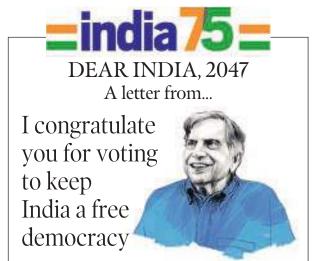
*The Indian EXPRESS

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021, CHANDIGARH, LATE CITY, 16 PAGES

SINCE 1932



RATAN TATA

FIHAD the opportunity of writing to the young Indian citizens in 2047, the year in which India would attain a 100 years of independence, I would say the following: To the young Indian citizens of 2047,

I would like to congratulate you as members who have voted to keep India as a freely voting democracy which has peacefully settled border disputes and religious controversies. During these

AN EXPRESS **SERIES**

years, I would hope that India will have achieved a meaningful position in the global economic arena with its stable

economic policies with the vision of the government in power. Above all, I would hope that you would continue to take your place as part of a nation that will uphold and support a government that will stand for continuing peace and economic stability in the future years.

THE WRITER IS CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, TATA SONS; CHAIRMAN, TATA TRUSTS

CADILA'S 3-DOSE SHOT BASED

First Covid-19 vaccine for children above 12 yrs gets emergency use nod

66% efficacy recorded; needle-free, 2nd dose at 28 days, 3rd at 56 days

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

GUJARAT-BASED Zydus Cadila's three-dose Covid-19 vaccine was on Friday granted emergency use authorisation for use in adults and children above 12 years, making it potentially the first vaccine to be administered to the adolescent population in India.

With the central drug regulator clearing the vaccine, Zydus Cadila's ZyCoV-D is set to become the first Covid vaccine candidate developed on a plasmid DNA platform to be commercially introduced anywhere in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Low-cost, no cold storage

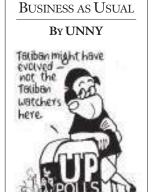
ZyCoV-D is the world's first Covid-19 vaccine built on a DNA platform to be granted emergency use authorisation. Unlike mRNA vaccines, DNAbased vaccines do not require ultra-cold storage systems and are said to be more cost-effective. Zydus also claims that its technology is ideal for tackling Covid-19 as it can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus.

that terror ideology does not last: PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, AUGUST 20

CITING THE number of times the Somnath temple was raided, and the fact that it had emerged from each such event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that "those destructive forces, and the ideology that establishes an empire on the foundation of terror", could not last long.

Such forces and empires "can become dominant for some time CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



THE FALL OF KABUL TO **TALIBAN** WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA

A SERIES

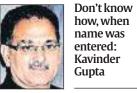
THE SINS OF EMPIRE By Pratap Bhanu Mehta PAGE 10 **THE TALIBAN**

WARCHEST By Krishn Kaushik PAGE 14

Somnath proof J&K ex-Deputy CM who slammed govt land transfer was also illegal occupant

ARUN SHARMA JAMMU, AUGUST 20

FORMER DEPUTY CHIEF Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta, who described the transfer of state land under the controversial Roshni Act (now annulled) to private individuals as "land jihad" in the run-up to the District Development Council (DDC) elections last November,



was himself an illegal occupant of state land from 2010 till the

beginning of 2017. According to information obtained from the Bhalwal Tehsildar under an RTI application filed by

Advocate Sheikh Shakeel, Kavinder Gupta along with two others - Subash Sharma and Shiv Rattan Gupta — jointly occupied Khasra No. 1789 measuring 23 kanaal, 9 marla (8 kanaal = 1 acre or 4,047 sq m, 1 marla = 270 sq ft) at village Ghaink in Bhalwal teĥsil in Jammu district between 2010 and 2016. Khasra number is a plot number given to a piece of land by the revenue department.

Sharma is an independent CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Congress president Sonia Gandhi at Parliament House on Friday. PTI

No alternative, need to come together for 2024: Sonia to Opp

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

SPEAKING FOR the first time on the need for Opposition parties to come together ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Congress president Sonia Gandhi told top Opposition leaders Friday that there is "simply no alternative" before them but

to work "cohesively together". At a meeting of 19 Opposition parties, including Congress, Gandhi said all parties have some "compulsions" but it was time to rise above them.

Trinamool Congress chief and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said the parties should not focus on identifying a "leader" CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

While HC heard Saini plea, VB official wrote to CJ seeking transfer of cases to another bench

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

WHILE DICTATING the order to release former Puniab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini, who had been arrested by the state Vigilance Bureau on Wednesday, the Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi noted that in the course of hearing "an email was received on the official ID" of the Punjab and Haryana High Court "purporting to have been sent by Harvinder Pal Singh, PPS, Investigation Officer FIR number 11 dated 17.09.2020," at police station phase-I, Vigilance Bureau, Mohali.

The Vigilance Bureau had arrested Saini in connection with a case registered in September 17, 2020 for cheating, forgery, corruption and other offences. Saini was released early on Friday after the single bench of Justice Tyagi allowed a habeas corpus petition moved by the former DGP's wife's on Thursday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

WFI chief slams pvt bodies, says won't select wrestlers they back

WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh is a BJP MP from UP

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

MIHIR VASAVDA

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

IN WHAT could turn out to be a tricky scenario for Tokyo Olympics medal-winning wrestlers Ravi Dahiya and Bajrang Punia as well as other top wrestlers like Vinesh Phogat, Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has warned players who are associated with private, not-for-profit companies that they will not be considered for selection going ahead.

Singh, a BJP MP from UP, also

came down heavily on the government for dealing directly with athletes under its flagship Target Olympic Podium Scheme

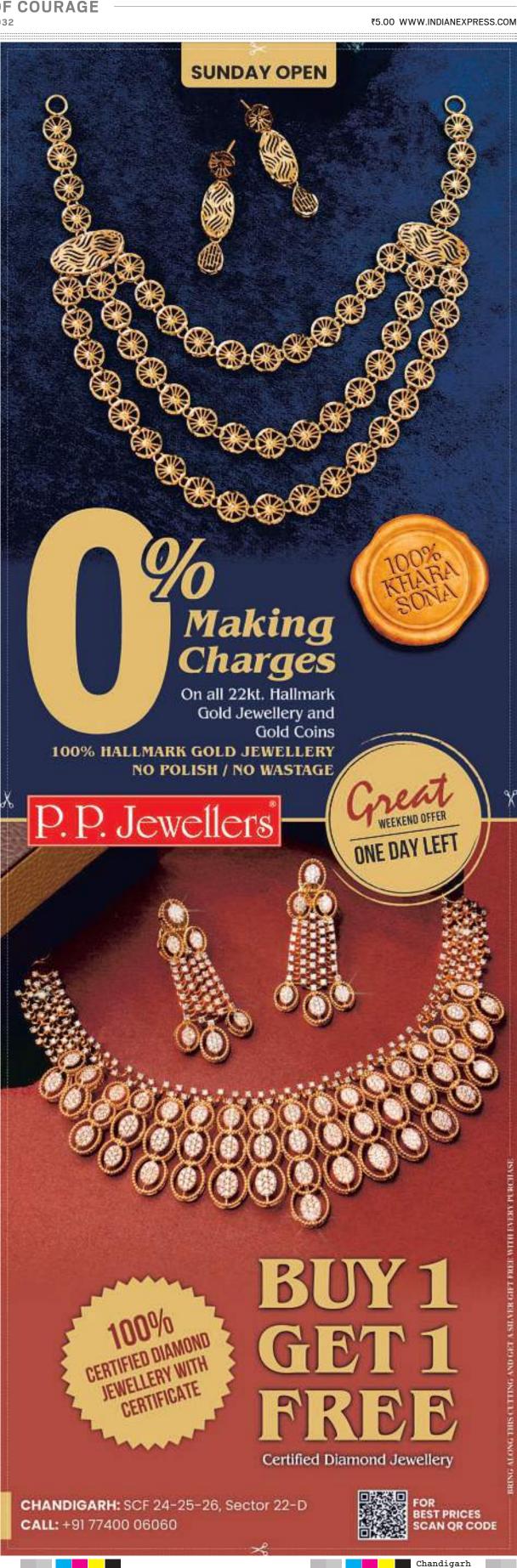
(TOPS). He has demanded a bigger say in the planning for the Paris Olympics. India has won six medals in

cluding two earlier this month in Tokyo. Dahiya, who competed in the 57-kg weight class, won a silver medal while Punia clinched bronze in the 65-kg However, for both these

Olympics, starting 2008, in-

wrestlers, and several others, the road to Paris could get complicated after Singh said he no longer required the services of private bodies like the Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ) and JSW Sports, who have been supporting Dahiva and Punia respectively.Singh alleged OGQ and JSW had "spoiled three wrestlers" although he refused to name them and elaborate how.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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HOW THE SALAD BOWL OF MULTICULTURAL BOMBAY SHAPED THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

Different communities largely held the same objective of independence, but starkly different methods of how

to achieve it and what it would look like

ENTERTAINMENT



200 HALLAHO **REVIEW** A gut-wrenching thriller marred

by monologues

REALME WATCH 2 PRO REVIEW

The smartwatch packs all the niceties you would want

TECH

EXPRESS AUDIO

The Sunanda Pushkar case, EPFO fraud, and Jaishankar at UNSC

Today we discuss about the Sunanda Pushkar death case from the beginning, nexus of staff at a Mumbai office of the EPFO allegedly siphoning over Rs 21 crore and a quick look at what Jaishankar said at UNSC

emails had detailed information

on the training plans for Tokyo,

the coach and support staff and

sparring partners for Vinesh,"

teamwork and cooperation

mentioned earlier, we sent a

proposal to WFI on 24th March

2021 to work on 3 main aspects

-- Junior and Cadet wrestlers for

the long term, keeping Los

Angeles 2028 Olympics in mind,

Sports science and Coaches," it

comment on Singh's remarks.

set an example of Vinesh, who

has been show-caused and pro-

visionally banned for allegedly

refusing to stay with the rest of

the Indian wrestlers in Tokyo

The JSW Sports declined to

Singh also said he wanted to

"Finally, in the same spirit of

the statement said.

stated.

FROM PAGE ONE

Sonia to Opp

"Forget who is the leader, let's keep our personal interests aside," she said. She suggested that every Opposition party, including even those not allied with the Congress, should be invited as the "fight is against the

"The people are the leaders. Let us set up a core group and work together," Banerjee said. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi too suggested that the parties should project an "alternate" vision to the BJP, espousing their idea of India.

Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut, who attended the meeting along with party chief Uddhav Thackeray, said: "Uddhavji said that in view of the 2024 general elections, the Opposition should unite and Opposition unity should be taken to the people in such a way that people believe

Sources said it was decided that the leaders will now meet more frequently to arrive at a consensus on developing a "coordination framework" to identify issues to be raised jointly. "This is a beginning," one leader told The Indian Express.

Referring to the assembly polls next year, CPI general secretary D Raja said the parties should focus on 2022 first and that Opposition parties should work together to fight the elec-

A joint statement issued after the meeting, however, made no mention of 2024 or any electoral strategy. It gave a call for a joint protest action from September 20 to 30. The meeting via virtual mode was attended among others by Banerjee, DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, Shiv Sena chief and Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, JMM chief and Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, RJD's Tejaswi Yadav, CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI's Raja, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, National Conference chief Farooq

Abdullah. Senior Congress leaders including former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Mallikarjun Kharge and A K Antony too attended the meeting, as did RLD's Jayant Chaudhary, Loktantrik Janata Dal's Sharad Yadav, RSP leader N K Premachandran and representatives of Assam's AIUDF, Tamil Nadu's Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi, JD(S), Kerala Congress (M) and the IUML.

Gandhi said the monsoon session of Parliament saw "determined unity" by all Opposition parties. The parties, she said, functioned in a coordinated manner with daily discussions among the floor leaders.

"I am confident that this unity will be sustained in future sessions of Parliament as well But the larger political battle has to be fought outside it," she said.

"Of course, the ultimate goal is the 2024 Lok Sabha elections for which we have to begin to plan systematically with the single-minded objective of giving to our country a government that believes in the values of the freedom movement and in the principles and provisions of our Constitution," she said.

"This is a challenge, but together we can and must rise to it because there is simply no alternative to working cohesively together. We all have our compulsions, but clearly, a time has come when the interests of our nation demand that we rise above them," she said.

The compulsions, in fact, were clearly visible. With assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh just months away, the BSP did not attend the meeting. The AAP, which is one of the principal opponents of the Congress in Punjab where assembly elections are due early

next year, was not invited to the virtual meeting. TMC's Banerjee, against whom the Congress fought the recent assembly elections in alliance with the Left, was present -- in Kerala, the Congress and Left are adver-

The Samajwadi Party too skipped the meeting but its chief Akhilesh Yadav wrote expressing his inability to join as he was travelling in the "interior of the state".

Gandhi said the 75th anniversary of India's Independence is "indeed the most appropriate occasion for us to reaffirm our individual and collective resolve" and "let me say for its part, the Indian National Congress will not be found wanting".

In their joint statement, the parties hit out at the government for "refusing to discuss or answer the illegal usage of Pegasus military spyware to conduct unauthorized surveillance, repeal of the three antifarmer laws, gross mismanagement of Covid-19 pandemic, runaway inflation and price rise as also spiralling unemployment" and steamrolling legislations in Parliament.

"The Prime Minister, in his Independence Day address, did not focus on a single-issue concerning people's miseries. The speech was full of rhetoric, empty slogans and disinformation. In fact, it was a repackaging of earlier speeches given in 2019 and 2020. This speech is an ominous warning that the lives of our people will continue to be ruined further," the statement

Stating that procurement of the Pegasus spyware is extremely alarming, it said "the government refuses to answer one straight question – Has it, or any of its agencies purchased the Pegasus Spyware from the Israeli firm – NSO, known for cyber military surveillance? The government must answer and come clean.

The parties put forth 11 demands to the government: augment vaccine production capabilities in India and procure vaccines globally, implement free cash transfers of Rs 7,500 per month to all families outside the Income Tax bracket, withdraw hikes in Central excise duties on petroleum and diesel, reduce prices of cooking gas, repeal the three farm laws, stop and reverse the unbridled privatisation of the public sector, hold a Supreme Court-monitored judicial enquiry into the Pegasus episode, order investigation into the Rafale deal, release of all political prisoners in Iammu and Kashmir and those in custody under UAPA in the Bhima Koregaon case and anti-CAA protests.

Pawar praised Gandhi for convening the meeting. He said the present situation in India is "very disappointing".

"The farmers have been agitating for many months. It is a painful picture in a democratic country like India. Economic slowdown, Covid pandemic, unemployment, border tension, issues of minorities... The country is faced with many issues. And the present government has failed to resolve all these issues... those who believe in democracy and secularism... those people who want to work unitedly to protect our country's democratic values... all of them should come together," Pawar

said in a post on Twitter. He said it was time for the parties to draw up a programme collectively in a time-bound manner. He said the parties should prioritise issues rather than taking up all issues in one

PM at Somnath

in a given era, but can never become permanent. They can-

Zydus Cadila's 3-dose vaccine gets nod

The vaccine, jointly developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology, had demonstrated a primary efficacy of 66.66 per cent in phase 3 clinical trials. It was the first Covid-19 vaccine in India to be tested in the adolescent population – those in the 12-18-year age group.

On Friday, the Indian drug regulator said in a tweet that after evaluating the "interim" phase III clinical trials results in consultation with the subject expert committee, it has approved ZyCoV-D "for restricted use in emergency situation in India for 12 years and above". The vaccine is to be administered at days 0, 28, and, 56, the regulator said.

While the vaccine has been approved for use in the adolescent population, it's for the government to take a call on whether to roll out the vaccination drive for this age So far, there are three vac-

cines that are being used in India's immunisation drive --SII's Covishield, Bharat Biotech's Covaxin and Russia's Sputnik V. Moderna's mRNA vaccine and the single-dose vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson have also received EUA. but they are not being used in the vaccination drive

Top government sources said the Zydus DNA Covid-19 vaccine is likely to arrive in the

virtually the foundation stone of

the Parvati temple in Somnath,

and inaugurating several proj-

ects on the premises and around

when some tyrannical forces

were razing Somnath (temple)

as it is today, when the world is

apprehensive of such ideolo-

gies". India should seek "to learn

from history to correct the

present and create a new fu-

'Bharat jodo andolan' its essence

is not limited to linking (India)

geographically or ideologically,

but it is an oath to link our past to

the building of the future of

Samudra Darshan Path (seaside

promenade), the Somnath

Exhibition Gallery (which ex-

hibits ruins of ancient Somnath.

the temple built by queen

Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore in

1783), and the redeveloped

precinct of the ancient temple in

the Somnath complex. The new

Parvati temple will be built at a

a "divine pillar of modern India",

and said that the journey of the

reconstruction of the temple af-

ter Independence and its subse-

quent "grand development" was

not merely the result of efforts

of a few years or decades, but

rather the culmination of firm

resolve and ideological consis-

seeds of rejuvenation in ruins

and creation in destruction, and

gives people the courage to fight

the forces of time, Modi said.

Therefore, the Somnath temple

is a source of confidence for

looks at this grand structure to-

day, he doesn't merely see a

temple. He sees an existence

which, for hundreds, thousands

of years, has been inspiring, ex-

pounding human values; a place

which was called by our seers

the place of light, meaning

"When anyone in the world

Indians.

Lord Shiva symbolises the

tency spanning centuries.

Modi described Somnath as

cost of Rs 30 crore.

The PM inaugurated the

"Therefore, when I talk of

ture", Modi said.

India," he said.

"This", he said, "was as true

the Somnath temple complex.

market by October. In July, Zydus had said that it plans to manufacture 10-12 crore

doses annually.

ZvCoV-D, which uses the 'plug and play' technology, has a DNA plasmid vector that carries the gene encoding the spike protein present on the surface of SARS-CoV-2, which causes the Covid-19 infection. When the DNA plasmid is injected into the human cell, it enters the nucleus and reproduces spike proteins. In response, the human body generates antibodies.

Zydus also claims that its technology is "ideally" suited for tackling Covid-19 as it can be easily adapted to deal with mutations in the virus, such as those already occurring. Friday's approval comes on the basis of data generated from the largest clinical trial for a Covid-19 vaccine in India, with over 28,000 participating in phase-III of clinical tri-

The DNA vaccine platform has, broadly, three advantages. First, it is an intradermal vaccine, which is applied using the needle-free system, resulting in a reduction in sideeffects such as pain at the injection site. Second, unlike m-RNA

vaccines, which need ultracold storage systems, the DNA vaccines can be stored at 2-8 degrees Celsius that is best suited for India's cold storage

for long." Modi said while laving ago: and a place that even today various corners (of the coun-

is proclaiming to the world that

truth can't be defeated by un-

truth, that faith can't be tram-

Modi is the chairman of the

Shree Somnath Trust (SKT), the

religious body that manages and

maintains the famous temple

near Veraval town in the Gir

Somnath district of Gujarat.

Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, veteran BJP leader LK

Advani, and retired Guiarat

chief secretary P K Laheri are

among the trustees of the SKT.

Rupani was present in

Somnath for the ceremony,

while Shah and Advani joined

its pride on the ruins of ancient

times, and described the Ram

Temple in Avodhva as a "pillar

find amicable solutions to

problems, the country is mov-

ing forward. In the form of Ram

temple, today, one more illumi-

nated pillar of the country's

glory is being erected. Our ef-

fort should be to make the

present better by learning from

history and build a new future."

country also involves "the re-

solve to tether ourselves to our

past while building a future

India", Modi said. "Based on

this confidence, we have built

modern pride on the ruins of

the past and have given shapes

to inspirations drawn from the

sociated the Somnath temple

with the independent will of

independent India, and he

bowed his head to Patel for

showing the will to revive the

pride of ancient India by re-

solving to reconstruct the

Somnath temple, the Prime

country were uniting it, he said.

Char Dham, the concept of our

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as-

past," he said.

Minister said.

The mission of uniting the

of the country's glory".

India, Modi said, has built

"With a commitment to

the event virtually.

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay

pled over by terror.'

not keep humanity suppressed knowledge, thousands of years various places of worship in Indian Express.

requirement.

Third, the vaccine manufacturing facility does not require the setting up of BSL-3 high containment facility as is required in the production of inactivated virus vaccines like Covaxin. Instead, the vaccine can be manufactured with minimum biosafety require-

"Double good news for the nation!@CDSCO_INDIA_INF approves the 1st DNA-based, needle-free #COVID19 vaccine in the world - 'ZyCov-D'... Making children of India COVID-safe, this vaccine can be used for individuals aged 12 and above. ZyCov-D is the 6th approved #COVID19 vaccine in India, and the 2nd indigenously developed one. PM @NarendraModi Ji's vision of #AatmanirbharBharat and Make in India delivers another significant accomplishment!," Mandaviya said in a

"We are extremely happy that our efforts to put out a safe, well-tolerated, and efficacious vaccine to fight COVID-19 has become a reality with ZyCoV-D. To create the world's first DNA vaccine at such a crucial juncture and despite all the challenges, is a tribute to the Indian research scientists and their spirit of innovation. I'd like to thank the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India for their support in this mission of

Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Indian Vaccine Mission COVID Suraksha," said Pankaj R Patel, Chairman of the Zydus Group.

On July 1, announcing the interim results of phase III clinical trials, Zydus, had said that a primary efficacy of 66.6 per cent has been attained for symptomatic RT-PCR positive cases in the interim analysis.

The vaccine was developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under the 'Mission COVID Suraksha' and implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council.

"It is a matter of great pride that today we have the EUA for the world's first DNA COVID-19 vaccine, ZyCoV-D, by Zydus, developed in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology and supported through Mission COVID Suraksha," said Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT and Chairperson, BIRAC.

In 2010, Zydus became the first company to develop and indigenously manufacture a vaccine against swine flu. The company earlier developed the tetravalent seasonal influenza vaccine and the inactivated rabies vaccine.

According to Health Ministry data. India has administered 57.22 crore doses so far. of which 44.44 crore have received their first dose, and 12.77 crore have received both their doses.

and not wearing the official team jersey for her competition. In her reply, Vinesh rejected the allegation that she did not want to share a room with the Indian team, but accepted her mistake in wearing a different singlet for her bout. Singh claimed he had to an-

swer an International Olympic Committee panel after Vinesh did not wear the official team gear although it was not a formal hearing. "She is senior enough to understand there is a proper costume for every tournament. We have to look at other wrestlers too. India's wrestling isn't dependent on one wrestler. We have to make sure no one makes such mistakes in the future," he said.

Kavinder Gupta councillor and represents Indra Colony, Janipur, in the Jammu Municipal Corporation. Shiv Rattan Gupta is a resident of Indra Colony.

Both Kavinder Gupta and Sharma denied having occupied government land in Ghaink village. "I swear by my parents that I don't know as to how and when revenue officials entered a girdawari pertaining to 23 kanals and 9 marla state land at Ghaink in my name, and how and when it was cancelled.' Kavinder Gupta told The Indian

In 2010, when the khasra girdawari (revenue department document that specifies land and crop details) was entered in their names, J&K had a National Conference-Congress coalition government and Kavinder Gupta was the Mayor of the Jammu Municipal Corporation. This was, however, cancelled on February 9, 2017, by the Bhalwal Tehsildar following a 2011 order of the J&K High Court which directed the government to cancel all mutations and girdawaris of state lands in favour of private individuals.

The directions had come in a public interest litigation filed by retired Professor S K Bhalla through Advocate Sheikh Shakeel. Kavinder Gupta was the Speaker of the J&K Legislative Assembly then.

Ahead of the DDC polls in November 2020, the J&K government had published lists of man, including politicians of Opposition parties and retired bureaucrats, who had occupied state land, or had ownership transferred to them under the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, also called Roshni Act.

When contacted, Bhalwal Tehsildar Amit Upadhyay and Ghaink Patwari Mohammad Aslam said they did not know how the revenue entries (girdawari) in respect to state land were entered in the names of Kavinder Gupta and two others in 2010.

Upadhyay, however, said that a khasra girdawari in respect to state land cannot be entered in someone's name until one reoccupation. The land parcel -Khasra No. 1789 - is a hill withwild growth and now stands restored to the government, he said. "There is no construction, nor any cultivation," he said.

The J&K State Land (Vesting of Ownership to Occupants) Act was legislated by the National Conference government led by Farooq Abdullah in 2001. It proposed to transfer ownership of state land to its illegal occupants by charging them market rates, and hoped to raise Rs 25,000 crore for setting up hydel power projects in Jammu and Kashmir (hence the name Roshni).

In 2014, the Comptroller and Auditor General referred to various irregularities in the implementation of the scheme and the Vigilance Organisation moved against over 20 government officers for misusing their official position in transfer of state land to private individuals. Four years later, under Satya Pal Malik as J&K Governor, repealed the Roshni Act and cancelled all pending applications seeking transfer of ownership of state land to its occupants. In October 2020, the J&K High Court set aside the Act "ab initio" cancelling all actions taken under its provision since inception and ordered a CBI probe.

At a press conference in November 2020, the then Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad had said former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was among the beneficiaries of Roshni Act. Ahead of DDC polls, when the J&K administration started making public the names of illegal occupants of state land including beneficiaries of the Roshni scheme, Kavinder Gupta described the government action as a "surgical strike" against the corrupt who "usurped priceless chunks of state land at dirt-cheap rates".

Saini plea

The high court judge noted that that the email was addressed to the Chief Justice and sought transfer of petitions involving Saini this year and in 2018 to "any other Coordinate Bench on account of the undue hurry being shown by the said Bench and the manner in which no opportunity is being given to the State to present its case".

"However, there was no communication regarding passing of any order for withdrawal of the case from this Court. No request for recusal was made by the learned Counsel for the parties...This court reserves the right to take appropriate action in respect of said e-mail aspersions regarding hurry in hearing the matter without realizing that any habeas corpus petition raises serious issue of unlawful detention which ha to be heard on urgent basis," noted Justice Tyagi in his order.

Harvinder Pal Singh did not respond to several calls made to

A top vigilance official, wishing not be named, confirmed that Harvinder Pal Singh had sent the email to Punjab and Haryana Court alleging "bias".

The official said that high court on October 11, 2018 had held that Saini would be served a seven-day notice if any action was to be contemplated against him. On September 23, 2020, the court had extended the protection of the October 2018 order to any incident during Saini's entire service career.

The official added that the September 2020 case, in which Saini has been booked, pertains to period after which the IPS officer had retired.

The official said, "The Punjab government will file a petition in the Supreme Court to clarify that seven day notice period only relates to cases registered against Saini when he was serv-

spite there being so much diversity, how India remains one, how it is united. But you come to know the strength of the country when you see in Somnath pilgrims from the east who have walked thousands of kilometres from the east to the west, or (in the) thousands of devotees from South India rubbing the soil of Kashi on their heads," Modi said, adding that while the languages, clothing and food habits of Indians may differ, their spirituality has bound them together for centuries.

try) – these contours of our

faith are in fact the expression

of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.

has been wondering that de-

"For centuries, the world

The new facilities at the Somnath complex will draw more visitors, and would help the local economy, the Prime Minister said. He said the Union Tourism Ministry had drawn up plans to develop 15 tourist circuits, and that tourism could revive local economies impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"There are possibilities of national and international spiritual tourism. To give these possibilities a shape, the country is today creating modern infrastructure, is reviving ancient pride. We have the example of the Ramayan circuit. Thanks to the Ramayan circuit, today, crores of devotees of Lord Ram from across the country and the world are learning about new places associated with the life of Lord Ram. Today, we are getting the opportunity to go to those places and understand how Lord Ram is the Ram of all of India," the PM said.

WFI chief

"We don't need OGQ and JSW. My biggest problem is they Somnath and the other 11 jyotirlingas spread across the don't inform me regarding the planning of an athlete and who "Similarly, the system of our they are sending as a wrestler's sparring partner for training Shaktipeethas, location of our stints abroad," Singh told The

Asked what will happen to the wrestlers associated with these bodies, Singh said: "Bilkul nahi khelne doonga (Won't allow them to play)." He added: "Even I am giving Ravi Rs 1 lakh per month. From how many places will you take money? We are ready to give you everything. If they still want to be involved, they should share a copy of their agreement with the players and factor in our views... They can support junior and cadet wrestlers who actually need

The OGQ supports 32 wrestlers, including 23 who are in the age group 13 to 19 years. The JSW, too, supports close to a dozen wrestlers and almost half of them train at their facility in Vijayanagar, Inspire Institute of Sport, where the WFI conducted its junior national championship this year.

Singh said the wrestlers communicated with the government directly through these agencies and kept the federation out of the loop regarding their planning.

"Bajrang and Vinesh (Phogat) are two very senior wrestlers. Their ranking was first-class going into the Olympics. So they thought a certain plan was better for their future, they told TOPS, who then told us," he said. "It has never happened that Vinesh approached the federation. This is my allegation against TOPS. They are directly overseeing issues like where the athlete should go for training.'

The Indian Express, however, has seen multiple emails sent by the wrestlers to the federation's official ID, in which details of their training programmes have been explicitly mentioned. Asked about it, Singh said the WFI "never" received any such email.

In a statement, OGO said they had a robust junior program and were not claiming undue credit while adding that Vinesh had sent multiple emails to the federation. "To our knowledge, several emails were sent in the last 10 months by Vinesh herself to WFI and TOPS. These

mains present on the spot to show that the land is under his

Two including 25-vr-old woman succumb to Covid in Tricity, 16 new cases

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, PANCHKULA, MOHALI, AUGUST 20

TWO PEOPLE, including a 25year-old woman, succumbed to Covid-19 infection in Tricity on Friday, At least 16 new coronavirus cases were reported also reported here. There are 107 active cases in the Tricity at present.

DEATH, 7 NEW CASES

One Covid-19 related death and seven new cases of the infection was reported in Mohali on Friday. While the total number of fatalities increased to 1,058, the tally of cases stood at 68.558, with 54 active cases. DC Girish Dayalan said that three cases were reported from Kharar, two from Mohali and one each from Dhakoli and Gharuan, A total of eight patients were also discharged from the hospital.

CHANDIGARH: 1 DEATH, **5 NEW CASES**

The UT reported five new coronavirus cases on Friday, taking the tally of cases to 62,056, with 43 active cases. A virus-related death was also reported as a a 25-year-old woman suffering from Covid-19 passed away at PGI. So far, at least 812 people have lost their lives due to the infection, as per the official figures.

The city has been reporting four new Covid-19 cases everyday on an average for the last seven days. In the last 24 hours, 2,268 samples were tested and 7,481 people were vaccinated.

PANCHKULA: 4 NEW CASES

Panchkula reported four new Covid-19 positive cases on Friday. No virus-related death was recorded during the day. The active case tally was recorded at 10 on Friday. A total of 40,342 patients have tested positive for the virus here so far, of which 30,667 hail from Panchkula. Meanwhile, 376 people have succumbed to the infection here. The district has conducted 4,00,656 tests so far.

MADE IN INDIA

New hi-tech cancer machine now at PGIMER

The mahcine allows treatment of cancer in brain, head, neck, breast and extremities, and brings down waiting time

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

THE BHABHATRON-II TAW Cobalt-60 Teletherapy machine, a 100 per cent indigenous unit, has now been introduced at the PGI, Chandigarh.

