

**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**EXPLAINED**
Definition
holds key

THE 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 administrations.

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 states.

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

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

GOPAL KATESHIYA, AANCHAL MAGAZINE, SANDEEP SINGH & KARUNJIT SINGH
RAJKOT, NEW DELHI, 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 Directorate of Revenue 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 'semi-processed talc stones'. The 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

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's."

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

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 his son.

On Wednesday, Wagay iden-



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-

BUSINESS AS USUAL**By UNNY**

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**INSIDE****CHINA, PAK, RUSSIA 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 by his government in the last 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 yatras earlier and no festivals could be celebrated. Those



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

who ruled were amongst you and not from outside. And yet no

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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 bury him tomorrow," Shakir's

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 response of Deputy Chief Minister



JD(U)'s Anil Singh (top); 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 Kajal 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 complaints".



Dy CM Tarkishore Prasad

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**

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

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS & ESHAROY
PUNE, NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE 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

Women in NDA: SC will not defer to 2022: 'Can't belie hope'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

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 SK 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**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

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

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 22

ON WEDNESDAY, even as Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad president 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 suicide.

Two days ago, Narendra Giri was found dead in his room at Baghambari math, after which police claimed to have found a 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 controversy.

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**

years, Anand Giri became one of Narendra Giri's 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.

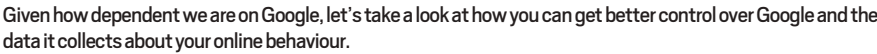
The akhara is said to have in its possession acres of land not just in Prayagraj and neighbouring districts but also in Haridwar, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**U.P. RECOMMENDS CBI PROBE, PAGE 3**



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

Offers delicious indigenous food and rural charm

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

Former DUV-C Yogesh Tyagi had been suspended in October last year.

Sudhakar has reportedly also said that for the June consignment, "Amit" had asked him to prepare an invoice in the name of "Shri Kuldeep Singh @ Alipur, Delhi", and that the Customs

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-

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

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 the death.

INPUTS FROM ENS,
JAIPUR;PTI

'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 two continued.

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

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

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 policy".

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

els several times higher than recommended levels. In Delhi, for example, a Greenpeace study found the average concentration of PM_{2.5} in 2020 to be nearly 17 times higher than the recommended levels. In Mumbai, pol-

Scientists and health experts said the new WHO norms should push India to work harder to make its air cleaner.

"There are no two w about the need to revise Ind air quality standards to m them more stringent. In para we have to strengthen h health data and revise National Clean Air Program accordingly. Raw health data required to conduct a large r of health studies vis-à-vis

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 Annu.

Superintendent of Police of Agra West (Rural) Satyajit 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 Verma said.

Singh was rushed to the Rajgarh 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 said.

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.

2022 ASSEMBLY POLLS

Chandrashekhar to soon join our Morcha: Rajbhar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BALLIA, SEPTEMBER 22

