JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

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Rs 50,000 TO NEXT OF KIN; **COVERS FUTURE VICTIMS**

Covid deaths: Centre okays ex-gratia, state funds to cover it

Centre cites financial prudence; Kerala, Rajasthan minister say can't pass buck

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

NATIONAL Disaster Management (NDMA) has recommended an ex-gratia amount of Rs 50,000 for loss of life due to Covid-19 -- an amount that will be provided by states from the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) and distributed by the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) or the district adminis-

In guidelines brought out to enable this, the Authority said that the payment, to be paid to the next of kin of the deceased, shall be subject to the cause of death being certified as Covid-19 as per guidelines brought out by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) on September 3.

The payments, NDMA added, "will continue to be provided for deaths that may occur in the future phases of the Covid-10 pandemic as well, or until further notification".

At least two states have responded to the guidelines, say-



WHILE OFFICIAL figures peg the Covid death count at 4,45,768, claims for compensation will depend on what constitutes a 'Covid death'. On September 3, the Centre had laid down guidelines specifying under what conditions official documents can be issued with 'Death due to Covid-19' as cause of death.

ing the Centre cannot leave the payment of ex-gratia entirely to

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that while states cannot entirely distance themselves from providing the assistance, a major share of the same has to come from the Central government, which cannot say it has no role to play in paying the ex-gratia amount.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



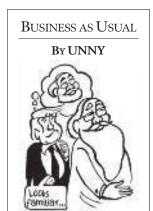
PM Narendra Modi leaving for his US trip, Wednesday. At a Covid Summit hosted by US President Biden, the PM says nations must mutually recognise certificates. PTI PAGE 5

UK updates, Covishield okay, not certificate; govt says not told why

SHUBHAJIT ROY& **KAUNAIN SHERIFF M** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

A DAY after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised the issue of non-recognition of Covishield with newly appointed British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, the UK updated its travel guidance, clarifying that the formulations of Covishield qualify it as an "approved" vaccine but not the Covid-19 certificates issued by India.

This means that Indian trav-



ellers will continue to be treated as "unvaccinated" and will still have to take a pre-departure RT-PCR test, further RT-PCR tests on Day 2 and Day 8 of arrival, and self-isolate at their destination address for 10 days after entry.

British authorities are in touch with the team in India managing the vaccine certification through CoWIN.

Alex Ellis, the British High Commissioner to India, said: "We are clear Covishield is not a problem. The UK is open to travel and we are already seeing a lot CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 2

₹80-cr deal for JD(U) leader's family, ex-Minister's nephew in long list of VIP contractors



SANTOSH SINGH MADHUBANI, ARARIA SAMASTIPUR, SHEIKHPURA,

SEPTEMBER 22

THERE'S NOTHING wrong in doing business. This was the re-

sponse of Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader

Tarkishore

Prasad when

he was asked

about the Rs

ter-in-law and

two firms, one

high-profile

name on a list.

53-crore Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal projects which, as The Indian Express investigation has found were awarded to his daugh-

linked to his brother-inlaw and the other to three Singh (top); aides. Prasad's is the most

Vinod

Narayan Jha

shows how long is the shadow of political patronage in the award of contracts under Bihar's flagship scheme to take drinking water to the doorstep.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



Fadle Chem is owned by family members of JD(U) ex-state secretary Anil Singh. Santosh Singh

Taken serious note, will probe: Bihar Govt; Opp targets Deputy CM

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, SEPTEMBER 22

IN THE wake of The Indian Express report that contracts worth at least Rs 53 crore were awarded under Bihar's Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal drinking water scheme to family members and aides of Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishore Prasad. the state government said it will probe the "process of bidding and tendering if there are specific



Tarkishore

Late Wednesday, Prasad took part in a meeting of top BJP state leaders, including general secretary (organisation) Bhikhubhai Dalsaniya, at the residence of the other Deputy CM Renu Devi. CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

PART III: WHAT WORKS, WHAT DOESN'T — A TALE OF 2 VILLAGES

Record drug haul: Same firm got similar consignment from Afghan source in June

GOPALKATESHIYA AANCHAL MAGAZINE, SANDEEP SINGH & **KARUNJIT SINGH** SEPTEMBER 22

INVESTIGATIONS HAVE shown that the Andhra firm registered as the official recipient of the two containers in which 2,988 kg of heroin, valued at some Rs 21,000 crore, was found hidden at Mundra Port in Kutch by the of Revenue Directorate Intelligence (DRI), had imported a similar consignment from the

same Afghanistan company in

June this year. That consignment too was sent by M/S Hasan Husain Ltd and declared as containing invoice was in the name of one Kuldip Singh, from Alipur, Delhi.

The DRI has in its custody Chennai-based Machavaram Sudhakar and his wife Govindaraju Durga Purna Vaisali. Vaisali is the proprietor of the firm M/s Aashi Trading Company, registered in Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada.

The DRI said Wednesday that CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



ENVOYS MEET KARZAI, ABDULLAH

AMARINDER SAYS WILL FIELD CANDIDATE VS SIDHU

> ZEE ENTERTAINMENT, **SONY MERGER**

PAGES 10, 7 & 11

Previous UP govts curbed kanwar yatras, we laid Ram Temple's foundation: Yogi

AMIL BHATNAGAR NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 22

> EMPHASISING THE work done four-and-a-half years, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday hit out at the previous governments in the state, accusing them of curbing religious expression.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating a statue of Mihir Bhoj Singh in Greater Noida, Adityanath said: "There were no Kanwar vatras earlier and no festivals could be celebrated. Those



Httar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath at a public rally in Dadri, Wednesday. PTI

who ruled were amongst you and not from outside. And vet no **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

bury him tomorrow," Shakir's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WHO releases new air quality norms, almost entire India polluted zone now

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS& **ESHAROY**

PUNE, NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 22

WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) on Wednesday released stringent air quality guidelines, lowering the recommended levels of pollutants that can be considered

safe for human health. While a PM2.5 concentration of 25 micrograms per cubic metre in a 24-hour period was considered safe earlier, the WHO has now said that a concentration of over 15 micrograms is not safe.

The recommended levels of six most common air pollutants - PM2.5, PM10, ozone, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and carbon monoxide - have all been revised downwards from the existing norms that have been in place since 2005.

PM2.5 and PM10 refer to particulate matters of sizes 2.5 microns or less, and 10 microns and less, respectively (micron is one millionth of a metre), and are the most common pollutants, as well as causes of respiratory diseases.

GUIDELINES



A smog tower in Delhi to 'beat pollution'. File

■ Recommendations far more stringent than existing 2005 levels. ■ Recommended levels of six most common pollutants revised.

■95% of India's population live in areas that don't meet WHO's 2005 norms; the new norms make almost the entire country a permanent polluted zone.

The new guidelines take into account several scientific studies in recent years that have CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 belie hope' **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

Women in

NDA: SC will

not defer to

2022: 'Can't

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday refused to accede to the government's request to defer the National Defence Academy entrance exam for women till May 2022, and reiterated its earlier direction to permit the women candidates to sit for this year's exams in

November. Entrance exams to the NDA are held twice a year. In an affidavit filed in the court, the Defence Ministry had asked for time until May 2022 to issue the notification allowing women to sit for the NDA exams so that the Academy - which until now enrolled only men - would have enough time to make changes, including in infrastructure and curriculum, to accommodate the women cadets.

On Wednesday, a two-judge bench headed by Justice S K Kaul did not accede to the government's request for more time, stating that the court had, in its interim order in August, allowed women candidate to take this year's exams in November and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Father's search of a year in J&K ends, finds jawan's body

NAVEED IQBAL SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

AFTER MORE than 14 months of looking for the remains of his son, on Wednesday, Manzoor Ahmad Wagay received a call from a relative in a nearby village. "They said a body covered in tarpaulin has been found in an orchard, and that it is possibly Shakir Manzoor, who was

serving as a Rifleman in a Territorial Army unit at Balpora in Shopian, disappeared on August 2, 2020, after an Eid lunch

MAULSHREE SETH

LUCKNOW. SEPTEMBER 22

ON WEDNESDAY, even as Akhil

Bharatiya Akhara Parishad pres-

ident Mahant Narendra Giri was

laid to rest at Baghambari Math

in Prayagraj, the spotlight stayed

on Anand Giri, once said to have

been the mahant's "favourite

disciple" and now at the centre

of a case of alleged abetment of

at home. He was kidnapped by suspected militants while returning to the camp where he was posted. The same night, his charred vehicle was recovered from a field in neighbouring Kulgam district, about 16 km from his village.

About seven days later, Shakir's clothes were found in a ditch 3 km from the house -- a pair of beige trousers and a brown shirt covered in dried blood and mud. But with no trace of the body. Wagay launched a desperate search for

On Wednesday, Wagay iden-



Shakir Manzoor disappeared in Aug 2020. Express



tified the body found in the Mohammadpora area of Kulgam district as Shakir's. The body was recovered with a tracksuit and an amulet that the family says belonged to Shakir. "We are sure that it is Shakir. He had an accident a few years ago and had stitches on his foot. Though the body was decomposed, the doctors at the hospital, where the body was taken, cleaned the foot and we saw the stitches. Police want to confirm the identity and the body has been kept in Army custody overnight, but we will

Beaches to bikes, the high-flying 'yoga guru' caught in suicide row

years, Anand Giri became one of Narendra Giri closest disciples and was often spoken of as his heir apparent.

As deputy mahant of the Bare Hanuman Temple, which comes under Narendra Giri's Baghambari Math, Anand Giri, apart from conducting prayers at the temple, established himself as a yoga guru, travelling across the country and also abroad, giving lectures and reciting the Ram Katha.

Anand Giri's rapid rise in the math and the akhara, coupled with his high-flying lifestyle, led to whispers among other disciples and sadhus, but Narendra Giri stood by his disciple. But their relationship began

souring earlier this year after Anand Giri started accusing his mentor of fraud in the alleged sale of land belonging to the akhara. The akhara is said to have in

its possession acres of land not just in Prayagraj and neighbouring districts but also in Haridwar, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Raiasthan.

Earlier this year, their relationship took a turn for the worse after Narendra Giri, who tested positive for Covid, was discharged from a hospital in Haridwar and came back to the

math. The public tussle between the mentor and the disciple intensified, with Anand Giri's followers using social media to level charges of fraud against Narendra Giri.

It was then that Narendra Giri got Anand Giri expelled from the math and the akhara. An angry Anand Giri claimed to have written to the President of India, the Prime Minister as well as police demanding an investigation into his mentor's activities.

U.P. RECOMMENDS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CBI PROBE, PAGE 3 Lucknow

police claimed to have found a

Two days ago, Narendra Giri was found dead in his room at Baghambari math, after which seven-page 'suicide note' in

which the mahant held Anand Giri, besides two others, responsible for his death. On Wednesday, the Prayagraj police arrested Anand Giri and Adhya Prasad Tiwari, another of Narendra Giri's disciples, after questioning them at length.

This, however, is not Anand Giri's first brush with contro-

Anand Giri, 38, a priest at the Bare Hanuman Temple in Prayagraj, who refers to himself as "spiritual leader" and "yoga guru", is known to live it up -there are photographs circulating on social media of him in luxury hotels and on beaches, in

fancy cars and bikes.

Born in a lower middle class farming family in Bhilwada, Rajasthan, Anand Giri is known to have left his house at 12 and joined a gurukul in Haridwar. He has often claimed that he did so to gain a better understanding of the Vedas and Sanskrit. On his website, Anand Giri claims to have acquired a Bachelor's degree from Banaras Hindu University.

Anand Giri later came to Baghambari Math and became a disciple of Narendra Giri, the mahant of Bare Hanuman Mandir, who inducted him into his Niranjani akhara. Over the

Charged with abetment in Akhara Parishad chief's suicide, Anand Giri at a court in Prayagraj on Wednesday. PTI

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GOOGLE AND YOUR PRIVACY: A DETAILED LOOK AT ALL THE DATA IT COLLECTS

Given how dependent we are on Google, let's take a look at how you can get better control over Google and the data it collects about your online behaviour.

ENTERTAINMENT



15 YEARS OF 'KHOSLA KA GHOSLA'

The film was released in 2006, three years after being shot

IN PICTURES



KOLKATA'S DHAMSA TRIBAL RESTAURANT

Offers delicious indigenous food and rural charm

EXPRESS AUDIO

Punjab CM: Why Amarinder Singh resigned

In this episode, hosted by Shashank Bhargava, we take a look at what led to Amarinder Singh's resignation, why the Congress picked Channi, how it will affect the party, and the role of the Congress Central leadership in the entire matter.

pollution impact for India's var-

ied demography, exposure and

differing PM2.5 composition. A

single exposure prevention re-

sponse will not suit the Indian

did not want to belie their hopes.

affidavit. We appreciate your en-

deavour to put before us differ-

ent areas of concerns. You have

referred to fitness test, accom-

modation, curriculum changes

and so on...But what we are find-

ing it difficult to accept is to post-

pone everything by a year.

Having given a hope to women

to take exam in November, we

don't want to belie that hope",

we don't want to postpone the

transition. This exam may not

give the best results. But we are

looking at the future," observed

Justice B R Gavai said in its order

that it had given a thought to the

matter, and the difficulties ex-

pressed by the armed services.

"What effectively would mean

by the submission of armed

forces is, 'no jam today, jam to-

morrow'. It will be difficult for us

to accept that position, the aspi-

rations of women having been

arisen in view of the order, albeit

subject to the final outcome of

the petition. The armed forces

having dealt with very difficult

situations admirably, both in the border and in the country, to

deal with emergencies is part of

their training. We are sure they

can deal with this emergency if

it is so perceived...We would

thus not like to effectively vacate

the order passed, but keep the

The court was hearing a plea

Advocate Kush Kalra seeking

its intervention to allow eligible

women candidates to appear for

Initially, the government had

termed the decision to restrict

NDA to only male candidates as a matter of policy, but the court

refused to accept this and said

the policy "is based on gender

Subsequently, the govern-

ment agreed to allow women

candidates to sit for NDA but

prayed for time till May 2022 so

as to put the necessary arrange-

manner pending."

the NDA exam.

discrimination".

ments in place.

The bench also comprising

This is the transition phase,

Justice Kaul said.

Justice Kaul.

"I have fully understood your

population," he said.

NDA exam

JNU to reopen for PhD 3rd-yr students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE JAWAHARLAL Nehru University (JNU) announced plans for further reopening of its campus, with entry being allowed for third-year PhD students on September 23. Now, buses will also be allowed inside campus.

In the following phase, finalyear MSc and MBA students as well as fourth year B Tech students will be allowed entry into the

"All third-year PhD research scholars (both hostellers and dayscholars) are allowed to enter into the campus. Buses will be allowed to enter into the campus following the Covid protocol. In order to avoid overcrowding, it has been decided to decentralize the process of issuance of ID cards from the security office. The students' ID cards will be issued at the school/special centre level," Deputy Registrar (Administration) P Ajai Babu said in a notice Wednesday.

In the fourth phase from September 27, "all MSc final year, B Tech fourth year and MBA and final year scholars (both hostellers and day scholars) will be allowed to enter into the campus," he

As of now, JNU has had two phases of re-opening.

After the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) gave permission, INU had announced its plans to re-open. On September 6, in the first phase, all final year PhD students who have to submit their theses by August 31 were allowed to enter, along with all PWD (persons with disabilities) PhD students, regardless of their date of submission.

However, their entry was conditional upon producing a negative Covid RT-PCR report done within 72 hours.

The office order also stated that the B R Ambedkar Central Library "will be sanitised" and 50% seating arrangement will be made in the reading hall, before the library is opened to students However, school and centre level libraries remained closed.

Prof Yogesh Singh appointed DU's new Vice-Chancellor

ARANYA SHANKAR

PRESIDENT RAM Nath Kovind Wednesday approved the apof Delhi University (DU), while Professor Neelima Gupta was appointed the V-C of Dr Hari Singh

Yogesh Singh is currently the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi Technological University (DTU). "DU is a different ball game altogether. It's a very old and important seat of learning. We will take all necessary steps which are required for the growth and development of the institution and focus on the interest of DU.

he told *The Indian Express*. "The administration will be action-oriented, positive and we will take everyone together... We will start at a very fast pace. I will meet all the Principals Deans, Heads of Departments and student groups. We will

Former DUV-C Yogesh Tyagi had been suspended in October

FROM PAGE ONE

Father's search

younger brother Shaan said. Shaan, who was studying in Aligarh when Shakir went missing, had to drop out of college as the family exhausted all its resources looking for any trace of Shakir.

Wagay says he can finally find some closure and bury the remains of his son, the fifth of his six children and the only earning member in the family.

Of the four militants suspected to have kidnapped Shakir, Wagay visited the families of three to ask them where his son had been buried. Wagay believes that overground workers or the militants themselves, moved by his desperate appeals to allow his son a proper burial, may have exhumed the body and left it for the family to find.

DGP J&K Police Dilbag Singh told The Indian Express that while the family has identified the body as Shakir's, "police have taken the DNA samples for authentication".

Drug haul

eight arrests had been made so far, including four Afghans and an Uzbek national. It also claimed that the total seizure was now up to 3,004 kg, with additional drugs (suspected to be heroin and cocaine) recovered from a house in Noida, in the National Capital Region.

Apart from Noida, the DRI also conducted follow-up investigations in New Delhi, Chennai, Coimbatore, Ahmedabad. Mandvi, Gandhidham and Vijayawada. Officials from foreign investigative agencies are expected to come to India to join the probe, sources said.

The DRI said the consignment was sourced from Kandahar in Afghanistan through Bandar Abbas port in Iran, and suspects the accused to be part of a "larger conspiracy". Sources said Sudhakar has told the DRI that the firm was started in August last year and that the consignment was sourced from Hasan Husain Ltd in Afghanistan, through their local representative "Amit".

According to sources, the DRI told a court in Bhuj that the consignment was of Afghan origin and that the accused were in touch with "Afghan and Irani nationals" and there was need to probe "probable threat perception involved".

Earlier, on June 9, Aashi had imported a similar consignment of talc stones from Hasan Husain Ltd. The Indian Express has learnt that "the documents in original" regarding this were directly sent to a Customs House Agent in Gandhidham from Iran, since the vessel had already

For the second consignment, Sudhakar allegedly received "two sets of import documents, containing invoice, packing list, certificate of origin". Sudhakar has reportedly told the DRI that when he enquired with his contact in Iran, called "Iaved", from where the consignment had set sail, the latter had told him that "in the initial set of documents, the weight of the cargo as mentioned in the documents was 300 kg in excess (of) when it was actually weighed by the liner" and hence this was "rectified" and a second set of documents dispatched to his Chennai ad-

Amit was the "marketing person" in India for Hasan Husain for both the consignments, as per Sudhakar. The accused has also said Amit would give instructions regarding whom the consignments were

meant for. Sudhakar has reportedly also said that for the June consignment, "Amit" had asked him to prepare an invoice in the name

House Agent concerned had delivered the consignment "directly from the port to the mentioned address"

After the DRI had seized the second consignment several days ago, simultaneous search operations were carried out across the country, including the Chennai residence of the accused, from where reportedly incriminating documents and materials were seized. The Indian Express has learnt that while the agency seized 1,999.579 kg of the contraband immediately, subsequent investigations had led it to 988.631 kg

The heroin, according to the DRI, was concealed with talc powder in two 40-feet containers, for which the Bill of Entry dated September 11 was filed on behalf of Aashi at Mundra Customs, describing the imported goods as 40.940 MT of 'semi processed talc stones'. The origin of the consignment was shown as Afghanistan, and it was loaded at Bandar Abbas in

Even as the DRI said that the three arrested Indian nationals include the holder of the Import Export Code (IEC), a check into the importing firm and its alleged founders draws a blank. The website of the Registrar of Companies does not show any company by the name Aashi registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. However, the company might be a sole proprietorship firm and details of such companies are not available on RoC website.

As per the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) website, an IEC is a "key business identification number mandatory for export from India or import to India".

More such consignments of similar nature may have been diverted by now, two persons

aware of the development said. A senior DRI official said more details will be shared later. A senior Commerce Ministry official said, "We do not have information on the company on

Yogi Adityanath

Kanwar Yatra or Durga Puja was celebrated. We have laid the founding stone of the Ram Temple (in Ayodhya). Was there no government here since 1947 that it took this long for a solution? To find solutions, you need to have a strong will." Adityanath said.

The chief minister said that the BJP government delivered on the promise of closing illegal slaughterhouses and ensuring a crime-free environment for women and children.

In the last four-and-a-half years, no riots have taken place in the state, the chief minister

claimed. Invoking the recent takeover of power by the Taliban in Afghanistan, Adityanath said those supporting the Taliban are anti-India, anti-humanity, antiwomen and anti-children.

"You must have seen that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is leading the country towards a new India 'Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat'. Following suit, UP is also transforming and becoming a new model for development, good governance, and security. But still, there are some elements who do not like India's development. Somewhere, they try to create hurdles in the country's development path. We need to identify such people who support the cruelty of the Taliban,"

"Supporting the Taliban means supporting anti-India, anti-humanity, anti-women and anti-children acts. You would be knowing the kind of atrocities and acts that are being committed today and there are some shameless people who keep supporting the militant group," he said, adding: "This cannot be ac-

Govt clears ex-gratia for Covid deaths

In Rajasthan, Congress state president and Minister of State for Education Govind Singh Dotasara told The Indian Express, "You can't impose (the ex-gratia payment) on states... tell them what to do or what not to do. It should be done by the Centre through their relief fund. No doubt about it. You give funds for hailstorm, floods, etc., so you should now add Covid too. It's not that only one state has been affected by it, it's a pandemic. It should be covered under the National Disaster Relief Fund."

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who also holds the Finance portfolio, could not be reached for comments.

The NDMA -- the country's apex disaster management body that's headed by the Prime Minister -- drew up the guidelines on September 11 in response to a direction by the Supreme Court on June 30. On Wednesday, the government submitted the NDMA guidelines to the top court.

The court while hearing petitions by two lawyers - Gaurav Kumar Bansal and Reepak Kansal - had asked the NDMA to come up with guidelines for payment of ex-gratia. It, however, left "what reasonable amount to be offered towards ex gratia assistance...to the wisdom of National Authority which" the court said "may consider determining the amount taking into consideration" factors "such as, requirement/availability of the fund under the NDRF/SDRF for other reliefs and the priorities determined by the National Authority/Union Government and the fund required for other minimum standards of relief and fund required for prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery and other reliefs to carry out the obligation under Disaster Management Act

Drawing up the guidelines, the NDMA said, "Covid-19 is a disaster that has not abated. The total number of deaths continues to rise. There is uncertainty about new variants of the virus and the likely future waves. Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain the total financial burden emanating from ex-gratia assistance. Financial prudence demands that we plan in a manner that assistance can be provided to large number of people should the number of deaths rise."

It added that "state governments have already been incurring large expenditure from SDRF on various aspects of Covid-19 prevention, management and response. In addition, central government from the national budget has announced several measures to prevent Covid-19 (nationwide vaccination drive) as well as to provide relief assistance to those affected by Covid-19 (for example, support provided to the orphaned children and PM Garib Kalyan Yojana Package). State governments have also announced welfare measures from the state budgets. So, in effect, some financial and material assistance has already been provided to different forms in some of the most valuable sections". Deciding the quantum of

payment, the Authority took into account other disasters that are likely to happen and the need to provide assistance in those cases too. "While Covid-19 is an unprecedented disaster. other natural disasters that occur more frequently have not abated. It is important that sufficient funds are available to provide a timely and effective response to other disasters as The apex court had also

asked the Centre to come up with simplified guidelines for issuing official documents to family members of Covid-19 victims, which would help them pursue correction of papers issued by the municipal or other authorities in connection with

In response, the Ministry and ICMR jointly brought out the guidelines, according to which those cases that are diagnosed through an RT-PCR/ Molecular Test/Rapid Antigen Test, or those that have been clinically determined in a hospital or an in-patient facility by a physician while one is admitted there, will be recognised as Covid deaths. It also decided to treat

deaths happening within 30 days from the date of testing or from the date of being clinically determined as a Covid-19 case as death due to Covid-19, even if it takes place outside the hospital/in-patient facility.

However, deaths occurring due to poisoning, suicide, homicide, accidents etc will not be treated as Covid-19 deaths even if the virus infection is an accompanying condition, said the guidelines. While considering these

guidelines, the Supreme Court asked the government to reconsider the guideline that said that in case of a Covid patient committing suicide, it won't be treated as a Covid death. According to the health min-

istry, the cumulative death count currently stands at

INPUTS FROM ENS, JAIPUR; PTI

UK updates travel rules

of people going from India to the UK... Over 62,500 student visas have been issued in the year ending June 2021... We want to make the process of travelling as easy as possible... We have been having detailed technical discussions regarding certification, with the builders of the CoWIN app and the NHS app.'

Dr R S Sharma, the CEO, National Health Authority (NHA), which has designed the CoWIN IT infrastructure, told The Indian Express they have not received "any official communication" from the UK government. "I am not aware of any concern being raised," Sharma said, adding that while he had been approached by the British High Commission say-

ing"the NHS was interested in minor issue of providing comknowing about CoWIN", no concerns had been raised in the two meetings held.

"We had meetings September 16 and September 21. They explained their system and we explained our system. They sent a message that technical discussions have been completed and to their satisfaction. There were no concerns," Sharma said.

The CEO added, "There can be no concern because our product is as perfect as it can be. It is QR code-based and absolutely verifiable. Its authenticity can be verified; its integrity can be verified.'

Sharma further said India's vaccination certificate was WHO-compliant, except on the

leader in Aligarh. With the farm-

collect things that are not relevant. We only collect the year of birth, because the passport already has the date of birth." Even on that issue, Sharma

said, the CoWIN platform al-

plete details of birth. "We don't

lows travellers to enter complete details for the purpose of international travel. A British High Commission spokesperson said, "We are engaging with the Government of India to explore how we

could expand UK recognition of vaccine certification to people vaccinated by a relevant public health body in India."

From October 4, England's current 'traffic light' system to screen those entering the country from red, amber or green

Covid-19 risk -- will be scrapped and replaced with a single red list. So, from that day, besides the US and Europe. travellers from 17 countries with eligible vaccines, including Australia, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia, will be cleared to enter the UK if they have been vaccinated with one of the four approved vaccines Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen. India is not yet on that list.

countries -- based on levels of

On Tuesday, Foreign

Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla had said that Jaishankar met British Foreign Secretary Truss in New York and raised the issue "strongly", calling it a "discriminatory pol-

and safer. "There are two things to take note. One, that there is now sufficient scientific evidence to show that particulate matter in the atmosphere has damaging impacts on human health even at levels that were below the 2005 WHO standards. Second, India's own standards, which are way above the 2005 WHO guidelines, probably need a revision too if we want to protect human lives," Salvi said.

WHO said 80 per cent of the deaths now attributed to PM2.5 exposure could be avoided if countries are able to attain its new air quality standards. Even achieving the 2005 standards would result in avoiding 48 per cent of these deaths, it said.

