for

the Kolkata Police areas, sources

in the state home department

had sought to know why the SIT

not yet begun probe and why the

state government has not issued

Justice of the Calcutta High Court

Rajesh Bindal said they were

aware of the matter, adding that

necessary steps will be taken.

Hearing the plea. Acting Chief

a notification in this regard yet.

A plea that was recently filed

The officers have been de-

IPS officers to assist the SIT.

KOLKATA SEPTEMBER 2

Vehicles buried under debris after a rain-triggered landslide at Vikasnagar in Shimla on

Post-poll violence: Bengal forms

team of 10 IPS officers to aid SIT

Rabi

Chatterjee mentioned the mat-

ter before Justice Rajesh Bindal's

bench that the SIT has not yet

started working. In response,

Justice Bindal said he was aware,

and if required, adequate steps

will be taken. "We know that the

SIT is not working. Necessary

The state government has

also filed a Special Leave Petition

in the Supreme Court challeng-

ing the Calcutta High Court or-

High Court on Thursday di-

rected the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) to probe al-

legations of post-poll violence

in the state. A seven-member

committee set up by the

National Human Rights

Commission (NHRC) had earlier

looked into alleged incidents of

violence following the West

Bengal assembly elections and

recommended a court-moni-

On August 19, the Calcutta

steps will be taken," he said.

advocate

His observation came after tored CBI probe.

Shankar

Lalu tweeted in Hindi on Wednesday: "I had established a university named after JP in my karmabhoomi Chhapra 30 years ago. Now the Sanghi government of Bihar and officials with a Sanghi mindset have been removing chapters on the ideas of great socialist leaders from the university syllabus. This will not be tolerated. The government should take note of this at once."

The chapters on the life and ideas of JP and Lohia were removed when the MA syllabus was revised during the gubernatorial tenure of veteran BJP leader Lalji Tandon between August 2018 and July 2019.

The Governor is ex officio chancellor of state universities. The new syllabus adopted by Raj Bhavan introduced the 'choicebased credit system (CBCS)', which followed a grading system of assessment, and which gave students the choice of selecting from a prescribed syllabus comprising core, elective, or skillbased courses.

While dropping the chapters on the ideology of socialist icons, the new syllabus retained a chapter on the JP movement, which produced the tallest leaders of Bihar in the last more than three decades - Lalu, Nitish Kumar, Ram Vilas Paswan, and Sushil Kumar Modi. The new syllabus also included a chapter on the 2011 anti-corruption movement by Anna Hazare.

Former governor Tandon passed away last year.

JP University registrar R P Bablu told The Indian Express: "We had adopted the revised syllabus given by Raj Bhavan for our scheduled 2018-20 Master's courses. We do not want to go into the merits or demerits of the decision, or the reasons why the chapters on JP and Lohia were dropped. But we will restore the chapters with immediate effect, as it is within our powers to do

Bablu said the university was named after JP, and there could be no two ways about having a detailed chapter on his life and ideology. The scheduled 2018-20 Master's programme is running late, and the university would ensure that the chapter is still taught, he said.

"We are going to add chapters on JP and Lohia in the second semester," Bablu said. The chapters

were in the first semester earlier. Asked which committee of the then Rai Bhavan had chosen to omit the chapters on the two socialist icons, the registrar said: "I am not competent to comment on that. The Bihar education minister has already spoken to the university authorities. Chhapra is the land of JP, and students and academics were right in pointing out the mistake.

#### **COAL 'SCAM'** ED summons Bengal minister **Moloy Ghatak** on September 14

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 2

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) has summoned West Bengal Minister Moloy Ghatak in connection with its ongoing probe into a coal pilferage case. The agency is investigating the money-laundering aspect of the case, sources said, adding that Ghatak has been asked to appear before it on September 14 in Delhi.

The agency had recently summoned Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee. In her response to the ED, Rujira said that she was unable to go to Delhi, citing the pandemic situation.

The ED had earlier arrested Vikash Mishra, brother of Vinay Mishra, who it said had links with TMC leaders. A West Bengal police officer, Ashok Mishra, was also subsequently arrested in the case. He was inspector in-charge of Bankura Police station and was posted there for nearly three years, sources said. It is alleged that he was involved in financial transactions with coal smug-

In response to the ED summons to Abhishek and Rujira, Mamata lashed out at the BJPled Centre and accused them of "political vendetta".

They have failed to fight the TMC politically and therefore using central agencies such as CBI and ED against Abhishek. If I want, I can send bagful of evidence showing how BIP leaders looted Bengal's coal region," she said during a virtual meeting with TMC youth wing on its foundation day.

In November last year, the CBI had filed a case under IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy) and 409 (criminal breach of trust by public servant), and under the Prevention of Corruption Act. It is related to alleged illegal mining and theft of coal from the Kunustoria and Kajoria coal fields of Eastern Coalfield

# Myanmar refugees, to help in school admissions

**TORA AGARWALA** GUWAHATI, SEPTEMBER 2

CHILDREN OF migrant/ refugee Myanmar nationals can now be admitted to schools in Mizoram, according to a circular issued by the state's Directorate of School Education.

The circular, signed by James Lalrinchhana, Director, Directorate of School Education, was sent to all District Education Officers and Sub Divisional Educational Officers on Tuesday.

The officials have been asked to "take necessary action on admission to migrant/refugee children in your jurisdiction to schools so that they can continue their schooling". Citing the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act), the circular says that "children aged between 6 to 14 years belonging to disadvantaged communities have the right to be admitted to school in a class appropriate to his or her age for completing elementary education."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Lalrinchhana said that while the "immediate cause" of the order was the plight of the children of Myanmar nationals, it applies to migrant children of any nationality. "As long as they are on bonds'

Mizoram extends aid for

SINCE THE military coup in Myanmar, 9,450 refugees, including about 20 legislators, have crossed into Mizoram, as per records. The MNF government has ignored the Centre's call to seal the border citing "deep ethnic bonds" and a common tribal lineage

Indian soil, it is our responsibility to take care of them; they cannot miss out on education so crucial

to their development," he said. He said the district officials would identify such children and make arrangements to admit them in "age-appropriate" classes. "We will provide them with the same educational services we do for the children of India - till they are here. Many stay for a short period and return to their home country," he said.

Sources in the government said a few Myanmar parliamentarians, who are among the refugees in Mizoram, met State Minister Education Lalchhandama Ralte recently and

requested him to "look into the problems the children were facing". "It was an informal meeting," said sources.

Since the military coup earlier this year, thousands of refugees from Myanmar's Chin state have crossed the border into Mizoram. While the Centre had ordered that the borders be closed, the Mizoram National Front (MNF) government, led by Chief Minister Zoramthanga, had invoked a common tribal lineage and "deep ethnic bonds".

... the Myanmar areas bordering Mizoram are inhabited by Chin communities who are ethnically our Mizo brethren with whom we have (had) close contact... even before India became independent... Mizoram cannot just remain indifferent to their sufferings today," Zoramthanga had said in a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March.

government records, 9,450 refugees, including about 20 legislators, have taken shelter across 10 districts of Mizoram. Meanwhile, the hill state is re-

According to the latest state

porting an average of 1,000 new Covid-19 cases daily. Last month, the government decided to reopen schools in areas with zero cases - 576 schools have re-

### 10 days on, little headway in Karnataka rape-murder probe no mobile phones were active at

**KIRAN PARASHAR** BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 2

TEN DAYS after a 30-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped and murdered in a village in Karnataka's Tumkur district, police are yet to make any headway in the investigation.

The Tumkur case is solely dependent on ground information, unlike the Mysuru rape-murder case, which took place on the same day, made headlines and where police managed to nab the accused through mobile phone location information and witness account, police sources said.

"This probe cannot be comared with the Mysuru case as

witnesses or victims alive to share even a word of information. We are suspecting that someone who is known (to the victim) or lives in neighbouring villages might have committed the crime," a police officer said. Kythasandra police initially

the location and there are no

filed a murder and robbery case but later added rape charges after a postmortem. A gold chain worth Rs 30,000 that was with the victim was also missing. The woman was a mother to

two children. "I came back from work

around 5.30 pm that day and my eldest daughter came home saying that she could not find her

mother in the fields. I went there and searched for her. I asked farmers and labourers... and they said they did not notice her," the woman's husband said.

"About 250 metres from our field, there is a rock...I found a broken glass bangle which she worn Varamahalakshmi pooja. Two steps ahead, I saw her body lying in a bad state. It was really devastating," he said.

District SP Rahul Kumar Shahapurwad told The Indian Express that manys teams are on the job. "I cannot divulge information about how the investigation is progressing, but seven teams have been formed to nab the accused."

### BJP strengthened with Bommai as CM: Shah on 1st visit since change of guard

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 2

ON HIS visit to Karnataka since changes in the state leadership. Union Home Minister Amit Shah showered praises on new Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and expressed confidence about the BIP returning to power under his leadership. Shah also said that veteran BJP leader B S Yediyurappa had stepped aside from the CM's post in July on his

"Yediyurappaji recently decided to make way for a new person and a new leader to take responsibility for Karnataka. The BJP decided to give Basavaraj Bommai the responsibility," Shah said at a public event in the city of Davangere on Thursday. The minister attended the

wedding of the elder daughter of Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi in Hubli, He also attended an event at the GMIT college campus in Davangere to inaugurate a few projects.

"If a period of development has started in Karnataka then it under the BJP and Yediyurappaji... I am fully confident that under Bommai's leadership, Karnataka will get a BJP government with a full mandate in the next polls," Shah said in the presence of Bommai. "Bommai has focused on small things. He

has not embraced the VVIP culture. He has been in power only a short while. In Delhi, those who observe Karnataka closely are of the view that the BIP has strengthened itself after making Basavarai Bommai the chief minister," he said.

Incidentally, the minister's vote of confidence in Bommai's leadership has come at a time when the veteran leader Yediyurappa has expressed a desire to travel across the state to build the BJP's prospects for the 2023 polls. However, he is yet to get a green signal from the BIP leadership to tour the state on behalf of the party and has been confined to his home district of Shimoga in recent days.

### Veteran journalist, former MP Chandan Mitra dies at 65

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 2

VETERAN JOURNALIST and former Rajya Sabha MP Chandan Mitra died late Wednesday at his south Delhi residence after a long ailment. He was 65. Mitra, who had a stint in var-

ious newspapers, including the Times of India and the Hindustan Times, in his long career as a journalist before he became editor of The Pioneer, is survived by his wife Shobori Ganguly and two sons Kushan and Shakya.

The death of the columnist and raconteur, known for his sharp views on politics and also his abiding love for old Hindi film music, was condoled by a host of political leaders across the spectrum as well as President Ram



CHANDAN MITRA 1956-2021

Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Shri Chandan Mitra Ji will be remembered for his intellect and insights. He distinguished him-

self in the world of media as well as politics. Anguished by his demise. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," the prime minister said in a tweet. The president described him as an outstanding journalist whose stint as a parliamentarian added to his reputation.

The High Court said that CBI

will probe the allegations of

murder and rape, raised shortly

after the victory of the TMC in

the elections. The court also di-

rected that a separate SIT, with

senior officers from the West

Bengal cadre, be set up to probe

the other allegations cited by the

officers - Soumen Mitra, Suman

Bala Sahoo, and Ranbir Kumar.

The proceedings shall be moni-

tored by a retired judge of the

Supreme Court, whose name

would be announced later, the

Court's order, the Central Bureau

of Investigation (CBI) already has

begun probing the West Bengal

post-poll violence and so far reg-

istered more than thirty cases in

the matter. However, the SIT un-

der West Bengal Police yet to

start the investigatiob after gov-

ernment formed the team.

Following the Calcutta High

This SIT comprises three IPS

NHRC committee.

court said.

"His understanding of Hindi heartland and its history was profound. His demise leaves a void in Indian journalism. My heartfelt condolences to his family and friends," Kovind tweeted. Mitra's son Kushan said his

father had been suffering for a "Since it is already out there; Dad passed away late last night. He had been suffering for a

while," he said in a tweet on

Thursday. Elected to the Rajya Sabha as a BJP member twice, Chandan Mitra was considered close to BJP patriarch LK Advani, In 2018, he resigned from the party and joined the Trinamool Congress but stayed away from active pol-

#### **EKTAA MALIK & SAGAR RAJPUT** NEW DELHI, MUMBAI

SEPTEMBER 2 ACTOR SIDHARTH Shukla had al-

ways defied the odds when it came to his career. For many in the TV and film industry, appearing in the popular reality show Big Boss is a last-ditch — and often futile effort to arrest a slide into irrelevance. But Shukla, who won the 13th edition of the show in 2019, became a household name, cementing himself as a bonafide reality TV star.

He died early Thursday from a suspected heart attack at the age of 40. The exact cause of his death is yet to be ascertained.

Shukla first broke out into TV stardom with his work in the show Balika Vadhu (2012), where he essayed the role of Shivraj Shekhar, a District Collector. Over three years, Shukla played the



Sidharth Shukla

character to overwhelming response, winning multiple awards. Soon after, he was roped in to costar in Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania (2014), again earning

Police officers in Mumbai said Shukla complained of chest pain at his residence in Oshiwara, Mumbai at around 9 am, before collapsing. His sister, brother-inlaw and mother were in the house at that time. A doctor who arrived at the residence found that he had

Apolice officer said: "The fam-

ily called an ambulance and rushed to the Dr RN Cooper hospital. They reached by around 9.45 am and he was declared dead before admission.' Dr R Sukhdev, head of the

TV personality Sidharth Shukla dies at 40

forensic department, confirmed that Shukla was brought dead on Thursday morning. The postmortem examination was conducted in the afternoon. Before the autopsy, doctors and the police found no external

injury on his body. Dr Sailesh Mohite, dean at Dr RN Cooper hospital, declined to comment on the autopsy findings. The Oshiwara police believe he died under natural circum-

stances. They have not registered an offence or an accidental death Police said that after going to

sleep on Wednesday night, Shukla woke up at around 3.30 am on Thursday and asked for water.

"His mother was present in the house at that time. He com-

plained of uneasiness and after drinking water, he went back to sleep," said an officer.

However after waking up in the morning, Shukla again experienced chest pain. His sister who was present in the house called their family doctor. "The doctor was on his way to personally inspect his health. While drinking water Shukla suddenly collapsed and fell unconscious. He passed away before the doctor could reach." added another officer.

Born and brought up in Mumbai, Shukla started off as a model by scoring a runners-up position in the Gladrags Manhunt and Megamodel contest, and later appeared in TV ad campaigns for Bajaj and ICICI Bank, among others. Soon after, he made his TV debut with Babul Ka Aangann Chootey Na, following it up with a string of TV dramas including crime drama CID and horror show Aahat. He also won Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi in 2016.

Jaipur

# Libraries first as DU plans slow, gradual reopening

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

AFTER A long pandemic break, Delhi University plans to reopen next week in a slow, phased manner beginning with its libraries, Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor P C Joshi said here Thursday.

Speaking at an Idea Exchange session of The Indian Express, Joshi said that the university had to open in a cautious and gradual manner given the large number of students from outside Delhi and the campus accommodation available.

Delhi Management Authority recently permitted colleges in the Capital to reopen for students.

Saying they didn't want to do anything "opening the floodgates inviting the third wave", Joshi said, "We will begin with the libraries, and then the laboratories. Then we will monitor and assess the situation and decide whether to open other



Acting DUV-CPC Joshi at the Idea Exchange. Abhinav Saha

Keeping in mind the limitations of the university's capacity, he said, it will be voluntary for students to physically attend and teaching-learning will continue in a hybrid of online and offline classes. While all theory classes will be conducted online, practicals will be conducted offline, and students would also have the option of attending practiKeeping in mind the limitations of the university's capacity, the V-C said, it will be voluntary for students to physically attend and teaching-learning will continue in a hybrid of online & offline classes

cals physically with access to videos of the sessions.

Pointing out that the university had a large number of students from outside the Capital, the Acting V-C said, "This is why we're keeping it completely voluntary... We will try to accommodate as many as possible but it will not be possible to accommodate all in hostels. The hostels will have to follow SOPs such as one student per room. There will be three-seater rooms where only one student will be staying. So capacity will be even less than

### Annoyed by father's scolding, 22-year-old dies by suicide in Bundi district

on the basis of the identity card

found in his pocket, the body

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA** KOTA, SEPTEMBER 2

A 22-year-old man took his own life by hanging himself from a tree after his father scolded him,

Hanuman Gurjar (22), a resident of Sheopuria left his house on a motorbike Wednesday

He allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in a field around 300 metres away from Makhija road that falls under Deikheda police station of Bundi district, they added.

Police recovered his body from the spot around 9 am Thursday. No suicide note was recovered from his possession.

# A case was lodged under

was handed over to the family after postmortem.

Procedure Code (CrPC) to investigate to ascertain the reason be-

hind the extreme step. During the investigation, it

was revealed that Gurjar was ir-

from his father.

On Wednesday as well, his father scolded him for not working properly, SHO Satyanarayan Guriar said.



#### BENGALURU URBAN, BENGALURU RURAL & RAMANAGAR DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' SOCIETIES UNION LTD.

DR. M.H. MARIGOWDA ROAD, BENGALURU-560029. WWW.bamulnandini.coop

IFT No: KMF/BAMUL/GM(T)/2021-22/421(1) Date:01.09.2021 · Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd., (Bamul) Bengaluru, invites Biennial e-tender and seasonal contract for 3 months through e-procurement portal. The Interested & Eligible Transport Contractors for the transportation of milk from BAMUL/Chilling Centre/BAMUL units to various destinations through tankers Refer tender No: KMF/BAMUL/GM(T)/2021-22/421(1) and also required 2 Nos of Car for Officers tour Refer

Huel	der No. KMP/bAMOL/GM(1)/2021-22/37/CAK III E-portal website www.eproc.kamataka.gov.iii					
1	Access to E-tender Document	01.09.2021 TO 13.09.2021 till 5:00 PM				
2	Last date & time for tender clarification	09.09.2021 till 5:00PM				
3	Last date for submission of tender/ quoting	13.09.2021 till 5:00PM				
4	Date & time for opening Technical Tender part-l	15.09.2021 at 11:00 AM				
5	Date & time for opening Commercial Tender part-II	17.09.2021 at 11:00 AM				
6	Place of opening of Technical and Commercial Tender	Bangalore Dairy Board Room Bangalore				

Tenders are advised to note the qualification criteria specified in Section VII to qualify for award of the contract.

The EMD amount is Rs.50,000/- for each Tenderer for Tanker Tender.

The EMD amount is Rs.25,000/- for each Car.