A joint venture of Radiological Physics and Advisory Division (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre), and Panacea Medical Technology of Bangalore, the unit is highly effective for delivering radiotherapy to cancer patients. It retains the advantages of Cobalt-60 machines with additional features of a paperless record, improved treatment accuracy, efficacy, and safety, and very little downtime, permitting 60-70 treatments daily without unscheduled breaks.

It is highly cost-effective compared to imported versions of Cobalt-60 teletherapy units and costs 75 per cent less than low energy linear accelerators currently available, thus, allowing its wider



During the inauguration at PGI on Friday. Express

application for cancer therapy. Its versatility allows treatment of cancer in different sites — like the brain, head and neck, breast, extremities, palliative therapies and has been widely accepted as an efficient treatment modality among various cancer centres in India and abroad.

Department of The Radiotherapy at PGI caters to cancer patients from across Northern India, treating 250-300 patients with radiotherapy daily and the installation and clinical use of Bhabhatron II will allow more patients to receive affordable and quality treatment in a timely manner, affirming the institute's commitment to cancer control.

Nearly 70 per cent cancer patients require radiotherapy at some point in the disease course, either for cure or symptomatic relief. The availability of different modalities under one roof, says Prof. Sushmita Ghoshal, Head of Radiotherapy, allows the Department to triage and individualise treatment specifications according to patient and disease requirement, be it large field treatments, for example, in head and neck, gynaecological or breast cancers that constitute the larger proportion of cancer load, or highly focused small field modulated or radiosurgical treatments.

This, adds the doctor, has helped curtail the waiting time to

Will revive community policing, use modern techniques to control crime: New UT DGP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

A DAY after assuming the charge of Chandigarh DGP, Praveer Ranjan directed the UT traffic police officials to perform their duties more diligently and resolve the traffic-related issues with the help of modern techniques Friday.

Praveer Ranjan, a 1993 batch IPS officer, stressed on the use of modern techniques, gadgets to trace and control the crime, especially cyber crime and drug peddling in Chandigarh, Ranjan marked these remarks at his welcome parade organised by the Chandigarh Police at police lines in Sector 26.

The parade took place amid heavy rain. Sources said, "In his short but effective speech, Praveer Ranjan stressed on three points including traffic conveniences, detection of cyber crime and drug peddling and community policing. He especially stressed on the traffic police."

DGP Praveer Ranjan, in his address, said that the initiatives of community policing will be carried forward smoothly. There is a demand from various senior citizen associations to revive the



At Parade Ground, Police Lines in Sector 26 of Chandigarh on Friday. Express

practice of door-to-door interaction with senior citizens by the beat police staff members in Chandigarh.

The welcome parade was attended by the IPS officers, including DIG Ombir Singh Bishnoi, SSP Kuldeep Singh Chahal, SSP (traffic/security) Maneesha Chaudhary, SP Manoj Meena and Ketan Bansal, along

with the DSP rank officers. The SHOs were also present in the parade that was led by DSP (Security) Amarao Singh. The eight contingents gave general salute to the DGP.

Besides the contingent march-past, the parade was followed by Mounted Police, Dogs Squad, Traffic interceptor, PCR Vehicle, QRT, Mobile X-ray Van,

Police Hospital vehicle, Road safety exhibition van and Riot Control Vehicle, among others.

DIG Omvir Singh Bishnoi gave the welcome speech at the function. The function concluded with DGP Praveer Ranjan thanking all the police personnel present at the function for organising the welcome parade even in heavy rain.

Punjab chief secy reviews progress at Homi Bhaba Cancer Hospital in New Chandigarh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, MOHALI, AUGUST

PUNJAB CHIEF Secretary Vini Mahajan on Friday reviewed the progress of the Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in Medicity at New Chandigarh, and was assured that the upcoming cancer tertiary care facility will be made operational by November this year.

The Chief Secretary directed the departments concerned to extend all requisite assistance for early opening of the project. On her visit to the construction site, officials reported that the centre

is in the advanced stage of completion.

Reviewing the progress of the project, the Chief Secretary said that the 300-bed hospital will act as a tertiary care centre for the northern region, comprising Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and UP.

"The hospital will start radiotherapy, radiology, CT scan, MRI, ultrasound, x-ray, mammogramedical oncology, chemotherapy, day-care ward, pathology and lab facilities, minor OT, besides initiating OPD services such as surgical oncology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, palliative care preventive oncology," she said, adding that these facilities will be available from November onwards. The Chief Secretary said that

theproject, a unit of Tata Memorial Centre Mumbai, is being set up with a sanctioned cost of Rs 663.74-crore in the built up area of 40,545 sq m, for which 50 acres of land has been provided free of cost by the Punjab government. The hospital will be have electronic medical records facility and will be interlinked with the Tata Memorial Centres located across the country. Over 65,000 cancer patients have availed cashless treatment under Mukh Mantri Punjab Cancer Rahat Kosh

SECTOR-12, CHANDIGARH

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR M.TECH. PROGRAMMES Few seats are likely to remain vacant in the various M.Tech programmes of the institute after completion of CCMT 202 admissions. Details about the vacant seats, online registration admission procedure and schedule will be available on https://pec.ac.in/admissions/mtech. Interested candidates may visit the institute website for the necessary registration.

राष्ट्रीय वायुमंडलीय अनुसंधान प्रयोगशाला NATIONAL ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH LABORATORY गादंकी /GADANKI - 517 112

No.1/3(1)/2021-RMT/ADVT-CAN

August 04, 2021 **CANCELLATION OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS**

t is notified for information of all concerned that the recruitment process for the posts of 'JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW' notified vide advertisement dated 11.03.2020 stands cancelled

Administrative Officer, NARL



ADMISSION NOTICE 2021

"Subject to notification by Government of Punjab & Baba Farid University of lealth Sciences, Faridkot (www.bfuhs.ac.in) Refer to details given on the Websik Dates are liable to change, Keep monitoring www.cmcludhiana.in for the same REGISTRAR, CMC LUDHIANA (registrar@cmcludhiana.in)

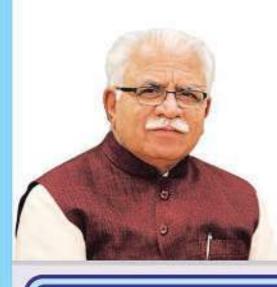
October 2021

October 2021

September 2021

September 2021

and Degree Courses (Para Medical Courses





Haryana Agri Business and **Food Processing Policy**

An initiative of Government of Haryana to create strong value chain linkages for accelerated growth in farm sector



Creation/ Expansion/ Diversification of individual Agro and Food Processing Units

- 25% Capital Investment Subsidy on FCI (fixed capital investment) limited to Rs. 1 crore - 'C' & 'D' Category Blocks.
- 25% Capital Investment Subsidy on FCI limited to Rs. 50 Lakh - 'A' & 'B' category Blocks.

Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure

35% Capital Investment Subsidy limited to Rs. 5 crore for storage infrastructure. packaging houses, transportation infrastructure in 'B', 'C', 'D' Block.

Mini Food Park Scheme

- 50% of total project cost with maximum limit of Rs. 10 crore to be provided to promoter/ developer; only in 'C' and 'D' category blocks.
- Government support for development of Basic Infrastructure & Common Facilities.



Backward and Forward Linkages scheme

- Support for creating backward & forward linkages for perishable agriculture, horticulture produce.
- 50% Capital Investment subsidy on project cost limited to Rs. 3.5 crore in 'C' and 'D' blocks.
- 50% Capital Investment subsidy on project cost limited to Rs. 2.5 crore in 'A' and 'B' blocks.





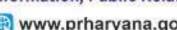


Directorate of MSME, Haryana

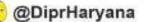
Contact us: 0172-2580707; Email: sectoral-cell.msme@hry.gov.in For more information visit - https://msme.haryana.gov.in



Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana









Amusement park to be set up in UT's Sector 42

The amusement park will be set up at a cost of Rs 1.20 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

MUCH TO the joy of the residents of City Beautiful, the Chandigarh Administration will be setting up an amusement park in the lake area of Sector 42 here at a cost of Rs

The Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation limited (CITCO)

floated a tender in this regard. At present, the lake records high footfall only during Chhat Pooja, and is desolate other-

As per the details, the tender has been invited for the allotment of space measuring 3,711 sq yards on license basis for setting up and operating the amusement park at the lake in

The bidder for the project must have atleast 730 days of experience in running and operating an amusement park equipped with electric rides, gaming devices on commercial

The space measuring 3,711 sq yards will be equipped with amusement games, machines like mini or toy train, bumper car, swing chair, spin car etc

basis or experience of running/operating electric rides, gaming devices at monetary consideration.

A suitable bidder with an annual turnover of not be less than Rs 25 lakh annually for the last two years, will be granted the contract to run the amusement park for five years. The contract period will be extendable for another two years at the discretion of CITCO, considering the performance and compliance of terms and conditions, among others.

The space measuring 3,711 sq yards will be equipped with amusement games, machines like mini or toy train, bumper

car, swing chair, spin car crazy bull, child tower, sun-shine ride, machine operated Helicopter ride, coin operated machines and virtual reality games among others.

It was specified that the amusement machines and the rides to be installed must be of latest trends/technology and should be safe.

ENSURING SAFETY

The licensee will be required to ensure the safety of visitors and in case of an accident or mishap, the licensee will be responsible and liable to pay compensation.

COMPLETION

CITCO said the financial bid will be opened in respect of the tenderers who are found technically suitable and the contract letter will be issued to the highest bidder. The licensee will be given 45 days for setting up of Amusement Park, An extension of 15 days may be granted by the authorities, if re-

tournament to begin on Aug 23 Chandigarh: The UT Cricket

cricket tournament, comprising six teams, starting August 23 and concluding on August 27 next week. The announcement was made by UTCA president Sanjay Tandon at Sector 16 stadium. "On the basis of trials, the 78 from the party. players have been selected and a

For the purpose, the agency

nervous. He then picked up his bag and started walking in the other direction as fast as he

Man arrested with 2.28 lakh opioid salt

tablets that have 'severe abuse potential'

It was after this that the police caught up with him and questioned him about his whereabouts and the bags he was carrying. "When asked about what he was carrying, he started panicking and could not give us a satisfactory answer," the FIR reads

The police then checked the bags he was carrying in his hands and found them stuffed with strips of Lomotil medicine. There were about 2200 strips in one bag and 1600 in another, with each strip having a total of 60 tablets weighing about 2.5 grams each. The third bag carried his clothes.

The district drugs control officer was then contacted by the policemen at the spot who then told the investigators that the quantity of medicines Kumar was carrying would fall under section 22 of the NDPS Act. Kumar was booked and arrested after that. He was produced be-

PU SENATE POLLS

was held on Wednesday.

on hold after a plea was submit-

fore a local court that sent him to five days of police custody later.

Incidentally, in a similar case reported in 2016, all the arrested suspects had walked free as the court stated that the prosecution could not prove its case.

In the 2016 case, the suspects were caught with 45 pouches Diphenoxylate Hydrochloride and Atropine Sulphate tablets containing 100 tablets each. A lower trial court of Panchkula had in February 2020 acquitted the accused after the prosecution failed to prove its case.

In the judgment delivered on February 17, 2020, the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Sanjay Sandhir, had acquitted both the accused stating that the case of the prosecution had become "doubtful".

The court, in its order, giving the accused the benefit of the doubt, had said, "The presence of the FIR number, before hand, at time of preparation of parcels before registration of FIR also raises doubt about the pros-

Results for dept heads put on hold by

High Court, those of professors declared

Dr Aseem Mehra, Assistant professor of Psychiatry at PGI, who has co-authored a paper on the drug said that Lomotil was a very easily available over-thecounter drug."It has severe abuse potential. Of the two salts it contains is Diphenoxylate, which is a form of mild opioid. Diphenoxylate produces effects similar to other opioids like afeem, smack, heroine etc. It is low cost and those unable to procure injectibles often opt for this as it is easily available."

As per a PGIMER research paper of 2013, written on the Lomotil (Diphenoxylate) dependence in India, "In 41 cases studied, the number of tablets taken in a day varied from three to 250 (median 25). The reasons of initiation were to relieve withdrawals, as a cheap substitute opioid, curiosity, and on suggeson of friends.'

Lomotil was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1960s, as it is considered a weak opioid agonist with low abuse potential.

Shorts not allowed inside Mansa Devi: shrine board secy

Panchkula: The Secretary of Shri Mata Mansa Devi Shrine Board Sharda Prajapati Friday said that the temple's home guards have been directed to not allow devotees wearing shorts and "modern dresses" inside the shrine.

Prajapati said the move was taken in view of complaints received by the administration from devotees, particularly the elderly, that "decency should be maintained" on temple premises.

Prajapati added, "Children should respect our culture. In Gurudwaras, they even cover their head before entering the Sikh temples," she said. **ENS**

Three arrested under attempt to murder charges for assaulting two brothers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

THREE PERSONS including a juvenile was arrested for attempt to murder as they reportedly stabbed two brothers near Church Gate in Bapu Dham Colony Sector 26 Friday night.

The juvenile was sent to Juvenile Home Sector 25 and two others were identified as Karan, and Gautam, 20, of Bapu Dham Colony, Sector 26. The victims were identified as Mohammed Adnan and Mohammed Rihan, who have been admitted to GMCH-32. Their condition stated to be stable. Police said that the assailants attacked the brothers with sharp edged weapons over an old enmity.

Woman farmer alleges harassment by BJP leaders during protest, case registered

Chandigarh: A woman farmer activist on Friday filed a police complaint against 'certain BIP leaders' and workers alleging that she had been manhandled. harassed, and subjected to abusive language while she was showing black flags to Union BJP leader, Anurag Thakur during his Ian Ashirwad Yatra at Himachal Bhawan on August 19. The complaint was filed in the office of SP (UT) in Sector 9.

A video clip of the alleged incident was recorded by a local and put online and has since gone viral. The woman has named the state general secretary of BJP, Rambir Bhatti, along with Arun Deep, and Nitin Gill, of BJP's Yuva Morcha, and others, in her complaint.

Following the complaint, the Chandigarh unit of Congress party said they will hold a protest against BIP leaders over the incident outside the BIP party headquarters, Kamlam in Sector 33, on Saturday.

In her police complaint, the woman, Raj Kaur Gill, alleged that she, along with others, on the call of Sanyukat Kisan Morcha had gathered to show black flags to BJP leaders at Himachal Bhawan, Sector 28, when a section of local leaders allegedly abused and assaulted her. The woman, along with other protesters, gathered at Matka Chowk in Sector 17 on Friday to protest against the incident, following which a police complaint was lodged. The woman in her complaint said that though several policemen were present near her, all of them acted as mute spectators.

BIP State General Secretary, Rambir Bhatti, however, denied the allegations on Friday.

CITCO's opens fuel station at Phase 1

Chandigarh: The sixth petrol and CNG station of the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation Limited (CITCO) was inaugurated at Industrial Area in Phase 1, Hallo Majra Road, Chandigarh, on Friday. The petrol station has been opened in view of the growing demand for petrol in the city. The CITCO already caters to a large number of vehicles at its five other petrol stations located across the Tricity, including the compressed natural gas (CNG) dispensing pump on Madhya Marg in Sector 17. **ENS**

Chandigarh

Now, party aboard a solar-powered

The CITCO will be getting a solar boat for Rs 36 lakh

boat at the Sukhna Lake

HINA ROHTAKI

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

CHANDIGARH RESIDENTS will now be able to hold celebrations and gatherings on the solar-operated boat at Sukhna Lake. The Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Corporation limited is coming up with a solar boat for Rs 36 lakh. The administration will also allow birthday parties in the solar boat in the Sukhna. A tender in this regard has been floated by the CITCO.

The CITCO has invited bids for ferrying a 30-seater solar boat only at Sukhna Lake on revenue sharing basis.

The boat will also be available for birthday parties and other celebrations, for which a lump sum amount can be fixed by the agency for one hour or two hours. Moreover, eatables will be allowed or will be supplied by the CITCO.

The timings for the boat will be from 8 am till sunset.

The CITCO specified that the ency will be responsible for the overall safety of passenger and also provide life jackets to

them while ferrying the boat.

The agency may, however, get the risk covered through insurance. CITCO will not be responsible in any manner in this regard. The expenditure on account of maintenance of Solar Boat will be borne by the Agency apart from operation and management of the said solar boat," CITCO said in the tender details.

It was also stated that the running and maintenance of the boat will be the sole responsibility of the agency. In case, if the water level recede/decreases and the boat is not able to sail/float, no contract fee will be charged from the agency.

For other reasons, including breakdown of machine, shortage of manpower etc. CITCO will not be responsible and the licensee will have to pay monthly fee as per terms and conditions of the contract, the officials said.

For applying for the tender, r-bids are to be submitted online through tendering process ie Technical Bid and Financial Bid online separately. It is only

after scrutiny of the information received in technical Bid, clarifications, if any, where ever necessary, will be obtained

It was said that the bidder should have one year experience of ferrying any mechanical or solar boat having capacity of minimum 20 persons.

will submit relevant certificate/ approval/ permission/ license for ferrying any mechanical or solar boat in any reputed Lake/

RESERVE **REVENUE** PERCENTAGE

revenue to CITCO will be 45 per cent and that the bidder has to quote a percentage over and Reserve Revenue Percentage will not be accepted.

It was stated that minimum Reserve Percentage of monthly above the Reserve Revenue percentage, which is 45 percen. Bids below the minimum

The bidder giving/ quoting highest percentage of revenue will be awarded the contract, as per the details mentioned in

total of six teams have been

formed. The T-20 tournament will be played at three grounds in Chandigarh, with Sector 16 Stadium, Government Model Senior Secondary School, Sector 26 and Mahajan Cricket ground, IT park, hosting the tournament. After the tournament, 30 players will be selected for a three-day camp, from which UTCA senior team fwill be picked," he said. **ENS**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was ar-

rested in Panchkula on Thursday

with 3800 strips of anti-diar-

rhoeal medicine, which has an

opioid salt in it. Police said that a

total of 2.28 lakh tablets were

seized from the arrested man.

Krishan Kumar, a native of

Badaun, Uttar Pradesh, but lived

in Madhavala of Pinjore area of

Panchkula, was nabbed by the

police around 4.30 pm on

Thursday from near the Sector

cer present at the spot, reads,

"Around 4.15pm, when we were

standing near a red light in

Sector 20 on the Sector 12A slip

road, we spotted a man get out

of an auto coming from Zirakpur

side. He was carrying two huge

bags and a backpack which

looked very heavy. As soon as

this man turned around after

paying the auto driver, he spot-

ted the police and got a little

domestic cricket

Association (UTCA) announced on

Friday its first men's domestic

UTCA's men's

An FIR, filed by a police offi-

20 red light.

The accused, identified as

PANCHKULA. AUGUST 20

ted before the court by a voter, **EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** who claimed their right to cast a CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20 vote for the election for heads of department constituency. The THE PANJAB University on Friday court in the case had held that declared the results of its senate the petitioner be allowed to cast polls for professors for all its affilher vote and both her vote as iated arts colleges. The senate well as the result of the election

poll results for heads of departbe kept in a sealed cover and not ments, however, have been put be declared before being proon hold as per directions of the duced in the court on the next High Court, which wanted the hearing set for August 23. result to be submitted to it first Of the 15 who were in the in a sealed envelope before befray for the constituency of proing made public. The sealed enfessors, eight — Inderpal, HS Dua, velope with the result will now Kamal Sharma, Shaminder be submitted to the court on Sandhu, Jagdeep Kumar, Jagdish Chander, Jagtar Singh and Tarun

Polling for both the heads of Ghai — managed to come out as departments and for professors As per the order passed by the HC, one result has been put

With a total of 2432 voters, as many as 11 candidates are in the fray for the selection of PU's heads of arts colleges as well. The

the Professors, Associate professors, Assistant professors of affiliated arts colleges constituency. Meanwhile, the date of election of faculties, earlier scheduled to be held on August 23, was postponed to September 1 late on Friday. The reason for the

polls, held across Chandigarh

and Punjab on Wednesday, had

recorded 96 per cent turnout for

heads of affiliated arts colleges

constituency and 91 per cent for

postponement was not immediately clear. The university has already seen at least one major protest in wards holding the senate elec-

the past week over the delay totions for another constituency registered graduates - which is the biggest constituency of the PU senate elections.

A devotee during the Muharram procession in Chandigarh on Friday. Express

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

SUKHNA LAKE'S water level increased to 1162.54 feet on Friday. due to rains

District administration officials, however, ruled out the possibility of the flood gates being opened as of now and said they will wait and monitor the situa-

tion a little longer before making any such decisions.

Sukhna Lake's water inches towards danger mark

The floodgates of Sukhna Lake were last opened on August 9 this year when the water level reached 1162.5 feet, within breathing distance of the danger mark that is set at 1163 feet.

On August 9, this year officials said that the gates were opened only as a precautionary measure and they were closed

MARKET WATCH ANNOUNCEMENTS & HAPPENINGS

Inner-wheel celebrated Rakhi at

Police Lines, Chandigarh

within an hour of being opened. Incidentally, in August last year, the water level had reached the danger mark at Sukhna Lake, prompting officials of the engi-

neering wing to open the flood-

gates in a rush at around 3am.

Before that, the gates of the lake were last opened in 2018 and before that in 2008, On both occasions, the water level had crossed the danger mark.

ONE AMAZING SIKH AT A TIME

All about embracing your uniqueness

SEERAT GILL, author of One Amazing Sikh at a Time, speaks to Nikita Shahi about how her book helps you embrace your differences, embrace yourself, whatever sets you apart, and also learn about different kinds of people around you.

Tell us something about

I am an engineer by profession and I have a doctorate in higher education policy and management from Thapar University. Along with academia, I used to regularly contribute articles for national dailies. One Amazing Sikh at a Time is my first book. It's an illustrated book and I would say it's perfect for all age groups. It's as much for children as it's for parents and grandparents.

What prompted you to write this book?

This endeavor began because my daughter (then 6-years-old) found herself at a crossroad wherein she felt that "blending in" was easier than embracing her uniqueness. All of us must have stood at such a crossroad at least



Seerat GilL

once in our lives. Every bedtime story with my daughter became a treasure hunt to find out about the lives of amazing, beautiful, talented achievers, who looked a bit like our own mothers, fathers, siblings, and grandparents. This book is just a collection of our bedtime stories. One thing I have found was that there is a dearth of diverse and inclusive literature for children in the market. I decided that maybe there are other children like mine who would want to know more about their heritage and what makes them different, especially in a country like India, which is so diverse.

What is your book about? It is a compilation of 51 stories

of wonderful men and women from around the world. They are all amazing in their own ways and belong to a mighty minority called the Sikhs. This book seeks to recount the lives of these amazing Sikhs who have braved discrimination, otherness, and hostility throughout the ages only to emerge victorious. So, the idea was just to reacquaint our new generation, the generation alpha with their heritage so that they know what sets them apart, what makes them different, and also to understand others without judgment. So, in a country which is so diverse, what we did was pick up one strand of ethnicity and diversity and started learning about it.

How long did it take you to write it?

It has taken more than a year because I was also in the middle of my PHD and work and everything. I also wanted this book to be accompanied by some very nice illustrations to attract children. So, it was a long process from finding the right illustrator to building all parts of it.

What lessons can people draw from your book?

My humble hope through this book is to embrace your differences, to embrace yourself, whatever sets you apart, and also learn about different kinds of people around you. I also feel that in today's time, there is a dearth of real heroes. At least once in a lifetime all of us will stand at a crossroads and we will have to take the right path and for that, we need real heroes and our children too would need to emulate them. As a researcher of higher ed-

ucation and policy, I can tell you that no matter what interventions we bring in, the foundation years at school have a big impact. So, storytelling and reading in early childhood have far-reaching effects, as compared to interventions at a later stage. Let's not undermine the magic in stories

they can open a window in a brick wall! Especially inspirational stories like these are needed, there's a dearth of real heroes in the bleak times of today's world.

HE members of the inner-wheel club of Chandigarh, led by its President Dr Vandana Narula, Past President Komal Gupta, Vanita Talwar & its Editor Vin Dosanjh celebrated 'rakhi' festival by tying

rakhis to the cops at Police lines, Sector 29, Chandigarh. Stating that Rakhi symbolises a thread of love tied to anyone who protects

and safeguards any individual, the innerwheel club members, in keeping with the spirit of PINK FIRST, tied rakhis not only to male police officials, but also to female cops. Sweets were also distributed among them on this occasion. The celebrations ended with a vote of thanks to all the police officers and others, who graced the occasion.

5 REGION

FORMER DGP RELEASED FROM VIGILANCE BUREAU CUSTODY

HC: Saini arrest illegal, violates earlier orders

Bench underscores that the retd IPS officer, granted bail by the HC in one FIR, can't be arrested in a different FIR registered on same charges and allegations

JAGPREET SINGH SANDHU CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

FORMER PUNJAB DGP Sumedh Singh Saini was released from the state Vigilance Bureau custody early Friday on the directions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which termed his arrest in a cheating and forgery case as "patently illegal".

The order came on a habeas corpus plea filed by Saini's wife. A habeas corpus plea required an arrested person to be brought before a judge to secure their release. Saini was arrested by the Vigilance Bureau Wednesday night in connection with a case registered in September 2020 for cheating, forgery, corruption and other offences.

Ruling that Saini's arrest was in violation of three earlier orders of the high court, a single bench of Justice Arun Kumar Tyagi, on Thursday night, ordered retired IPS officer's imme-

Early morning release

Saini was released at around 2 am from a Mohali court where the Vigilance Bureau had produced him for seeking remand. The former DGP spent close to 12 hours in the Mohali court.

Hours before he was arrested. Saini had moved the high court seeking directions for extension of blanket bail to him in all cases, while his wife Shobha Saini filed the habeas corpus plea on Thursday seeking her husband's release from the custody of Puniab Vigilance Bureau. Both the petitions were heard by a single bench of Justice Tyagi.

Saini's lawyers, in the HC, contended that he was illegally arrested in the FIR No. 11, dated September 17, 2020, "due to mala fides, malice and ulterior motives as a result of political vendetta" and the offences alleged to have been committed by the former DGP are not made out. Also, Saini has been granted interim anticipatory bail in FIR No. 13, dated August 2, on the same allegations.

The lawvers representing Punjab, however, submitted Saini has been arrested in a case, which did not have any connection to his service career and therefore his arrest was not violative of earlier HC orders Saini claimed execution of rent agreement, which is purported to have been executed on October 15, 2018, but which was typed on stamp paper dated September 7, 2018 and notorized on October 18, 2018. They contended that Saini executed the agreement to sell, dated October 2, 2019, to create a defence to attachment of the house which was purchased with bribe money given by PWD executive engineer Nimrat Deep Singh to latter's father Surinderjit Singh Jaspal.

Political vendetta

LONGOWAL'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Former DGP Sumedh Singh Sani comes out of District Court in Mohali on Friday. Jasbir Malhi

The court, referring to the political rivalry between Capt Amarinder Singh and Parkash Singh Badal, said: "It may be observed here that Sh. Parkash Singh Badal was the Chief Minister of Punjab from February, 1997 to February, 2002. Captain Amrinder Singh became the Chief Minister of Punjab from February, 2002 to February, 2007. After the election of State Legislative Assembly 2007 Sh. Parkash Singh Badal again became the Chief Minster of Puniab. There is political and personal rivalry between Sh. Parkash Singh Badal and Captain Amrinder Singh and their family which dates back to late 1990s and findings were recorded regarding this political vendetta in order dated 24.05.2007 passed in CRM-M-33867-2007, order dated 30.07.2007 passed in CRM-M-21713-2007, order dated 01.10.2007 passed in CRM-M-32475-2007 and order dated 28.05.2008 passed in CWP-10119-2007 by this Court".

The bench also referred to the FIR registered against Bhart Inder Singh Chahal by the Vigilance Bureau in 2007 for cheating at a police station in

Regarding the FIR No. 11 of September 17, 2020, registered on the basis of disproportionate assets inquiry against Nimrat Deep and others, the bench said that initially the FIR was registered against four persons namely Ravinder Singh Sandhu, Nagender Rao, Ashok Kumar Sikka and Shakti Sagar Bhatia. Nimrat Deep, his father Surinderjit, Taranjit Singh and Mohit Puri were nominated during investigation, while Saini was nominated as accused in the case on August 2, 2021.

Justice Tyagi said that in the present case, the petitioner is alleged to have committed offence under Section 467 (forgery) of the IPC by ante-dating an agreement to sell purporting to have been executed on October 2, 2019 - "which was on plain paper and not on any stamp paper" - to create a defence to attachment of the said house which was allegedly acquired with bribe money taken by Nimrat

One offence, 2 FIRs

The bench further held that it is doubtful as to whether the allegations regarding the execu-

tion of agreement to sell (October 2, 2019) satisfy the ingredients of Section 464 (making a false document) of the IPC so as to constitute the offence punishable under Section 467 of the IPC. Further, the incidents of taking of bribe are alleged to have taken place in the year 2014. The said house was allegedly purchased in the year 2017. Application for attachment was filed on January 22, 2021 and order for attachment was passed on July 16, 2021. Allegations in respect of the said agreements were also part of FIR No. 13 (August 2) in respect of which Saini has been granted interim anticipatory bail by the Coordinate Bench vide order dated August 12.

"The said allegations could $not form \, part \, of \, another \, FIR \, and \,$ the petitioner could not be arrested in FIR NO. 11 for the same alleged criminal acts, which were subject matter of FIR No. 13, which were specifically referred to in order dated August 12 and for which the detenue (Saini) was granted interim anticipatory bail...therefore arrest of the detenue on substantially the same allegations is patently illegal,' said the bench in the order.

The high court on August 12 had granted interim anticipatory bail to Saini in a disproportionate assets case that was registered against him and six others on August 2. But the court had asked him to join the investiga-

tion within a week. "In view of the above referred judicial precedents and above discussed facts and circumstances of the case evidencing illegality of the arrest of the detenue, the habeas corpus petition is allowed and the detenue is held to have been illegally arrested in circumvented violation of protection orders dated 11.10.2018 and 23.09.2020 and interim anticipatory bail order dated 12.08.2021 passed by the Co-ordinate Bench of this Court," the order said.

"Therefore, the detenue is ordered to be released forthwith," according to the court order which was uploaded on the high court website past midnight.

The high court on October 11, 2018 had held that Saini would be served a seven-day notice if any action was to be contemplated against him. On September 23. 2020, the court had extended the protection of the October 2018 order to any incident during Saini's entire service career.

The bench also ordered that the Investigating Officer of the case "shall be at liberty to arrest the detenue after giving seven days notice" and "also seeking permission from the concerned Coordinate Bench of this Court hearing the petition, in which the detenue has been granted interim anticipatory bail on substantially the same allegations."

Saini divides AAP: senior leader calls him a 'national hero', MLA says 'butcher of Punjab's youths'

MANAMAN SINGH CHHINA CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

SENIOR AAM Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Rajasthan incharge, Deepak Bajpai, on Friday, courted controversy by attacking Punjab Chief Minister, Captain Amarinder Singh, over former DGP Sumedh Saini's arrest, who he said was a "national

Bajpai's statements became a source of embarrassment for the party, which has been vociferously demanding the arrest of ex-DGP Saini and on Friday even blamed CM Capt Amarinder Singh, for "allowing safe passage" to Saini after his arrest.