S N Tripathi, a professor at IIT-Kanpur and a steering committee member of India's National Clean Programme, argued for more comprehensive health studies to address suggestions that the Indian population had far greater resilience against air pol-

"There are no two ways about the need to revise India's air quality standards to make them more stringent. In parallel, we have to strengthen our health data and revise the National Clean Air Programme accordingly. Raw health data is required to conduct a large range of health studies vis-à-vis air

On Wednesday, appearing for the Ministry, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati conveyed to the court that the ministry has already set up a Study Group to effect the necessary changes, and that all arrangements would be in place by May 2022. She urged the court to grant exemption for the current year. Appearing for the petitioner, Senior Advocate Chinmoy Pradip said allowing women to

> mean they will be admitted only by 2023. Turning down the government's prayer, Justice Kaul said, "We appreciate your problems. I'm sure you people are capable of finding solutions. Let us see the results. The planning can go

The court added, "We will give you latitude, but don't ask us to vacate the order. Let us see the results. Let us see how many women will get in. We are not disposing of the petition".

take the May 2022 exams would

The court will now hear the matter in the third week of January 2022.

Yoga guru'

Two months ago, the math released a video, claiming the dispute between the two had been settled. In the video, Anand Giri was shown touching Narendra Giri's feet, after which the mahant said Anand Giri has apologised. Sources, however, said the differences between the

Lucknow

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22 started sailing. pointment of Professor Yogesh Singh as the new Vice Chancellor

Gour Vishwavidyalaya in Madhya Pradesh. dress.

consult everyone and form a strategic plan," said Singh.

of "Shri Kuldeep Singh @ Alipur, Delhi", and that the Customs

cepted. We have to be cautious of such people who support the wrong acts of Taliban.

He also spoke at length about Gurjar icons in an effort to gather the community's vote for the upcoming Assembly polls. "I salute the bravery of Samrat

Mihir Bhoj and his valor. Not just Guriars, the entire country should feel proud that we are associated with his legacy... Our heroes did not fight for a caste, community, village, or area. They fought for the country. That is why we must not limit these heroes to a caste but they must be referred to as national heroes. We must come forward to pay our respects to them," Adityanath said.

"Mihir Bhoj gave the country a protective cover against foreign invasion during his rule," the CM said, adding that it was the vision of Narendra Modi that the legacy of leaders should be remembered and honoured as there had been "an attempt to distort history"

Mihir Bhoj belonged to the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty during the ninth century and led successful campaigns in Malwa, Deccan, and Gujarat.

A sizeable Gurjar population resides in several parts of west UP, including Gautam Buddh Nagar, Bulandshahr, and Meerut. The outreach comes days after PM Modi laid the foundation stone for a university named after a Jat

ers' agitation focused on uniting West UP Jat voters against the BJP, the ruling party has been intensifying its efforts to gain the support of non-Jat communities.

-WITH PTI INPUTS

WHO norms

suggested that air pollution is much more damaging to human health than earlier known. By WHO's own estimates, nearly 7 million deaths every year can now be attributed to diseases that are a direct cause of air pol-

The new air quality guidelines mean that nearly entire India would be considered a polluted zone for most of the year. But India is not alone. By WHO's own admission, more than 90 per cent of the world's population lived in areas which did not meet its 2005 pollution standards. With the norms now being made even more stringent, this proportion would go up.

But South Asia, and especially India, continues to remain one of the most polluted areas in the world, with pollutant levels several times higher than recommended levels. In Delhi, for example, a Greenpeace study found the average concentration of PM2.5 in 2020 to be nearly 17 times higher than the recommended levels. In Mumbai, pol-

lution levels were eight times higher; in Kolkata, over nine times higher; and in Chennai, over five times higher.

According to Pune-based Dr Sundeep Salvi, a respiratory diseases expert who is part of the Global Burden of Disease study, over 95 per cent of India's population already lived in areas where pollution levels were higher than WHO's 2005 norms.

India's own national air qual-

ity standards are much more lenient, even compared to WHO's 2005 norms. For example, the recommended PM2.5 concentration over a 24-hour period is 60 micrograms per cubic metre, compared to 25 micrograms advised by WHO's 2005 guidelines. But even these lower standards are hardly met. In the last few years, the government has been working on a plan to reduce air pollution in some cities by 20-30 per cent by 2024 on a 2017 baseline.

The WHO norms are not binding on any country. These are only recommended norms considered safe for human health, as assessed by scientific studies. But bad air quality does affect the international image of a country as a favourable tourist and investment destination. Scientists and health experts

said the new WHO norms should push India to work harder to make its air cleaner

3 UTTAR PRADESH

Youth 'molests' girl, triggers tension in Agra village: Police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AGRA, SEPTEMBER 22

A 20-YEAR-OLD man allegedly molested a teenaged girl in a village near here, triggering communal tension and necessitating deployment of Provincial Armed Constabulary in the village, police said on Wednesday.

Etmadpur Circle Officer Ravi Gupta said the incident happened in the Saimra village under the Khandoli police station area where the youth, identified as Annu, molested a 19-year-old minority community girl on Tuesday evening.

The incident happened when the girl had gone to the house of the accused to collect fodder for the cattle, Gupta said, adding the accused caught hold of the girl and molested her.

As the girl shouted for help, accused Annu fled the spot while her family members and other people gathered at the spot. Gupta said, adding the incident led to communal tension in the village. He added that a case has been registered in this connection and a hunt is on to nab

Superintendent of Police of Agra West (Rural) Satyajeet Gupta said, "We have deployed PAC in the village to prevent further escalation of the tension. The situation in the village is under control.'

25-year-old lynched after he 'shot dead shopkeeper'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MIRZAPUR, SEPTEMBER 22

A MAN, aged around 25, was lynched by an irate mob on Wednesday afternoon in the Dadra market area here after he allegedly shot a shopkeeper dead, police said

Satyam Singh (22) of Dadra village in Marihan tehsil was at his grocery shop when Rishabh Pandey arrived at the spot on a motorcycle and shot him in the neck at close range, Additional Superintendent of Police Sanjay Singh was rushed to the

Raigarh community health centre, where doctors declared him dead, he said. After the attack, Pandey had

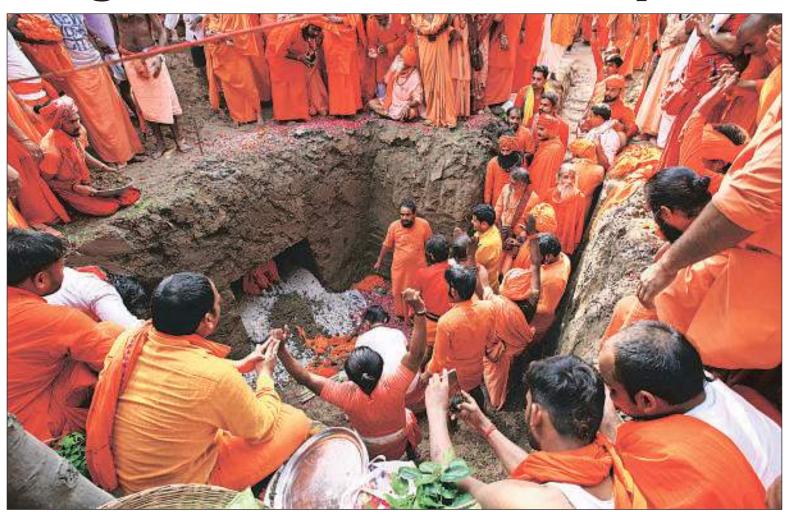
taken shelter in a building in the area, but a mob found him and beat him to death, the official

Both bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, and a heavy force has been deployed in the area, Verma said.

District Magistrate Praveen Kumar Lashkar, Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar Singh and other senior officials reached the spot in Mirzapur and took note of incident.

DEATH OF AKHIL BHARATIYA AKHARA PARISHAD PRESIDENT

UP govt recommends CBI probe



The mortal remains of Mahant Narendra Giri being laid to rest at Baghambari Math in Prayagraj on Wednesday. Ritesh Shukla

Two more disciples arrested; autopsy confirmed death caused by antemortem hanging, say police sources

MANISH SAHU LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Wednesday recommended a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the

death of Akhil Bharatiya Akhara

Parishad (ABAP) president

Mahant Narendra Giri, two days

after he was found dead in

Prayagraj's Baghambari Math. The state home department said in a tweet that the CBI investigation was recommended on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath who had said in Prayagraj on Tuesday that if anyone was found responsible for the "tragic death" of the mahant they

would receive strict punishment. ment came on a day the police arrested three people on the charge of abetment of suicide in connection with Giri's death, and, according to sources, a panel of five doctors performed an autopsy to confirm that the cause of death was "antemortem hanging".

Two disciples of the 72-yearold Hindu ascetic were among those arrested, the police said. The court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Harendra Nath sent them to judicial custody for 14 days while the third accused will be produced before the court on Thursday.

The police said they arrested Anand Giri (45) and Adhya Prasad Tiwari (55), and Tiwari's

son Sandeep (25) as the mahant allegedly blamed them in his "suicide note". Anand Giri, a yoga guru who was detained in Uttarakhand's Haridwar on Monday, and Adhya Prasad, who is the chief priest of the Hanuman temple at Sangam, were taken into custody after being interrogated at length. Circle Officer Ajeet Singh Chauhan who is heading an 18-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) that started probing the case said Sandeep would be produced before the court on Thursday. The SIT said it was recording the

wadars and disciples. At the court, George Town Station House Officer (SHO) Mahesh Singh, the investigating officer in the case, "produced deceased's two cellphones, sevenpage suicide note, a rope, a knife. and also a DVD containing a video that the victim shot before his death using his cellphone", said Prayagraj government counsel Gulab Chandra Agrahari.

statements of the math's se-

He added, "The I-O sealed all the articles in the presence of the court. In the video, the victim had accused Anand Giri, Adhya Prasad and Sandeep Tiwari of harassing him and held them responsible for his death."

According to the lawyer, the police have accused Adhya Prasad of being part of the conspiracy of abetting the 72-yearold's suicide. Unlike Anand Giri, both Adhya Prasad and his son were not named in the FIR registered on Tuesday based on a complaint by Amar Giri Pawan Maharaj, one of Narendra Giri's

While sending Anand Giri and Adhya Prasad to prison, the court rejected Anand Giri's bail application and posted the matter for hearing on October 5, said

Sources said the SIT was also

collecting the details of an FIR registered at the Daraganj police station in Prayagraj on September 6 based on a complaint by Narendra Giri. The mahant, in his complaint, alleged that someone had opened a Twitter account in his name, and was tweeting objectionable and false information. The case was registered under IPC sections 419 (punishment for cheating by personation) and 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) against unidentified person), and the provisions of the Information Technology Act were also invoked, Daragan SHO IP Shahi said a letter had been sent to Twitter's headquarters in California in the United States, seeking information about the IP address from which

the account was being operated Meanwhile, sources said the mahant's viscera had been preserved for any examination required in the future. The entire autopsy was filmed, they added.

Under a tree at his Math, Mahant Giri is laid to rest

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

AKHIL BHARATIYA Akhara Parishad (ABAP) president Mahant Narendra Giri was laid to rest in the Baghambari Math in Prayagraj on Wednesday, two days after his disciples found him dead.

Following an autopsy earlier in the day, the mahant's body was taken to the Baghambari Math and then to the Sangam the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati river — in a special chariot decorated with flowers. A huge crowd turned up along the route to pay their last re-

After a "holy bath [Sangam Snan]", the body was brought back to the Math, where it was placed in a "bhoo samadhi" under a lemon tree around 3 pm amid mantra chanting by scores of Hindu ascetics.

Deputy Chief Minister



Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya and former Union minister Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti before taking part in the final journey of Mahant Giri (below), in Prayagraj. PTI

Keshav Prasad Maurya, the office-bearers of several akharas, and the mahant's family members, including his sister, were present to witness the last rites. A large number of people, including several of Giri's followers from across India, also turned up on the occasion. —WITH PTI



SC asks UP, Allahabad HC for steps to regulate bail petitions of convicts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 22

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday asked both the Uttar Pradesh government and officials of Allahabad High Court to sit together and jointly submit the suggestions for regulating the matters of bail applications during the pendency of the appeals of the convicted persons. The top court said that if the suggestions are not given, then it may formulate some guidelines on its own. A bench of Justices Saniav Kishan Kaul and BR Gavai said that Allahabad High Court registry has 20-25 page suggestions which are like counter-suggestions to those already given by Uttar Pradesh government. The top court was informed

that Allahabad High Court had filed the suggestions last evening. "State government has said something and now you (Allahabad High Court) have said something. They have given suggestions and now you have given counter-suggestions of 20-25 pages. How are we supposed to zero in on the most suitable ones? If you are unable to give suggestions then we will formulate some guidelines on our own," the bench said.

Additional Advocate General Garima Prashad, appearing for Uttar Pradesh, said that sometime be given to them as now they have come to know about the thinking of the High Court and they will sit together and compile the most suitable sug-

The bench said that the High Court may itself issue some directions which may meet its expectation and both the UP government and registry staff of the High Court can sit together and sort out the problem. It posted the matter for further hearing on October 5.

The top court is hearing 18 criminal appeals of the convicts in heinous offences seeking bail on the ground that they have spent seven or more years in jail and be granted bail as their appeals against the convictions are yet to be listed for regular hearing in the high court due to the long pendency. The High Court has given a slew of suggestions to the top court like in cases of serious and grave offences, rights of the victim and his family should be considered before granting bail to an accused.

It suggested to the top court

that a 'victim impact assessment' report should be obtained after consulting the victim and the report should clearly state all concerns along with vital information on physical, mental and social impact of the crime and impact the bail may have on the victim. The high court's registry has given its suggestions to the top court in pursuance of an ear-lier order asking it to help in laying down 'broad parameters' for regulating the matters of bail applications during the pendency of the appeals of the convicted persons. "A person accused of crime shall not, until he has been finally adjudged guilty in the court of last resort, be absolutely compelled to undergo imprisonment or punishment, but may be admitted to bail also after conviction and pending the appeal," it has said.

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Place: Mumbai

Date: 23 September 2021

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For State Bank of India

Sham K.

Assistant General Managei (Compliance & Company Secretary)

2022 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Chandrashekhar to soon join our Morcha: Rajbhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SUHELDEV BHARATIYA Samai Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Wednesday claimed that Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad will soon be a part of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha and a formal announcement in this regard will be made at a rally on

The morcha is a front of small parties led by Rajbhar, a former BJP ally. "I had a meeting with AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad Ravan in Lucknow on Tuesday which was very fruitful. The Bhim Army chief has given his consent to join the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha," Om Prakash Rajbhar told PTI here.

The AIMIM had recently announced that it would contest 100 seats in the state assembly polls next year by tying up with Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha.

Rajbhar, who was a cabinet minister in the Yogi Adityanath government, had resigned before the Lok Sabha polls in 2019. He had later launched the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha as a political front of smaller parties.

Rajbhar said during the talks with both the leaders, the strategy regarding the upcoming elections in Uttar Pradesh was discussed and it was decided that the first major rally of the morcha will be held at Haldharpur in Mau district on October 27 on the foundation day of SBSP. During this rally, the Bhim Army chief will formally make an announcement on joining the morcha, he said, adding that the next rally would be held on November 27 at Sandila in Hardoi district.

More rallies have been planned for Kanpur, Moradabad, and Basti later. Besides Owaisi and Azad, leaders of all the parties in the morcha will address these rallies, he said. The Uttar Pradesh-based

Bhim Army was found in 2014 to fight for Dalit rights. Azad later formed the Azad Samaj Party in March 2020 to take part in electoral politics and allied with Pappu Yadav-led Jan Adhikar Party in the Bihar Assembly elections. Asked if the Vikassheel Insan Party will also be joining his morcha, Rajbhar said its president and Bihar cabinet minister Mukesh Sahni has informed that he will clarify his stand by October 15. The SBSP chief said he was hoping that Sahni would attend the October 27 rally.

Asked about an alliance with the Samajwadi Party, Rajbhar said he has not yet met its national president Akhilesh Yadav or talked to any party leader on the issue. The SBSP had contested the 2017 Assembly polls in alliance with the BIP and won four seats. The Rajbhars are regarded as the second-most politically dominant community in east UP after the Yadavs.

BJP's central team for UP polls arrives, begins strategy meets

Election committee will discuss selection of candidates

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

THE BIP'S newly formed Uttar Pradesh election team led by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan – who is in charge of the party's efforts for next year's Assembly polls along with ministerial colleague Anurag Thakur reached Lucknow on Wednesday to begin the process of candidate selection and strategy formulation. Sources in the BIP said the central leaders were likely to stay in the state capital

Even as the election committee members, including Thakur, arrived in the city in the afternoon, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath reached the party office here for a meeting with them and, among others, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Dinesh Sharma, BIP national vice-president and Uttar Pradesh in-charge Radha Mohan Singh, and former Uttrakhand governor and newly appointed national

for two days.



Dharmendra Pradhan in Lucknow Wednesday. Vishal Srivastav

The meeting continued till late evening, said sources, adding that state Cabinet ministers were also part of the deliberations. While the senior leaders dis-

vice-president Baby Rani Maurya.

cussed upcoming events, programmes, and campaigns, a senior party leader said it was meant to be an introductory meeting and the organisation meeting would begin at 10.30 am on Thursday. Leaders recently

as prominent leaders such as former state presidents would be a part of that meeting. Meanwhile, after arriving in

placed in charge of zones as well

the city, Anurag Thakur expressed optimism about the BJP's electoral chances and told reporters, "This time the people of UP will shower more blessings, give more votes and seats

-WITH PTI INPUTS

2 held for trying to 'supply meat' in Mathura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MATHURA, SEPTEMBER 22

TWO PEOPLE were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly attempting to supply meat in the

city, police said. The sample of the meat has been sent for investigation to confirm nature,

The sample of the meat has been sent for probe to confirm its nature, Mathura SP said

Superintendent of Police Martand Prakash Singh said. "Ayub, a member of Nagar

Panchayat Raya, and his associate, Mausim, were caught redhanded while attempting to supply the meat in the restricted area." he said.

The accused were in a vehicle carrying three quintals of meat which has been confiscated, the officials said.

The Uttar Pradesh government headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has imposed a complete ban on the sale of liquor and meat in Mathura.

While imposing the ban, the chief minister had suggested that those associated with the sale of liquor and meat consider selling milk in order to revive the glory of Mathura, which was once known for producing huge quantities of milk.

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

pensation over the reported plight of potato farmers, saying the BJP government makes "false statements" about doubling farmers' income but in reality the tillers are not even able to recover their input costs.

> Taking to Twitter, she tagged a media report which claimed that the continuous fall in price of potatoes has left the farmers

in Uttar Pradesh worried.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

CONGRESS LEADER Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday at-

tacked the Yogi Adityanath dis-

"Like other farmers, potato farmers of Uttar Pradesh are also



potato farmers in state

उ.प्र.

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name from ISHU VIJAY to ISHA VIJAYVERGIYA vide

affidavit dated 11.09.2021

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as ISHA VIJAYVERGIYA for

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22.09.2021

अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना

ट्रांसमिशन

लिमिटेड

निविदा

Accuses Adityanath of making 'false claims'

worried. They have to sell the produce of their hard work for peanuts," Priyanka Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

"The BJP government makes false statements like 'doubling farmers' income' at forums and in advertisements. But far from doubling the income, farmers are not even able to recover the input costs of their crop," the Congress general secretary said.

Priyanka flags 'plight' of NINTH ARREST

Cleric held from Meerut for 'illegal conversions'

ATS: 64-yr-old was actively involved in racket, received funds from abroad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

THE UTTAR Pradesh Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) on Wednesday arrested 64-vear-old cleric Kaleem $Siddiqui\,for\,allegedly\,being\,part$ of an illegal conversion racket. The ATS said his name came up during the investigation of a case filed in Lucknow in which cleric Umar Gautam and others have been charged.

According to the ATS, Siddiqui was arrested from Meerut around 9 pm on Tuesday and was brought to the ATS headquarters in Lucknow.

Stating that it has formed six teams to probe the case, the ATS said it has moved a petition in the court seeking Siddiqui's custody.

Siddiqui is the ninth person to be arrested in the alleged illegal conversion racket.

"During the investigation, it came to light that Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, a native of Muzaffarnagar who mostly lives in Delhi, is involved in illegal conversions. It was found that in the garb of educational and social organisations, he was involved in illegal conversions across the country and was receiving funds from foreign countries for this. This conversion racket was being run in an organised manner and several popular people and outfits are also involved in it. It was also found that he ran India's biggest conversion syndicate and converted non-Muslims by deceiving them," the ATS said in a statement on Wednesday.

It said Siddigui ran a Trust named Iamia Imam Waliullah. which in the name of social harmony, converted people by bribing them.

"It also came to light that along with the Trust, Siddiqui also funded several madrasas and that he received funding from abroad for this, which came through hawala and other channels. Through madrasas, the cleric, in the garb of giving a message for the unity of humanity. spoke about heaven and hell and put fear and greed in the minds

of people, encouraging them to accept Islam. He then encouraged such people to convert others," the statement added.

ATS Inspector General GK Goswamy said that text written by Siddigui was used for converting people through the materials available online as well as offline. "He used to make people believe that the arrangement made as per Shariat can ensure justice for all...," Goswamy said.

Kaleem's Youtube channel has 1.15 lakh subscribers which have dozens of videos in which he can be heard talking about religion and social issues. In the videos, the scholar can be heard discussing anecdotes and questions about Quran and its tenets.

According to police, Kaleem received his education in a madrasa and went on to pursue science in school. He completed his bachelor's science from a Meerut college and also appeared in medical entrance examinations, said police sources.

ATS Inspector General Goswamy said that organisations that gave funds to Umar Gautam's outfit (Al-Hasan Educational and Welfare Foundation) also gave funds to Siddiqui's Jamia Imam Waliullah Trust. "There was unlimited funding from the same sources as Gautam's outfit. In our probe, so far, it has been learned that Rs 1.5 crore came from a foreign country. We have the details of funds worth Rs 3 crore so far,"

the officer said. Giving details of the case in which Siddiqui was arrested, the ATS statement said, "The UP ATS had on June 20 arrested some people who ran an illegal conversion racket and a case was filed at Lucknow ATS police station. Mufti Qazi, Umar Gautam, and Islamic Dawa Centre were accused in this case along with others. During the investigation, some people

Earlier this month, eight pe ple, arrested by the UP ATS for being allegedly involved in illegal conversions, were charged with "waging a war against

were arrested from Maharashtra

and Gujarat as well."

Cop critically Coal India Limited injured in (A Maharatna Company) attempt to pacify

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procuremen of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coa ndia Ltd www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company CIL e-procurement porta https://coalindiatenders.nic.ir and Central Public Procuremen Portal https://eprocure.gov.in In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal https://gem.gov.in*.

RailTel (A Government of India Undertakir CIN No L64202DL2000GOI107905

Date: 21.09.202 Tender No: RailTel/OT/ER/HQ/2020-21/VSS

Testing, Commissioning, Integration with Existing VSS Infra, Operation and Maintenance of IP based Video Surveillance System (VSS) at Railway Stations under Eastern Region of RailTel

The present Tender Document for IREPS E-Tender Notice No: RCIL_ER_21 22_1294A, Dated: 30.07.2021(E-Tender No RailTel/OT/ER/HQ/2020-21/VSS/1294.Dt 30.05.2021) is being withdrawn. A new revised tender document is uploaded as RCIL ER 21 22_1294A, Dated: 21.09.2021. (E-Tender No RailTel/OT/ER/HQ/2021-22/VSS/1294/ 21.09.2021) Bidders are requested to submit all credentials as per the revised Tende document Dt. 21.09.2021 (Corrigendum-4)

1294,Dt: 30.05.2021 Name of the Work: Supply, Installation

for and on behalf of Indian Railways fron Nirbhaya Fund.

Further Addendum/Corrigendum will b

he had gone to resolve a dispute between two warring sides, officials said. Eleven people have been booked in connection with the assault and among them eight have been taken into custody. said police.

warring groups

Sultanpur: A police constable at-

tached to the emergency re-

sponse helpline here suffered se-

rious injuries on Tuesday when

On Tuesday, constable Siyaram Dwivedi had gone to a village under Jaisinghpur police station to resolve a dispute between two groups, after one of the sides had sought help from the 'Dial-112' helpline. As things escalated, both sides thrashed

the policeman. He has been referred to Lucknow for treatment from the

district hospital in Sultanpur. Superintendent of Police Vipin Kumar Mishra said additional force has been deployed in the area to maintain peace.

Lucknow

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि. (con edu nom a mon) profes vejuente: sha-s, sha az elafi fisa, elafi anz, nasaz-200 grana 8520-20000, f-ilm prometiganulcom 6 pr. (il) aprojecta or

प्रांकः ३५८/पी०ली०एल०।महा०प्रकाणीन-६/Tender-14 दिनांकः 22.09.2021 ई-निविदा सूचना जनपद फरोहपुर के ग्राम-मयेती बुजुर्ग रिवत 50 शेवायुका एकीकृत आयुग चिकित्सालय के निर्माण कार्य हेतु इस कार्यालय की ई-निविदा

सूबना सं० 14/GM-5/UPPCL/2021-22 विनांक 21.09.2021 द्वारा ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपत निविदा http:// etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 23.09.2021 से दिनांक 06.10.2021 के अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, निवम एवं शर्त कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 23.09.2021 से देखी जा सकती है। महाप्रबन्धक (जोन-5)

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Martyr of CISF on 23rd September



HC/GD DIBAKAR NAYAK, PGCIL WAGOORA 23 -09-2013 CISF proudly remembers the supreme sacrifice of this brave-hearts. On this day, he laid down his life at the altar of duty while fighting with the terrorists. His courage and bravery would remain an abiding source of inspiration for the force. The force will remain eternally indebted to him for his noble deed.

GUNNER PRAHLAD SINGH

NAIK RAJ KUMAR CEN MEHARWAN SINGH

Fifty six years ago, on 23 Sep 1965 you made the supreme sacrifice for the honour of the Regiment and the Country by showing exemplified gallantry & determination during "Indo-Pak war 1965". Your valour & self-sacrifice acts as a source of inspiration & strength to us and the generations to come.

CO and All Ranks 17 Para Fd Regt (8 RAJPUT)

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, (Patiala) CIN: U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website: <u>www.pspcl.in</u> (Contact Number: 96461-22219)

Chief Enginer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites E-tender of 1,05,000 Nos. Stay Sets Manufactured from M.S. Round 16mm and M.S. Channel 75x40mm (L/W) conforming to IS: 2062/1992 (with latest editions) Grade-A quality along with MS Plate 3x100x100mm and sectional details as per IS: 1732/1989 for M.S. Round and as per IS: 808/1989 for M.S. Channel with Red Oxide Primer.