The earnest money deposit (E.M.D) valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the tender i.e. total for 135 days, Tender processing Fee, modes of e-payment, tender document details and other details are mentioned in www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

POSSESSION NOTICE

The Authorized Officer of Punjab National Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets

& Enforcement of Security Interest Act., 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule - 3 of the Security interest ( Enforcement ) Rules , 2002, issued demand notice on the date mentione

against account and stated here under calling upon the borrower/guarantor/ mortgager/Legal hair of guaranto

to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being together with further interest at contractual rate on the

aforesaid amount and incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. within (60) sixty days from the date of receipt o

PUNJAb NATIONAL BANK UPON I

**SD/- MANAGING DIRECTOR** TENDER INVITAING AUTHORITY, BAMUL

### Gehlot lays stress on need to follow Covid protocol in schools, colleges

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** KOTA SEPTEMBER 2

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot on Thursday stressed on ensuring strict adherence of the standard operating procedures (SOP) related to the pandemic in educational institutions.

If the SOP and protocol were not followed then there would be a danger of infection among youths, he said.

Studies in schools for Classes 9 to 12 resumed in state on Wednesday. Government and private schools have opened after more than four months of

"Educational institutions have opened in the state. The education of children has been affected due to the closure of educational institutions for a long time. It is the responsibility of everyone to strictly follow the SOPs issued for the operation of educational institutions," Gehlot

He further said, "If SOP and corona protocol are not followed, then there is a risk of infection. So along with studies, take proper care of health and ensure strict adherence to protocol and SOP. Best wishes to all the students and teachers!'

As per the guidelines issued by the Education Department, 50 per cent students are allowed at a time and all arrangements are to be made as per the Covid

He also added that Rajasthan has the lowest number of active Covid-19 cases in the country.

#### 

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Army. May your Soul attain Moksha.

Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3 GRENADIERS

Martyr of CISF on 03rd September

CT/DCPO M K PASWAN

03-09-2019

CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of these brave-

hearts. On this day, they laid down their lives at the altar of duty

while fighting with massive fire at ONGC Mumbai and saved

precious human lives. Their courage and bravery would remain

On this day we salute and pay homage to this

gallant soldier who laid down his life for the

Nation while protecting the Territorial Integrity of

India, along the Line of Control in Jammu &

Kashmir in the finest traditions of the Indian

LNk Shamsher Singh Sunda

(01 Dec 1965-04 Sep 2000)

Regd Office: IV/470A (OLD)W/638A(NEW) Manappuram House Valapad Thrissur, Kerala 680567 Corp Office: Manappuram Home Finance Limited, Third Floor, Unit No. 301 to 315, A Wing, 'Kanakia Wall Street', Andheri-Kurla Road Andheri East, Mumbai 400093, Maharashtra. Phone No. 022-66211000, Website: www.manappuramhomefin.com

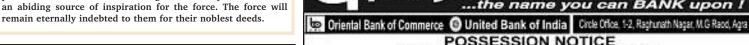
HC / FIRE E NAYAKA

#### **DEMAND NOTICE**

1101	of the by way of this public hotice.						
r. o.	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Loan Account Number / Branch	Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice Sent / & Outstanding Amount			
1	JYOTI DHANKA,POORAN DHANKA / Vikas dhanka / Ma90colons00005007109/ Jaipur	Plot No 153 A Shiksha Sagar , At Govindpura On Tonk Road, Sanganer , Jaipur-302029, Rajasthan.	08.08.2021	13-08-2021 & Rs.299669/-			

The above borrower/s are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s. 13 (2), failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of issuance of notice U/s 13 (2) dated mentioned above as per the provisions of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

Date : 03-09-2021 Place: Rajasthan Manappuram Home Finance Ltd



CT/DCPO S P KUSHWAHA

03-09-2019

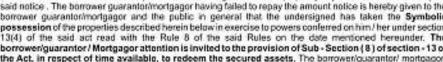
MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED

FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD

A notice is hereby given that the following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Company and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). The notice dated were issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses as provided to the company by them, that in addition thereto for the purposes of information of the said borrowers enumerated below, the said borrowers are being

	ormod by may or and public notice.							
r. Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ o. Guarantor/ Loan Account Number / Branch		Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Interest has been created	NPA Date	Date of Notice Sent / & Outstanding Amount				
1	JYOTI DHANKA,POORAN DHANKA / Vikas dhanka / Ma90colons00005007109/ Jaipur	Plot No 153 A Shiksha Sagar , At Govindpura On Tonk Road, Sanganer , Jaipur-302029, Rajasthan.	08.08.2021	13-08-2021 & Rs.299669/-				
l								

**Authorised Officer** 



13(4) of the said act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrowen/guarantor / Mortgagor attention is invited to the provision of Sub - Section (8) of section - 13 or the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/guaranter/ mortgago Legal hair of guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property Any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Punjab National Bank for the amount and interes reon. Details of the mortgaged Properties of which the possession had been taken is as follows.

The borrower attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) for section 13 of act., in respect of time lable, to redeem the secured assets

Demand Date of Aret. Due as politice Date Possession Demand Notice

Details of the Mortgaged Properties on which possession taken Borrower-Shri Kunwar EM of Flat No. G-1, Ground Floor, Trupat Mahendra Singh Jodha Sio Englave-II, Plot No. B-17/06, Behind Hotel Late Shri SBS Jodha & Smt. Jaipur Inn. Shiv Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur Mamta jodha Wio Shri Kumwar (Rajasthan), Area 1442.00 Sq.Ft., (In the Name of Smt. Mamta Jodha W/o Shi Mahendra Singh Jodha Kunwar Mahendra Singh Jodha). Branch-Rohta, CO Agra

Place: Jaipur Date: 01.09.2021

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking (Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)

E-tender is re-invited for the supply of following item.

**TENDER NOTICE** 



Rs. 23,91,052.00

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in conversation with

Sandeep Dwivedi

**Sports Editor** The Indian Express

Mihir Vasavda

**Assistant Editor** The Indian Express

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		<u> </u>				
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENTION Sep 03, 2021						
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description	Previously Published Date	Revised Due of Bid Submi & time of ope	ssion/ Date			
L/ENGG/ENQ/200001324/21-22 UREMENT OF 270 NOS. OF	10.08.2021	03.09.2021 a 03.09.2021 a				

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our

bsite www.tatapower-ddl.com→Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents Contracts - 011-66112222



Recovery Centre, Circle Sastra, 1st Floor,
PNB IE Branch, Aerodrome Circle, Kota (Raj.)
E-mail: bo0872@pnb.co.in

### **CORRIGENDUM**

Advertisement of the Bank Demand Notice U/s 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 published in the newspaper Rajasthan Patrika (Tonk Edition, Page No. 9) and Indian Express (Rajasthan Edition, Page No. 4) on dated 24.08.2021. In the S.No. 2, cloumn the name and address of the Borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor should be read Mr. Ram Mohan Tikkiwal S/o Mr. Babulal Tikkiwal instead of Mr. Shyam Tikkiwal, and in the column "Details of mortgaged property" should be read **District-Tonk** instead of District-Kota in the

Rest of the information remains the same Dated: 02.09.2021, Place: Tonk

description of the property column

**Authorized Officer** Punjab National Bank

## FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA Regional Office: 04, Nehru Place, Tonk Road, Jaipur-302015 (Raj.)

NOTICE FOR SALE OF WHEAT UNDER OMSS (D)

Financial bids are invited for sale of wheat (URS/FAQ) at crop-year wise reserved prices on 'As is where is basis' under OMSS (D) through e-auctions on weekly basis in Rajasthan Region from the technically qualified bulk consumers/traders duly registered with FCI through M/s mjunction services ltd. Schedule of forthcoming E-auctions during the month of September, 2021 is as under: Si. Auction | Tender uploading and | Last date of | Starting date and time | Closing date and

0.	No.	commencement of Deposit of EMD	depositing EMD	for online bidding	time for online bidding			
	E-10	03.09.2021	07.09.2021	08.09.2021 11:00 AM	08.09.2021 02:00 PM			
2.	E-11	09.09.2021	14.09.2021	15.09.2021 11:00 AM	15.09.2021 02:00 PM			
3.	E-12	17.09.2021	21.09.2021	22.09.2021 11:00 AM	22.09.2021 02:00 PM			
ŀ.	E-13	24.09.2021	28.09.2021	29.09.2021 11:00 AM	29.09.2021 02:00 PM			
ddress for online registration and e-auction is http://www.valuejunction.in/fci. FCI Nominated								
hr	nri Brijendra Singh, Mob 9929612340 As Nodal officer of Department.							

Small (Private) Traders desirous of purchasing wheat from FCI, may lift 1-9 MT wheat per person quintal (applicable taxes extra). For more details please visit http://fci.gov.in or contact concerns



#### NMDC Limited (A Govt. of India Enterprise) harij 8hasari, 10-3-131/A, Caste Hils, Masab Taris, I

CIN:L13100TG1958GOI001674 CONTRACTS DEPARTMENT nder Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)/NISP/StadcMonit/786 Dated: 03.09.2021

NMDC Limited, A "NAVARATNA" Public Sector Company under Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India, invites online bids from experienced domestic bidders for Design, Engineering, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning for upgrading of STACK MONITORING SYSTEMS on divisible turnkey basis and 2 years Annual Maintenance Services for 3.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant at Nagarnar, near Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh state (Package No. 49). MECON Limited is the Consultant for this package.

The detailed NIT and Bid documents can be viewed and / or downloaded from-NMDC website https://www.nmdc.co.in. Central Public Procurement portal (CPP PORTAL) https://www.eproture.gov.in/epublish/app and MSTC portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/nmdc/ from 03/09/2021 to 04/10/2021.

For accessing the bid document from MSTC portal, bidders to visit MSTC website and search Tender Event No. NMDC/HO/50/21-22/ET/234 The Bidders, on regular basis are required to visit the NMDC's website / CPP Portal / MSTC websites for corrigendum, if any, at a future date.

General Manager (Contracts), NMIDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. +91-040-23534746, Tel No.+91-040-23532800, email: steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in Chief General Manager ('NMDC Project), MECON Limited, Ranchi, Fax No.+91-0651-2482214,Tel.No.+91-0651-2483508, email: projnmdc@meconlimited.co.in General Manager (Contracts)

For further clarification, the following can be contacted:



Note: For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in.

**GENERAL MANAGER** CIRCLE SASTRA CENTRE, KOTA

E-mail: cs8268@pnb.co.in

(1) Sh. Ronak Kumar Ranka S/o Sh. Moolchand Ranka (2) Smt. Pooja Ranka W/o Sh. Ronak Kumar Ranka, R/o Vikram Chow, Near Jain Book Company, Rampura, KOTA-324006

Sub : For Removal of Furniture and other movable goods from the premises of the

will deposit the sale proceeds in your loan account.

dmeasuring about: 1964.25 Sq.Ft. As you are aware that above mentioned property mortgaged with bank has been sold in E-auction dated 10/08/2020. Some furniture/movable goods are lying in the premises of property which is not financed/hypothecated by bank. As the property has been sold, hence it is advised to move the furniture/movable goods from the premises of property within 10 days from the date

property situated at Near Karani Nagar Vikas Samiti, Gordhanpura, Kota, Rajasthan

of this letter. Otherwise, bank will be restrained to dispose off the furniture/movable goods and Yours Faithfully. (Authorized Officer)



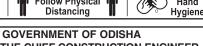
**TENDER NOTIFICATION** Ref: 1) Tender Notification :HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/Furniture/33/2021-2 Dated: 02/09/2021(IND-839) **2)** Tender Notification HFW/KSMSCL EQPT/Furniture-1/34/2021-22 Dated:02/09/2021(IND-840).Nation wide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders: 1)Tender for Supply and installation of Furnitures under UHC-CPHC. 2) Tender for Supply and installation of Furnitures under UHC **CPHC.** The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department ma participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding specification, EMD Terms and Conditions and other information is available through websit <a href="https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in">https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in</a> from 02/09/2021. The eligible tenderers sha

submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders Further information if any may be obtained from this office. Sd/- Managing Director, Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Bangalor



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STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER. SOUTHERN NH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR Phone: 0680-2281544, e-mail: senhsouthbam@gmail.com INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement] No. 2484 / Dated: 27.08.202

BID IDENTIFICATION NO. 03/SE NH, South of 2021-22 The Chief Construction Engineer, Southern N.H. Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** from eligible contractors for

construction of Road works as detailed in the table below. 2) Nature of work

: 01 Nos 3) No. of work 4) Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-

5) Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "B" Class : From 07.09.2021 10.00 AM to 6) Availability of Bid document in the website 20.09.2021 11.00 AM : 21.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M. Date of Opening of Bid

3) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in

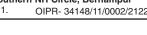
the e-tender website only.

Chief Construction Engineer, Southern NH Circle, Berhampur Memo No. 2485/ Dated: 27.08.2021.

Jaipur







#### WORDLY WISE

THE CARE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE FIRST DUTY OF THE STATESMAN.

— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

## **The Indian EXPRESS**

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RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

## SPEND MORE

Centre must shed conservative approach to spending and front load its expenditure to further economic recovery

ECENTLY RELEASED DATA by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) suggests that the fiscal health of the central government is in a better position than expected. At the aggregate level, the Centre's gross tax collections in the first four months (April-July) of the current financial year have already touched 31 per cent of the budgeted target for the year, significantly higher than in previous years. Tax collections are almost 30 per cent higher than in 2019-20, despite the economy being around 9 per cent lower. However, there is cause for concern. The dip in GST collections in August when seen in conjunction with lacklustre disinvestment proceeds, the manufacturing purchasing managers index losing momentum in August, and the lower-than-expected core-sector data, raises concerns over the durability of the recovery and government finances.

A closer look at the disaggregated fiscal data released by the CGA shows that direct tax collections continue to lag indirect taxes. However, under the rubric of direct taxes, both corporate and income taxes have witnessed healthy growth so far this year. On the indirect tax side, while excise tax collections continue to grow at a brisk pace, the dip in GST collections in August, though minor, is worrying. As ICRA noted, the dip has occurred, despite a "healthy improvement in the GST e way bills to a daily average of 2.1 million in July 2021 from 1.8 million in June 2021, which was reflective of the lifting of restrictions especially across the Southern states". Of equal concern is the slow progress on meeting the disinvestment target. As against the target of Rs 1.75 lakh crore, proceeds have so far touched only Rs 8,368 crore.

Surprisingly, despite a healthy revenue growth which creates space for the Centre to ramp up support to the economy, data suggests that the government is being conservative when it comes to spending. In the first four months of the current financial year, revenue expenditure has been lower than last year, and only marginally higher than in 2019-20. GDP estimates had also shown that overall government consumption expenditure actually contracted by 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of the current financial year, when the country was in the throes of the Covid second wave. Capital expenditure also contracted in July, though for the full four-month period it was higher than last year, and the year before that. Considering the starkly uneven nature of the recovery, the stretched financial position of MSMEs, and of households at the lower end of the income distribution, the government should front load its expenditure and use the fiscal space it has to provide greater support to the economy.

### FILTHY AND UNHEALTHY

Mysterious fever in Western UP suggests poor hygiene and sanitation. Local administration must step up

TLEAST 40 people, most of them children, have lost their lives in Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh to a mysterious fever, which officials suspect as dengue. More than 200 children are undergoing treatment at the pediatric section of the children's hospital in the area. An ICMR team that tested samples from the hospital has ruled out Covid. Firozabad's district magistrate, Chandra Vijay Singh, who carried out an inspection of the hospital, told this newspaper that people had complained about "cleanliness problems in some areas". He also gave information about "an intensive spraying" drive in the affected areas and said "many teams are monitoring the situation". But the truth is that it required a visit by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath to the outbreak-hit areas for the administration to spring into action, nearly a week after the disease assumed grave proportions.

The best way to prevent dengue is to prevent bites by mosquitoes infected by the pathogen. In other words, sanitation and preventing water logging hold the key to disease control and elimination — an imperative underlined by the WHO and national health agencies. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's strategy for prevention and control of dengue talks of the importance of local bodies in framing area-specific responses to tackle the disease. By all accounts, the Firozabad administration has fallen short in this respect. Like in several other parts of the country, neglect in basic sewerage and waste disposal facilities affects the quality of people's lives in the area's working-class colonies, home to more than 60 per cent of its population. The locality at the epicenter of the current outbreak has a sewer drain running perpendicular to its entry point, it has several open drains and a large garbage damage dump about 100 metres inside the locality that testifies to the negligible impact of the Centre's flagship project, Clean Indian Mission, on Firozabad. While the jury is still out on whether the epidemic is dengue, doctors in the area seem to be certain that lack of cleanliness is the primary reason for the disease stalking the area.

Meanwhile, another mysterious disease has been reported from Mathura — like Firozabad, a part of the Agra division. Officials here talk of "some deaths" caused by scrub typhus — a vector-borne disease caused by bacteria and with proven links to poor hygiene and sanitation. Mathura and Firozabad are part of the UP government's "smart city" plans. Clearly, the administration in these areas have a long way to go in being alert to peoples' well-being.

### THE LOST LEADER

Syed Geelani had his moment in politics, but was blinded by the lack of an expansive vision

YED ALI SHAH Geelani, who passed away in Srinagar aged 92, was one of Jammu and Kashmir's tallest separatist leaders who believed that the Valley's destiny was linked to Pakistan. If that defined his political vision, it blinded him as well. For, his endorsement of the two-nation theory that considered religious identity as the basis of statehood was and, to this day, remains antithetical to the very idea of a plural democracy. His intransigent, intractable views could draw crowds of supporters but they also glaringly revealed the narrow limits of separatist politics in J&K. Geelani's hardline and maximalist agenda — the merger of J&K with Pakistan — allowed little scope for any negotiated settlement that factored in the ground reality of a territorial dispute involving two nuclear-armed nation states. Moreover, by providing political cover to violence and terror aided and abetted by Islamabad, he failed the people he claimed to represent.

And, yet like most things in the Valley, there was a paradox. Geelani started his political career as a stakeholder in electoral politics — he was thrice MLA in the J&K Assembly. His disillusionment with electoral democracy after the rigged 1987 elections was the moral weapon that he, very effectively, used against the political mainstream. However, it also ended up demonising mainstream politics itself, set off a violent militancy and, eventually, marginalised the Hurriyat Conference, a platform of separatists he once led. He denounced then Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf for mooting a plan to settle the J&K issue and exhorted the Valley to embark on a path of hartals and stone-pelting. His strike calendars disrupted normal life in the Valley while his own family lived a relatively sheltered existence. Governments for long indulged him by providing security, allowing him to travel to Delhi for meetings with Pakistan's diplomats, medical treatment and so on.

When the political terrain shifted in 2014, Geelani found himself in the margins. A hard state has since read down Article 370 and diminished J&K to a UT, his brand of politics is subject to the law of rapidly diminishing returns. Geelani had his moment in the late 1990s and 2000s but he lacked the expansive vision to seize it. The Indian state outwitted him and his beloved Pakistan moved on to new assets. In a way, the Valley's head hardliner scripted his own political obituary.

