



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

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, data show.

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.

In every state across the

% OF ADULTS WHO HAVE GOT AT LEAST ONE SHOT

TOP 5

Himachal Pradesh	99.69
Uttarakhand	81.19
Kerala	80.14
Gujarat	71.85
Madhya Pradesh	70.69

BOTTOM 5

Tamil Nadu	45.86
Bihar	43.71
Uttar Pradesh	42.25
Jharkhand	42.23
West Bengal	41.16
INDIA	54.29

country, at least 40 per cent of people have received at least one vaccine dose. The lowest coverage is in West Bengal, where about 41 per cent have been immunised with a single shot. Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu have done better than West Bengal, but are still well short of the share of vaccinated people nationally. In at least eight big states, less than

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 eyes" and this case is a "colossal wastage of the hard earned money of tax-payers, without there being real intent

of investigating the matter".

ASJ Yadav discharged Hussain's brother Shah Alam, Rashid Saifi and Shadab in a case related to alleged looting and vandalism 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-and-a-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



'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
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,"

the CJI said.

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 overtones.

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

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 we have seen".

Senior Advocate Sanjay

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

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

NAVEED IQBAL & BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 2

AMID A strict security clamp-down across Kashmir following his death on Wednesday night, Hurriyat hardliner Syed Ali Shah Geelani was given a quiet burial at a cemetery near his house in the early hours of Thursday.

Geelani's younger son, Syed 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 participated in the last rites".



Heavy security near Syed Ali Shah Geelani's house in Hyderpora, Srinagar, Thursday. PTI

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

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

In a sign of distress, gold loans soar 77% in 12 months up to July

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

CREDIT OFFTAKE by India Inc and the services sector remained subdued over the last 12 months, 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

EXPLAINED Whom did the banks lend to

LATEST CREDIT data reveals 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, job losses, salary cuts and higher 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 Sandeep 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



INSIDE



TALIBAN PREPARE TO REVEAL NEW GOVT

PAGE 10

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

PAGE 5

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

JOHNSON T A
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 possession 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

complaint filed in August 2020 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 compromise 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

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

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

EXPRESS NETWORK

MHA extends visas of foreigners stuck in India till September 30

EXPRESSNEWS 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.

MAHARASHTRA COUNCIL NOMINATIONS

In CM's letter to Governor, one name dropped

VISHWAS WAGHMORE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

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 letter dropping one name from the previous list, and recommending a new name in its place.

With this, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government hopes to complete the nomination process to fill 12 vacancies in the Legislative Council, the upper house of the state Assembly.

Sources in the government said that Raju Shetti has been dropped from the list. He was an NCP nominee. The party has recommended a new name.

Thackeray gave two letters to Koshyari during the meeting. *The Indian Express* has learnt — one about the change of nomination, and another reminding him to approve the list at the earliest. The governor gave no commitment on clearing the new list, sources said.

Thackeray was accompanied 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 Bhavan.

The NCP was tightlipped about the replacement for Shetti. On Thursday, Pawar indicated that Shetti's name had been 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 Qatar 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

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

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 war.

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 days."

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,"

he said.

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 the 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 Afghanistan.

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 "traditions" with India "like in the past".

'Rs 23 lakh cr' raised via fuel hikes in 7 yrs; where is that money: Rahul

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
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 India.

Attacking the Centre over 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 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 privatisation plan had a logic.



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

No major terror attack after Modi took over govt: Rajnath

PRESSTrust OF INDIA
KEVADIA, SEPTEMBER 2

DEFENCE MINISTER Rajnath Singh on Thursday said that 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 Centre.

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 (OROP) unresolved for 40 years.

"No matter what it takes, we will not let terrorists succeed. Forget about Jammu and Kashmir, no major terrorist at-

tack 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," he said.

"Terrorists now realise that they are not secure even in their safe havens. What we did (surge 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 promise. 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.

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 Express*.

The matter will be heard again on September 22.

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Mr. ROHIATASA SINGH (Applicant) Resi Add- KASERU, NAWALGARH, RAJASTHAN, 333705 SUPYAR KANWAR (Co Applicant) Resi Add- KASERU, NAWALGARH, RAJASTHAN, 333705	17-08-2021 / Rs. 11,50,000/- (Rupees Eleven Lacs Fifty Thousand) as on 31-07-2021, Plus unapplied interest from the date of NPA, at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. HL0000000033892	Plot no 39 and 38-b (a part of agri land khasra no 65,66,67 revenue area (radhakishanpura) situated at balaji nagar near nala ka balaji radhakishanpura sikar lehsil dist sikar, rajasthan 332001 Bounded As follows - North- Residential Land No. 40 South - Residential Land No. 38.A East - Residential Land No. 48,49 West - Rasta 30'W

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EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY



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. **ENS**

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 H Lalthinglangiana alleged that one Lalnarammawia, operator of an earth excavator was blindfolded and kidnapped at gun point by Assam Police personnel in commando fatigues from Aitlang area, 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 said. **PTI**

GUJARAT

Civic body plans to limit free child birth policy to 2

Ahmedabad: The 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. **ENS**

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. **ENS**

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 years ago.