For detailed NIT & Tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24.09.2021 from 02.00 P.M. onward. NOTE: Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in. C-344-21 8134/Pb

NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal-462044

Sealed Tenders and empanelment of interest are invited for providing following services in the NLIU, Bhopal:

Tenders: 1. Cleaning Services, 2. Security Services 3. Canteen Services Expression of Interest (EOI): 1. Empanelment of Interest of Vendors Suppliers Category-1, 2. Empanelment of Interest of Vendors/Suppliers

The Tender Forms/EOI may be downloaded from 21.09.2021 from the NLIU Website: www.nliu.ac.in

Last date of submission of Tender Forms/Expression of Interest is 04.10.2021 M.P. Madhyam/102034/2021 REGISTRAR

एच.एस.सी.र्स

(HSCC)

HSCC (INDIA) LIMITED

(A Subsidiary of NBCC (Índia) Limited)
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
E-6A, Sector-01, Noida-201301

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER Dated: 22.09.2021 Online bids are invited by NBCC through HSCC for and on behalf of NCDC from eligible applicants who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in Vol.-I (NIT/PQ document) for the works "Plan, Design, Construction, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning Calibration, Certification, Demonstration, Training, Validation of Bio-Safety Level-3 (BSL-3) Laboratories and other associated works on 'Turnkey Basis' on EPC mode at NCDC New Delhi" (Tender No. HSCC/SES/BSL-3/NCDC/2021). Estimated cost – Rs. 45.00 Cr Completion period – 21 months. Tender available online from 23.09.2021 and Last Date o submission of Bids: 14.10.2021 at 15:00 hrs.

The detailed NIT will be available on e-Tender portal http://www.tenderwizard.in/HSCC HSCC website www.hsccltd.co.in and CPP portal. Corrigendum to this publication, if any

Chief General Manager, HSCC (I) Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)

Request for Expression of Interest Proposal (REoI) Himachal Pradesh Name of Project: State Roads Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN

September 21, 2021

The Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director, State Roads Project, HPRIDCL Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Expression of Interest Proposals from national consultants for the consultancy services as detailed in the table below: Sr Description the Date of availability of Last date/Time

No.	Consultancy Services	Detailed Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Document on HPRIDCL web site	for submission of Proposals
1.	Consultancy Services for Replacement/ up gradation of Existing Web based Road Management System (RMS) application with RAMS along with data collection and engineering services" (RAMS) for HPRIDCL	(Request for Expression	October 18, 2021

Note:- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Expression of Interest Proposals Documents shall be available to all interesting firms on official web site of HPRIDC under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html.. Proposal must be delivered in a rritten form to the address below (in person, or by post) by October 18, 2021 at 15:00 hours (IST).

Chief Engineer-cum-Project Director State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Facsimile: +91-177-2620663; Tel: +91-177-2627602

क. निविदा सचना संख्या

0423/HP

यू. पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.

(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN:- U15209UP19765GC004285 कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, 1012, महादेव झारखण्डी, आवास विकास कालोनी कूड़ाघाट गोरखपुर-273008 Email: pm29@upprojects.org pmuppclgkp@gmail.com कार्यालय दूरभाष:- 9454419327

पत्र सं.: 601/पी.सी.एल./पी.एम./गोरखपुर दिनांकः 18-09-2021

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

इस इकाई के अन्तर्गत जनपद कुशीनगर के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र हाटा में ओ.पी.डी. कक्ष, डिलवरी वार्ड, मीटिंग हाल टीकाकरण कक्ष एवं स्टोर भवन का निर्माण कार्य हेतु मैटेरियल, लेबर/पी.आर.डब्लू., इलेक्ट्रिफकेशन एवं प्लम्बिंग की आपूर्ति/कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गई है।

सं .	111-41 (4-11 110-11	31.3 31. 11.
1	24/PM/PCL/2021- 22/GKP-29 Date 18/09/21	जनपद कुशीनगर के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र हाटा में ओ.पी.डी. कक्ष, डिलवरी वार्ड, मीटिंग हाल टीकाकरण कक्ष एवं स्टोर भवन का निर्माण कार्य हेतु मैटेरियल की आपुर्ति।
1	25/PM/PCL/2021- 22/GKP-29 Date 18/09/21	जनपद कुशीनगर के सामुदायिक स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र हाटा में ओ.पी.डी. कक्ष, डिलवरी वार्ड, मीटिंग हाल टीकाकरण कक्ष एवं स्टोर भवन का निर्माण कार्य हेतु लेबर/पी.आर.डब्लू, इलेक्ट्रिफकेशन एवं प्लम्बिंग की

उपरोक्त ई-निविदा www.etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 23.09.2021 से उपलब्ध रहेंगी जिसको दिनांक 23.09.2021 से 30.09.2021 तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड किया जा सकता है। ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निविदा डालने की अन्तिम तिथि 30.09.2021 को अपरान्ह 02:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है, जो कि उसी दिन सांयकाल 03:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण एवं शर्तें वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in व www.upprojects.org पर देखा जा सकता है।

(अनिल कुमार) परियोजना प्रबन्धक

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT CUM MEMBER SECRETARY, RMRS, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR [Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001] [Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email-ms.smshospital@gmail.com]

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for rate contract for procurement of Hand Mini C-Arm Module for trauma centre are invited from interested bidders up to 11.10.21 at 5.00 PM. Other particular of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state UBN No. MCJ 2122 GLRC 00106

DIPR/C/9584/2021

Member Secretary RMRS, S.M.S. Hospital Jaipur

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/ECTD/SLN/2021-22

अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु पृथक-पृथक निविदायें दो भागों (पार्ट-I टेक्निकल बिड एवं पार्ट-II फाइनेंशियल) में आमंत्रित की जाती है

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	कार्य की अनुमानित लागत	कार्यावधि
1	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र जगदीशपुर अमेठी	1.21 लाख	12 माह
2	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र टाण्डा अम्बेडकर नगर	0.94 लाख	12 माह
3	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र अकबरपुर अम्बेडकर नगर	0.94 लाख	12 माह
4	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र मिल्कीपुर अयोध्या	0.94 लाख	12 माह
5	220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सोहावल अयोध्या	1.20 लाख	12 माह
6	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र दर्शन नगर अयोध्या	0.94 लाख	12 माह
7	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र गौरीगंज अमेठी	0.95 लाख	12 माह
8	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कादीपुर सुलतानपुर	0.95 लाख	12 माह
9	400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सुलतानपुर पर स्थित टाईप ए.ई. आवासों में जानपदीय अनुरक्षण कार्य	1.78 লান্ত্র	01 माह
10	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र बीकापुर पर 01 नग टाईप तृतीय आवास का अनुरक्षण कार्य	1.96 लाख	01 माह
11	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र कादीपुर सुलतानपुर पर स्थापित सबमर्शिबल पम्प एवं संबंधित अन्य उपकरण बदलने हेतु जानपदीय कार्य	0.40 লান্ত	01 माह
12	220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र सुलतानपुर पर स्विचयार्ड में सम्प हाउस में डिवाटरिंग पम्प सेट करने एवं निकासी व्यवस्था सुचारू करने के लिये जानपदीय कार्य।	1.78 लाख	01 माह
13	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र जगदीशपुर अमेठी पर ए.ई. आवास के मरम्मत कार्य।	1.51 लाख	01 माह
14	132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र जगदीशपुर अमेठी पर स्थापित सम्प हाउस में डिवाटरिंग पम्प एवं संबंधित अन्य उपकरण बदलने तथा आवासीय परिसर में ड्रेन के निर्माण से संबंधित जानपदीय कार्य।	1.87 लाख	01 माह

उक्त निविदा की Technical Bid एवम् अन्य शर्तें तथा मात्रा बीजक इत्यादि का विस्तृत विवरण www.upptcl.org पर देखा जा सकता है एवम् http://etender.up.nic.in साइट पर देखा एवं प्राप्त किया जा सकता है निविदा दिनांक 25.10.2021 को दोपहर 13:00 बजे तक साइट पर डाला/अपलोड किया जा सकता है तथा दिनांक 26.10.2021 को 13:00 बजे

सार्वजनिक रूप से निविदायें खोली जायेंगी। ''राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाएं''

हस्ता./-(कुमार गौरव)

अधिशासी अभियन्ता दिनाँक:-22.09.2021

CANTONMENT BOARD, ALLAHABAD

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER (NIT)

Cantonment, Board, Altahabad, invites, e-tenders, through, the Government, e-procurement, portal, http:// defproc.gov.in/hicgep/app from eligible and qualified tenderers for the following supply work, (Cantonment Board Altahabad

wet	oste https://allahabad	cantt gov	, in may plea	se be visite	ed for detailed informa-	ation)		
SI. No.	Name of work	Tender docu- ment fee (Rs.)	Estimated cost (Rs.)	Earnest money (Rs.)	Last date & time of autimission of EMD, tender cost and other required documents	Last date 8 time of submission of on line bids	Date and Time of opening of on line technical bids	Date and Time of opening of on line Financial bids
1	SUPPLY OF MEDICINES AT CANTONMENT GENERAL HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR 2021, 22	1,500/-	55.00 lacs	30,000/-	24 hours before the opening of technical bid	12.19.2021 (1600 hours)	13.10.2021 (1600 hours)	Will be intimated on line while uploading technical systuation

The interested tenderers shall register with the e-tendering portal of Government and submit their bids on line after logging in to

No. 5-47/5A/Medicine/2021-22/CBA/2021/1816

पत्रांकः-871/वि.जा.पा.खं.(सु)/

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

PUBLIC NOTICE Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Landmark Building, 4th Floor, 228A,
AJC Bose Road, Kolkata-700020
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com
The following borrower/s have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loans facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non-Performing Assets (NPA). A notice was issued to them under Section 13 (2) of Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act-2002 on their last known addresses, however it was not served and hence they are hereby notified by

way	of this public notice.	nown addresses, nowever it was not served and hence th	ley are riereby flor	illed by
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ (Loan Account Number) & Address		Date of Notice Sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice	NPA Date
	Upadhyay/ Flat No. 703, Tower Nimbusparamount Symphony Crossing Republic Uttar Pradesh	Flat No. A/1-9, 1st (First), In The Wing 'A', In The Complex Named "Mounthill Fussion", At Ward No. 5, Gopalpur, Post Office Rajarhat, Gopalpur, Kolkata-700136, Police Station-Airport, Within The Limit of The Rajarhat Gopalpur Municipality, District- North 24 Parganas., Admeasuring An Area of 2047 Sq. Ft Super Built Up Area With one Car Parking -01,	23/06/2021 Rs. 68,37,078/-	06/02/ 2021

Super Built Up Area With one Car Parking -01, Medium Sized 135 Sq. Ft In The Basement. The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrower/s and/or their guarantors (as applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within period of 60 days from the date of publication of this notice else further steps will be taken as per the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

Date: September 23, 2021

Authorized Officer ICICI Bank Limited

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Date: 22 September, 2021

CANTONMENT BOARD, ALLAHABAD

"IMPORTANT"

Daman Singh.

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BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA

Another warrant issued against Param Bir Singh

Mumbai: The inquiry commission headed by retired high court judge **Iustice** Kailash **Uttamchand Chandiwal** has reissued a bailable warrant against former Mumbai Police commissioner Param Bir Singh. The former Mumbai Police officer is facing a probe related to corruption allegations.

TRIPURA

African swine fever detected. culling begins

Agartala: After infecting nearly 25,000 pigs over five months in Mizoram, the highly contagious African swine fever has now spread to Tripura — at Kanchanpur of North Tripura close to the Tripura-Mizoram interstate boundary. "We have identified an infected zone of 1 km radius from the epicenter of the outbreak. 28 pigs and piglets were culled across seven nearby villages," said Dr Mrinal Duta of Tripura State Investigation Disease Laboratory.

L-G flags off new buses

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday flagged off the first lot of 95 new buses of the J&K Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC). The buses are part of the revival plan involving a major expansion of IKRTC's fleet in a phased manner. Sinha reiterated the J&K government's commitment to provide quality transport facilities to the public. ENS

In US, PM Modi pushes for 'mutual recognition of vaccine certificates'

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M & **SHUBHAJIT ROY** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi, who left for the United States on Wednesday, said international travel should be made easier through "mutual recognition of vaccine certificates".

In his video remarks at the Global Covid Summit hosted by US President Joe Biden, Modi also said India is ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines and the supply chains of raw materials must be kept

"The Covid-19 pandemic has been an unprecedented disruption. It is not yet over. Much of the world is still to be vaccinated. That is why this initiative by President Biden is timely, and welcome... We also need to focus on addressing the pandemic's economic effects. To that end, international travel should be made easier through mutual recognition of vaccine certificates," Modi said.

"India is now running the world's largest vaccination campaign. Recently, we vaccinated about 25 million people on a single day. Our grassroots-level healthcare system has delivered over 800 million vaccine doses



Prime Minister Narendra Modi checks files and other papers during his flight to the US. Twitter

so far. Over 200 million Indians are now fully vaccinated. This has been enabled through the use of our innovative digital platform called Co-Win. In the spirit of sharing, India has made Co-Win, and many other digital solutions, available freely and open source software," he said.

As India looks to resume export of Covid-19 vaccines to poorer nations, Modi said "supply chains of raw materials must be kept open". "As newer Indian vaccines get developed, we are also ramping up production capacity of existing vaccines. As our production increases, we will be able to resume vaccine supplies to others, too. For this, the supply chains of raw materials must be kept open. With our Quad partners, we are leveraging India's manufacturing in pro-

Pacific region," he said. "India and South Africa have proposed a TRIPS waiver at the

ducing vaccines for the India-

WTO for Covid-19 diagnostics and medicines. This will enable rapid scaling-up of the fight against the pandemic," he said.

Highlighting India's efforts in providing medical supplies to over 150 countries, Modi thanked the global community for reciprocating during the second wave. "India has always seen humanity as one family. India's pharmaceutical industry has produced cost-effective diagnostic kits, drugs, medical devices, ing affordable options to many developing countries. We have shared medicines and medical supplies with over 150 countries," Modi said. "Two indigenously devel-

oped vaccines have received emergency use authorisation in India, including the world's first DNA-based vaccine. Several Indian companies are also involved in the licensed production of various vaccines. Earlier, this year, we shared our vaccine production with 95 other countries and with the UN peacekeepers. And like a family, the world also stood with India when we were going through our second wave. For the solidarity and support to India, I thank you all," Modi said.

In his departure statement earlier in the day, Modi said he would review India-US ties with US President Joe Biden and exchange views on regional and global issues of "mutual interest", and discuss cooperation in science and technology with Vice President Kamala Harris

This clear demarcation of agenda items between the US President and Vice President sought to signal that the Prime Minister has separated the priority issues for his discussions with both leaders.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

NEW CASES: 31,202 ACTIVE CASES: 3,02,141

TOTAL VACCINATION: 82,65,15,754 DAILY DEATHS | TOTAL DEATHS | WEEKLY CFR 4,46,049 | 0.75%



WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 2.00% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.01%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW Cases	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY Positivity	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	19,675	1,61,517	16.96%	3,42,17,365
■ Maharashtra	3,608	39,984	2.09%	7,50,57,120
■ Tamil Nadu	1,682	17,027	1.08%	4,33,59,843
■ Andhra Prades	h 1,365	13,796	2.19%	3,83,80,598
Mizoram	1.355	14.840	16.15%	10.71.373

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL Deaths	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	142	24,118	0.54%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	51	1,42,224	1.39%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	21	35,400	1.40%	1.35%
■ Karnataka	20	37,668	1.75%	1.27%
■ West Bengal	13	18,691	1.68%	1.20%

6 J&K govt employees sacked for terror links

PM-CARES Fund not a fund of Government of India, HC told

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 22

PRIME MINISTER's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation Fund (PM-CARES Fund), a charitable trust under the law, has told Delhi High Court that the trust's fund is not a fund of the Government of India and its amount does not go in the Consolidated Fund of India.

"Irrespective of whether the trust is a "State" or other authority within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India and or whether it is a 'public author-

itv' within the meaning of section 2[h] of Right to Information Act, Section 8 in general and that of provisions contained in sub section [e] and [j], in particular, of the Right to Information Act, it is not permissible to disclose third party information," Pradeep Kumar Srivastava, an Under Secretary at the PMO said in a reply.

The submission was made in response to a petition seeking that PM-CARES Fund be declared as 'The State' under Article 12 of the Constitution. The plea contends that citizens of the country are aggrieved that a fund set up by the Prime Minister and with trustees

like the PM and ministers of Home, Defence and Finance has been declared to be a fund over which there is no government control.

functions in the trust on an honorary basis and that the trust functions with transparency and its funds are audited by an auditor who is a Chartered Accountant from the panel prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Srivastava told the court he

"To ensure transparency, the audited report is put on the official website of the trust along with the details of utilisation of funds

received by the trust," the reply

It said all donations received by the trust are through online payments, cheques and or demand drafts. The amount so received is audited and the expenditure of the trust fund displayed on the website, it said.

"In view of the specific provisions of Section 8 of the Right to Information Act, the relief against para 5.3 of the trust deed dated 27.3.2020 pales into insignificance," Srivastava said, referring to a prayer against a paragraph in the trust deed which states that it was not created by

or under the Constitution or by any law made by Parliament or state Assembly.

The petition filed by Samyak Gangwal states that the PM-CARES Fund was formed by the Prime Minister in March 2020 for a noble purpose of extending assistance to the citizens in wake of Covid-19 pandemic and huge donations were received by it. However, the plea said, a copy of the trust deed was released by the PM-CARES Fund on its website in December 2020, according to which it is not created by or under the Constitution or by any law made by Parliament.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22

SIX GOVERNMENT employees, including two policemen, were on Wednesday dismissed from service for their alleged links with terrorists in J&K, taking the total number of employees sacked in last nearly six months to 25, officials said.

The six employees, include constable Showkat Ahmad Khan. a resident of Budgam; constable Jaffer Hussain Butt of Kishtwar; teacher Abdul Hamid Wani of Bijbehara in Anantnag district; a junior assistant in the Roads and

Buildings Department, Mohd Rafi Butt of Kishtwar; teacher Liyaqat Ali Kakroo of Baramulla, and Range officer Tariq Mehmood Kohli of Poonch.

In an identical order about the dismissal. the General Administration Department said the Lt Governor was satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the cases and on the basis of the information available that the activities of these employees were such as to warrant their dismissal from service.

On July 11, as many as 11 employees, including two sons of the Hizbul Mujahideen chief, were dismissed from service.

indianexpress.com



I arrive at a conclusion not an assumption.

Inform your opinion with detailed analysis.

The Indian Express. For the Indian Intelligent.



WILL DERAIL POLICY: GOVT

Centre files plea against allowing second dose of Covishield earlier

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 22

THE CENTRE on Wednesday moved a division bench of Kerala High Court, challenging the single bench verdict which had asked the Union Health Ministry to allow anyone who wanted to schedule the second dose of Covishield vaccine four weeks after the first in terms of the original protocol for vaccination to do so.

Earlier this month, the single bench had ruled that the government's decision to reduce the gap between two doses of Covishield vaccine for only certain categories of recipients amounted to discrimination. The court had said that people who

pay for the vaccine have the right to choose the second dose of Covishield four weeks after the first dose, instead of the 84-day interval.

The court was acting upon a petition filed by Kochi-based KI-TEX Garments, which sought relaxation in the 84-day interval prescribed by the government for administering a second dose of Covishield to its employees. In its appeal, the Centre said

that the single bench order would militate against the established position in matters related to the government supported by scientific study. It said vaccine doses would be administered prematurely if the court's order is allowed to prevail, besides affecting prospects of those waiting for the vaccine doses

NO SURVIVOR CERTIFICATE NEEDED FOR COVID RELIEF

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

PEOPLE WHO have lost their spouse to Covid need not submit a surviving member certificate when they apply for compensation under the Delhi government's scheme to support families of those who lost members during the pandemic.

If the applicant who is seeking compensation is the spouse of the person who died, the document will not be needed for application. It will, however, be required in other cases, for example in case children of the deceased are the applicants.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot with officials of the department on Wednesday.

"It has been decided that under the "Mukhyamantri COVID-19 Parivar Arthik Sahayata Yojna; there will no longer be a need for obtaining a surviving member certificate in cases where one of the spouses is alive," a revenue department statement said.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग, अजमेर क्रमांकः-अमअ/अज./तक./एफ-2(30ए) निविदा/डी-618 दिनांक:-15.09.2021 NIB No.:- PWD2122A1420

विषयः निविदा सचना संख्या 08–डीएमएफटी वर्ष 2021–22 के अंतर्गत स्वीकत सडक निर्माण कार्यों बाबत राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से डीएमएफटी वर्ष 2021-22 के तहत दो सड़क कार्यों के लिए उपयक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकत संवेदकों एवं केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार व उनके अधिकत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम दर संचार विभाग/रेल्व त्यादि में पंजीकत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में कल 02 कार्यों जिनकी लागत राशि रु. 956.00 लाख है. के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की | शुक्रवार 17 सितम्बर, 2021 प्रात: 9.30 बजे से शुक्रवार 08 अक्टूबर, 2021 सायं: 6.00 बजे तक

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.dipronline.org पर एवं निविदा दस्तावेज का विवरण वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा

सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी।

UBN No.: PWD2122WLOB06987 PWD2122WSOB06988

DIPR/C/9405/2021

सा.नि.वि. वृत अजमेर **Government of Odisha**

(विकास दीक्षित

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता

ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION

E-mail.ID-sectorb 2006@vahoo.co.in Tel/Fax - 0671-2301751/2302751 ('e' - PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 18/2021-22

1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B)Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building work as mentioned

- :- Building works 3. Nature of work
- 4. Class of contractor
- :- 'A', Special & Super Class 5. Tender paper cost :- Rs. 10000/- (online)
- 6. Available of bid documents :- From 24.09.2021 to 16.00 Hours of 11.10.2021 in the web site
 - :- Dt. 16.10.2021 at 11.00 Hours
- 8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be
- seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum

P.K.Pradhan **Chief Construction Engineer** Cuttack(R&B)Circle, OIPR-34012/11/0026/2122

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Office of the Executive Engineer

MI & GWD Division, Mandya TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 07/2021-22,

Dated: 21-09-2021. Item Wise Tenders are invited from registered and eligible contractors under "e - Procurement "Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender bid documents KW-4. Under the Head of Account 4702: Anicut and Pickup there is one work namely "Construction of Check Dam across Shimsha river for Kabbare Lift Irrigation Scheme in Maddur Taluk Mandya District", amount put to tender Rs. 423.00 Lakhs and the EMD of Rs. 634500. Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this office up to dated 05.10.2021 during office hours. The tenders may be uploaded (Technical and Financial bids to be uploaded separately) with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite documents through website "www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in" upto dated **06.10.2021 up to 17-30 Hours.** Technical bids of the bidders will be opened on dated: 11.10.2021 at 11.00 AM. Financial bids of the bidders will be opened on dated: 16.10.2021 at 11.00 AM. All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all works or any of the work of this tender by the under signed. Terms and conditions required for the each work is published in the "e-Procurement" Tender Portal. Any additional information is available at the office of the undersigned. Any corrections regarding the works will be published in

MI & GWD Division, Mandya.

"e-Procurement" portal only.

EXPRESS INVESTIGATION - PART 2 (FROM PAGE ONE)

Kin on list, ex-Minister distances himself



Samastipur Madhubani and Jamui to Sheikhpura and at least 20 districts, The Indian Express has found, it covers a sweeping range of beneficiaries across the state's political spectrum — from relatives of senior JD(U) and BJP leaders to an RJD leader.

Topping the list, in the amount involved, is JD(U) ex-state secretary Anil Singh's family, which got contracts worth about Rs 80 crore. Anil Singh is still a key leader in state politics and attends all major functions of the ruling party led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Also on the list: BIPMLA Vinod Narayan Iha's nephew, who was awarded contracts worth around Rs 3.5 crore in 2019-20 when his uncle was PHED (Public Health Engineering Department) Minister.

Most of the projects under the scheme are implemented by PHED, which disburses Rs 30-57 lakh for each contract to companies or contractors selected through a bidding process. The department gives 60-65 per cent of the contract amount to contractors during the course of work and 35-40 per cent in equal parts for maintenance over five years.

Each project under the scheme involves setting up two plastic tanks of 5,000 litres each on a tower, pumping water to these tanks from a borewell to be maintained by the company operator, and supplying water through a pipeline to a brass tap at a location nearest to the entrance of a house — in each ward.

The Indian Express reviewed bid documents from 20 districts to find that several of these contracts went to family and associates of top political leaders - officials said all of these projects, except one mired in court cases, have been completed:

■ Anil Singh, former JD(U) state secretary PHED contracts for two firms

run by his son, daughter-inlaw and associates. Cost: Rs 80

Records show the contracts were awarded in Singh's home district Samastipur to two firms: Alectra Infrastate Ltd and Fadle Chem Pvt Ltd. According to Rajesh Kumar Roshan, the PHED execu-

UBN: BIP2122SLOB00003

Contact No: 0866-2526802.

www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd

(Level 13, Un-Reserved).

Scheme, Pongal 2022

DIPR/C/9513/2021

tive engineer in Samastipur, 60 per cent of the project cost has been disbursed to both firms. "Both Fadle Chem and Alectra Infrastate have completed the work and have been paid for construction cost as per agreement. But there are some complaints that these two and some other companies are not doing the maintenance work properly," Roshan told The Indian Express.

RoC records show that Ankita Singh, daughter-in-law of Anil Singh, is one of three directors in Alectra Infrastate. The other directors are Aiav Kumar Singh and his son Kunal Kumar, both Samastipur residents and known associates of the JD(U) leader. The company was allotted 11 sets of contracts in 2018-19, each covering 2-4 wards, the PHED official said. The official said the PHED's project cost for each ward is a minimum of Rs 40 lakh and can go up to over Rs 50 lakh, depending on size and population.

Records show Mrityunjay Kumar and Ankita Singh, the son and daughter-inlaw of Anil Singh, are directors of Fadle Chem Pvt Ltd, which was allotted contracts in 2019-20. Records list Fadle Chem's address as New Colony, Dharampur, Samastipur, 848101 — the same address used by Anil Singh.

Anil Singh did not respond to queries from The Indian Express. His son Mrityunjay Kumar said: "Fadle Chem got Nal Jal contracts in over 200 wards of Samastipur. We have completed work in most of these areas."

■ Vinod Narayan Jha, former PHED Minister & BJP MLA Contracts for his nephew Sunil Kumar Jha. Cost: Rs 3.5 Bid documents show that

Sunil Kumar Jha, a Madhubanibased contractor, was allotted two sets of contracts in the district in 2019-20 worth around Rs 3.5 crore. Jha's uncle Vinod Narayan Jha, who is now BJP's Benipatti MLA in Madhubani, was Bihar's PHED Minister at the time.