# A limited window



Policy support is needed to nurture the drivers of growth, sustain recovery process

SAUGATA BHATTACHARYA

THE APRIL-JUNE QUARTER GDP numbers were slightly weaker than the consensus estimates, with growth coming in at 20.1 per cent. The more representative measure of economic activity, gross value added (GVA), grew by 18.8 per cent. As a technical aside, GDP is derived by adding indirect tax collections, net of subsidy payouts, to GVA. The higher GDP growth was driven by high indirect tax collections, largely GST. Note that while interpreting the growth prints, one must be mindful that they are over a base quarter that had contracted sharply due to the lockdowns during the first Covid wave last year.

In terms of sectoral activity, the revival of manufacturing GVA was the most robust, with mining and electricity growth somewhat moderate. Agriculture grew at 4.5 per cent, with cereals, pulses and oilseeds output at all-time highs. As could be expected, the services sector remained vulnerable, with activity even softer than expected. The weakest was the composite print of "trade, hotels, transport and communications", though even the construction revival was weaker than expected, given analysts' reports of strong residential demand. Steel and cement output growth — proxies for construction activity — were also quite robust in the quarter.

From the demand and expenditure side — a mirror to the above output description — private consumption was up 19.3 per cent (vs a 26.2 per cent contraction) while investment was at 55.3 per cent. Government consumption was lower by 4.8 per cent. Net exports (exports minus imports) are typically in deficit, but the gap was much lower in the first quarter — almost a quarter of the deficit observed in the last year. This reflects both high exports and subdued imports (mainly a reflection of weak domestic demand, particularly of lower crude imports).

The overall and sector-specific activity levels need to be evaluated vis-à-vis the corresponding thresholds of (the pre-pandemic) first quarter of 2019-20. This provides a perspective of how much lower activity levels remain at present, and the quantum of recov-

The most direct support is likely to be higher government spending. The prints of the Centre's revenues and expenditures during April-July this year suggest that it has significant room to increase spending. In addition to revenues from planned disinvestments, speedy and effective implementation of the National Monetisation Plan will open up further fiscal space to increase spending, in particular, on capex. These initiatives are well placed for bridging demand gaps in

the near term.

ery required to regain the levels. The deepest gaps, understandably, persist in the services segments, most starkly in the construction and "trade+" groups, which are still significantly below the thresholds. In aggregate, GVA remains 8 per cent below, despite the pace of recovery rising.

Looking beyond the first quarter, the set of high-frequency economic signals we track suggest a strong recovery in July and August. Axis Bank's Composite Leading Indicator shows August activity above pre-pandemic levels, and would have been even higher if poor tractor sales in July had not pulled the Index reading lower. Mobility indicators -- electricity consumption, e-Way bills, etc -- suggest continuing strong activity in August. Rains, still deficient in most geographies, seem to have recovered recently. Jobs and hiring indicators, though, present mixed signals.

We expect India's 2021-22 GDP growth around 9.5-10 per cent, with some upside, as the pace of vaccinations increase, and if concerns of even a moderate third wave begin to wane. But, how can this recovery over the rest of the year and beyond be sustained, and even accelerated? The three distinct potential growth drivers — consumption, investment and exports — will need to be effectively sustained by policy initiatives over the next couple of years.

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There have been significant improvements in corporate balance sheets over the course of the pandemic. The debt overhang has been reduced, operations have become more efficient, and the surviving enterprises are more competitive and resilient. However, the large universe of mid-and small-sized enterprises will take some time to restore their pre-pandemic operational levels. An increase in the flow of credit, from banks, NBFCs and markets, particularly to these stressed segments, is a priority, as a supplement to state spending. Bank credit off-take has remained modest during April-July, growing at an average of 6.1 per cent. This will need to in-

The external environment provides another opportunity for India to scale up. Global inventories are low and depending on the progression of the pandemic relaxations across geographies, are likely to provide opportunities for Indian exports to fill some of these gaps. While some of the supply dislocations might transitory, this is an opportunity to increase and embed market shares. Yet, offshore risks are also rising.

shore risks are also rising.
Global central banks' are signalling the imminent normalisation of ultra-loose monetary policy, and the resulting increase in financial sector volatility will have spillover effects on emerging markets, including India. While our economic fundamentals are now far better, the RBI will also shift to a neutral monetary policy stance sooner or later, with a gradual increase in interest rates. To keep the process smooth, it is crucial to raise India's potential growth so that the economic recovery does not rapidly close the output gap, thereby preventing a surge in inflationary

There is a limited window of opportunity for India to leverage the current ongoing realignment of global supply chains and progressively onboard both manufacturing and services entities. Multiple reform initiatives, tax and other incentives are in the process of implementation. These need to be accelerated in coordination with states, and using the massive amounts of data now available, to enable an environment of steady, high growth in the medium term.

The writer is Executive Vice President and Chief Economist, Axis Bank. Views are personal

# PARTITIONED MINDS

Partition savagery is the collective shame of the Subcontinent

T M Krishna

IT HAS BEEN nearly three weeks since the Prime Minister declared August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. Though he did not mention any specific community in his tweet, his intention was abundantly clear, both from the date he chose and the joy with which members of the BJP responded to the declaration.

I was told on social media that, as a South Indian, I had no locus standi to comment, since the violence of Partition was not a part of my family story. I enter this discourse as an individual who, like many, belongs to a family that was parochial, though we lived thousands of kilometres away from where the frenzied mobs were doing their worst. Fear festers and perpetuates violence. But what caused this fear? Apart from the larger and universal philosophical enquiries into the nature of fear, we need to look closely at the undulations caused by religion, caste, and gender that have made fear normative. The millions who lost their lives during Partition were victims of this normalisation for which we, as a society, need to take the blame. My grandparents, sitting in Madras, were as culpable as a family in Punjab or Sindh. Fear has no borders. The Congress, the Muslim League and every political leader, including Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and Jinnah, were only reflections of us. We failed — all of us, collectively.

We failed because we were fearful, angry and triggered by hate. Hate grabbed every human being in the Subcontinent, ate at our insides and let us strew carcasses on our streets, the stench of which still remains. Being deeply Remembrance is essential; we cannot and should not forget. But memory is also a prioritising mechanism. The first reflex of selfpreservation is that the worst is hidden, in the hope that it will be forgotten. But those experiences, pushed to the deepest recesses, remain open wounds and the hate grows. Nobody knows where the hurt ends and hate begins. Soon they become interchangeable, even synonymous.

anguished by the horrors after they have happened does not reduce our culpability.

Remembrance is essential; we cannot and should not forget. But memory is also a prioritising mechanism. The first reflex of selfpreservation is that the worst is hidden, in the hope that it will be forgotten. But those experiences, pushed to the deepest recesses, remain open wounds and the hate grows. Nobody knows where the hurt ends and hate begins. Soon they become interchangeable. even synonymous. Hence, Prime Minister, when you decide that the loss of lives during the Partition needs to be remembered, what do you mean? Whose deaths do you want us to mourn? Do you also want us to remember the incredible stories of compassion that emerged during the time? Shall we also remember that harsh political and religious lines kill? Do you want us to acknowledge the

anguish of families who live in Pakistan? What the Prime Minister wants us to remember is "the horrors". And he wants it remembered on the day that Pakistan declared its freedom from the British Rai in a struggle we fought together. He qualified that tweet with phrases such as "our sisters and brothers' and "in memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people". Who are "our people" when men, women, and children were slaughtered by people who claimed to be either Hindu, Muslim or Sikh? Now that we have chosen to remember "our people", we should also condemn those of "our people" who disembowelled women and smashed the heads of children. Why shy away from that remembrance?

I am ashamed that, from that time of the worst kind of savagery, the Prime Minister attempts to claim a moral high ground for India.

After the PM's announcement, his supporters equated remembrance of Partition with the Holocaust, Such an equalisation is wrong, manipulative and disrespectful of the Holocaust. Jews were persecuted, put in concentration camps, stripped of all their physical, emotional, political and economic humanity, and shot or gassed to death. In the Indian Subcontinent, Partition resulted in shared killing in the name of religion. The perpetrators and victims belonged to Hindu, Muslim and Sikh communities, each unleashing greater violence in their respective territories of control. This was a collective act of barbarism that has very few equivalents in the world. What scares me the most is that many who express this analogy actually believe it to be true. In India, they are Hindus, and undoubtedly, an equal number in Pakistan will be Muslims. Both are wrong in this internalised and dangerous falsity.

If the Prime Minister wanted us to really remember Partition for what it was, and hoped that we would learn from it, it would have been a day of shared remembrance between India and Pakistan. Instead, he ensured that the day would increase the Indian majority community's fear of Muslims and Pakistanis a little more every year. When our neighbour celebrates its Independence, we will spew hate. Dharma has left this land.

The writer is a musician and author



### September 3, 1981, Forty Years Ago

#### No Probe On Antulay

FINANCE MINISTER R VENKATARAMAN informed the two houses of Parliament that he had known from a "reliable authority" that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had not inaugurated the Indira Pratibha Pratisthan, a trust formed by A R Antulay for which crores of rupees have been collected from different sources. He rejected the Opposition demand for a high-level probe into the affairs of the trust because no improprieties have been committed by it. Venkataraman denied that the money had been used for party activities. If that happened, he assured the Opposition, the trust would lose all ex-

emptions granted to it by the income tax department. During the discussion in both houses of Parliament the government admitted that government departments had been very efficient in disposing off applications of the trust.

### ROW OVER DIPLOMAT

IN THE FIRST incident of its kind in Indo-American diplomatic relations, India has vetoed the appointment of a political counsellor in the American embassy and the US retaliated by refusing to accept the appointment of an Indian diplomat in Washington. The government has refused to accept the appointment of George Griffin as political counsellor after a careful evaluation of his posting in India and other parts of the subcontinent.

#### Curfew In Aizawl

DISTRICT AUTHORITIES IN Aizawl clamped an indefinite curfew on Aizawl in view of increasing tension in the Mizoram capital. Patrolling by the BSF and CRPF has been intensified. Tension has gripped the city in the past two days following clashes between the police and the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), a student organisation, in which four students and four policemen were injured.

Jaipur

- GLOBAL TIMES, CHINA

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021

# THE IDEAS PAGE

# From legs to minds

Five million Indians now export more software than Saudi Arabia does oil. Imagine what 1.3 billion Indians could do with lower regulatory cholesterol



Manish Sabharwal AND MOHANDAS PAI

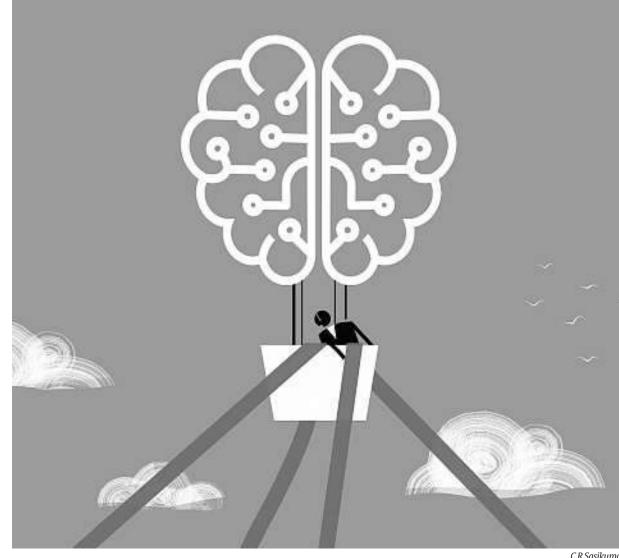
IN 1893, A 12-day sea journey from Japan to Canada sparked multiple conversations between two remarkable Indians travelling independently to attend the World Parliament of Religions and a Technology Expo. Swami Vivekananda convinced Jamsetji Tata that technology can be imported but scientific temper cannot be bought and must be built within a country. A direct outcome of this chance encounter was Jamsetji setting up the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. An indirect outcome was a technology-encouraging culture at the Tatas that pioneered India's software industry in the 1960s: India now exports more software than Saudi Arabia does oil. Covid and recent Chinese events have increased India's attractiveness to global investors. We make the case for unshackling 1.3 billion Indians with a surgical strike on the regulatory cholesterol that sabotages our productivity.

Last Independence Day brought an exciting addition to big reforms like GST, MPC and IBC. The PM announced that 15,000 of our current 69,000+ employer compliances and 6000+ filings have been identified for removal. This abolition will accelerate formal employment and reduce corruption but must be paired with overdue reform to the accountability, culture and incentives of 25 million civil servants that breed this cholesterol and resist its rationalisation, decriminalisation and digitisation.

Let's step back. India is a development economics outlier: Few models predict a \$2,500 per-capita income country with five million people writing software, internet data costs per GB at 3 per cent of US levels, 1.2 billion people empowered with paperless digital identity verification, 3.5 billion real-time monthly digital payments, \$10 billion in private equity raised in July, and a \$3 trillion public market capitalisation. Harvard's Ricardo Hausman believes the only sustained predictor of sustained economic success is economic complexity and suggests that India's prosperity is less than our economic complexity would predict. India@75 doesn't have a shortage of land, labour, or capital but misses their combining productively at scale to create well-paying jobs.

Our software industry is an oasis of high productivity — 0.8 per cent of India's workers generate 8 per cent of GDP. The mandatory global digital literacy programme and digital investment super-cycle sparked by Covid in education, medicine, shopping, office work, payments, restaurants, and entertainment will double our software employment in five years. Consequently, India will have the switching costs in software that China has in manufacturing. But there is another delightful consequence of our software industry's talent, alumni, and global engagement - 50,000 tech startups that have raised over \$90 billion since 2014 from 500+ institutional investors. India's software services industry and tech startups are each estimated to be worth about \$400 billion today. By 2025, we expect India's startup

universe value to grow to \$1 trillion. The divergent destiny of India's software and manufacturing exports has many reasons but one is the different regulatory thought



C R Sasikumai

worlds of the Software Technology Parks India rules of 1991 (STPI) and the Special Economic Zones Act of 2005 (SEZ). STPI's genius was sim $plicity. It allowed \ rebadging \ existing \ assets, em$ braced trust over suspicion, and adopted selfreporting that was largely paperless, presenceless, and cashless. SEZs largely replicated the regulatory cholesterol and distrust that has made India an infertile habitat for employment-intensive industries. A single factor can't explain divergent STPI

vs SEZ outcomes but regulatory cholesterol is surely one of the reasons why it took 72 years for 1.3 billion Indians to cross the total GDP of 66 million Britishers. Covid reminds us that raising our per-capita GDP (138th world ranking) matters more than raising our total GDP (5th world ranking). Raising per-capita needs high productivity manufacturing and domestic services firms that disrupt our low-level equilibrium of labour handicapped without capital and capital handicapped without labour.

India's software services and tech startups are built on India's openness, consistency and fairness. China's magnificent 80 times rise in per-capita GDP over 40 years has also been built on these principles. Until recently, their tech industry seemed unstoppable — half of their 160 unicorns (startups worth more than a billion dollars) operate in AI, big data, and robotics. But this is changing. Over 50 recent regulatory actions against China's tech industry have already cost investors over \$1 trillion. It's risky to underestimate China but let's not underestimate the impact of the Chinese communist party replacing Deng Xiaoping's pragmatic genius with an opaque "common prosperity" on India's attractiveness to factories, multinationals, startUntil recently, China's tech industry seemed unstoppable — half of their 160 unicorns (startups worth more than a billion dollars) operate in AI, big data, and robotics. But this is changing. Over 50 recent regulatory actions against China's tech industry have already cost investors over \$1 trillion. It's risky to underestimate China but let's not underestimate the impact of the Chinese communist party replacing Deng Xiaoping's pragmatic genius with an opaque "common prosperity" on India's attractiveness to factories, multinationals, startups, venture capital and pension funds.

ups, venture capital and pension funds.

This article's title comes from the remarkable Kenyan, Eliud Kipchoge, who suggests that the first half of a marathon is run on your legs and the second half on your mind. His insight captures the middle-income trap or developing country stagnation that comes from failing to transition from more inputs of land, labour and capital to the fourth factor of production; imagination, technology, and entrepreneurship. India's industries built on minds -- our software services and startup ecosystem have exploded India's global soft power by reaching revenue and valuation possibilities that felt unimaginable - have curiously come before physical infrastructure, farm employment reduction, and higher women's labour force participation. Massifying our prosperity needs massive formal, non-farm job creation. Creating the productive firms that will offer these jobs to our young needs replicating the regulatory trust and simplicity that our technology industry en-

Imagine India@100 if we cut regulatory cholesterol today and spent the next 25 years unleashing the entrepreneurial energies of 1.3 billion Indians — 65 per cent of whom are below 35 years old. As Verghese Kurien of Amul who began his career as an apprentice at Jamsetji's Tata Steel and whose domestic science obsession would have made Vivekananda proud – reminded us: "We must build on the resources represented by our young ... without their involvement, we cannot succeed. With their involvement, we cannot fail."

iovs in the rest of our economy.

Sabharwal is Vice Chairman of Teamlease Services and Pai is Chairman of Aarin Capital

# The golden rule: Both sides listen

China's epidemic fight demonstrates that China is far ahead of the West in

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

protecting people's rights amid crises

At stake is India's future as an open society in which the right to life and free speech prevails over authoritarian tendencies and hate agendas



INTERNATIONAL conference, "Dismantling Global Hindutva", scheduled to be held in the US in the second week of September, has triggered a storm of protest. The conference's website shows that it is cosponsored by departments in dozens of leading American universities with academics and activists, from India and elsewhere, scheduled as speakers.

The conference's poster depicts the nailremoving side of a hammer plucking out saffron-coloured images of what are clearly meant to be representations of RSS workers. Predictably, social media is buzzing with the outrage of Hindutva advocates while opponents of Hindutva are issuing calls for solidarity with the event. In such a highly charged atmosphere, it is imperative to apply the golden rule of conflict resolution. Namely that both sides listen deeply to decipher the concern, the hurt, the anxiety behind the other's complaint or agitation.

Can each side apply the principle of purva paksha — to understand and represent the opponent's view with full integrity and authenticity? In attempting to do this I will depict not the extreme fringe of either side but what I understand to be its core elements.

Let us start with advocates of Hindutva for whom "Hinduism" and "Hindutva" are now inter-changeable terms. They see Hinduism, the third largest religion in the world in terms of population, as being under threat in a world of aggressive proselytisation by Christians and Muslims. There is discontent about Hindu-majority India not being a Hindu rashtra, when there are many officially Christian and Muslim nations. Additionally, both in theory and in practice, Indian secularism is perceived to have privileged minorities at the cost of Hindus.