Bajpai is considered an important member of the AAP hierarchy and apart from having been the state in-charge of Raiasthan. he has also been the national treasurer of the party and ex-officio member of the political affairs committee of the party. A former iournalist, he has played an important role in media outreach in all AAP electoral campaigns.

In a series of tweets on Friday morning, Bajpai hit out at all those who were cheering at the arrest of Saini, "Capt Amarinder



Deepak Bajpai

is trying every trick in the book in utter disregard to the high court to settle score with former DGP Saxini. Saini is a hero who saved Punjab during terrorism days...but HC stood by a national hero. Salute," Bajpai tweeted.

He went on to tweet that Saini's car was blown up leaving all three occupants, except him. dead. "His house was burnt down by ultras. He is being hounded by CM Punjab. Whoever supports Capt in this act is a slave of terrorists. It's Saini's singlehanded fight against terrorism that Punjab is still part of India," he tweeted.

Bajpai's sudden support for Saini comes at a time when the entire senior leadership of AAP in Punjab has been demanding the arrest of the former DGP for the Behbal Kalan and Kotkapura police firing incidents, which took place in 2015 when he was the state DGP.

All AAP MLAs, led by the

Leader of Opposition, Harpal Singh Cheema, have been categorically demanding that Saini be arrested. After he was ordered to be released late last night, AAP MLAs went on to issue statements accusing the CM of helping Saini get away and demanded the dismissal of Punjab Chief Secretary, Vini Mahajan, Advocate General, Atul Nanda, and Vigilance Bureau Chief

Director, BK Uppal. Contacted by The Indian Express, Bajpai refused to say anything about his tweets. "I do not want to make any statement at the moment," he said. However, subsequently, Bajpai later tweeted, "Just to clarify, these tweets reflect only my view, not Aam Aadmi Party's. I am the journalist who exposed tunnel in Burail Jail which was used by Jagtar Singh Hawara for escape. Saini had helped Chandigarh Police crack that case. I have my own understand-

Reacting to his tweets, Leader of Opposition, Harpal Singh Cheema, too sought to distance himself, stating that Bajpai's comments had nothing to do with the party and that these were his individual re-

ing of Punjab.'

marks. "He does not hold any official position right now. I am not aware of why he said all this,' said Cheema.

President of the Kisan Wing of AAP and Kotkapura MLA, Kultar Singh Sandhwan, who has been demanding the arrest of Saini vociferously, said," Saini is no national hero. He is a butcher of the youth of Punjab. Bajpai has disrespected the High Court also by giving motives to the orders issued by it. Our party's stand on Saini remains unchanged."

Meanwhile, another AAP MLA. Baliinder Kaur, on Friday issued a statement claiming that the ruling Congress and the entire government machinery was working hard to save Sumedh Singh Saini, "Sumedh Singh Saini is being given a safe passage to escape by placing innumerable loopholes. The game is being played to fool the people of Punjab and it involves the Chief Minister who is the head of the home department, the Chief Secretary, Vini Mahajan, Vigilance Chief, BK Uppal, and Advocate General, Atul Nanda," she said demanding the immediate dismissal of Mahajan, Uppal, and Nanda.

IN FORMER DGP'S RELEASE

Capt's detractors find ammo to gun for own govt

KANCHAN VASDEV CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

AFTER THE Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the release of former DGP Sumedh Singh Saini terming his arrest by Vigilance Bureau as "illegal", Cabinet minister Sukhjinder Randhawa launched a scathing attack on top officials of his own government seeking their immediate removal for "professional incompetence".

Interestingly, PPCC chief Navjot Singh Sidhu remained silent on the matter, even as several other partymen closed



Sukhjinder Randhawa

ranks with Randhawa who in a tweet urged Punjab CM to sack the Advocate General Atul Nanda, Home Secretary Anurag Agarwal and Chief Director of the state Vigilance Bureau B K

The tweet, however, immediately drew a retort from the Chief Minister's Office.

In a tweet to CM Amarinder

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Punjab Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Jails Minister wrote: "In view of the fiasco in Sumedh Singh Saini case, I urge Chief Minister @capt_amarinder to immediately remove Advocate General, Home Secretary and Chief Director Vigilance, for their professional incompetence."

Singh in which he also tagged

In a reply to Randhawa, Chief Minister's media advisor tweeted quoting the CM: "I advise all Cabinet & party colleagues to check facts before issuing statements. I suggest they should discuss all issues, especially sensitive ones, either with me or on party platform before going public: @capt_amarinder in response to remarks by @Sukhjinder_INC."

Randhawa's tweet was retweeted by several MLAs, including Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Kulbir Zira and Barindermeet Pahda. Sidhu's newly appointed adviser, Malvinder Singh Mali, also retweeted it.

Randhawa has been critical of the CM over the issue of poll promises including alleged delay in justice in the 2015 sacrilege and post-sacrilege police



UG PROGRAMMES

LL.B.

B.Voc. - B.Voc. Retail and Logistics Management - B.Voc. Biomedical Sciences

- B.Tech Printing & Packaging Technology

- B.Voc. Industrial Waste Management

- Law (Professional Course)

(3 Year) **B.Tech** - B.Tech Computer Science & Engineering

> - B.Tech Electrical Engineering - B.Tech Civil Engineering

PG PROGRAMMES

- M.A. Economics M.A. History & Archaeology

- M.A. Political Science - M.A. Psychology

- M.A. Journalism & Mass

- M.A. English - M.A. Hindi - M.A. Sanskrit

- M.A. Sociology

Communication M.Ed. - Education

▶ **B.Ed.** - Education ► MCA - Computer Science &

▶ LL.M. - Law

▶ M.Sc. - M.Sc Chemistry M.Sc Environmental Sci

> M.Sc Geography - M.Sc Mathematics - M.Sc Physics

- M.Sc Statistics

- M.Sc Microbiology

- M.Sc Biochemistry - M.Sc Nutrition Biology

 M.Sc Biotechnology M.Sc Yoga

M.Lib. & Info. Sci. Library & Information M.Com. - Commerce

▶ **B.Sc.-M.Sc.** - Chemistry

▶ **B.Sc.-M.Sc.** - Mathematics

▶ **B.Sc.-M.Sc.** - Physics

(Integrated)

(Integrated)

MBA - Management Studies ► MHMCT Master of Hotel

Catering Technology

Management and

MTTM Master of Tourism & Travel Management

► M.Pharm. (Pharmacology)**

Pharmaceutical Sciences

M.P.E.S. - Physical Education

Note: ** Admissions are offered subject to the approval of Pharmacy Council of India, and the Counselling will be conducted only after receiving the approval from PCI

Last Date of Online registration & submission of Application Form for CU-CET 2021 1st September, 2021 (upto 11:50 pm)

Information Technology

TRAINING & PLACEMENT CENTER @GURUGRAM

Last Date of successful fee transaction 2nd September, 2021 (upto 11:50 pm)

For detailed Information Bulletin hosted on https://cucet.nta.nic.in, www.nta.ac.in or visit cuh.ac.in

Chandigarh

REGISTRAR

by SAD, Congress and SAD (United)

LUDHIANA, AUGUST 20

RAAKHIJAGGA

THREE POLITICAL parties -Congress, SAD and SAD (United) – held three different events in Sangrur's Longowal village to commemorate the death anniversary of former SAD chief Harchand Singh Longowal. The programmes, however, were marred by protests held under the banner of the Krantikari Kisa Union(KKU)

The protesters showed black flags to SAD (United)'s Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa and his convoy was on its way to Gurdwara Bhai Mani Singh.

SAD leader Prem Singh Chandumajra could not even reach the venue as farmers gheraoed his vehicle. Akali Dal had organised a programme in memory of their former party president at Kaimbowal



Farmer protests mar events planned

Gurdwara in Longowal Unlike previous years when SAD president Sukhbir Badal or the former Puniab CM Parkash Singh Badal used to visit to pay tributes, this year no one from the Badal family visited, while Chandumajra

faced protests from farmers. However, Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Harpreet Singh

and Bhai Ranjit Singh, Jathedar Takht Sri Patna Sahib paid their Bhupinder Singh Longowal,

from KKU, said, "As we did sloganeering against Chandumajra, asked him questions about his party's role in implementing farm laws, he could not reach the gurdwara where an event had

number 2, unemployed BEd pass teacher union members started protesting. Congress leaders left the grain market from gate number 2 where the strength of protes-

tors was less.

been organised by his party."

Punjab government had or-

ganised a programme at Anaj

Mandi in Longowal where Cabinet

Ministers Vijayinder Singla and

Sadhu Singh Dharamsot had

come to pay floral tributes to Sant

Harchand Singh Longowal. The

duo paid tributes and addressed

the media but within no time,

farmers came at gate number 1

and 3 of grain market while at gate

KKU's Longowal said, "We have no personal enmity with anyone, but we are protesting against every politician who remained part of government at one or the other point. We will continue protesting.'

Punjab Mandi Board Punjab Mandi Bhawan Sector-65, S.A.S. Nagar

E Tendering Notice No. 20 (2021) Dated: 18.08.2021 Secure Online Submission of Tenders.

Executive Engineer (C), Punjab Mandi Board, SAS Nagar invites Bids

from the eligible bidders registered with Punjab Mandi Board for following

- Special Repair of Link Roads Repair Programme 2021-22 Phase-IV Market Committee Banur Group No. 2, Distt. SAS Nagar Special Repair of Link Roads Repair Programme 2021-22 Phase-IV
- Market Committee Banur Group No. 03, Distt. SAS Nagar. 3. Special Repair of Link Roads Machali Kalan to Janjheri Market Committee Banur, Distt. SAS Nagar.
- New Construction of Link road Rajemajra to Roop Nagar, Chandigar Road, Market Committee Chamkaur Sahib Distt. Roop Nagar. For Detailed terms and Conditions of Notice inviting bids, refer to website:

https://eproc.punjab.gov.in Corrigendum, if any will only be issued on website

> Executive Engineer (Civil)
> Punjab Mandi Board S.A.S. Nagai

6921/Pb

HAFFKINE BIO-PHARMACEUTICAL Haffkin **CORPORATION LTD.**

(Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking) Acharya Donde Marg, Parel, Mumbai- 400012, Maharashtra, India Phone No. 022-24129320-22, 022-24150628 Email: mm@vaccinehaffkine.com

e-TENDER NOTICE

HAFFKINE Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., A Govt. Of Maharashtra undertaking company is seeking tenders from companies/ firms with multi-domain experties to Establishment of BSL3 Drug Substance Bulk Vaccine (110 million doses per annum capacity) Facility for Covid-19 vaccine on Turn-Key basis.

Scope of Work: The Scope of the work under the tender includes.

(1) Civil, PEB electrical and plumbing work for the facility (2) Floor finishing including epoxy coating, coving PU Painting (3) Critical utilities system piping and Pendent based distribution (WFI/PW/DI/CA/PS etc.) (4) HVAC system including AHU and ducting (5) Cold rooms, Deep Freezers (6) Supply and installation of all process and clean room equipment for vaccine manufacturing (7) Electrical MV and LV system (8) Integrated Building Management systems including access control, CCTV, fire alarm system, public address system, fire hydrant, ETP STP (9) This is a trunkey tender which involves purchase of equipments, installation, calibration, validation, regulatory clearance/ certification and final handover to HBPCL (10) Miscellaneous works.

Qualification Criteria: Eligibility criteria for the prospect vendor (s)/ contractor (s) should have:

- Successfully completed 3 similar BSL-3 or higher containment Laboratory projects with at-least one project of value of Rs. 20.00 Crores.
- Shall have an Average Annual turnover during last three financial years upto Rs. 80 Crores.
- The Firm shall have more than 2 ongoing AMC contracts for BSL-3 or higher containment Laboratories.

Other criteria as specified in Tender Document. Details of this e-tender is available on https://mahatenders.gov.in

and https://www.vaccinehaffkine.com. Interested bidders should sent authorized representative of their firm along with authority letter & PAN Card of the firm to collect technical specification & BOQs in hard copy from above mentioned office address. Confidential agreement to be signed before taking technical documents before 27.08.2021. Please contact to Mr. B. G. Dhekane, Materials Manager (Mob: +91 9969302019) for any query.

completion are as indicated below:

- Timelines:- Timelines for tender submission and work CDA Execution and taking the Technical specification & BOQ of bid documents before 27.08.2021 by 1645
- Bid Published Date: 19.08.2021 at 1645 Hrs. Pre-bid meeting:- 01.09.2021 at 1100 Hrs at above

Name of the Post

Senior Manager (Estate

Supurty Directo

(Group-A) puty Director of

Apriculture and

equivalent Assistant Statistician Statistical Officer /

Agriculture Statistical Officer / Field Officer

(Statistics) / Assistant Statistical (Officer /

Research Officer

(Statistics) Class-II

Manager (Utility)

Deputy Director (Statistics)

Manager (Estate)

Manager (P&A)

(Industrial Promotion)

(Group-A) Assistant Engineer

(Agri.) (Class-II)

- mentioned office address. Last date for bid submission of completed bid
- 08.09.2021 by 1630 Hrs. Date of Technical Bid Opening: 09.09.2021 by 1630 Hrs.
- DGIPR-2021-2022/1667 **Managing Director**

Haryana Public Service Commission

Bays No. 1-10, Block-B, Sector-4, Panchkula

It is hereby announced for the general information of the candidates, who have applied

Advt. No. & Dute

1 (10) of 2018 &

12.08.2019

2 (1) of 2019 A 24.06.2019

5 (ai) of 2018

5 (viii) of 2018

1 (8) of 2018

3 (1) of 2019 &

24.06.2019 (13) of 2018 &

Corrigendum deted 10.05.2019

5 (will) of 2018

1 (6) of 2018 &

15.05.2019

2 (2) of 1019

Secretary

Panchkula

Haryana Public Service Commission

ANNOUNCEMENT

against various advertisements for different posts, as mentioned below, that the Commission has decided

conduct computer based Recruitment Test on 14,09,2021 (Tuesday) as per details as under:

Department

Haryana State Industrial &

Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Department, Haryana

Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Department, Haryana

Haryena State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (Industries &

Department, Haryana

Harywen State Industrial &

Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (Industries &

Heryana State Industrial &

Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (Industries &

Industries & Commerce Department, Haryana

Haryana Seed Development

Corporation

4311/HRY

merce Department, Haryana). Industries & Commerce

nerce Department, Haryana) culture & Farmera Welfare Department, Haryana

Infrastructure Development rporation Limited (Industries &

merce Department, Haryana) Industries & Commerce

INVITATION OF TENDER FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AT MAMUM MILITARY STATION

Tender invited for approx 10 Ton waste management per day. Interested bidders may contact following for obtaining tender details:-

CO 529 ASC Bn

Mob No- 9958628629, 6281646987 9398683981

Email-subodhmudgal.540f@gov.in

कुटेशन नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पानीपत में वाहनों की मुरम्मत के लिए हार्डवेयर/पैटी आईटम्स/ मिसलेनियस आईटम की अगले एक वर्ष के लिए खरीद की जानी है इच्छुक सप्लायर दिनांक 06.09.2021 तक अपनी सीलबंद क्रूटेशन <mark>"महाप्रबंधक</mark>, **हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पानीपत"** के नाम भेज सकते हैं। जिसके ऊपर **"स्टोर आईटम कुटेशन"** लिखा होना अनिवार्य है । स्टोर आईटम की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महापूर्वंधक कार्यालय में संपर्क कर सकते हैं। कूटेशन से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज किसी भी कार्यदिवस में आकर <mark>200/– रुपए</mark> जमा करवाने उपरांत महाप्रबंधक, कार्यालय हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पानीपत से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। हस्ता./-

> महाप्रबंधक. हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पानीपत।

कार्यालय महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पलवल पोस्टल कुटेशन नोटिस

हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पलवल में वाहनों की मरम्मत के लिए General/Petty Items, Hardware Accessories etc. की अगले 1 वर्ष के खरीद की जानी है। इच्छुक सप्लायर/निर्माता दिनांक 27.08.2021 सायं 05.00 बजे तक अपनी शील बंद पोस्टल कटेशन महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पलवल के नाम भेज सकते हैं। Items की लिस्ट व अन्य शर्तों के लिए महाप्रबंधक हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन पलवल में सीधे तौर पर या ई-मेल gmhrplw@gmail.com पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। कटेशन ०२ .०९ .२०२१ को प्रातः १० .०० बजे महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पलवल के कार्यालय में खोली जाएंगी।

> हस्ता./-महाप्रबंधक, हरियाणा राज्य परिवहन, पलवल।

4317/HRY

4322/HRY

CORRIGENDUM LOVELY PROFESSIONAL UNIVERSITY

Certain updations/modifications, clarifications and rectifications in respecof provisions contained in the Prospectus 2021 and/or other information material related to the admission and other matters of the university which may or may not be covered in the above or any other information material/document issued by the University; and therefore are listed below for the information of all the concerned:

- BCA-Big Data Analytics, B.Tech Computer Science Engineering[2+2 International Transfer option], B.Tech Electronics and Communication Engineering [2+2 International Transfer option], B.Tech Mechanical Engineering [2+2 International Transfer option], B.Tech (ME-Mechatronics) [2+2 International Transfer option], B.Tech Automobile Engineering [2+2International Transfer option], B.Tech Civil Engineering [2+2 International transfer option], B.Tech Biotechnology [2+2 International Transfer Option], B.Sc. Information technology [2+2 International Transfer option], BBA [2+2International Transfer option] MBA [1+1 International Transfer option], B.Design (Fashion) [2+2 International Option], Bachelor of Hotel Management and Catering Technology [2+2 International Option], M.Tech Electronics 8 Communication Engineering [2+2 International Option], M.Tech Biotechnology [2+2 International Option] programmes are also being offered. For details, refer the University website (under the head Admissions i.e. http://www.lpu.in/admission/).
- Diploma (Engg.) Electrical Engg. (EE), Diploma in Pharmacy-Upvaid (Ayurvedic), B.Sc. Botany (Hons.) MCA (Hons.), MBA(Hons), M.Tech. (Geotechnical Engineering) [Full Time], MPT (Sports) programmes are not being offered i.e., withdrawn.

For more details, contact at University campus or log on to University Websit (under the head Admissions i.e. http://www.lpu.in/admission/)

Address: Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar-Delhi G.T. Road Phagwara, District Kapurthala, Punjab (India) - 144411

Time of Test

08:30 AM

10:30 AM

08:30 AM

10:30 AM

12:10 PM

02:30 PM

12:30 PM

02:30 PM

12:30 PM

06:30 254

04:30 PM

06-30 PM

COURT NOTICE

(U/o 5 Rule 20 CPC)

In The Court Of Ms. Preeti Sukhiia Additional Civil Judge Senior Division-1. Moga

Balvir Singh Sangha

Vs

Satnam Singh CNR NO: PBMO02-000102-

2020

Next date: 07-09-2021 **Publication Issued To:**

Satnam Singh :- Jagdev Singh S/o Surti Singh Vilge Koera Khurad,

Tehsil And District Moga

In above titled case, the defendant (s)/ respondent(s) could not be served. It is ordered that defendant should appear in person or through counsel on 07-09-2021 at

10.00 a.m. for details logon to:

https://highcourtchd.gov.in/? trs=district notice&district=

Additional Civil Judge Senior Division-1, Moga

pnb

Dated: 20.08.2021

punjab national bank

Information regarding venue of the test and downloading of Admit Cards will be made

available to the candidates on Commission's website i.e. http://hpsc.gov.in/ in due course

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95: 720/ZAD first: 20.8.2021

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The Kangra Central Co-operative Bank Limited ZONAL OFFICE: PALAMPUR BRANCH: SYNDICATE AREA, PALAMPUR

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Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of The Kangra Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd under The securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) rules 2002 issued demand notice(s) on the dates mentioned against account calling upon the respective berrowers / guaranters to repay the amount mentioned against account within 60 days from the date of the receipt of the said notice(s).

The borrowers and guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers / guarantors / owners of the property and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property(s) described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Act/ rules on the dates mentioned against account.

The borrowers / guarantors / owners of the property in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property(s) will be subject to the charge of The Kangra Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd. for the amounts as mentioned against account along with interest and other charges thereon. In case the Borrower/Guaranter do not pay back the Bank Dues within 30 days of this publication the Property shall be sold as prescribed to recover the bank dues. The borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) attention is invited to provision of subsection (8) of section 13

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7 REGION

Capt, Sidhu pick synergy panel, decide ministers' roster for party office

KANCHAN VASDEV

THREE DAYS after AICC general secretary incharge Harish Rawat asked Punjab CM Amarinder Singh and PPCC chief Navjot Sidhu to exercise restraint, both warring leaders sat together Friday to decide a 10-member Strategic Policy Group for better coordination between the party and the government.

Sidhu went to meet the CM at the latter's farm house in Siswan on Friday, posed for a picture with the CM and tweeted: "Highly positive co-ordination meeting on proposal for roster of ministers to sit at Punjab Congress Bhawan!!'

After Sidhu suggested it, the CM has now got a roster prepared to assign ministers in his Cabinet to spend time with party cadres at the Congress headquarters in Chandigarh.

A government statement later said that the 10-member group, to be headed by Amarinder, will ensure better coordination between the ruling party and the state government, and expedite implementation of various schemes.

Besides the CM, the group will have Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal and Social Security Minister Aruna Chaudhary as members, along with Sidhu, the four party working presidents -Kuljit Singh Nagra, Sukhwinder Singh Danny, Sangat Singh ber of the group. No one from the Majha brigade -- Tript Rajinder Bajwa, Sukhbinder Sarkaria and Sukhjinder Randhawa -- was included in the 10-member panel.

The group will hold weekly meetings for consultation with other ministers, experts etc. as may be required. It will review progress of various state government initiatives already under implementation, and will also suggest measures to expedite the same.

One minister each will be available at the Congress Bhawan from Monday for three hours (11 am to 2 pm), and in any case the minister deputed for a particular day is unable to make it for some reason, he/she shall arrange for a substitute in consultation with any other minister. The arrangement will be in place five days in a week, from Monday to Friday, said the CM, adding that this will help in better coordination between his government and party functionaries in the run-up to the 2022 Assembly elections.

Recently, Rawat had criticised both the CM and Sidhu openly. He had said that Sidhu should show humility, gentleness and change his style as PPCC chief, addig that he should respect the Chief Minister.

With regards to the CM, he had said that there were reports that 'witch hunting' was on and grants of some ministers and MLAs were being delayed and lovalists of some ministers were being removed from important positions. He had also stated that



Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu greets Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh, on Friday. ANI

Bhindranwale grandnephew among 2 arrested as police bust terror module

Arms, ammunitions supplied by ISI, pro-Khalistan terror groups recovered

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

Punjab Police on Friday arrested two militant operatives and claimed to have busted a terror module. One of the arrested militants, police said, was the son of the nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale - the Sikh religious leader and political revolutionary whose violent campaign for autonomy for the state of Punjab and armed occupation of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar led to a deadly confrontation

with the Indian military in 1984. Police said a huge cache of live grenades, a tiffin bomb and some pistols and ammunition has been seized from the ar-

rested suspects. Investigators identified the arrested men as Gurmukh Singh Brar alias GB, a resident of Hardyal Nagar, Garha, Jalandhar, who is the son of Jasbir Singh Rode, the nephew of Jarnail Bhindranwale, and Gagandeep Singh, a resident of Gurunanak Pura in Phagwara.

Later in the day, the police also conducted a raid at the office of Punjabi Daily 'Aaj Di Awaaz' where Gurmukh was working as the editor.

A press release by Puniab Police later said that Kapurthala police had nabbed Gagandeep, a resident of Phagwara, and recov-



Arms and money recovered by cops. Express

ered one illegal pistol from his possession. During follow-up interrogations, Gagandeep had revealed that the pistol recovered from him was part of a bigger consignment of weapons that had been sent from across the border via drones over the last few months. He also disclosed that the major part of the consignment had been hidden by his close friend, who he identified as one Gurmukh Singh, in Jalandhar.

"Acting on this input, police teams immediately raided the house of Gurmukh Singh and arrested him, while also recovering two live hand grenades, one box of detonators, two tubes suspected to contain RDX, one roll of high explosive yellow wire, cash of Rs 3.75 lakh, one licensed pistol a .45 bore, 14 Indian passports, one .30 pistol along with two magazines from his possession," said Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kapurthala, HPS Khak, adding that one live tiffin bomb and other explosive material was

also said to have been hidden in the office of Gurmukh Singh near Ialandhar bus stand.

The teams next raided the Jalandhar bus stand office of Gurmukh and recovered 3 live hand grenades, 1 tiffin bomb, 4 Glock pistol magazines, and packaging foam material from there.

Preliminary investigations carried out so far have revealed that the consignment was sent by Pakistan's ISI and by other Pakistan-based pro-Khalistan terrorist groups, such as the ISYF, to carry out multiple terror attacks in Punjab in its ongoing efforts to revive militancy, and disturb peace and communal harmony in the state.

Kapurthala police have registered a case on Friday against Gurmukh and Gagandeep under sections 13,16,17,18,18B,20 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, 4,5 of Explosives Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001, and 25,54,59 of Arms Act.

at PS Sadar, Phagwara. On August 8, Amritsar

(Rural) police also recovered a similar-looking sophisticated tiffin bomb from village Daleke, PS in this tiffin bomb and had three different trigger mechanisms switch, magnets, and spring - for operational flexibility.

Contacted, Jasbir Singh Rode said that around 12:15 am on Friday, nearly 10-12 policemen entered their premises after scaling the boundary wall. "They knocked on the door and when I asked for a reason, they said that they wanted to search their place. Then I opened the door and they searched our house, went upstairs and came down. They sat for some time and then told me that they were taking Gurmukh along with them. They took him and later again returned with Gurmukh after an hour and told me that they will search the house again. I told them that I could not go upstairs because of my health and wouldn't be able to help. They went upstairs and returned with 2-3 polybags and told me that they had recovered it from

Gurmukh's room," Rode said. "I am not aware whether they had brought this material along with them or whether they were Puniab Police, or **National Investigation Agency** (NIA) officials," claimed Rode.

They then raided the office of the "Ajj Di Awaaz' at around 4;15 am, said Rode.

BJP ex-minister Anil Joshi joins Akali Dal, gets poll ticket, senior party post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

FORMER MINISTER Anil Joshi who was expelled by the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) over his stand on the three contentious central farm laws on Friday joined the Shiromani Akali Dal and was immediately rewarded with party ticket from Amritsar North Assembly constituency - a seat he represented twice as saffron party candidate for 2022 polls.

SAD president Sukhbir Badal, while inducting Joshi, also appointed him as party's senior vice-president.

Sukhbir also named

Raj Kumar Gupta, another former BJP leader who joined the Akali Dal with Joshi, as party can-**DECISION** didate from Sujanpur. 2022 Apart from Joshi and Gupta, former BJP MLA from Dasuya Sukhjit Kaur Shahi, former Bharatiya Yuva Morcha chief Mohit Gupta and a number of other leaders

Teachers' union

announces

September 5



Anil Joshi

representing Hindu community joined the Akali Dal and were given various party positions.

Sukhbir has already announced that if the party is voted to power in 2022, there will be two deputy chief minister - one each from Hindu and Dalit com-The pitch during the

induction of BJP leaders into Akali Dal largely revolved around "peace and communal harmony as advocated by Akali patriarch Parkash Singh Badal". Both Sukhbir and the former BJP leaders harped on senior Badal's move to ally with the BIP for ensuring the same in Puniab.

Sukhbir said his father always thought that "Punjab can progress if there is peace and communal harmony".

"When I took over as SAD chief, my father told me not to take any decision, which could harm communal harmony. His main aim was that all religions should remain united," said Sukhbir who ended his speech by saying "Jai Shri Ram, Assalam walekum, and Hallelujah".

"Even at cost of my life and of party leadership, we will maintain peace and communal harmony in Punjab," Sukhbir said.

Terming the the BJP leaders who joined his party as as "heerey" (diamonds), he added that the "other diamonds left in saffron party too will be inducted into SAD".

He said, "90 per cent of the BJP leaders and activists want farmers' ongoing agitation to end".

Sukhbir said if SAD forms government, it will give job to the kin of "martyred farmers" who "sacrificed lives" while protesting against the three 'black farm laws". He said the Akali Dal government will not will also give financial assistance to family members of farmers who died during the agitation.

Lashing out at the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party, he said the two parties worked on commands from Delhi. He called Congrss "dhokhebaaz" (deceitful) and AAP government in Delhi led by Arvind Kejriwal as "anti-Punjab" for "trying to close thermal plants and pushing for construction of Sutlej Yamuna Link(SYL) canal".

He lauded Joshi for undertakng development works during his tenure as minister and hit out at state Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu accusing him of indulging in "dramas" and not being able to "lay even a brick for any development work in two and a half year tenure as minister".

Ioshi who also focused his address on peace and communal harmony hit out at BJP leadership as he rued that protesting farmers were not "satisfied" by the government. He said that had BIP acted pro-actively, "the issue would not have become

massive protest in Sangrur on

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUDHIANA, AUGUST 20

THE SANYUKTA Adhyapak Front (SAF) on Friday claimed that they had been denied a meeting with Education Minister Vijay Inder Singla and said they will launch a massive protest march on Teacher's Day (September 5) in the his constituency - Sangrur.

The union leaders said that earlier an invitation was sent to them by Singla to hold a meeting on August 18. But at the last minute, the meeting was cancelled. Digvijay Pal Sharma, state head of Sanyukta Adhyapak Front, said that the education minister was avoiding meeting them.

Alleging that Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh's government has been committing a 'fraud' with teachers, he said that an eyewash is being done in the Commission, which if implemented, will lead to a reduction in allowances and grade pays of teachers. He said that their struggle against the Sixth Pav Commission will continue. He said that teachers are being fooled with this commission as it would further slash their income.

Deep Raia, the state committee member of the union from Ludhiana, said that teachers were being harassed by the state government. Apart from the Pay commission issue, the promotions of teachers were also stuck in limbo.

"The MLAs themselves are looting the exchequer by taking various pensions, but the employees are not being able to make ends meet despite serving for vears," he said, adding that scholarships of poor students are also stuck and economically weaker students were also suffering.

In the wake of 'the education minister running away from meetings time and again', the teachers announced a state-level protest rally against the 'anti-education' policies of the Congress government that will be held in Sangrur on September 5.

Teachers said that a massive protest march will be organised towards the residence of the education minister in Sangrur during the protest on September 5.

BJP, SAD in secret pact, PM remote controls both parties: AAP's Chadha the elections together in full

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

THE MASS exodus of Punjab BJP leaders to Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) came under heavy criticism from the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday, which stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the remote control of SAD-BJP in his hands and that voting for SAD would be the same as voting for the BIP.

The AAP claimed that the joining of BJP leaders in Shiromani Akali Dal Badal was part of a calculated plan and that the people of Punjab must be aware of this dangerous and nefarious alliance.