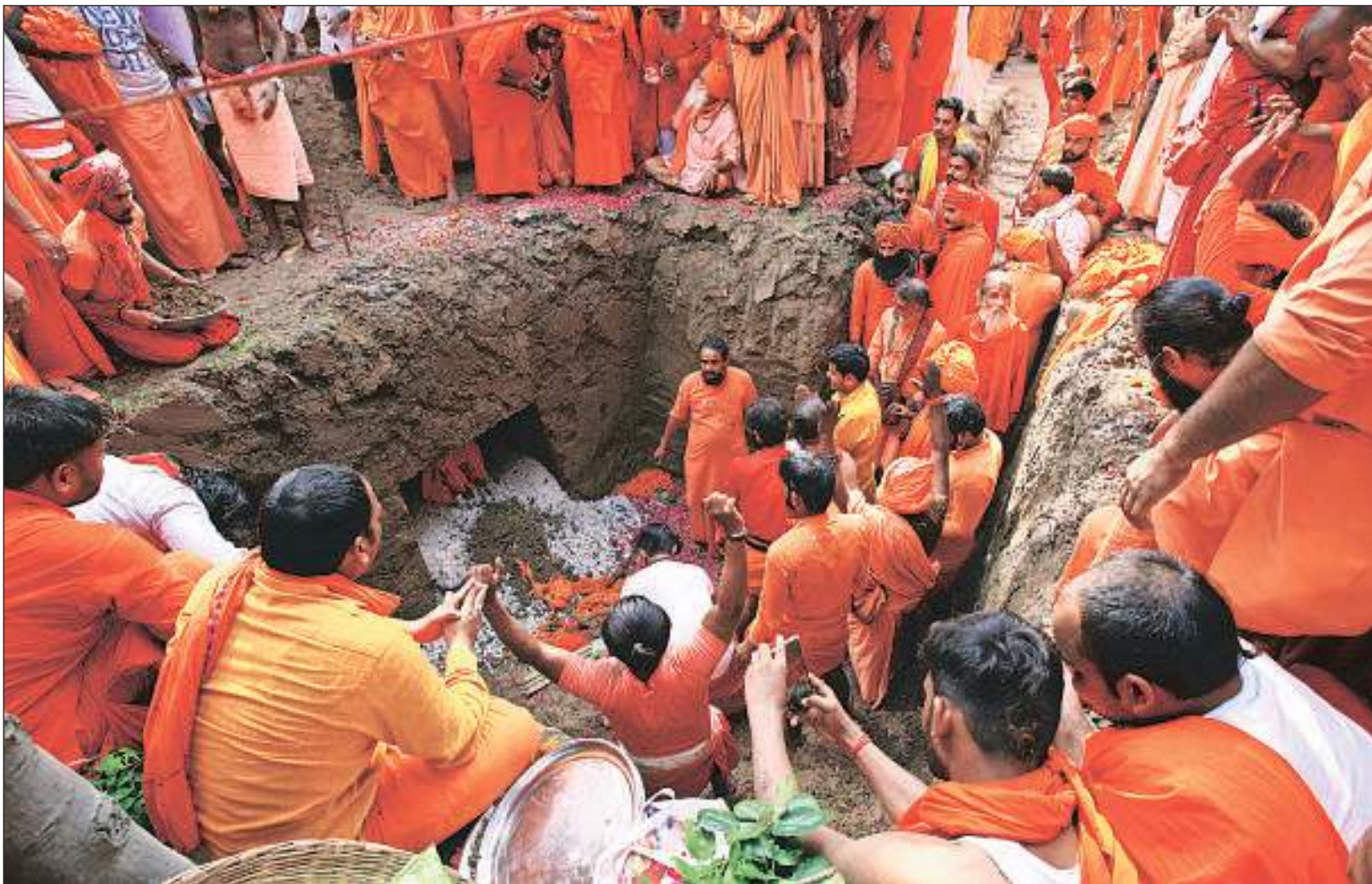
SUHELDEV BHARATIYA Samaj Party (SBSP) chief Om Prakash Rajbhar on Wednesday claimed that Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad will soon be a part of the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha and a formal announcement in this regard will be made at a rally on October 27.

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

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.

The government's announcement 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-year-old 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 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 statements of the math's sewa-dars and disciples.

At the court, George Town Station House Officer (SHO) Mahesh Singh, the investigating officer in the case, "produced deceased's two cellphones, seven-page 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. 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-year-old'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 disciples.

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 Agrahari.

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. Daraganj SHO JP 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 respects to Giri.

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 Niranjani 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



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 BJP'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 BJP said the central leaders were likely to stay in the state capital for two days.

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, BJP national vice-president and Uttar Pradesh in-charge Radha Mohan Singh, and former Uttarakhand governor and newly appointed national



Union minister and BJP's election-in-charge of UP Dharmendra Pradhan in Lucknow Wednesday. Vishal Srivastava

vice-president Baby Rani Maurya. The meeting continued till late evening, said sources, adding that state Cabinet ministers were also part of the deliberations.

While the senior leaders discussed 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

placed in charge of zones as well as prominent leaders such as former state presidents would be a part of that meeting.

Meanwhile, after arriving in 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 [to the BJP]."

—WITH PTI INPUTS

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 Sanjay Kishan Kaul and B R 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 suggestions.

The bench said that the High Court may itself issue some di-

rections 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 earlier 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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Advt.No.: 4/NT/R/2021	Date: 22.09.2021
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for appointment to various non-teaching posts. Online Application Form and related details are available on the University's Website www.cuh.ac.in . Any further information in this regard shall be uploaded on the University's website only. The last date for submission of online application is 22-10-2021, 05:00 PM.	
REGISTRAR	

Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology, Shibpur भारतीय अभियान्त्रिकी विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, शिवपुर (An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)	
SPECIAL DRIVE FOR FACULTY RECRUITMENT AGAINST BACKLOG RESERVED VACANCIES Advt. No. RO/SE/21/12 Date: 22.09.2021	
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the posts of Assistant Professor Grade I (Level 12), Assistant Professor Grade II (Level 11) and Assistant Professor Grade II (Level 10) against the backlog reserved vacancies (ST, SC and OBC). The necessary qualifications, experience and emoluments will be as per the latest notifications issued by the Ministry of Education. Reservation rules of the Govt. of India will be followed strictly. The last date of submission of filled in application form is 21st October, 2021. For details please visit: www.iests.ac.in	
Dean (Faculty Welfare)	