When contacted, Vinod Narayan Jha said: "I was not part of the process of awarding the contract...Just because I became a minister did not mean that I would ask my relatives to quit their contract business. If some relatives have got the contracts, they would have qualified through the bidding process." Sunil Kumar Jha was not

available for comment. ■ Deepak Kumar, senior JD(U)

PHED contracts awarded to

Khushi Construction in

Commissioner (Inv. & NRIs)

Bureau of Investment Promotion

Notice Inviting Bid

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD VIDYUTH SOUDHA: VIJAYAWADA

NIT.No.E-610000864/HPC&HP/Hospital Services/APGENCO/2021

APGENCO invites tender towards "Providing of primary health care services

along with multi-specialty health services through advanced tele-medicine

technology to the employees, retired employees, pensioners and their

dependents, family pensioners and the villagers/residents residing in and

around Onukudelli and Jalaput clinical areas pertaining to the Machkund

Hydro Electric Scheme" through APGENCO e-Procurement platform. Bid Schedule available Date & Time : From 17.00 Hrs on 21.09.2021 onwards. Bid

Submission Closing Date & Time : up to 15.00 Hrs on 19.10.2021. For further

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, WATER

RESOURCES DIVISION AKLERA (JHALAWAR)

No.: EE-WYNAKIErain1-06/2012/139-1200

E-Tender No. 06/2021-22

On behalf of Governor of Rajasthan, invites tender from eligible bidders for the 01 work (Supply, installation and Maintenance of ScADA system for Chhapi Dam, District jhalawan (Rajasthan) under e- procurement procedure. The details are available on the

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'Opportunities-Technical/Administration". The last date for

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

TENDER PRE-BID MEETING NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS AND TEXTILES

Pre-Bid meeting will be conducted on 27.09.2021 at 12 noon in

the Conference Hall of the Commissionerate of Handlooms and

Textiles, Chennai - 108 for Tenders invited by the Department of

Handlooms and Textiles for purchase of 60sC Dyed Cotton

Cone Warp Yarn vide reference no. DIPR/2680/Tender/2021.

dated 14.09.2021 and for purchase of Polyester Texturised

Yarn vide reference no. DIPR/2678/Tender/2021, dated

14.09.2021 under the Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties

submission of online applications is October 13, 2021

Advt. No. 64/2021/IISER-P/Proj._Rect./22.09.2021

(Dharmendra Kumar Gupta) Executive Engineer Water Resources Division Aklera

REGISTRAR

Joint Director (Uniforms)

Tender Inviting Authority

details visit website www.apgenco.gov.in or https://etender.apgenco.gov.in

(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state



BJP leader Rajan Tiwari's company got contracts in Araria.

which he and his relatives are partners. Cost: Rs 400 crore.

Bid documents show that Khushi Construction, in which JD(U) leader Deepak Kumar, brother Rajiv Kumar and a relative are partners, was awarded contracts in over 900 wards across Purnia, Saharsa, Araria and Sheikhpura.

PHED officials said that about Rs 80 crore was disbursed to the company, which functioned till early 2020 when it faced court cases on charges of alleged violation of contract rules and forgery, and was debarred and blacklisted

Deepak Kumar was not available for comment. Rajiv Kumar, who holds power of attorney for Khushi Construction, told The Indian Express that the company had complied with all norms to get the contracts. "The matter is in the High Court. Although we have been blacklisted for now, we can still get back the work later," he said.

■ Rajiv Kamal alias Rinku Singh, RJD state general secre-PHED contracts in Jamui.

Cost: Rs 4.5 crore. Kamal is a registered contrac-

tor with PHED and resident of Laxmipur in Jamui. He was allotted three sets of contracts in Jamui. Kamal was not available for comment, Kamal's project engineer Raman Kumar said: "We have been allotted work in Digghi panchayat of Laxmipur (wards 1,3,4,5,6,8 and 10), Gauda panchayat of Ghodpadan (wards 4 and 14), and one ward each in Barhat and Paro panchayats. We have completed the work."

🖿 Rajan Tiwari, BJP spokesperson PHED contracts for his com-

PORN FILMS CASE

Construction. Cost: Rs 17

pany, Jai Sri Shyam

Jai Sri Shyam Construction, owned by Tiwari, got PHED contracts in 2019-20 in 28 wards of Khairkha and Amhara panchayats of Araria. Tiwari is a close aide of Forbesganj MLA Vidyasagar Kesari and Araria MP Pradeep Singh, "I am also a businessman and have tried to do good work as a contractor," Tiwari said.

■ Manoj Gupta, ex-state coor dinator, BJP business cell PHED contracts for his firm. R.M. Construction. Cost: Rs 23

Construction was awarded 12 sets of contracts worth about Rs 23 crore in 2018-19 and 2019-20 in Samastipur. Gupta was not available for comment. ■ Dharmendra Kumar Sah,

Samastipur PHED contracts in Samastipur. Cost: Rs 4 crore.

president, JD(U) EBC wing,

Sah, a contractor, got two sets of contracts worth Rs 4 crore in 2019-20. He did not respond to requests for comment.

The other beneficiaries include:

Ahmed Akhtar (Congress, Bagaha): Got contracts totalling Rs 85 lakh in two wards in 2019-20. Akhtar said he works for JP Enterprises, which is owned by local resident Janardhan Prasad. ■Rishu Singh (son of Ravindra

Singh, a PHED office attendant in Sheikhpura): Got contracts in 2019-20 totalling Rs 1 crore in Sanaiya panchayat of Sheikhpura. He was not available for com-Mohammed Khalid

(brother of Mohammed Sarfaraz, ID(U), Sheikhpura): Got PHED

Issuing notice, the bench or-

dered "in the meantime, the peti-

tioner be not arrested but shall co-

ready been in custody for 133

days in pursuance to the first two

She faces charges under

'Asked dept secy to look into complaints'

Sources said the meeting discussed the findings of *The* Indian Express investigation.

Speaking to The Indian Express earlier, PHED Minister Ram Prit Paswan said: "We have taken serious note of the issue of political patronage. Though friends and relatives of politicians have every right to get government contracts through due process, we will scrutinise the process of bidding and tendering if there are specific complaints."

He said: "I have asked the department's secretary to into complaints...that someone did not get contracts because others with political connections were favoured."

Paswan's response came even as opposition parties, Congress and RID, called for Prasad's resignation.

Meanwhile, Engineer-in-Chief and Special Secretary Daya Shankar Mishra said in a letter to *The* Indian Express that "the implementation of Har Ghar Nal Ka Ial schemes in Katihar district has been carried out with a transparent tendering process as per the provisions" laid down by the government. "No complaint against

award of tender and/or deficiency in service has been received in the Department so far. In case any complaint is received or any adverse issue is flagged, strict action would be taken as per Government rules and provisions," the letter stated. Earlier Wednesday, Bihar's

Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav dared Chief Minister Nitish Kumar to take action against Prasad, "This government has been mired in allegations of corruption....

Nitish Kumar often talks of monitoring the Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal scheme. But can he take action against his Deputy CM Tarkishore Prasad? Nitish Kumar is the CM on compassionate grounds and cannot take action against (other) NDA leaders," said Tejashwi.

In New Delhi, Congress leader Randeep Surjewala described the scheme as "Har Neta Theka Yojana (contract for every leader scheme)". Referring to the findings of

The Indian Express investigation, Surjewala targeted the BJP leadership and the Bihar government. "Isn't this a conflict of interest? Shouldn't Tarkishore Prasad resign immediately? Shouldn't J P Nadda seek his resignation immediately? Shouldn't (Prime Minister) Modiji and (Union Home Minister) Amit Shahji come forward and speak against corruption? Why is (Chief Minister) Nitish Kumar silent?" he asked.

"Tarkishore Prasad should resign or be sacked," Surjewala

However, Bihar BJP state president Sanjay Jaiswal defended Prasad, saying that his family and aides had got contracts in 2019-20 when he was an MLA (in Katihar)".

On Wednesday, The Indian Express reported that the scheme's implementation has been marked by political patronage to a set of beneficiaries — from Prasad to senior JD(U) and BJP leaders of the ruling coalition. The PHED, which is the

scheme's implementing authority along with the state's Panchayati Raj and Urban Development departments. has awarded a bulk of the

contracts for nine wards of Ariari block in Sheikhpura in 2019-20 totalling Rs 3.6 crore. He said: "I have completed almost 95 per cent of the work. I was allotted the work after following bidding norns".

■ Pintu Kumar (brother-in-

law of Alok Kumar, Husainabad panchayat mukhiya, JD(U): Got contracts in Husainabad in 2019-20 worth Rs 45 lakh. He was not available for comment.

■ Mukesh Singh (son of Ramashish Singh, ex-JD(U) leader in Gopalganj): Allotted Panchayati Raj Department work in 12 wards — six each in Vishnupura and Basdiha panchayats — totalling over Rs 1.3 crore. Mukesh Singh said: "I was allotted work in 2016-17 and completed it long ago.'

FIR against YouTube channel for 'fake news'

PAVNEET SINGH CHADHA GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 22

POLICE ON Tuesday night registered an FIR against a YouTube channel for allegedly spreading fake news that Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had

resigned. Police said action was

taken after a resident of

Chakkarpur filed a complaint. As per the FIR, the complainant, Sandeep Kumar, claimed that on Tuesday, he was surfing the internet when he came across a video on YouTube run by a channel called 'nation TV'.

"The news said that Haryana chief minister Khattar had submitted his resignation and Vii (Harvana home minister) will

take over as the new CM. The fake news had tickers flashing "masterstroke by PM, CM ne faika is-Kumar, who has a private job,

said: "By spreading such rumours and fake news, an attempt is being made to incite people of the state and disturb law and order. The intention is to destabilise the government and hurt sentiments of people. Despite knowing the facts and the truth, the channel is deliberately spreading fake news to provoke people and create instability in the administration, especially in the backdrop of farmers' protests."

A police officer said, "We will investigate who is running the channel and who had shared the alleged news item."

Among men who attacked Owaisi's home: College dropout, nursing staffer who lost job never hurt anyone."

A 'SENIOR' Hindu Sena member who dropped out of college, a nursing staffer who lost his job during the lockdown, an autorickshaw driver and two factory workers -- these are the five men who vandalised MP Asaddudin Owaisi's house at

on Tuesday evening, one of the



Owaisi said **RIP** had radicalised the accused

Kumar, who has been with Hindu Sena for over 3 years, has participated in several rallies and is a 'senior' member, others from the outfit said, adding that he often leads rallies in Mandoli and

Vishnu Gupta, national president of the Hindu Sena, said, "The five men have been working with us for years. Kumar was hurt when he heard Owaisi's speech. We are talking to his parents and want him to be released. They are all innocent. Owaisi is lying about the attack. Kumar and his friends would Kumar's father sells con-

struction material in Mandoli and is the sole breadwinner. Kumar dropped out of a private college and joined the Hindu Sena. He now works "full-time" with it.

Two of the other accused, Shivam Singh (24) and Vijay (24), work "under him" at the organisation, workers said. Shivam did a nursing course in Delhi two vears ago and worked at a hospital in Ghaziabad, but lost his job during the lockdown and was looking for a new one.

"He was studying physiotherapy for some exams, but dropped out of the course. He only went to Ashoka Road to support Kumar since he respects the organisation. He would not indulge in violence...," said Nitin, his friend, Locals said that Viiav works as an autorickshaw driver and lives with his family

Others seen in the video, Lalit

Kumar (23) and Vijay Singh (26), work at factories near Ghaziabad and have families that are dependent on them, their friends said. "We didn't know they were going to Owaisi's house. I was shocked when I saw the video. Lalit and Vijay said they were going with members of the Hindu Sena for a protest near Parliament Street. I thought it was against farmers. Later that night, we came to know that police had arrested them. They don't work for the Hindu Sena; we only attended a few rallies because our friends work there,' said Mohit Kumar, Lalit's friend.

'These people (the accused) are being radicalised and the BJP is responsible for this. If a parliamentarian's house is being vandalised, then what message is being sent?

On Tuesday. Owaisi said:

Lucknow

Sd/-Executive Engineer,

'சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் - சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

SC grants relief from Bids for Procurement of Services of Procurement of Services of Event Partner for Organization of Rajasthan Investor Summit-2022 are invited from interested bidders upto 2:00 PM on 30.09.2021. Other particulars of arrest to Gehana Vasisth be visited on the procurement porta

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE SUPREME Court on Wednesday granted protection from arrest to actor Gehana Vasisth accused in a case related to making and distributing pornographic films online – businessman Raj Kundra and his aide was released from prison on Tuesday after being granted bail in connec-

tion with the case.

During Wednesday's hearing

on Vasisth's plea challenging a Bombay High Courtorder denying her pre-arrest bail, a bench of Justices SK Kaul and BR Gavai said that the main accused – Kundra and his aide - had already been

operate with the investigation". Vasisht's counsel told the bench this is the third FIR of the same nature and that she has al-

Sections 354-C (outraging mod-

esty of woman), 292 and 293 (sale of obscene material) of the IPC, Sections 66E, 67, 67A (transmission of sexually explicit material) of the Information Technology Act, and provisions of the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act.

JIGNASA SINHA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

Delhi's Ashoka Road on Tuesday, and were subsequently arrested.

men, Lalit Kumar (25), can be seen claiming he is the head of Hindu Sena's Delhi wing and calling Owaisi a "jihadi". "Main Asad Owaisi jihadi ke paas aaya hoon usko sabak sikhane (I have come to teach the jihadi Asad Owaisi a lesson)... Jai Shi Ram," he says. Two men can be seen breaking the nameplate with axes, while others are seen hurl-

In a Facebook live video shot

ing stones -- and an axe -- at the

EXPRESS NETWORK

FORMER PUNJAB CM QUESTIONS DELHI 'HAND' IN STATE CONGRESS

Will field 'strong' candidate





THE CANDIDATE

THE CONGRESS national leadership may have earned applause for its decision to pick a Dalit face for the Chief Minister's post in Puniab but an unrelated decision that followed has triggered widespread dissatisfaction among party leaders in Maharashtra. The central leadership has decided to nominate Rajani Patil for the sole available Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra. The name of Patil, who previously served one term each in the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, was also present in the list of nominated MLCs, which is still pending before the Governor. Patil was picked as the high command's choice even as the state party unit was considering several other names, including Mukul Wasnik, for the seat, sources said.

TAKING STOCK

BISHWESWAR TUDU, Minister of State for Jal Shakti, on Wednesday visited the office of Namami Gange at National Stadium in New Delhi and reviewed the progress of various projects being implemented for cleaning of the river Ganga. The minister chaired the 8th meeting of the Empowered Task Force, which was attended by senior officials from the Jal Shakti Ministry and state government officials. It is learnt that during the meeting officials informed him about the Centre's plans regarding the face-lift of the temple town of Ayodhya by restoring old buildings and depicting murals and artwork in association with Ayodhya Development Authority.

OFFICE, OFFICE

AFTER OPERATING for years from its plush office complex in Dwarka, the National High Speed Rail Corporation will get to be closer to the proverbial power centre – New Delhi – around 30 km away. It has started getting some work done from two rooms in the parent ministry, Rail Bhawan, so that coordination and general work gets done faster. The ministry, it is learnt, has allotted the rooms for its various entities such as NHSRCL, so that officials have a base to work from when they visit the ministry. Otherwise, it was common sight for MDs and other senior officers of PSUs to roam around in the corridors between scheduled meetings. Some officials in Rail Bhawan are of the view that it would help if the NHSRCL also shifts completely to a place closer to the centre of activity in the future.

Mysuru gangrape victim has given her statement, CM tells Assembly

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 22

NEARLY A month after an MBA student was gangraped in Mysuru, Karnataka police have been able to convince her to provide her statement regarding the crime, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai informed the Assembly on Wednesday. The woman gave her statement before a magistrate on Wednesday, he said.

The court of II Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC) in Mysuru recorded the victim's statement in the August 24 assault and rape case.

"After a month, our police have been able to convince her to provide a statement. She has given her statement and this shows the seriousness of the police," Bommai said when the issue was raised by Opposition leader Siddaramaiah in the

The victim's statement is considered crucial for the state to obtain a conviction against six people who have been arrested in the case. The police have investigated the rape and assault The court of II Judicial **Magistrate First Class** (JMFC) in Mysuru recorded the victim's statement in the August 24 assault and rape case

case so far on the basis of statements given by the victim's friend who was with her when the attack took place.

"We have registered a case and are investigating but we are yet to obtain a statement from the woman victim. We want to do it with her consent once she recovers," Additional DGP (law and order) Prathap Reddy had said last month.

On August 24 evening, the MBA student and her male friend were allegedly attacked by a gang of men in Lalithadripura area of Mysuru. The gang initially demanded Rs 3 lakh from the two. They then allegedly assaulted the couple and raped the woman before

against Sidhu, says Amarinder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

FORMER Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh Wednesday said he would field a candidate against Congress state president Navjot Singh Sidhu in the 2022 Assembly elections, while expressing "shock" at the way the party was being "run from Delhi".

Speaking to reporters here, Amarinder asked how Congress leaders like K K Venugopal, Ajay Maken or Randeep Surjewala could decide who was good for which ministry in the state, adding that as CM, he had called the shots and appointed own ministers as he knew the capability of each of them.

New CM Charanjit Singh Channi, accompanied by Sidhu, was in the Capital on Tuesday to discuss Cabinet formation with the high command.

In a swipe at the selection of Channi, the first Scheduled Caste CM of Punjab, Amarinder said: "Our religions teaches us that all are equal. I don't look at people based on their caste, it's about their efficiency.'

The senior leader said Sidhu seemed to be calling the shots in the new dispensation, and that a PCC chief should concentrate on party affairs. "Ihad a very good PPCC president, I took his advice, but he never told me how to run the govern-

3 months after

candidate dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

MORE THAN three months after

an alleged attack on him by "TMC

supporters", a BJP leader who

contested the Assembly polls this

year died at a private nursing

home at Thakurpur in south

Kolkata on Wednesday. His fam-

ily and BJP leaders have de-

manded a CBI probe into the case.

known as Manas, had contested

the Magrahat Paschim con-

stituency in South 24 Parganas

district and lost to TMC's

Giasuddin Molla by 97.006 votes.

had previously declared him fit

and had even told the family to

be ready for his discharge on

Wednesday. But the family was

informed in the morning that he

had been shifted back to the ICU,

Majumder said that Saha's death

State BJP president Sukanta

where he died.

was "unfortunate"

Saha's son said the hospital

BJP's Dhurjati Saha, also

KOLKATA SEPTEMBER 22

'attack', BJP poll



Punjab CM Channi with Sidhu at Golden Temple in Amritsar.

ment," Amarinder said. Accusing Sidhu of having failed to manage as a minister in his government, he said, "If he behaves as the super CM, the party won't function."

Amarinder also warned the Congress that under this "drama master's leadership", implying Sidhu, it might not manage even double digits in the Punjab polls.

While not specifying his future plans, Amarinder said he would only leave on a "high". "I was ready to leave after victory, but never after a loss," he said, claiming that he had even told Sonia Gandhi after leadingtheCongress to a win in the 2017 Assembly elections to let someone else become CM. "But that did not happen... so I will fight," he said.

Amarinder claimed he had repeated the offer three weeks earlier as well. "If she (Sonia) had just asked me to step down, I would

Mamata Banerjee at her first public meeting for Bhabanipur bypoll, on Friday. Partha Paul

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

 $IN HER first \, public \, meeting \, for \, the \,$

Bhabanipur Assembly by-poll on

Wednesday, TMC chairperson

Mamata Banerjee urged people

not to take her electoral victory for

granted, and asked them to vote

to ensure that she remains the

Banerjee said it was "taqdeer

She is contesting from

ka khel [fate]" that she has to get

elected from Bhabanipur to be-

Bhabanipur to retain her post fol-

lowing her defeat in Nandigram

earlier this year. When TMC came

to power in Bengal in 2011,

Baneriee became the chief minis-

ter despite not contesting the elec-

tion. In a by-poll later that year, she

won the election from

Bhabanipur. She finds herself in a

similar situation again.

come the chief minister.

Chief Minister of West Bengal.

KOLKATA SEPTEMBER 22

Destiny that I should

become CM through

Bhabanipur: Mamata

is secured and there is no point go-

ing out to vote for her...You will not

get me as the chief minister if I don't

get each vote...I am telling you this

to make you understand why each

vote is important," Banerjee said at

a public meeting in Ekbalpur area.

quested me to contest from

Nandigram to support the farm-

ers' movement. But you will be

scared to know how unfairly I was

defeated from there. A case is

pending at the court [on counting

of votes). But it is destiny and

tagdeer ka khel that Mamata

Banerjee should become the chief

Targeting Prime Minister

Narendra Modi and Union Home

Minister Amit Shah, the TMC chief

said, "Narendra Modi ji and Amit

Shah bhaiya ji, don't think that you

will turn India into a Taliban state.'

She later addressed another pub-

lic meeting in Chetla.

minister from Bhabanipur."

"In 2021, my party had re-

have... As a soldier, I know how to do my task and leave.'

He questioned the way he had been subjected to "humiliation" instead, including by calling a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party without informing him. "Priyanka and Rahul are like my children... This should not have ended like this, I am hurt." He said the two were "quite inexperienced" and their advisors were misleading them.

Promising to field a "strong" candidate against Sidhu in the elections, the veteran leader repeated that he was "dangerous for the state". Channi was "intelligent" and "well-educated", he said, but had no experience in managing home affairs, which he called critical for a border state.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

In Cong, all eyes on Capt, his next move

KANCHAN VASDEV CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 22

THE CONGRESS is keeping a close eye on the activities of former Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh who has opened a front against state party president Navjot Singh Sidhu but has not "admonished" the BJP over the contentious farm laws in a series of interviews he gave to the electronic media after tendering resigna-

Sources in Congress said the party was already watching Amarinder keenly on whether he was headed to BJP. "There are reports that he may be making a big announcement about his political future on October 2," a source privy to the development in the Congress said.

A Congress leader said, "The poster titled Captain 2022 (shared by Amarinder's OSD on Twitter), appeared to be making an announcement that he will be contesting the next year's elections in 2022 as 'Captain'...clearly shows he has

Mamata warns

SHANTANU CHOWDHURY & MAYURA JANWALKAR KOLKATA.PANAJI.SEPTEMBER22

TRINAMOOL CONGRESS (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday shared her party's pan-India plans and vowed to defeat the BIP in several states, in-

Ahead of the Assembly bypoll in Kolkata's Bhabanipur, Banerjee said "We will contest in other states. We will contest in Tripura. Tripura te khela hobe, Assam te khela hobe, Goa te khela hobe, UP te khela hobe. BJP should know that the player who will defeat them has come.'

The TMC is in talks with a senior Congress leader in Goa who may join the party, according to political sources. Assembly polls in Goa are expected to be held in February-March next year.

Goa Congress president Girish Chodankar, however, dismissed the speculation as "rumours". "We have full trust and confidence in our senior leader. His name is just being dragged into this for no reason," said Chodankar.

The Congress has five MLAs in

Political strategist Prashant Kishor, who advised TMC during the West Bengal Assembly poll, has also made trips to Goa earlier this month and held discussions with political leaders. Kishore and senior TMC leaders are expected to arrive in Goa this week and a "major announcement" is expected over the next two days, political

SEPTEMBER 22

it from religion.

AMID A raging debate over a

Catholic bishop's remarks about

yoths from non-Muslims com-

munities being targets of "love

jihad" and "narcotic jihad" in Kerala, Chief Minister Pinaravi

Vijayan on Wednesday quoted government data to dismiss all

such claims, and sought to delink

data on those involved in reli-

gious conversion and narcotics

are analysed, it is clear that mi-

norities do not have any special

role in such activities. There is no

backing of facts for such claims,

He said these issues - so-

Dismissing claims of "nar-

In 2020, as many as 4,941

cotic jihad" as baseless, he gave

numbers from government data.

cases were registered in Kerala

under NDPS Act. Of the 5,422 ac-

cused, 2,700 (49.80%) people

were Hindus, 1,869 (34.47%)

Muslims and 853 (15.73%)

Christians. "There is no unusual

ratio in these figures. Narcotic

business is not on the basis of re-

is no evidence to show that drug

peddlers or drug users belong to

a particular religion. "On school,

college campuses, there are stu-

dents from various communi-

ties. If any of them uses drugs or

'Toolkit' case:

SC says won't

interfere with

The Chief Minister said there

ligion," he said.

called "love jihad" and "narcotic

jihad" - cannot be categorised

with any particular religion.

Vijayan told reporters that if

tion on September 18.

some plans."

BJP of khela hobe in Goa, UP, Assam and Tripura

the 40-member Goa Assembly.

govt data to junk 'narcotic jihad, love jihad' claims **SHAJU PHILIP** THIRUVANANTHAPURAM,

Pinarayi shows

Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan

'BISHOP SHOULD WITHDRAW REMARKS'

Thiruvananthapuram: Muslim organisations on Wednesday demanded that bishop Joseph Kallarangatt withdraw his controversial "narcotic jihad" remarks. Senior IUML leader Syed Sadiqali Shihab Thangal, who chaired a meeting of Muslim groups in Kozhikode, said the bishop should withdraw the statement, and sought government action against him. ENS

becomes part of the drug peddling network, it is puerile to analyse that as part of a concerted attempt of any religion,' he said. "Such campaigns would tantamount to sowing seeds of hatred in a state like Kerala where people from all communities live together."

Early this month, bishop Joseph Kallarangatt of Palai diocese, during a sermon, had said there were two types of jihad -'love jihad and narcotic jihad". "The narcotic jihad is the activity of spoiling the life of non-Muslims, particularly youths, by making them addicted to drugs,"

On UK vaccine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

SUPREME Wednesday dismissed the challenging a High Court stay on a probe against former Chief Minister Raman Singh and BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra. The FIR against the two leaders was registered over their tweets referring to a purported "toolkit' allegedly created by Congress.

A bench headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana refused to interfere with the order of the Chhattisgarh High Court and asked it to decide the matter expeditiously.

The FIR against Singh and Patra was registered a day after Akash Sharma, the Chhattisgarh president of Congress student outfit NSUI, filed a complaint over their tweets on an alleged "toolkit" created by the Congress - to "defame" the country — on May 18.

The BJP leaders were accused of spreading unrest and provoking people through a fake story.

The state government told the Supreme Court that the High Court had erroneously granted the interim relief right at the stage of admission itself. The investigation was at a nascent stage, contended the state gov-

row, minister points to 'best HC stay on probe interest of people'

> **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

WITH NEW Delhi and London trying to iron out differences over and travel restrictions, the ruling BJP attempted to avoid an escalation of the matter saying "every sovereign country will take decisions which they believe are in the best interest of the people".

"There is no right or wrong...Some countries take decision on what vaccines are acceptable by their medical fraternity and their scientific community and some take a different view," Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said when asked about some countries not recognising Indian vaccines. He pointed out that the science and the understanding of Covid was recent.

Chandrasekhar, who was in the BJP headquarters to brief the media about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US. said that countries reacted differently to the pandemic. "I think these things have to evolve as the assessment of risk of the disease gets mitigated over time. Till such time every sovereign government, every sovereign country will take decisions which they believe are in the best interest of the people."

Air India Chairman Rajiv Bansal is aviation secy in reshuffle

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

RAJIV BANSAL, current Air India Chairman, was appointed the new aviation secretary as part of a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle by the Centre on Wednesday.

K Rajaraman, Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, was appointed Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, according to an order of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Rajaraman will take over the charge from Anshu Prakash, who is due to superannuate on September 30.

Rajiv Bansal, a 1988 batch IAS officer of Nagaland cadre, will replace Pradeep Singh Kharola, upon his retirement this month-end.

K Sanjay Murthy, Chief **Executive Officer and Managing** Director, National Industrial Development Corporation Limited, will be Secretary, Department of Higher Education, the order said.

Steel Secretary Pradip Kumar Tripathi has been appointed as the Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), it

Govind Mohan, Additional Secretary in the Department of Home, will be Secretary, Ministry of Culture, the order said.

Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman of the Delhi Development Authority, has been appointed as the Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Murthy, a 1989 batch IAS officer of Himachal Pradesh cadre, will take over the charge from Amit Khare, who retires on September 30.