In a statement issued here on Friday, AAP national spokesperson and Punjab Affairs co-incharge, Raghav Chadha, said that even today the alliance between the Akali Dal Badal and the BJP was intact in Punjab. He said the Badals and the BIP were fighting force. "The only difference is that earlier there was a direct agreement, which has now become an indirect alliance," he added. Chadha said due to the

three farm laws, people were not allowing the BJP MLAs, MPs and leaders at all levels to enter their villages and towns. He said the people have started hating the BJP leaders and do not even want to see them on their streets; opening the door for them was a far cry. "In such a scenario, the BJP was not in a position to contest the elections directly. The BJP and the Badals came up with a plan that the BJP would send all its leaders and cadres to the Akali Dal Badal and for the last few days the Badals and the BJP were implementing this plan, under which former ministers, MLAs, and office bearers are joining Akali Dal Badal," said

Raghav Chadha said that un-

der the strategy of Prime Minister Modi, the BIP leaders were now waiting to go to the people in the guise of Akali Dal Badal. "We would like to warn the people of Punjab that today there is no difference between the Akali Dal Badal and the BJP. Therefore, voting for Akali Dal Badal means voting for the BJP directly," he added.

The AAP leader further stated that the relationship between the Badals and the BIP was not only intact but has further deepened, as earlier the BJP and the Akali Dal Badal were contesting on their respective seats under the alliance. But now, the BJP is contesting in the form of Akali Dal Badal to seize power in Punjab. Chadha said that Akali Dal Badal had now become the party of Prime Minister Modi and in the runup to the 2022 Punjab elections the remote control of both the parties would be in the hands of Narendra Modi.



To e-TCN No. EM/WS-29/2021 for the work: "Grant of licence for Installation, Operation & Maintenance of 04 Nos. of 100 Ton capacity HMC for a period of 05 years extendable to another 01 year" The last date extendable to another 01 year" The last date of uploading response to clarifications sought, submission and opening of the bid for the above e-Tender Call Notice are hereby extended as follows: (1) Date and time of uploading response to clarifications sought: 27.08.2021 at 17:00Hrs. (2) Last date and time of bid Submission: 13.09.2021 up to 18:00 Hrs. (3) Opening of technical Bid: 14.09.2021 at 11:00 Hrs. All other terms and conditions of the 11:00 Hrs. All other terms and conditions of the Executive Engineer (M) Workshop Division-

MEMO NO: 1/2021-22(Admn.)/04 /6564

Paryatan Bhawan, Bays No. 55-58, Sector-2, Panchkula, Haryana Tel No: 0172-2560124, 2573922, 2570458, Fax: 0172-2580466 Website: nrhmharyana.gov.in, E-mail ID adms.orhmhry@gmail.com CORRIGENDUM

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION

In reference to Advt. no: 1/2020-21(Admn.)/04/5634, dated

Dated:20.08.2023

05.08.2021, for hiring of Specialists in different districts of Haryana, it is informed that, the Closing Date for submission of online applications has been extended till 31st August, 2021/11:59 Pm).Please visit the website: www.nhmharvana.gov.in for details. Director (Admn.)

> For Mission Director NHM Haryana

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED ("A State Govt. Undertaking") NOTICE INVITING TENDERS Sealed item rate tender for the below mentioned work are hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the CMD, HPSESL, from the

experienced contractors having License of Electrical A-Class and entisted with HPSEBUHIPPWD/MES/CPWD. The contractor having Group Insurance of workers and EPF registration shall participate in the Tenders. Tender forms can be had from the office of Assistant Engineer: M&T Sub-Division, HPSEBL, Sundernagar cash payment or in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Sr. Executive Engineer M&T Division HPSEBL, Sundernagar payable at Sundernagar. The dates of Sale/Receipt and Opening of Tenders are as under please.

Name of work dig Estimate for construction of 04.09.2021 (3.00.29M) store building at M&T Division complex under M&T Sub-Division HPSEBL, Sunderragar (Er. Vikas Sharma) Sr. Executive Engineer MAT Divin HPSESL Sunderraga Save Energy for the Benefit of Self and Nation

Chandigarh

Book banks to come up at NCLP schools for child labourers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUDHIANA, AUGUST 20

Inaugurating a library at one of the schools for underprivileged children under the National Child Labour Project (NCLP), Ludhiana DC Varinder Kumar Sharma Friday announced that 'book banks' will be setup in all NCLP schools being run in the district, to ensure that children studying in these schools get uninterrupted access to books.

NCLP schools are aimed at rehabilitation and education of

children working as labourers in hazardous industries, shops etc.. and to put an end to child labour through education.

Sharma on Friday dedicated a library in the school run by Dr Ambedkar Nagar Welfare Society at Model Town Extension under the NCLP project. The DC said that Ludhiana district has 32 NCLP schools and nearly 1,500 children study in these institutions. He announced that a book bank would be developed in each NCLP school by roping in NGOs and industrial houses.

ਰੂਪਨਗਰ ਇਪਰੁਵਮੈਂਟ ਟਰੇਸਟ, ਰੂਪਨਗਰ प्रोच्च की पुंचा भी होना किया है जो होना किया जो भी वहर्तिकोंट कर्य प्रीम्पण्डाच करीकार ही जायी का तक करती जोती से कि पुंचा पर हैंग्या को संक्रा किया ही भी उ.स.स. 2014 है, ये पुंची के किया करी भीता है,

वेका भारत केल प्रमाण भी भागाती सीवारी भ

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8 REGION

HARYANA ASSEMBLY MONSOON SESSION

136 FIRs lodged against farmers in 11 months, two on sedition charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH. AUGUST 20

AS MANY as 136 FIRs have been lodged against farmers protesting the three new farm laws in the past 11 months in Haryana. These FIRs have been lodged against several thousand farmers in 18 districts of the state during the ongoing stir. Two of the FIRs have been lodged under the charges of sedition - section 124-A of the IPC.

This information was given by Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij in a written reply during the ongoing session of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha here on Friday. The statement submitted by Vij, who was not present in the House, states: "A case was registered on July 11, 2021, at Police Station Civil Lines, Sirsa, under Section 124-A, and the statement of the complainant was recorded by the duty magistrate. In the statement, the complainant states that farmers protesting the new laws had attacked the convoy of Deputy Speaker of Haryana Vidhan Sabha. Another case was registered on January 15, 2021, in Police Station Bahadurgarh, Ihajiar, under Section 124-A of the IPC. This section has been invoked against one Sunil Gulia for uploading a video on social media in which he vowed that if the demands of the farmers were not paid heed to, he will attack the government with a cannon."

Congress MLAs strongly objected to the registration of sedition cases against the farmers. In the Assembly, Congress MLA, BB Batra, said: "Even if the car of the minister was attacked with a stick during the protest, does the person (accused) become a traitor? Don't we have other sections of the IPC that can deal with such matters?"

Former Chief Minister, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, too said, "This is not an issue of only Haryana farmers, but that of the entire country. They have been sitting on the land of Haryana for the past several months. We don't have objections to the introduction of private mandis. But there should be a guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) law should be enacted in which there should be a provision of punishment if anybody doesn't give MSP.

BIP MLA Mohan Lal Badoli. on the other hand, objected to the manner in which the protesters had blocked roads and urged the government to take steps to get the roads cleared. Another BIP MLA, Abhay Singh Yadav, said that the Opposition should point out the shortcomings in the farm laws and the government was ready to amend the same.

BJP MLA, Ghanshyam Das, said that everybody has the right to raise their point of view but the rights of others should not be encroached upon.

Unwell Vij to skip Haryana Assembly session

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

HARYANA'S HOME and Health Minister Anil Vij could not attend the monsoon session of the state Assembly here on Friday as he was unwell after his oxygen levels dipped.

The doctors have advised him for a complete bed rest. Vij said: "This is the first time in six terms of my membership to Haryana Assembly that I could not attend the House.

In a statement Vij said he has been advised complete bed rest

Meanwhile, at his Ambala residence, a senior doctor from PGIMS hospital in Rohtak mon-

itored the chief minister's health. Vij had last week gone to Rohtak to attend the cremation of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's vounger brother. He had returned along with the chief minister in a chopper and due to the high altitude, his oxygen level had dipped, sources



Security personnel stiop Bhupinder Hooda and other Congress MLAs near Vidhan Sabha, on Friday. Photo provided by Congress

Hooda accuses security personnel of pushing him, House panel to investigate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

HARYANA ASSEMBLY Speaker Gian Chand Gupta Friday agreed for a probe by the House's Privileges Committees after former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda alleged that security personnel pushed him and stopped legislators near Vidhan Sabha gates when he was leading a march by the Congress MLAs to the Assembly.

"Such thing never happened to me. They (security personnel) pushed me despite admitting that they recognised me. Such a thing never happened to me. Action should be taken against the guilty otherwise we would leave coming to the Vidhan Sabha," Hooda said in the

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

WITH FEW Opposition legisla-

tors expressing concerns over

the safety data collected for the

Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP), or

family Ids, in Haryana, Chief

Minister Manohar Lal Khattar

Friday informed the Vidhan

Sabha that the system has all se-

The CM informed the

Assembly that the income data

in the PPP has been collected on

the basis of self-declared infor-

mation by the family along with

the number of its members.

"The data so declared is sepa-

rately verified with the available

database maintained by the cen-

tral government or by the state

government through digital

medium and also on physical ba-

sis by specially constituted com-

mittees in the field," said the CM

in response to a question raised

by Congress MLA Neerai

Choudhry claimed that few

agencies have flagged concern

over the collection of data by

pointing out possibility of

snooping. "They have also said

that all protocols are not being

followed and it's not completely

safe," said Choudhry suggesting

to use the data of central govern-

ment and other government

schemes for the welfare

PPP necessary for land registra-

tion purposes?" she asked while

pointing out the alleged possi-

bility of hacking of the data.

There is no need to collect such

data separately. Such exercise is

making a common citizen open

to snooping. In the way, this data

is being collected, its like time

that no person has ever sus-

pected lack of security features

The CM, however, claimed

bomb," she added.

"What is the need of making

However, Congress's Kiran

Sharma.

curity features.

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

All measures in

place to secure

PPP data: Khattar

Assembly. Congress MLA and former Speaker Raghuvir Singh Kadian said: "If the MLAs are stopped in this manner then who will come to the House. The MLAs were pushed. It is a matter of breach of privileges and a formal notice has been given in this regard."

The Assembly Speaker insisted that the guilty will not be spared.

"We will get it probed. The guilty will be punished whatever may be his rank," said

Earlier, Congress MLAs marched on foot to the Vidhan Sabha on the issues of "paper leak scam, atrocities against farmers, rising unemployment, inflation and rising crime graph

The MLAs raised slogans

for the data collection process for

the PPP. "We did not even get the

work done by any private

used for any other purpose and

is not shared with any private

agency. The data in the PPP data-

base is stored securely on the

government cloud. The portal

works on an authorized user ba-

sis only and no one has been

given open access to the data

stored on it. The software appli-

cation is developed by the office

itself and none of the vendors is

included with the PPP. Presently

the portal is being monitored by

NIC (National Informatics

Centre) on behalf of CRID

(Citizen Resource Information

Department) and all security

protocols prescribed by NIC are

being followed at the national

Level. All security measures have

been taken to protect the data

from loss, misuse or alteration."

persons belonging to 54.73 lakh

families in the state have given

their signed consent by register-

ing themselves for PPP till

August 18 this year. He further

said the verification process for

income data is currently under-

way. "As many as 54.73 lakh

families have self-declared in-

come of 2.20 crore persons of

their family in PPP, with a total

income of Rs 1,35,724 crore as on

August 18. When calculated, the

per capita income and per fam-

ily income are Rs 61,558 and Rs

pointed out how there could be

too much difference between

the per capita income calculated

under the PPP process and men-

tioned in the economic survey,

which is 2.39 lakh for the state

residents. On this, the CM clari-

fied that the per capita income

shown in the economic survey

is calculated by dividing total

GDP by total population of the

state.

When Neeraj Sharma

2,47,962 respectively."

Khattar said that 2.2 crore

The CM said: "The data is not

agency," he added.

against the BJP-JJP government and carried placards and balloons with slogans like 'Scam ki baat hai, BJP-JJP sarkar hai', 'paper leak ki gold medalist sarkar' and 'take back the cases filed against farmers'.

Talking to reporters, Hooda said it was responsibility of the Opposition to raise voice of the public in the streets and the House. "The government does not want the Opposition to raise public issues in the House and an attempt was made to stop the Congress MLAs marching on foot by putting up barricades far away from the Assembly," he said, alleging that police personnel had a scuffle with him and other Congress MLAs during

Hooda alleged: "The intention of the government does not seem to be to run the Assembly as despite the demand of seven days in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, the duration of the monsoon session is only 3 days. It is clear that the government is running away from answering questions on all the issues," he said.

Hooda also demanded that the Olympic medal winners should be given proper post and honours by the government. "The state government should recommend the post of Honorary Colonel in the army for Neeraj Chopra. Ravi Dahiya, Bajrang Punia and hockey players should be directly appointed as DSPs. Along with this, Rs one crore should be given to all the Olympic participants of the state as incentives," Hooda de-



Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar at the Haryana Vidhan Sabha in Chandigarh on Friday. Express

'No deaths due to O2 shortage in state'

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 20

NO DEATHS due to a lack of oxygen have been reported in Haryana during the Covid pandemic, the state government informed the assembly on Friday.

In a written reply to a question, Health Minister Anil Vij said the state has reported a total of 9,665 Covid-related deaths till August

"No deaths due to a lack of oxygen has been reported in the state," Vij said in his reply to a question by Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed who sought to know if anyone had died due to oxygen shortage amid the ongoing pandemic. Ahmed asked the government

to reveal the district wise deaths which occurred due to coronavirus pandemic from March 24, 2020 to July 31, 2021. He also asked the state government to disclose the district wise deaths due to lack of oxygen during the period.

The House was informed that during the period, a maximum of 1,037 Covid-related deaths had been reported from Hisar while 919 fatalities were from Gurgaon.

In a reply to another related question during Question Hour, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar informed that so far no Covid patient has died due to lack of oxygen in the state.

the government was hiding the

However, Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda claimed

actual number of deaths due to coronavirus and lack of oxygen.

"The government should form a high-level committee to find out the exact figure of deaths. The government should tell what lessons it has learnt from the damage done during the first and second waves. If the third wave comes, how many doctors, nursing staff have been recruited to deal with it," Hooda said.

Spelling out steps taken by the government to tackle the surge in demand of medical oxygen, Khattar told the House that adequate arrangements were made for ensuring uninterrupted oxygen supply during the second Covid wave.

He informed that initially, Haryana got a quota of 150 MT of oxygen from the Centre, which was later was increased to 285 MT, although the state had demanded 350 MT of oxygen.

To ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to tackle the COVID-19 crisis, adequate arrangements were made through all transport modes including road, air and rail, he said.

Stressing that the pandemic is not in anyone's control, Khattar said: "We have done our duty in times of crisis.'

He said the opposition has an old habit of criticising everything. Meanwhile, on the first day of

the brief monsoon session of Haryana Vidhan Sabha, six bills were tabled in the House. Detailed discussion on them would be held

TALKS WITH ADMIN FAIL TO MAKE HEADWAY

Farmers begin indefinite blockade of rail, road routes leading to Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JALANDHAR, AUGUST 20

FARMERS ASSOCIATED with 32 farm unions of Punjab Friday started an indefinite blockade of the Amritsar-Delhi rail track and the National Highway going linking Jalandhar to Delhi.

Around 30 trains were hit as thousands of farmers blocked the rail track near Dhanowali fatak(Jalandhar Cantt) along with jamming road traffic on the National Highway at the same

While 13 trains were cancelled till evening, nine trains were diverted. The rest had to be short terminated or halted en route. The rail roko started at 4 pm, whereas road traffic was blocked in the morning.

The protest was earlier supposed to be a day-long affair by cane farmers. On Friday morning, all 32 farm outfits joined the blockade. Later in the evening, the protesting unions said that the protest was extended indefinitely after their talks with the administration failed. After the announcement of

the protest by cane farmers, Punjab CM Amrinder Singh had announced hiking State Agreed

Price (SAP) by Rs 15 per quintal Saturday to prevent this protest. But farmers are demanding the same price being paid by Haryana (Rs 358 per quintal). Police resorted to diverting

the traffic from Jalandhar as well as Phagwara side and long queues of vehicles were seen on the highway

Railway officials at Ferozepur Division said that last night they were informed that there was a call by BKU (Doaba) to sit on a dharma to demand for a hike in MSP of sugarcane and for clearance of dues. Farmers have been sitting on

the NH near Dhanowali since morning. At 3.50 pm, they moved on the tracks blocking both up and down movement on the main line Ludhiana-Amritsar, Ludhiana-Jammu. Railway is in continuous touch with the state government and trying to defuse the situation, said railway officials. In 24 hours, around 70 local, goods and national trains pass from this track

"We had come here in the morning. After talks failed with the authorities, we decided to extend the protest for an indefinite period. We want a rate at par with Harvana," said Satnam

Singh Sahni, the general secretary BKU (Doaba) that along with Doaba Sangharsh Committee had given the call for the protest but it was joined by all 32 farm unions of the state.

"We are not happy about harassing commuters on the national highway and in the trains but the government is not listening to our long-pending demands. It has now announced an increase of Rs 15 per quintal which is still below the rates in the Haryana. Protest is aggressive as a large number of farmers from across the state have joined it and we have decided to continue with this blockade for an indefinite time till our demands are not met," said Manjit Singh Purhiran, president of BKU (Doaba).

Commissioner Deputy Ghanshyam Commissioner of Police Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, and SSP Naveen Singla on Friday met the farmers protesting at National Highway near Paragpur.

The DC said that they have appealed to farmers to lift their dharna from the National Highway so that smooth and hassle-free traffic movement could be ensured in the larger public interest.



Farm labourers spray insecticide on paddy at Gahaur village in Ludhiana on Friday. Raakhi Jagga

Punjab: 28 **IPS officers** reshuffled

Chandigarh: As many as 28 IPS officers were reshuffled in a transfer order by Punjab Home

ADGP Shashi Prabha Dwivedi was transferred as ADGP, Vigilance Bureau, replacing ADGP Vibhu Raj, who has been posted as ADGP Lokpal, the posting which Dwivedi held

Dwivedi will continue to have additional charge of Punjab Police Election Cell. Ludhiana Police Commissioner, who was also Internal Vigilance Cell IG. Rakesh Aggarwal has been transferred as Ropar Range IG, replacing Gurpreet Singh Toor who has been posted as DIG Patiala Range.

Vikramjit Singh Duggal, who was Patiala Range DIG, has been posted as Amritsar Police Commissioner, replacing Sukhchain Singh Gill who has been posted as Jalandhar Police Commissioner, Ludhiana Range IG Naunihal Singh has been posted as Ludhiana police com-

Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, who Jalandhar Police Commissioner, has been posted s DIG Ludhiana Range

Lok Insaf Party worker tries to immolate himself

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUDHIANA, AUGUST 20

THE LUDHIANA Police on Friday detained a worker of MLA Simarjeet Bains' Lok Insaf Party (LIP) who allegedly tried to immolate himself during a protest by party workers outside the ofof the Deputy Commissioner.

Police identified the detained LIP worker as Narindernal Singh, Some other party workers were also detained by the police while they broke up the protests.

LIP workers were protesting outside the Deputy Commissioner's office with copies of resumes of over 400 unemployed youths and against the appointment of Congress MLA (Ludhiana North) Rakesh Pandey's son as Naib Tehsildar.

During the protest, Narinderpal, allegedly sprinkled kerosene oil on himself which he was carrying with him. But before he could set himself on fire, the heavy police force deployed at the site got to him and apprehended him.

Police later took Narinderpal, along with other workers, to the station where police Narinderpal was made to change his clothes. "After providing first aid, he was released", said sub-inspector, Kulbir Singh, in-charge of Kochhar Market police post.

Narinderpal said that he took this step as he was highly disappointed with the decision of the state government over the appointment of a Congress MLA's son as Naib Tehsildar. "Both my grandfather and father were freedom fighters. Despite the government having announced jobs for heirs of freedom fighters, no government job has been given either my son or me," he claimed.

DAY 2 OF JAN ASHIRVAD YATRA

Will showcase Himachali culture on global stage, says Anurag Thakur

OM PRAKASH THAKUR SHIMLA, AUGUST 20

ON THE second day of his 600km Ian Ashirvad Yatra in Himachal Pradesh, Union Minister Anurag Thakur said that his agenda for the next 10 years was to showcase the state's art and culture globally.

"Just like the cricket stadium in Dharamshala gives recognition to Himachal all over the world, the art and culture of the state will be introduced globally in next ten years. This should have been done in the past. But now it is on my agenda for the next ten years. Himachali arts, paintings and music will be showcased on international platforms," said Thakur in Shimla.

There is a need to promote and showcase the art and culture of Himachal Pradesh which varies from Kinnaur's kettle to Chamba's 'thaal' and handkerchief and from Kangra's paintings to 'natis' (dances) of differ-

ent areas, he said. Accompanied by state minister Suresh Bhardwaj and Shimla MP Suresh Kashyap, Thakur said that a total of Rs 4,200 crore will be spent on various health sector projects in Himachal Pradesh. He said Rs 437 crore will also be spent on the PGI Satellite Centre in Una.

Replying to a question about building a sports stadium in Shimla, Thakur said stadiums will be built at all those places where land is available for the

He said he wants to build stadiums that can not only be used for sports but will also be tourist attractions.

He said the cricket stadium built in Dharamshala during his tenure as BCCI president is an added attraction for tourists. "At least five lakh people visit the Dharamshala cricket stadium every year and the number of tourists visiting Dharamshala has also increased a lot after the construction of the stadium," the

minister said. In response to a question if a politician should run a sports federation, he replied that it depends on administrative capabil-

EXPRESS NETWORK



Rai distributes ration under the PM-GKAY scheme. Twitter

BIP distributes ration in Bihar, Opp says can't use govt scheme to promote party

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, AUGUST 20

THE BJP has incurred the ire of the Opposition in Bihar after leaders of the saffron party distributed ration to beneficiaries of the PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY). According to Opposition leaders, this was tantamount to using a government scheme to further the BJP's interest.

Under the PM-GKAY scheme, every ration card holder will be given 5 kg rice/wheat for free per month till November due to the Covid-19 crisis. Bihar has 1.6 crore ration card holders, and BJP leaders from the state have been distributing the ration to the beneficiaries in sacks which have Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo printed on them. Top BJP leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Sushil Kumar Modi, Union minister Nitvanand Rai and Bihar Health Minister Mangal Pandey were recently seen distributing sacks of ration.

spokesperson Mrityunjay Tewari told The Indian Express, "How can BIP misuse a government platform? It is a blatant use of a government scheme to further the interest of the party. The BJP is giving the impression that ration card holders are also getting free grain along with free sacks."

Tewari added RJD workers would create awareness among people about BJP trying to take "undue advantage" from a government scheme.

Senior Congress leader and MLC Prem Chandra Mishra said, "It is unfair and bad to showcase a government scheme like a BJP scheme. But then, anything is possible under the present dispensation. We, as the Opposition, can only raise our voice against it."

BJP spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan however dismissed the allegations. He said. more than 80 crores people from across the country... The unnecessary controversy by a section of the Opposition is nothing but a failed attempt to dilute the relevance of this scheme.'

Inquiries against Vikas Dubey never impartial: Probe panel

ASAD REHMAN

LUCKNOW, AUGUST 20

THE THREE-MEMBER judicial commission, which was formed on the direction of the Supreme Court to probe the alleged encounters of gangster Vikas Dubey and five others last year, has said in its report that any investigation against Dubey and his associates "was never impartial" and "there was no serious opposition by the state authorities or the government advocates" against them in the courts.

The Commission also said that 21 files detailing criminal cases of Dubey could not be traced despite giving officials sufficient time to locate them.

The Commission has concluded in its report that there was enough evidence that Dubey and his gang were patronised by local police, revenue and administrative officials, and recommended an inquiry against the "erring public servants".

The report of the Commission,

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE

NEW CASES: 34,299

VACCINATIONS: 57,22,81,488

TOTAL DEATHS | WEEKLY CFR 4,33,966 | 1.15%

ACTIVE CASES: 3,62,028

TESTS TODAY: 18.12.027 | TOTAL TESTS: 50.45.11.729

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

CASES

20,224

4.365

1,668

1,453

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

DEATHS

106

24

17

WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.85% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.42%

1,82,739

55,454

19,621

21,187

15,472

ΤΠΤΔΙ

DEATHS

1,39,176

7,276

34.663

37,105

Note: Data as on Aug~20; vaccination numbers as of Aug~19. Deaths include those from previous days.



Vikas Dubey was killed in an alleged encounter on July 10.

headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice BS Chauhan, with retired Allahabad High Court judge Justice Shashi Kant Agarwal and former UP Director General of Police KL Gupta as its members, was tabled by the UP government in the Assembly on Thursday.

On July 3 last year, a police team that had gone to Bikru village in Kanpur to arrest Dubey had come under heavy gunfire from rooftops near the gangster's home. Eight policemen, including Deputy Superintendent of Police Devendra Mishra, died in the ambush.

Of the 21 people named in the

TOTAL

VACCINATION

2,55,35,751

5,14,91,159

2,78,88,766

3.60.79.359

OVERALL

2.19%

0.55%

0.74%

1.35%

1.27%

2.11% 2,60,46,280

POSITIVITY

15.35%

0.90%

WFFKI Y

2.17%

0.66%

5.29%

1.46%

1.41%

FIR. police gunned down six accused, including Dubey, in alleged encounters over the following weeks. On July 10, Dubey was killed when a police vehicle ferrying him from Ujjain, from where he was arrested, to Kanpur met with an accident. Police alleged that he tried to escape and opened fire, and that he was killed in re-

The Commission said that Dubey and his associates easily and quickly got bail from the courts as there was no serious opposition by the state authorities or the government advocates.

taliatory fire.

"Sections relating to serious offences were dropped before filing the chargesheet. During the trial, most of the witnesses turn hostile... He (Vikas Dubey) was involved in 64 criminal cases, and the State authorities never considered it appropriate to engage a special counsel for his prosecution. The State never moved any application for cancellation of bail or approached the superior court for cancellation of any of the bail orders," the report said.

"The State had not contested the matter any further by approaching the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the said order passed by the High Court refusing to grant leave to appeal," it added.

The Commission also said that "there is nothing on record to show that his (Dubey) cases had ever sincerely been contested by the government advocates before the High Court".

"In most of the cases, the High Court had granted interim relief to Vikas Dubey, staying the proceedings before the subordinate courts in various criminal cases and he remained under the protection of such orders for a period of 13-14 years. The High Court granted bail to Vikas Dubey and his associates, mainly on the ground that he had been acquitted in a large number of cases without making any attempt to know as to under what circumstances he had been acquitted and how and why the witnesses have turned hostile in most of the cases," the

13 MP labourers die after vehicle overturns in Maharashtra

Nagpur: Thirteen labourers from Madhya Pradesh died and two others were injured in a mishap in Buldana district on Friday.

Buldana Superintendent of Police Arvind Chawaria said, "Thirteen labourers died after the tipper they were traveling in turned turtle near Dusarbid village, which is under the jurisdiction of Kindkhed Raja police station, on Friday morning."

He added, "The tipper was carrying iron bars and was deployed for the work of Samruddhi Mahamarg. The temporary road built for ferrying material to the site had become slushy. As a result, the tipper leaned on one side and lost balance. It fell down in the adjoining 15-feet-deep part of the land, trapping the labourers under it. While some of them died on the spot, others succumbed to injuries in a hospital in Jalna."

"All the labourers were from Madhya Pradesh," he added.

Among the survivors is the tipper driver and a eight-year-old girl, said Chawaria. The driver fled the scene after the mishap. The two injured are in critical condition at a hospital in Jalna.



At the encounter site in Khrew area of Kashmir's Awantipora

2 Hizb militants killed in J&K encounter

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20

TWO MILITANTS affiliated to the Hizbul Mujahideen were killed in an encounter at Awantipora on Friday.

The encounter broke out after 2 am during a cordon and search operation that was launched by the security forces in Khrew area of Awantipora.

"During the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given repeated opportunities to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party which retaliated, leading to an encounter," the Jammu and Kashmir Police said in a statement.

On Friday morning, bodies of the two militants were retrieved from the site of encounter. They

have been identified as Musaib Ahmad Bhat, resident of Khrew in Pampore and Muzamil Ahmad Rather, resident of Chakoora in Pulwama.

According to the police, Musaib "had a history of terror crime and was involved in planning and executing several terror attacks, including civilian atrocities"

The police also claimed that he was part of a "hit squad of Hizbul Mujahideen" for civilian killings in South Kashmir. However, Muzamil Ahmad

ioined the terrorist ranks recently, they said.

An AK-rifle and a pistol were recovered from the site of the encounter. "All the recovered materials have been taken into case records for further investigation and to probe their complicity in other terror crimes'

CCPA cracks down on firms with misleading Covid ads

HARIKISHAN SHARMA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

AN APPAREL firm that claimed that its shirt kills 99 per cent of the virus that causes Covid-19 and a paint brand which claimed that its product has over 99 per cent efficacy in eliminating the virus are among six companies which had to withdraw their advertisements after the Central **Consumer Protection Authority** (CCPA) found these "misleading" and issued notices to them, a top official said on Friday.

The official told The Indian Express that the CCPA has issued notices in 52 cases - 27 for misleading advertisements and 25 for unfair trade practices — since its establishment on July 24, 2020. "Subsequent to the notices, six companies have withdrawn their misleading advertisements, which claimed more than 99 percent efficacy against Covid-19. Four other companies agreed the official said.

The official, without divulging the names of the companies which withdrew their "misleading" advertisements, said they included a popular RO maker, a fabric and garment manufacturer, a soap maker and an air condi-

Among the four companies which agreed for corrective advertisement are a hand wash brand and a mattress maker, the official said adding that the notices were issued to these companies after taking the suo motu cognizance of their advertisements circulating in the social media. The CCPA was established un-

der the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, that came into force from July 20, 2020. The Act defines "misleading advertisement" in relation to any product or service, as "an advertisement, which—(i) falsely describes such product or service; or (ii) gives a false guarantee to, or is likely to mislead the consumers as to the nature, substance, quantity or quality of such product or service; or (iii) conveys an express or implied representation which, if made by the manufacturer or would constitute an unfair trade practice; or (iv) deliberately conceals important information".

However, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is vet to issue guide-

paint company, a shirt brand, a lines on misleading advertise-

Asked about it, the official quoted above said, "The guidelines on misleading advertisements are in an advanced stage. Consultations with different stakeholders have already taken place. The guidelines are expected to be finalised very soon." The CCPA has also initiated

class action against 9 companies including an e-commerce player and a social media giant on the basis of number of complaints received against these companies, the official said, adding that the class actions are pertaining to refunds related to Covid-19. In fact, the e-commerce sector

accounts for the maximum number of consumer complaints registered on the National Consumer Helpline over the last financial year. Out of 5.79 lakh complaints registered on the helpline in 2020-21, over 2 lakh or 35 per cent of all complaints were related to the ecommerce sector. The banking 51,307 and 34,798 complaints re-

These three sectors also comprised over 50 per cent of complaints registered between April and July this year.