Hindutva is therefore seen as a necessary political ideology in order to secure the future for Hindus — possibly by making India formally a Hindu nation. Some embrace the militant modes of Hindutva because there is a self-image of Hindus as having been passive for too long and not adequately addressing various kinds of insults and affronts, be it in the distant past or now. From this perspective the call for "Dismantling Global Hindutva" is seen as an open threat. The conference poster is thus experienced as an insult.

Now let us look at the concerns and anxieties of those who oppose Hindutva. In essence, this opposition is anchored in the experience of India as a multi-cultural, multifaith nation with a syncretic culture to be proud of. Commitment to this rich cultural heritage of respect and space for all faiths, is enshrined in India's Constitution.

Opposition to Hindutva has intensified because of the visible increase in social, verbal and physical violence against people who are either non-Hindu and/or oppose Hindutva. Apart from random attacks on individuals, four leading intellectuals -Narendra Dhabolkar, M M Kalburgi, Govind Pansare and Gauri Lankesh – have been killed by some advocates of Hindutva. Though similar assassins could not reach him, the eminent author and actor, the late Girish Karnad was at the top of a death-list uncovered by police. Those who bear the brunt of vigilante violence in the name of Hindutva find no comfort in being told that other religions are or have been far more violent and oppressive. Or that these are fringe elements that do not represent Hindutva proper.

Opposition to Hindutva is also driven by anxieties over systemic shifts. New laws in several states make it difficult or impossible for inter-faith couples to marry. Destruction of places of worship to avenge historical offences is valourised. Physical attacks on people because of what they eat, or for any other reason that is deemed to be anti-Hindu or anti-national, are condoned.

Many who are deeply anxious about these trends are practising Hindus who see Hindutva as an ideology that is profoundly antithetical to the essence of Hinduism as a spiritual tradition. So they are opposed to polarisation, narrowing of identities and hatred on any grounds

This is the set of people who have most to lose due to any effort which frames Hindutva in binary or mechanical terms — as that conference poster does. What is unfolding within Indian society now is a complex and multidimensional social-political and psychological process which has organic roots that Hindutva advocates fertilise diligently to intensify polarisation.

Therefore, any further narrowing and sharpening of identities, either on lines of religion or political ideology, helps the forces of Hindutva to undermine Hinduism as an open culture, a metaphysics, in order to promote a nationalism that is defined in competition with various "others".

The conference, however inadvertently, could fan the fears of those Hindus who lean towards Hindutva largely due to unresolved insecurities. This is grievously unfortunate because the need of the hour is to open spaces where all of us can be more confidently selfcritical and introspective. Those leaning towards Hindutva need to explore how their angst can be creatively and non-violently processed and sublimated. Conversely, those of us who oppose Hindutva need to find ways to reaffirm and restore the Indian ethos of "sarva dharma sambhav" by not treating advocates of Hindutva as our "other", as an opponent to be eliminated.

We are indeed in the midst of a large and epochal struggle for the future of India and what it means to be a Hindu. But to see this challenge merely as a contest between ideologies is to fall for a decoy. Why not instead focus on what really is at stake — the dream of 21st century India as an open society in which unconditional and equal right to life, dignity and freedom of expression is so vibrantly lived that all authoritarian tendencies and hate-based agendas become powerless.

> Bakshi is an author and founder of the online platform, Ahimsa Conversations

# The Kabul mission

India's rescue efforts are guided by the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Anil Baluni

AS A grim situation unfolds in Afghanistan, particularly in Kabul, post the withdrawal of foreign troops, the world stares at a humanitarian crisis. Countries with their citizens stranded in Afghanistan are burning the midnight oil to ensure their safe evacuation. Since August 16, over 800 Indians have been evacuated back under "Operation Devi Shakti". Indian Armed Forces are engaged in evacuating not just Indians but also foreign nationals.

With a sizable Indian population still stuck inside Afghanistan and many Afghan Hindus and Sikhs seeking asylum in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi began the rescue and evacuation operation by calling a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security. The Centre also took into confidence all political parties by calling an all-party meeting on the Afghanistan situation. With the situation unfolding fast in Afghanistan, the Centre is keeping a close eye even as the relief and rescue operation continues in top gear.

August 26 was the day when the worst fears of the world came true as a massive terrorist strike at the Kabul airport claimed more than 170 lives, including of US soldiers. The future of Afghanistan looked bleaker. At this crucial juncture, when India has a crucial role to play in its neighbour Afghanistan, PM Modi has been leading from the front — be it the rescue and evacuation of our citizens, providing relief and aid to the citizens of the war-torn

country or for rebuilding Afghanistan. India has always enjoyed close ties with Afghanistan and has been actively engaged in its rebuilding and development.

India under the leadership of PM Modi has a stellar record of evacuating its citizens and efficiently carrying out rescue and relief operations overseas. India believes in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family) and all its humanitarian missions have been guided by this principle. In Afghanistan, too, India led from the front in evacuating citizens from India and across the globe.

In early 2020, when the Covid-19 outbreak shook the entire world and left people stranded, India launched the "Vande Bharat Mission". By July end last year, India had operated over 88,000 flights across the world, taking every health precaution and following the WHO guidelines. Over 100 nations were covered under the Vande Bharat Mission and around 70 lakh Indians were brought home. And that is not all — several Indians were also evacuated from Wuhan, the epicentre of the Covid-19 outbreak.

There are extraordinary stories of evacuation and rescue of Indians since 2014 and all of them have been carried out under the direct supervision of PM Modi. Who can forget "Operation Sankat Mochan" of June-July 2014 in which 46 Indian nurses were rescued from a Tikrit hospital from the clutches of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in war-ravaged Iraq? It was a big diplomatic win for India.

In April 2015, the Indian Navy and Air Force became the saviours of 4,600-plus Indians and over 950 nationals of 41 countries as India carried out "Operation Raahat" to evacuate its citizens after the Yemen crisis following the military intervention by Saudi Arabia. Simultaneous rescue operations from the port of Aden by the Indian Navy, Air Force and Air India from Sanaa were a follow up to the successful Indian diplomatic intervention. Similarly, in March 2016, India carried out the successful evacuation of 250 Indians following multiple bombings at Brussels airport in Belgium.

There are several other stories of India's grit and successful diplomatic interventions during crises. Be it the rescue of hundreds of Indian students from Ukraine during the pandemic or the evacuation of Indians from Iraq and Syria, the Modi government has been resolute while dealing with the safety and security of its citizens.

The Indian government has shown the world how to swiftly respond to crises when its citizens are stranded abroad. Today, a special team of over 20 officials under the Ministry of External Affairs is coordinating and executing a round-the-clock evacuation of not just Indians but also nationals of other countries from Afghanistan.

The Afghan Sikhs and other nationals who have been evacuated are full of praise for the Indian government for saving them. One important highlight of the rescue mission has been the evacuation of three of the last six "Swaroops" of the Sikh holy scripture — Sri Guru Granth Sahib ji, considered as the "Living Guru" - from the Kabul airport. They were received by Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Delhi.

The Modi government has reiterated that India firmly stands behind the Afghans during this crisis and will make every effort to ensure the fast rehabilitation and reconstruction of the war-torn nation. India has been a major partner in Afghanistan's development and reconstruction. Shining examples of it are the construction of the Afghan Parliament and its big dams and highways.

The successive successful evacuations of Indians from crises across the globe in the past seven years have given confidence to our citizens that today we have a strong government and a global leader who knows how to save its people and safeguard their interests. The Modi government has the political will and the diplomatic acumen to deal with such crises and act as a savior not just for the Indians but for citizens of all nationalities

> The writer is a Rajya Sabha MP and BJP National Media Head

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### INDIA'S MOVE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'A line to Kabul' (IE, September 2). India should be crystal clear that first and foremost is the safety of our people in Afghanistan. Once that is ensured, we need to make Taliban leaders understand that we will oppose any move by them to support anti-India activities. Gradually other nations will also toe the line of what the US, UK and India decide to do with the new regime, so now India will have to act smartly and strategically.

Bal Govind, Noida

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'A line to Kabul' (IE, September 2). Despite the abstention of two "P5" countries - Russia and China — from the India-led UNSC Resolution 2593, the Government of India said it was a "matter of satisfaction" that the resolution addressed India's "key concerns" on Afghanistan. Being a major stakeholder in Afghanistan for decades, India has a crucial role to play in the rebuilding of the beleaguered country. For the time being, New Delhi can gain a foothold by re-establishing its diplomatic presence in Kabul and responding positively to the Taliban's overtures.

SS Paul, Nadia

#### HONOUR HISTORY

THIS REFERS TO the article 'A request, for sake of history' (IE, September 2). A stylised memorial to the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre is not the best way to capture the pathos of the event. The memorial should have been as au-

Jaipur

### **IDEAS ONLINE**

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

• THE LESS TALKED-ABOUT **OUTBREAK:** OM PRAKASH KANSAL& **JYOTIJOSHI** 

 CASTE CENSUS WILL **HERALD NEW ERA OF EQUALITY: PANKAJ KUMAR** 

www.indianexpress.com

thentic to the event as possible, so as to let the tragedy sink in to visitors. The government should have drawn inspiration from the Auschwitz Museum and Pol Pot Genocide Museum and others while renovating Jallianwala Bagh, so as to truthfully capture the horrors of the tragedy. **Hemant Contractor,** Pune

#### REALITY CHECK

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Afghanistan isn't lost' (IE, September 2). Amongst the rural areas of Afghanistan which are still swayed by archaic concepts of clan and religion, the Taliban enjoys considerable goodwill. India and the world need to take these ground realities into account. Mere goodwill of urban Afghans will not

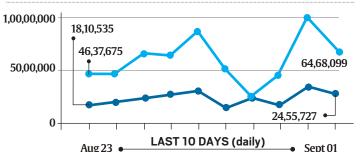
Shubhada H, via email

#ExpressExplained

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)

**50,97,99,626** • First dose • Second dose



TOTAL DOSES 66,30,37,334

(Sputnik V's 7,54,421 doses not represented in pie)

DOSES ON SEPT 01 89,23,826

AUG 31: 1,35,84,864 (1ST DOSE: 1,03,10,762; 2ND: 32,74,102)

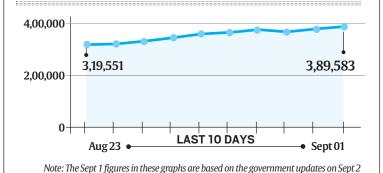
**COVISHIELD** 

87.9%

#### **INDIA ACTIVE CASES**

3,89,583

**COVAXIN** 



the sept 1 figures in these graphs are based on the government apacies on sept 2

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,28,57,937

Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 2

# Double vaccination halves risk of long Covid: study

NEW RESEARCH

**VAJIRAM & RAVI** 

INSTITUTE FOR IAS EXAM

ONLINE COACHING PROGRAMME ON www.vajiramandravi.com

A STUDY by researchers at King's College London, published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, has found that in the unlikely event of catching Covid after being double vaccinated, the risk of long Covid-19 was reduced by almost half. There were also fewer

hospitalisations (73% less likely) and lower burden of acute symptoms (31% less likely) among those fully vaccinated.

The researchers analysed data from participants logging their symptoms, tests and vaccines on the UK ZOE COVID Symptom Study app between December 8, 2020 and July 4, 2021,

including 1,240,009 (first dose) and 971,504(second dose) vaccinated UK adults.

In a press release detailing the findings, King's College London listed the following:

Lectures by Vajiram & Ravi's

• Printed study Materials called

renowned teachers

'Yellow Books'

■ The nature of the most common symptoms were similar to unvaccinated adults — loss of smell, cough, fever, headaches, and fatigue. All these were milder and less frequently reported by those vaccinated, and they were half as likely to get multiple

week of illness.

Sneezing was the only symptom which was

symptoms in the first

symptom which was more commonly reported in vaccinated people with Covid-19.

People living in most

deprived areas were at greater risk of infection after a single vaccination.

While age on its own

was not a risk factor, individuals who had certain health conditions — such as frailty — were up to two times more likely to contract Covid infection after vaccination, and

of getting sick.
Source: King's College London

• Prelim Test Series including 18 Tests

Answer Writing Practice for Main Exam

• Current Affairs: Classes, Study Materials

### **EXPLAINED YOUR MONEY**

# Rules for taxing interest on PF

The government has notified the rules for taxing the interest earned on provident fund contributions beyond a limit. What is the limit, how much will the tax be, and what is the objective of the move?



AANCHAL MAGAZINE & SANDEEP SINGH

FOLLOWING ITS Budget announcement in February, the Finance Ministry has now notified the rules for taxing interest income on contributions made to the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) beyond Rs 2.5 lakh (for private sector employees) and Rs 5 lakh (for government sector employees). Beginning this fiscal, the government will tax interest on contributions made in excess of these limits, with separate accounts to be maintained within the provident fund account for 2021-22 and subsequent years for taxable contribution and non-taxable contribution made by an individual.

#### What is the tax on EPF contributions?

In February, the Budget proposed that tax exemption will not be available on interest income on PF contributions exceeding Rs 2.5 lakh in a year. Although this has been a concern for salaried individuals contributing to EPF, it will impact only those who contribute more than Rs 2.5 lakh in a year — and it will not affect their existing corpus or the aggregate annual interest on that.

In March, the government introduced an amendment to the Finance Bill, 2021 in which it proposed to double the cap on contribution from Rs 2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh for tax-exempt interest income, if the contribution is made to a fund where there is no contribution by the employer. With this, the government provided relief for contributions made to the General Provident Fund that is available only to government employees and there is no contribution by the employer.



EPF office in Chandigarh. Interest income will be taxed on EPF contributions over Rs 2.5 lakh (private) and Rs 5 lakh (government) in a year. Express Archive

#### What are the rules to enable this taxation?

The rules were notified by the Finance Ministry on August 31. In an amendment to the Income-Tax Rules, 1962 that will come into effect from April 1, 2022, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has inserted Rule 9D, according to which income through interest accrued during the previous year that is not exempt (over Rs 2.5 lakh for private and Rs 5 lakh for government employees) shall be computed as the interest accrued during the previous year in the taxable contribution account. Separate accounts within the provident fund account shall be maintained during 2021-2022 and subsequent years for an individual's taxable contribution and non-taxable contribution.

The EPFO, however, is yet to formalise the separation of taxable and non-taxable contribution in their accounts. Some EPF board members said the task to separate the accounts for such contributors will take time. "Data will need to be aggregated and then the separate accounting process has to be determined for such accounts. Details are yet to be finalised," a member said.

The CBDT has stated that the closing balance on March 31, 2021 and the interest accrual on it will be treated as the non-taxable component. The taxable contribution account will consist of contributions made by the individual in the account during the previous year (2021-22) and subsequent years in excess of the threshold limit.

#### Why the proposal?

The Budget proposal had noted that the government has found instances where some employees are contributing huge amounts to these funds and are getting the benefit of tax exemption at all stages — contribution, interest accumulation and withdrawal. With an aim to exclude high net-worth individuals (HNIs) from the benefit of high tax-free interest income on their large contributions, the government has proposed to impose a threshold limit for tax exemption. This will be applicable for all contributions beginning April 1, 2021.

"This fund is actually for the benefit of the workers, and workers are not going to be affected by it," Finance Minister Nirmala

Sitharaman had said while presenting the Budget in February. "... It is only for big-ticket money which comes into it because it has tax benefits and also (is) assured about 8% return. You find huge amounts, some to the extent of Rs 1 crore also being put into this each month. For somebody who puts Rs 1 crore into this fund each month, what should be his salary? So, for him to give both tax concessions and also an assured 8% return, we thought this is probably not comparable with an employee with about Rs 2 lakh."

#### How will it get taxed?

For an individual in the higher tax bracket of 30%, the interest income on contribution above Rs 2.5 lakh would get taxed at the same marginal tax rate. What this means is that if an individual contributes Rs 3 lakh every year to the provident fund (including the voluntary PF contribution) then the interest on his contribution above Rs 2.5 lakh —that is, Rs 50,000 — will be taxed. So, the interest income of Rs 4,250 (8.5% on Rs 50,000) will be taxed at the marginal rate. If the individual falls in the 30% tax bracket, he/ she will have to pay tax of Rs 1,325.

For an individual contributing Rs 12 lakh in a year, the tax will be applicable on interest income on Rs 9.5 lakh (Rs 12 lakh minus Rs 2.5 lakh). In this case, the tax liability would amount to Rs 25,200.

#### Will it get taxed for perpetuity?

As per the notification, the interest income on the additional contribution (over Rs 2.5 lakh for private and Rs 5 lakh for government employees) for a year will get taxed every year. This means that if your annual contribution to PF in FY22 is Rs 10 lakh, the interest income on Rs 7.5 lakh will get taxed not only for FY22 but also for all subsequent years. If the PF contribution is the same for FY23, the tax will have be paid on interest income on Rs 15 lakh. Also, if you earned interest of 8.5% last year, and if you fall in the highest tax bracket, then the following year you will earn effectively around 5.85% on the additional contribution (assuming the interest rate is unchanged).

### — THIS WORD MEANS: DURAND LINE ——

# Friction point between Afghanistan, Pakistan

#### NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

EARLIER THIS week, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid told a Pashto channel in Pakistan that Afghans oppose the fence erected by Pakistan along the Durand Line. "The new Afghan government will announce its position on this issue. The fencing has separated people and divided families. We want to create a secure and peaceful environment on the border so there is no need to create barriers," Mujahid said.

The issue has sowed distrust between Afghans and Pakistan for decades, and is a potential flashpoint in relations between the Taliban and Pakistan.

#### Line dividing Pashtun

The Durand Line is a legacy of the 19th century Great Game between the Russian and British empires in which Afghanistan was used as a buffer by the British against a feared Russian expansionism to its east.

The agreement demarcating what became known as the Durand Line was signed on November 12, 1893 between the British civil servant Sir Henry Mortimer Durand and Amir Abdur Rahman, then the Afghan ruler.

Abdur Rahman became king in 1880, two years after the end of the Second Afghan War in which the British took control of several areas that were part of the Afghan kingdom. He was essentially a British puppet. His agreement with Durand demarcated the limits of



Mazar-e-Sharif

his and British India's "spheres of influence" on the Afghan "frontier" with India.

The seven-clause agreement recognised a 2,670-km line which, according to Rajiv Dogra, author of *Durand's Curse: A Line Across the Pathan Heart*, Durand drew on the spot on a small map of Afghanistan during his negotiations with the Amir. The line stretches from the border with China to Afghanistan's border with Iran.

Clause 4 said the "frontier line" would be laid down in detail and demarcated by British and Afghan commissioners "whose object will be to arrive by mutual understanding at a boundary which shall adhere with the greatest possible exactness to the line shown in the map attached to this agreement, having die

regard to the existing local rights of villages adjoining the frontier".