Devendra Kumar Singh, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises will be Ministry Cooperation. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com **DEEPTIMANTIWARY** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

TAMIL NADU Governor R N Ravi on Wednesday resigned as interlocutor in Naga peace talks after serving several years in the post during which he negotiated with key insurgent groups for the Naga Peace Accord.

Ravi's resignation comes days after he was moved out of Nagaland, where he also held the post of Governor. He was appointed Tamil Nadu Governor on September 9. The development had come

amid vociferous demand from NSCN(IM) to remove Ravi both as Nagaland Governor and Nagainterlocutor following a verbal spat between the two through 2020.



Ravi quits as Naga peace talks interlocutor

Ravi: moved from Nagaland to TN Raj Bhavan on Sept 9

"Shri R.N. Ravi's resignation as interlocutor for the Naga peace process, submitted by him today, has been accepted with immediate effect by the Government of India," the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement. Sources said former

Intelligence Bureau special director Akshay Mishra is likely to replace Ravi as the new Naga

peace talks interlocutor. As incharge of Northeast affairs, Mishra was already dealing with various Naga groups while still serving in IB. Mishra retired in July this year. After relations between Ravi

and NSCN(IM) strained, Mishra had been interacting with Naga groups to finalise the peace accord since January 2020. Sources said Naga groups

have also expressed satisfaction with the way Mishra has been spearheading negotiations from the Centre's side and have expressed confidence in him to lead the talks further. The development comes a

day after Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, along with his Nagaland counterpart Neiphiu Rio, met key NSCN(IM) leaders, including Th Muivah Following the closed-door meeting, Rio told the media, "(Home Minister) Amit Shah-ji has expressed happiness to resume the talks and conveyed that a solution should be found at the earliest and that the government is open for discussion.... Whatever had gone wrong, (we should) forgive and forget and move

The Naga peace process has had a rough ride over the last couple of years due to deteriorating relationship between NSCN(IM), the lead Naga group negotiating with the Centre, and Ravi. Despite a Framework Agreement for Naga Peace Accord having been signed in 2015, the government has not been able to finalise the accord.

Retd HC judge to probe Karnal police lathicharge

Chandigarh: Haryana government on Wednesday appointed Justice (retd) Somnath Aggarwal as a one-man inquiry commission to probe the sequence of events leading to the police lathicharge on farmers at Bastara toll plaza in Haryana's Karnal on August 28. The retired Punjab and Haryana High Court judge will also probe the role of IAS officer Ayush Sinha, who, as then Karnal SDM, was caught on tape for his controversial "break the heads" remark.

The decision, taken during a Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Manohar Lal Khattar, comes 13 days after the government promised that it will get the incidents probed by a retired HC judge.

Lucknow

WORDLY WISE

HAVE NO FEAR OF PERFECTION — YOU'LL NEVER REACH IT.

— Salvador Dali

The Indian EXPRESS

∽ Founded By ∽

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

AF-PAK AMBUSH

Resistance against inclusion of Taliban in SAARC is justified. The Islamist group has much to do to win world's trust

O TEARS NEED be shed for the cancellation of the SAARC foreign ministers meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, given that so much in the region is lost already. Afghanistan was inducted into SAARC in 2007, a decision that recognised its struggle to emerge from years of war and isolation, and its historical, political, religious, economic and cultural links to the rest of the region. The takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban is a massive setback to South Asia. It is yet to be officially recognised by any country, or by the United Nations, though some Western nations are engaged with it to provide humanitarian aid. In the SAARC grouping, even Pakistan, which makes no secret of its support for the Taliban government, has yet to declare official recognition of the new set up in Kabul. So it is surprising that it wanted the Taliban symbolically represented at the planned regional meeting, with an empty chair (Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's "acting foreign minister", designated and sanctioned as a terrorist under United Nations Security Council resolution 1267 like many other Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan cabinet members, could not have attended). The move appears to have been an attempt to pressgang SAARC to grant de facto legitimacy to the IEA. It is not clear how many SAARC capitals pushed back against this, but it is certain Delhi would have been among them, and rightly so. As SAARC works by consensus, the meeting has had to be called off.

However, the larger issue of recognition of the IEA is looming. The IEA has written to the UN Secretary General to accept its own chosen Permanent Representative to the UN. But recognition is the only leverage the world now has with the Taliban, and it is in no position to grant this easily, especially as the IEA has conveyed quite clearly that it does not intend to address, at least to begin with, global concerns about a Haqqani heavy government without women and ethnic minorities. The UN should take its time considering the Taliban request.

It may be time to face up to the fact that there is no real chance of reviving an already moribund SAARC. It has been years since there was a summit, principally because it is Pakistan's turn to host it, and Delhi has refused to participate due to the tensions between the two countries over terrorist incidents and other issues. Other SAARC arrangements, including regional trade, have never been able to get off the ground due to the forever hostility between the two big neighbours. To get around this, there was already talk of a separate grouping that would be "SAARC minus 1". Now, with the Taliban in Kabul, and Pakistan playing its local guardian, regional cooperation in South Asia is bound to remain a chimera.

DRAW THE LINE

The Delhi Police must make sure that those guilty of attacking Hyderabad MP's house are held accountable

HE ATTACK ON the residence of Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi in the heart of the national capital marks a dangerous new low. That activists from a Hindu right-wing organisation are emboldened enough to gather at one of Delhi's most secure neighbourhoods, vandalise a parliamentarian's house, and chant communal abuses is a sign that the footsoldiers of polarisation have a disturbing confidence in their impunity. The Delhi Police, which has arrested five members of the Hindu Sena, must disabuse them of such notions — and ensure that the guilty are held accountable. Without any surprise, the Hindu Sena activists have defended their violent actions by accusing Owaisi of making "anti-Hindu" speeches. Owaisi had reacted to UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath's abba jaan slur in a recent speech about government welfare schemes. The attack on the MP's house is just another example of how the right to take offence is being legitimised by self-appointed custodians of religion and enforced by muscle power at the expense of constitutional freedoms of speech and expression.

This is not the first time in recent months that anti-minority rabble-rousing spectacles have been staged in the national capital — and its surrounds. Last month, at a Jantar Mantar gathering — again in the high-security Lutyen's Delhi — members of several Hindu right-wing organisations called for violence against the Muslim community. Not only was the alarming aggression on public display recorded on video by the activists, but also spread further through the velocity of social media. While arrests were made in that case, too, the growing clout of groups that preach violence in the name of religion must not be taken lightly. Indeed, across the country, a crude simmering mobilisation appears to have licensed violence against ordinary Muslims, whether it is a bangle-seller in Indore or a rick-shaw-puller in Kanpur. It has led to umpteen instances of moral policing of women by proponents of the paranoia of "love jihad". It will also further ghettoise cities and villages into spaces for "us" and "them", and sow conflict and disharmony.

The history of this subcontinent has grim lessons on the consequences of such law-lessness. By hurling stones and axes at an MP's house in Lutyen's Delhi, the vandals of the Hindu Sena attempt to send a message to their radicalised base. But, for the Delhi Police, which reports to the Union home minister, the stakes are definitely higher. It must crack down on such displays of brazen aggression against the Hyderabad MP. Doing otherwise would run the risk of allowing a communal contagion to spread out of control.

NOT TOO HOT

Pandas reproduce less when things get too good. Life, it turns out, is about the challenges

OMETIMES, THE PORRIDGE needs to be too hot (or too cold), for there to even be a third bear. It turns out — according to a recent study in the journal *Conservation Biology* — that for giant pandas, there is such a phenomenon as too much of a good thing. From data collected at the Wolong nature reserve in China coupled with computer modelling, researchers have concluded that some imperfections in their habitat bring benefits when it comes to mating. Gene flow among giant pandas increases as the proportion of the ideal bamboo-rich habitat within a landscape increases but then sees a decline when this figure breaches the 80 per cent mark.

The panda, for long a symbol of endangered species (it's on the logo of the WWF), has seen a resurgence in recent years and has moved up the list to "vulnerable". This is no small feat, considering just how difficult it is to get pandas to mate, particularly in captivity. For example, Ying Ying and Le Le, a panda couple that resides in Ocean Park in Hong Kong zoo, managed to get together only after a decade in 2020, after various efforts from their human handlers. The insights into the ideal habitat for pandas to reproduce will certainly inform future conservation efforts. But for humans, too, there are lessons.

Among the possible reasons for the decline in fertility as habitats get more "ideal" is the fact that too much comfort reduces the drive to survive. And, of course, too much hardship does not allow beings to thrive. It is that fine balance that allows for ambition, for growth, and perhaps even creativity. Like Goldilocks, the lesson the rest of us can learn from the Ursidae is how to get things just right.

Anchoring the Quad



Onus is on US to convince allies it will defend its interests in the Indo-Pacific and elsewhere

RAIIV RHATIA

TWO MEETINGS OF the leaders of a plurilateral grouping within seven months is an exceptional development in world affairs, especially when it involves the US and its three Quad partners — Australia, Japan and India. Why the leaders are meeting again on September 24 and what they hope to achieve are matters of mounting public interest. This first in-person summit is especially significant — set against the backdrop of the Indo-Pacific region grappling with the repercussions of Afghanistan, the growing aggressiveness of China and the formation of AUKUS, a brand-new trilateral security partnership.

The leaders' summit of the Quadrilateral Framework will be hosted by US President Joseph Biden in Washington. It may be of greater substance than the inaugural virtual summit of March 12, because the context of the two summits is significantly different. In March, the Biden administration had just begun its innings; it was struggling to define its China and Indo-Pacific policies, and expectations from the Quad were low.

A substantive joint statement, reinforced by a smart op-ed by the four leaders in *The Washington Post*, drew global attention. Now, three weeks after the chaotic and mismanaged withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, that country's future and regional security issues are bound to dominate the discussions. The onus is on the US to convince its partners that the Afghan experience has strengthened, not weakened, its resolve to defend its — and their — interests in the Indo-Pacific.

The AUKUS — the Australia-UK-US partnership — too will need some serious explaining, particularly to Japan and India, which worry about the emergence of an inner circle (US and Australia) within the Quad, which is now connected to the UK, a non-Quad partner. There are even reports that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson may be visiting Washington around the time of the Quad summit.

Indian experts are divided over the im-

India should be cautiously optimistic about the role and prospects of the Quad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington will be his first major voyage abroad in the Covid era, after his visit to Dhaka in June this year. His advisers expect India's strategic perspective will be fully factored in, considering that it is the only Quad power with land borders with China, and a

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extremism and

pact of AUKUS on the Quad. Some argue that it reduces the Quad's salience, while others maintain that the Quad is strengthened by the new trilateral. However, a sober evaluation suggests that AUKUS will have both positive and negative implications for the Quad; these will become evident after the forthcoming summit.

Another consequential development is the September 16 release of the European Union's Indo-Pacific strategy. A shorter version presented in April has now been given a comprehensive form. It paints the EU and the Indo-Pacific as deeply connected in diverse realms ranging from trade and investment to security and defence. The EU's determination to scale up and diversify cooperation with democratic and likeminded nations could be a boost to the Quad, provided the Europeans are ready to stand up to China's assertive behaviour, violations of international law and norms and increasing use of coercion.

These issues will dominate the headlines in Washington for sure. But the Quad also has to do the necessary and backbreaking work of institutionalising itself, and the fulfilling of past commitments. For instance, the joint vaccine production programme seems to be on track and their distribution first to needy Indo-Pacific countries will begin in early 2022. The working group on emerging and critical technologies too is reporting progress. A principal endeavour is to leverage the Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) to derive benefits of interoperability of the 5G technologies offered by different vendors in the west.

On climate change, the focus of the third working group, some key issues remain unresolved — specifically, India is unable to show "more ambitions" regarding its climate goals, despite two visits to New Delhi this year by John Kerry, the US president's special envoy on climate. But efforts are underway to finalise technology-sharing and other cooperation to meet the challenges of climate change.

An expansion of the agenda is on the cards and will include new areas like infrastructure and connectivity, education, cyber security and maritime security. Hopefully, it will also include cooperation in the Blue Economy, as all the four nations are endowed with immense oceanic resources.

The special attention to infrastructure comes from the US, given its announcement of the "Build Back Better World" (B3W) at the G7 summit last June, but which has yet to become a reality. What the US government will now propose and whether its package will include details such as planning, logistics, new financing and identification of specific projects, will be keenly observed.

With the China challenge now recognised as being both multi-faceted and long-term, the Quad needs to devise a matching strategy. Joint innovative and practical recommendations are worth considering, like 'The Quad Economy & Technology Task Force Report: A Time for Concerted Action,'" crafted by international experts and published by think tank Gateway House in August.

India should be cautiously optimistic about the role and prospects of the Quad. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Washington will be his first major voyage abroad in the Covid era, after his visit to Dhaka in June this year. His advisers expect India's strategic perspective will be fully factored in, considering that it is the only Quad power with land borders with China, and proximity to the serious threat of terrorism, extremism and radicalisation emanating from Afghanistan.

Given India's pivotal position in the Indo-Pacific region, it may be appropriate if the Quad summit in 2022 is hosted by New Delhi. The nation will be fully ready to assume this responsibility.

The writer is Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House. He served as India's envoy to Myanmar, Mexico, Kenya and South Africa



THE POWER OF STORYTELLING

Creativity in India, from India and by India can now go out to the world

REED HASTINGS

THE LAST 19 months of the pandemic have been some of the most difficult of our lives. We all spent more time isolated in our homes than ever before. But we found a universal connection in the remarkable stories we watched. The world rooted for their favourite characters and was transported to a reimagined Regency England, a college campus in Jaipur, the Louvre in Paris, a 1960s chess tournament in Moscow, a karate dojo in Los Angeles and a bank in Spain with people wearing Dali masks.

Stories have always been a source of comfort, joy and community for people around the world. Today the screen reminds us that great stories have the enduring power to unite, inspire and entertain. Storytelling goes to the heart of what it means to be human. When we watch stories, we forge new connections and build a deeper understanding of the world, making us all feel more connected. We have the responsibility of providing choice and control to our members, especially parents, so they can decide what their children watch.

India is home to the finest traditions of storytelling. Home to one of the world's most vibrant entertainment industries, India is remarkably well placed to lead in the era of internet entertainment. Brilliant creators and talent, spread across the country and united in their love for storytelling, are creating shows and films that can be watched by Indians on hundreds of millions of screens, be it a TV or smartphone.

Earlier this year, we joined hands with UNESCO to celebrate India's rich cultural

vision and talent to export its best stories; and with our subtitles and dubs in over 30 languages, more people can now discover even more Indian stories and culture — wherever they live.

It's a huge privilege to be a part of the cre-

heritage through the family favourite ani-

mation, Mighty Little Bheem. India has the

hundreds of Indian films and shows for our members and invested in over 100 Netflix originals, almost all of which have been commissioned by Indian executives who live locally, know the culture and speak the language. It's testament to India's breadth of storytelling that these originals have been filmed in over 25 cities and towns across the country, from Lucknow to Lonavla, Mumbai to Madurai, Gulmarg to Goa, Kolkata to Kochi.

As a part of the growing creative community in India, we understand that telling stories that are made in India and can be watched by the world is a collective experience. These successful stories are born of partnerships with brilliant Indian creators, directors, writers, actors and crew. Our commitment to India is strong and growing. We want to deepen our partnership with Indian creators as they reinvent genres, stretch boundaries, and inspire new ideas. In the last year, we have supported multiple production workshops, and editing courses with the New York Film Academy. We will continue to build and nurture the next generation of creative talent — whether young animators in partnership with GOBELINS L'école de L'image, one of the world's finest animation

schools, or entirely new talent through BAFTA Breakthrough India, an initiative to find 10 new voices across the country.

Inclusion in storytelling is important to us and we are proud that more than half of our films and series in India feature women in central roles. Since last year, we've worked with more than one thousand women creators, talent, and crew on and off the screen in India.

The popularity of Indian stories means that the entertainment industry is an important economic driver for India too. It's why we work so hard to find stories from across India, supporting our creative partners in bringing their visions to life.

Last year when the pandemic hit, we stood with the creative community and committed \$150 million to support the hardest hit workers on our own productions globally — carpenters, electricians, hair and make-up artists. We also helped the broader film and television industry through the creation of over 20 hardship funds in partnership with organisations from around the world, including the Producers Guild of India. It was inspiring to see the creative community of Tamil cinema come together for the nine-film anthology *Navarasa*, sending a message of resilience and solidarity during these tough times that echoed far and wide.

Working together is how we will usher in a new golden age of creativity in India, from India and by India, but that can be enjoyed all around the world.

The writer is founder and Co-CEO of Netflix



SEPTEMBER 23, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

US ON IMF LOANS

Stories have always been a

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community for people

THE US TREASURY Secretary Donald Regan, who favours stricter IMF conditionalities about loans, says that his country still has questions about \$5 million SDR loan to India. In general Regan wants the IMF to be stricter about giving loans. The problems about India, he said, include continuing domestic and international deficits, failure to control the money supply and a general "inability to get their house in order." The Reagan administration's tough attitude towards the World Bank and other lending institutions— also stressed by Regan on Monday—has been known for a long time. It is being further de-

veloped in a detailed study, parts of which have already been leaked presumably.

PUNJAB TENSION

APPEALING FOR COMMUNAL amity in Punjab, the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Tuesday expressed her anguish at attempts to exploit religion for political ends. Describing the Akali Dal charge that a clash of two personalities in the state Congress (I) was responsible for the present tension as absolutely wrong, the Prime Minister told a news conference that the need of the hour was to create a congenial atmosphere. The clash of personalities was an apparent refer-

ence to reported differences between the Union Home Minister, Zail Singh, and the State Chief Minister, Darbara Singh, something the Prime Minister denied vehemently.

GROMYKO'S CHARGES

SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER, Andrei Gromyko, has accused "certain quarters in Western countries" of interfering in Poland's internal affairs and trying to loosen its socialist foundations. But he told the UN General Assembly in a speech that these attempts will be futile. He also lashed out at what he termed hostile, criminal intrigues by the United States against Cuba.

Lucknow

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"Undoubtedly, the shrinking of civic space is a major concern in Bangladesh right now. Freedom of expression and opinion is under severe threat as people's voices are being suppressed using repressive laws such as the DSA."

-THE DAILY STAR

The perfect coalition for America

The Quad fits the Biden administration's inclination towards flexible multilateralism, is consistent with the US president's desire to see democracies deliver and provides a solution to the China problem



Tanvi Madan

ON FRIDAY, THE leaders of Australia, India, Japan, and the United States will meet for the first-ever in-person Quadrilateral ("Quad") summit. A year ago, such a gathering would have been difficult to envision. Until January 2021, Delhi and Tokyo would not even use the word "Quad" in their statements. More significantly, with elections looming in the US, the fate of the Quad was unclear. The Trump administration had helped revive it in 2017, but the Joe Biden campaign had shown little interest in the Quad. Rather than take an Anything-But-Trump attitude, however, President Biden has not just embraced this coalition, but doubled down on it.

So, what explains the Biden administration persisting with the Quad, and even elevating it from the ministerial to the leader level? Utility trumped politics. The coalition fits with the president's desire to see democracies try to deliver, and the administration's broader foreign policy approach emphasising alliances and partnerships — and it helps provide a solution to its China problem.

Biden's embrace of the Quad came early in the administration. Within a month of taking office, the administration hosted a ministerial, and then, a month later, a virtual Quad leaders' summit. This was consistent with the administration's desire to shore up alliances and partnerships, in part to build a "position of strength" from which to approach competitors such as China. As the first multilateral leaders' meeting that Biden hosted, the Quad summit also reflected and stemmed from — the administration's intention to focus on the Indo-Pacific region. In addition, it helped signal that the administration would follow not a China-first approach, but an Indo-Pacific or Asia-first approach from which the China policy would flow. Moreover, like the Trump administration, Biden officials envisioned a significant role for non-ally India in their strategy for the region — and the Quad provided a way to work with India beyond bilateral platforms.

The Quad also fits with the administration's adoption of flexible multilateralism. This flows from a recognition that bilateral alliances and partnerships, as well as regional and international organisations are necessary but insufficient mechanisms to deal with today's challenges. This is where coalitions come in, bringing together allies and partners aligned on certain issues or interests.

In the Indo-Pacific, a crucial interest for the Biden administration is maintaining a rules-based order, one that is being challenged by an assertive China. America's huband-spoke alliance system is critical; ASEAN is important. But they are not enough, and an Asian NATO is impossible. Enter the Quad, which brings together countries that meet the three requirements of ideal coalition membership: They are relevant, resourceful, and ready to work together to tackle the challenges in the Indo Pacific

lenges in the Indo-Pacific. And make no mistake, for the Biden ad-



ministration (and the other members), this challenge is significantly about China. The Quad leaders don't mention the C word explicitly in their statements. Yet that country's assertiveness in recent years is what has made the Quad both necessary and possible. Necessary because the challenges China has generated in the Indo-Pacific are acute and cannot be tackled alone. And possible because Beijing's assertiveness - particularly vis-à-vis the Quad members themselves has created the market for collaboration between these like-minded states who share concerns about Beijing's behaviour. This behaviour has also helped strengthen the four countries' bilateral and trilateral ties on which the Quad is built. And intensifying competition with China has contributed to the Biden administration overcoming any reluctance it might have had to embracing

Nonetheless, the Biden administration and the other three governments have reframed the conversation around the Quad away from the Trump administration's more explicit China framing. They have highlighted the Quad's origins in the four countries' collective response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which led to the short-lived Quad 1.0 in 2007. And the first major collaborative initiative of Quad 2.0 involves providing 1 billion Covid vaccine doses in the Indo-Pacific by 2022.

The first helps highlight the Quad's regional and organic origins. The second conveys a message that is more welcome in

In the Indo-Pacific, a crucial interest for the Biden administration is maintaining a rules-based order, one that is being challenged by an assertive China. America's hub and spoke alliance system is critical; ASEAN is important. But they are not enough, and an Asian NATO is impossible. Enter the Quad, which brings together countries that meet the three requirements of ideal

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Asia — that the grouping is not against something (that is China) but for something (offering solutions to regional problems and preserving a rules-based order). And both help counter Chinese talking points that either dismiss the Quad as useless or accuse it of being a US-imposed, exclusive, anti-China security alliance that will destabilise the region.

That's not to say the Quad in the Biden era lacks a security dimension. The four navies and their special forces are indeed in the middle of conducting a military exercise. And the agenda at the summit will likely include a discussion on the state of the China challenge, maritime security cooperation, and critical and emerging technology collaboration. But it will also include combating Covid and climate change, enhancing regional connectivity, and fuelling innovation. It's not that the countries won't discuss building a balancing coalition in the region privately, but, publicly, they're more likely to talk about building resilience in the region.

Given the month he's had with the fallout from the Afghanistan withdrawal and the AUKUS rollout, President Biden will also want to emphasise America's resilience and that reports of its decline are greatly exaggerated. And his Quad partners have traveled from afar to convey their belief or at least their hope — that, that is indeed

The writer is director of the India Project at the Brookings Institution in Washington DC

Reading Golwalkar and Savarkar

A syllabus has an educational objective. Censoring it under any pretext is unacceptable



Apoorvanand

KANNUR UNIVERSITY has reportedly decided to drop the writings of V D Savarkar and M S Golwalkar from its master of arts course on Governance and Politics. The university had included portions from Golwalkar's books, including Bunch of Thoughts, and Savarkar's Hindutva: Who is a Hindu? in the syllabus of PG Governance and Politics. This course is taught only in Brennen College, under Kannur University, so the syllabus was prepared by the faculty of the Brennan College, which is how it should be.

After opposition by the student wing of the Congress and the IUML, the CPM's student wing SFI, which was earlier silent on the issue, found the readings unacceptable. The student outfits of the opposition parties agitated, alleging that the university was saffronising the syllabus by including these two ideologues of Hindutva.

The state government led by the CPM sought an explanation from the university. Vice-Chancellor Gopinath Ravindran rejected the charges, saying: "The saffronisation allegation is completely baseless. If you raise such allegations against Kannur University, you can raise similar charges against Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi also. V D Savarkar is included in the syllabus of JNU also."

This is not a very sound argument. JNU cannot be a benchmark for all academic decisions. They should stand on their own merit. The VC was right to an extent when he said that the syllabus should have representation from all ideologies to allow students to study them critically with a comparative mind.

But a syllabus cannot fight politics. So, the VC had to form an external expert committee, which has apparently suggested that it be removed from the third semester.

This controversy reminded me of an unrelated incident. Approximately 15 years ago, when the UPA was in power and DU was looking for a new VC, I bumped into a leader of a communist party. She informed me that she had managed to stop a problematic academic from being considered for the post. How can a scholar who had made Savarkar part of the syllabus be allowed to head DU, she saked. I was dumbstruck. That having Savarkar in the PG course of political science would pollute the minds of the students was an absurd idea.

Hindutva is a political reality of our times and we need to understand how it works intellectually. Savarkar and Golwalkar are the most significant proponents of this ideology. Without reading them, how can you have an idea of this project which has overrun India and is attractive to many minds?

A syllabus is not a set of propaganda material. When we include readings of different kinds, we expect them to be read and examined critically from all angles. Obviously, you do not compromise with some fundamental values. Genocide or racial supremacy cannot be treated as valid viewpoints. But we do need to understand how genocidal ideas turn into common sense. For that, we would need to study those who successfully drove their masses towards such an ideology. How do you understand fascism if you do not read Mussolini or *Mein Kampf*?

But we fight our syllabus battles in a very unacademic manner. It remains all about representation, be it historical figures or writers. We never look at the making of a syllabus from the pedagogical angle. In his essay, 'Education after Auschwitz', Theodore Adorno said that the primary task before education today is to not let another Auschwitz happen. How can you achieve this if you do not understand how people willingly became complicit in the crime and how others found it acceptable? Also, why did many people not think it their business to be bothered about it?

It would be instructive to look at the debate in Germany on the teaching of *Mein Kampf* in schools. After the expiry of the book's copyright, its publication became possible. The German teachers' union and Social-Democratic Party (SPD) asked for extracts from the book to be included in the school curriculum as a means of teaching students about the roots of racism and modern anti-Semitism in Germany.

It was argued that it was important to historically unmask this anti-Semitic, dehumanising polemical pamphlet. It could be done by explaining the propaganda mechanism with the help of appropriately qualified teachers.

The reference to Mein Kampf evokes strong emotions and the concerns of the Jews cannot be ignored. But by not critically analysing "this antithesis of humanity, freedom and openness to the world", you leave it open to be read only as propaganda.

The VC of the Kannur University should have engaged the critics in a discussion on these lines, as to how we deal with an antihuman text to build society's resistance to the temptation of such a monstrous ideology. It is not a question of doing a balancing act by having the texts of all ideologies together without any educational objective. In a country like India, where Islamophobia is ruining national life, the task of education is to make young minds aware of the theoretical underpinnings of this disease. It is all the more important as followers of Savarkar and Golwalkar do not want their writings to be discussed critically. The RSS wants to whitewash Golwalkar to hide his real intent. The task before the scholarship is to present him in his entirety to make the students see what his ideology is.