CHHATTISGARH

Two ITBP personnel killed in Maoist attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR, AUGUST 20

TWO PERSONNEL of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were Friday killed in a Maoist at-

Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district. The ITBP personnel have been identified as Assistant Commandant Sudhakar Shinde

and Assistant Sub Inspector Inspector General of Police (Bastar) P Sundarraj said the injust 600 metres from the Kadameta camp of the 45th bat-

"A squad from the camp had gone on an area domination operation, when a small group of

talion of the ITBP.

Assistant Commandant

Assistant Sub Inspector Gurmukh Singh

Sudhakar Shinde (left) and

armed Maoists fired on them," said a senior officer.

"The Maoists escaped with jackets and a wireless set belonging to the security personnel said Sundarraj. While Shinde was a resident of Nanded district in Maharashtra, Singh was from

CJI hails former PM Rao's role in creating arbitration procedure

■ Kerala

■ Maharashtra

■Tamil Nadu

■ Maharashtra

Odisha

■ Tamil Nadu

■ Karnataka

■Andhra Pradesh 1,435

■ Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

CHIEF JUSTICE of India N V Ramana Friday hailed late Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao as the "father of India's economic reforms".

had set in motion a law to allay foreign investors' concerns about getting caught in unending litigation — ultimately resulting in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act. 1996.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

SENIOR BJP leader B S

Yediyurappa, who resigned as

the Karnataka chief minister on

July 26, has embarked on a holi-

day to the Maldives with his ex-

tended family ahead of a possi-

Yedivurappa has two sons -

BJP MP BY Raghavendra and BJP

and three daughters. The entire

family runs various businesses

and at least two of the younger

members are financial consult-

ants who studied in the UK. The

family reportedly left for the

Maldives on August 18 and are

expected to return on August 23,

"This is the first time in many

years that Yediyurappa is on a

family trip outside the country

and it is a short leave from pub-

sources said.

vice-president B Y Vijayendra -

ble return to active politics.

BENGALURU, AUGUST 20



Chief Justice of India N V Ramana

"You all know the father of economic reforms in this country is none other than P V trust deed of the International Arbitration and Mediation

who had proposed such a centre in the city.

Referring to the law, he said it was after its introduction that "the momentum started for arbitration, conciliation, mediation procedures.'

The Chief Justice said that to resolve it peacefully, amicably and without a time lag, he

UP: Sunday curbs lifted but night curfew still on

Lucknow: UP government on Friday withdrew the Sunday curfew and said markets would be allowed to remain open from 6 am and 10 pm. A night curfew, how-

ever, will continue. The government took the decision amid a decline in active Covid-19 cases. A spokesperson said all markets, factories, and warehouses would be allowed to function across the state. On August 11, the state had lifted the curfew on Saturdays but decided to continue with the restrictions

Mohalla classes, catch-up: Experts offer ways to check learning loss

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

OVER A year and a half after Covid forced one of the longest shutdowns of India's schools, what lies ahead as states tentatively prepare to open up? Given the digital inequity that meant several children have had very little interaction with school, what does this prolonged absence from school mean for children in terms of their foundational literacy and numeracy skills? How can administrations and educationists help children

These were some of the questions that a panel unpacked on Friday during IEThinc, an Express platform where experts confront some of the most pressing issues of our times.

The session, titled 'Rebuilding Schools Post Covid', was organised by The Indian Express in association with Central Square Foundation, an organisation working with the vision of ensuring quality school education for all children in India.

The panelists for Friday's session included Rukmini Banerji, CEO of Pratham, the organisation that releases the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER); Atishi, MLA of the Aam Aadmi Party and one of the architects behind the transformation in Delhi's public education; Usha Menon, founder, Iodo Gvan, a social enterprise that is part of a unique experiment in developing conceptual understanding of mathematics among children; and Ben Piper, Senior

Director, Africa Education, for RTI



International based in Nairobi, and Principal Investigator for Learning at Scale, a multi-country study of large-scale education programmes.

The session was moderated by Uma Vishnu, Senior Editor, The Indian Express Talking about the challenges

as schools prepare to reopen, Atishi said, "We have been talking about the socio-economic cost of the pandemic, but we haven't spoken about education... The pandemic has taken us back 20 years in terms of access. Even in Delhi, only about 50-60 per cent of the population have access to digital technology. Learning has been hampered on all fronts.

Banerji, however, said she was more optimistic. "The experience of learning and schooling are deeply embedded... The last year-and-a-half, there have been many kinds of learning... We have to take advantage of the fluidity of the situation... It's an exciting time," she said.

The panel also spoke about potential wavs in which administrations and educators could help children "catch up" after nearly two years of learning loss induced by the pandemic.

cal mohalla classes to help children regain some of their foundational literacy and numerical skills, Menon spoke about the need to create district-level exemplars to demonstrate how children can develop conceptual understanding of mathematics and other subjects.

"We should talk about how to build upon what they already know and build a new pedagogy and a new curriculum based on that. It's easier for children to solve word problems, rather than grade-level curriculum. We should pause and think, and maybe we will find things that children really like doing, If Covid can help us to do that, I think that

will be a great thing," said Menon. Drawing from his experience in Kenya and other sub-Saharan African countries, Piper said, "The question for me, as we come back to school, is how do we scaffold and support catch-up so that children are not missing skills... Just because skills are lost now, doesn't mean they are lost forever."

Banerji said simple, easy to execute, catch-up programmes can be the key.

"Just a couple of hours a day... Children respond very well to quick progress, it enthuses teachers and gives faith to the parents that all is not lost," she said.

In his concluding remarks, Bikkrama Daulet Singh, Co-Managing Director, Central Square Foundation, stressed on foundational learning, sustaining home learning and the need to bring more accountability to private schools.

UTTARAKHAND Narayankoti temple to get facelift after getting 'adopted'

DIVYA A

Raikot in Punjab.

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

THE NARAYANKOTI temple in Uttarakhand's Rudraprayag district is set to get a major facelift after an MoU was signed in New Delhi on Friday between the Ministry of Tourism, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Director General, Culture, Uttarakhand and the Social Legal Research & Education Foundation (SLREF). The site was identifed under the Centre's 'Adopt A Heritage Project' earlier this year. SLREF has come on board as

'Monument Mitra' for the site. According to the MoU, SLREF will develop various amenities for tourists/visitors around the heritage site, including construction of roads, installation of street lighting, garbage disposal system and ensuring availability of clean drinking water, development of the parking area and revamping the entrance and boundary wall

around the temple site. The Narayankoti site is a group of ancient temples believed to have been constructed in the 9th century

Uttarakhand **Tourism** Minister, Satpal Maharaj, said: "... The development of facilities will have a direct impact towards increasing the number of visitors and will benefit local youth by generating employment/selfemployment opportunities in

the region.' ${\tt Chandigarh}$

businesses, whether in India Narasimha Rao," the CJI said or outside, do not want litigation. And even if they are while addressing an event on the caught in litigation, they want occasion of registration of the

He also said it was Rao who

Centre, Hyderabad.

Yediyurappa had stepped

down as Karnataka chief

lic life," a BJP leader considered

to be close to the former CM said.

Vijayendra, grandson Sashidhar

Virupakshappa Yamakanam-

aradi, and granddaughter's hus-

band Saniav Sree have been ac-

cused of corruption and money

laundering in handling govern-

ment contracts in a private

The Karnataka High Court

Yediyurappa, his son

son-in-law

minister on July 26.

Maradi,

BSY on foreign trip with family, first since 'll has issued notices to the former

> the registration of an FIR to carry out investigations in the matter. The allegations pertain to alleged bribes amounting to over Rs 12 crore for contracts — including Rs 5 crore that was received last year by two companies linked to a grandson of the former CM from multiple shell companies in Kolkata – despite the companies having no rev-

enue in previous years.

CM and others 3 after activist TI

Abraham moved the court for

Yediyurappa had stepped down as CM at the instance of the BIP leadership amid growing concerns over alleged corruption and interference in the administration by his family. He, however, remains a key Lingavat leader who is vital to the BIP's electoral fortunes and has said that he will help the party to come to power on its own in the next state Assembly polls, scheduled to be held in 2023. Several BJP MLAs and minis-

ters who are unhappy over being left out of the cabinet of new chief minister Basavarai Bomma have rallied around the former CM. Tourism Minister Anand Singh, upset over the portfolio he was given, met Yediyurappa last week in his quest to be upgraded to a high-profile ministry.

Incidentally, the last time that Yediyurappa went abroad with his extended family was in July 2011 to Mauritius — during an earlier stint as CM - amid allegations of corruption. Two days after he returned to India, a Lokayukta report on illegal mining during his tenure emerged, dislodging him from power.

catch-up?

Yediyurappa, his sons and a

son-in-law were later indicted by the CBI in an alleged Rs 40 crore bribery case but were acquitted by a trial court and the matter did not escalate.

WORDLY WISE

IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPOSE UNIVERSAL WORSHIP, MEN HAVE UNSHEATHED THEIR SWORDS AND KILLED

ONE ANOTHER. — FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

The Indian EXPRESS

∞ Founded By ∞

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A SHARPER EDGE

Minister Jaishankar's strong words on uniting against terror point to growing challenge vis-a-vis Pakistan, and in region

HE TALIBAN TAKEOVER of Afghanistan has added several layers of difficulties to the fraught India-Pakistan relationship. The relationship of the Pakistan Army and ISI with the Taliban, especially the Haqqani network, is an open secret. Their influence over the processes that took the Taliban speedily to Kabul when American forces began withdrawing from the country was also apparent. For at least three years, if not more, security officials in the now deposed government of the Republic of Afghanistan and Indian intelligence reports have pointed to Punjabi fighters supporting the Taliban's military push. By all accounts, cadres of anti-India groups such as Laskhar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed made common cause with the Taliban and fought American soldiers and Afghan security forces alongside them. The connections between Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), the Afghanistan chapter of ISIL, with LeT came to the fore when after the arrest of its top leader in Afghanistan last year following the horrific attack on a Kabul gurdwara, it was revealed that he was a former Lashkar commander. The National Directorate of Security, the Afghan intelligence agency in the erstwhile government, other ISKP cadres with connections to the ISI, had been among those arrested for the attack. The links between these groups and their connections to the deep state in Pakistan were always a concern, but the military conquest of Afghanistan by a fundamentalist group and the emboldening effect it is bound to have on outfits such as LeT and Jaish, among many others, has increased that concern manifold

This was the context in which External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar flagged the threat posed by terrorism at a United Nations Security Council meeting earlier this week. The minister singled out the Haqqani network, which is allied to the Taliban and is known to have the unstinted backing of the ISI, and the LeT, Jaish and ISKP for special mention. His strong words for a united stand against terrorism contained veiled references against both Pakistan and China — the latter has blocked the designation of Pakistan-based terrorist groups in the past. It is significant that at the meeting, the third special event organised by India during its month-long presidency of the UNSC, China joined other countries, including the US and UK, in making the demand for holding the Taliban to its commitment that it will not allow Afghanistan to be used by terror groups.

As Pakistan is in the driving seat of developments in Afghanistan, and has effectively achieved what it has long wanted — Taliban rulers in Kabul — it too should be prepared for greater scrutiny of its actions. Minister Jaishankar has set in motion a narrative that is likely to dominate domestic debates on Pakistan. In the current situation, the possibility of normalisation of ties with Pakistan, which had come to the forefront with the revival of the ceasefire on the LoC, has receded once again. The benefits of the ceasefire are not small, but it would be difficult to sustain this fragile truce without a wider bilateral engagement.

A WELCOME REPRIEVE

Gujarat HC poses a question mark on constitutionality of not just Gujarat's 'love jihad' law but also legislation in other states

HE GUJARAT HIGH Court decision staying some provisions of the state's anti-conversion law, including the one that deems all interfaith marriages as those solemnised for carrying out forceful religious conversion, is extremely welcome. While the decision by Chief Justice of the High Court Vikram Nath and Justice Biren Vaishnav is only an interim order, even as the larger legal challenge of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Act, 2021 is still pending, the ruling sends out a larger message. It poses a question mark on the constitutionality of not just the Gujarat law but also similar legislation in other states, be it Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, or Himachal Pradesh.

The stated aim of recent anti-conversion laws brought in by BJP-ruled states is to prohibit unlawful religious conversions. But in doing so, the law's vague and excessively broad provisions give powers to the state to hold a police inquiry to probe the motives behind a woman's change of religion for marriage and to potentially annul such a marriage. The law also allows the "aggrieved person, his parents, brother, sister, or any other person related by blood, marriage or adoption" to lodge an FIR on an allegedly unlawful conversion, essentially legitimising mob interference in an individual's private life. By shifting the burden of proof on the individual accused of forcibly converting another person, in effect, the law weaponises communal prejudice and paranoia and throws the power of the state behind it. Even as these laws are under challenge before several high courts, they have become a template for harassment of citizens. The interim ruling comes, therefore, as much-needed relief.

The Gujarat HC intervention recognises the unacceptability of law's intrusion into an individual's private life even when the state may have a legitimate interest in containing unlawful, forcible conversions. It draws a line and says that the state cannot enter the doors of a marriage where there is no evidence of it being forced or involving violence. However, even with the progressive intervention of the judiciary, decisions are often excruciatingly slow to percolate to the ground. Take the case of the police across the country continuing to file cases under Section 66A of the Information Technology Act despite the apex court striking it down in 2015. Laws that grant the state police powers to regulate freedoms must be rolled back. The Gujarat HC's reading of the law will hopefully have a bearing on other courts where similar laws have been challenged.

LIKE DRONACHARYA

Coach Nambiar brought home the difference a coach could make to an athlete's career

M NAMBIAR, THE Dronacharya award-winning coach who died on Thursday, was arguably the first celebrity coach in the country. Not only because his most famous student was PTUsha, one of the few genuinely world-class athletes the country has produced, but also because he introduced modern methods and drilled in the importance of quality coaching. He brought home the difference a coach could make to an athlete's career at a time when coaching in the country was amateurish, when retired athletes just filled in the role informally.

To Usha, Nambiar was a father figure. In several interviews, she reflected that she wouldn't have become half the athlete she was if not for Nambiar's guidance and perseverance. From spotting her during a district athletics meeting to grooming her for the Olympics, and overseeing her transition to a bold and confident athlete, Nambiar played an influential role in the making of Usha. He was a teacher and also her nutritionist, dietician, recovery expert, psychiatrist, and confident, who was by her side in triumph and tragedy. He was the support system that helped Usha recover from the near-miss in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics and fuelled her push for gold medals in the Asian Games two years later. Two others who bagged laurels in the Seoul Games — Shiny Wilson and Vandana Rao — were his students too.

Later, when Usha herself became a coach, she brought into play what she had learnt from Nambiar. Her style was deeply personal, perhaps to a fault. Just as it was detrimental to her career — she stayed with Nambiar when she could have sought the services of a foreign coach — it was not beneficial for some of her wards that they stayed too long with her. Nambiar, too, reportedly disliked Usha availing the tutelage of other coaches. But that should not tarnish his legacy. Maybe Usha could have been better. But Nambiar will be revered and remembered for the athlete she has been.

The sins of empire



Modality of US withdrawal from Afghanistan will give fillip to fundamentalism's deepest impulses

PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

AMERICAN EMPIRE HAS been stuck in a place where, to use Polybius's words, "it can neither endure its condition, nor the means to overcome it." In the context of Afghanistan, learned strategic thinkers and broadsheets of imperial privilege like The New York Times, will fulminate over roads not taken. But this exercise, as valuable as it might be, misses the wood for the trees. These questions re-enact the presumption of imperial omniscience, innocence and power. In Phil Klay's masterpiece, Missionaries, Lisette, a journalist who has spent time in Afghanistan, asks the question: "Any wars right now we are not losing?" She promptly thinks the answer is Colombia. But this answer turns on how one defines "not losing". The exorbitant privilege of empire is you even get to define what counts as loss and shrug off its costs.

There is a long litany of losses. The wars in Iraq, Libya, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Somalia, Lebanon; the coups from Iran to Chile; the creation of secret instruments of violence in assorted places from Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Laos, Honduras, El Salvador; sanctuary to autocracies and exporters of violent fundamentalism from Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, each of whom have subverted the US's own aims. Ask the question: "Did intervention leave a place in a better condition or achieve an objective with least violence possible?" The answer often turns out to be "no". The tens of thousands of civilian casualties testify to that.

Often progress was set back. The Middle East had many functioning states, pockets of urbane modernity, till the geopolitics set the stage for worse forms of fundamentalist reaction. The exact shape of the Taliban, ISIS, al Qaeda is no more over-determined by the interventions of great powers, than it is by some more primordial essence of a culture. But it is impossible to deny that they are products of modern imperial politics: Its unsettling of local societies, its encouragement to violence, its support of fundamentalism, its breaking up of state structures.

At the heart of empire is the debasement of moral identity. Empire has seven deadly sins. The first is corruption. Internally, empire always empowers corrupt practices, the legions of lobbyists, arms dealers, hucksters,

There are no easy solutions in Afghanistan. The corruptions of empire made withdrawal long overdue. But the tragedy of the American withdrawal is that even in trying to extricate itself, America ended up enacting the sins of empire, not overcoming them. The withdrawal from Afghanistan is not an end of the corrupt political economy of violence. The great powers will be new proxies who produce the same cycle of violence and civil war. Withdrawal does not signal a commitment to

greater multilateralism or

the rule of law. Withdrawal

will not produce an honest

reckoning with the self-

deceptions of empire.

who begin to constitute the secret sinews of the state and channel its war booties. Externally, the reliance on mercenaries, the sordid deals with all kinds of unsavoury groups, the casual saturation with arms, the implication in illicit trade, make empire resemble a gangster operation that has blowback on the state it represents. Corruption ensured both that the US Treasury was drained and no state was built in Afghanistan. The second sin is self-deception. From Vietnam to Afghanistan, America knew exactly what is going on. But the stakes in keeping the myth of imperial virtue and imperial power produce self-deceptions of the most extraordinant secret.

The third is a morality that, to use Tagore's phrase, "is split down the middle," committed to the very things it disavows. What does the rule of law mean when empire itself enacts a regular lawlessness? What does a "humanitarian mission" mean, when it licenses an outsourcing of torture or disregard for civilian life? The fourth sin is its continual expansionism. The omniscience of empire is apt to give every local conflict global significance. But it also has the need to remind the world of its resolve to remain preeminent. That needs war. The fifth is hypocrisy. The more power tries to stretch, the more it deploys double standards. Some hypocrisy is inevitable in politics. But it becomes the defining feature through which the world understands imperial power. The sixth is a cult of violence. There is an abiding paradox in US strategy. The creation of stable states and societies requires the pacification of violence. But there is something bizarre about modern imperial counterinsurgency strategies. From Iraq to Afghanistan to western Pakistan to the drug wars, the abiding legacy of this empire is saturation of societies with arms and militias; as if creating armed factions in society and militarising, running it awash with cash, will ever get you a stable state. The seventh sin is racism. Even the most liberal-minded empire will create a hierarchy of those whose lives matter; even in its emancipatory mission it cannot get away from reinforcing claims of superiority that generate resentment.

There are no easy solutions in

Afghanistan. The corruptions of empire made withdrawal long overdue. But the tragedy of the American withdrawal is that even in trying to extricate itself, America ended up enacting the sins of empire, not overcoming them. The withdrawal from Afghanistan is not an end of the corrupt political economy of violence. The great powers will be new proxies who produce the same cycle of violence and civil war. Withdrawal does not signal a commitment to greater multilateralism or the rule of law. Withdrawal will not produce an honest reckoning with the self-deceptions of empire

Will the Taliban reinvent itself? There is reason to be deeply sceptical that it will. Will it become like a poor Saudi Arabia in the Eighties — a power the West had no problems with, even when it was internally repressive or exporting jihad? Or will anarchy follow? Or will now the internal fissures of Afghan society produce a new political dynamic? No one truly knows.

But the modality of US withdrawal exuded the fundamental sin of empire: Its reinforcement of race and hierarchy. The tropes used to justify the mess of this withdrawal all underscore this. It is the Afghan president, their army, that is to blame, as if after 20 years of intervening in a society, the US had no responsibility. Suddenly, the pretext of common humanity, and universal liberation, which was the pretext of empire, turned into the worst kind of cultural essentialism. It is their culture, these medieval tribalists who are incapable of liberty. We veiled the fact that they are entirely the creation of modern war.

And finally, this shocking sense of, "Frankly dear, we could not care a damn," about the Afghans who reposed trust and risked their lives. Fundamentalism has drawn its motivating energy, not from God, but from cultivating grievance against imperial hierarchies. The Taliban's victory is not just a morale booster for fundamentalists everywhere. The US management of the withdrawal will give fillip to fundamentalism's deepest psychological impulses. It is an anarchic world, each for their own.

The writer is contributing editor, The Indian Express

8

Lawmakers & Disorder

Can the House give MPs more severe punishment than suspension?

PDT ACHARY

THE CHAIRMAN OF the Rajya Sabha is reportedly contemplating action against MPs who, he thinks, were involved in the fracas in the House. There is speculation in the media about what kind of action will be taken against those MPs. There is also speculation about the formation of a special committee to suggest severe punishment. It appears that the Rajya Sabha secretariat has prepared a report on the incident, which accuses some MPs of assaulting security personnel. The MPs, on the other hand, have alleged that strangers in blue uniform were allowed inside the House who roughed them up.

House rules vest in the chairman all the powers necessary to conduct proceedings smoothly. The rules also provide for the suspension of MPs who "disregard the authority of the Chair or abuse the rules of the Council by persistently and willfully obstructing the business of the House" However, the power to suspend a member is vested in the House, not in the chairman. The chairman names such a member whereupon a motion is moved by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, or any other minister seeking the suspension of the member. Under the rule, the maximum period of suspension is for the remainder of the session. A suspended member cannot enter the chamber or attend any meetings of the committees. He also cannot give any notice for discussion or submission. By convention, a suspended member loses his right to get

The power to suspend a member is vested in the House, not in the chairman. The chairman names such a member whereupon a motion is moved by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, or any other minister seeking the suspension of the member. Under the rule, the maximum period of suspension is for the remainder of the session.

replies to his questions. Thus, suspension from the service of the House is regarded as a serious punishment. But, surprisingly, the rules do not spell out the disabilities of a suspended member. These are imposed on them as per conventions or precedent.

Suspension is the only serious punishment provided for in the rules. Rule 256 of the Rajya Sabha's Rules of Procedure specifies the acts of misconduct: Disregarding the authority of the chair, abusing the rules of the council by persistently and willfully obstructing the business thereof. A member can be punished for any of these acts and, usually, the punishment is immediate. Punishing members long after the occurrence of misconduct is very rare. Suspension for the remainder of the session makes sense only when they are suspended immediately after the misconduct has been noticed by the chair. For the acts of misconduct by the MPs outside the House, which constitute a breach of privilege or contempt of the House, usually the privilege committee investigates the matter and recommends the course of action and the House acts on it.

A special committee is appointed usually when the misconduct is so serious that the House may consider expelling the member. Such occasions have been few and far between. The first case of expulsion occurred in 1951 when a special committee was appointed to investigate the conduct of H G Mudgal, an MP who accepted financial ben-

efits from business houses to canvass support for them in the government and Parliament. The committee found him guilty of misconduct, which was derogatory to the dignity of Parliament. He was expelled. Another special committee was appointed in 2005 to inquire into the issue of MPs accepting money for raising questions in Parliament. This followed a sting operation done by a private body of investigative journalists. Ten MPs were expelled in connection with this episode.

So, special ad-hoc committees are appointed only to investigate serious misconduct by MPs outside the House. No special committee is required to go into what happens before the eyes of the presiding officer inside the House. As per the rules of the House, they need to be dealt with then and there.

An interesting question that arises in the Rajya Sabha case is whether the House can give the MPs more severe punishment than suspension. The rules do not recognise any punishment other than suspension for a specific period. Article 20 of the Constitution prohibits a greater penalty than what the law provided at the time of committing the offence. It is a sobering thought that the rules of the House do not empower Parliament to inflict any punishment on its members other than suspension for creating disorder in the House.

The writer is former secretary general,



AUGUST 21, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

POLL REFORMS REJECTED

AFTER A TUMULTUOUS five-hour debate, marked by pandemonium and acrimony, the Lok Sabha on August 20 rejected by a voice vote a motion moved by Madhu Dandavate (Janata) calling for urgent poll reforms to make elections free of shortcomings. While the fate of the motion was more or less a foregone conclusion, the intensity displayed by most of the speakers took everyone by surprise. Towards the end, it assumed shocking dimensions when a Congress (I) member Bhagwan Dev tore up certain photographs of the Garhwal poll tabled by Harkesh Bahadur of the DSF. For 10 minutes, total pan-

members from both sides converging on the central table and the photographs strewn on the carpet.

ZAIL SINGH ON ASSAM

HOME MINISTER GIANI Zail Singh assured the Lok Sabha that the government would find a solution to the Assam problem that would be acceptable to all, or at least give minimum satisfaction to the maximum number of people. He said that the talks on the foreign nationals' issue was going on in a cordial manner. He said before taking a final decision on the issue, the government would

demonium prevailed in the House with consult the Opposition members.

DU VIOLENCE

A LARGE NUMBER of students of Sham Lal College and other colleges in Delhi University raided Dayal Singh College, set fire to scooters, motorcycles and bicycles parked in the campus, broke window panes, beat several students and escaped before the police arrived. 50 to 60 students and six teachers were in the college when the raiding party arrived. The raid is suspected to be in retaliation to the beating up of students of the Janata Vidyarthi Morcha students who had visited Dayal Singh College earlier in the day.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE

Lest we remember only hate

What is important is not just what we remember from the tangled agony of Partition, but what lessons we draw from these memories



HARSH MANDER

ON THE EVE of India's Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that August 14 would now be observed as the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. "Partition's pains can never be forgotten", he declared. "Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence."

The overwhelming majority of Indians alive today were born long after India's blood-drenched Partition tore the country. They must indeed remember this history: The agony of a million people losing their lives in Hindu-Muslim riots; of trains in both directions piled with corpses; of 14 million people uprooted in the largest distress displacement in human history, except the trafficking of Africans as slaves to the Americas. But the salient questions are — what they should remember, how they should remember, and what lessons they should draw from this recollection.

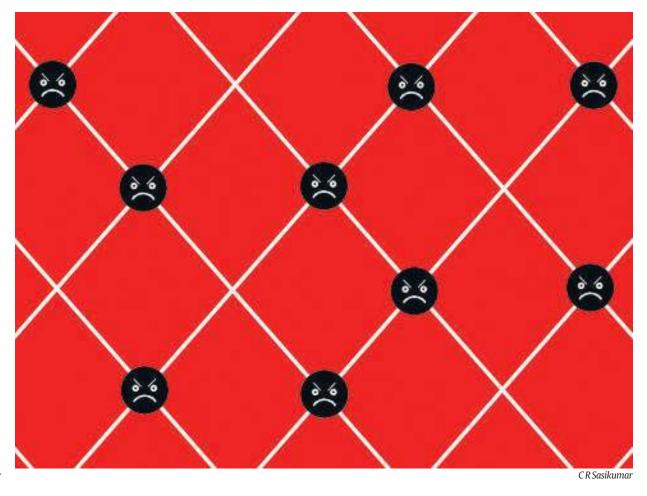
I recall speaking in a hall in Ludhiana, Punjab, some years ago about the imperative of fighting religious bigotry and hate. An ageing man, older than me, spoke, his voice quivering. He recalled the slaughter and pillage of Partition, which had snatched from him his family and his home. "When I recount this history to my children, how can you expect me to teach them to love and respect Muslims who destroyed us so mercilessly?"

I replied to him, "I understand your pain. I too belong to a Partition family, and the families of my parents suffered traumas identical to yours. But if you must speak of this to your children, and their children, can you at least tell them the full story? Tell them that Hindus and Sikhs did suffer horrendously at the hand of Muslim mobs in places where they were in a minority. But tell them also that Hindus and Sikhs, where in a majority, unleashed identical horrors upon Muslims. No community kept at bay the frenzy of hate in those horrific months. The hands of every community were equally tainted with the blood of innocents. You lost lives and homes, but tell your children that our Muslim sisters and brothers also lost their lives in equal numbers. Partial remembering can only nurture further hate.'

I recalled to him Mahatma Gandhi's epic 40-day fast in Calcutta, just weeks after India won her freedom, trying to restore peace and sanity to a city burning in feverish Hindu-Muslim violence. A Hindu man, torn by grief, went to where Gandhiji lay fasting, and shouted, "What you are doing is utterly unjust and heartless. I lost my son — so small — to Muslim mobs. How can I ever forgive them?" Gandhiji replied, "I understand your pain. But let me suggest to you a way. Find a little boy — so small. A Muslim boy whose parents were slaughtered by Hindu mobs. Adopt him as your son, raise him in the faith into which he was born; maybe you will then

be able to heal, even to forgive."

My parents' village, Kahuta, near
Rawalpindi, was among the worst-ravaged
by hate violence during Partition. The Sikhs



and Hindus of the village took refuge in a gurdwara with high, fortress-like walls. When Muslim mobs laid siege to the gurdwara, the men in the community decided that all the women and girls would save their 'honour' by throwing themselves into a well. When some women refused, men of their own families sliced them with swords and threw them in. I am grateful that I never heard a word of bigotry against Muslims from my parents. My father often told me that the word Allah appears more than a thousand times in the Sikh Holy Book. Their prayer room carried the name of Allah on its walls, along with a crucifix, Buddha and many Hindu gods and goddesses.

Decades later, when I decided to leave behind my career in the IAS in protest against the Gujarat communal massacre of 2002, to fight for justice and healing with the survivors, many relatives of my extended familv were furious, and cancelled me from their lives. One of them said to me loudly during a family wedding, "We are ashamed of you. After all we suffered during Partition, you have crossed to the wrong side". I replied, "After all our families suffered in Partition, who more than us can understand the suffering of victims of the same hate violence? It is, even more, our duty to stand resolutely with them, against the perpetrators of hate. I am on the right side. It is you who are on the wrong side. Don't you see?"

What is important is not just what we remember from the tangled agony of Partition, but what lessons we draw from these memories.

Can we remember who were the most tragic victims of Partition violence? The women who were treated as property, and battlefields to defend or transgress the "honour" of the community. The Dalit Christians

My parents' village, Kahuta, near Rawalpindi, was among the worst-ravaged by hate violence during Partition. The Sikhs and Hindus of the village took refuge in a gurdwara with high, fortresslike walls. When Muslim mobs laid siege to the gurdwara, the men in the community decided that all the women and girls would save their 'honour' by throwing themselves into a well. When some women refused, men of their own families sliced them with swords and threw them in. I am grateful that I never

left behind in Pakistan, condemned to continue the work of manual scavenging but savaged by blasphemy laws and religious discrimination.

Can we remember the thousands of Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims who risked their lives to save their neighbours from the hate violence of people of their own community?