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 MN Roy had been dropped.

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

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 'choice-based 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 skill-based 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 so."

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 Raj 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 smugglers.

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 directed that a separate SIT, with senior officers from the West Bengal cadre, be set up to probe the other allegations cited by the NHRC committee.

This SIT comprises three IPS officers — Soumen Mitra, Suman Bala Sahoo, and Ranbir Kumar. The proceedings shall be monitored by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, whose name would be announced later, the court said.

Following the Calcutta High Court's order, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) already has begun probing the West Bengal post-poll violence and so far registered more than thirty cases in the matter. However, the SIT under West Bengal Police yet to start the investigation after government formed the team.

TV personality Sidharth Shukla dies at 40

EKTAA MALIK & SAGAR RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

ACTORSIDHARTH Shukla had always 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

Mizoram extends aid for 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

EXPLAINED

'Deep ethnic bonds'

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 Education Minister 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.

According to the latest state government records, 9,450 refugees, including about 20 legislators, have taken shelter across 10 districts of Mizoram.

Meanwhile, the hill state is reporting 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 reopened so far.

10 days on, little headway in Karnataka rape-murder probe

KIRAN PARASHAR
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 2

TEN DAYS after a 30-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped 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 compared with the Mysuru case as

no mobile phones were active at the location and there are no 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 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 had worn during 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 I saw her body lying in a bad state. "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 BJP 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 own.

"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 is 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 BJP has strengthened itself after making Basavaraj 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 BJP 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

PRESS TRUST 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 various 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 himself 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.

"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 while.

"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 L K Advani. In 2018, he resigned from the party and joined the Trinamool Congress but stayed away from active politics.



Sidharth Shukla

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

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-in-law and mother were in the house at that time. A doctor who arrived at the residence found that he had no pulse.

A police officer said: "The fam-

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.

The Delhi Disaster 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 things as well."



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 practicals

Keeping 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 usual."

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 closure.

"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 tweeted.

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 to be made as per the Covid protocol.

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

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

PRESS TRUST 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, police said.

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

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.

Following the identification on the basis of the identity card found in his pocket, the body was handed over to the family after postmortem. A case was lodged under

Section 174 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) to investigate to ascertain the reason behind the extreme step. During the investigation, it was revealed that Gurjar was irritated about frequent scolding from his father.

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

SALUTE THE SOLDIER
MARTYRDOM On 04th SEPTEMBER
LNK Shamsher Singh Sunda (01 Dec 1965-04 Sep 2000)
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 Army. May your Soul attain Moksha.
Commanding Officer and All Ranks 3 GRENADIERS
Martyr of CISF on 03rd September
HC / FIRE E NAYAKA ONGC MUMBAI 03-09-2019
CT/DCPO M K PASWAN ONGC MUMBAI 03-09-2019
CT/DCPO S P KUSHWAHA ONGC MUMBAI 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 an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to them for their noblest deeds.

MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE LIMITED
FORMERLY MANAPPURAM HOME FINANCE PVT LTD
CIN : U65923K12010PIC039179
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
DEMAND NOTICE
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 informed by way of this public notice.
Sr. No. 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 / MA90COLONS000005007109/ 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.
Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Manappuram Home Finance Ltd
Date : 03-09-2021
Place : Rajasthan

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 tender No. KMF/BAMUL/GM(T)/2021-22/57/CAR In E-portal website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in
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-I 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
SD/- MANAGING DIRECTOR
TENDER INVITAING AUTHORITY, BAMUL

punjab national bank
...the name you can BANK upon!
Oriental Bank of Commerce United Bank of India Circle Office: 1-2, Raghunath Nagar, M.G Road, Agra
POSSESSION NOTICE
(Under Rule 8(1) Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)
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 mentioned against account and stated here under calling upon the borrower/guarantor/ mortgagor/Legal heir of guarantor 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 of said notice. The borrower/guarantor/mortgagor having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor/mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the Symbolic possession of the properties described herein below in exercise to powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules on the date mentioned hereunder. The borrower/guarantor/ Mortgagor attention is invited to the provision of Sub - Section (8) of section - 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower/guarantor/ mortgagor/ Legal heir 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 interest thereon. 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 available, to redeem the secured assets.
Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor & Branch Details of the Mortgaged Properties on which possession taken Demand Notice Date Possession Date Amt. Due as per Demand Notice
Borrower-Shri Kunwar Mahendra Singh Jodha S/o Late Shri SBS Jodha & Smt. Mamta Jodha W/o Shri Kunwar Mahendra Singh Jodha Branch-Rohita, Co Agra EM of Flat No. G-1, Ground Floor, Tirupali Enclave-II, Plot No. B-17/06, Behind Hotel Jaipur Inn, Shiv Marg, Bari Park, Jaipur, (Rajasthan), Area 1442.00 Sq.Ft. (In the Name of Smt. Mamta Jodha W/o Shri Kunwar Mahendra Singh Jodha). 22.01.2020 01.09.2021 Rs. 23,91,052.00/- as on 23.09.2019 With future interest w.e.f. 01.09.2019 & other Admissible Charges
Place: Jaipur Date: 01.09.2021
Authorized Officer Punjab National Bank