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, KEONJHAR (Formerly Orissa School of Mining Engineering [Degree Stream], Keonjhar) At: Jamunalia, P.O.: Old Town, Dist., Keonjhar, Pin: 758002 (Odisha) Web: www.gcekr.ac.in / Mail id: principal@gcekr.ac.in Advertisement No.: 858 Date: 22.09.2021	
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF REGULAR PROFESSOR AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR In continuation to this office advertisement No. 705, Dt.13.08.2021, this is for information of all concerned that the last date of submission of application for the recruitment of regular position of Professor and Associate Professor is extended up to Dt. 21.10.2021 . The details are available at the Institute website www.gcekr.ac.in .	
Principal OIPR-14088/11/0003/2122	

SBI State Bank of India (Constituted under the State Bank of India Act, 1955) Shares & Bonds Department, Corporate Centre, 14th floor State Bank Bhavan, Madame Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021 Website: https://bank.sbi Email: investorcomplaints@sbi.co.in Phone No.: 022-22741474, 22740841, 22742403, 22740846, 22742842	
KIND ATTENTION: SHAREHOLDERS NOTICE FOR CLAIMING UNPAID / UNCLAIMED DIVIDEND FOR FY2014-15 ONWARDS	
Dear Shareholders, In terms of Section 38A (3) of the State Bank of India (SBI) Act, 1955, any amount of dividend which remains unpaid or unclaimed for a period of seven years, shall be transferred by the Bank to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). Subsequently, such dividend can be claimed by the respective shareholder only through IEPF.	
Therefore, we request you to send your claim for the unpaid/unclaimed dividend pertaining to financial years 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2020-21 (Bank has not declared any dividend during the FY 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20) to Bank's Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA) at address given below by submitting documents detailed at https://bank.sbi/web/investor-relations/share-holder-bond-holder-information → Unclaimed Dividend	
M/s Alankit Assignments Limited (Unit: State Bank of India), 205-208, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Extension, New Delhi – 110055. Telephone: 7290071335, Email: sbi.ig@alankit.com	
For State Bank of India Sham K. Assistant General Manager (Compliance & Company Secretary)	
Place: Mumbai Date: 23 September 2021	

NINTH ARREST

-PTI

BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA
Another warrant issued against Param Bir Singh

Mumbai: The inquiry commission headed by retired high court judge Justice 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. **ENS**

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 Disease Investigation Laboratory. **ENS**

J&K
L-G flags off new buses

Jammu: 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 JKRTC’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 open.

“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 producing vaccines for the India-Pacific region,” he said.

“India and South Africa have proposed a TRIPS waiver at the

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,

and PPE kits. These are providing affordable options to many developing countries. We have shared medicines and medical supplies with over 150 countries,” Modi said.

“Two indigenously developed 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**

570
DAYS SINCE
PANDEMIC
BEGAN

NEW CASES: 31,202
ACTIVE CASES: 3,02,141
TOTAL VACCINATION: 82,65,15,754

DAILY DEATHS
281

TOTAL DEATHS
4,46,049

WEEKLY CFR
0.75%

OVERALL CFR
1.35%

TESTS TODAY: 17,19,952 | TOTAL TESTS: 55,84,74,234
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 Pradesh	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%

Note: Data as on Sept 22, vaccination numbers as of Sept 21. Deaths include those from previous days.

6 J&K govt employees sacked for terror links

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.

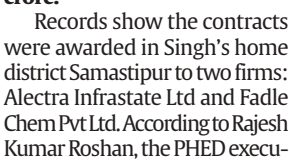
Centre files plea against allowing second dose of Covishield earlier

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

If the applicant who is seeking compensation is the spouse of the person who died, the document will not be needed for ap-

"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.

Kin on list, ex-Minister distances himself



PHED contracts awarded to Khushi Construction in



■ **Rajan Tiwari, BJP**
spokesperson
PHED contracts for his com-

■ Mohammed Khalid
(brother of Mohammed Sarfaraz,
JD(U), Sheikhpura): Got PHED

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....."

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.

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

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

**Sd/-Executive Engineer,
MI & GWD Division, Mandya.**

DIPR/AD-MDY/MCA/356/2021-22

"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் - சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

SC grants relief from arrest to Gehana Vasisth

During Wednesday's hearing on Vasisth's plea challenging a Bombay High Court order 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

She faces charges under Sections 354-C (outraging modesty of woman), 292 and 293A (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.

FIR against YouTube channel for 'fake news'

“The news said that Haryana chief minister Khattar had submitted his resignation and Vijay (Haryana home minister) will

■ 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."

YouTube 'fake news'

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

seen claiming he is the head of the 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-



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

“He was studying physiotherapy for some exams, but he 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 Vijay works as an autorickshaw driver and lives with his family.

On Tuesday, Owaisi said: "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?"

7 EXPRESS NETWORK



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



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 Punjab 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 MLAs, 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 Assembly.

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 fleeing the spot.

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 Corridor 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 said.