Some of us believe that behind the announcement of the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day are the politics of the ruling establishment. August 14 is celebrated as Independence Day in Pakistan. My social media feed is already choked with messages that blame Gandhi and Nehru for Partition, and maintain that it was Sardar Patel and the RSS that saved India from fragmentation and further dismemberment. The RSS historically played no role in the freedom struggle. Is the announcement of Partition Horrors Day a part of their larger project to rewrite history, with the RSS painted as patriots and the Congress led by Gandhi as traitors? When we remember Partition, we must recall that it was Savarkar of the Hindu Mahasabha who, long before the Muslim League, imagined two separate nations, of Hindus and Muslims. It was the RSS that sought an India of Muslims as second-class citizens. It was the RSS and communal organisations of Muslims that lit and stoked the horrific fires of communal violence.

Yes, Indians must never forget the torment and horrors of Partition. We must remember so that we never allow hate to partition not just our land, but even more fundamentally, our hearts. We must remember always what the politics of religious hate does to a people.

Mander is a human rights and peace worker. His books include Partitions of the Heart: Unmaking the Idea of India

What Sabyasachi owes Sanganer

"The world... must help the next Afghan government address the issue of

militancy. Given that all the major players in the tragedy of Afghanistan — from the US to Pakistan — have played a role in seeding and enabling extremist violence in that country, it is incumbent upon them to do so." — **DAWN**

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

His collaboration with H&M puts Indian design on the map, but at the cost of struggling craftspeople and hand-made textile producers



JAYA JAITLY

THE CURRENT SPARKS on social media are not just a frothy tussle between some elite persons, who are considered the protectors of craftspeople, daring to come up against Sabyasachi Mukherjee, one of the most successful names in the fashion business. It is about a genuine and much larger challenge for the world of the handmade. On one side are the values that are important to our cultural heritage, which are about community sharing and retaining pride in our diverse identities and skills. It is about a lifelong riyaaz to improve one's skills and designs. Craftspeople can create, innovate and cooperate with modernity very easily. Their immense value is that their workmanship incorporates specific cultural histories and stories special to each place and skill. They are our living treasures, who need support and opportunity and they need to be prioritised so that their existing and precious livelihoods are sustained. On the other side is the new "market monster" which makes it alright to swallow up the old ways for the sake of fame and profit. Jeff Bezos, who has been accused of exploiting his workers, has the gall to thank millions of Amazon customers all across the world for funding his multi-billion dollar dream trip into space for five minutes. It is an unequal battle. The passing acknowledgement by our designer to hybrid craft forms is something similar.

When it was announced that marketing lines had crashed due to the success of H&M's tie-up with Mukherjee for a new line, who would not have rejoiced that Indian designers had conquered the world? We have been proud of the typical Indianness of his designs in the Bengal patina, just as we proudly acknowledge Ritu Kumar's contribution to hand embroidery and hand block prints, when other designers were running the Western way. But on reading Mukherjee's statement about the collaboration, it was the mention of a Sanganeri block print being digitised that caught the eye of those who have dedicated their lives to ensure that its neglected and often starving practitioners gain respect, recognition and remuneration.

One wonders if Mukherjee knows what's been going on in the real Sanganer. It is a small edge-of-town kind of colony outside Jaipur, surrounded by garbage and sewage. The block printers there have been struggling to get clean water and to continue staying there instead of being summarily relocated to some unknown and unfamiliar area by the Pollution Control Board. Hand-block printing employs wood carvers and metal block makers, dyers, designers and printers. The charm of hand-block printing is also its "perfection of uneven-

ness". Now, the block printers are simultaneously struggling with heavy competition from skill-less screen printers, who provide fabric quickly and cheaply, in the same way that power looms have overrun handlooms. They faced the challenge of mill prints on huge machines in large factories when colonialists prioritised Lancaster and Manchester and destroyed India's tradition of textile production by hand. Then came digitisation, sounding yet another death knell for India's hand work heritage.

The whole point of the crafts-supporting world, even internationally, is to respect handwork and human endeavour over the machine. This support is not just a hashtag or a hand-on-heart statement. Its purpose is to benefit the makers directly and to respect a distinct heritage that loses sense if hybridisation is considered true design. If fashion designers like Mukherjee used some of their profits to uplift the working environment in Sanganer, it would be a genuine gesture of respect for our craft heritage.

When Mukherjee boasts of "putting Indian design on the map" with his name and his brand, it may be a big win for him and for India, but not for those who are fighting to continue block printing in Sanganer so that people like him can be "inspired" and "create hybrids" from multiple regions including other "ancient world cultures", as he says. Sadly, there is no humility in such statements. It is no longer really Indian nor Sanganeri craft if it comes out for H&M's "masses" from a digital version. Yet, he should know that he is a huge "influencer" for all fashion design students in India. He drives the media into a frenzy of adoration. Brides are so desperate for a Sabyasachi lehnga, which can cost up to Rs 25 lakh, that one small-time electrical shop owner had to sell some of his property to please his to-be-married daughter. We came across a zardozi shop owner in Delhi who showed us his "original copy" of a Sabyasachi sari that he "kept hidden from imitators", he said.

Since the designer's influence is vast, if he even whispers the word "digitisation" in the context of a precious hand-crafted textile, he could crush the aspirations and livelihoods of all hand-made textile producers and invalidate the work done by those who have struggled to keep crafts and livelihoods alive through a better appreciation of hand skills. Those young people who are turning to support the craft sector now in the name of "organic" or "sustainable" or "slow fashion" will switch paths in a moment if some big fashion name says it's okay. There is also a risk of dumbing down those customers who are slowly learning to care about and recognise the differences between powerloom and handloom and screen and block prints. One cannot proudly claim to "Make in India" by destroying another creative section of India, and benefiting only multinationals and designer brands.

IDEAS

ONLINE

ONLY IN THE EXPRESS

DELHI FAILS HOMELESS:

SHALAKA CHAUHAN,

ARAVINDUNNI

• LIBERALISE MACHINE

TRADE: MANMEET AJMANI,

DEVESH ROY, H TAKESHIMA

www.indianexpress.com

The writer is founder, Dastkari Haat Samiti

Empowering the players

heard a word of

from my parents.

bigotry against Muslims

In New India, sportspersons have full support from government, PM

Anurag Singh Thakur

THE SIGHT OF our Prime Minister offering churma to Neeraj Chopra, ice cream to P V Sindhu, laughing with Bajrang Punia, telling Ravi Dahiya to laugh more and hearing the experiences of Mirabai Chanu brought a smile to every Indian's face. What was equally encouraging was that he spent time with every athlete who took part in Tokyo Olympics. The next day, he interacted with the Paralympic contingent, discussing their inspiring life journeys.

These gestures indicate a different side to Narendra Modi — a person who is passionate about sports and willing to go the extra mile for India's athletes. Before the Tokyo Games began, PM Modi held an extensive review meeting to take stock of our preparedness.

Those who have seen PM Modi closely can vouch for the passion he has towards supporting a culture of sports and games among the youth. As CM of Gujarat, he began the Khel Mahakumbh initiative, which boosted grassroots level sports participation in a state that is not historically known for sporting excellence. There is also a method in how he has supported sports and sportspersons, which would make me to argue that he is India's first and foremost "Sportsperson's Prime Minister".

A few days ago, a 2013 video went viral. In that video, Modi was addressing a group of college students in Pune, where he lamented that India has a large and talented population as well as a history of sporting excellence, but in Olympics after Olympics, we have struggled to raise our

medal count. He said that there is no reason a nation like ours should remain deprived of Olympic success. But, according to him, the issue was not the players but our inability to create the right supporting atmosphere. The women's and men's hockey teams have gone on record saying that the PM's phone calls after their defeats played a key role in boosting their morale. In 2019, when Neeraj Chopra suffered an injury, PM Modi wished him a speedy recovery, which was widely appreciated.

When it comes to sports, the PM has understood the root of the problem — that sports generate much interest but when it comes to incentives and participation, there is a wide gap. There was both fact and optimism when he remarked after meeting the Olympic winners — "seeing the recent successes in sports, I am confident there will be a shift in parental attitude towards sports." When parents see India's medal count rising, one hopes they will be more open to their children pursuing sports. But, more importantly, when they see all arms of the government, and the corporate sector support our players, they will realise that sports makes for an attractive and honourable career.

Amongst the various ways we can enhance India's sporting success is by looking at encouraging our states towards a "One State, One Sport" outlook: They can prioritise one game or promote a few (while not ignoring others) based on the available talent pool, natural interest, climatic conditions and available infrastructure. This will bring a focussed

approach but also allow for optimum utilisation of existing resources in the state.

Further, we must also get on board corporate India to adopt "One Sport, One Corporate". Across the world, corporates are at the forefront of extending support to budding talent, building leagues, enhancing the fan experience, marketing as well as merchandising to enhance the financial kitty of players. The success of corporates with cricket over the years is a case in point. Additionally, the sponsorship pattern has transitioned from FMCG brands to new FinTech unicorns. This can be a win-win for players, corporates and the game itself.

Another important aspect is to build a grassroots sporting culture. For this, it is imperative to expand the calendar for various games at the local, state and national levels. India needs regional leagues in every sport that will provide an opportunity for young athletes to hone their skills throughout the year at various levels, as well as enhance the sports ecosystem and infrastructure in the country. I also believe our university system can be transformed into an oasis for Olympic excellence.

These measures will fill the gap between interest and participation going forward.

One of the things that has helped Indian sports is the emphasis on quality and global standards. The conventional route was bureaucratic and tiresome; this has changed in the Modi government, where even the PM prefers to receive feedback directly from the players. While meeting the Tokyo 2020 con-

tingent, he asked them to keep sharing their views on ways to strengthen sporting infrastructure. Be it Mirabai or Mary Kom, the PM has personally ensured they got the best treatment for their injuries.

Another issue impacting Indian sports is (ironically) the rise of modern technology. PM Modi has addressed this in his book, Exam Warriors and in Pariksha Pe Charcha townhall programmes. He talked about giving as much importance to the playing field as to the play station. Modi has not dismissed the advent of modern technology. He has sought a healthy balance where the human element of sports - teamwork, togetherness – is maintained. Further, the National Education Policy also consists of mechanisms that will make sports education an attractive option. In the years to come, Manipur will get India's first sports university, which will be a boon to athletes and harness the rich sporting legacy in the Northeast.

Tokyo 2020 was an Olympics of many firsts for India. We won our first gold in athletics, the hockey team did wonders and there were successes in other sports such as discus throw, golf, fencing, etc. The Target Olympic Podium Scheme, Khelo India and the Fit India Campaign have laid the foundations for greater success. New India has fire in its belly. Our sportspersons have the full support of the government and the PM in their quest for sporting excellence.

The writer is Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A QUESTION

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Word police' (IE, August 20). It appears that the decision to ban the use of the colloquial term "gorakh dhanda" (unethical practice) by the Manohar Lal Khattar government in Haryana was taken to soothe the "hurt sentiments" of Gorakhnath community. But what about the phrase "Aaya Ram-gaya Ram", which originated in Haryana? It is a unique contribution to the lexicon of the Hindi language to describe the phenomenon of defection by leaders from one political party to another. The phrase is a disdainful description of politicians' unethical behaviour. Will the government ban this phrase when approached by the

devotees of Lord Ram? LR Murmu, Delhi

LESS OPAQUE

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Welcome the nine' (IE, August 20). The call for transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Supreme Court collegium isn't intended to dilute the pivotal role played by the judiciary in our state structure. The lack of secrecy in the appointment and transfer of judges would ensure common people are in the loop, making any attempt of assault in the functioning of the judiciary by any other organ of the state a lesser possibility. A fair and independent judiciary is the collective responsibility of every citizen.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

GENDER STEREOTYPE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The future

is female' (IE, August 19). The main tenet of this supposedly feminist article is gender essentialism, a theory the scientific community started questioning years ago. The writers believe "empathy, compassion and sensitivity" are "innate abilities" of women. This is a rehash of the misogynistic belief that men are intrinsically analytical and women, emotional. We now know that these observed gender differences are due to socialisation; there are few biological differences between men's and women's brains. The writers should consider whether women are innately empathetic or social strictures compel them to be so. The article goes on to argue that more women should join the workforce because of the benefit their inherent, "non-technical" skills provide. This view confines women to the role of emotional problem-solvers and thus positions them as supplemental to men.

Ashira Shirali, Gurgaon

12 THE WORLD



MEANWHILE

EVER GIVEN CROSSES SUEZ CANAL AGAIN

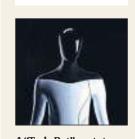
Asia-Pacific extends

curbs to fight surge

in Delta infections

lockdowns, adds

The giant container ship Ever Given, which blocked the Suez canal for six days in March, crossed the waterway on Friday for the first time since it left Egypt after the incident. The ship, en route from the UK to China, crossed the canal among a convoy of 26 vessels sailing from the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, the Suez Canal Authority said.



A "Tesla Bot" prototype. Tesla via Reuters

USA

Musk says Tesla likely to launch humanoid robot

prototype next year

TESLA CHIEF executive Elon Musk on Thursday said the electric automaker will probably launch a "Tesla Bot" humanoid robot prototype next year, designed for dangerous, repetitive, or boring work that people don't like to do. Speaking at Tesla's AI Day event, the billionaire entrepreneur said the robot, which stands around five foot eight inches tall, would be able to handle jobs from attaching bolts to cars with a wrench, or picking up groceries at stores. The robot would have "profound implications for the economy", Musk said, addressing a labour shortage. He said it was important to make the machine not "super-expensive". **REUTERS**

Foreign aid trickles in as Haiti struggles to count victims

A DRIP of foreign aid began to reach more rural areas of southwestern Haiti on Thursday, arriving five days after a powerful earthquake killed more than 2,000 and flattened tens of thousands of buildings into rubble. Hundreds of people lined up to receive provisions from the UN World Food Programme at a camp in the rural town of Camp-Perrin for people displaced by Saturday's 7.2 magnitude quake. The official death toll stood at 2,189 but was expected to rise. Local officials are still tallying the dead, and demanded more assistance to dig out the collapsed buildings. REUTERS

Navalny tells Russians to vote tactically

KREMLIN CRITIC Alexei Navalny appealed to Russians from behind bars on Thursday, nearly a year after he was poisoned with what the West savs was a nerve agent, and told them to vote tactically in elections next month to try to hurt the Kremlin. His smart voting plan is one of the last levers Navalny and his allies have after a crackdown this summer outlawed his movement as "extremist". His allies are banned from taking part in the Sept. 17-19 election, and United Russia, which supports President Vladimir Putin, is expected to win despite a slump in its REUTERS

BRITAIN

popularity.

Police warn of two weeks of disruption from protests

LONDON'S POLICE warned on Friday that protests by environmental activists planned for the next two weeks will cause disruption across the capital and will distract officers from dealing with crime. Extinction Rebellion, which caused days of traffic chaos in London two years ago, said it will target the capital's financial district in disruptive protests which are due to start on Monday. The group accuses firms of helping to fuel climate change and it brought much of London to a standstill during 11 days of action in 2019. REUTERS

After Taliban takeover, reports of targeted killings fuel Afghans' fears

AHMAD SEIR, TAMEEM AKHGAR & DAVID RISING KABUL, AUGUST 20

REPORTS OF targeted killings in areas overrun by the Taliban mounted Friday, fuelling fears that they will return Afghanistan to the repressive rule they imposed when they were last in power, even as they urged imams to push a message of unity at Friday's prayers.

Terrified that the new de facto rulers would commit such abuses, thousands have raced to Kabul's airport and to border crossings. desperate to flee following the Taliban's stunning blitz through the country. Others have taken to the streets to protest the takeover – acts of defiance that Taliban fighters have violently suppressed.

The Taliban say they have become more moderate since they last ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s and have pledged to restore security and forgive those who fought them in the 20 years since a US-led invasion. Ahead of Friday prayers, leaders urged imams to use sermons to appeal for unity and urge people not to flee the country.

But many Afghans are sceptical, fearing that the Taliban will erase the gains, especially for women, achieved in the past two decades. An Amnesty International report provided more evidence Friday that undercut the Taliban's claims they have changed.

The rights group said that its researchers spoke to eyewitnesses in Ghazni province who recounted how the Taliban killed nine ethnic Hazara men in the village of Mundarakht on July 4-6. It said six of the men were shot, and three were tortured to death.

The brutality of the killings was "a reminder of the Taliban's

THE TALIBAN have appealed to

the international community to

recognise it amid growing re-

sentment against it at home and

abroad, even as the Afghan mil-

itant group sought to placate

China, saying Beijing can play a

"big role" under its rule in the

Shaheen said the international

community should "respect the

will of the Afghan people" and of-

Taliban spokesman Suhail

KJM VARMA

BEIJING, AUGUST 20

strife-torn country.

TALIBAN KILLED **RELATIVE OF DW** REPORTER, GERMAN **BROADCASTER SAYS**

Berlin: Taliban fighters hunting a journalist from Deutsche Welle (DW) have shot dead one member of his family and severely injured another, the German public broadcaster said, adding that three more of its journalists had had their homes raided. DW said the Taliban had been doing a house-to-house search to find the journalist, who it said was now working in Germany and did not name. **REUTERS**

past record, and a horrifying indicator of what Taliban rule may bring," said Agnes Callamard, the head of Amnesty International.

The rights group warned that many more killings may have gone unreported because the Taliban cut cellphone services in many areas they've captured to prevent images from being published.

Meanwhile, a Norwaybased private intelligence group that provides information to the UN said it obtained evidence that the Taliban have rounded up Afghans on a blacklist of people they believe worked in key roles with the previous Afghan administration or with US-led forces.

In an email, the executive director of RHIPTO Norwegian Center for Global Analyses said the organisation knew about several threat letters sent to Afghans, including a man who was taken from his Kabul apartment this week by the Taliban.



. HAQQANI ATTENDS FRIDAY PRAYERS IN KABUL: Khalil Haqqani speaks after Friday prayer at the Pul-i-Khishti Mosque in Kabul on Friday. A leader of one of the most powerful and violent Taliban factions, Haggani is on both the US and UN terrorist lists. To many Afghans and foreigners, Haqqani's emergence in the capital was a stark reminder of who now runs Afghanistan. NYT

Biden pledges to Americans in Kabul: 'We will get you home'

ASSOCIATED PRESS WASHINGTON, AUGUST 20

US PRESIDENT Joe Biden pledged to Americans still trapped in Afghanistan: "We will get you home."

Biden's comments at a White House news conference Friday come as the US government struggles to ramp up a massive airlift clearing Americans and other foreigners and vulnerable Afghans through the Kabul airport, rescuing them from a Taliban takeover of the country.

Biden is facing criticism for a chaotic and often violent scene outside the airport as crowds

its plans to impose Sharia law

like it did during its previous rule

20 years ago, Shaheen told

China's state-run CGTN TV that

the new Taliban government in

Kabul would protect women's

He also urged international

The Taliban, which shared

monetary organisations to release

close ties with Pakistan, have

been warming up to Beijing

ahead of its recent offensive re-

sulting in seizing power in Kabul.

huge economy and capacity. They

"China is a big country with a

rights to education and work.



A baby is handed over to US soldiers over the perimeter wall of the airport in Kabul, on Thursday. Reuters

struggle to reach safety inside. He called the past week "heartbreaking", but insisted his administra-

can play a big role in rebuilding Afghanistan," Shaheen said. "We

have had a relationship with China

and Russia during the past (few)

years. We have told them they

should not have any concerns

to allow anyone to use our soil

against our neighbouring and re-

gional countries. It is important for

us," he said, "Also for the recon-

struction of Afghanistan, we need

the help of all countries," includ-

ing neighbouring countries as

well as the US and the rest of the

world, Shaheen said.

"We see it in our interest not

from Afghanistan," he said.

tion was working hard to smooth and speed the evacuations. "I don't think anyone of us

can see these pictures and not feel that pain on a human level," Biden said, but "now I'm focused on getting this job done."

Evacuation flights at the Kabul airport had stopped for several hours on Friday because of a backup at a transit point for the refugees, a US airbase in Qatar, US officials said. However, a resumption was ordered later.

Thousands of people remain to be evacuated ahead of the US' Aug 31 deadline to withdraw its troops from the country, alovernight.

though the pace had picked up FB, Twitter

secure Afghan

users' accounts

ELIZABETH CULLIFORD

FACEBOOK. TWITTER and LinkedIn said this week they had moved to secure the accounts of Afghan citizens to protect them against being targeted amid the Taliban's takeover of the country.

Facebook has temporarily removed the ability for people to view or search the friends lists of accounts in Afghanistan, its security policy head Nathaniel Gleicher tweeted on Thursday.

Gleicher also said the company had launched a "one-click tool" for users in Afghanistan to lock down their accounts, so people who are not their Facebook friends would be unable to see their timeline posts or share their profile photos.

Human rights groups have voiced concerns that the Taliban could use online platforms to track Afghans' digital histories or social connections.

Twitter said it was in touch with civil society partners to provide support to groups in the country and was working with the Internet Archive to expedite direct requests to remove **REUTERS** archived tweets.

AUGUST 20

NATIONS FROM Australia to Vietnam announced more drastic curbs and longer lockdowns for citizens on Friday, as authorities struggle to rein in outbreaks of the highly infectious Delta variant of the coronavirus.

In Australia's biggest city of Sydney, 2 million residents, or roughly 40% of its population, face curfew from 9 pm to 5 am next week, along with limits on

A lockdown of the entire city, now in its eighth week, was also extended until the end of September, with residents told to wear masks outdoors, except for exercise.

"I asked health and police to work together, to give me a final list of what we can throw at this, to leave no shadow of a doubt as to how serious we are," Gladys Berejiklian, the premier of Sydney's home state of New South Wales, told reporters.

The state, which is Australia's most populous, reported 644 new infections on Friday, while southeastern Victoria state home to Melbourne, recorded 55, as authorities there warned of a risk the outbreak could slip

In neighbouring New Zealand, an outbreak that began this week widened to the capital, Wellington, from the biggest city of Auckland, prompting Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern to extend a nationwide lockdown until Tuesday.

Vietnam imposed its toughest order yet, barring residents of the business hub of Ho Chi Minh City from leaving their homes from Monday, although further details have yet to be announced.

Like Australia and New Zealand, Vietnam was once lauded for success in containing the virus, but is finding earlier measures were insufficient. It has more than 312,000 in-

fections and 7,150 deaths, up from a May 1 figure of less than 3.000 cases and 35 deaths. Japan plans to roughly triple

daily Covid tests to 320,000, an acknowledgement that its main containment strategy of breaking up clusters of infections was no longer working in big cities like Tokyo, the capital. The move comes after new

daily cases exceeded 25,000 on Thursday for the first time. South Korea extended for two

weeks social distancing curbs that include a ban on gatherings of more than two people after 6 pm.



Employees dine between polythene sheets as a safety measure at a garment factory in Dhaka. Reuters

US sees opening in Asia as Chinese vaccines stumble

SUI-LEE WEE& AUGUST 20

FEW PLACES benefited from China's vaccine diplomacy as much as Southeast Asia, a region of more than 650 million that has struggled to secure doses from Western drugmakers, Several of

these countries have recorded

some of the fastest-growing num-

bers of cases in the world. China, eager to build good will, stepped in, promising to provide more than 255 million doses, according to Bridge Consulting, a Beijing-based re-

search company. Half a year in, however, that campaign has lost some of its luster. Officials in several countries have raised doubts about the efficacy of Chinese vaccines, especially against the more

transmissible Delta variant. Indonesia, which was early to accept Chinese shots, was recently the epicentre of the virus. Now, officials there are administering the Moderna vaccine as a booster to health care workers who had received two doses of Sinovac.

Unloading boxes of Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine in Tangerang, Indonesia, this month. Reuters And in Thailand, residents

vaccinated with one dose of China's Sinovac are now given the AstraZeneca shot three to four weeks later. The setback to China's vaccine

campaign has created a diplomatic opening for the US when relations between the two countries are increasingly fraught, in part because of the coronavirus. Vaccine aid from the US of-

fers an opportunity to restore relations in a region that American officials have mostly ignored for years while China extended its influence. The Biden administration has dispatched a crowd of senior officials to the region, NYT

of US reliability after Afghanistan chaos security interests at risk, coun-Washington's commitment to NANDITA BOSE & tries in both Europe and Asia are Southeast Asia is firm and not a wondering whether they can parallel to Afghanistan. WASHINGTON, AUGUST 20

Harris faces task of convincing Asian nations

Taliban: China has big role in Afghanistan

DAVID BRUNNSTROM

US VICE President Kamala Harris, in a visit to Singapore and Vietnam next week that aims to counter China's growing influence, will have to contend with a new problem: the collapse of Afghanistan, which has left allies questioning the credibility of US foreign policy promises.

US allies have complained

ROZANNA LATIFF,

LIZ LEE & MEI MEI CHU

KUALA LUMPUR, AUGUST 20

MALAYSIA'S KING appointed

Ismail Sabri Yaakob as the prime

minister on Friday, returning the

job to a party tainted by graft ac-

cusations as the southeast Asian

nation grapples with a Covid-19

 $Muhyiddin\,Yassin, who\,stepped$

down on Monday after coalition

infighting cost him his majority,

but the new prime minister's

backing by the same alliance

raises concerns that he will also

lead an unstable government.

Ismail Sabri replaces

surge and an economic slump.



At a protest in Kabul on

ficially recognise his group, which

cerns over the Taliban curbing

the freedoms of women under

Dismissing growing con-

has taken over power in Kabul.

Thursday. Reuters

they were not fully consulted on President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw American troops from Afghanistan by Aug. 31, which appeared at odds with his promises to recommit to global engagement.

With the Taliban's rapid takeover putting their national

rely on Washington to fulfill long-standing security commitments, experts say. Harris' trip aims to establish

deeperties with Southeast Asia, a region Washington considers key to checking Chinese expansion. Hiebert at Washington's Center

Regional experts like Murray for Strategic and International

Studies said Harris would have

to try to reassure her hosts that

"The debacle in Afghanistan will prompt concerns again about US staving power and keeping

promises to allies," he said. The chaotic evacuations from

Kabul have evoked images of the 1975 US withdrawal from Vietnam, whose Communist government Washington sought to isolate for two decades after the Vietnam War, but with which it now enjoys warm ties. **REUTERS**

China approves three-child policy with sops Malaysia's new prime minister brings graft-tainted party back to power to encourage couples to have more children

KJM VARMA BEIJING, AUGUST 20

> CHINA'S NATIONAL legislature on Friday formally endorsed the three-child policy mooted by the ruling Communist Party, in a major policy shift aimed to prevent a steep decline in birth rates in the world's most populous country.

Family Planning Law, which allows Chinese couples to have three children, was passed by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC).

dress the reluctance of Chinese couples to have more children due to mounting costs, the amended law has also passed more social



THE NEW three-child policy means that Chinese couples now having more than two children will no longer have to pay the "social maintenance fee", which was a financial penalty imposed on them. Moreover, couples will be encouraged to have children, with incentives such as potentially more parental leave, better emand economic support measures to address the concerns.

The new law stipulates that the country will take supportive measures, including those in finances, taxes, insurance, education, housing and employment. to reduce families' burdens as well as the cost of raising and educating children, state-run China Daily reported.

The NPC has revised the law to implement the central leadership's decision to cope with new circumstances in social and economic development and promote balanced long-term population growth, the report said.

In May this year, the Communist Party of China approved a relaxation of its strict two-child policy to allow all couples to have up to three children. China permitted all couples to have two children in 2016, scrapping the decades-old one-child policy which many blame for the demographic crisis in the country.

Chinese officials claim the

one-child policy prevented over 400 million births. The decision to permit the

third child came after this month's once-in-a-decade census showed that China's population grew at the slowest pace to 1.412 billion amid official projections that the decline may begin as early as next year. The new census figures revealed that the demographic crisis China faced was expected to deepen as the population of people above 60 years grew to 264

Chandigarh

million, up by 18.7% last year. PTI

Ismail Sabri is to be sworn in on Saturday, the palace said, after he secured a slim majority with



the backing of 114 of parliament's 222 members.

"His Majesty expressed the hope that with the appointment of the new prime minister, the political crisis can end immediately and all lawmakers can unite to put aside political agendas," it said in a statement.

King Al-Sultan Abdullah has previously said the new prime

confidence vote in parliament to prove his majority. Ismail Sabri's appointment

restores the post to the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), Malaysia's 'grand old party', which was voted out in a 2018 general election, after a multibillion-dollar scandal at state fund 1MDB. He becomes Malaysia's third

prime minister since the 2018

election, after UMNO pulled its backing for Muhyiddin last month, citing his failure to manage the pandemic. "With a razorthin majority, he will need to make sure he does not face rebellions of those who are eyeing his position," said Sivamurugan Pandian, a political analyst at the Malaysian Science University.

The revised Population and

In an apparent attempt to ad-

ployment protections for women and improved childcare infrastructure

ECONOMY

⊘ ₹46,353

₹74.39

Note: Gold, silver rates at Delhi spot market; gold per 10 g, silver per 1 kg; Crude oil (Indian basket) as on August 18, 2021

© \$68.91

SILVER ₹60,897

SENSEX: 55,329.32 ▼ 300.17 (-0.54%) NIFTY: 16,450.50 ▼ 118.35 (-0.71%) NIKKEI: 27,013.25 ▼ 267.92 HANG SENG: 24,849.72 ▼ 466.61 FTSE: 7,053.63 ▼ 5.23 DAX: 15,695.68 ▼ 70.13

POLICY WATCH **ECONOMY**

'Focus on emerging challenges; private investment in green energy required'

SUNNY VERMA NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

THE INSTITUTE of Economic Growth(IEG)Society president NK Singh said on Friday that there is a need to focus research on emerging challenges such as climate and energy transition, encouraging private investment in renewable energy and establishing closer partnership with states, as they remain central to implementation of reforms. Fifteenth Finance Commission Chairperson Singh was elected president of the IEG Society earlier this week after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

Former PM Singh, who had been the president of the IEG since 1992, said he was withdrawing from several active duties in the light of his advanced age and 'indifferent health', and suggested NK Singh's name as president of the institute. Asked about his plans for the IEG, Singh said there is a need to focus on contemporary challenges.

stepped down from the post.

"First the world has changed from when the Institute was created in 1952, our priorities have changed and there is need to really make it much more contemporary to the challenges of today, and what could these be: climate and energy transition, fuel pricing, carbon pricing, the social and economic consequences of the fuel transition because, after all, the bulk of the fossil fuel staff is in the poorer parts of India -Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha. These are also the parts which do not have renewable energy. It's easier said



15th Finance Commission Chairperson NK Singh was recently elected IEG Society president. File

that renewable is cheaper but this transition is going to be challenging," Singh told The Indian Express.

He said there is a need to attract private investments in renewable energy, as climate issues remain central. "What can we do to crowd in private capital in renewable energy ... How can we reduce perceived regulatory and other risks for private capital in funding the sustainable energy investments. This is one very broad emerging area that needs attention." he said.

Macroeconomic management is another subject which requires further research, especially when there is no fiscal council at the Central government level. "Another important area is much closer partnership with states because in next 20-30 years states are going to be central in the story, in terms of implementation of the changes in factors of production: land, labour, capital...Quality of states annual economic survey can also be improved," Singh said.