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking
(Of The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation)
TENDER NOTICE
E-tender is re-invited for the supply of following item.
(1) 70983.
Note : For more details, log on to website https://mahatenders.gov.in.
PRO/AAM(M)/59/2021 GENERAL MANAGER
pnb CIRCLE SASTRAL CENTRE, KOTA
E-mail : cs8268@pnb.co.in
To, Date : 01.09.2021
(1) Sh. Ronak Kumar Ranka S/o Sh. Moolchand Ranka, R/o Vikram Chow, Near Jain Book Company, Rampura, KOTA-324006
(2) Smt. Pooja Ranka W/o Sh. Ronak Kumar Ranka, R/o Vikram Chow, Near Jain Book Company, Rampura, KOTA-324006
Dear Sir/Madam,
Sub : For Removal of Furniture and other movable goods from the premises of the property situated at Near Karani Nagar Vikas Samiti, Gordanpura, Kota, Rajasthan, Admeasuring 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 remove the furniture/movable goods from the premises of property within 10 days from the date of this letter. Otherwise, bank will be restrained to dispose off the furniture/movable goods and will deposit the sale proceeds in your loan account.
Yours Faithfully,
For Punjab National Bank (Authorized Officer)

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Public Health Institute, Sheshadri Road, Opp S.J.P College, K.R Circle, Bengaluru - 560001. Email: ad.kdws@gmail.com, md.ksmcsl@gmail.com
No: HFVK/MSMCL/EQPT/Furniture/33/2021-22 Date: 02/09/2021
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Ref: 1) Tender Notification : HFVK/MSMCL/EQPT/Furniture/33/2021-22 Dated: 02/09/2021 (IND-839) 2) Tender Notification HFVK/MSMCL/EQPT/Furniture/134/2021-22 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 may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available through website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02/09/2021. The eligible tenderers shall 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, Bangalore. DIPR/DOU/JA/1389/2021-22
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, SOUTHERN NH CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone: 0680-2281544, e-mail: senhsouthbam@gmail.com
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]
BID IDENTIFICATION No. 03/SE NH, South of 2021-22 No. 2484 / Dated: 27.08.2021.
1) 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 : Road
3) No. of work : 01 Nos.
4) Tender Cost : Rs. 10,000/-
5) Class of Contractor : "A" Class & "B" Class
6) Availability of Bid document in the website : From 07.09.2021 10.00 AM to 20.09.2021 11.00 AM
7) Date of Opening of Bid : 21.09.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
8) The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersorissa.gov.in
9) Any Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation of will be displayed in the e-tender website only.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer, Southern NH Circle, Berhampur
Memo No. 2485/ Dated: 27.08.2021. OIPR- 34148/11/0002/2122

The Indian EXPRESS
—JOURNALISM OF COURAGE—
DREAM SPORTS
presents
The Indian EXPRESS e.ADDA
Express e.Adda hosts
Neeraj Chopra
Tokyo Olympics Gold Medallist
WHERE NEWSMAKERS DROP IN FOR A CANDID CHAT.
in conversation with
Sandeep Dwivedi
Sports Editor
The Indian Express
Mihir Vasavda
Assistant Editor
The Indian Express
Bajrang Punia
Tokyo Olympics Bronze Medallist
By invitation only.
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HYDROLYZED COLLAGEN
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vedanta
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Training For Career, Coaching, Career

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Tel : 66112222, Fax : 27468042, Email : TPDDL@tatapower-dcl.com
CIN No. : U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website : www.tatapower-dcl.com
CORRIGENDUM / TENDER DATE EXTENSION Sep 03, 2021
Tender Enquiry No. Work Description Previously Published Date Revised Due Date & Time of Bid Submission/ Date & time of opening of bids
TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001324/21-22 PROCUREMENT OF 270 NOS. OF LAPTOPS 10.08.2021 03.09.2021 at 1700 Hrs/ 03.09.2021 at 1800 Hrs
Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-dcl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents
Contracts - 011-66112222

pnb 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, column 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 description of the property column.
Rest of the information remains the same.
Dated : 02.09.2021, Place : Tonk 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:
Sl. Auction No. Tender uploading and commencement of deposit of EMD Last date of depositing EMD Starting date and time for online bidding Closing date and time for online bidding
1. 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
4. E-13 24.09.2021 28.09.2021 29.09.2021 11:00 AM 29.09.2021 02:00 PM
Address for online registration and e-auction is http://www.valuejunction.in/fci. FCI Nominated Shri 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 per depot from nominated depots without participation in e-auction at the rate of Rs. 2100/- per quintal (applicable taxes extra). For more details please visit http://fci.gov.in or contact concerned divisional office of FCI.
General Manager (Region)