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

FORMER PUNJAB CM QUESTIONS DELHI 'HAND' IN STATE CONGRESS

Will field 'strong' candidate 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. "I had a very good PPCC president, I took his advice, but he never told me how to run the govern-



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 leading the Congress 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

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



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

3 months after 'attack', BJP poll candidate dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 22

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 family and BJP leaders have demanded a CBI probe into the case.

BJP's Dhurjati Saha, also known as Manas, had contested the Magrahat Paschim constituency in South 24 Parganas district and lost to TMC's Giasuddin Molla by 97,006 votes.

Saha's son said the hospital 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, where he died.

State BJP president Sukanta Majumder said that Saha's death was "unfortunate".

Destiny that I should become CM through Bhabanipur: Mamata

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 22

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 Chief Minister of West Bengal.

Banerjee said it was "taqdeer ka khel [fate]" that she has to get elected from Bhabanipur to become the chief minister.

She is contesting from Bhabanipur to retain her post following her defeat in Nandigram earlier this year. When TMC came to power in Bengal in 2011, Banerjee became the chief minister despite not contesting the election. In a by-poll later that year, she won the election from Bhabanipur. She finds herself in a similar situation again.

"Don't think that Didi's victory is secured and there is no point going 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.

"In 2021, my party had requested me to contest from Nandigram to support the farmers' 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 taqdeer ka khel that Mamata Banerjee should become the chief minister from Bhabanipur."

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the TMC chief said, "Narendra Modi ji and Amit Shah bhai ji, don't think that you will turn India into a Taliban state." She later addressed another public meeting in Chetla.

Ravi quits as Naga peace talks interlocutor

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
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 Naga interlocutor following a verbal spat between the two through 2020.



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

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 resignation on September 18.

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 some plans."

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

SHANTANU CHOWDHURY & MAYURA JANWALKAR
KOLKATA, PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 22

TRINAMOL CONGRESS (TMC) chief Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday shared her party's pan-India plans and vowed to defeat the BJP in several states, including Goa.

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 the 40-member Goa Assembly.

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 sources said.

Pinarayi shows govt data to junk 'narcotic jihad, love jihad' claims

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 22

AMID A raging debate over a Catholic bishop's remarks about youths from non-Muslims communities being targets of "love jihad" and "narcotic jihad" in Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday quoted government data to dismiss all such claims, and sought to delink it from religion.

Vijayan told reporters that if data on those involved in religious conversion and narcotics are analysed, it is clear that minorities do not have any special role in such activities. There is no backing of facts for such claims, he said.

He said these issues - so-called "love jihad" and "narcotic jihad" - cannot be categorised with any particular religion.

Dismissing claims of "narcotic jihad" as baseless, he gave numbers from government data.

In 2020, as many as 4,941 cases were registered in Kerala under NDPS Act. Of the 5,422 accused, 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 religion," he said.

The Chief Minister said there is no evidence to show that drug peddlers or drug users belong to a particular religion. "On school, college campuses, there are students from various communities. If any of them uses drugs or



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," he said.

'Toolkit' case: SC says won't interfere with HC stay on probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

THE SUPREME Court Wednesday dismissed the Chhattisgarh government's plea 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 government.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

WITH NEW Delhi and London trying to iron out differences over the issue of vaccine certificates 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."

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. **ENS**

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

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

NO 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

THE 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 rickshaw-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 lawlessness. 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

SOMETIMES, 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



RAJIV BHATIA

TWO MEETINGS OF the leaders of a plural lateral 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-



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



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

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 proximity to the serious threat of terrorism, extremism and radicalisation emanating from Afghanistan.

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 like-minded 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

heritage through the family favourite animation, *Mighty Little Bheem*. India has the 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 creative community in India. We've licensed 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

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



9 THE IDEAS PAGE

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-all 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 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 coalition membership: They are relevant, resourceful, and ready to work together to tackle the challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

And make no mistake, for the Biden ad-



CR Sasikumar

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 the Quad.

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 coalition membership: They are relevant, resourceful, and ready to work together to tackle the challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

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 fall-out 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 case.

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

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

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 asked. 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 anti-human 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 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



AMAN WADUD

Citizens without a country

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

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 fresh air.

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, 1946, 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.

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 LW-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 on ground.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

PAPER ALLIANCE

THIS REFERS TO the article, ‘Limits of Bhainchara 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. YG Chouksey, Pune

10 THE WORLD

TOP OF THE WORLD



Investigators examine 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 Zelenskyy on Wednesday, an incident a senior official called an assassination attempt and Zelenskyy said may have been a message intended for him. The aide, Serhiy Shefir, survived unscathed 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. Zelenskyy, who is in New York for the U.N. General Assembly, said he did not know for now who was responsible for the attack. **REUTERS**

EGYPT

Former military ruler Tantawi dies at 85

Cairo: Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, the former 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 mourning. Tantawi — a decorated veteran of wars against Israel in 1956, 1967 and 1973 — was defence 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 movement. **REUTERS**

SRI LANKA

Govt probes minister over prisoner threat

Colombo: Sri Lankan police are investigating an incident in which the government prisons minister allegedly threatened to kill two ethnic minority detainees inside a prison, an official said Wednesday. Lohan Ratwatte, state minister of Prison Management and Prisoners' Rehabilitation, resigned last week following 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 Dulas Alahapperuma said a police investigation is underway. **AP**

JAPAN

Library devoted to Murakami to open in Tokyo

Tokyo: A library devoted to Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami's writings, scrapbooks and record collection opens on October 1 in Tokyo as a spot for literary research, cultural exchange 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. **AP**

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 high-level 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."