In reality, the line cut through Pashtun tribal areas, leaving villages, families, and land divided between the two "spheres of influence". It has been described as a "line of hatred", arbitrary, illogical, cruel and a trickery on the Pashtuns. Some historians believe it was a ploy to divide the Pashtuns so that the British could keep control over them easily. It also put on the British side the strategic Khyber Pass.

### Cross-border tensions With independence in 1947

With independence in 1947, Pakistan inherited the Durand Line, and with it also the Pashtun rejection of the line, and Afghanistan's refusal to recognise it. Afghanistan was the only country to vote against Pakistan joining the United Nations in 1947.

'Pashtunistan' — an independent country of the Pashtuns — was a demand made by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at the time of Partition, although he later resigned himself to the reality of Partition. The proximity of the 'Frontier Gandhi' to India was a point of tension between the two countries almost immediately. The fear of Indian support to Pashtun nationalism haunts Pakistan to date, and is embedded in its Afghan policy.

Pakistan's creation and support for the Taliban is seen by some as a move to obliterate ethnic Pashtun nationalism with an Islamic identity. But it did not work out the way Pakistan had planned. When the Taliban seized power in Kabul the first time, they rejected the Durand Line. They also strengthened Pashtun

identity with an Islamic radicalism to produce the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, whose terrorist attacks since 2007 left the country shaken.

#### The fence

As cross-border tensions peaked in 2017 with several attacks on Pakistani border posts by militants that Pakistan accused Afghanistan of sheltering – while the Afghan government accused Pakistan of giving safe haven to Afghan Taliban and Haqqani Network – Pakistan began erecting a fence on the Durand Line. While it may have reduced the movement of militants from Afghanistan into Pakistan, it did little to stop the movement of Afghan Taliban across and back.

Now mostly completed, the fence has been a source of more tensions as Afghans, and Pashtuns on both sides of the border, see it as a move by Pakistan to formalise the boundary, making their division permanent. This is the fence that Zabiullah Mujahid said was not acceptable to the Taliban.

An Al Jazeera report said the \$500 m fencing is actually two sets of chain-link fences with a 6-ft gap, filled with concertina wire coils. It is 11.6 ft high on the Pakistani side, and 13 ft on the Afghan side. It is fitted with surveillance cameras and infrared detectors, and punctuated by 1,000 watchtowers. Cross-border movement will only be allowed through 16 formally designated points after the completion of the project.

Pakistan believes that in the new situation

in Afghanistan, the fence will help control any spillover from unrest and chaos there.

# Reading US Supreme Court's refusal to block Texas anti-abortion law

### **APURVA VISHWANATH**NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

THE US Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to block a Texas anti-abortion law that bans termination of pregnancy after six weeks. The 5-4 majority decision of the Supreme Court has raised questions on the right to abortion and the conservative approach of the court.

### What is the law that was challenged?

In May 2021, the Texas legislature enacted S. B. 8 (the Act). The Act, which took effect at midnight on September 1, makes it unlawful for physicians to perform abortions if they either detect cardiac activity in an embryo or fail to perform a test to detect such activity, even though this could be months before a viable foetus develops. Legal experts have noted that the wording is designed to make it very difficult to challenge the law in courts.

Laws that outlaw an activity are enforced by the state. However, according to *The New York Times*, the Texas law gives rights to private citizens to "sue anyone who performs an abortion or 'aids and abets' a procedure. Plaintiffs who have no connection to the patient or the clinic may sue and recover legal fees, as well as \$10,000 if they win". So the question before the Supreme Court was whether the Texas law can be challenged in courts with the state of Texas as a defendant.

On both moral and religious grounds, a strong anti-abortion movement is in place in the US. In India, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act allows abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy.

#### What has the court ruled?

In a 5-4 majority opinion, it has refused to block or grant a preliminary injunction against the law despite a constitutional right to abortion that the US Supreme Court had recognised in the 1973 verdict *Roe v Wade*.

Chief Justice John G Roberts, Jr, and associate justices Stephen G Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan dissented.

"Procented with an application to enjoin

"Presented with an application to enjoin a flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered to prohibit women from exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny, a majority of Justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand. Last night, the Court silently acquiesced in a State's enactment of a law that flouts nearly 50 years of federal precedents. Today, the Court belatedly explains that it declined to grant relief because of procedural complexities of the State's own invention. Ante, at 1. Because the Court's failure to act rewards tactics designed to avoid judicial review and inflicts significant harm on the applicants and on women seeking abortions in Texas, I dissent," Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in her dissent.

What does a refusal to block mean? The emergency ruling refusing to block is akin to a refusal to grant an interim stay of legislation by Indian courts. While Wednesday's ruling does not stop the Texas legislation from facing legal challenges, it also ensures that for the first time since *Roe v Wade*, such a stringent anti-abortion law is enforced.

Other Republican states, too, have introduced similar laws but these have not yet been implemented as they are challenged in courts. According to *The NYT*, these include Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky and Ohio.

### How has the US Supreme Court ruled earlier on abortion?

In its 1973 verdict in *Roe v Wade*, the Supreme Court had ruled with a 7-2 majority that undue regulation on abortion violated the 14th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees due process in laws. Despite several attempts to overturn the ruling, Roe v Wade stayed as the precedent that protected women's rights to bodily autonomy.

Also, the 1992 verdict *Planned Parenthood v Casey* recognised that laws outlawing abortion are unconstitutional if they place an "undue burden" on a woman seeking an abortion before the foetus is viable.

#### What questions does the latest ruling raise?

The obvious fallout is the enforcement of a regressive anti-abortion regime that would violate the rights of women.

"Without full briefing or argument, and after less than 72 hours' thought, this Court greenlights the operation of Texas's patently unconstitutional law banning most abortions. The Court thus rewards Texas's scheme to insulate its law from judicial review by deputizing private parties to carry out unconstitutional restrictions on the State's behalf," Justice Elana Kagan noted in her dissenting opinion.

Another question raised is about the US Supreme Court's practice of handing out pre-

Jaipur

liminary or summary rulings that could vastly affect civil liberties — a practice that is referred to as "shadow docketing."

#### What is shadow docketing?

Unlike the Indian Supreme Court, the US Supreme Court hears only about 60-70 cases in a year which it carefully chooses. The cases chosen are put in the "merit docket". For cases that do not make it to the docket, the court does not cite reasons or issue a signed reasoning. This practice is referred to as "shadow docketing", which legal experts have noted is on the rise in recent years, with the justices handing down one- or two-sentence summary decisions late at night in controversial cases.

In February this year, the House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the shadow docket, inviting legal experts to explain the history of the practice, and looked into whether the Congress should be concerned about the practice.

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU** 

CATAMARAN VENTURES, promo-

ted by former Infosys Chairman

NR Narayana Murthy, has sold its

51 per cent stake in Aon India

Insurance Brokers Pvt Ltd to Aon

plc of the UK. Aon's stake in the

Indian broker will now rise from

stake from Catamaran Ventures in

the Indian composite broking

firm, Anviti Insurance Brokers Pvt

Ltd in 2020. Anviti was founded

by Catamaran in 2016 and subse-

quently rebranded as Aon India

Insurance Brokers in June 2021.

chairman, Asia Pacific, Aon, said,

"We are happy to have worked

Sandeep Malik, executive

Aon had acquired a 49 per cent

49 per cent to 100 per cent.

MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

**SILVER** 

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on September 1, 202

Catamaran sells 51%

SENSEX: 57,852.54 ▲ 514.33 (0.90%) NIFTY: 17,234.15 ▲ 157.90 (0.92%) NIKKEI: 28,543.51 ▲ 92.49 HANG SENG: 26,090.43 ▲ 62.14 FTSE: 7,143.08 ▼ 6.76 DAX: 15,825.67 ▲ 1.38

### SECTOR WATCH **BIG TECH**

### Tackling monopoly: S Korea 'anti-Google law' likely to set precedent for nations

**PRANAV MUKUL** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

SOUTH KOREA'S crackdown on the in-app billing processes, which forced companies like Apple and Google to open up their app stores to alternative forms of payment systems, may be the first formal development with such restrictions on the tech companies, but the decision may act as a precedent for other jurisdictions, including India, where now a complaint has been filed with the antitrust regulator against Apple for App Store policies.

South Korea on Tuesday became the first jurisdiction to legally ban the monopolies that Apple and Google hold over payments on in-app purchases. The country's National Assembly Tuesday passed amendments to the Telecommunications Business Act—nicknamed 'Anti-Google law' — in a landmark decision that could globally change how platform companies like Google and Apple force developers to use their billing systems for in-app purchases.

In their statements to Reuters, while Google said that its current model keeps device costs low for consumers by keeping Android free, Apple said that App Store purchases will decrease as a result of this.

The app ecosystem is a booming revenue stream for platforms such as Apple and Google, which run the most prominent app stores and mandate that all in-app payments go through their own processing system, on which they charge commissions ranging between 15 per cent and 30 per cent. In some jurisdictions, their administrations have taken upon themselves to look into these practices, while in some places the app developers have been vocal against how these firms operate, including a major class-acion lawsuit in the LIS against Apple where a settlement

agreement has been proposed. Sectoral experts have argued that while this change may be potentially important for developers, Apple stops short of what the developers have been actually demanding - an alternative payments system, and a way to communicate this to the users from within the app. On Wednesday, Apple announced that it was rolling out even more tweaks to the App Store that would close an investigation by the Japan Fair Trade Commission(JFTC). Under this update, Apple would allow developers of "reader" apps to include an in-app link to their

■ A complaint has been filed with the Competition Commission of India against Apple for App Store policies.

**PLAINT IN INDIA** 

website for users to set up or manage an account. Apple added the updates will be rolled out by early 2022. Reader apps are services like Netflix, Spotify, and Amazon.

Last year, Epic Games, developer of video game Fortnite, intentionally broke Apple's rules and established its own payment processing system on Fortnite iPhone app. This led to Apple taking down the game from the App Store and, in turn, Epic Games filed a lawsuit in the US District Court of Northern California. Europe has introduced the Digital Markets Act, as per which large tech companies could attract massive fines for offences that include giving priority to their own services and products over smaller competitors. US senators, too, have introduced a new bipartisan Bill that is looking to ban curbs by Apple and Google on app developers.

Earlier this year, Google said it will reduce its service fee for Play Store, which it charges app developers, to 15 per cent for the first 1 million (USD) of revenue. The charge applies to all app developers that offer inapp products or subscriptions or goods and will be applied for each year. For developers who make more than this amount, the service fee will be at 30%.

But the announcement hadn't come before the company faced considerable criticism from Indian developers when it announced plans to charge developers 30 per cent fee from the Play Store. Paytm founder CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has repeatedly termed this fee as for developers in India to have their own app store.

The Alliance of Digital India Foundation, which has often raised the issue of Apple and Google's commissions on app payments, welcomed South Korea's decision. "Any legislation on the matter anywhere in the world will set a precedent for other nations to adopt and build on, and we hope this will expedite similar legislations by other governments as well," said Siio Kuruvilla George, executive director, ADIF. Mails sent to Apple and the Competition Commission of India did not elicit any response.

Full report on www.indian express.com

#### **HEALTH OF TELECOM SECTOR ALSO DISCUSSED**

## Vi pushes for relief in meet with stake in insurance broking JV to Aon **Telecom Min, stock soars 18%**

**AASHISH ARYAN** 

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 2

A DAY after former Vodafone Idea chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla met Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the telco's shares closed 18.03 per cent higher at Rs 7.20 on the National Stock Exchange on market expectations of a relief package for the telecom sector. Sources in the Ministry said other senior executives from the company met Department of Telecommunications (DoT) officials on Thursday to discuss the health of the telecom sector while also pressing for a relief of some form.

Though the government has publicly stated that it wants to see "healthy competition" in the telecom sector, there has so far been no relief forthcoming despite public appeals from both Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel.

Among the various options said to be in consideration by the government is the possibility of a push for a floor price for services provided by telecom compaPossible options **Possible** 

> AMONG THE various options said to be in consideration by the government is the possibility of a push for a floor price for services provided by telecom companies. Other options such as interest free moratorium on spectrum payments and encashment of bank guarantees are also on the table, DoT officials have said in the past.

nies. Other options such as interest free moratorium on spectrum payments and encashment of bank guarantees are also on the table, DoT officials have said in the past.

The discussions for relief to the telecom sector have gained pace after Birla wrote to the Central government in June, of-

fering to "hand over" his 27 per cent stake in the company to any public sector, government, or domestic financial entity or to any other firm that the government may think fit, to keep Vi going.

The June letter, however, was not the first time Birla had raised the request for a package from the government. In December 2019. he had, following the Supreme Court's AGR judgment, said Vodafone Idea would have to "shut shop" if no relief was forthcoming from the government.

Birla's comments had then come nearly a fortnight after the global chief executive officer (CEO) of Vodafone Nick Read made similar comments. Read had on November 12 that year said that future in India was doubtful and the company could be headed for liquidation if there was no relief from the payment of AGR dues. He had then also said that the global arm would not commit any more equity for India as the country "effectively contributed zero value to the company's share price".

A day later, however, Read

Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and said that his comments had been taken out of context by the me-

"I apologise for the impression that this coverage conveys. However, I wish to put on record that this does not reflect our version. You have my words that Vodafone wishes to continue its long history in India, given the right conditions, and we strongly believe in the potential of the country," Read had said.

Apart from seeking relief from the government, Vi has also been trying to raise up to Rs 25,000 crore or bring in a strategic partner to steer the company out of woods. The funds, however, have so far not been arranged.

In his June 7, 2021 letter to the government, Birla made a mention of the company's efforts to raise funds and said all non-Chinese investors they had talked to so far had asked to be assured that the Indian government wanted to "have a three-player telecom market".

### PNB Housing preference issue: Sebi moves SC against SAT order New Delhi: PNB Housing Finance

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD

Devaswom Commissioner Office
Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003

Tenders are invited for the printing and supply of Diary 2022.

Last date for online submission: 14.09.2021 at 5.00 pm. Opening

of bid: 16.09.2021 at 11.00 am. Detailed e-tender notifications

and special instructions to the bidders are available on

www.travancoredevaswomboard.org. For the submission of

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, सम्भाग कोटा

निविदा सूचना संख्या 16/2021-2022

विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण

विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ''ए' एवं ''एए'' श्रेण

मख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा

से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in

http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in तथा http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर

15.09.2021 प्रातः 11:00 बजे (बुधवार), कार्यालय

निर्माण कार्य। (8 पैकेज)

Rs. 3125.00 लाख

सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा

PWD2122WSOB05721

महोदय की ओर से पांच साल की मरम्मत सहित के लिये, उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्मा

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

Bid Securing declaration form attached in RFP

सम्भाग कोटा के अधीन बारॉ जिले में DMFT योजनान्तर्गत भवन एवं सडक व

निविदा खोलने की तिथि 08.10.2021 अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरि

ROC No: 37/20/NS(2) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

tender visit the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

on Thursday said Sebi has approached the Supreme Court against the Securities Appellate Tribunal's order in the matter related to the company's Rs 4,000 crore equity capital raise plan.

"It has been brought to our notice that Sebi has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court against the order of SAT," PNB Housing Finance said in a filing. Pronouncing its order on August 9, the two-member bench of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) gave a split verdict. SAT directed that its interim order of June 21 will continue till further orders, restraining PNB Housing Finance from disclosing the voting results. The voting was part of a special resolution to seek shareholders' nod for the Rs 4,000-crore equity raise plan of PNB Housing by allotting preference shares and warrants to a handful of investors led by Carlyle Group. PTI

Sd/-, Devaswom Commissioner On behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board

Promoted by NR Narayana

Murthy, Catamaran Ventures

had earlier sold 49% stake in

Aon India Insurance Brokers

with Catamaran." MD Ranganath.

president, Catamaran Ventures.

said, "We would like to thank Aon

for the successful collaboration

over the years and wish them a rewarding journey ahead."

to Aon Plc in 2020. File

### 'Housing sales in Q1 jump over twofold in 8 cities on low base'

Housing sales in volume terms more than doubled to 68.5 million sq ft year-on-year during April-June this fiscal across eight major cities on lower base effect, an Icra report said

33.7 million sq ft: recorded during



**19%** Fall in housing demand in Q1FY22 over the previous quarter due to the second wave, from 84.7 million sq ft in Q4FY21 to

Recovery in short-to-medium term: With the increased focus on vaccination by the government and quick re-opening of the economy, sales are likely to recover to the earlier levels in the short-to-medium term

**Driving factors for underlying** demand trend being intact: ■ Multi-vear low interest rates ■ Need for more residential space on account of shift to hybrid working model

Why is it important: The second wave impact has been low due to various factors such as continued work-from-home, more localised lockdowns and more certainty on income levels

Source: Icra Ratings/PTI

### Sensex rally resumes on recovery hopes, MF, retail buying

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** MUMBAI. SEPTEMBER 2

AFTER HITTING 57,000 earlier this week, the benchmark Sensex on Thursday inched closer to 58,000 as the market betted on faster economic recovery and control of Covid. The Sensex rose 514 points, or 0.9 per cent, to 57,852.54 and the Nifty50 by 158 points, or 0.92 per cent, to 17,234.15 on heavy buying. The Sensex has gained 1,728 points in last four sessions.

Markets regained momentum after a minor pause in Wednesday's session and closed higher as on sustained buying by retail investors, mutual funds and institutions. The indices opened in the green and inched higher as the day went on, led by a surge in FMCG, IT and realty stocks. On the sector front, except for auto and PSBs, all other indices posted

Sensex Intra-day, Sept 2 57,850 57,700 757,423.65 57.550 57.40 57,250 57,338.21

gains. The broader markets traded in line with the benchmark.

"Domestic indices nudged higher tracking cues from positive economic data, FPI buying and mixed global markets ahead of the release of US job data. Economic data is nudging performance of core sectors ... Major sectors followed market trend while auto lost ground due to weak sales," said Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services.