NMDC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
'Tharaj Bhawan', 10-3/311/A, Cante H/B, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
CIN:-L13100TG1958G01001674.
CONTRACTS REPORT
Tender Enquiry No: HO(Contracts)/NSP/Steel/Monit/796 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 upgrade 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.eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app and MSTC portal https://www.mstccommerce.com/eprocure/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.
For further clarification, the following can be contacted:
1. General Manager (Contracts), NMDC Limited, Hyderabad, Fax No. +91-040-23534746, Tel.No.+91-040-23532800, email: steelcontracts@nmdc.co.in
2. 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)



WORDLY WISE
THE CARE OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH IS THE FIRST
DUTY OF THE STATESMAN.
— BENJAMIN DISRAELI

The IndianEXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

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

RECENTLY 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

AT LEAST 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

SYED 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 mooted 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.



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 recovery required to regain the levels.

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

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.

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.

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 increase.

The external environment provides another opportunity for India to scale up. Global inventories 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 increase.

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 pressures.

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



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

PARTITIONED MINDS

Partition savagery is the collective shame of the Subcontinent

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 self-preservation 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 Raj 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 dismembered 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.

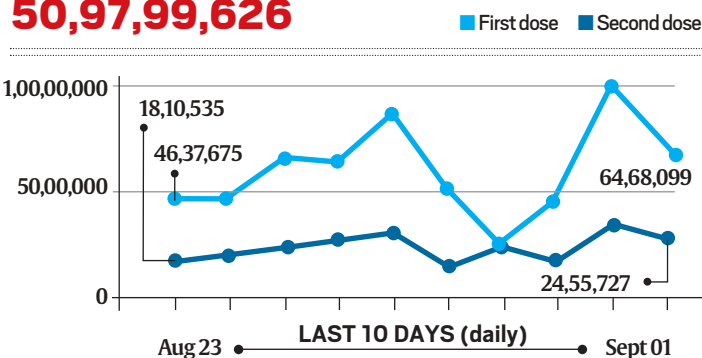


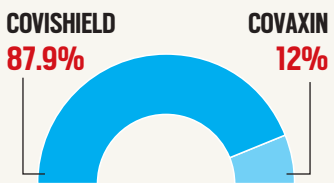
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If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

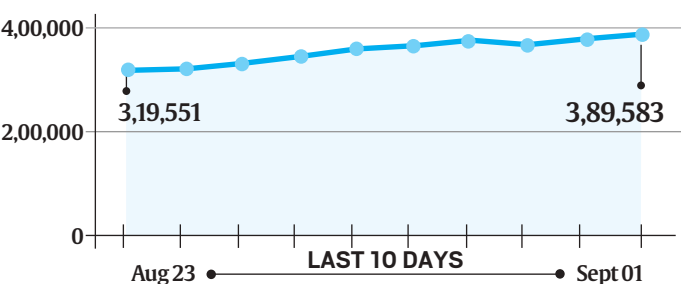
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
50,97,99,626

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)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES

3,89,583



Note: The Sept 1 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates 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

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:

■ 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 symptoms in the first week of illness.

■ Sneezing was the only 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


PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

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

THIS WORD MEANS: DURAND LINE

Friction point between Afghanistan, Pakistan

 NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN
 MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

EARLIER THIS week, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah 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



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 due

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, 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 Zabihullah 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.

"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-

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.

9 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 57,852.54 ▲ 514.33 (0.90%) **NIFTY:** 17,234.15 ▲ 15790 (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



GOLD

₹46,193



RUPEE

₹73.06



OIL

\$70.66



SILVER

₹62,650

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

International market data till 1900 IST

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-action lawsuit in the US 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

PLAINT IN INDIA

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

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 in-app 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 a 'tax' and cited need 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 Sijo Kuruvilla George, executive director, ADIF. Mails sent to Apple and the Competition Commission of India did not elicit any response.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

HEALTH OF TELECOM SECTOR ALSO DISCUSSED

Vi pushes for relief in meet with 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 compa-

EXPLAINED Possible options

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.

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

sent a letter to the then Telecom Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and said that his comments had been taken out of context by the media.

"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".

'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: Residential sales recorded during Q1FY21

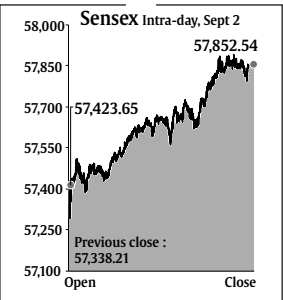


Sensex rally resumes on recovery hopes, MF, retail buying

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
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 Nifty 50 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



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.