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 recognise him as president".

The Taliban letter further in-



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 Isacai no longer represents Afghanistan.

Haq said that on September 15, the Secretary-General had received a communication from Isacai, containing the list of delegation of Afghanistan 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

MEANWHILE

TRUMP SUES NEICE, NYT OVER TAX PAPERS

Donald Trump has filed a lawsuit accusing his niece 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.

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-EU FTA 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." **REUTERS**



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 in-depth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence," the Elysee and the White House said in a joint 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. **AP**

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

REUTERS

PARIS, SEPTEMBER 22

CARLOS THE Jackal, 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 on a Paris shop in 1974.

The self-declared "professional revolutionary", whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, has been behind bars in France since he was captured and spirited out of Sudan by 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 Publics, 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.



Ilich Ramirez Sanchez

Biden calls on global partners to 'go big' in world's Covid response

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

Covid-19 and solving a global 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-middle-income 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 of the world," he said. **NYT**



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*



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.

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. politicians from both parties have criticized Biden's handling of the situation. Republicans have said the Biden administration has encouraged illegal immigration by relaxing some of the headline 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. **REUTERS**

UK: 3 Sikhs held for death of RSS man discharged

London: A UK court Wednesday 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.

The arrests of Piara Singh Gill, Amritvir Singh Wahiwal and Gursharanvir Singh Wahiwal followed early morning raids on Indian extradition warrants ex-

ecuted 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. **PTI**

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**

11 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 58,927.33 ▼ 7794 (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

International market data till 1900 IST

CORPORATE WATCH
BOARDROOM

IDFC shareholders reject nomination of Rai as director

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
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 experience

62% VOTES AGAINST



File

■ 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.

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.

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) Wednesday entered into an 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 RIL-owned 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.

For the year-ending March 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

EXPLAINED
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

provides an exclusive negotiation 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 Gaurav Mehta.

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

Investors Advisory Services (IiAS) 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, co-founder 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 effectively..." Menon said.

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

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

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
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. There were concerns with respect 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



Vi MD Ravinder Takkar. File

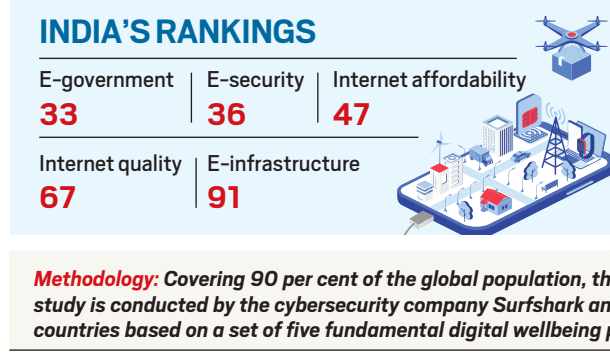
new round of fundraising that the company is doing, Takkar said.

"As a company we feel very confident about the fundraising given all the scenarios that we talked about. I think how much they (the promoters) will participate, 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 market," 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 in a new partner on board.

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

'Digital Quality of Life Index 2021: India drops to 59th'

The third annual edition of the Digital Quality of Life Index, conducted by cybersecurity company Surfshark, ranks India 59th among 110 countries, a drop of 2 places from last year



DICGC to pay depositors of 21 banks

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
MUMBAI, 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 further enhanced 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 money back.

Top 5
Denmark, South Korea
Finland, Israel, and the US

Bottom 5
Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cameroon,
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

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.

India, UAE look to sign 'early harvest deal' by start of 2022

ENSECONOMICBUREAU
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-

ments are used to liberalise tariffs on the trade of certain goods between two countries or trading blocs before a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is concluded.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal 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 (CEPA) 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

agreement. "Both sides have drawn up a very aggressive and ambitious timeframe, and aim to conclude negotiations by December 2021 itself," 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 Zeyoudi said.

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 tech giants pay for news content.

While Facebook has announced 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**

Yes Bank takes possession of part of HDIL Towers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 22

YES BANK Ltd has taken possession of the office premises of a subsidiary of Housing 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 and 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 the notice.