While discussing syllabi and readings, we need to treat our teachers and students as intelligent, responsible beings. The teacher does not merely transfer something cooked and the student is not an inert recipient. This is what the VC of Kannur University should have conveyed to the government. And the government should not have interfered in the academic decision-making process of the university.

The writer teaches at Delhi University



Citizens without a country

Indo-Pacific.

Judiciary must re-examine how it has viewed citizenship question in Assam

Aman Wadud

EARLIER THIS month, a division bench of the Gauhati High Court stated in an order: " ... citizenship, being an important right of a person, ordinarily, should be decided based on merit by considering the material evidences that may be adduced by the person concerned and not by way of default as happened in the present case." The court was hearing the case of Asor Uddin, who was declared to be a "foreigner" by a Foreigners Tribunal through an ex parte order — in absentia. Ordinarily, this should not be big news — citizenship is indeed an important right, in fact, the most important right because it is the right to have other rights. But that's not how the pillars of Indian democracy have treated citizenship. In Assam, any person, including decorated army officers, can be accused of being a "non-citizen". Hence, this observation feels like a breath of

The Ministry of Home Affairs revealed in Parliament that from 1985 to February 28, 2019, 63,959 people have been declared "foreigners" through ex parte orders by the Foreigners Tribunal in Assam — 62 per cent of the total people declared as "foreigners" in the state.

In a criminal case, however serious the charges might be, the trial doesn't proceed without hearing the accused. But a person can be stripped of his citizenship in absentia — courtesy, the draconian pre-constitutional Foreigners Act of 1946. If a person sent notice by the tribunal fails to appear before

it to prove their citizenship, he is declared a "foreigner' through an ex parte order. The failure to appear could be driven by several factors — most commonly not receiving the notice, failure to afford legal representation and late issuance of a copy of documents by the executive.

The Foreigners Act's roots lie in the Foreigners Ordinance, which was promulgated in 1939 to meet the emergency created by the Second World War. The Foreigners Act, 1940, replaced the ordinance — this was wartime legislation. Section 7 of the 1940 Act vested the burden of proof upon the foreigner. The Foreigners Act, 1946, repealed the 1940 Act. The burden of proof remained the same. Thus, a legislation which took birth during the Second World War is now being applied to vulnerable citizens — mostly poor farmers, daily wagers, destitute women, and widows. Moinal Mollah and Jabbar Ali were also declared "foreigners" through ex parte orders. Mollah spent almost three years in detention before getting released, he is now an Indian citizen. Jabbar died in detention as a "foreigner".

The Foreigners Act was never meant to deal with persons who are considered citizens at one point in time. Section 2(a) of the 1946 Act defines "foreigner" as a person who is not a citizen of India. But almost every person tried by the foreigners' tribunals in Assam was an Indian citizen, before being accused of being an "illegal migrant" and

"doubtful voter or D-voter" by the Assam Border Police and the Election Commission respectively. Both these exercises violate the fundamental right to a fair investigation.

The "burden of proof" has been validated by the Supreme Court in the Sarbananda Sonowal case. Sonowal challenged the Illegal Migration (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983, (henceforth IMDT), before the SC. IMDT emphasised procedural fairness, it had an appellate platform to ensure a fair trial, unlike the Foreigners Act, and the burden of proof was on the state. But the apex court found these procedures "extremely difficult, cumbersome and time-consuming" and held IMDT unconstitutional.

There is no end to where subsequent events proved Sonowal wrong. K K Venugopal argued for the state of Assam in favour of IMDT stating that as mandated in Article 21, no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law and that there has to be a fair procedure for expulsion of foreigners. The Bench rejected this argument by stating that, "This principle can have no application here for the obvious reason that in the matter of identification of a foreigner and his deportation, he is not being deprived of his life or personal liberty." This is despite the fact that the Foreigners Act has provisions for detention and restriction of movements. Assam started detaining "declared foreigners" since 2010 to deport to the "country of origin" but the failure to deport created a situation of indefinite detention

situation of indefinite detention. The SC on multiple occasions in the Sonowal judgment has stated that there are "millions of illegal Bangladeshi nationals in Assam". The court came to this conclusion largely based on a 1998 report by former Assam Governor S K Sinha. The report was not based on any scientific and empirical data, but was apparently prepared after inspection of border areas and districts, discussion with the Indian Ambassador in Bangladesh, and talks with political leaders yes, political leaders. The judgment extensively quotes from the report, including the prediction that the demand for a merger of the Muslim-dominated districts of Assam with Bangladesh is just a matter of time after 23 years of the Sinha report, that time

is yet to come.
A search in the legal database Manupatra shows that the *Sonowal* judgment has been quoted 212 times by high courts across the country and seven times by the Supreme Court: *Sonowal* has become the jurisprudence of citizenship. If citizenship is an important right, as rightly stated by the Gauhati High Court, the *Sonowal* judgment should cease to be the touchstone to adjudicate citizenship cases.

The writer is advocate, Gauhati High Court, co-founder, Justice and Liberty Initiative and Fulbright Fellow at the University of Texas School of Law

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SHARE THE BLAME

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Slipping on ground' (IE, September 22). The internal report of the CRPF that highlighted the issue of leadership at the operational level must be appraised at the home ministry, as this concerns the internal security of the country. But the entire culpability of this fall in the quality of operations in LWE-affected areas mustn't fall on the shoulders of the directly recruited CAPF cadet officers — a part of the responsibility has to be shared by the elite IPS officers who lead these forces at the higher rungs on the ladder. The entire purpose of having IPS officers in CAPF is to bring in better coordination between different security and intelligence agencies, and civilian departments. Performance deficit at the higher levels too affects the field operation

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

PAPER ALLIANCE

on ground.

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Limits of Bhaichara politics' (IE, September 22). BSP supremo Mayawati's move to repeat the success of the erstwhile Dalit-Brahmin social association formed for the UP assembly elections in 2007 for 2022 may not succeed because of the changed scenario in two respects. First, a social alliance is not a makeshift proposition. It needs uninterrupted nourishing, but Mayawati has conveniently forgotten this in her search for new allies. Secondly, now the Brahmins do not like to cling to Mayawati's apron strings

when its natural patron BJP is catering to them through various laws and schemes. **Tarsem Singh,** *Mahilpur*

WATER QUESTION

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Eyes on the prize: Four schemes in one, from tanks to taps' (IE, September 22). Bihar's flagship initiative started in 2015 to provide tap water to poor, Har Ghar Nal Ka Jal, is a cluster of four state schemes. The goal of easy access to clean drinking water with the larger aim of improving public health seems betrayed by NFHS-5 (2019-2020) report showing highest rural (12.6 per cent) and urban (13.9 per cent) prevalence of diarrheal disease in children under five years of age. The irregularities in implementing the schemes brought out by The Indian Express investigation seem to have a bearing on the quality of water supplied. LR Murmu, Delhi

POLITICAL POLICE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'A citizen's police' (IE, September 22). The why and how of police reforms have been studied by several commissions and committees, even before the Supreme Court's directions of 2006. Yet, even as the state and political class continue to advise the police to serve fairly and fearlessly, they have tightened their iron grip with the result that the police force is now ready to crawl to political pressure enthusiastically, a few exceptions apart.

Y G Chouksey, Pune

10 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

TRUMP SUES NEICE, NYT OVER TAX PAPERS

Donald Trump has filed a lawsuit accusing his neice Mary L Trump, The New York Times and three of its reporters of conspiring in an "insidious plot" to improperly obtain his confidential tax records and exploit their use in news articles and a book. That action, according to the lawsuit, breached a confidentiality agreement that was part of the settlement of litigation involving the will of the former US president's father, Fred C Trump.



bullet holes in the aide's car. Reuters

UKRAINE

President's aide targeted in

assassination bid

Kyiv: A volley of automatic gunfire hit a car carrying a senior aide to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on Wednesday, an incident a senior official called an assassination attempt Zelenskiy said may have been a message intended for him. The aide, Serhiy Shefir, survived unscathed

said he did not know for

now who was responsible

for the attack. REUTERS

Former military

Cairo: Field Marshal

Hussein Tantawi, the for-

mer head of the military

council that ruled Egypt temporarily after its 2011

popular uprising, has died at the age of 85, Egypt's

presidency said on

Tuesday, declaring three

days of national mourn-

ing. Tantawi – a deco-

rated veteran of wars

against Israel in 1956.

1967 and 1973 — was de-

fence minister for 21

years, covering most of

the long presidency of

Hosni Mubarak. He led

the Supreme Council of

the Armed Forces (SCAF)

that ruled Egypt for a year-

and-a-half after Mubarak

was pushed from power

in February 2011 during

the Arab Spring protest

REUTERS

movement.

SRI LANKA

Govt probes

minister over

prisoner threat

Colombo: Sri Lankan police

are investigating an inci-

dent in which the govern-

ment prisons minister al-

legedly threatened to kill

two ethnic minority de-

tainees inside a prison, an

official said Wednesday.

Lohan Ratwatte, state min-

Prisoners' Rehabilitation.

resigned last week follow-

ing a public outcry after he

was accused of threatening

to kill two Tamil prisoners.

He was also accused of

forcibly entering another

prison with his friends to

show them the gallows. Government spokesman

Dullas Alahapperuma said

a police investigation is un-

Library devoted to

Murakami to open

Tokyo: A library devoted to

Japanese novelist Haruki

Murakami's writings,

scrapbooks and record col-

lection opens on October 1

in Tokyo as a spot for liter-

ary research, cultural ex-

change and a gathering

spot for his fans. The Haruki Murakami library at

Waseda University, his alma mater, features a

replica of his study with

rows of bookshelves and a

record player, as well as a

cafe run by students that

serves his favorite dark

roast coffee.

derway.

JAPAN

in Tokyo

ister

Management

Prison

and

ruler Tantawi dies at 85

EGYPT

but police said his driver had been wounded after more than 10 bullets hit the car near the village of Lesnyky, just outside the capital Kyiv. Zelenskiy, who is in New York for the U.N. General Assembly,

Farhan Haq, the Deputy Spokesman for the Secretary-General, told PTI that the letter also indicates that as of August 15, 2021, "Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is ousted and (countries across the world) no longer

The Taliban letter further in-

TOPOFTHE Taliban write to UN chief, ask for participation at General Assembly

Special envoys of China, Russia, Pak hold talks with top Taliban officials, Karzai, Abdullah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA UNITED NATIONS, BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 22

THE TALIBAN have written to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominating their spokesman Suhail Shaheen as Afghanistan's new ambassador to the UN and have asked to participate and speak in the highlevel 76th session of the General Assembly currently underway.

The nomination sets up a confrontation between the Taliban and Afghanistan's fallen government envoy, Gram Isakuzai, who has held his post so far.

On September 20, on the eve of the commencement of the high-level UN General Debate, the Secretary-General received a communication with the letterhead 'Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs' dated September 20, 2021, signed by 'Ameer Khan Muttaqi' as 'Minister of Foreign Affairs'.

In the letter, the Taliban requested to participate in the "76th session of the UN General Assembly on September 21-27."

recognise him as president".





Taliban acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi; (right) Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen. Reuters, file

dicates that the mission of the Permanent Representative is considered over and that Isaczai no longer represents Afghanistan.

Haq said that on September 15, the Secretary-General had received a communication from Isaczai, containing the list of dele $gation\,of\,Afghan is tan\,for\,the\,76th$ session of the General Assembly.

These two communications have been sent by the UN Secretariat to the Credentials Committee, which will decide who represents Kabul at the UN. Meanwhile, special envoys of

China, Russia and Pakistan met the top officials of the Taliban's interim government as well as Afghan leaders Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah in Kabul, a top Chinese official said on Wednesday.

The three special envoys visited Kabul from September 21 to 22 and held talks with acting Prime Minister Mohammad Hasan Akhund, acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi and other high-level officials of the interim government, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said.

They also met former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, president of the Council for National Reconciliation under the previous government.

This is perhaps the first time that the foreign diplomats met Karzai and Abdullah, who stayed put in Kabul after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan last month ahead of the withdrawal of the US and NATO troops.

Besides coordinating closely with Russia on Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, who are playing a lead role after the Taliban seized Kabul, are trying to establish a new grouping of countries sharing borders with Afghanistan.

The new grouping includes China, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.



Taliban fighters patrol the streets of Kabul on Tuesday. AP

Attackers strike Taliban in Jalalabad, 5 killed

ASSOCIATED PRESS KABUL, SEPTEMBER 22

ATTACKERS STRUCK Taliban vehicles in an eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, witnesses said, killing at least two fighters and three civilians in the latest violence since the group's takeover of the country in mid-August.

In one attack, gunmen opened fire on a Taliban vehicle at a gas station in Jalalabad, killing two fighters and a gas station attendant, witnesses said. A child was also killed, they added. Another child was killed and

two Taliban were wounded in a separate attack — a bombing of another vehicle. Another bombing of a Taliban vehicle in Jalalabad also wounded a person nearby, although it was unclear if that person was a Taliban official or not.

The witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of No one claimed immediate

responsibility for Wednesday's attacks, although the Islamic State group, which is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan, took responsibility for similar attacks in Jalalabad last week that

SUBMARINE DEAL FALLOUT

Australia says trade pact would benefit **EU in Indo-Pacific**

COLIN PACKHAM

CANBERRA, SEPTEMBER 22

AN AUSTRALIAN-EU trade deal would be mutually beneficial and allow EU members a greater presence in the Indo-Pacific, said Australia's trade minister, as Canberra tries to repair ties with Paris after the scrapping of a \$40 billion submarine deal.

Australia last week cancelled a deal with France's Naval Group to build a fleet of conventional submarines and will instead build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with US and British technology after striking a trilateral security partnership with those two countries.

 $The \, cancellation \, has \, angered \,$ France, which accused both Australia and the United States of stabbing it in the back, and it recalled its ambassadors from both Canberra and Washington.

In solidarity with France, EU lawmakers have publicly questioned whether a trade deal with Australia could be possible.

Australia's Minister for Trade Dan Tehan on Wednesday urged the EU to progress ahead with a trade deal. "The Australia-EUFTA is in the best interests of all parties," Tehan said in a speech in Canberra. "The EU will use it as a way to strengthen its engagement with the Indo-Pacific because they realise that the region carries the economic weight of the world."



French President Emmanuel Macron with his US counterpart Joe Biden. File

France's envoy to return to US after Macron, Biden talks

Paris: France will send its ambassador back to Washington next week after French President Emmanuel Macron's phone call with President Joe Biden over a submarine dispute, the Elysee and the White House said Wednesday.

Both heads of state "have decided to open a process of indepth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence," the Elysee and the White House said in a ioint statement. Biden and Macron agreed "that the situation would have benefitted from open consultations among allies on matters of strategic interest to France and our European partners." the statement said.

Carlos the Jackal seeks to reduce life sentence for deadly 1974 grenade attack

REUTERS PARIS, SEPTEMBER 22

CARLOS THE lackal, the leftist militant who carried out attacks across the globe in the 1970s and 1980s, opened a bid in a French court on Wednesday to reduce the life sentence he had been given for a deadly grenade attack

The self-declared "professional

revolutionary",

name is Ilich

Sanchez, has

been behind

bars in France

since he was

captured and

spirited out of

Sudan

real

whose

Ramirez

on a Paris shop in 1974.

Ilich Ramirez Sanchez

French special forces in 1994.

He was found guilty in 2017 over a grenade attack in 1974 on a shop on Paris's Champs Elysees, the Drugstore Publicis, that killed two people and injured 36. The appeal that started on

Wednesday will not seek to overturn that conviction but will only concern how many years he should be jailed for, after the country's top court struck down the latest ruling over technicalities and sent it back to the lower court. The decision is expected on Friday.

Ramirez, who was born in Venezuela and is now aged 71, is already serving two other life terms and has lost appeals against them.

Biden calls on global partners to 'go big' in world's Covid response Covid-19 and solving a global

SHERYL GAY STOLBERG NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22

DECLARING "WE need to go big," President Joe Biden on Wednesday called on other world leaders, pharmaceutical executives, philanthropists and civil society organizations to band together to forge a global consensus around a plan to fight the coronavirus crisis.

Speaking at the opening of a virtual Covid-19 summit he is convening in conjunction with the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, Biden cited two especially urgent challenges: vaccinating the world against oxygen crisis. "We're not going to solve this crisis with half measures or middle of the road ambitions - we need to go big," the president said, adding, "It's an all-hands-on-deck crisis.' But it may be hard to turn Mr.

Biden's words into reality. Worldwide, 79 percent of shots that have been administered have been in high- and upper-middleincome countries, according to the Our World in Data project at the University of Oxford. Around the world, more than 4.5 million people have died of Covid-19 – a "global tragedy," Mr. Biden said.

White House officials have said that Mr. Biden's message to

the group will be that the United States cannot fight the pandemic, or address the global vaccine shortage, on its own. Earlier Wednesday, Pfizer-BioNTech announced that it had struck a deal with the Biden administration to sell the US an additional 500 million doses of its vaccine to be donated to nations that need them.

Mr. Biden heralded the deal, saying it would bring to 1.1 billion the total number of doses his administration has purchased for donation. "Put another way, for every one shot we've administered to pay in America, we have now committed to do three shots to the rest



Melbourne Protests Covid Curbs

Protesters rally against Covid mandates in Melbourne, Australia. Police arrested more than 200 people after projectiles thrown by protesters injured two officers on Wednesday - the third consecutive day of demonstrations against Covid curbs in the city. Reuters

Pressure on Biden as some Haitians at US border released, others deported

DAINA BETH SOLOMON CIUDAD ACUNA (MEXICO), SEPTEMBER 22

AMID DETERIORATING conditions in migrant camps on both sides of the US-Mexico border, US authorities on Wednesday tried to deal with thousands of the mostly Haitian migrants that have gathered, releasing some in south Texas while deporting others on flights.

The US government said it was continuing to fly hundreds of people back to Haiti, which has been hit by recent political turmoil and natural disasters.

It has been trying to clear the encampment under the international bridge in Del Rio. Authorities have moved thousands away for immigration processing and deported more than 500 Haitians since Sunday.

A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spokesperson said those who cannot be expelled under a sweeping public



US border agents attempt to contain migrants crossing into Texas from Mexico on Sunday, AP

health order will be placed in immigration hearings, without specifying who would qualify for those exemptions.

US. oliticians from both parties have criticized Biden's handling of the situation. Republicans have said the Bider administration has encouraged illegal immigration by relaxing some of the hardline policies put in place by his predecessor. Democrats have expressed

anger over an incident over the

weekend in which mounted US border agents used reins like whips to intimidate migrants trying to cross the border. DHS Secretary Alejandro

Mayorkas said the agents involved had been pulled from front-line duties.

UK: 3 Sikhs held for death of RSS man discharged

discharged three British Sikhs arrested in Britain on suspicion of 'conspiracy to a murder" in India 12 years ago, with India's appeal to extradite them dismissed due to insufficient evidence.

London: A UK court Wednesday

The arrests of Piara Singh Gill, Amritivir Singh Wahiwala and Gursharanvir Singh Wahiwala followed early morning raids on Indian extradition warrants executed by the West Midlands Police in December last year.

They were held in connection with the 2009 murder of Rulda Singh, a senior RSS member who was shot in Patiala and died a week after the attack.

"The accused have been discharged," said the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which appears in court on behalf of the Indian authorities.

Will maintain friendly, balanced relations with India, China: new Nepal FM

SHIRISH B PRADHAN KATHMANDU, SEPTEMBER 22

NEPAL'S NEWLY-APPOINTED Foreign Minister Narayan Khadka said on Wednesday that he will work towards maintaining friendly and balanced relations with India and China and forge national consensus with political parties on the matters of foreign relations.

Khadka, 72, was sworn in as the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Wednesday. President Bidya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to Khadka in a ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Shital Niwas, in the presence of Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

Talking to reporters after assuming office, Khadka said he will work towards ensuring extremely friendly, amicable, and balanced relations with both the immediate neighbours - India and China.

Arguing that the foreign policy of a country is not specific to

any one particular political party, the senior Nepali Congress leader said he will work toward forging national consensus with other political parties on the matters of foreign relations, My Republica website reported. PTI Lucknow

Ravaged by war, Syrian rebel area struggles with virus surge be worse in Idlib, though it's hard Tens of thousands of its residents

ASSEM MROUE

BEIRUT, SEPTEMBER 22

CORONAVIRUS CASES are surging to the worst levels of the pandemic in a rebel stronghold in Syria — a particularly devastating development in a region where scores of hospitals have been bombed and that doctors and nurses have fled in droves during a decade of war.

The total number of cases seen in Idlib province — an overcrowded enclave with a population of 4 million, many of them internally displaced - has more than doubled since the beginning of August to more than 61.000. In recent weeks, daily new infections have repeatedly shot past 1,500, and authorities reported 34 deaths on Sunday alone - figures that are still believed to be undercounts because many infected people don't report to authorities.

The situation has become so dire in the northwestern province that rescue workers known as the White Helmets who became famous for digging through the rubble of bombings to find victims now mostly ferry coronavirus patients to the hospital or the dead to burials.

"What is happening is a medical catastrophe," the Idlib Doctors Syndicate said this week as it issued a plea for support from international aid groups.

Idlib faces all the challenges that places the world over have during the pandemic: Its intensive care units are largely full. there are severe shortages of oxygen and tests, and the vaccination rollout has been slow. But extreme poverty and the



Nurses treat Covid patients in the ICU at the Syrian American Medical Society Hospital in Idlib. AP

ravages of Syria's civil war have made the situation in Idlib uniquely terrible. Half of its hospitals and health centers have been damaged by bombing, and the

health system was close to collapse even before the pandemic. A large number of medical personnel have fled the country seeking safety and opportunities abroad. ening to make matters worse. Large parts of Idlib and neighboring Aleppo province remain in the hands of Syria's armed opposition, dominated by radical groups including al-Qaida-affiliated militants who have struggled to respond to the

outbreak, which intensified in August, apparently driven by the more contagious delta variant and gatherings for the Muslim feast of Eid al-Adha Cases and deaths have also

been increasing in recent weeks in government-held areas and those under the control of USbacked Kurdish-led fighters in the east, but the situation appears to

live in crowded tent settlements, to measure the true toll anywhere. where social distancing and even In response, the political arm regular hand-washing are all but of the insurgent group that runs impossible. And increasing vio-Idlib has closed some markets. lence in the region is now threatforced restaurants to serve outdoor meals only, and delayed the opening of schools by a week.

But most residents are daily laborers who could not survive if they stopped working, making full lockdowns impossible.

What's more, a population that has suffered through so much already is often too weary to follow restrictions that have tested people even in easier circumstances.

"It is as if people have gotten used to death," said Salwa Abdul-Rahman, an opposition activist who reports on events in Idlib. "Those not killed by regime and Russian airstrikes are being killed now by coronavirus."

ECONOMY

₹59,608

SENSEX: 58,927.33 ▼ 77.94 (0.13%) NIFTY: 17,546.65 ▼ 15.35 (0.09%) NIKKEI: 29,639.40 ▼ 200.31 HANG SENG: 24,221.54 ▲ 122.40 FTSE: 7,071.75 ▲ 90.77 DAX: 15,456.67 ▲ 108.14

CORPORATE WATCH -BOARDROOM

IDFC shareholders reject nomination of Rai as director

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

SHAREHOLDERS OF IDFC Ltd have rejected the nomination of Vinod Rai, who is currently chairman of the company, as a director on the board of IDFC.

According to an exchange filing, 62.28 per cent votes from shareholders were against his nomination as director till May 22, 2023. Only 37.71 per cent votes of shareholders came in favour of Rai, who was earlier Comptroller and Auditor General of India. His name was proposed for the position of non-executive and non-independent director on the IDFC board.

The ordinary resolution needs 50 per cent for its passage. Meanwhile, shareholders voted in favour for the nomination of Jamini Bhagwati and Anil Singhvi as Directors on the IDFC board.

IDFC shares closed 2.02 per cent higher at Rs 55.65 per share on the BSE.

Vinod Rai has wide expe-

62% VOTES AGAINST



According to an exchange filing, 62.28 per cent votes from shareholders were against Vinod Rai's nomination as director till May 22, 2023. Only 37.71 per cent votes of shareholders came in favour of Rai.

rience of working in various capacities at both the Central and State governments. His previous position was as Secretary in the Ministry of Finance in Delhi where he was responsible for managing the financial services sector, including banks and insurance companies.

Vi MD Ravinder Takkar. File

new round of fundraising that the

confident about the fundraising

given all the scenarios that we

they (the promoters) will partici-

pate, what they participate in and

what their intent is, is a question

they have to answer. Certain as a

company I think we are in a much

better position to raise additional

funding required by us to continue

to be more competitive in the mar-

ket," he said. The company's MD,

however, did not specify if the new

investments would be from a

clutch of different investors or if

the company was looking to bring

www.indianexpress.com

Full report on

in a new partner on board.

"As a company we feel very

company is doing, Takkar said.

ENTITY TO ALMOST DRAW LEVEL WITH SECTOR LEADER STAR INDIA IN TERMS OF REVENUE

Sony enters as 'white knight', to get 52.9% stake post merger with ZEEL

GEORGE MATHEW & PRANAV MUKUL

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI, SEPT 22

PAVING THE way for the creation of a media giant, Sony Pictures Networks India (SPNI) and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL)Wednesdayenteredintoan exclusive and non-binding agreement to merge the two companies.

The merged entity will almost draw level with sector leader Star India in terms of revenues and will potentially derive synergies from the varied presence of both ZEEL and SPNI. While ZEEL has a larger network viewership share than Sony, it derives most of its strength from regional general entertainment channels (GEC) and movies, whereas Sony has a stronger foothold in Hindi GEC and sports segments. The move is also aimed at scuttling the plan of Invesco Developing Markets Fund, a key

investor, to take control of ZEEL. SPNI had been on a lookout for a local partner in India to challenge the Star India leadership, and had also been in discussions with RILowned Viacom 18 for a potential merger, but talks were called off last year after the firms couldn't agree on points such as valuation and some merger clauses.

2020, Star India had reported revenues of Rs 14,337.46 crore, while ZEEL reported consolidated revenue from operations of Rs 8,129.86 crore, and SPNI reported a top line of Rs 5,961.10 crore.

With the ZEEL partnership, Sony could also see some of the gaps, particularly in its bouquet of entertainment channels that have largely depended on seasonal productions, being filled. In the digital video streaming segment too, a possible combination of ZEE5 and SonyLiv could challenge Disney+Hotstar for the third position in viewership share after Amazon Prime Video and Netflix. While Sony India, which has

emerged as a white knight for ZEEL promoters, would hold a majority 52.93 per cent stake in the combined company, ZEEL shareholders would hold the balance 47.07 per cent, Current ZEEL managing director & CEO Punit Goenka will continue in the position for another five years as Sony has agreed on his continuance in the top position. The combined company's board of directors would include directors nominated by Sony Group, with the latter having the right to nominate the majority of board members. Under the terms of the agreement, Sony Pictures

Power tussle

THE MERGER proposal comes a week after Invesco, the largest shareholder of ZEEL, sought an extraordinary general meeting of ZEEL for the removal of Punit Goenka and appointment of six directors. The tussle in the ZEEL boardroom is likely to continue if Invesco pushes to oust Goenka and bring in its six directors at the EGM.