Rajasthan State Mines & Minerals Limited (A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise)		
4, Meera Marg, Udaipur - 313001		
Phone: (0294)2428768 / 2428767-67, Fax: (0294)2428770, 2428739		
Email: contractscsco.rsmml@rajasthan.gov.in		
Expression of Interest		Date-02.09.2021
NIT No. & Date	Description of Work	
EOI no. RSM/MCOI/GGM/Cont./EOI-O&M	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, Udaipur.	
IBP/2021-22 dated 01.09.2021	Keensness money - One Crore (Contract period shall be 15 year & 03 Months)	
UBN no. MML2122RFP0004		
Other terms & conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit us at our website www.rsmml.com or www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or contact GGM (Contract) on above address.		
Raj.sammwcd/C21/5500		DGM (Admin.)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, जल संसाधन वृत्त, जोधपुर		
कार्यालय फोन नं.: -0291-2570781 E-mail-scejdrwr.circle@gmail.com		
क्रमांक/लेखा/2021-22/		
ई-पुनर्आईवी में संशोधन सूचना संख्या 02		
ई-निविदा सूचना 01 वर्ष 2021-22		
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी ई-पुनर्आईवी संख्या 01 वर्ष 2021-22 क्रमांक 4028-49 दिनांक 06.08.2021 के कार्य Flood Protection work of Saggi Khari River from Kiarwa to 1200.00 MT. D/S of Savri Road Tehsil Bhimnal, District Jalore UBN No. WRD2122WLOB06694 में अर्जीदाख्त कराने से निर्धारित में संशोधन किया गया है। जिसे विनियमन वेबसाइट पर देखा जा सकता है।		
Other details are available in the following websites:-		
1. www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in		
2. www.diprrajasthan.gov.in		
3. www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in		
4. www.water.resources.rajasthan.gov.in		
Sd/- (Narayan Lal kumar) Superintending Engineer Water Resources Circle Jodhpur		
DIPR/C/8653/2021		

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

क्रमांक 1580 दिनांक 24/8/21

संशोधित निविद सूचना संख्या-13/2021-22

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 1355 दिनांक 06.08.2021 के द्वारा प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या-13/2021-22 क्रम संख्या 2 पर अंकित कार्यों में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है।

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जाये
1	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 16, अगस्त, 2021 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 06 सितम्बर 2021, सार्व 6.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख 16, अगस्त, 2021 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 15 सितम्बर 2021, सार्व 6.00 बजे तक
2	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख 16, अगस्त 2021 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 06 सितम्बर 2021, सार्व 6.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख 16, अगस्त 2021 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 15 सितम्बर 2021, सार्व 6.00 बजे तक
3	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 08 सितम्बर 2021 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक	ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख 20 सितम्बर 2021 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक
4	बिड सिक्वोरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु वजत मर 8443-00-180-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) वजत मर 0075-00-800-52-01 RLSL शुल्क रु. 1000/- वजत मर 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 06.09.2021 सार्व 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशासी अभियंता के नाम जमा करावाई जानी है, तथा रु. 2000/- महा सचिव इंडियन रोड कोरिडोर, नई दिल्ली के पक्ष में डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट एवं निविदा शुल्क, RLSL ईग्रास चालान की प्रति, Bid Securing declaration, राशय पत्र 1000/- रु. की (हाई प्रति) कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा में दिनांक 08.09.2021 अपराह्न: 2.00 बजे तक जमा कराना आवश्यक है।	बिड सिक्वोरिटी, धरोहर राशि (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु वजत मर 8443-00-180-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों) दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) वजत मर 0075-00-800-52-01 RLSL शुल्क रु. 1000/- वजत मर 8658-00-102-(16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग) ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 15.09.2021 सार्व 6.00 बजे तक सम्बन्धित अधिशासी अभियंता के नाम जमा करावाई जानी है, तथा रु. 2000/- महा सचिव इंडियन रोड कोरिडोर, नई दिल्ली के पक्ष में डिमाण्ड ड्राफ्ट एवं निविदा शुल्क, RLSL ईग्रास चालान की प्रति, Bid Securing declaration, राशय पत्र 1000/- रु. की (हाई प्रति) कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा में दिनांक 20.09.2021 अपराह्न: 2.00 बजे तक जमा कराना आवश्यक है।
5	बिड सिक्वोरिटी के दिनांक 27.08.2021 प्रातः 11:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा।	बिड सिक्वोरिटी के दिनांक 03.09.2021 प्रातः 11:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।
S.No. UBN No. हस्ता./-
1 UBN No. PWD2122WLOB06693 (सुरेश कुमार बैरवा)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा

DIPR/C/8627/2021

Catamaran sells 51% stake in insurance broking JV to Aon

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

CATAMARAN VENTURES, promoted 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 49 per cent to 100 per cent.