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&FS chairman

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday extended the term of Uday Kotak as non-executive 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 (APSEZ) 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

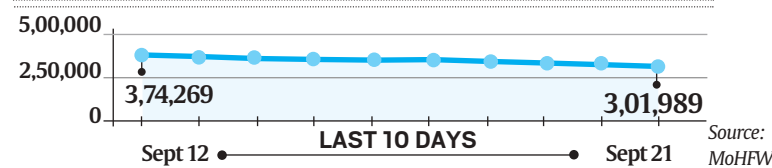
Chennai: Ford India was in the process of announcing a settlement package with the employees, a Tamil Nadu Minister said. **PTI**



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

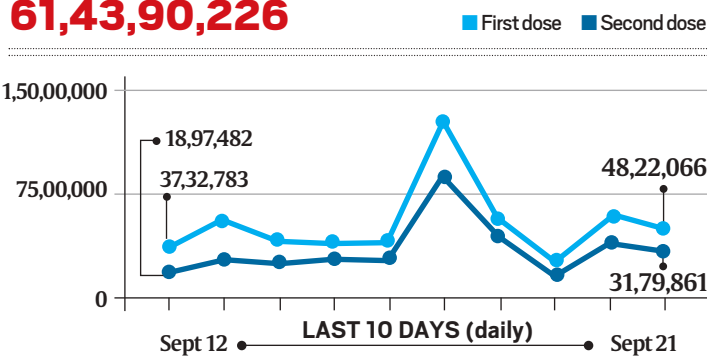
fate has kept global stock and bond markets on tenterhooks as late

debt payments could trigger so-called cross-defaults.



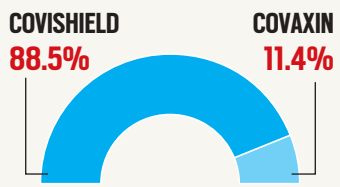
CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
61,43,90,226



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)

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, have tails.
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 genetic 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 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 passed on the mutation to its offspring.

THE NEW YORK TIMES



PAPER CLIP

NEW RESEARCH

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

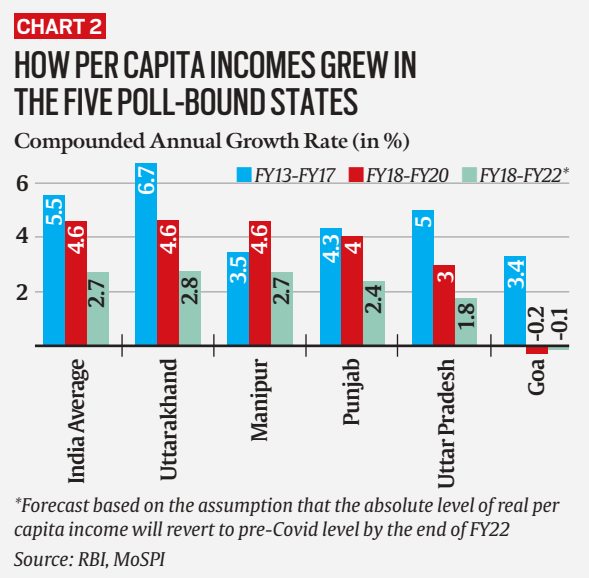
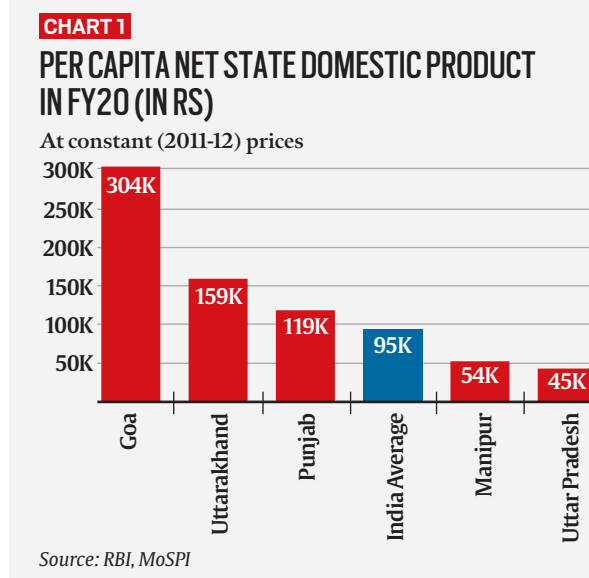
What was the growth rate of per capita income in the five years leading up to the elections? And how does it compare with the five years immediately before that?

Chart 2 provides a picture of how things may look to electors as they prepare to cast 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



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
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.

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.

PUNJAB
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-BJP government, and also lower than the national average rate.

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 the BJP government, per capita incomes grew

in sync with the national average.

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.

GOA
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 between FY18 and FY22.

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 years 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 super-wealthy 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?

DEEPTIMANT TIWARY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 22

A US 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.