Expression of Interest NIT No. & Date
EOI no. RSMM/CO/
GGM(Cont.)EOI-O&M Description of Work

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited for Comprehensive Operation
Maintenance of Industrial Beneficiated Plant on as is where is basis for net minimum guaranteed Rock Phosphate on "Per ton LGO Processing" at Jhamarkotra Mines, Udaipu

Keeness money – One Crore (Contract period shall be 15 year & 03 Months)

Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our web ww.rsmm.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or contact GGM (Contract) of above address. Raj.samwad/C/21/5500

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन वृत, जोधपुर क्रमांक/लेखा/2021-22*/* 

ई-एन.आई.बी. में संशोधन सुचना संख्या 02 ई-निविदा सूचना 01 वर्ष 2021-22

स कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ई-एन.आई.वी. संख्या 01 वर्ष 2021-22 क्रमांक 4028-49 दिनांक 06.08.2021 के कार्य Floo Protection work of Sagi Khari River from Kirwara to 1200.00 MT. D/S of Sayri Road Tehsil Bhinmal District Jalore UBN No. WRD2122WLOBO0694 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से तिथियों में संशोधन किया गया है। जि Other details are available in the following websites

www.diprrajasthan.gov.in

www.water resources.rajasthan.gov.ir

(Narayan lal kumar Superintending Engine

दिनांक 24/8/2<sup>-</sup> क्रमांक 1580

सूचना संख्या–13/2021–22 क्रम संख्या 2 पर अंकित कार्यों में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है। पर्व में अब यह पढा जावे

ı		अगस्त, २०२१ प्रातः ९.३० बज स ०६ सितम्बर	अगस्त, २०२१ प्रातः ९.३० बज स १५ सितम्बर
ı		2021, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	2021, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ı	2		ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख
ı			16, अगस्त 2021 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 15
ı		सितम्बर 2021, सायं 6.00 बजे तक	सितम्बर 2021, सायं 6.00 बजे तक
ı	3		ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख
ı		08 सितम्बर 2021 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक	20 सितम्बर 2021 अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक
ı	4		बिड सिक्योरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति)
ı		9	निर्माण कार्यो हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-180-
ı			00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य
ı			(निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-
ı			52-01 RISL शुल्क रु. 1000/- बजट मद
ı			8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण
ı		9	विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु
ı			एक ही चालान से दिनांक 15.09.2021 सायं
ı			6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशाषी अभियंता
ı			के नाम जमा करवाई जानी है, तथा रू. 2000/-
ı			महा सचिव इंडियन रोड कॉग्रेस, नई दिल्ली के
ı			पक्ष में डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट एवं निविदा शुल्क,
ı		9 ,	RISL ईग्रास चालान की प्रति, Bid
ı		,	Securing declaration, शपथ पत्र 1000/-
ı		9	रू. की (हार्ड प्रति) कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य
ı		अभियंता सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा में दिनांक	अभियंता सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा में दिनांक

in August rose to \$33.1 billion, up 45.2 per cent from a year ago and 27.5 per cent from pre-pandemic level (same month in FY20), buoved by an economic resurgence in advanced markets and elevated global commodity prices. Goods exports have crossed pre-

Imports, too, rose last month to \$47 billion, 51 per cent higher than a year earlier and 18 per cent

# कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

संशोधित निविद सूचना संख्या-13/2021-22 इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1355 दिनांक 06.08.2021 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा

ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 16, ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 16 अगस्त. २०२१ पात: ९.३० बजे से ०६ सितम्बर

08.09.2021 अपरान्हः 2.00 बजे तक जमा 20.09.2021 अपरान्हः 2.00 बजे तक जम

प्रिबिड मिटिंग की दिनांक 27.08.2021 प्रातः प्रिबिड मिटिंग की दिनांक 03.09.2021 प्रातः 1:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता ı 1:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंत सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा। सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा।

नेविदा की अन्य शर्ते यथावत रहेगी। 1 UBN. No. PWD2122WLOB04683

हस्ता./ (सुरेश कुमार बैरवा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

Jaipur

# नी एक्ट आह

बिड सिक्योरिटी

नेविदा

ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा कराने

ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने

PWD2122WSOB05718 PWD2122WSOB05720

DIPR/C/8592/2021

#### BRIDGE & ROOF CO. (INDIA) LTD. (A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISES) CIN No. U27310WB1920GOR03601 "KANKARIA CENTRE", 4th & 5th FLOOR, 2/1, RUSSEL STREET,

(सुरेश कुमार बैरवा

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्त

सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोट

KOLKATA - 700071 ession of Interest (EOIs) are invited from

Reputed, Resourceful and Experienced Parties meeting prescriber QUALIFYING CRITERIA for the following works:

Si. No.	Description of Work & Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) No.	Date of Availability of EOI Tender Document in Website as well as CPP Portal	Last Date of Bid Submission (ON-LINE)	
1.	Peripheral Redevelopment including Building Work, CC Road, RCC Drain, Sewerage, Street Light, Electrical and Landscaping work of District Head Quarter Hospital at Angul, Odisha under District Mineral Foundation Trustee (DMFT), Govt. of Odisha, (EOI No. B&R / HO / DMFT / 51209 / HOSPITAL / ANGUL / EOI / CW / 01)		20.09.2021	
2.	Redevelopment of Pond and Park including Building Work, Electrical, Plumbing, Horticulture, Landscaping Work and Water Body Beautification Work etc. at Panchamukhi Sishu Udyan, Similpada, Angul, Odisha under Angul Municipality, Govt of Odisha.  (EOI No. B&R / HO / 51208 / PANCHAMUKHI-SISHU-UDYAN / ANGUL / EOI / CW / 01)		20.09.2021	

interested Bidder(s) will have to be enrolled & registered with the Government e-Procurement System; through logging on to https://eprocure.gov.in.

Addendum / Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted in Company's Website: www.bridgerpof.co.in and CPP portal : https://eprocure.gov.in

# BRIEFLY —

#### **PFaccountrules** New Delhi: The Finance Min-

istry notified rules to calculate taxable interest on employee contributions to provident fund of over Rs 2.5 lakh a year.

Amazon hiring

Mumbai: Amazon plans to hire over 8,000 direct workforce in 35 cities here across roles this year, Deepti Varma, Amazon HR Leader—corporate, APAC, and MENA, said.

#### Just Dial control

New Delhi: Reliance Retail on said it has acquired sole control of search and discovery firm Just Dial. PTI

#### Axis Bank bond

Mumbai: Axis Bank has pricedits\$600-millionissuance of Basel III-compliant sustainable AT1 bonds in the overseas markets at 4.1 per cent. 30 bps below the initial price guidance. ENS

## Irish data privacy watchdog fines WhatsApp \$266 mn

**CONOR HUMPHRIES** DUBLIN, SEPTEMBER 2

IRELAND HIT Facebook's WhatsApp with a record 225 million euro (\$266 million) fine on Thursday following an inquiry into the messaging app's transparency around sharing personal data with other Facebook companies.WhatsApp said the fine was "entirely disproportionate" and that it would appeal.

Ireland's Data Privacy Commissioner (DPC), which is the lead data privacy regulator for Facebook within the European Union, said the issues related to whether WhatsApp conformed in 2018 with EU data rules about transparency. "This includes information provided to data subjects about the processing of information between WhatsApp and other Facebook companies," the

Irish regulator said in a statement.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said in a statement that the issues in question related to policies in place in 2018.

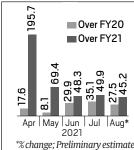
"WhatsApp is committed to providing a secure and private service. We have worked to ensure the information we provide is transparent and comprehensive and will continue to do so," the spokesperson said.

"We disagree with the decision today regarding the transparency we provided to people in 2018 and the penalties are entirely disproportionate," the spokesperson's statement said.

Ireland's DPC takes the lead on data privacy for Facebook because the company's regional headquarters is in Dublin. The DPC has been criticised in

the past by other European regulators for taking too long to reach decisions involving tech giants and for not fining them enough for any breaches. **REUTERS** 

### Exports up 45%; top pre-Covid levels for 6th straight month

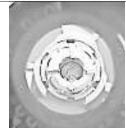


Source: Commerce Ministry

New Delhi: Merchandise exports Covid level for six straight months.

DIPR/C/8627/2021 from the pre-Covid level. **FE** 

# 10 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

#### NASA Mars Rover Collects Rock Sample

NASA's newest Mars rover has successfully collected its first rock sample for return to Earth, after last month's attempt came up empty. The Perseverance rover's chief engineer, Adam Stelzner, called it a perfect core sample. "I've never been more happy to see a hole in a rock," he tweeted Thursday.



school in Strasbourg on Thursday. AP

**FRANCE** 

#### French children back to school, wearing masks

TWELVE MILLION children in France went back to school Thursday for the new academic year, wearing face masks as part of rules aimed at slowing down the spread of the coronavirus in the country. President Emmanuel Macron visited a primary school in the southern city of Marseille. He was greeted with a fist bump by children and teachers, all wearing masks, which are mandatory indoors starting from age 6. "We are doing the maximum so the return of children to school can be as normal as possible ... as the virus continues to spread," Macron said in a video message on social media. Children are also reguired to wash their hands often, and classrooms must

USA

#### Islamic State 'Beatle' to plead guilty

be regularly ventilated. AP

A BRITISH-BORN man who was a member of a team of Islamic State militants in Syria nicknamed "The Beatles" accused of beheading American hostages was due to plead guilty on Thursday to US criminal charges, according to a federal court record. A docket entry for the US District Court in Alexandria, Virginia, showed a change of plea hearing was scheduled on Thursday for Alexanda Kotey, one of two Islamic State members who had been held in Iraq by the US military before being flown to the US to face trial on ter-

NORTH KOREA

#### Satellite images show troops preparing for military parade

rorism charges. **REUTERS** 

NORTH KOREAN troops have been spotted in commercial satellite imagery preparing for a likely military parade, according to two organisations that track the country. Possible dates for such an event are unconfirmed, but North Korea has used recent parades to unveil new military hardware, including large ballistic missiles. "Practice for big parades generally begins 1-2 months in advance," the US-based 38 North programme said in a tweet on Thursday. REUTERS

# TOPOFTHE Taliban prepare to reveal new Afghan government amid economic turmoil

Washington says working with Taliban against Islamic State is possible

**REUTERS & NYT** SEPTEMBER 2

AFGHANISTAN'S NEW Taliban rulers were preparing their government on Thursday, more than two weeks after the Islamist militia's capture of Kabul brought a chaotic end to 20 years of war, while the economy teetered near collapse.

Taliban official Ahmadullah Muttagi said on social media a ceremony was being prepared at the presidential palace in Kabul and Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said a new government was a matter of a few days away.

The legitimacy of the government in the eyes of international donors and investors will be crucial for the economy as the country battles drought and the ravages of a conflict that took the lives of an estimated 240,000 Afghans.

The Taliban have promised safe passage out of the country for any foreigners or Afghans left behind by the huge airlift which ended when US troops withdrew on Monday. But with Kabul

LOLITA C. BALDOR

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2

FOR THE US military pilots and

aircrew about to make their final

takeoffs out of Afghanistan, the

sky was lit up with fireworks and

sporadic gunfire and the airfield

littered with battered shells of

airplanes and destroyed equip-

ment. Stray dogs raced around

the tarmac. And Taliban fighters,

visible in the darkness through

the green-tinged view of night vi-

sion goggles, walked the airfield

Kabul airport Monday night

Lined up on the runway at the

waving an eerie goodbye.



'Apocalyptic': Crew describes Afghan departure

Taliban soldiers in Kabul on Wednesday. Reuters

airport still closed, many were seeking to flee over land.

Qatar's foreign minister said the Gulf state was talking with the Taliban and Turkey about potential technical support to restart operations at Kabul airport, which would facilitate humanitarian assistance and pos-

sibly more evacuations. British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told the same news conference in Doha "we need to adjust to the new real-

ity" in Afghanistan and said he would be talking with regional leaders about securing safe passage through third countries.

General Mark A Milley, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, called the Taliban "a ruthless group," but added, "In war, you do what you must.'

When asked whether the US would cooperate with the Taliban against Islamic State Khorasan, also known as ISIS-K. Gen Millev said that was a possibility.

"It just looked apocalyptic,"

said Air Force Lt. Col. Braden

Coleman, who was in charge of

monitoring the outside of his air-

craft for artillery fire and other

threats. "It looked like one of

those zombie movies where all

the airplanes had been destroyed,

their doors were open, the wheels

were broken. There was a plane

that was burned all the way. You

could see the cockpit was there

and the whole rest of the plane

looked like the skeleton of a fish."

tense, and we were definitely all

on edge watching everything go-

ing on to make sure that we were

ready," said Air Force Capt. Kirby

Wedan, who led the final forma-

tion of five aircraft out.

"It was just definitely very

Whether the Taliban can control the group had become a matter of major international concern, after ISIS-K claimed responsibility for an attack on the Kabul airport that left 170 civilians and 13 US military members dead in the final days of the US evacuation.

The Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, is expected to have ultimate power over a new governing council, with a president below him, a senior Taliban official said last month.

In Kabul, "a real change has come into the city" resident Zahid Ullah said. "The environment and peace is good but issues with wages since no one knows who is running the country. People are unemployed and searching for work.'

Humanitarian groups warned of catastrophe as severe drought and war have forced thousands of families to flee their homes.

Afghanistan desperately needs money, and the Taliban are unlikely to get swift access to the roughly \$10 billion in assets mostly held abroad by the Afghan central bank.

Adding to the stress, she said,

was that their planes were parked

in an area of the airport that had

been attacked and breached in the

past. At one point during the night.

a group of civilians got onto the air-

field and tried to get to the aircraft,

but they were stopped by Army

troops securing the plane, said

Wedan, who is the squadron's

"It was definitely different.

I've never been on an airfield

where I didn't really have per-

mission to take off," said Wedan,

noting the absence of air traffic

As they lifted off in rapid suc-

cession, cheers broke out from

the troops on board. "It was a visible relief," said Wedan.

mission planning cell chief.

control in the tower.

Covid-19 pandemic.

### Pakistan shuts key Afghan border crossing

Islamabad: Pakistan on Thursday temporarily closed a key border crossing with Afghanistan, amid concerns over the influx of refugees eager to leave the

the second-largest commercial border point with Afghanistan after the Torkham commercial town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa – has been closed due to security

### Taliban, Afghan rebels claim heavy casualties in Panjshir fight

TALIBAN FORCES and fighters loyal to local leader Ahmad Massoud, fought in Afghanistan's Panjshir Valley on Thursday, with each side saying it had inflicted heavy casualties in recent days of combat in the last province resisting Taliban rule.

Following the fall of Kabul on Aug 15, several thousand fighters from local militias and the remnants of army and special forces units have massed in Panjshir.

Under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud, son of a former Mujahideen commander, they have been holding out in the province, a steep valley that makes attacks from outside difficult.

Efforts to negotiate a settlement appear to have broken down, with each side blaming the other for the failure of talks as the Taliban prepared to announce a government. REUTERS

Taliban-ruled country.

Chaman border crossing threats, Geo News reported.

Earlier in the day, Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said: "We will be closing the Chaman crossing for a while." He did not specify how long the crossing would be shut for. PTI

ment of China-US relations."

wanted China to do more on cli-

mate, a US State Department

that the United States remains

committed to cooperating with

the world to tackle the climate

crisis, which must be addressed

with the seriousness and ur-

gency that it demands, and en-

couraged the PRC to take addi-

tional steps to reduce emissions,"

the spokesperson said. REUTERS

"Secretary Kerry affirmed

spokesperson said.



Flood waters on Queens Boulevard in New York Thursday. NYT

## 23 dead as Hurricane Ida brings rain, flood to US East Coast

THE NEW YORK TIMES NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2

THREE US states struggled on Thursday to overcome devastating and deadly rains brought on by the remnants of Hurricane Ida as national and local leaders acknowledged that the region would need to adjust to a reality in which extreme weather events were the norm.

At least 23 people were killed by the storm in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, which left more than 150,000 homes without power. States of emergency remained in effect across the region by midday Thursday, as officials sought to get a handle on the damage.

In an address, President Joe Biden said that the damage indicated that "extreme storms and the climate crisis are here," constituting what he called "one of the great challenges of our time."

At a news conference in Queens on Thursday morning, Governor Kathy Hochul of New York said that she had received a call from Biden, who she said "offered any assistance" as the state assessed the damage from



At Mamaroneck town in New York state Reuters

Ida, a storm that she said represented a new normal. "We need to foresee these in advance, and be prepared," she said.

The deluge of rain on Wednesday - more than half a foot fell in just a few hours turned streets and subway platforms into rivers. Emergency responders in boats rescued people from the rooftops of cars. Hundreds of people were evacuated from trains and subways. Some rivers in New Iersev and Pennsylvania were still rising.

The rain broke records set just 11 days before by Tropical Storm Henri, underscoring warnings of a new normal on a warmed planet: Hotter air holds more water and allows storms to gather strength

## US top court divides 5-4 to leave Texas abortion law in place

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2

Kerry told Wang that US A DEEPLY divided US Supreme bans most abortions to remain in force, for now stripping most women of the right to an abortion in the nation's second-largest state.

The court voted 5-4 to deny an emergency appeal from abortion providers and others that sought to block enforcement of the law that went into effect Wednesday But the justices also suggested that their order likely isn't the last word on whether the law can stand because other challenges to it can still be brought.

The Texas law, signed by Republican Gov. Greg Abbott in May, prohibits abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity, usually around six weeks and before many women know they're pregnant.

It is the strictest law against abortion rights in the US since the high court's landmark Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 and part of a broader push by Republicans nationwide to impose new restrictions on abortion. At least 12 other states have enacted bans early in pregnancy, but all have been blocked from going into effect.

WHO: New Mu variant of Covid

THE TEXAS law bans abortions if a foetal heartbeat can be detected. This generally happens around the sixth week of pregnancy. In Texas, around 85%-

Near total

90% of abortions happen after the sixth week of pregnancy, according to The New York Times. This means that the new law bans nearly all abortions in the state. The law also makes no exception for pregnancies resulting from rape. It also prohibits state officials from enforcing the ban, instead empowering private citi zens to sue anyone who performs the abortion or "aids and abets" it.

The high court's order declining to halt the Texas law came just before midnight Wednesday. The majority said those bringing the case had not met the high burden required for a stay of the law. Chief Justice John Roberts

dissented along with the court's three liberal justices.

# were the five last C-17s to leave the country after a chaotic and

73 students in

latest attack on

Nigeria school

**ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

LAGOS, SEPTEMBER 2

GUNMEN ABDUCTED 73 students in vet another school attack in northwestern Nigeria on Wednesday, police said, prompting authorities to close all primary and secondary schools across Zamfara state.

The new kidnappings came days after three other groups of hostages were freed when ransom payments were reportedly made, raising hopes that other captives might soon be freed, too.

Attackers descended upon the Government Day Secondary School in the remote village of Kaya around noon Wednesday, local resident Yusuf Mohammed said. The kidnappers then began shooting into the air before taking the students, he said. Zamfara state police spokesman Mohammed Shehu said an operation was underway to rescue the students.

### Gunmen kidnap China: US climate cooperation at risk over tensions

US troops board a plane to

leave Kabul on Monday. AP

deadly airlift evacuation that

marked the end of America's in-

volvement in the Afghanistan

war. In the final hours, there were

no more rocket defence systems

to protect them on the runway.

and no one in the airport control

centre to direct them out.

**DAVIDSTANWAY** 

SENIOR CHINESE diplomat Wang Yi has warned the United States that political tension between Beijing and Washington could undermine efforts by the world's top two sources of greenhouse gas to cooperate in the fight against climate change.

keep climate issues separate from its disputes with China on

**JOE MCDONALD** 

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 2

CHINA'S GOVERNMENT banned

effeminate men on TV and told

broadcasters Thursday to pro-

mote "revolutionary culture."

broadening a campaign to tighten

control over business and society

for a "national rejuvenation,"

with tighter Communist Party

control of business, education,

President Xi Jinping has called

and enforce official morality.