Aon had acquired a 49 per cent 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 subsequently rebranded as Aon India Insurance Brokers in June 2021.

Sandeep Malik, executive chairman, Asia Pacific, Aon, said, "We are happy to have worked



Promoted by NR Narayana Murthy, Catamaran Ventures had earlier sold 49% stake in Aon India Insurance Brokers to Aon Plc in 2020. File

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."

PNB Housing preference issue: Sebi moves SC against SAT order

New Delhi: PNB Housing Finance 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

TRAVANCORE DEVASWOM BOARD		
Devaswom Commissioner Office Nanthancode, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 003		
ROC No: 37/20/NS(2)	NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER	02.09.2021
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 tender visit the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in		
Thiruvananthapuram	Sd/-, Devaswom Commissioner	On behalf of Travancore Devaswom Board
Phone: 0471-2319845		

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, सम्भाग कोटा

क्रमांक:-	1620	निविदा सूचना संख्या	16/2021-2022	दिनांक:	26.08.2021
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से पांच साल की मरम्मत सहित के लिए, उपमुख्य श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राबज सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत सार्वजनिक/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/हाक एम्प दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के "ए" एवं "एए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रश्न में ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।					
मुख्यालय का नाम	:	कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग कोटा			
निविदा का कार्य	:	सम्भाग कोटा के अधीन वार्ड जिले में DMFT योजना/नगरीय पवन एवं सड़क का निर्माण कार्य। (8 फैसलें)			
निविद की कुल लागत	:	Rs. 3125.00 लाख			
बिड सिक्वोरिटी	:	Bid Securing declaration form attached in RFP.			
ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म मिलने की तारीख	:	06.09.2021 से 05.10.2021 सार्व 6:00 बजे तक			
ऑन लाईन निविदा फार्म जमा करने की तारीख	:	06.09.2021 से 05.10.2021 सार्व 6:00 बजे तक			
ऑन लाईन तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की तारीख	:	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 08.10.2021 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा।			
बिडिंग मीटिंग की दिनांक	:	15.09.2021 प्रातः 11:00 बजे (बुधवार), कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा			
निविदा बैकला अवधि	:	150 दिवस			

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

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Sl. 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 / 51208 / HOSPITAL / ANGUL / EOI / CW / 01)	03.09.2021	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, Simlipada, Angul, Odisha under Angul Municipality, Govt. of Odisha, (EOI No. B&R / HO / 51208 / PANCHAMUKHI-SISHU-UDYAN / ANGUL / EOI / CW / 01)	03.09.2021	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>.

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TOPOF THE WORLD



Children return to school in Strasbourg on Thursday. AP

FRANCE
French children back to school, wearing masks
TWELFEMILLION 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 fistbumpby 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 required to wash their hands often, and classrooms must be regularly ventilated. AP

USA
Islamic State ‘Beattle’ to plead guilty
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 Alexandra 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 terrorism charges. REUTERS

NORTH KOREA
Satellite images show troops preparing for military parade
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

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 Muttaqi 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



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 possibly more evacuations. British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told the same news conference in Doha “we need to adjust to the new reality” 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 Milley said that was a possibility.

‘Apocalyptic’: Crew describes Afghan departure

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 equipment. Stray dogs raced around the tarmac. And Taliban fighters, visible in the darkness through the green-tinted view of night vision goggles, walked the airfield waving an eerie goodbye. Lined up on the runway at the Kabul airport Monday night were the five last C-17s to leave the country after a chaotic and



US troops board a plane to leave Kabul on Monday. AP

deadly airlift evacuation that marked the end of America's involvement 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.

“It just looked apocalyptic,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Braden Coleman, who was in charge of monitoring the outside of his aircraft 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.” “It was just definitely very tense, and we were definitely all on edge watching everything going on to make sure that we were ready,” said Air Force Capt. Kirby Wedan, who led the final formation of five aircraft out.

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.

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

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 Taliban-ruled country. Chaman border crossing — the second-largest commercial border point with Afghanistan after the Torkham commercial town in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — has been closed due to security 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

China: US climate cooperation at risk over tensions

DAVID STANWAY
SHANGHAI, SEPTEMBER 2

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. The US has long hoped to keep climate issues separate from its disputes with China on



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

issues such as trade, human rights and the origins of the

China bans ‘sissy men’ from TV in new crackdown

JOE MCDONALD
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 2

CHINA'S GOVERNMENT banned effeminate men on TV and told broadcasters Thursday to promote “revolutionary culture,” broadening a campaign to tighten control over business and society and enforce official morality. President Xi Jinping has called for a “national rejuvenation,” with tighter Communist Party control of business, education,