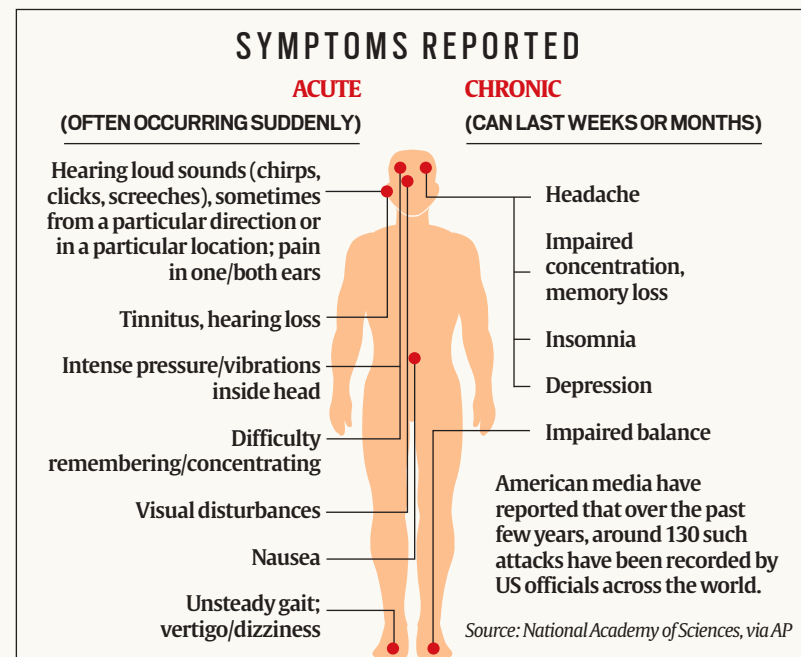
The New Yorker said specialists who studied the brains of the victims determined that their injuries resembled concussions, like those suffered by soldiers struck by roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan. But there were no signs of impact.

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 high-power 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

‘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' have 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, gender-neutral 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.

SHAHID JUDGE

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 20-year-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 home."

While the Services boxer was taking down favourites in the 54-kg category at the week-long national championships, his uncle Bhawar Singh and coach Narender Rana were battling emotions, keeping the news from him.

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 the bargain.

"We decided that we wouldn't tell him... *seene pe pathar 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



Akash Kumar became the 54kg national champion on Tuesday. After learning about 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, using 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 breakthrough 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 Belgrade, 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 Wednesday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board followed New Zealand on Monday by cancelling both its men's and women's cricket tours to Pakistan next month.

Chaudhry claimed that New Zealand received threatening emails before it arrived in Pakistan on Sept. 11, including an email sent to the wife of Martin Gupthill 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 Gupthill'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 international cricket," Chaudhry said.

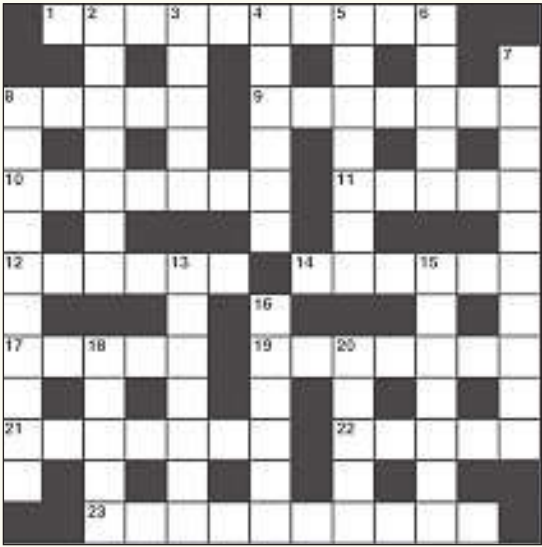
The British High Commissioner in Pakistan wrote on *Twitter* that he had not advised against the tour on security grounds and that the ECB took the decision on its own.

"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 Gupthill in which the opening batsman received a death threat.

CROSSWORD 4542



ACROSS

- 1 One way of remembering? (6,4)
- 8 Easily carried lamp (5)
- 9 Geraint turns out to be a thankless person (7)
- 10 Inferior tuft of horsehair (7)
- 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 (3,3)
- 17 Monastic practice (5)
- 19 He escaped to become famous (7)
- 21 It's extremely small and free of charge (7)
- 22 A league match (5)
- 23 Excitement experienced by novice poker player (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 Converting heights into parts (7)
- 3 Excel with an alfresco celebration (5)
- 4 Outcry of those who join in the chase (6)
- 5 Regalia thrown out by republic (7)
- 6 Animal from China for example? (5)
- 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 (7)
- 16 Agreeable question (3,3)
- 18 Only pretend it's a headline (5)
- 20 Customary order of a regular drinker (5)

Solutions Crossword 4541: Across: 1 Chumps, 4 Mucle, 9 Picture, 10 Claim, 11 Tot up, 12 Impetus, 13 Word picture, 18 Tripoli, 20 Outer, 22 Tails, 23 Asinine, 24 Carute, 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.