Entertainment, the parent company of SPNI, would invest growth capital so that SPNI has a cash balance of around \$1.575 billion at closing for use to enhance the combined company's digital platforms across technology and content, ability to bid for broadcasting rights in the fast-growing sports landscape and pursue other growth opportunities.

ZEEL shares jumped 31.86 per cent to Rs 337.10 on the BSE after

the merger announcement. The non-binding term sheet

period of 90 days during which ZEEL and SPNI will conduct mutual diligence and negotiate definitive, binding agreements. "The merger of ZEEL and SPNI

would bring together two leading Indian media network businesses, benefitting consumers throughout India across content genres. from film to sports," the firms said. "It is anticipated that a final

transaction would be subject to completion of customary due diligence, negotiation, and execution of definitive binding agreements, and required corporate, regulatory and third-party approvals, including ZEEL shareholder vote," the statement said.

Two independent directors of ZEEL, Ashok Kurien and Manish Chokhani, resigned from the board of the company last week ahead of the company's AGM. Invesco and OFI Global — the largest shareholders of ZEEL — have proposed the appointment of six of its own nominees on the board of Zee. The proposed directors are: Surendra Singh Sirohi, Naina Krishna Murthy, Rohan Dhamija, Aruna Sharma, Srinivasa Rao Addepalli and Gauray Mehta.

The exit of the directors and removal of the MD have come after proxy advisory firm Institutional

REUTERS

raised serious corporate governance concerns in the company by asking shareholders not to vote for re-appointing the two directors on the company's board at the AGM.

"Zee promoters' stake would

stay at 4 per cent (same as current) if they agree for non-compete agreement, they have the option to increase stake up to 20 per cent over a period of time. Effectively, Punit finds a white knight to salvage himself from being forced to move out," said Ashwin Patil, sr. research analyst (media), LKP Securities. "After the merger talks of Sony Entertainment with Viacom 18 dropping, this consolidation will add synergies to the existing portfolio of both the entities, especially in the verticals of Sports and OTT," said Vivek Menon, cofounder of NV Capital, Further ZEE would also have access to Sony's international catalogue to exploit and monetise

"The corporate governance overhang of ZEE Entertainment should also fade away with this merger and enhance investor confidence. The combined entity will be in a superior position to compete with Disney more effec-

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'soon,' signals US Fed Reserve

Rate hike shifts to 2022; current target steady at 0-0.25%

Bond-buying taper coming

'Freedom from bureaucracy': Goyal launches single window for biz approvals

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

COMMERCE MINISTER Piyush Goyal on Wednesday announced the soft launch of a National Single Window System for approvals, adding the government is looking to remove irrelevant compliances to improve ease of doing business.

The portal is currently set up to provide relevant approvals from 18 Central government departments and 9 states, with another 14 departments and 5 states set to add their compliances to the portal by the end of December. The portal offers a single dashboard, allowing businesses to apply for clearances, track progress and respond to queries. "This is freedom from bureaucracy and from windows within windows," said the Minister, adding "nobody wants to be a detriment to doing business."

Goyal said the portal would become a "one stop shop" for state and Central government compliances and bring transparency, accountability and responsiveness in the ecosystem. The portal will also offer a Know Your Approvals service to inform businesses of the details of all the approvals they need to obtain as well as a common registration form, document repository and e-communication module.

Telecom package opens door for new investments: Vi MD

AASHISHARYAN

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

VODAFONE IDEA (Vi), which has been trying to raise some funds for some time now, has seen renewed interest from investors following the reforms announced by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the company's MD, Ravinder Takkar, said.

"For us, it (telecom package) opens the door for new investments. We have been in the process of fundraising for a while. to the investments in India and in the telecom sector even though they liked the sector and they liked the country. Those fears have now been removed. We think there is an opportunity for additional fund raising," Takkar said in his first media interaction following the announcement of the telecom reforms package.

The promoters, Vodafone Plc and the Aditya Birla group, who have in the past said that they would not be investing more funds into the company, will also have the option to participate in the



conducted by cybersecurity company Surfshark, ranks India 59th among 110 countries, a drop of 2 places from last year



Bottom 5 Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon

Finland, Israel, and the US

Denmark, South Korea

Guatemala, and Angola Overall, the country now

comes 17th in Asia

E-security has improved by 76 per cent since last year and now ranks higher than China

The country outperforms

Bangladesh in four digital well-being pillars but falls short on e-infrastructure

Methodology: Covering 90 per cent of the global population, the DQL study is conducted by the cybersecurity company Surfshark and evaluates countries based on a set of five fundamental digital wellbeing pillars

Surfshark

DICGC to pay depositors of 21 banks

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAL SEPTEMBER 22

DEPOSIT INSURANCE and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has announced that it will pay up to Rs five lakh to depositors of 21 co-operative banks, including scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank, towards settlement of deposit insurance claim. When the RBI sacked the

board of PMC Bank - with de-

posits of Rs 10,727 crore – in 2019, it initially slapped a deposit withdrawal restriction of Rs 1,000 per account which was later increased to Rs 50,000. About 78 per cent of the depositors have since been allowed to withdraw their deposits within the withdrawal limit of Rs. 50,000. While this limit was furtherenhanced to Rs 1 lakh in June last year, many depositors who have bigger amounts parked in the bank are still not able to get their

The DICGC list also includes Kapol Co-operative Bank and Rupee Co-operative Bank, Out of the 21 banks, 11 banks are based in Maharashtra. Depositors of People's Co-Operative Bank, Kanpur, Hindu Co-Op. Bank, Pathankot and Deccan Urban Co-Operative Bank of Karnataka will also get up to Rs 5 lakh. The verification and settlement of the claims on submission by the banks in the list should be done within the next 45 days by DICGC.

"soon" and signalled interest rate increases may follow more quickly than expected, with nine of 18 US central bank policymakers pro-US Federal Reserve chair jecting borrowing costs will need **Jerome Powell.** Reuters file to rise in 2022. The central bank on would be allowed to run slightly

Wednesday held its current target interest rate steady in a range of 0 per cent to 0.25 per cent.

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 22

THE US Federal Reserve on

Wednesday cleared the way to re-

duce its monthly bond purchases

cluded in the Fed's latest policy statement and separate economic projections, represent a hawkish tilt by a central bank that sees inflation running this year at 4.2 per cent, more than double its target rate, and is positioning itself to act against it. That action may proceed slowly, with interest rates seen rising to 1 per cent in 2023, faster than projected by the Fed in its projections in June, and then to 1.8 per cent in 2024, which would still be considered a loose monetary

policy stance. Inflation throughout that time



above the Fed's 2 per cent target, consistent with its new, more tolincreases, while unemployment is seen falling back to around the pre-pandemic low of 3.5 per cent. Still, the shift shows movement among policymakers divided over whether the coronavirus pandemic's ongoing impact on the economy or the threat of breakout inflation constitutes the bigger risk.

US stocks extended gains after the release of the statement, with the S&P 500 index up 1.3 per cent in afternoon trade. The dollar reversed course and moved lower, while the yield on the US 10-year Treasury note was slightly lower.

slowed the recovery of some parts of the US economy, overall indicators "have continued to strengthen." the central bank's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee said in a unanimous statement. If that progress continues "broadly as expected, the Committee judges that a moderation in the pace of asset purchases may soon be warranted," it said.

Though acknowledging the

new surge of the pandemic had

The statement had been widely expected to signal that the Fed would soon begin winding down the \$120 billion in monthly hond nurchases it has h ing to blunt the economic impact of the pandemic. But it was in their broader economic outlook that Fed policymakers made a less anticipated change.

The outlook for inflation jumped 0.8 percentage point for 2021 and the unemployment rate seen at the end of this year rose. In turn, two officials brought forward into 2022 their projected timeline for slightly lifting the Fed's benchmark overnight interest rate from the current level, enough to raise the median projection to 0.3 per cent for next year.

Yes Bank takes

possession

of part of

BRIEFLY —

ADB on GDP

New Delhi: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's growth projections for the current financial year by a percentage point to 10 per cent.

IL&FSchairman New Delhi: The government

on Wednesday extended the term of Uday Kotak as nonexecutive chairman of IL&FS by another six months.

Banga to retire

Washington: Ajay Banga, Mastercard executive chairman, will retire at year-end.

APSEZ, GPL

New Delhi: Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (ÂPSEZ) on Wednesday said it has acquired Andhra Pradesh's 10.4 per cent stake in Gangavaram Port Limited (GPL) for Rs 644.78 crore.

Ford settlement

Chennai: Ford India was in the process of announcing a settlement package with the employees, a Tamil Nadu Minister said. PTI

RBI Guv pushes for 'big investment' in infra, health

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday batted for a big push to infrastructure particularly in areas of health, education, low carbon and digital economy in addition to transport and communication for sustainable growth.

Das said sustainable growth should entail building on macro fundamentals via medium term investments, sound financial systems and structural reforms.

SINGAPORE/SHANGHAI, SEPT 22

CHINA EVERGRANDE agreed to

settle interest payments on a do-

mestic bond on Wednesday, while

the Chinese central bank injected

cash into the banking system,

soothing fears of imminent conta-

gion from the debt-laden property

Evergrande, Asia's biggest junk

REUTERS

developer.

push to investment in healthcare, education, innovation, physical and digital infrastructure will be required. We should also continue with further reforms in labour and product markets to encourage competition and dynamism and to benefit from pandemic induced opportunities," he said while addressing a meet organised by the All India Management Association

(AIMA))

In addition, the warehousing and supply-chain infrastructure will be critical to bolster value addition and productivity in the

Evergrande debt deal calms contagion concern

Evergrande's headquarters, in Shenzhen, China. Reuters file

tor, he said.

money back.

"As we recover, we must deal with the legacies of the crisis and create conditions for strong, inclusive and sustainable growth,"

"Limiting the damage that the crisis inflicted was just the first step; our endeavour should be to ensure durable and sustainable growth in the post-pandemic future," Das said. Restoring durability of private consumption, which has remained historically the mainstay of aggregate demand, will be crucial going forward.

harvest deal' by start of 2022 **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU** NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

INDIA AND the UAE have launched formal trade negotiations aimed at concluding discussions on an early harvest agreement by December 2021 and sign a formal agreement in early 2022. The aim is to boost bilateral merchandise trade to above \$100 billion and services trade to \$15 billion in five years.

India is also aiming to sign free trade agreements with Australia, UK and the European Union in the near future. Early harvest agree-

People's Bank of China injected

on the trade of certain goods between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is con-

India, UAE look to sign 'early

Commerce Minister Piyush Goval and UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi announced that formal negotiations for the India-United **Arab Emirates Comprehensive** Economic Partnership Agreement (CFPA) would start on Thursday. Goyal said India would aim to get access for Indian textiles, gems and jewellery, footwear and handicrafts as part of the early harvest drawn up a very aggressive and ambitious timeframe, and aim to conclude negotiations by December 2021itself," said Goyal adding that both sides aimed to sign a formal agreement in early 2022 after the completion of internal procedures and necessary ratification processes. Goyal added that negotiations on the CEPA would continue post the signing

of the early harvest agreement. The UAE would focus on areas such as fintech, petrochemical equipment and byproducts in the early harvest agreement, Al

Facebook wraps up deals with Australian media cos

Sydney: Facebook Inc has told Australian publishers it has stopped negotiating licensing deals, an email to the industry seen by Reuters showed, a move which came just six months after the passing of a law designed to make

nounced deals with most of the country's largest news outlets, some companies including TV

broadcaster SBS and smaller publishers have been left out in the cold, raising questions about the scope and effectiveness of the ground-breaking law. Australia is the only country

with a law where the government may set the fees if negotiations between tech giants and news providers fail, but the rejected companies are left with little recourse for the time being. **REUTERS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22 YES BANK Ltd has taken posses-

HDIL Towers

sion of the office premises of a subsidiary Development Infrastructure Ltd (HDIL) located at HDIL Towers in Bandra, Mumbai, according to an advertisement released by the bank in newspapers. The bank in its possession notice said Privilege Industries Ltd and its two guarantors HDIL and Privilege Power Infrastructure Pvt Ltd failed to repay a Rs 494 crore borrowed from the bank. The bank has taken possession of the third floor office of Privilege Industries measuring 7272 square ft at HDIL Towers.

"The borrower in particular and the public in general is cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Yes Bank for Rs 494.64 crore as on April 5 2021 together with further interest and other charges thereon with effect from April 6, 2021," said

Lucknow

bond issuer, is so entangled with fate has kept global stock and bond China's broader economy that its markets on tenterhooks as late

called cross-defaults.

debt payments could trigger so-

90 billion yuan to the banking system, signalling support for markets as they braced for what is expected to be one of China's largest-ever debt restructurings. Evergrande is scrambling to avoid defaulting on a number of bonds with payments due this week and its main unit, Hengda Real Estate Group, said it had "resolved" one coupon payment due on Thursday on its Shenzhen-traded 5.8 per cent September 2025 bond, via "private negotiations".

tech giants pay for news content. While Facebook has an-



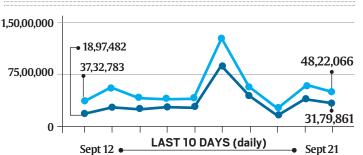
TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)

61,43,90,226

First dose Second dose

COVAXIN

11.4%



TOTAL DOSES 82,65,15,754

(Sputnik V's **8,99,337** doses not represented in pie)

DOSES ON SEPT 21 80.01.927 SEPT 20: 99,45,683 (1st doses: 59,01,387; 2nd: 40,44,296)

COVISHIELD

88.5%

Note: The Sept 21 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 22 $\,$ Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on September 22

Genetic mutation that caused humans to lose their tails



Most primates, and almost all monkeys, Express Archive

ALL THE ancestors of humans had tails for about half a billion years — until they lost them about 25 million years ago. The change in our ancient anatomy was noted by Charles Darwin, But exactly how and why this came to be has remained unknown.

Researchers from New York have claimed to have zeroed in on a specific genetic mutation that may

have led to our tails disappearing. When the scientists made this genetic tweak in mice, the animals did not grow tails, according to a study posted on bioRxiv, the preprint server for biology, last week. (The genetic basis of tail-loss evolution in humans and apes: Bo Xia and others)

The researchers began with the reasoning

that our ancestors lost their tail after mutations altered one or more of a set of 30 genes that are involved in the development of tails in various species. To search for those mutations, they compared the DNA of six species of tail-less apes to nine species of tailed monkeys. Eventually, they discovered a mutation that is shared by apes and humans, but is missing in monkeys — in a gene called TBXT.

While TBXT was one of the first genes to be identified by scientists nearly a century ago, the mutation that Bo Xia of the New York University School of Medicine and lead author of the study discovered, had not been observed before. It consisted of 300 ge-

netic letters in the middle of the TBXT gene. This stretch of DNA was virtually identical in humans and apes, and was inserted in precisely the same place

in their genomes. To test the idea that the mutation was involved in the disappearance of our tail, the researchers

NEW RESEARCH genetically engineered mice with the TBXT mutation that is carried by humans. Many of the animals failed to

develop a tail; others grew a short one. The researchers have proposed that this mutation randomly struck an ape some 20 million years ago. This tail-less animal survived and thrived, and

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passed on the mutation to its offspring. THE NEW YORK TIMES

SIMPLY PUT

Income in poll-bound states

RBI data offer a snapshot of per capita incomes in UP, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur, which go to polls soon. How have per capita incomes changed in these states over the last five years?

UDIT MISRA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

LAST WEEK, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy, 2020-21, a key variable contained in which is the "per capita Net State Domestic Product". In simple terms, this is the income per person in a state.

Several academic studies, both in India and elsewhere, have found a strong link between economic indicators such as per capita income and the electoral performance of governments.

While it must be underlined that economic performance is hardly the sole determinant of electoral outcomes in India, what does the RBI handbook say about per capita incomes in the five states where Assembly elections will take place in February-March 2022 – Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, and Manipur?

Per capita incomes

Chart 1 shows that per capita incomes in Goa (Rs 3.04 lakh), Uttarakhand (Rs 1.59 lakh), and Punjab (Rs 1.19 lakh) are higher than the national average of Rs 95,000.

But per capita incomes in Manipur (Rs 54,000) and Uttar Pradesh (Rs 44,600) are around half the national average.

From poll to poll

What was the growth rate of per capita income in the five years leading up to the elections? And how does it compare with the five years immediately before that?

Chart 2 provides a picture of how things may look to electors as they prepare to caste their votes. This chart plots the compounded annual growth rates (or CAGR) of real per capita income for each of the five states, as well as the national average for three time periods. The first bar maps the annual growth rate

between 2012-13 (FY13) and 2016-17 (FY17). This five-year period marks the tenure of the previous government in each state. So in UP, it refers to the term of the Samajwadi Party government, while in Punjab it indicates the growth rate during the regime of the Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP coalition.

The second bar refers to the growth rate during the first three years of the terms of the current governments — FY18 to FY20. This is a crucial number since this growth rate refers to the pre-Covid period.

The third bar is a forecast of the growth

PER CAPITA NET STATE DOMESTIC PRODUCT IN FY20 (IN RS) At constant (2011-12) prices 300K 250K 200K 150K 100K Uttar Pradesh Source: RBI, MoSPI

rate in the current five-year term. It is based on the assumption that the absolute level of per capita income will revert to the pre-Covid level (FY20) by the end of FY22.

State-wise takeaways **UTTAR PRADESH**

CHART 1

Even though UP is one of the biggest state

economies in terms of total GDP, when it comes to per capita income, it ranks pretty low. The data show that per capita net state

domestic product (NSDP) grew at just 2.99% during the first three years (FY18 to FY20) of the BJP government. This is not only lower than the national average (4.6%) over the same period, but also much lower than the 5% rate registered during the Samajwadi Party's rule between FY13 and FY17.

By the end of FY21, after the pandemic had battered economies everywhere, UP's per capita NSDP had fallen sharply, resulting in an annual growth rate of just 0.1% for the first four years of the current government. If we assume that all the contraction in

per capita incomes in FY21 will be recovered in FY22, the annual growth rate of per capita income for the full five-year term from FY18 to FY22 would still be just 1.8%. This growth rate will be significantly

lower than the national average of 2.7% for the same five years. On September 5, UP Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath said in Varanasi that "in the next five years, per capita income of Uttar Pradesh will exceed the country's per capita income", news agency ANI reported.

Source: RBI_MoSPI

CHART 2

HOW PER CAPITA INCOMES GREW IN

Compounded Annual Growth Rate (in %)

THE FIVE POLL-BOUND STATES

For this to happen, UP's per capita income would have to grow at an annual rate of over 22% (assuming the national per capita income grows at just 5% each year) between FY23 and FY27 – a gigantic improvement over the 2.9% annual rate that the state registered in the three years before the Covid-19 disruption.

In the first three years of the term of the Congress government, before the pandemic struck, per capita incomes grew by 4% each year. This was a shade lower than the 4.3% annual growth rate under the SAD-BIP government, and also lower than the national

Thanks to Covid, the Congress government is likely to end with an annual growth rate of just 2.4% for its five-year term — again a shade lower than the national average of 2.7%.

UTTARAKHAND

This state has had three Chief Ministers in the last four years of BJP rule — Trivendra Singh Rawat, Tirath Singh Rawat, and Pushkar Singh Dhami — and five CMs in all over the last nine years. Despite the seeming disruptions, it has registered above-average growth in per capita income.

Under the Congress rule between FY13 and FY17, the growth rate was 6.7% — far above the national average. In the first three years of in sync with the national average

*Forecast based on the assumption that the absolute level of real per

capita income will revert to pre-Covid level by the end of FY22

Even after the Covid impact, the five years of BJP rule from FY18 to FY22 are likely to see per capita incomes grow at an annual rate that is a shade higher than the national average.

FY13-FY17 FY18-FY20 FY18-FY22*

Of the five states going to polls early next year, Goa has the highest per capita income. It has also had the same party in power (BJP) since the start of FY13. However, as the almost non-existent bars

for Goa show, per capita incomes actually contracted between FY18 and FY20. It is quite likely that in FY21 income levels would have fallen further; as of now, the RBI does not have FY21 data.

It seems probable that at the end of FY22, per capita incomes in Goa will be lower than in FY18. Over the past decade of BJP rule in Goa, per capita income would have grown at an annual rate of just 1.6%.

MANIPUR

In the pre-Covid phase — FY18 to FY20 of the current BJP government, per capita incomes in Manipur rose at 4.6% each year. This was in sync with the national average but. more importantly, significantly higher than the 3.5% annual growth rate achieved from FY13 to FY17, when the Congress was in power in the state.

Covid has dented per capita income levels, but the deceleration in growth rate is likely to be in sync with the national average

Why Singh could be kingmaker again in Canada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 22

CANADA'S LIBERAL Party won the largest number of seats in Monday's snap parliamentary elections, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's gamble to garner a majority failed.

The result is almost identical to the one in 2019, and Trudeau, who has been PM since 2015, will have to continue to rely on other parties - most importantly Jagmeet Singh's left-leaning New Democratic Party (NDP), and Yves-Francois Blanchet's Bloc Quebecois to pass legislation and stay in power.

Elections and results

Trudeau called the elections more than two vears ahead of schedule, saying that he needed a clear mandate to guide Canada through the tail of the Covid-19 pandemic and the difficult economic recovery. The opposition led by Erin O-Toole's Conservatives denounced the attempted "power-grab", and opinion polls showed the majority of Canadians did not think the vote was necessary. Latest results show Trudeau's Liberals have

won or are leading in 158 electoral districts, one seat more than the number they won in 2019, and short of the 170 needed for a majority. The Conservatives have won 119 seats. The NDP, his current allies, have won 25

seats — enough to continue to be the arbiter on policy on a case-by-case basis. Bloc Quebecois was projected to win 34 seats.

New Democrats Jagmeet Singh won from Burnaby South,

a federal electoral district in British Columbia where more than 70 per cent of people identify as a visible minority. His party, however, did worse than in 2019, when it won 44 seats.

The NDP has said that it would stand by Trudeau's government on a range of social and environmental issues, but would keep the pressure on progressive issues, including forgiving student loans, and climate change.

'We are going to continue fighting for you



(From left) Justin Trudeau, Jagmeet Singh, and Erin O'Toole during an election debate this month. Reuters File

just the same way we fought for you during the pandemic," Singh said, according to a report by Canada's CTV news. "We are going to keep fighting to make sure the superwealthy pay their fair share ... so the burden doesn't fall on you and your families."

One of the main promises of Singh's campaign was to tax the ultra-rich. He told CTV that one of his priorities once the new government is formed would be to ensure that billionaires pay their fair share of the pandemic cost.

Pro-Khalistan leader

A former criminal lawyer, Singh was born and raised in Canada. He won his first election in 2011, and soon became popular for his progressive politics, charismatic personality, and flamboyant dressing style.

He became leader of the NDP in 2017, and has repeatedly expressed his ambition to run for Prime Minister.

Singh's relationship with India has been complicated. His pro-Khalistan stance and vocal support of Punjab's right to self-determination have repeatedly placed him in controversies. Singh has accused India of "initiating a genocidal campaign against the Sikh minority" in the past, and had introduced a resolution in Ontario's Assembly to describe the 1984 anti-Sikh riots as a "genocide".

What is the Havana Syndrome, said to be targeting US officials?

DEEPTIMANTIWARY

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

AUS intelligence officer travelling with CIA director William Burns reported symptoms of 'Havana Syndrome' while the two men were in India earlier this month, according to reports in the American media.

What is Havana Syndrome?

Havana Syndrome refers to a set of symptoms that typically include nausea. vertigo, and headaches, but also memory loss, hearing sounds without any outside noise being present, and certain issues with balance. A number of US intelligence and embassy officials have reported these symptoms in several countries around the world over the past few years.

The Syndrome was first reported in late 2016, about a year after the US opened its embassy in Havana. A report in The New Yorker in 2018 said between December 30, 2016, and February 9, 2017, at least three CIA officers in Cuba had reported troubling sen-

sations that seemed to leave serious injuries. The CIA sent reinforcements to Havana, and at least two of these officers were afflicted as well.

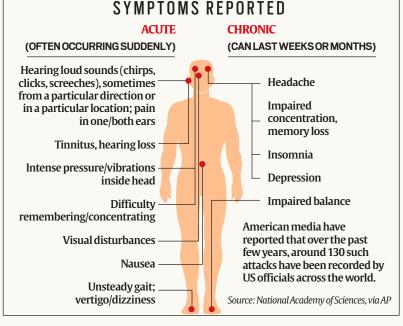
The New Yorker said specialists who studied the brains of the victims determined that their injuries resembled concussions, like those suffered by soldiers struck by roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan. But there were no signs of impact.

Where else has it been reported?

In April 2018, an employee at the US consulate in Guangzhou reported he had been experiencing symptoms since late 2017. An incident had previously been reported in September 2017 by a USAID employee at the American embassy in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan.

In 2019 and 2020, incidents have been reported from within the US, including at The Ellipse, a park adjacent to the White House in Washington DC.

American media have reported that over the past few years, around 130 such attacks have been recorded by US officials



across the world, including in Moscow in Russia, Poland, Georgia, Taiwan, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, and Austria, Last month, Vice President Kamala Harris's visit to Vietnam was delayed for three hours just as she was about to fly to Hanoi, after a US official in Vietnam reported symptoms.

What causes Havana Syndrome?

No one is entirely sure. It was initially suspected to be a "sonic attack", but further study by scientists in the US and medical examination of the victims suggested that they may have been subjected to highpower microwaves that either damaged or interfered with the nervous system.

The microwaves are said to build pressure inside the brain that generates the feeling of a sound being heard. Longer exposure is believed to interfere with the body's sense of balance, impact memory, and even cause permanent brain damage. It is suspected that beams of high-power microwave are released by a special gadget that Americans have begun calling a "microwave weapon".

Experimentation with microwaves for

counter-intelligence operations has been ongoing since the Cold War. A BBC report this month quoted James Giordano, an adviser to the Pentagon and professor of neurology and biochemistry at Georgetown University, as saying both China and Russia have been engaged in microwave research, and could have re-purposed tools that were developed for industrial use.

Some medical experts in the US have debunked this theory, calling the syndrome psychological illness amplified by the widespread fear of being targeted.

What about the report about India?

Sources in the Indian security establishment said they were not aware of any such weapon with an Indian agency. It was also highly unlikely that a foreign power would be able to use Indian soil to target US officials.

Security establishment officers, including former R&AW officers, said no cases of the Havana Syndrome had been reported by Indians in the country or in embassies abroad. LONGER VERSION ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

Lucknow

'Batsman' is now 'batter', will 'third man' be 'third'?

'Batsman' has been amended to 'batter' in laws of cricket by the MCC. The change comes after usage of gender-neutral terms like the 'third' and 'nightwatch' in broadcast.

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the body in London that upholds the laws of cricket, has officially introduced a change in the sport's terminology. Effective immediately, according to a statement on Wednesday, the term 'batsman' and/or 'batsmen' will officially be replaced by the gender-neutral term 'batter.' The terms 'batsman/batsmen' has been in use since 1744 according to The Times. However, the change has been implemented to make the sport gender-inclusive and more welcoming to women players.