US climate envoy John Kerry meets China Foreign Minister Wang Yi via video link, Reuters

The US has long hoped to issues such as trade, human



rights and the origins of the



A Chinese talk show is played

Tibet Autonomous Region. AP

culture and religion. Companies

and the public are under increas-

in Zhaxigang village in the

China's State Councillor and oreign Minister Wang Yi told US climate envoy John Kerry that the United States saw the two sides' joint efforts against global warming as an "oasis", the foreign ministry said in a statement.

"But surrounding the oasis is a desert, and the oasis could be desertified very soon," he said, speaking by video link on Wednesday. "China-US climate co-operation cannot be separated from the wider environ-

and healthier society.

China bans 'sissy men' from TV in new crackdown ing pressure to align with its vithat Chinese pop stars, influsion for a more powerful China enced by the sleek, girlish look of some South Korean and Japanese The party has reduced chilsingers and actors, are failing to encourage China's young men to dren's access to online games

be masculine enough.

it sees as unhealthy attention to Broadcasters should avoid promoting "vulgar internet celebrities. Broadcasters must "resolutely celebrities" and admiration of put an end to sissy men and other wealth and celebrity, the regulaabnormal esthetics," the TV regutor said. Instead, programmes lator said, using an insulting slang should "vigorously promote exterm for effeminate men — "niang cellent Chinese traditional culpao," or literally, "girlie guns." ture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture." AP

That reflects official concern

and is trying to discourage what

### could be more vaccine-resistant **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 2

Organisation has said that it is closely monitoring a new coronavirus "variant of interest" named Mu, warning that the new variant shows signs of possible resistance to vaccines.

WORLD

Mu – also known by its scientific name as B.1.621 — was first identified in Colombia in January 2021, and since then, there have been "sporadic reports" of cases and some larger outbreaks in South America and Europe, the UN health agency said in its weekly bulletin on the pandemic on Tuesday



The new 'variant of interest' is being closely monitored, the UN health agency said

have also been reported in the UK, Europe, the US and Hong Kong.

The new 'variant of interest' is being closely monitored, the UN health agency said.

lence of the Mu variant among sequenced Covid-19 cases is cur-

has consistently increased, it said The new variant was added to the WHO's watchlist on August 30 after it was detected in 39 countries and found to possess a "constellation of mutations that indicate potential properties of immune escape," it said. Reports on the variant's preva-

rently below 0.1%, its prevalence in

Colombia (39%) and Ecuador (13%)

lence should be "interpreted with due consideration" given the low sequencing capacity of most countries, the UN agency said. Mu is the fifth variant of interest to be monitored by the WHO since March. It has a number of mutations that suggest it could be more resistant to vaccines, the WHO said, but added more research would be needed to confirm this.

#### Egypt plans high-tech leap with new capital Egyptians, for whom the company building the city.

**MAHMOUD MOURAD** & AIDAN LEWIS CAIRO. SEPTEMBER 2

IN EGYPT'S new capital on the outskirts of Cairo, residents will use smart cards and apps to unlock doors and make payments, and surf the web on public WiFi beamed from lampposts. A network of at least 6,000

cameras will monitor activity on every street, tracking pedestrians and vehicles to regulate traffic and report suspicious activity.

Its "smart city" design is a world away from parts of the existing sprawling capital, where creaking infrastructure can mean patchy internet and phone coverage, doormen at densely



human network of look-outs, and administrative errands can

involve hours of queuing. The city being built from scratch in the desert — so far called the New Administrative Capital —

is designed to hold 6.5 million residents and is expected to open to its first civil servants later this year.

How much Egypt's centre of gravity shifts from Cairo to the new capital, 45 km from the Nile, is unclear. For many ordinary

But for those who do make the switch, they are promised a single app for paying utility bills, accessing local services, and reporting

bustling city has been home for

generations, the move and cost

would be unthinkable.

complaints and problems. Officials say advanced technology systems will help reduce waste by detecting leaks or faults, and by allowing residents to keep an eye on consumption.

"Through their mobile app a

citizen will be able to manage all their life affairs from their mobile phone," said Mohamed Khalil, head of technology for the Administrative Capital for Urban Development (ACUD), the military and government-owned

Authorities plan to repeat and synchronise the technology through other developments championed under President

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, for whom

the new city is a flagship project. "This model is being applied in all the 14 new cities that are being established...one of our goals is the integration of cities," said Khalil.

Some Egyptians see the new capital being for a privileged elite in a country where nearly a third of the population live below the poverty line. Others see the technological boost as long overdue. Technology and communica-

tions contracts for the new capital total \$640 million, which could rise to \$900 million in later phases, Khalil said. REUTERS

### The cases of the Mu variant

#### Jaipur

Although the global preva-

### Sexual abuse: Iceland FA resignation brings to light institutional protection

In Iceland, a sexual abuse scandal involving an international resulted in the entire Football Association resigning for not acknowledging to have received a complaint. But a spate of former cases and present-day instances of sexual abuse and assault by sportspeople and coaching staff have highlighted how sporting institutions and its custodians are inherently geared towards protecting their multi-million dollar assets, rather than conducting a thorough investigation.

#### **Entire Icelandic FA resigned**

On Sunday, all members of the Icelandic Football Association resigned. The move was done after news broke that the FA had attempted to cover up an allegation of sexual abuse against an Icelandic player with 64 caps

A week prior to their resignation, the FA chairman, former Bolton Wanderers player Gudni Bergsson had gone on television to state that the association had not received any complaints of one of the national team players having committed sexual abuse. Once news broke out that this was a lie, the FA came out with a statement admitting their folly. "Dear victims of sexual abuse, we the members of the board of the IFA, believe you and would like to sincerely apologise to you," the statement read.

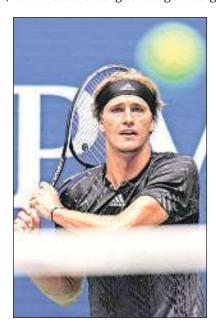
The Icelandic FA's lie was exposed after the victim went public with her complaint upon hearing the chairman's comment on television. ``I was not expecting any of this. I had justhad enough after this interview. I felt like me and my family were being called liars because of what I have been through and the fact that Bergsson contacted us after my father's email (earlier complaint)," said the victim, according to the Guardian.

#### Ronaldo's move reignites abuse claims

In the summer of 2009 when Cristiano Ronaldo made his move from Manchester United to Real Madrid, he was present in Las Vegas, where he was accused of sexually assaulting a woman working at a bar. According to Der Speigel, a 27-page document containing Ronaldo's recollection of the night had the following quote: "She said no and stop several

The Der Speigel report was published in 2017 after the victim found support in a new lawyer and was quoted by the German magazine as having wanted to know if there were more victims of Ronaldo out there. Her confidence to break an out-of-court settlement for her silence on the issue was also based on the MeToo movement that snowballed after multiple women alleged that Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein had sexually abused them at various instances.

While a civil court case continues to be heard in the USA, Manchester United have resigned Ronaldo to a two-year contract. While doing so, the club manager Ole Gunnar Solskiaer has on multiple occasions called Ronaldo a 'great human being'. Solskjaer has in the past been accused of shielding a player who was accused of raping a woman. Babacar





Alexander Zverev's case is yet to be addressed by the ATP, while Neymar was dropped by Nike for his lack of cooperation in an internal investigation. Nike's subset brand Jordan is the official jersey sponsor of Paris Saint Germain.

Sarrwas infact signed by Molde while Solskjaer was manager and the rape case against Sarr

#### Nike cuts ties with Neymar

In 2018, a Nike employee told the company that Neymar had sexually assaulted her in 2016. The Brazilian forward was asked by Nike to co-operate with an investigation, which was initially vetoed by the victim. But later after #MeToo, the victim decided to allow Nike to conduct an investigation.

But it turned out to not be conclusive since Neymar Jr decided to not cooperate with Nike's investigations. Neymar's spokeswoman told the Wall Street Journal that the player had denied the allegations that were made against him. It led to the American giant ending a 15year sponsorship by cutting ties with the

Neymar then joined Puma and when Nike went public over the reasons to terminate their contract with him, he wrote a post on Instagram and said, "I was not given the opportunity to defend myself".

But Neymar was and is still playing for Paris Saint Germain. The club in September 2018 signed a multi-year contract with the Jordan brand to be their primary apparel and footwear sponsor, ensuring the famed Jumpman logo

appears on the club's jersey. The Jordan brand is a subset of Nike. Essentially when the brand was deciding on how to proceed against a sponsored player allegedly sexually assaulting an employee, a subset of the brand was signing a long-term deal with the team that housed

#### ATP's lack of a domestic abuse policy

Recently Alexander Zverev was accused by a former girlfriend of sexual assault and abuse. Initially Zverev wrote an ambiguous post on the matter on his Instagram and said that the allegations were "simply not true".

The Slate published an article detailing the case and sent a questionnaire Zverev's way but the response came from his legal team to cease and desist any questions on the matter from the Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold medallist. The article also stated that the ATP (governing body for men's tennis) is yet to formulate a domestic abuse policy and has not even acknowledged the claims of the victim until now. On August 21, the ATP announced that they were looking into policies that pertained to domestic violence but ceased to speak on any existing cases or complaints.

SHASHANK NAIR

### Ronaldo sets scoring record, wins game in stoppage time

**REUTERS** 

FARO (PORTUGAL), SEPTEMBER 2

WHEN MANCHESTER City loanee Gavin Bazunu saved Cristiano Ronaldo's first-half penalty to deny the Manchester United forward a record 110th international goal for Portugal, the headlines wrote themselves.

Ireland looked to be holding on for a famous World Cup qualifying victory in Portugal, but, as he so often does, the 36-yearold Ronaldo had the last word with two late goals to break Irish hearts - and the world

"I'm so happy, not only for the record but for the special moments with two goals at the end," Ronaldo said.

"It was so tough, but we have to appreciate what the team did, they and the fans believed until the end of the game.'

It had been a frustrating night for Ronaldo and his compatriots as Ireland defended resolutely after taking the lead and largely restricted the hosts to pot-shots

In the 89th minute, Ronaldo lined up a free kick on the edge of the box but the 19-yearold Bazunu again repelled his effort.

Ronaldo, however, simply refused to be

His movement was impeccable, darting this way and that to free himself from the attentions of the defence and get on the end of substitute Goncalo Guedes's cross to power in a headed egualiser.

That took him past Iranian Ali Daei's total of 109 international goals and he repeated the feat in the 96th minute with another header to move on to 111.

While Ronaldo's night was almost perfect, there was one blot on his copybook.



Cristiano Ronaldo scored two goals in the nick of time to lead Portugal to a 2-1 win over Ireland. Reuters

#### **APEX GOALSCORER**

#### 111 for country

the number of goals Cristiano Ronaldo has scored in international football. The Portuguese 36-year-old overtook Iran's Ali Daei, who was on 109 goals.

#### 134 for club

the number of Champions League goals that Ronaldo has scored across four clubs in his career. It is also the most in the history of the competition.

#### 14 at Euros

His 14-goal tally at the European Championships is also the most ever scored by an international player.

while celebrating the winning goal, meaning he will miss Portugal's trip to Azerbaijan on

That may be good news for Manchester United, however, as Ronaldo is expected to play the first match of his second spell at the Premier League club against Newcastle United next Saturday.

#### Ronaldo return 'amazing'

Manchester United captain Harry Maguire hailed Ronaldo's return to the club and said the "greatest player to play the game" will have a huge impact at Old Trafford. The 36-year-old Portuguese forward spent six seasons at United between 2003-09, winning eight major trophies, and rejoined the club this week from Iuventus on a two-year deal with the option of an additional year.

"It's amazing to have Cristiano join us, and come back home," Maguire said. "His career speaks for itself, for me (he is) the greatest player to play the game... I think (the players) will learn so much from him.

"It has happened so quickly it has probably not sunk in properly but it is amazing for the club - the atmosphere he will create around the place ... and the mentality he can bring to the squad. "It is big for the fans but, more impor-

tantly, it will improve us on the pitch. He is an exceptional player as you saw last season and in the Euros." Maguire is away on international duty with England, who will take on Hungary in a World Cup qualifier in Budapest on Thursday. They will host Andorra at Wemblev

Stadium on Sunday and then face Poland away on Sept. 8.

### World No 1 Bhagat enters badminton semis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 2

WORLD NO.1 Pramod Bhagat sailed into the men's singles semifinals after beating Ukraine's Oleksandr Chyrkov in his second group A match of the Tokyo Paralympics badminton event here on Thursday as the country's shuttlers expectedly produced strong performances.

The 33-year-old Bhagat, also a reigning world champion, saw off Chyrkob 21-12 21-9 in 26 minutes to top his group and enter the last four in class SL3.

"I was in the groove today and played really well. Oleksandr Chyrkov is a good player and played some good strokes in the match. I am very happy that I have reached the semi-finals," Bhagat said.

"Things are going to be tough from here as the knock out stages start. My focus is on one match at a time and also the last league game of the mixed doubles which is a door-die situation for us."

Bhagat and Palak Kohli will play Siripong Teamarrom and Nipada Saensupa in mixed doubles class SL3-SU5 on Friday.

Other Indian shuttlers, including Suhas Yathiraj, Tarun Dhillon and Krishna Nagar also had a good day in office as they opened their men's singles campaign impressively.

While Suhas and Tarun notched up easy

victories over Germany's Jan Niklas Pott and Thailand's Siripong Teamarrom in SL4 class respectively, second seed Krishna outwitted Malaysia's Taresoh Didin in SH6 class. Young Palak also overcame Turkev's

Zehra Baglar in her second women's singles match of group A. The 38-year-old Suhas took just 19 min-

utes to see off Pott 21-9 21-3 in a lopsided group A clash, while Tarun, 27, too didn't break a sweat, beating Teamarrom 21-7 21-13 in a group B match that lasted 23 min-

Krishna then prevailed 22-20 21-10 over Didin in a 33-minute group B match.

#### Arvind ends 7th

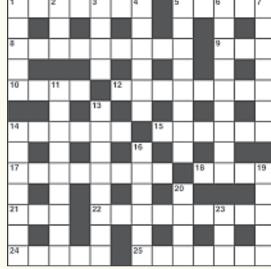
India's Arvind ended seventh in the men's shot put F35 event of the Paralympics here on Thursday. Making his debut at the Games, the 28-year-old's best effort was a 13.48m throw in the eight-strong field. The gold medal in this event went to

Uzbekistan's Khusniddin Norbekov, who produced a season's best effort of 16.13m. Argentina's Emanuel Urra claimed the

silver with a 15.90m throw, while the bronze went to China's Fu Xinhan (15.41 m, season's best). Arvind had lost use of his left leg after he

was hit on his head by a ball as a child leading to nerve damage.

### **CROSSWORD 4525**



#### ACROSS

- Apprehensive over bursting
- 5 Badly cared for tree Retired - from the bank?
- 9 End with a bit of advice (3) 10 A bit of a listener (4)
- 12 Main line terminals?
- 14 Sign for the thesaurus he's left
- 15 Old oil vessel in which I go for a sail(6)
- 17 Confuse by suggesting that one should be less calm (8)
- men act in parts

#### 18 Quite a lot of business (4) 21 Leaves note attached to article

- 24 Relation of pleasant oriental

#### content(5) 25 Scholar returns maths work on

### 22 Performance for which ten

#### Sounds like a strange letter in the post (5)

- Rising pitch of squealer (3) Uneven chances (4) Miss Kate did it in winter it
- appears (6) Plan to study a piece of church
- Resolve to discourage an
- excavation (9) A quick reply showing wit or spite perhaps (7)
- 11 The world's greatest swimmer
- 13 Where Sagittarius strikes gold (5-3)
- 14 He comes from man's highest state(7)
- 16 Tell a story about Tralee 19 Water lily collection going to
- America (5) 20 Turn up before it erupts
- 23 Wooden core in steel mast

Solutions Crossword 4524: Across: 1 Interval, 5 Opus, 9 Minim, 10 Tweaked, 11 Francis Drake, 13 Roller, 14 Inside, 17 Selling plate, 20 Memento, 21 Genie, 22 Nose, 23 Leathery. Down: 1 lamb, 2 Tendril, 3 Roman legions, 4 Attain, 6 Pukka, 7 Saddened, 8 Leading light, 12 Pressmen, 15 Intense, 16 Ignore, 18 Limbs, 19 Rely

# **OVER THE HEDGE** by Michael Fry & T Lewis









### **CALVIN & HOBBES** by Bill Watterson









### **MARVIN** by Tom Armstrong





### **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 - Joshua Reynolds (8)

**CEHOS ACMSHU ORTWGH ERUTT** 

Answer: A room hung with pictures is a room hung with **thoughts** - Joshua Reynolds SOLUTION: CHOSE, UTTER, SUMACH, GROWTH

#### Difficulty Level 2s 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

Difficul 1s=Ver 3s=Me 5s=Ver

xes.	3	2	0		4	1	0	
							9	8
lty Level	4	Т	Π		2	100		Г
ry easy; 2s = Easy; edium; 4s = Hard;		1		8	5		6	4
ry Hard; 6s =	1	7		6		5		

8 3

8

5

9 6

3

4

SOLUTION SUDOKU 458 6 8 5 9 6 6 1 2 3 4 5 8 7 9

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

Jaipur

#### **DAY TODAY**

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) The general disposition is excitable and not inclined to

compromise. You may be so determined to enjoy yourself that you fail to see that other people's feelings, hopes and desires must be respected. Yet, you'd gain nothing by alienating somebody close.

#### TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) All that I have said



home, or sweeping family changes, reaches a peak today, continuing over the next three or four days. Therefore, press ahead with whatever is both desirable and necessary on the personal front, and get as far as you can.

#### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) There is still time to

make important purchases, though the chance to buy something unusual. interesting or mysterious may

have passed. Your insights may

good as you sometimes are at explaining yourself, so try harder. Much harder. CANCER (June 22 - July 23) You still seem to be in control

be deep, but you are not as

weakness could be a tendency towards excessive extravagance. In other words, you could find yourself shovelling your hard-earned money into a vast black hole! That would never do. In fact, it would be a crying shame.

emotionally, but one

#### LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) One of the most important aspects in

your chart encourages you to take up the sword on behalf of a favourite cause. It does you credit to stick up for the underdog, but it goes without saying that you must be absolutely sure of your ground.

#### VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) You may wish to devote more time to social purposes. It will be especially

pleasing if your circle of friends takes on the air of one vast, happy family. Emotional links with certain friends could be more important than those with family members, especially when your emotional future is being shaped.