JUMBLED WORDS

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

Doubt is not below ____, but above it. - Alain-René Lesage (9)

MTEEO



CGULN



ALOPDG



EINDKW

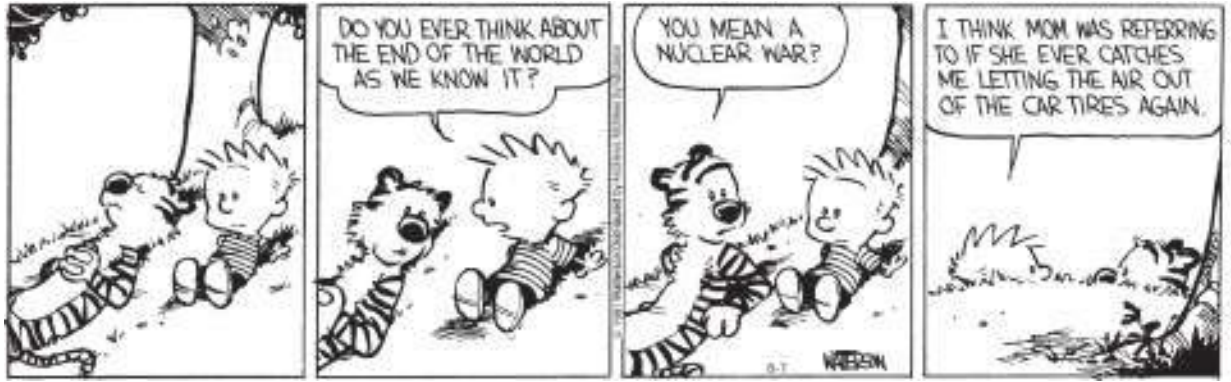


SOLUTION: BNOTE, CLUNG, LAPDOG, WINKED

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4603

Difficulty Level 2s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

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



SOLUTION SUDOKU 4602



DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL



ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Financial news could be better than you'd 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 focusing on a new social goal.

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.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

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 have to learn.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Unexpected encounters could prove to be highly fortunate, and may 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.

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.

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)

Chase up any cash owing to you, and give time to long-term 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 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.

AQUARIUS (Jan 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 present you with 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.

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

IT WAS 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's 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 wicket-taker last season, the South African seemed rather subdued in India in April-May. It didn't help matters that he missed his partner-in-

crime 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
DC	9	7	2	0.613	14
CSK	8	6	2	+1.223	12
RCB	8	5	3	-0.706	10
MI	8	4	4	-0.071	8
RR	8	4	4	-0.154	8
KKR	8	3	5	+0.110	6
PBKS	9	3	6	-0.345	6
SRH	8	1	7	-0.689	2

cramped and got big on Manish Pandey for a caught-and-bowled 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 Iyer 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 42, Rishabh Pant 35 no.).

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, though asymptomatic, 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 Hyderabad outfit 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 everywhere.

"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

SANDIP G
SEPTEMBER 22

The conventional yorker is a low-flung delivery spearing into the base of the off-stump. But with post-modern 360-degree pyro-technicians on the prowl, yorkers have gone wider and wider from the off-stump in the shortest format, reaping considerable success, as did 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 yorkers?

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 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 fifth-sixth 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 flay him over cover.

But Tyagi, while maintaining the line, pulled the length back a fraction and foxed him.

The last ball, careful not to concede an unnecessary wide, he dragged the yorker closer to the stumps, in the fifth-sixth 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 length too.

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 under 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.

icult 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 and stability.

What is the fundamental (and philosophical) difference between a conventional and wide yorker?

The conventional yorker was primarily designed as a wicket-taking, wrecker-ball, 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 run-denying, restrictive play, confined largely to T20s.

Some traditionalists even call it a negative play, equating it to the round-the-stumps leg-side tactic against right-handed 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 yorker is even more difficult a trick to pull off than the conventional one on a consistent basis.

What are the virtues a bowler needs?

Pace is paramount, perhaps more than the conventional version, where even 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 themselves up for it.

What are the risk factors?

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 ODIs, it is better to risk a wide than miss the length and get struck for a six.

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 them.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

Hulk's body goes into sulk again



Marcus Stoinis
iplt20.com

smile has had his fair share of injuries

'Is Stoinis injured?' is a google FAQ. The poor man went down again in IPL. He averted in to bowl and just as he gathered himself at the crease, he went limp. "Calf problem" sighed the commentators. The man with a swaying walk and the wide drop-jaw

to most constituents of his anatomy: side strains, calf issues, shoulder, ankle... you name it, he has had it.

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.

Grumpy Bhuvu



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, cursed 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.

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Women's Hostel Block – 1:
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