Singh has had strong ties with the IEG—as a student in the Delhi University and currently serving as a Life Trustee.

CRUDE DOWN 13.9% BUT PETROL, DIESEL NEAR RECORD HIGHS

Global-local divide in fuel: OMCs making up for 'under recoveries'

KARUNJITSINGH

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

WHILE PETROL and diesel prices are still at or near record-high levels in the country, international crude oil has fallen 13.9 per cent since the beginning of August.

Industry sources told The Indian Express that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) might be withholding part of the benefit from the fall in international prices to compensate for under recoveries during earlier periods. Separately, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has ruled out reducing Central taxes on petrol and diesel, citing the financial burden of having to pay interest payments on oil bonds issued to OMCs for earlier under recoveries by the Congress-led UPA government.

An unexpected build-up of fuel inventories in the US and concerns about the spread of the Delta variant pushed Brent crude to \$65.63 per barrel on Friday (as of 12:30 pm EDT) — its lowest level since May.

"Under recoveries during prior periods, such as state elections

No duty cut likely

> expected and OMCs withholding part of the benefit of lower international prices, consumers would only benefit from lower fuel prices if crude continued to remain at lower levels for a sustained period.

WITH NO excise duty cut

when price increases were held back, are likely the reason that OMCs are being slow in passing on the benefit of lower international prices to consumers", said an official at a public sector OMC. Usually, the full impact of changes to crude oil prices is often seen with a lag as domestic rates are benchmarked to a 15-day rolling average of global prices of petrol and diesel.

Industry sources said the full impact of lower global prices would be felt sooner in diesel than petrol as under recoveries for the former were significantly lower be recouped soon if the current trend of low prices continues.

Experts noted that with no excise duty cut expected and OMCs withholding part of the benefit of lower international prices, consumers would only benefit from lower fuel prices if crude oil prices continued to remain at lower levels for a sustained period.

Even though the prices of petrol and diesel are deregulated and can be revised daily, OMCs had, in March and April, halted hikes as a number of states went to elections.

OMCs had also held prices constant for over 80 days last year from March 16, as crude fell sharply due to the Covid pandemic. Experts said the decision to hold prices steady, during the period when crude touched lows of around \$20 per barrel, led to far higher marketing margins for OMCs during FY21.

OMCs have also held the price of petrol constant for the past 34 days and cut the price of diesel by about 60 paise per litre over the past three days after holding steady for 33 days. Petrol is retail-

ing at Rs 101.8 per litre in the Capital, while diesel is at Rs 89.27. High crude prices, coupled

with elevated taxes on fuel, have led to a 21.7 per cent increase in the pump price of petrol and a 20.8 per cent jump in diesel since the beginning of the year. Elevated taxes on petrol and diesel have also been key contributors to record high prices. Last year, the Centre hiked Central levies by Rs 13 per litre on petrol and Rs 16 on diesel to shore up revenues as Covid caused a sharp fall in economic activity.

"The government wants to ensure that the earnings of OMCs are protected as they are key investors in important infrastructure such as pipelines, new refineries and LPG infrastructure," said Vivekanand Subbaraman, analyst at Ambit Capital. He added margins for OMCs had been increasing steadily over the past few years as their profits were rising even though their sales volumes had remained relatively stable.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

Some notable VC funding deals

■\$3.6 billion raised by Flipkart

■\$502 million raised by

Mohalla Tech (ShareChat)

MPC: JAYANTH VARMA OPPOSES 'EASY POLICY'

One member differs with panel on 'easy' stance; urges 'hard look', rise in rates

RBI Guv says economy needs support for congenial financial conditions

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, AUGUST 20

WHILE FIVE of the six members of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) voted for retaining the accommodative stance at the MPC meeting on August 6, one member — Jayanth Varma — was for taking a "hard look" at continuing the easy money policy as the balance of risk and reward in favour of monetary accommodation is gradually shifting.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the economy still requires support in terms of maintaining congenial financial conditions and fiscal boosters. "At such a critical juncture, can we really pull the rug and the let the economy tumble?' Das said, according to the minutes of the MPC meeting. "The need of the hour is twofold: first, continue the monetary policy support to the economy; and second, remain watchful of any durable inflationary pressures and sustained price momentum in key components so as to bring back the CPI inflation to 4 per cent over a period of time in a non-disruptive manner."

However, taking a different view, Varma – who voted against the accommodative stance - said "easy money today could lead to high interest rates tomorrow".

"In the last several meetings, my statements have expressed the belief that the balance of risk and reward is in favour of monetary accommodation. As the pandemic continues to mutate, it appears to me that the balance of



Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das. File

risk and reward is gradually shifting, and this merits a hard look at the accommodative stance," he said, as per the minutes.

Unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy, the RBI panel raised the projection for retail inflation to 5.7 per cent for FY22 from 5.1 per cent earlier, quite close to its upper tolerance limit in the 2-6 per cent band. The MPC left the reporate unchanged at 4 per cent while retaining the accommodative stance. It retained the FY22 real GDP growth at 9.5 per cent.

As per the RBI minutes, Varma was "not in favour of the decision to keep the reverse repo rate at 3.35 per cent," and voted against the accommodative stance.

While the economy is struggling to regain the momentum that had gathered in the second half of 2020-21, the highest priority now is to revive growth along a sustainable trajectory that becomes compatible with the inflation target as the pandemic recedes, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra said.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'India startups second to Chinese in raising VC funding in 2021'

Indian startups got \$16.9 billion of venture capital (VC) funding in 2021, next only to Chinese counterparts in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) countries, a GlobalData analysis said



828VC FUNDING DEALS ANNOUNCED IN INDIA DURING JANUARY-JULY 2021, WITH TOTAL DISCLOSED FUNDING VALUE OF THESE DEALS STANDING AT \$16.9 BILLION

GAINS FOR TECH STARTUPS:

Tech startups are the biggest beneficiaries of India's transformation into a digital-first economy amid

Rising smartphone penetration

Affordable mobile

■ \$500 million capital raising by Zomato ■\$460 million raised by Think and Learn (Byju's)

in January-July:

Microsoft, OYO

New Delhi: Microsoft has invested nearly \$5 million in OYO through the issuance of equity shares and compulsory convertible cumulative preference shares.

EPFO payroll

New Delhi: The Employees Provident Fund Organisation saw net new enrolments of 12.83 lakh in June. PTI

BPCL chatbot New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum

(BPCL) has launched an AI chatbot, Urja, to serve business and retail consumers.

Bharat Bank

New Delhi: Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Ltd will celebrate its 43rd foundation day on August 21. It has launched 3 easy business loans, a statement said. **ENS**

Duty relief New Delhi: The government

has halved basic customs duty on crude soyoil and sunflower oil to 7.5 per cent, as well as cut basic import duty on refined soyoil and sunflower oil to 37.5 per cent, till September 30. PTI

New J&J CEO

Bengaluru: Johnson & Johnson vice chairman of executive committee Joaquin Duato will become its CEO from January 3, replacing Alex Gorsky. **REUTERS**

Power islanding **Power** islanding

New Delhi: The government has said 17 islanding schemes for power supply are planned in addition to 26 such existing and under-implementation projects. The scheme is a defence mechanism for power system. PTI

Facebook, Indifi tie up for credit to SMBs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, AUGUST 20

FACEBOOK INDIA on Friday announced a programme to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) that advertise on Facebook to get quick access to credit of between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 50 lakh through $independent \, lending \, partners.$

country where this programme is getting rolled out. The programme is open to businesses registered across 200 towns and cities of India," Facebook said. Through Facebook's partner-

"India is the first Facebook

ship with Indifi, small businesses that advertise with Facebook can get loans at a predefined interest rate of 17-20 per cent per annum, it said. "The programme will also

ArcelorMittal

planning to

invest ₹IL cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

LAKSHMI MITTAL, chairman of

ArcelorMittal, accompanied by the

company's CEO Dilip Oommen,

paid a visit to Gujarat Chief

Minister Viiav Rupani, said a re-

lease from the Chief Minister's

Office on Friday. During the visit,

the release added, Mittal ex-

pressed his eagerness to invest

of investment of Rs 50,000 crore

for the expansion of his unit near

Hazira in Surat while also express-

ing intention of investing Rs

50.000 crore in solar energy, wind

energy, and hydrogen gas produc-

CM has invited them for invest-

essary help." the release added.

"Giving positive response, the

tion sectors, it said.

Mittal expressed commitment

Rs 1 lakh crore in Gujarat.

GANDHINAGAR, AUGUST 20

in Gujarat

Loans from ₹5 lakh to ₹50 lakh for small and medium businesses

enable small businesses to apply for loans without collateral through a quick online application. Small businesses applying under this programme will not be charged a processing fee by Indifi."

Indifi will also disburse the loan amount within five working days of the borrower completing all documentation formalities after acceptance of the offer by Indifi. Many small businesses face challenges in securing loans of lower ticket-size as they are not viable for many lenders. "The goal of the initiative is to make business loans more easily accessible

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU

EICHER MOTORS' shareholders,

at the company's recently held

annual general meeting (AGM),

have rejected a proposal for re-

appointment of Siddhartha Lal as

the company's managing direc-

tor for a period of five years with

AGM, which was held earlier this

week, the members also rejected

During the company's 39th

effect from May 1 this year.

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

the credit gap within India's MSME sector," Facebook said. It added that small businesses

wholly or partly women-owned

can get a special 0.2 per cent re-

Growth in India amid fall in global funding: While some of the top key markets

managed to showcase growth despite a decline in VC funding deal volume

globally saw a decline in VC funding value in July over the previous month, India

duction per annum on the applied loan interest rate from Indifi. Indifi is an online lending platform providing loans to small businesses, Alok Mittal, who last led India operations of US venture

capital firm Canaan Partners, is Indifi's MD & CEO and co-founder. Facebook said, "The programme is a completely not-for-profit arrangement with Facebook's lending partners and small businesses are not obligated to spend their loan amount on Facebook advertising," The announcement came at a virtual event on 'Enabl-

ing MSME growth through finan-

During the company's

AGM, shareholders also

rejected the proposal of

the proposal of increasing Lal's re-

While 73 per cent of the votes

favoured the re-appointment, the

rest 27 per cent were against it. As

a special resolution, it needed

increasing Siddhartha

Lal's remuneration

muneration.

Eicher Motors MD Lal's re-appointment rejected

proposal

AT COMPANY'S 39TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

India along with FICCI. Ajit Mohan, VP & MD Facebook India, said at the event, "Facebook is deeply committed to creating economic opportunities for India's small businesses. Access to timely capital is more important than ever as it can help jump-start their recovery and drive big growth."

Uday Shankar, President, FICCI said, "FICCI has always advocated for stronger private sector participation for the growth of India's MSMEs and welcomes the launch of Facebook's small business loans initiative to make access to credit more easily available to the industry. We look forward to collaborating with Facebook over the coming months to develop programmes and solutions that can provide an impetus to the sector."

support from 75 per cent of the

votes cast to pass the proposal.

Out of the total 21,74,67,139 votes,

15.88.49.543 (73.04 per cent)

were in favour of the re-appoint-

ment, while 5,86,17,596 (26.95

per cent) votes disapproved the

tional shareholders particularly

opposed the move.

The company's public institu-

Out of the total 8,13,98,998

votes received in the category,

5,86,16,986 (72 per cent) disap-

proved the proposal and just

RBI, Irdai to vet FDI plan in pvt bank-promoted insurance co

New Delhi: The government has said applications for foreign direct investment (FDI) in an insurance company promoted by a private bank will be cleared by the RBI and Irdai to ensure that the 74 per cent limit of overseas investment is not breached. These changes were made by amending the Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) Rules 2019, as per a gazette notification by Finance Ministry on August 19.

"These rules may be called Foreign Exchange Management (Non-debt Instruments) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2021," it said. ENS

2,27,82,012 (27.98 pet cent)

passed with requisite majority,'

Eicher Motors said in a regulatory

filing. Meanwhile, an ordinary

resolution seeking Lal's re-ap-

pointment as a director on the

company's board was approved

by shareholders. Around 86 per

cent of the votes were in the

favour of the proposal. Royal

Enfield, a part of Eicher Motors, is

a player in the mid-sized motor

RailTel

cycle segment. WITHPTI

'The resolution was no

favoured the move.

Wilmar's ₹4,500-cr IPO in abeyance **DRHP ON AUGUST 2 ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**

Sebi puts Adani

MARKETS REGULATOR Sebi has put the Rs 4,500-crore initial public offering (IPO) of Adani Wilmar Ltd in "abeyance". As per the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) website, the Adani Wilmar IPO has been "kept in abeyance".

Adani Wilmar, a 50:50 joint venture between the Adani Group and Singapore-based Wilmar Group, had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Sebi on August 2. While the regulator has not

given any reason for keeping the IPO in abeyance, an ongoing investigation into the group's flagship company Adani Enterprises might have prompted the Sebi to put the issue on hold. Adani Enterprises, promoted by Gautam Adani,

■ Adani Wilmar, a 50:50 JV between Adani Group and Wilmar Group, had filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with Sebi on August 2

holds 50 per cent stake in Adani Wilmar, which owns the edible oil brand 'Fortune'.

The proposed IPO offer worth Rs 4,500 crore will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares by the firm and there will not be any secondary offering. If there are pending investigations against a company by the Sebi or any other regulatory body or government authority, the regulator normally puts the IPO in abevance.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED,

REGION AJMER PHONE No. 0145-2624748 FAX NO. 0145-2627671 No. F. ()/Ar. MP/2021-2022/6104-6154

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS

Bids for the Providing, Laying, Jointing, Testing & Commissioning of Rising/ Distribution pipe line of various sizes/types to convert the existing water supply scheme into piped water supply scheme and to provide Functional House Tap Connections in the village- Kharkedi and Hathikhera under JJN of District Ajmer. (Estimated cost of work- Rs. 419.61 lacs) are invited from interested bidders upto 31.08.2021. Other particulars of the Bid may be isited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state

UBN No.: PHE2122WSOB06055 NIB No.: PHE2122A2707 (Mukul Bhargava)

DIPR/C/8103/2021

PHED, Region, Ajmer **TATA POWER DELHI DISTRIBUTION LIMITED**

Additional Chief Enginee



Regd. Office: NDPL House, Hudson Lines, Kingsway Camp, Delhi 110 009 Tel: 66112222, Fax: 27468042, Email: TPDDL@tatapower-ddl.com CIN No.: U40109DL2001PLC111526, Website: www.tatapower-ddl.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS TATA Power-DDL invites tenders as per following details:

Last Date & Time Estimated Availability Tender Enquiry No. of Bid Submission Cost/EMD Date and time of Work Description (Rs.) Document Opening of bids TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001329/21-22 13.09.2021;1600 Hrs/ 20.05 Crs/ 23.08.2021 13.09.2021;1630 Hrs 23.08.2021 13.09.2021;1700 Hrs 10.09.2021;1600 Hrs

RC for supply of HT XLPE and AB TPDDL/ENGG/ENQ/200001330/21-22 RC for supply of Polyolefin Sleeves TPDDL/INS/ENQ/200001331/21-22 Burglary Insurance

Complete tender and corrigendum document is available on our website www.tatapower-ddl.com → Vendor Zone → Tender / Corrigendum Documents

Chandigarh

New data privacy law in China pected to add more compliance

JOSHHORWITZ SHANGHAI, AUGUST 20

CHINA'S NATIONAL People's Congress on Friday passed a law designed to protect online user data privacy and will implement the policy from November 1, as per state media outlet Xinhua.

ment in Gujarat and assured nec-The law's passage completes another pillar in China's efforts to Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, MK Das, was also present. regulate cyberspace and is ex-



The law, designed to protect online user data privacy, will be implemented from November 1. APfile

requirements for companies in the country. China has instructed its tech giants to ensure better secure storage of user data, amid public complaints about mismanagement and misuse. The law states that handling of

2021-22/VSS /03

personal information must have clear and reasonable purpose and shall be limited to the "minimum scope necessary to achieve the goals of handling" data. **REUTERS**

Date: 19.08.202

'Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning Integration with Existing VSS Infra, Operation and Maintenance of IP based Video

Surveillance System (VSS) at D & E Category Addendum/Corrigendum will be uploaded on RailTel website and e-tendering portal only.

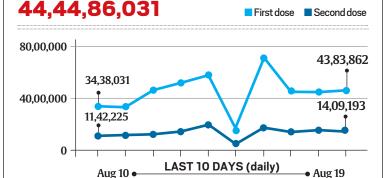
Railway Stations under Northern Region of RailTel for and on behalf of Indian Railways." Tender Notice & tender document are available or www.railtelindia.com and can be downloaded from the e-tendering portal https://www.ireps.gov.in. All future

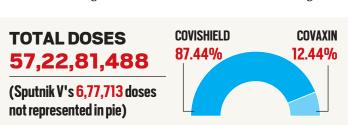
#ExpressExplained

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

CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

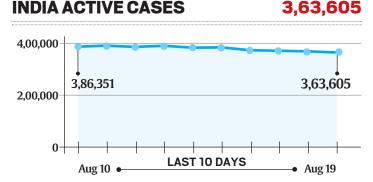
TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)





DOSES ON AUG 19 57,93,055 AUG 18: 58,36,403 (1ST DOSE:43,82,113; 2nd:14,54,290)

INDIA ACTIVE CASES



Note: The August 19 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on August 20

INDIA TOTAL CASES 3,23,58,829 Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on August 20

People with prolonged or severe Covid have highest antibody levels, study finds

NEW RESEARCH

PEOPLE WHO have had severe or long-lasting cases of Covid-19 are more likely to have high levels of an important antibody needed to fight against future infection, according to a new study from Rutgers University published in *The* Journal of Infectious Diseases.

The published paper, 'Determinants and dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a diverse population: 6-month evaluation of a prospective cohort study',

was part of the larger Rutgers Corona Cohort study, which followed 548 healthcare workers and 283 others from the start of the pandemic.

The researchers found that, within 6 months of the start of the study, more than 93 of the total 831 participants (11%) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, or for antibodies. Of those 93,

24 were severely symptomatic and 14 were asymptomatic. One-third of the infected participants had symptoms – such as fatigue, shortness of breath and loss of taste and smell - that lasted at least a month; 10% had symptoms that lasted at least four months.

Most people infected by SARS-CoV-2 develop antibodies. The study showed that antibody production varied based on severity of symptoms: 96% of participants who had severe symptoms were found to have IgG antibodies compared to 89% with mild to moderate symptoms and 79% who were asymptomatic.

"Neurological changes, including brain fog and problems with memory or vision, were infrequent among infected participants but did tend to last for many months when they occurred. Notably, having persistent symptoms was also associated with having higher

antibody levels over time. We know from other research that vaccination further enhances immune protection and sometimes even helps ease long-term symptoms," a Rutgers University press release quoted co-lead author Daniel B Horton as saying.

Co-lead author Emily S. Barrett was quoted as saying: "It is normal for anti-

body levels to decline over time. Nevertheless, IgG antibodies provide long-term protection to help the body fight reinfection."

The study recruited people before they were diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection and evaluated people across a spectrum of illness severity, providing broader insight into antibody response over the long term.

Source: Rutgers University

SIMPLY PUT

The Taliban war chest

Where did the Taliban find funds to sustain themselves over a two-decade war with the US? With the Americans gone and the Afghan opposition collapsed, what military assets do the Taliban have?

KRISHN KAUSHIK

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

IN RETURNING to power in Kabul over the weekend, the Taliban demonstrated both the success of a lightning military offensive against Afghanistan's then government, as well as their remarkable resilience in the face of onslaughts by the world's most powerful military for 20 years.

When they were driven out of Kabul in November 2001, the Taliban had been in power for a little over five years, and in existence for only seven. What makes them the fighting force that outlasted the United States in its longest ever war, and defeated the Afghans who received equipment and training worth over \$80 billion from the Americans? Where have the Taliban found the funds to sustain themselves over a twodecade war with an adversary with almost limitless resources?

Flourishing drug trade

In a May 2020 report, the United Nations Security Council estimated that "overall Taliban annual combined revenues range from \$300 million to upwards of \$1.5 billion per annum". It said that while the figures for 2019 were lower, officials "were careful to note that the Taliban used resources effectively and efficiently and were not experiencing a cash crisis".

The primary source of the Taliban's funds has been the drug trade, as report after report has shown over two decades. Their income suffered in recent years because of the "reduction in poppy cultivation and revenue, less taxable income from aid and development projects, and increased spending on "governance" projects", the UNSC report said.

However, "while heroin cultivation and production have provided the bulk of Taliban revenue for many years, the emergence of methamphetamine in Afghanistan is giving impetus to a major new drug industry with significant profit margins," the report noted.

According to the report, "interdiction of methamphetamine was first recorded by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2014 (9 kg) and has continued on a sharp upward trajectory, with 650 kg interdicted in the first half of 2019". Methamphetamine, the report said, "was stated to be more profitable than heroin because its ingredients are low-cost and it does not require large laboratories".

The Taliban, it said, "were reported to be in control of 60 per cent of methamphetamine laboratories in the key producing provinces of Farah and Nimruz".

The report quoted officials as saying "the system of heroin smuggling and taxation organised by the Taliban...stretched across eight of Nangarhar's southern districts from Hisarak to Dur Baba, on the border with Pakistan".

"In each district, smugglers paid a tax to district Taliban commanders of 200 Pakistan rupees (approximately \$1.30), or its equivalent in afghanis, per kilogram of heroin. Smugglers were provided documentation by each Taliban commander certifying payment of tax before proceeding to the next district and repeating the same process. Afghan officials stated that the smuggling routes thus helped to financially empower each district Taliban commander.'

In a report published last year, UNODC said "Afghanistan, the country where most opium is produced, which has accounted for approximately 84 per cent of global opium production over the past five years, supplies markets in neighbouring countries. Europe the Near and Middle East, South Asia and Africa and to a small degree North America (notably Canada) and Oceania."



US Army soldiers walk through a poppy field near Zangabad village in 2009. The primary source of Taliban funding has been the drug trade, including from heroin and methamphetamine, besides opium. The New York Times

Mining, taxes, donations

In September 2020, Radio Free Europe reported on a confidential report commissioned by NATO, which concluded that the Taliban "has achieved, or is close to achieving, financial and military independence", which "enables [it] to self-fund its insurgency without the need for support from governments or citizens of other countries". Besides the illicit drug trade — overseen

by Mullah Muhammad Yaqoob, the son of

THE FALL OF

KABUL TO

WHAT IT MEANS

FOR INDIA

A SERIES

Taliban founder Mullah Muhammad Omar, a shadowy figure who is expected to play an important role in the new government — the Taliban had "expanded its financial power in recent years through increased profits from illegal mining and exports", the report

It estimated that the militant movement earned "a staggering US \$1.6 billion" in the year ending March 2020. Of this, \$ 416 million came from the drug trade; over \$ 450 million from the illegal mining of iron ore, marble, copper,

gold, zinc, and rare earth metals; and \$ 160 Persian Gulf nations. To launder the money it earned, it imported and exported consumer goods worth \$ 240 million. The Taliban also own properties worth \$ 80 million in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the report said.

Weapons from Pak and loot

The Taliban do not appear to have had any dearth of weapons to fight the Afghan and US forces. Support from Pakistan has always been key, but the Taliban did not rely on any single source of arms and ammunition.

Journalists such as Gretchen Peters, Steve Coll, and others have repeatedly pointed to the support of the ISI and Pakistan army to the Taliban, directly and through the Haqqani network, a sprawling Islamist mafia based in Pakistan's tribal areas and in Afghanistan, comprising fighters, extremist religious schools, and shady businesses with powerful connections to Arab countries in the Gulf and in Pakistan. American leaders and generals have openly accused Pakistan of diverting to the Taliban funds that it received to fight against the fundamentalist movement.

There are other players too. In September 2017, then Afghan Army Chief General Sharif Yaftali told the BBC that he had documents to prove that Iran was "supplying weapons and military equipment to the Taliban in western

A November 2019 report by the US Defense Intelligence Agency noted that since "at least 2007, Iran has provided calibrated

support - including weapons, training, and funding — to the Taliban to counter US and Western influence in Afghanistan, combat ISIS-Khorasan, and increase Tehran's influence in any post-reconciliation government".

The US has also accused Russia of supporting the Taliban, but there is little evidence of that.

Beyond these external avenues, the Taliban has also been able to arm itself with the weapons and ammunition that the US has provided to the Afghan forces over the years.

America's Special Inspector General for million from extortion and taxes in the areas Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), a and on the highways it controlled. It also got Congress-backed watchdog, noted in an \$ 240 million in donations, largely from analysis in 2013 that nearly 43 per cent of the firearms - 2,03,888 of the 4,74,823 - provided to the Afghan forces were unaccounted for. "Given the Afghan government's limited ability to account for or properly dispose of these weapons, there is a real potential for these weapons to fall into the hands of insurgents, which will pose additional risks to US personnel, the ANSF, and Afghan civilians," the analysis said.

US military assets with Taliban

No figures are available for what kind of American military assets, and in what numbers, have fallen into Taliban hands.

The US Government Accountability Office said in a report in 2017 that between 2003 and 2016 the US funded 75,898 vehicles, 5,99,690 weapons, 208 aircraft, and 16,191 pieces of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance equipment for the Afghan forces.

In the last few years, 7,000 machine guns, 4,700 Humvees, and over 20,000 grenades have been given to the Afghan forces, SIGAR

SIGAR's July quarterly report mentioned that the Afghan Air Force had a total of 167 aircraft, including jets and helicopters that were "usable/in-country" as of June 30. This included 23 A-19 aircraft, 10 AC-208 aircraft, 23 C-208 aircraft, and three C-130 aircraft, besides 32 Mi-17, 43 MD-530, and 33 UH-60 helicopters.

On August 17, two days after the Taliban took control of Kabul, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said, "We don't have a complete picture, obviously, of where every article of defence materials has gone but certainly, a fair amount of it has fallen into the hands of the Taliban."

Stijn Mitzer and Joost Oliemans, conflict analysts specialising in modern-day weaponry and military tactics who have worked for websites such as Janes, Bellingcat and NK News, have used open-source intelligence to track the equipment that is proven to have fallen into Taliban's hands. According to them, the Taliban now pos-

sess two warjets, 24 helicopters, and seven Boeing Insitu ScanEagle Unmanned Vehicles that were with the Afghan forces earlier. Additionally, according to them, between June and August 14 the Taliban captured 12 tanks, 51 armoured fighting vehicles, 61 artillery and mortar, eight anti-aircraft guns, and 1,980 trucks, jeeps, and vehicles, including over 700 Humvees.

All of this — in addition to the fact that the forces of the erstwhile Afghan government have surrendered everywhere in the country and the old Northern Alliance opposition is a shadow of its former self — makes the Taliban more powerful than it ever was. It is now "much more militarily powerful", Jonathan Schroden, a military operations analyst who directs the Countering Threats and Challenges Program at the CNA Corporation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and analysis organization based in Arlington, Virginia, told The Indian Express. "It effectively converts them from a lightly armed guerrilla movement to a pseudo-conventional army."

According to Dr Schroden, among the military equipment that the Taliban now has, the D-30 howitzers are probably the most lethal. "It is concerning both as a waste of US taxpayer money and as a potential source of weapons for the myriad terrorist groups that have ties to the Taliban." he said.

And "there is a non-zero possibility of groups like al-Qaeda or the Pakistani Taliban getting their hands on some of the weapons."

The making of Hindustan-228, HAL aircraft for commercial transport

AKSHEEV THAKUR

BENGALURU, AUGUST 20

ON AUGUST 15, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) carried out a successful ground run and low-speed taxi trials of a commercial aircraft, Hindustan-228, for type certification by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Why is this important?

While HAL produced the Hindustan Trainer-2 and its variant the Hindustan Propulsion Trainer 32 (HPT-32) for the Indian Air Force six decades ago, and more recently the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) for the IAF, the Indian aviation sector had not produced any civil transport aircraft earlier.

The 19-seat Hindustan-228 or the Do-228 is India's first major attempt in India to develop a small civilian transport aircraft after the 14-seater Saras aircraft development programme at the National Aeronautics Laboratory (NAL) was shelved in 2009 on account of multiple problems.

What will be its role?

Small civilian aircraft will be an essential element of the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) scheme that the Centre is attempting to put in place for regional connectivity. Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said recently that the government aims to set up 1,000 new air routes and establish 100 new airports.

"Two civil demonstrators of Do-228 have already been made and are ready to be deployed in the Northeast and Uttar Pradesh, the two places where we want to start the UDAN scheme," HAL chairman R Madhavan said this week.

The Hindustan-228 has been conceived as a multirole utility aircraft for VIP transport, passenger transport, air ambulance, flight inspection roles, cloud seeding, recreational activities like para jumping, aerial surveillance, photography, remote sensing and cargo transport. With a maximum cruise speed of 428 km/hr and a range of 700 km/hr, the aircraft is capable of night flying. HAL is also looking forward to exporting the aircraft to countries



The aircraft has successfully completed trials for DGCA type certification. Express

How is the aircraft designed?

It is built on the existing frame of the German Dornier 228 defence transport aircraft used by the defence forces. In February 2020, HAL received the modification document for the HAL Do-228 upgraded civil aircraft from the DGCA. Two civil Do-228s produced by HAL for launch under UDAN have a

maximum takeoff weight of 6,200 kg. For a transport aircraft to be flyable under the Commercial Pilot Licence category, HAL has to reduce the weight below 5,700 kg.

The HALDo-228-201 (upgraded) civil aircraft is equipped with a digital cockpit.

At what stage is its development for

civilian use?

The Do-228 has fulfilled the requirement of a Light Transport Aircraft (LTA) within the HAL has produced 125 Dornier-228s un-

der licence at its Kanpur facility since 1983. On December 26, 2017, the DGCA cleared HAL Do-228 to be used for civilian flights. The Kanpur facility is now manufacturing Hindustan-228s to support UDAN.

On May 27, the first ground run of the first prototype was carried out, followed by last week's ground trials and low-speed taxi trials for DGCA type certification, which in turn will help get international certification. HAL Chairman R Madhavan told The Indian Express: "The international certification has been taken up parallelly. DGCA is onboard with us. We will go for a high speed trial very soon and will certify the aircraft. Once this is done, it becomes more usable."

What is the status of the Saras project?

The project was halted following a crash on March 6, 2009 that killed three test pilots. By then, the second prototype had flown 45 times, and had even been presented at Aero India 2009 — a few days before it crashed. In 2017, the government asked NAL to re-

vive development of its 14-seat Saras Mk2 aircraft under the UDAN scheme. The project was revived after analysis revealed the crash was a result of procedural lapses and not due to technical issues.

The Saras, a twin turboprop aircraft, was initiated in the 1990s but was constantly plagued by controversies. The first prototype, which flew on May 29, 2004 was nearly 993 kg overweight on a proposed 4,125 kg. The aircraft flew nearly 125 flights. Subsequently, an engine change cut the weight in the second prototype, but the aircraft crashed in 2009. A third prototype that was closer to the 4125 kg mark was then in the pipeline.