BY PETER VIDAL LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

light to move on and pass into the next stage of your life. What seems to be particularly important is a sense of morality, of what is right and proper. If you get your way at any cost then you'll

giving you the green

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

probably regret it.

Loved ones and close associates can only admire your courage, strength and integrity. Your ethical

standards do seem to be higher than most people's. Do yourself a favour and get in touch with family members overseas, or mend fences with a relation with whom you

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) Although you tend to be extremely forthright, tactless

you need to be very diplomatic where money is concerned. Your grasp of monetary matters is weaker than you might imagine, and what looks like an unmissable opportunity might be completely the opposite.

some would say,

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) Lunar alignments are soft and sensitive, yet firm

and practical, and common sense and cooperation hold the key to a successful day. Current trends find you putting a great deal more energy into raising your income, almost certainly with the desired results.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Try not to alienate colleagues or close

associates by being over-cautious. Today, it's probably best to get on with your own work and not worry unduly about other people's little complaints and quibbles. Offer them help if it's appropriate, but don't waste

your time on futile enterprises.

#### PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) The current weight of your planets

optimistic attitude.



**SCORECARD** 

**ENGLAND vs INDIA** 

THE OVAL

Toss: England, chose to field

11 (27b, 1x4)

17 (44b, 3x4)

10 (34b, 2x4)

14 (47b, 1x4)

9 (33b, 1x4)

**5**(11b)

O(12b)

26 (46b, 4x4)

21 (25b, 4x4)

57 (36b, 7x4, 3x6)

**IND 1ST INNS** 

RSharma c Bairstow b Woakes

C Pujara c Bairstow b Anderson

KL Rahul Ibw b Robinson

R Jadeja c Root b Woakes

A Rahane c Ali b Overton

S Thakur Ibw b Woakes

U Yadav c Bairstow b Robinson

■ FoW: 1-28 (Rohit, 8.6 ov), 2-28 (Rahul, 13.5 ov),

3-39 (Pujara, 19.4 ov), 4-69 (Jadeja, 29.6 ov), 5-

(Pant, 52.6 ov), 8-190 (Thakur, 60.6 ov), 9-190

■ **Bowling:** Anderson 14-3-41-1, Robinson 17.3-

9-38-3, Woakes 15-6-55-4, Overton 15-2-49-1

■ FoW: 1-5 (Burns, 3.2 ov), 2-6 (Hameed, 3.6

■ **Bowling:** U Yadav 6-1-15-1, J Bumrah 6-2-

15-2, S Thakur 3-1-11-0, Mohd Siraj 2-0-12-0

■ England trail by 138 runs at stumps Day 1

(Bumrah, 61.1 ov), 10–191 (Yadav, 61.3 ov)

105 (Kohli, 42.5 ov), 6-117 (Rahane, 49.5 ov), 7-127

R Pant c Ali b Woakes

J Bumrah run out

Mohd Siraj not out

R Burns b Bumrah

D Malan batting

J Root b Yadav

H Hameed c Pant b Bumrah

ov), 3-52 (Root, 15.3 ov)

■Extras (lh 8)

"To me that's a bit bizarre that fans have to be vaccinated and players are not. In my opinion, it's inevitable that it will be mandated at some point, like other leagues are doing. I don't see the point of stalling it, because I think we all want to be safe, we all want to continue doing our jobs."

VICTORIA AZARENKA, FORMER WORLD NO. 1, CALLS FOR MANDATORY

#### Hamilton hopes to benefit from boos

Paris: Lewis Hamilton is braced for a barrage of boos from Max Verstappen's Orange Army at the first Dutch Grand Prix in 36 years but the seven times world champion hopes to turn it to his advantage. Some 70,000 fans will be at Zandvoort every day this weekend and Hamilton, three points clear of his Dutch Red Bull rival in the standings, can expect a hostile reception. Hamilton said he would aim to turn the negative energy into a positive "and try and put it into the driving. "I've never been someone that would go to an event and boo but you understand it," said the Mercedes driver when asked about some other races where Verstappen fans have been present in numbers. "You see it at football events. It's just the passion that the fans have, or the dislike that some of them have for their opponents. I respect it... I know I do have some Team LH fans in the Netherlands, there will probably be a small portion in the grandstands out there and I admire them for being able to withstand the boos too." **REUTERS** 

#### India draw 1-1 with Nepal in friendly

Kathmandu: The Indian men's football team played out a 1-1 draw against Nepal in an international friendly on Thursday with substitute Anirudh Thapa finding the equaliser after the hosts grabbed the lead. Thapa scored for India in the 60th minute after Anjan Bista gave the home team the lead in the 36th minute. The two sides will play a second friendly on Sunday. The matches kick start India's preparations for next month's SAFF Championships

### Durand Cup in Kolkata for next five years

Kolkata: Asia's oldest football tournament — the Durand Cup — will be held in Kolkata for the next five years, Indian Army's Eastern Command chief Lt General KK Repswal said on Thursday. The 130th edition of the tournament, which is held under the aegis of Indian Armed Forces, will get underway in and around Kolkata from Sunday. The tournament will see 16 teams, including five Indian Super League clubs, divided into four groups and the top two will make the quarters. The only team from Kolkata – Mohammedan Sporting – which is also the first Indian winner of the Durand Cup, will face Indian Air Force to kick off the meet at the Salt Lake Stadium at 4.15pm.

#### Federer tops Forbes' list of top-earning tennis players

London: Roger Federer was the highest earning tennis player over the last 12 months, making about \$90.6 million before taxes, despite the Swiss maestro's time on court being limited by iniury. Forbes' said on Thursday. Federer. who has skipped this year's US Open due to a knee injury, made less than \$1 million from playing tennis, with the bulk of his income coming from endorsements, Forbes' said, Japan's Naomi Osaka is the second-highest earner, with \$60.1 million in pre-tax income, more than 90 per cent of which she made off court, with Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal completing the top five. REUTERS

# Batsmen carry baggage from Leeds to Oval

Top and middle order woes continue as India bowled out for 191 but Bumrah, Yadav strike to leave England at 53/3

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY** SEPTEMBER 2

JOE ROOT'S dismissal at the fag end of the day brought India back into the game. For a change, the England captain got out cheaply to an Umesh Yadav nip-backer. The hosts had earlier lost their openers to Jasprit Bumrah, but Root was quick off the blocks. England's 53/3 keeps India alive after another batting collapse.

It was the same old story, although 191 all out was a marked improvement from 78 in the last game. Shardul Thakur's counter-attack gave India's first innings total some respectability. Before his charge, Virat Kohli aside, wickets fell like a house of cards. Yet again, India's batting had no answer to a nagging length and lateral movement. Yet again, Rishabh Pant fell prey to an atrocious shot.

Thakur's exhilarating hitting gave a full house at the Oval the most compelling passage of play on the first day of the fourth Test. Some gorgeous cricket shots were played with sprinkles of agricultural swishes. It frustrated Root to the extent of bellowing at Ollie Pope, when the latter was oblivious to his captain's call to change his fielding position. Thakur's pyrotechnics also forced Root on the defensive.

At 127/7, India looked shackled. Thakur broke it through back-to-back fours off Chris Woakes. The first of those, a whip over square leg, came off a short of a length delivery. Many times in this series, such deliveries got top order Indian batsmen squared up. Thakur, batting at No. 8, showed them the way.

#### Lifting the mood

His 36-ball 57, including seven fours and three sixes, wasn't quite a rescue act like the Gabba, for here at the Oval he didn't have a Washington Sundar at the other end. But with Umesh Yadav in company, Thakur added 63 runs for the eighth wicket – Yadav's contribution was 10 - to lift the mood of a gloomy dress-

The first day's play had two mini turning points. If Thakur's fightback allowed an asphyxiated Indian batting to breathe again, England's change of plans against Kohli took them into ascendency. In fact, the game changed significantly after the first drinks break post-lunch, when Root assembled his troops for a team huddle and asked his bowlers to drag the length back against the India captain. Kohli had decided to take the bull by the horns. Getting out in the off stump channel, and a couple of times playing expansive drives, he could have eschewed his signature shot, cover drive. He embraced it instead. His first four was an exquisite on-drive against James Anderson.

Kohli was the only Indian batsman who countered England's length-choke – just short of a good length - through a decisive back-andacross trigger movement. It forced Anderson and company to bowl fuller. And Kohli brilliantly turned that to his advantage. His strike rate against fuller deliveries was 167.

He still wafted the bat at a few de that wobbled away late. Confusion between Root and Joe Burns saw him get a reprieve off Woakes on 22. But Kohli scored his runs quickly, reaching his half-century off 85 balls, hitting eight fours.

After the drinks break, England bowlers went a little further back with their length. It brought on pressure. Ten consecutive dot balls later, Ollie Robinson had the breakthrough and the in-between length did the trick. Extra bounce and a hint of outward seam movement opened Kohli a bit in his stance, as he closed the bat-face a touch. The catch went to Jonny Bairstow behind the stumps.

#### **A procession**

On either side of Kohli's innings and before Thakur took up the cudgels, Indian batting resembled a procession. The red Dukes ball started to unfold its mystery after about



Shardul Thakur took 31 balls to reach his half-century — the second-fastest Test fifty by an Indian and the fastest in England. Reuters

#### It was the same old story, although 191 all out was a marked improvement from 78 in the last game. Shardul Thakur's counter-attack gave

India's first innings total some respectability. 10 overs and seam rather than swing was the

flavour. By that time, however, Rohit Sharma was out, done in by extra bounce, as comeback man Woakes bowled an effort ball and managed to land it on the shoulder of the bat. Rahul was trapped leg before, failing to

counter the late inward movement, with

Robinson bowling from close to the stumps. Cheteshwar Pujara followed an Anderson outswinger that also seamed away. Ravindra Jadeja came at No. 5 instead of Ajinkya Rahane. He departed three overs after

lunch. Rahane survived an LBW decision on review, tried to play himself in but never looked comfortable. A fine catch at third slip by Moeen Ali off Craig Overton put him out of his

The England bowlers were seemingly enpushing mid-off deeper and inviting the southpaw with a slower delivery. Pant fell into the trap. Insulated by 'that's how he plays' and 'long rope', his shot had a mohalla cricket feel.

#### Ashwin not included

The Oval laid out a greenish pitch, but stats showed that in County cricket here this season, spinners so far have taken 59 wickets at an average of 27.77 compared to the pacers' 79 scalps at 37.54. Barely a month-and-half ago, Ashwin had a six-for at this venue, playing for

India yet again went with four fast bowlers, although Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami made way for Yadav and Shardul respectively. Jadeja was the lone spinner. "England has four left-handers, so a good match-up for Jadeja, with our seamers bowling over the wicket," Kohli said at the toss.

# Woakes does the trick for England

SANDIPG SEPTEMBER 2

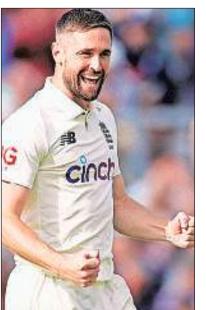
IT WAS as though Chris Woakes had never gone away. That he was not the hapless guy who shared the taxi with Moeen Ali, who later tested positive for COVID-19, and then ended up spending the entire trip to Sri Lanka in isolation. That he was not the unfortunate guy who slipped down the stairs at home, injured his heel, and spent the best part of the summer re-grooving into prime bowling shape. That, he had existed invisibly, as he always had.

Woakes was England's most deceptive bowler towards the backend of summer 2020. He could well end up their most lethal one towards the fag end of summer 2021. On a day when James Anderson looked a touch ragged, on his least favourite ground. Woakes, once touted as Anderson's protege, ran India ragged, as if he had spent all those months in isolation and rehabilitation just sharpening his tools and brain waiting for his

It took him just five balls to strike in his comeback over — and he struck thrice more and did all things Anderson would often do. He swung the ball conventionally both ways, coaxed seam movement into the batsman later on, bowled the wobble-seamer, and then dialled his limited-overs artillery. the slower off-cutter (foxing Rishabh Pant) and the cross-seamers when India's lowerorder used the long handle to good effect. He made Day One England's.

He mostly bowls with a lovely upright seam position that hardly breaks in its path to the keeper's gloves. It was one of the virtues that made heads turn when he was plucking wickets in the lower division. He presented a gorgeous seam when he had Kohli edge to the slip cordon, only to be be-

trayed by his captain Joe Root's greasy palms. When he was young, he was told by



strike in his comeback over. Reuters

coaches to never let go of his two big giftsthe upright seam and the natural swing, both inter-related. And in his early international days, it was the rare virtue that swayed

#### New-age tools

But as his career unrolled, in his quest to stay relevant and straddle formats, change he did. He is not as extravagant a swinger of the ball as he once was, he had to swap some for extra pace. Nor do all deliveries stream out of his hands with an upright, classical seam. Some wobble, some are cross-seamed, some float. His new-age tools were to be as effective as his classical weapons.

The wobble-seamer for instance. He

picked it from Anderson in the nets but did not ape it blindly. He tweaked the technique to his method. He holds the ball a little wider on the seam with his fingers slightly apart, holding it like an away swinger with the

seam pointing towards the slip. The wrist is slightly vertical like bowling an in-swinger, maybe a reason he finds more inward movement with the wobble-seamers. It's a delivery he uses effectively against left-handed batsmen. One of them deceived Ravindra Jadeja, who did not account for the extra movement.

In his next spell, a similar ball induced the outside edge of Rishabh Pant, but the seam did not guiver. The seam was proud and straight. To bowl the same delivery with different methods is Anderson-like. He eventually snapped Pant, who miscued a slower ball off-cutter, wherein he runs his fingers down the right side of the ball and it pitches and turns like a conventional off-break.

It was one of the days when he bettered Anderson on certain counts. Like when hitting the shortish bandwidth of the goodlength frequency. Like when he lured Kohli and induced an edge. But he did bargain for the wicket that must be more prized than the Indian captain's this summer, that of Rohit Sharma

He started with an out-swinger that fizzed past Rohit's outside edge, followed it with a string of deliveries that wobbled this way and that way, before he shortened his length and surprised the in-touch batsman with extra bounce that he was not expecting. It's not a length that usually troubles him, but Woakes caught him by surprise. It's what Woakes at his best could make batsmen do trick them to misjudge length.

His skill to swing the ball from that length was equally staggering, the sort of inch-perfect ball that if Anderson had bowled, the world would have penned at a couple of odes

on his sparkling genius. But then, Woakes exists invisibly.

#### US OPEN

# 2 matches, 3 toilet breaks: Why Tsitsipas' lengthy off-court trips irk opponents

SHAHIDJUDGE

STEFANOS TSITSIPAS has played two matches at the US Open so far, but took three toilet breaks, one medical time-out, and decided to switch racquets mid-game as well. In none of these instances has he gone against the rules, but the morals have come into question. And the New York crowd, Andy Murray, and a handful of other players have spoken out against the Greek's disruptive tendencies.

#### Why have people been booing and speaking out against Tsitsipas?

In his first round match against three-time Grand Slam champion Murray, Tsitsipas tooka lengthy toilet break that went on for around 8-9 minutes. He took another eight-minute long toilet break after the fourth set, but not before taking a medical time-out and even halting play to switch racquets while he was down 0-30 on his serve. "It's not so much leaving the court. It's the amount of time," Murray said after the match. "I have zero time for that stuff at all and I lost respect for him."

Against French player Adrian Mannarino in the second round, Tsitsipas again took a toilet break after losing the second set before coming back to win the match in four sets.

#### Why is that a reason to complain?

Each incident has been seen as a moment of 'gamesmanship' from the 23-year-old simply because it comes at a time when the opponent has built up momentum – in other words, its suspect Tsitsipas does it to break rhythm. And the Greek has become a serial offender when it

Murray complained in as many words, saying that "stopping for seven, eight minutes, you do cool down." Mannarino meanwhile practiced serves to keep his shoulder warmed-up while Tsitsipas was off court.

There has also been a charge of cheating, as Tsitsipas – usually under the guise of changing his clothes – carries a bag with him to the toilet. That bag also contains his phone, as Alexander Zverev called out at the Cincinnati Masters last



Tsitsipas heard boos from the crowd for yet another break on Thursday. AP

week. The German alleged that since officials cannot enter the washroom while a player is inside, there's a chance Tsitsipas may be using the phone to communicate with his father and coaches.

"He's gone for 10-plus minutes; his dad is texting on the phone. He comes out, and all of a sudden his tactic completely changed. It's not just me but everybody saw it," Zverev said after

his opening match against Sam

EXPLAINED Coincidentally, as Zverev complained to the umpire while Tsitsipas was off-court during the semi-final match in Cincinnati, cameras panned towards Tsitsipas' father Apostolos who was seen typing

into his phone. A day after his match, Murray took to social media to tweet: "Fact of the day. It takes Stefanos Tsitsipas twice as long to go to the bathroom as it takes Jeff (Bezos) to fly into space. Interesting.'

#### What do the rules say?

Toilet breaks can be taken at the end of a set.

One break is allowed in best of three set matches and two in best of five sets. The rules state that players can take a "reasonable' amount of time without mentioning an exact time-frame. "He's not doing anything wrong. I think the rule is wrong," Mannarino said.

#### How has Tsitsipas reacted?

In general, the Greek has asserted that he gets sweaty easily and uses the break to change his clothes. In the press conference after his second round match though, he accused Murray of also using the break to dis-

rupt his opponent's momentum when the Brit called for a bathroom break before the fifth set in the 2012 US Open final he went on to win.

"I remember watching it when I was younger. Can you please check when Andy Murray faced Novak Djokovic at the final here, before the fifth set, that break, can you please look it up and let me know next time?" Tsitsipas

reportedly questioned during his interaction. The break Murray took however, lasted Is Tsitsipas the only player to disrupt play within the rules?

World No 1 Novak Djokovic, more earlier in his career than now, used to take injury timeouts often when he was on the backfoot. He also had the tendency to bounce the ball for long ahead of his serve to catch his breath or keep the opponent waiting. Meanwhile Rafael Nadal too has been ac-

cused of taking too long on many occasions. The Spaniard, known for his long list of prepoint rituals, often takes more than the stipulated 25 seconds to start a point. Murray too, in the incident Tsitsipas mentioned, used a toilet break to reset before coming out to win his first Grand Slam title at the 2012 US Open.

**KEY RESULTS:** (Second round) **Men's singles:** 5-A Rublev (Rus) def. P Martinez (Esp) 7-6(2), 6-7(5), 6-1, 6-1; 2-D Medvedev (Rus) def. D Koepfer (Ger) 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; Women's singles: 3-N Osaka (Ipn) def. O Danilovic (Srb) WO; S Stephens (USA) def. 21-C Gauff (USA) 6-4, 6-2.; 5-E Svitolina (Ukr) def. R Masarova (Esp) 6-2, 7-5

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