A Chinese talk show is played in Zhaxigang village in the Tibet Autonomous Region. AP

culture and religion. Companies and the public are under increas-

ing pressure to align with its vision for a more powerful China and healthier society. The party has reduced children's access to online games and is trying to discourage what it sees as unhealthy attention to celebrities. Broadcasters must “resolutely put an end to sissy men and other abnormal esthetics,” the TV regulator said, using an insulting slang term for effeminate men — “niang pao,” or literally, “girlie guns.” That reflects official concern

ment of China-US relations.” Kerry told Wang that US wanted China to do more on climate, a US State Department spokesperson said. “Secretary Kerry affirmed that the United States remains committed to cooperating with the world to tackle the climate crisis, which must be addressed with the seriousness and urgency that it demands, and encouraged the PRC to take additional steps to reduce emissions,” the spokesperson said. REUTERS

that Chinese pop stars, influenced by the sleek, girlish look of some South Korean and Japanese singers and actors, are failing to encourage China's young men to be masculine enough. Broadcasters should avoid promoting “vulgar internet celebrities” and admiration of wealth and celebrity, the regulator said. Instead, programmes should “vigorously promote excellent Chinese traditional culture, revolutionary culture and advanced socialist culture.” AP

WHO: New Mu variant of Covid could be more vaccine-resistant

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GENEVA, SEPTEMBER 2

THE WORLD Health 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. 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 cases of the Mu variant



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 Jersey 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 more quickly and grow ever larger.

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

JESSICA GRESKO
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 2

A DEEPLY divided US Supreme Court is allowing a Texas law that 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.

EXPLAINED

Near total ban on abortions

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%-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 citizens 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. AP

Egypt plans high-tech leap with new capital

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



Construction going on in the New Administrative Capital, east of Cairo, on July 5. Reuters

built apartment blocks form a 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

Egyptians, for whom the bustling city has been home for generations, the move and cost would be unthinkable. But for those who do make the switch, they are promised a single app for paying utility bills, accessing local services, and reporting 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

company building the city. Authorities plan to repeat and synchronise the technology 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 communications contracts for the new capital total \$640 million, which could rise to \$900 million in later phases, Khalil said. REUTERS

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 for his country.

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 just had 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 Spiegel, a 27-page document containing Ronaldo's recollection of the night had the following quote: "She said no and stop several times."

The Der Spiegel 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 Solskjaer 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.



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

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 15-year sponsorship by cutting ties with the Brazilian.

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 the player.

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 medalist. 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-year-old Ronaldo had the last word with two late goals to break Irish hearts - and the world record.

"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 from distance.

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

Ronaldo, however, simply refused to be denied.

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 equaliser.

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.

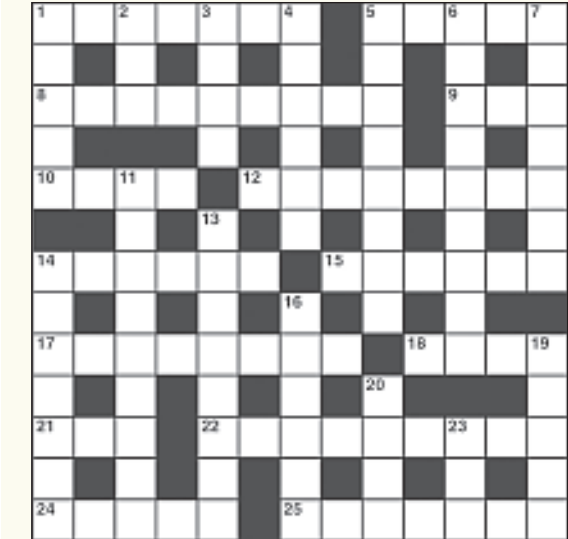
While Ronaldo's night was almost perfect, there was one blot on his copybook.

He was booked for taking his shirt off



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

CROSSWORD 4525



- ACROSS**
1 Apprehensive over bursting into sunset (7)
5 Badly cared for tree (5)
8 Retired - from the bank? (9)
9 End with a bit of advice (3)
10 A bit of a listener (4)
12 Main line terminals? (8)
14 Sign for the thesaurus he's left (6)
15 Old oil vessel in which I go for a sail (6)
17 Confuse by suggesting that one should be less calm (8)
18 Quite a lot of business (4)
21 Leaves note attached to article (3)
22 Performance for which ten men act in parts (9)
24 Relation of pleasant oriental content (5)
25 Scholar returns maths work on time (7)
- DOWN**
2 Sounds like a strange letter in the post (5)
3 Rising pitch of squealer (3)
4 Uneven chances (4)
6 Miss Kate did it in winter it appears (6)
5 Plan to study a piece of church architecture (8)
6 Resolve to discourage an excavation (9)
7 A quick reply showing wit or spite perhaps (7)
11 The world's greatest swimmer (4,5)
13 Where Sagittarius strikes gold (5-3)
14 He comes from man's highest state (7)
16 Tell a story about Tralee (6)
19 Water lily collection going to America (5)
20 Turn up before it erupts (4)
23 Wooden core in steel mast (3)

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.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

A room hung with pictures is a room hung with ____ - Joshua Reynolds (8)

CEHOS



ERUTT



ACMSHU



ORTWGH



SOLUTION: CHOSE, UTTER, SUNMACH, GROWTH. Answer: A room hung with pictures is a room hung with throughs - Joshua Reynolds

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



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 nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4582



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

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 about major improvements at 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 be deep, but you are not as 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 emotionally, but one 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.