THE LAWMAKERS' TAKE In a statement on its website, the MCC said: "At the time of the last redraft in 2017 it was agreed, following consultation with the International Cricket Council (ICC) and key figures within women's cricket, that the terminology would remain as 'batsman' and 'batsmen' within the Laws of the game. The changes announced today reflect the wider usage of the terms 'batter' and 'batters' which has occurred in cricketing circles in the intervening period. The move to 'batter' is a natural progression, aligning with the terms of bowlers and fielders that already sit within the Laws."

Additionally, assistant secretary for cricket and operations at the MCC Jamie Cox claimed that the change was introduced keeping in mind the growth of women's cricket in the past few years.

"The use of the term 'batter' is a natural evolution in our shared cricketing language and the terminology has already been adopted by many of those involved in the sport," he said in a statement. "It is the right time for this adjustment to be recognised formally and we are delighted, as the guardians of the laws, to announce these changes today.'

TESTING GROUND AT THE HUNDRED At the inaugural season of 'The Hundred' in

England (a women and men's 100-ball per innings tournament) this July, genderneutral terms had been tried during coverage. The term 'batter' had been used commonly across the men's and women's competitions. Additionally, the fielding position 'third man' had been referred to simply as 'third.'

In an earlier Test match involving the English women's team, the term 'nightwatchman' had also been referred to as 'nightwatch' by broadcasters. News reports by organisations like the BBC and Sky had also used these terms.

'BATTER' THE ONLY CHANGE Though other terms had been used by broadcasters and news agencies, 'batter' is the only



English cricketer Alexandra Hartley tweeted that she uses the terms 'Third/Short Third' and 'Deep Third' instead of the third man position. File

change that has been implemented by the MCC at the moment.

"The fielding position 'third man,' along with other cricketing terms like 'nightwatchman' and '12th Man' is not included in the Laws, and so any changes to such terms are outside of MCC's controls as Guardians of the Laws," read a message the MCC had posted on their Twitter handle.

Meanwhile, 2017 women's World Cup winner Alexandra Hartley explained on Twitter that she "personally (called) them 'Third/Short Third' and 'Deep Third' instead of the third man position. She also Tweeted that she "called them 'Nightwatcher' at the start of the summer."

RISE OF WOMEN'S CRICKET The MCC, in its statement, cited the increase in spectatorship of women's matches as a clear indication of the "unprecedented growth" women's cricket has experienced these past few years.

The 2017 World Cup final in England, in which the hosts beat India, was played in front of a capacity crowd at Lord's, with around 24 thousand spectators turning up for the match. Shortly before the Covid-19 outbreak last year, 86,174 spectators turned up at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to watch the women's T20 World Cup final between India and eventual champions Australia. This match set a new record for most spectators at a T20 World Cup final (men or women), breaking the previous 66 thousand record set at the 2016 men's final between West Indies and England at Eden Gardens in Kolkata. Additionally, a domestic women's match in England saw a record 17,116 spectators attend the match at The Oval earlier this year.

News of mother's death kept from boxer during nat'l title run

Haryana boxer Akash's mother passed away day before the tournament

GAURAV BHATT

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

HARYANA BOXER Akash Kumar won the national title on Tuesday afternoon in Bellary, earning himself a berth at the World Championship next month. All through his long journey home — the six-hour ride from Bellary to Bangalore, the morning flight to Delhi, the metro to Bahadurgarh and the cab to his village Paluwas in Bhiwani - the 20year-old had just one thought on his mind: "I will place this gold medal at my mother's feet.'

Little did he know that his mother had passed away on September 14, a day before the tournament kicked off.

'Yesterday evening, I was showing off the medal at the ceremony. I was celebrating, hoping the medal will put her in good spirits,' Akash says of his mother Santosh, who died of a lung infection after contracting a viral fever earlier this month. "I reached home around 2 pm today and all the relatives were there. Nobody said anything. They just showed me the photo of my mother. I don't know how to process this. The last time we spoke, she made me promise that I will bring the gold medal

While the Services boxer was taking down favourites in the 54-kg category at the weeklong national championships, his uncle Bhawar Singh and coach Narender Rana were battling emotions, keeping the news from

Bhawar was heartbroken after Akash's bittersweet triumph on Tuesday. "There was always this fear that he would ask me why I didn't inform him," Bhawar told The Indian Express a day before Akash's arrival. "Before Akash left, his mother told him, 'I am here at a private hospital. Our relatives are with me. There is no need to worry. You go and win'. The son fulfilled the promise. Par paramatma ne saath nahi diya (God didn't help), she couldn't celebrate with her son."

Akash, though, understands why he wasn't told. "I know they kept it to themselves for my own good. I would have left the tournament midway. The run that I had, the top boxers that I defeated this week... I assure you, now I understand that it was all because my mother was in my corner."

Bhawar had discussed the situation with services coach Rana, who held up his end of

"We decided that we wouldn't tell him... seene pe patthar rakh ke (with a heavy heart),' says Rana. "There were posts about his mother's death on Facebook. So I took his and the rest of the team's phones so he couldn't find out. I told him, 'You need to stay focussed



his mother's death, the Haryana boxer said, "I won because she was in my corner". BFI

Yesterday, I was hoping the medal will put her in good spirits. I reached home around 2 pm today and all the relatives were there. They just showed me the photo of my mother... The last time we spoke, she made me promise that I will bring the gold medal home."

AKASH KUMAR, AFTER REACHING HIS HOME IN PALUWAS, BHIWANI ON WEDNESDAY

on the ring'. During training sessions, my eyes would well up but I couldn't let him figure out that something was wrong. After each win, my hug was a little bit longer than usual.' Akash did manage to call home once, us-

ing a fellow competitor's phone. "I asked uncle about my mother and he said, "She's not doing too well. But it's okay.

You focus on the bouts. At stake was the national title and a berth to the World Championships, a huge break-

through after a struggle-filled journey. Akash's father Rajbir was a state-level wrestler who regularly took his two sons to the akhara. But after a certain Vijender Singh from neighbouring village Kaluwas won

India's first boxing medal at the Olympics in

2008, Rajbir enrolled his sons into a boxing

academy, and passed away later that year. Akash's elder brother Suraj was a promising talent, winning the sub-junior national championship in 2012 and multiple medals for Haryana. But he is currently in jail in connection with a murder case.

"His friend invited him somewhere and there was a scuffle... All we know is he strayed off the path," says Bhawar, who had been taking care of the two boys since brother Rajbir's death. "Akash learned a lot from the episode. The whole village is proud of him and loves his reserved nature.

"Buri sangat (bad company)," Akash sums up his brother's struggles. "But that made me realise that our family could not afford more ordeals. I had to live up to the expectations."

Last January, Akash won the Under-21 gold medal at the Khelo India Youth Games in Guwahati. He has been training at the Army Sports Institute in Pune under Rana and other coaches, and has been earmarked as the next big thing in the sport due to his aggressive style the dash of swagger, long combinations and unrelenting pressure. "Akash was by far the fittest boxer in the

whole competition and beat tough opponents," says Rana. "Each time he won, I would break down but my coaches would shush me up... Trust me, you will be hearing Akash's name a lot in the future."

Up next is the World Championship in elgrade, Serbia next month.

"It has been a quick turnaround, I could have never expected that I would be representing my nation all of a sudden," says Akash. "But I will do justice to my talent at the World's next month. And I know my mother will watch over me there as well.'

Pak says threat to NZ players originated in India

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 22

PAKISTAN HAS accused an unnamed individual in India of sending threatening emails that caused New Zealand to abandon its cricket tour in the country.

New Zealand scrapped its tour to Pakistan moments before the start of the first one-day international in Rawalpindi last Friday, citing a specific threat to its cricket team. New Zealand did not share the details of the threat with Pakistan.

"The email was sent from an associated device in India using VPN, showing IP address location of Singapore," Pakistan information minister Fawad Chaudhry said

The England and Wales Cricket Board followed New Zealand on Monday by canceling both its men's and women's cricket tours to Pakistan next month. Chaudhry claimed that New Zealand re-

ceived threatening emails before it arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 11, including an email sent to the wife of Martin Guptill in which the opening batsman received a death threat.

The information minister said Pakistan's initial investigations revealed that the device from which an email to Guptill's wife was sent was also registered in India.

Chaudhry said Pakistan will seek help from the INTERPOL to probe the matter. "We believe this is a campaign against in-

ternational cricket," Chaudhry said. The British High Commissioner in Pakistan wrote on Twitter that he had not

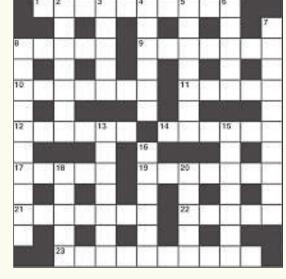
advised against the tour on security grounds and that the ECB took the decision on its own. "The British High Commission supported the tour; did not advise against it on security grounds: and our travel advice for Pakistan

has not changed," Christian Turner said. "This was a decision made by the ECB, which is independent of the British government based on concerns for players welfare.' England is scheduled to tour Pakistan for

test and limited-overs matches late in 2022 and Turner said he "will redouble my efforts in advance of England's Autumn 2022 tour.'

Pakistan information minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed that **New Zealand received emails** before it arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 11, including an email sent to the wife of Martin Guptill in which the opening batsman received a death threat.

CROSSWORD 4542



ACROSS

- 1 One way of remembering?
- 8 Easily carried lamp
- 9 Geraint turns out to be a $thankless\,person(7)$
- 10 Inferior tuft of horsehair 11 The hump in the middle of
- bridges (5) 12 Provide two servings of dry wine in a bit (6) 14 A swift turnaround is
- considered proper
- 17 Monastic practice 19 He escaped to become famous
- 21 It's extremely small and free of charge (7)
- 22 A league match (5) 23 Excitement experienced by
- novice poker player

- 2 Converting heights into parts
- 3 Excel with an alfresco celebration (5)
- Outcry of those who join in the 5 Regalia thrown out by republic
- 6 Animal from China for example?
- 7 Lacking inspiration he goes for
- a walk (10) 8 Not right in front having been forgotten? (4,6)
- 13 He may bring food from the terrace(7) 15 Sprites arise if disturbed
- 16 Agreeable question
- 18 Only pretend it's a headland
- 20 Customary order of a regular drinker(5)

Solutions Crossword 4541: Across: 1 Chumps, 4 Muscle, 9 Picture, 10 Claim, 11 Tot up, 12 Impetus, 13 Word picture, 18 Tripoli, 20 Outer, 22 Tails, 23 Asinine, 24 Canute 25 Tsetse. Down: 1 Capote, 2 Uncut, 3 Plumped, 5 Uncap, 6 Coaster, 7 Enmesh, 8 Verisimilar, 14 Opinion, 15 Two bits, 16 Static, 17 Freeze, 19 Onset, 21 Taint.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis







CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson









MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

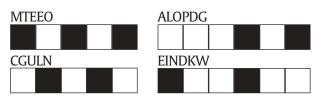






JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to , but above it. - Alain-René Lesage (9)



Answer: Doubt is not below knowledge, but above it. - Alain-René Lesage SOLUTION: EMOTE, CLUNG, LAPDOC, WINKED

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

S

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

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

DAY TODAY

be better than you'd

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

hoped for, and you may feel sufficiently enthused to team up with partners in a new venture. Push along with changes and make a few needed improvements in your relationships. You'll be

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) Surprise news or events could add

interest to social engagements, and if you're involved in light-hearted activities, you'll be given a welcome break from arduous responsibilities. When you're dealing with money you may feel as if you should be saving, but in the meantime, it seems to be easier to spend.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Home and family affairs are highlighted, and

plans for a move could soon be under way. If you are able to side-step opposition from associates, this should be a day of co-operation. Also, try to be less secretive than usual and share ideas with friends.

Mundane and routine affairs have taken up much of your time, but there's plenty of scope for developing the more imaginative side of life There's still no sign that partners are any more reliable than in the

past, Still, you chose them. And

that, perhaps, is the lesson you

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) Unexpected encounters could prove to be highly

give you something to think about financially. You'll have the right touch, and this could be a promising day for dealing with officialdom. You'll be able to make a bid for romantic happiness soon, but not until you've stopped relying on others for emotional security.

fortunate, and may

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23) You will still be kept

on the go, with little time to put your feet up. Don't, though. expect everything to turn out as

you would like. Short trips could take you to some unusual places. You will very soon be able to grapple with a romantic ambition and, if you're lucky your feelings will be reciprocated - but give yourself an opt-out clause just in case.

BY PETER VIDAL

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) Background activity

is important, and

cash and career

prospects could

benefit from your typically discreet actions. Friendly contacts will help you along, but your own mood could turn serious as time progresses. And when that happens, your attitudes to close partners will also change.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) Your prospects are bright, but you'll be occupied keeping abreast of chores. especially if partners don't see

eye-to-eye. Make sure you don't waste your time running around after people who don't share your aspirations. The last thing you want to do now is waste more precious energy. SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

owing to you, and give time to longterm investments and securities. Your ideas on business will be good, but you could do with expert advice if

you are to stay in the black. After

Chase up any cash

all, you can't always be expected to take all the responsibility and the blame. CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) If a business matter has been left in the air recently you

should now be able to tie up a few loose ends. A new social contact should be cultivated, as you are not yet sure from which source future assistance will be arriving. It could actually be an old friend who comes back into your life and fits the bill.

AOUARIUS (Ian 21 - Feb 19) If progress seems slow at work, try new tactics and go for the

friendly approach. Before long, there'll be opportunities to branch out in new emotional directions, so put down your foundations now. Part of the problem is that you are expecting too much to happen too soon.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Life is fairly hectic, and new invitations or proposals may

awkward choices. If so, now is the ideal time to sort out your priorities, deciding what is really important and setting aside much more time for relaxation. On the other hand, as soon as you have had a short rest, you'll be off again.

Lucknow

present you with

IPL: MI vs KKR, 7.30pm, Live on Star Sports Network

Fire in the belly

Delhi go atop as bowlers harry Hyderabad batsmen before Dhawan, Iyer and Pant complete 8-wicket win

SYNOPSIS: Sunrisers' talisman cuts sorry figure as Protea power sets up walk in the park for Delhi Capitals.

TUSHAR BHADURI SEPTEMBER 22

ITWAS a clash between teams at the opposite ends of the table when the Indian Premier League (IPL) resumed, and from the first ball

to last, the match played out accordingly. Delhi Capitals played like a well-drilled unit and now have one foot in the playoffs with five games left after an eight-wicket stroll with more than two overs left. Sunrisers Hyderabad, on the other hand, cut a sorry figure. Devoid of enterprise, they looked like a team going through the motions with nothing to play for.

Talisman cuts sorry figure

David Warner hadn't played a competitive game since being summarily dropped from the playing XI and removed from captaincy. And the way he played the three balls from Anrich Nortje in the first over suggested he hadn't held the bat much in the interim. He was hurried with the express pace the South African generated, a slight for a batsman raised on fast and bouncy Australian pitches.

The first ball, at 148.7 km per hour, was at yorker length outside off-stump, and Warner was late on it, The next ball, at 145.5 kmph, targeted the off-stump and was pushed to cover.

The third one, bowled at 147 kmph, cramped the Australian for room - which has been his Achilles heel in recent times. Warner tentatively tried to turn it to leg, but a little bit of seam movement away from him resulted in a leading edge and a dolly catch to Axar Patel at point.

Warner, a talisman for Sunrisers, was a shadow of his dominating self during the first phase of the tournament in the Indian summer. Even when he did get a significant score, he was pretty slow in getting there and hurting the team's overall chances. It's anybody guess if he would have found his way back in the XI had his



Nortje's pace and bounce troubled SRH batsmen, including Warner. iplt20.com

opening partner Jonny Bairstow been available.

Soon to turn 35, one wonders if Warner's best days are behind him or he is keeping his powder dry for the T20 World Cup and the Ashes. With just one win from eight games, Sunrisers can more or less write this season off. And with a mega auction scheduled next year, Warner's days with the franchise also seem numbered.

Protea power to the fore

Kagiso Rabada has fallen a bit off his proverbial perch of late. After being the leading wickettaker last season, the South African seemed rather subdued in India in April-May. It didn't help matters that he missed his partner-incrime Nortje in tandem for most of the stint. Back in the desert where he excelled in 2020, Rabada was expected to regain his intensity.

The start wasn't particularly auspicious. Brought on in the fifth over, Rabada saw his first ball being picked up by Wriddhiman Saha for a six behind square. But the South African got his act together, shifted his line to outside off-stump and bounced back with four dot balls. It forced Saha to take matters in his own hands but the wicketkeeper-batsman was woefully late on the pull shot to be caught at midwicket just outside the circle.

Rabada was not seen for the next five overs, but when he returned, he was on a hat-trick as he induced a leading edge off a delivery which

POINTS TABLE M W L NRR Pts 0.613 | 14 DC 2 6 2 +1.223 12 5 3 -0.706 10 4 4 -0.071 8 -0.154 3 5 +0.110 6 KKR 3 6 -0.345 6 9 8 1 7 -0.689 2

cramped and got big on Manish Pandey for a caught-andbowled dismissal.

His first two overs went for just 11 and with Sunrisers' top half gone, Rabada was expected to be miserly in the latter stages. But a no-ball and a few fortuitous slogs ruined his spell somewhat. But three wickets from one of the main bowlers - he dismissed Abdul Samad with a short ball after the batsman had slammed him for a boundary - is acceptable any day of the week, In any case, Nortje returning figures of 2/12 meant Rabada never felt much pressure.

Walk in the park

He is no longer in India's T20 plans, but there are few players better than Shikhar Dhawan at anchoring a modest-to-middling chase. Capitals need a stabilising influence with the shot-a-ball Prithvi Shaw at the other end. Dhawan stayed true to his game - taking time to settle in before picking the bowlers and situations he wanted to target. The returning Shreyas Iver was rusty to begin with but the task gave him enough opportunity to play himself in. With Rishabh Pant for company, Capitals got home with plenty to spare. BRIEF SCORES: SRH 134 for 9 (Abdul Samad

28. Axar Patel 2/21, Kagiso Rabada 3/37, Anrich Nortje 2/12) lost to DC 139/2 in 17.5 overs (Shreyas Iyer 47 no, Shikhar Dhawan

EMOTIONAL

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Hulk's body goes into sulk again



iplt20.com

went down again in IPL. He ambled in to bowl and just as he gathered himself at the crease, he went limp. "Calf problem" sighed the commentators. The man with a

'Is Stonis injured?'

is a google FAQ.

The poor man

swaying walk and the wide drop-jaw

smile has had his fair share of injuries

In that sense, he unfortunately mirrors the superhero he gets his nickname from: The Hulk, Marvel Comics's Hulk has been devoured by mutant roaches, punched into space, transformed into stone, and had his skin telekinetically flayed off, as per nerdy listicles. Stoinis got the moniker because it was felt that he celebrates his wickets in the vein-bursting fashion of the angry superhero. Pity, that the injuries too have tailed him, just like the comic avatar.

to most constituents of his anatomy:

side strains, calf issues, shoulder, an-

kle... you name it. he has had it.

Grumpy Bhuvi



Bhuvneshwar Kumar was an unusually grumpy man. He usually flashes a warm, benign smile, a half-smile at least, but here he was

disturbed and agitated. Perhaps it was the run-up, which he re-measured a couple of times or the ball not coming out of his hands as smoothly as it often does. Or the elusive rhythm. The swing metronome hardly found any lateral movement in his first over. His lines were awry, he strayed leg-side to Shikhar Dhawan and found the ball being picked from the square-leg fence. He then could not latch onto a floaty, mistimed chip off Dhawan that eluded his stretched left palm by a couple of inches. Compounding his frustration, a lovely leg-cutter eluded Shreyas Iyer's outside edge. Two balls later, he found the edge of Iyer's bat, but the inside edge ricocheted onto his body and trickled to the keeper. By now, his grumpiness had developed shades of anger.

Distraught David



As the ball ballooned towards the fielder at cover-point, from the leading edge of his blade, David Warner paused, looked suspiciously at

the pitch, cussed and cursed himself, lingered at the crease and rehearsed the back-foot defence. Rather than looking to defend an Andre Nortje lifter, a heavy ball off hard length that bounced sharply and seamed a fraction away from him, Warner tried to work it onto the leg-side for a get-out-of-strike single. For, he had looked disturbingly shaky-as he has been the entire year across formats. The first he'd have fleeced through cover in the past. But his heavy bat just stabbed muggy air. He grimaced. The second ball, on good length, was blunted to safety, tentatively. He heaved a sigh of relief. Not for long, and he could only be content that his agony was not prolonged. A Goliath of T20 batting, he now needs to channel his inner David.

SRH's Natarajan positive; six others in isolation

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD pacer T Natarajan was placed in isolation after a second RT-PCR

test on the player, ordered by the BCCI, also turned up positive for Covid-19.

The 30-year-old, had tested positive on Tuesday during the routine round of tests being conducted.

However, The Indian Express understands that the BCCI decided on conducting a second test since the Board had previously experienced cases of players turning up with false positive results.

The second test was conducted early morning on Wednesday. All players in the franchise were informed to isolate in their rooms till the results were out.

Following Natarajan's positive result, six more members of the Hyderabad team have been put into isolation as close contacts.

As per a press release, all-rounder Vijay Shankar, team manager Vijay Kumar, physio Shyam Sundar J, doctor Anjana Vannan, logistics manager Tushar Khedkar, and net bowler Periyasamy Ganesan have been identified as the six close contacts.

"The rest of the contingent including the close contacts underwent RT-PCR tests at 5 AM local time this morning and the test reports are negative," added the statement.

Despite the positive test, the BCCI decided that the Indian Premier League (IPL) fixture for Wednesday between the Hyderabadoutfit and Delhi Capitals will go ahead as per schedule in Dubai and those players that tested negative will be allowed to play.

However, the BCCI has informed all teams that players and support staff will have to wear masks while travelling in the team bus for practice sessions.

At the same time, the cricket body stressed the need for players and team management to follow social distancing every-

"We don't know how it happened and whether there was any breach? We are trying to find out but we have informed everyone to be cautious," a BCCI official said.

"The players are in a bio-secure bubble and Natarajan underwent six days of isolation here before joining the team. It's hard to tell from where he picked up the virus."

Natarajan has picked up 20 IPL wickets from the 24 matches he has played. The IPL 2021 season resumed on Sunday after it had to be halted in May due to multiple Covid-19 cases emerged despite the bio-secure bubble put in place while the event was being staged in India earlier this year.

How Tyagi achieved the impossible with wide yorkers

SANDIPG SEPTEMBER 22

The conventional yorker is a low-flung delivery spearing into the base of the offstump. But with post-modern 360 de-

gree pyro-technicians on the prowl, yorkers have gone wider and wider from the off-stump in the shortest format. Rajasthan Royals' pacer Kartik Tyagi in his last-over heist for ages. The method has risks, among others requires a high degree of accuracy and pace, but is gaining in currency at the death.

How did Kartik Tyagi execute the wide

It's not like each of his six balls landed at the exact same spot, or were wide yorkers. The first ball was a low full toss outside the off-stump. The second landed on the fuller side of the good-length

band. The fifth was a wide, full ball that

PLAINE

shaped away a hint, which Deepak Hooda edged behind. Only his third, fourth and sixth balls could be categorised as wide yorkers, or rather yorkers away from the stumps. The third was pitched on the fifthsixth stump line angling across the leftie, which

Nicholas Pooran tried to stretch his bat and glide it past the keeper, but played it so far away from his body that he had little control. The fourth was the classical wide yorker, so far and wide that it almost hugged the tramline. Deepak Hooda was expecting the same the next ball, and hence premeditated to flav him over cover.

But Tyagi, while maintaining the line, pulled the length back a fraction and

The last ball, careful not to concede an unnecessary wide, he dragged the yorker closer to the stumps, in the fifthsixth stump channel. So it's not just blindly bowling wide yorkers that reaped his success, but subtly changing his line, and on a couple of instances, his

What is the idea behind a wide yorker? The prime motive is to make batsmen reach for the ball. The wide line automatically means, he is stretching for the ball (unless he is preempting and has already made up his mind to move across), usually just throwing his hands at it, playing so far away from the body that his balance goes off-kilter. It's difficult to get un-

der the ball and carve or cream it. It's dif-



Deepak Hooda misses a wide yorker from Kartik Tyagi in the final over of the game.

ficult to get both power and precision, unless a batsman has really fast hands. It limits the scoring areas

(leg-side is out of bounds) as well as the scoring shots. There are only a few shots one could pull off — the steer, dab behind square, the crunch, smother through covers. Or the reverse sweep,

which requires premeditation and accompanies a greater margin for error even at the best of times. It works on the principle that batsmen need room, but not too much room that could destabilise their balance

What is the fundamental (and philosophical) difference between a conventional and wide vorker?

and stability.

The conventional yorker was primarily designed as a wicket-taking, wreckerball, across formats. Fast, furious, tailing in wickedly, sometimes reverse-swing accentuated, battering toes and bat if those intervened.

Usually stars in lower-order detonation in Tests and at the death in ODIs, though some of its finest dealers have used it with great success against mainstream batsmen across formats. Conversely, the wide yorker is a rundenying, restrictive ploy, confined largely

Some traditionalists even call it a negative ploy, equating it to the roundthe-stumps leg-side tactic against righthanded batsmen. The fields are similar. In the latter instance, the leg-side is stacked with fielders; with wide yorkers, the off-side is invariably packed.

However, a good yorker, irrespective of the line, has similar traits. Both need a certain degree of accuracy, precision, sharpness and pace. In that sense, a wide vorker is even more difficult a trick to pull off than the conventional one on a

What are the virtues a bowler needs? Pace is paramount, perhaps more than medium-pacers could compensate for their lack of pace with accuracy and precision. Good batsmen could still harness pace to suit them, but lack of pace gives batsmen more time, and consequently, alternatives. With the power at their disposal, from their beefy bats to their beefier shoulders, they could generate their own impetus. And a batsman, when reaching out, could get more control over his shots when he is looking to play straight than square. Mixing the lines, too, is necessary, as batsmen could easily anticipate the delivery and set

What are the risk factors?

themselves up for it.

As the ball flirts with the tramline, there lurks the danger of a wide being called. So many yorkers, unsurprisingly, end up as extras on the scoresheet. But then, there is a perception that in T20s, or at the death in ODISs, it is better to risk a wide than miss the length and get struck

Bit more closer to the body, batsmen could guide it past the keeper. Messing up with lengths, though, pose more risk than missing lines. A bit fuller, batsmen with quick feet could shuffle across and pick his spots.

If the bowler errs on the shorter side, a good batsman could drag the ball onto the leg-side, where even if he edges, chances are that it could fall safely, as there are fewer fielders. A bit slower than 140kph, he gets ample time to free his arms and swing the blade.

Are wide yorkers gaining in currency? The variation predates the T20 era, but

has always been an outlier. But of late, it has gained more popularity and acceptability. In the last two editions, bowlers have been using it frequently. Andre Russell is perhaps the finest example; so has been Kyle Jamieson.

Lasith Malinga was the high priest, and he, alongside Nuwan Kulasekara, had choked India with wide yorkers at the backend of the 2014 World T20 final A lot of left-handed bowlers too use it, their angle making the ball even more difficult for right-handed batters to blast