The development of Saras is projected as a precursor to the development of a proposed 70-seat Regional Transport Aircraft involving NAL and HAL that was initiated in 2013 but was subsequently shelved with HAL focussing on modifying the Dornier-228 aircraft.

End of free run

Parkour, an outlet for Afghan youth from the country's war-ravaged past, suffers a hammer blow with Taliban's return to power

GAURAV BHATT

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 20

HOLED UP in a dormitory in Kabul, Qudrat Frotan breaks down remembering the last time he stepped outside. The 23-year-old was among the desperate Afghans who swarmed the international airport on Monday to escape the country after the Taliban captured the capital. An explosion, the resulting stampede and injuries to his roommate made Frotan retreat.

"My friend has 16 stitches on his head. His right arm is broken. I saw two girls lying on the ground but no one dared to pick them up and take them to the hospital," Frotan tells The Indian Express. "I rushed back to the dormitory and haven't left. I am like a prisoner. All I'm hearing is that the Taliban are inspecting houses and people on their list are being taken away.

Frotan has reason to be worried.

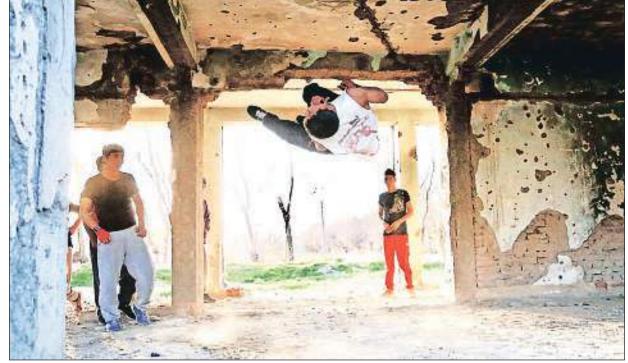
"We worked for peace and equality among the boys and girls of Afghanistan through parkour. That is against the will of the Taliban, and anything against their will is punished.

Frotan, one of the architects of Afghanistan's vibrant parkour scene, taught young acrobats to jump, roll, vault over and under the obstacles in the urbanscape. In 2018, he founded the Afghan Parkour Society which organised workshops and shows in 18 provinces. Last year, he was adjudged 'Peace Ambassador' by the International Parkour Federation.

"I don't think we will be able to work with Afghan youth anymore," Frotan says. "Most of our active members have gone to Iran, Pakistan... I am scared and waiting for help. If nothing happens, I will have to go to Iran illegally."

From its roots in military training in pre-World War I France, parkour, or free-running, evolved into an underground extreme sport, then a metaphysical martial art, before becoming the latest fitness craze among gym rats. Its exponents are part of Madonna's dance troupe and James Bond's rogues' gallery. They are subjects of documentaries and YouTube videos of daredevilry and one-upmanship.

In Afghanistan, however, parkour meant freedom. The practitioners, currently running away and laying low, have spent their lives running through obstacles and never staying still. The streets patrolled by gunmen now were a playground and canvas rolled into one. Wide-eyed pedestrians and motorists stopped to watch as the groups scaled drainage pipes and backflipped off walls.



THEN AND NOW: Children in Kabul practise Parkour as a part of a workshop organised by the Afghan Parkour Society that was formed in 2018 by Qudrat Frotan (right, top). (Right, below) Frotan with his friend who had stitches on his head.

Kabul was the friendly neighbourhood and the pioneers of parkour its Spider-Men.

The kids really admired us. They would tell us, 'You are jumping, flying like Spider-Man'," Jamil Shirzad affords a weak laugh. "They saw the cartoons and films and witnessed the stunts in real life. That inspired

Shirzad, 28, founded the Kabul Boys Parkour close to a decade ago. What began as a three-man operation grew to include 60 members. The group's progress has been catalogued by several documentaries.

"We made motivational videos for those who are really hopeless in Afghanistan. We performed for kids in orphanages and on live television. There were competitive events as well," says Shirzad. "The talent in Afghanistan attracted foreign journalists, parkour athletes to come here and make documentaries. We filmed with BBC, Voice of America, Discovery. Journalists and parkour enthusiasts from Czech Republic, Germany, China, Japan, Pakistan and Iran came to visit us.'

Attracting the youth

With great power, came great respon-

"Parkour was about introducing a new sport to the youth and also to show the positive side of Afghanistan to the world,"

My friend has 16 stitches on his head. His right arm is broken. I saw two girls lying on the ground but no one dared to pick them up and take them to the hospital... I am like a prisoner. We worked for peace and equality among the boys and girls of Afghanistan through parkour. That is against the will of the Taliban, and anything against their will is punished."

QUDRAT FROTAN FOUNDER, AFGHAN PARKOUR SOCIETY

With a lack of gym and training facilities, Afghan parkour took to the war ruins on the edge of Kabul. Scaling and leaping from one point to another in the dilapidated buildings served two purposes: tougher 'obstacle courses' and reminders of the nation's strife-

"The youth of Afghanistan didn't want to go back to the bitter history. These wars in Afghanistan had left everyone traumatised. They were all looking for peace and freedom, which they found in parkour," says Frotan. "Young people were very frustrated and

there was no trust among them. Everyone was facing psychological challenges. By doing parkour, they learned how to get over the mental blocks as well as the problems in their lives. Thinking is the solution, not violence."

The parkour collective was also a fight for gender equality; the groups believe that the act of teaching women has made them targets. "We fought for gender rights, to train girls

to be active, to train girls in self-defence. They would perform on the streets," says Shirzad "It was about going towards a better future and a better life but that dream has been shattered. We are living in a nightmare now."

As of Friday evening, Shirzad hasn't slept in 60 hours. Like the rest of his Kabul Boys Parkour colleagues, he too is in hiding. The days are spent awaiting calls from his mother and siblings and directing his teammates to different, safer locations.

"In Taliban's minds, we were breakdancing, free-running with foreigners and journalists. We were introducing the culture to them, which is out of Islam. That we were informing them," he says. "They are with their cars everywhere, carrying guns. It is a very scary situation for us and our only dream is survival right now."





Tough times

Survival, even day-to-day, is challenging. "There's no market for the vendors. There's no food on the table of poor people. The banks are closed, ATMs are closed. Everything's frozen. Nobody has any cash. To even get some food is becoming difficult. We have four hours of electricity and the internet is very expensive. There's no way of staying connected with each other."

Shirzad says he is taking a risk every time he posts on Instagram, asking for helping hands and safe passage. The parkour fraternity has been supportive but the group requires tangible assistance.

"I will be a loser leader if I leave Afghanistan before my members. The embassies are only evacuating those who work with them. We were activists for sports, we were activists for gender rights, we were activists for motivating the youth, performing and teaching free of cost. But we will not be considered.'

Shirzad spent years teaching a mantra to the Afghan youth: "you can jump over any obstacle." He admits the current challenge seems insurmountable.

"As a leader, I cannot accept failure. But the reality is that this isn't just the end of parkour in Afghanistan. It feels like the end

U-20 Worlds: Shaili Singh tops qualies, makes long jump final

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NAIROBI, AUGUST 20

UP AND coming long jumper Shaili Singh lived up to the expectations as she made it to the finals after topping the qualification round with an effort of 6.40m in the U-20 World Athletics Championships here on Friday.

The 17-year-old Shaili, considered one of the brightest upcoming stars in Indian athletics, achieved her best of the day in her third and final jump after starting off with a 6.34m in Group B. Her second jump recorded 5.98m.

She was one of three long jumpers who secured automatic qualification, set at 6.35m, for the final. She would have made the grade on the strength of her opening effort of 6.34m but chose to strain every sinew on her last attempt to gain the psychological edge going into Sunday's final.

Shaili is considered a medal prospect but the final is expected to be a tough affair with some of the world's best making the cut. Sweden's 18-year-old Maja Askag, who

had won the European U-20 title last month, qualified as second best overall after winning Group A with a best jump of 6.39m. Lissandra Maysa Campos (6.36m) of

Brazil, Shantae Foreman (6.27m) of Jamaica and Mariia Horielova (6.24m) of Ukraine, who qualified as third, fourth and fifth respectively. have jumped beyond 6.40m this season.

Shaili, who had won the long jump event at the National (Senior) Inter-State Championships in June with an effort of 6.48m, is the current U-18 world No. 2 and U-20 national record holder.

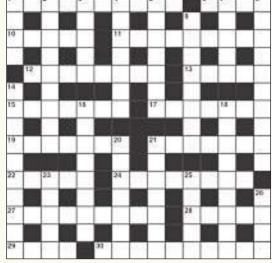
The Jhansi-born athlete was raised by a single mother who worked as a tailor. She currently trains at the academy of celebrated long jumper Anju Bobby George in Bengaluru. She is coached by Anju's husband Bobby George. In men's javelin throw final, Kunwar Ajai Raj Singh Rana raised hopes of winning a medal briefly with his second best throw of the year before finishing fifth.

The 19-year-old Rana rose to the bronze medal position with his 73.68m fourth round throw, his best of the day, but Nigeria's Chnecherem Nnamdi regained the third place with a 74.48m response.

In the fifth round, Poland's Eryk Kolodziejczak also bettered the Indian's best throw to nudge ahead of Rana to fourth place. Another Indian in the fray, Jay Kumar took the sixth place with a best effort of 70.74m.

In other events, Nandini Agasara made it to the women's 100m hurdles semifinals after finishing fourth in her heat in 14.18 seconds. Though she clocked a faster 14.16 seconds in the semifinals, her journey ended there as she was sixth in her semifi-

CROSSWORD 4514



ACROSS

1 Reserve player is being considered (10) 6 A cat scrap (4) 10 Woolly animal is all over mother (5) 11 Serious actor skilled at reading parts (9)

12 Example of fashionable attitude (8) 13 Uncommon Elgar variation (5) 15 Possibly flies in groups (7) 17 Pay trio for putting the shrubbery into shape (7) 19 His mark was made in India (7) 21 Bird pecked another (7)

(5) 24 They have some point in the desert(8) 27 Costly farmer writers I've gathered together (9)

22 Set method of communication

30 It's very well known to have

28 Consumer items that are cut and polished (5) 29 Not quick or not quick enough had a festival (10)

DOWN

1 It's not fair (4) 2 Doing as is required for identification (9) 3 Trace out a way to respond 4 Aunt set about making a

5 The talk of the district 7 Object made of thin string

8 Putting down some of the main dangers of war (10)

9 Pet cried out on its last legs 14 Twisted killer bent on finding Peter Pan's friend (6,4) 16 Mixed Asian settlement (8) 18 Change for the better? (9) 20 A loathsome creature - repel it

perhaps (7) 21 Be sure about including a thousand Easterners (7) 23 HQ of the French vessel (5) 25 Mother making the final move?(5)

26 Drop woman a note (4)

Solutions Crossword 4513: Across: 1 Reproof, 5 Pedal, 8 Corpulent, 9 Pat, 10 Ribs, 12 Novelist, 14 Arrive, 15 Scraps, 17 Duty call, 18 Herb, 21 Nun, 22 In the dark, 24 Arson, 25 Hotspur. Down: 1 Recur, 2 Par, 3 Onus, 4 Faeroe, 5 Patience, 6 Duplicate, 7 Litotes, 11 Baritones, 13 Eviction, 14 Addenda, 16 Clutch, 19 Baker, 20 Rest, 23 Amp.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis









CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson

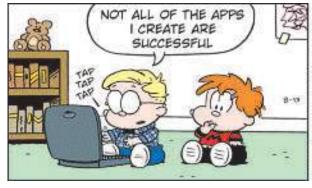








MARVIN by Tom Armstrong

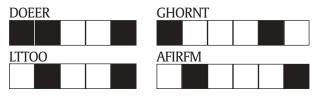




JUMBLED WORDS

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

vels resemble life. - George Sand (4,5)



Answer: Life resembles a novel more often than novels resemble life. - George Sand SOLUTION: ERODE, LOTTO, THRONG, AFFIRM

Difficulty Level 3s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9

DOOK

must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

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

					200			-
8								6
	8			5			4	
2								7
	6			9			2	
1						2		9
		2	6		4	1		
	3		9		8		5	

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4569 2 3 6 5 7 3 2 6 9 4 8 1 6 3 8 2 5 9 4 6 9 7 3 5 7 9 9 1 7 283 4 6 9 7 1 5 8 3 2 2 5 8 3 9 6 7 1 4 7 3 1 8 2 4 6 9 5

DAY TODAY

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) In the past, you hesitated in the face of seductive proposals, but you may now feel free to accept fresh offers of a social or romantic nature. Take heart

from the fact that Venus' changing position in your solar horoscope is about to bring new and attractive people into

life-improving.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21) You can now afford to relax a little. Six planets are acting in your defence, not a bad total considering recent stresses and strains. Your social life is liable to revolve around hobbies and joint interests, and activities which are generally worthwhile and

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) Mars' approaching relationship with Neptune obliges you to look around for fresh inspiration. Romantic influences are stronger than usual, though in a much broader sense than the purely emotional, Artistic and

imaginative types are bound to

feel the real benefits of

recent initiatives.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) The Moon is rapidly heading towards lively, energetic spaces. Enjoy to the full the next couple of days, while the accent remains on friendships and welcome

domestic experiences. You must stress the value of a pleasant environment for your future happiness. LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23) Your stars just don't seem to be able to

take their gaze away from your money. Before the next phase or cycle in your affairs, you must get your finances sorted out. There will be much to say about your cash situation, your incomings and outgoings, over the next month or so.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23) These are energetic times. Whether

working, relaxing or pressing on with routine chores, you should push yourself as hard as you can. But don't expect other, more lethargic people to keep up. And don't worry about delays - they're part of

BY PETER VIDAL LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23) Much of what is said

or implied over the

likely to be based on unfounded rumour or conjecture, and should therefore be disregarded. On the other hand, this evening you will be forced to listen to other people, like it

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You must be on the



should be coming into perspective. You are set up to spend a pleasant weekend, and the closer you feel to a particular person, the greater you will appreciate their sensitivity and discretion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Jan. 20) Society has set the

weekend aside as the time to relax. It is therefore rather fortuitous that the pleasurable fifth house of your solar chart is so well aspected. You

are well primed for an enjoyable day, with an increasing chance of an extravagant outburst.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)

You might want to pause for a long, deep breath. Recent events may have left you poorer than you were before, yet undoubtedly wiser. Such fluctuations in fortune are part and parcel of astrology's cyclical nature, and

of prosperity. AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19) What took place last week seems to have upset a

the next phase will be one

number of personal arrangements. However, as one awkward planetary influence has subsided, so

another, more favourable, one has emerged to take its place. Socially the future is bright, so get out and enjoy yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20) You do feel that you have been misled or

misinformed. However, such feelings may be based less on real events than on your perpetual tendency to grab the wrong end of the stick as far as other

Chandigarh

people are concerned. Try

focusing on the facts for

Chelsea winger Christian Pulisic has tested positive for COVID-19 less than two weeks before United States players begin reporting for camp ahead of their 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign. AP

Rasool wants BCCI to step in, says being forced to think about future

DEVENDRA PANDEY MUMBAI, AUGUST 20

A DAY after The Indian Express reported on the notice to all-rounder Parvez Rasool by Jammu and Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA), asking him to return the pitch roller or face "police action", the cricketer says he feels "victimised" and wants the Indian cricket board to "intervene now" before things get out of hand.

"They said police action will be taken. Then in the mail, they said, do we have enough proof to nail him down. Does that mean you have come here to nail me down? Their intention looks different," Rasool, the lone J&K player to represent the Indian team, told this paper on Friday.

The 32-year-old all-rounder stated he got even more upset when one of the officials wrote on a social website that Rasool needs

Wouldn't change

anything for the

himself. As per Rasool, the official deleted his comment later.

'The official deleted it but I have the screenshot of it. Can anyone tell me what wrong I have done that I need to be hanged? If you have any doubts, they have my phone number, they can call me. It took mere seconds to clarify but it seems they wanted to victimize me," he explains.

The IKCA committee of ad-PARVEZ RASOOL ministrators came into existence in June after the Jammu and Kashmir High Court passed an order that the BCCI should run JKCA cricket.

One month later, two BJP spokespersons Gupta and advocate Sunil Sethi – were appointed to the panel, along with cricketer Mithun Manhas by the Indian board.

Additionally, Majid Dar was appointed to

to be given a longer rope so that he hangs look into the development of cricket at Srinagar and report to the sub-committee. Rasool narrates his side of the story about

the notice. "Roller is not like a tennis ball that I can keep in my pocket and roam wherever I want to. It's for ground use, it's for cricket development. I really don't why these things are happening here. I got a 'second

notice' which stated that we had sent you a notice on 5th of July." However, Rasool says he never received the initial notice. Gupta, a sub-committee mem-

ber, said, Rasool was sent the notice via email because the cricketer's contact details were given for the district cricket unit.

Rasool questions the intention behind the notice. "They said that it's in their record book, if it was there in the record book then why was I not sent first notice, instead I was

thought. There must be a receipt with them? If you feel someone is not using it properly, then, you write to them and not to a cricketer who has nothing to do with this. I don't get the point why they wrote me a mail especially as I have nothing to do with this. Write to the district officials.'

The recent events have made Rasool think about his future with JKCA. He was deeply anguished with the way things are happening in the valley.

"I have played cricket with passion and hard work. They are now forcing me to think about my future. I have come here to play cricket and not to do all this. Playing in this environment looks very tough now. If they have done this to me imagine what they can do with smaller players" he said.

These days he is busy promoting cricket back in his town Bijbehara in the Anantnag district. He is sponsoring young cricketers to

The district is the only venue which has turf pitches while cricket is played on matting tracks elsewhere in the region. His district wanted to organize a cricket tournament but JKCA issued a circular that those who are part of an unsanctioned cricket tournament will be banned by the association.

Other tournaments got the go ahead despite Covid-19 restrictions. "There were other tournaments happening, some were happening on mat wickets. A few districts later approached JKCA saying that as their tournament is already on, they should be allowed to conclude it. The JKCA agreed to it but when we asked they said no, due to the Covid-19 situation they couldn't allow us to host the tournament. We are still waiting for approval from JKCA" he said.

Rasool now wants the Indian board to intervene. "I think BCCI should intervene now. Please see my work. I'm trying to promote

BRIEFLY —

Bhateri, Devi settle for silver at Jr. worlds

Ufa: A gold medal remained elusive for India at the junior world wrestling championship as both Bhateri (65kg) and Sanju Devi (62kg) lost their respective finals rather tamely while Saneh (72kg) was stretchered out of the mat after enduring a knee injury in the bronze play-off here on Friday. Sanju Devi had managed comeback wins in her previous bouts but Friday was not her day as Russia's Alina Kasabieva took the gold with a technical superiority win. Kasabieva first effected a take down move and then got a two-point throw. There was still hope but once the Russian got hold of Sanju's leg and got the desired grip to execute 'fitley', there was no chance for the Indian to come back. PTI

Stadium to be named after Chopra

Pune: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Pune's Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) and Army Sports Institute (ASI) on August 23 and is likely to name a facility here after Olympic javelin gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, officials said on Friday. A release from the Defence PRO said Singh, during his visit to Army Sports Institute, is likely to name the stadium in the campus as 'Neeraj Chopra Army Sports Institute, Pune Cantonment'. Chopra, a Naik Subedar in the Army who won gold in the javelin competition in the recently-concluded Tokyo Olympics, had himself trained at the ASI. As per the release, Singh will felicitate 16 Olympians from the Services during his visit to ASI, apart from addressing troops and sportsmen training at the premier facility. PTI

Matthews left out of contract list

Colombo: Eighteen Sri Lankan cricketers on Friday signed central contracts for five months till the end of this year but former captain Angelo Matthews was left out. Sri Lanka Cricket announced that the "players signed the contracts without any deviation from the contracts offered previously, which was formulated by SLC along with the Technical Advisory Committee". "18 players signed the National Player Contracts, which came into effect from 01st August 2021. The new contract will be for a 05 month period and will end on the 31st December 2021," the SLC said in a statement. PTI

Cairns is off life support after surgery

Karachi: Former New Zealand alland is recovering following a heart surgery, his lawyer said on Friday. Cairns had suffered a major medical emergency - an aortic dissection - earlier this month and was put on life support. Aortic dissection is a serious condition in which a tear happens in the inner layer of the body's main artery. "I'm pleased to advise that Chris is off life support and has been able to communicate with his family from hospital in Sydney," his lawyer Aaron Lloyd said in a statement. "He and his family are thankful for all of the support and well wishes from everyone, and for the privacy they have been afforded." PTI

2021 ends for Nadal

Chronic left-foot injury sees Spaniard pull out of US Open, to miss rest of season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

anything, she's leaning into it.

world: Biles

SIMONE BILES didn't plan for her second Olympics to become a flashpoint in the evolving conversation about the role proper mental health plays in all levels of sports. Then again, she's hardly complaining. If

The American gymnastics star has no regrets about her decision to opt-out of five of the six finals in Tokyo because of a mental block, calling it a small price to pay if it lets others realize they retain the right to say "it's OK not to be OK" no matter how bright the spotlight. "I wouldn't change anything for the world," said Biles, who left Japan with a silver medal from the team competition and an individual bronze on balance beam. "I gave an outlet for athletes to speak up about their mental health and their well-being and learn that you can put yourself (as a person) first before the athlete.'

It's a message that will be part of the post-Olympic Gold Over America Tour Biles is headlining this fall. The 35-city exhibition, which kicks off in Tucson, Arizona, on September 21, will incorporate gymnastics and dance elements but also feature a segment led by former UCLA gymnast Katelyn Ohashi on the importance of taking care of yourself mentally

"We wanted to make it as relatable as possible and let these kids know that we've been going through these things," Biles said.

Biles will be joined on Tour by Olympic teammates Jordan Chiles and Grace McCallum as well as MyKayla Skinner and Jade Carey. Chiles and McCallum earned a silver in the team competition while Skinner won silver on vault and Carey earned gold on floor exercise. Biles qualified for the finals on all four apparatuses in Japan but pulled out of them to deal with "the twistie meaning she lost her air awareness and didn't feel it was safe to compete.

She returned to capture a bronze on beam, tying her with Shannon Miller for the most career Olympic medals by an American gymnast (seven). Asked if she had any clarity on what might have brought on "the twisties," Biles thinks it may have been the buildup of various issues she's faced over the last several years. "I mean, I'm in therapy. I go to therapy pretty religiously," she said. "And it's just something that took hold of me (where) your body and your mind tells you

when enough is enough.' While Biles' decision received the predictable backlash on social media, she called the support she's received since returning from Japan two weeks ago overwhelming.

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY AUGUST 20

RAFAEL NADAL announced on Friday that he was withdrawing from this year's US Open and would miss the rest of the 2021 season because of the chronic left-foot condition that has troubled him intermittently since

"I have been suffering too much with my foot for the last year now," Nadal said in a video posted on social media.

Nadal, 35 and a four-time U.S. Open champion, most recently won the singles title in New York in 2019. He defeated Daniil Medvedev in a five-set classic and then unusually broke down in tears courtside in his chair as he watched a commemorative video honoring his career.

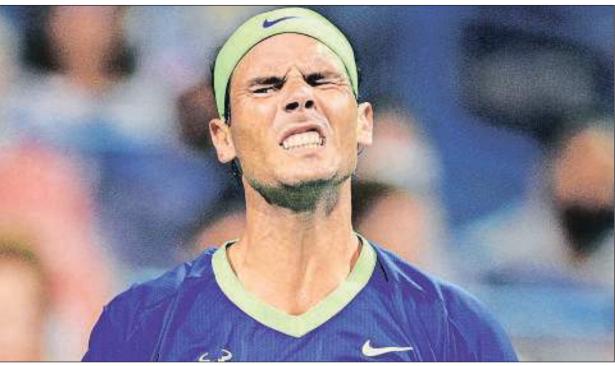
But Nadal chose not to defend his title last year when the U.S. Open was played without spectators and with significant health restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year, after losing in the semifinals of the French Open to Novak Djokovic, Nadal did not play at Wimbledon or the Olympics as he tried to resolve his foot problem. He returned to action in Washington this month, but his movement was clearly still affected by the injury as he defeated Jack Sock in his opening match and then lost to Lloyd Harris in the next round.

Nadal traveled to Toronto but withdrew from the Masters 1000 event there and returned home to Spain to weigh his options.

"I needed to talk with my family, with my team and with my doctors especially to understand what is going on," the fourthranked Nadal said on Friday. "But the foot is not the proper way today and during the last year I was not able to practice and prepare myself the way I need to to be competitive at ne standard I want to be Sow that decision, but I am confident that I will recover myself 100 percent and I will be able to fight again for the most important things."

Nadal's left-foot condition first hampered him on tour during the 2004 season when he was 17 years old, forcing him to miss much of the clay court season. That delayed his debut at the French Open to 2005, when he won the first of his record 13 singles titles at Roland Garros. Nadal's withdrawal means that for the second straight year, he and Federer will miss the U.S. Open.

Federer, 40, announced last week that he would miss the rest of the 2021 season and would need a fourth knee surgery. Dominic Thiem, who won the U.S. Open last year, has a right wrist injury and is also out for the remainder of the season. NYT



Nadal's left-foot condition first hampered him on tour during the 2004 season when he was 17 years old.

How injuries have been part and parcel of Rafa's illustrious career

SHAHID JUDGE

Barely a week after Roger Federer said he would miss the rest of the 2021 season, Rafael Nadal too has opted out because of injury.

What is the injury that has forced Nadal out for the season? The Spaniard has been strug-

gling with a chronic problem to his left foot, an ailment that has plagued him throughout this career. Nadal missed most of the 2005 clay season due to the stress fracture on his left foot, but recovered in time to make his debut at the French Open, which he won

Is this the first major injury he's suffered from in his career?

Now in his 20th year as a professional (he

turned pro in 2001), Nadal's career has been riddled with injuries despite the 88 titles he's won along the way. Along with the left foot missed the 2012 US Open and 2013 ad repetitive troubles with his left shoulder and tendonitis on both knees. He was forced out of the 2016 French Open because of a torn tendon in his left wrist (his

playing arm). Earlier this year, he missed playing the ATP Cup for Spain because of stiffness in his back which also affected his Australian Open campaign.

Is this the the first time he will miss a Grand Slam due to injury?

No. Since winning his first ever Grand Slam at the French Open in 2005, the upcoming US Open will be the seventh time he's skipped competing at a Major due to injury. This will be the fourth time in his career that he's missed the New York event though three times due to injury.

out of the Wimbledon Championships. He Australian Open due to Hoff his left knee. He skipped the US Open in 2014 due to troubles with his right wrist, and then the torn tendon he suffered at the 2016 French Open kept him out of Wimbledon that year. He did not travel to the US Open to defend his title in 2020 due to safety concerns as the Covid-19 pandemic raged on. Now the same foot problem that first diagnosed 16 years ago kept him out of Wimbledon and the US Open this year.

What has Nadal's 2021 season been like?

Nadal did manage to win two tour titles - the ATP 500 event in Barcelona and the ATP 1000 Rome Masters in May. In the Majors, he reached the Australian Open quarterfinals, but was upset by Novak Diokovic in the French Open semi-finals.

INTERVIEW: BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN

'My allegation against TOPS is they directly oversee training decisions'

MIHIR VASAVDA DELHI, AUGUST 20

BRIJ BHUSHAN Sharan Singh, the president of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), said he wants to make an example of wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who was served a show-cause for allegedly refusing to stay with the Indian team at the Tokyo Olympics and not wearing the team's official uniform for her bouts. Singh also demanded a bigger say in the planning for the Paris Olympics while accusing the Target Olympic Podium Scheme as well as private bodies like the Olympic Gold Quest and JSW Sports for sidelining the federation. Excerpts from an

Has there been further progress on the issue related to Vinesh?

We have referred it to our disciplinary committee, which will call Vinesh, Sonam and Divya Kakran. It's easy to say 'I've made mistake'. But what made you commit that mistake, and why? These are senior wrestlers. Vinesh has replied through her lawyer and

said she did not stay with the Indian team for the betterment of the other wrestlers so that they don't get exposed to the virus. Okay, maybe it was for others' good. But then why didn't she wear the (official) kit? Because of that mistake, she has to know what all I had to undergo, what happened to me.

What happened to you?

After Deepak Punia's incident happened, when his coach beat up one official, I had to appear before a commission that had members from the United World Wrestling and International Olympic Committee. I had to ensure the team did not get debarred. I told them there has never been a case where our wrestlers have flouted any rules and expressed regret but they questioned me, 'how do you run the federation. Your wrestler isn't wearing the (official) kit'. She could have lost a medal had she won. I had to beg and plead.

There was just one coach for four women wrestlers but seven coaches and support staff for three male wrestlers.

The Indian Olympic Association had set a limit on number of coaches and physios.



WFI president has said wrestlers connected to JSW and OGQ won't be selected to represent India unless contracts are shared with federation.

But as federation president, do you think it was right for four women to get just one

This you can ask (assistant secretary Vinod) Tomar ji [Tomar: "We had one chief coach and common freestyle coaches for both teams."] And if you are coming to the issue of Vinesh not having her personal

federation who her physio was. How are we supposed to know unless she tells us? Vinesh has written multiple emails to the

physio at the Olympics, she did not tell the

federation with all details. She gave those proposals to TOPS, never to us directly. She should have given it to us.

There are emails...

It has never happened that Vinesh approached the federation. This is my allegation against TOPS. They are directly overseeing issues like where the athlete should go

So the issue is not planning per se but just that Vinesh, according to you, sent the proposal to TOPS and not to WFI?

If it was our plan then I could have sent my whole team. Bajrang and Vinesh were two very senior wrestlers. They thought a certain plan was better for their future so they told TOPS, who then told us.

At the Olympics, a men's coach (Rajiv Tomar) had gone as women's team coach.

No, he did not go as women's coach but he was made the women's coach temporarily for some reason.

What was the reason?

That Tomarji will tell you. [Tomar: He was there at the pre-departure camp in Sonepat. Since there is no difference in men's and women's freestyle wrestling, we had common coaches for both teams and he was one

Vinesh has had a string of good performances. Is banning an athlete from the world championships a just punishment?

I am not her enemy. But IOC ke saamne jo jaleel aur beijjat hona pada... how could she wear a different kit? She is senior enough to understand there is a proper kit for every tournament. We have to look at other wrestlers too. India's wrestling isn't dependent on one wrestler.

Do you want TOPS to be involved in wrestling?

Yes, they are needed. But whatever programme they make, chief coach and federation should be taken into confidence.

How do you see the role of OGQ, JSW, etc. We do not need OGQ and JSW. They have

spoilt three wrestlers, I won't name them. When the Indian government is ready to spend on the athletes, then why do we need them? They can support junior and cadet wrestlers who actually need support. Not just those who are close to winning a big medal. They aren't spending as much as the government, which has spent close to Rs 85 crore on the wrestlers. My biggest problem is they don't inform me who they are sending as sparring partners.

If a wrestler is connected to any of these, what is their future?

Bilkul nahi khelne doonga (Won't allow them to play).

Not even someone like (Tokyo silver medalist) Ravi Dahiya...

Even I am giving Ravi Rs 1 lakh per month. From how many places will you take money? If they still want to be involved, they should share a copy of their agreement with the players and factor in our views.

Chandigarh

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