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.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

This week's stars are giving you the green 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 probably regret it.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

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 fell out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Although you tend to be extremely forthright, tactless some would say, 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.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

Lunar alignments are soft and sensitive, yet firm and practical, and common sense and co-operation 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 inclines you very much towards private affairs and purely personal goals, which suits your basic character. You may find time to enjoy yourself amidst all your obligations and duties. In fact, other people may learn from your optimistic attitude.

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 Chyrykov 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 Chyrykov 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 Chyrykov 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 do-or-die situation for us."

Bhagat and Palak Kohli will play Siripong Teamarom 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 Teamarom in SL4 class respectively, second seed Krishna outwitted Malaysia's Tareesh Didin in SH6 class.

Young Palak also overcame Turkey's Zehra Baglar in her second women's singles match of group A.

The 38-year-old Suhas took just 19 minutes to see off Pott 21-9 21-3 in a lopsided group A clash, while Tarun, 27, too didn't break a sweat, beating Teamarom 21-7 21-13 in a group B match that lasted 23 minutes.

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 Khunsiddin Norbekov, who produced a season's best effort of 16.13m.

Argentina's Emanuel Urrea claimed the silver with a 15.90m throw, while the bronze went to China's Fu Xinhan (15.41m, 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.

“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 VACCINATIONS FOR TENNIS PLAYERS

BRIEFLY

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 in Maldives. **PTI**

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. **PTI**

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 injury, *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 dressing-room.

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 ascendancy. 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-and-across 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 deliveries 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 Rohit bowling from close to the stumps. Cheteshwar Pujara followed an Anderson outswinger that also seemed 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 misery.

The England bowlers were seemingly enjoying bowling to Pant. Woakes set him up by pushing mid-off deeper and inviting the south-paw 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 Surrey.

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

SANDIP G
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 moment to strike.

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 lower-order 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 betrayed by his captain Joe Root’s greasy palms. When he was young, he was told by



It took Chris Woakes just five balls to strike in his comeback over. *Reuters*

coaches to never let go of his two big gifts—the upright seam and the natural swing, both inter-related. And in his early international days, it was the rare virtue that swayed attention.

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

SCORECARD

ENGLAND vs INDIA		
THE OVAL		
Toss: England, chose to field		
IND 1ST INNS		191
R Sharma c Bairstow b Woakes	11 (27b, 1x4)	
KL Rahul lbw b Robinson	17 (44b, 3x4)	
CPujara c Bairstow b Anderson	4 (31b, 1x4)	
V Kohli c Bairstow b Robinson	50 (96b, 8x4)	
R Jadeja c Root b Woakes	10 (34b, 2x4)	
ARahane c Ali b Overton	14 (47b, 1x4)	
RPant c Ali b Woakes	9 (33b, 1x4)	
S Thakur lbw b Woakes	57 (36b, 7x4, 3x6)	
UYadav c Bairstow b Robinson	10 (20b, 1x4)	
J Bumrah run out	0 (0b)	
Mohd Siraj not out	1 (1b)	
■ Extras (lb 8)	8	
■ 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), 5-105 (Kohli, 42.5 ov), 6-117 (Rahane, 49.5 ov), 7-127 (Pant, 52.6 ov), 8-190 (Thakur, 60.6 ov), 9-190 (Bumrah, 61.1 ov), 10-191 (Yadav, 61.3 ov)		
■ Bowling: Anderson 14-3-41-1, Robinson 17-3-9-38-3, Woakes 15-6-55-4, Overton 15-2-49-1		
ENG 1ST INNS		53/3
RBurns b Bumrah	5 (11b)	
HHameed c Pant b Bumrah	0 (12b)	
DMalan batting	26 (46b, 4x4)	
J Root b Yadav	21 (25b, 4x4)	
COvertan batting	1 (8b)	
■ FoW: 1-5 (Burns, 3.2 ov), 2-6 (Hameed, 3.6 ov), 3-52 (Root, 15.3 ov)		
■ 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		

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 quiver. The seam was proud and straight. To bowl the same delivery with different methods is Anderson-like. He eventually snapped Pant, who misused 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 good-length 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-swinging that fished 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

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 2

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 took a 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 comes to this.

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 Querrey.

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 disrupt 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 three minutes.

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 time-outs 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 accused of taking too long on many occasions. The Spaniard, known for his long list of pre-tournament 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 (Jpn) 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