***TheIndian EXPRESS**

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021, AHMEDABAD, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

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Harvard University	16
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University College London	14
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Yale University	05
University of Chicago	04
Columbia University	11
National University of Singapore	15
NTU Singapore	02
University of Pennsylvania	04
The University of Edinburgh	03

University of Toronto	02
University of California, LA	04
Cornell University	02
The University of Hong Kong	01
Duke University	01
Johns Hopkins University	01
New York University	07
London School of Economics	23
McGill University	02
The Australian National University	02
The University of Manchester	01
University of Washington	02
LMU Munich	01

London	14
The University of Melbourne	09
University of British Columbia	01
The University of Sydney	02
PSL Research University Paris	03
Heidelberg University	01
KU Leuven	01
University of New South Wales	01
University of Texas at Austin	02
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	01
University of Wisconsin-Madison	02
Tokyo Institute of Technology	01
Monash University	01

Brown University	01
The University of Warwick	09
University of Southern California	04
Utrecht University	02
Leiden University	07
University of Bristol	01
Erasmus University Rotterdam	07
Sorbonne University	01
University of Glasgow	02
Humboldt University of Berlin	01
Osaka University	01
University of Southampton	01

Science & Technolog	yUI
Durham University	01
Emory University	01
Free University of Berlin	02
Ohio State University	01
University of St. Andrews	01
University of Leeds	03
The University of Western Australia	02
University of Maryland	01
The University of Sheffield	01
Ghent University	01
Pennsylvania State University	03

Pohang University of 1

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KERALA BISHOP ALLEGATIONS OF NARCOTICS JIHAD

BJP urges Centre to bring law to deal with 'love jihad', 'narco-terrorism'

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

WITH A Kerala Catholic bishop's claim of "narcotics jihad" becoming a political flashpoint, the BJP on Sunday said the allegation echoed the voice of the Christian community in the state and sought the intervention of the Centre to bring in a law to deal with "narco-terrorism and love jihad".

Meanwhile, the Kerala unit of the BIP has written to Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking Central intervention "to prevent jihadi activities and protection to Palai bishop Joseph Kallarangatt and Christian community".

In a statement, BIP spokesperson Tom Vadakkan said. "The intervention by Bishop, His excellency Joseph Kallarangatt of Pala, Kerala during sacred worship is not just a wakeup call for his dioceses, it is the voice of the community who are victims of love jihad and the fallout of narco-terrorism. abuse victims are ramping up."

Vadakkan alleged that the Kerala government has not taken cognizance of narco-terrorism and love jihad despite inputs from investigative agencies. He claimed that the bishop council has raised the issue following inputs from devotees of different churches, alleging that young girls are being lured and fall prey to "love jihad" and "later end up in foreign jails". He said: "This has to be accounted as human trafficking.

"The rising drug abuse in different communities has affected peace within families and has created socio-economic disorder of disastrous levels," Vadakkan claimed. "My appeal to the Central government is to bring central legislation to book such elements, and bring in fast track courts to deal with narco-terrorism and love iihad."

Kerala BJP general secretary George Kurian, who is a former vice-chairman for the national

to Shah Sunday, claiming that "jihadi elements" in Kerala get whole-hearted support from the CPI (M) and Congress. "Many of the jihadi elements are active workers of CPI(M) and Congress. This has rendered the situation volatile. I request you to intervene in the issue and take steps to protect the bishop and the Christian community in Kerala,"

Kurian also claimed the reaction to the bishop's statement is a reflection of the "insecurity" among Christians and Hindus.

his letter said.

Bishop Kallarangatt had on Thursday triggered a controversy, saving Christian girls were largely falling prey to "love and narcotic jihad" in Kerala, and wherever arms cannot be used, extremists were using such methods to destroy the youth belonging to other religions.

The statement triggered a controversy in the state, with public demonstrations from both

munities. The ruling CPI(M) and the main opposition Congress have expressed their displeasure over the remark — Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan maintained that there was no need to give a religious colour to narcotics, while Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan criticised the Sangh Parivar, accusing it of trying to spark communal tension over the bishop's comments.

Extending support to the bishop, Minister of State for External Affairs and senior BIP leader V Muraleedharan had earlier said that he had raised the concerns of the community in Kerala and he cannot be silenced by attacking him.

In a statement, the Kerala Catholic Bishops Council (KCBC) has said that Kallarangatt's words were not aimed at any community and he was sharing the community's concerns.

> - WITH INPUTS FROM ENS. **THIRUVANANTHAPURAN**

RAJKOT

Several roads water-logged after heavy rain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, SEPTEMBER 12

SEVERAL ROADS in Rajkot were water-logged as heavy rain lashed the city on Sunday, affecting normal life.

Overcast conditions prevailed throughout Saturday and rain started around 7 am on Sunday. The downpour intensified later in the day, leading to heavy water-logging on many roads in the western and central zones of the city. Rains continued till late afternoon, affecting normal life.

According to the fire department of Rajkot Municipal Corporation, west zone of the city recorded 59-millimetres (mm) of rain from 6 am to 6 pm on Sunday, while central and east zones logged 36 mm rain each.

Meanwhile, the Emergency Response Centre (ERC) and Rajkot fire brigade launched a joint search and rescue operation after receiving information around 1.30 pm that a man was trapped in the Aji river at Kesari Hind bridge.

"We scanned a two-kilome-



Amid heavy rain in Rajkot on Sunday. Chirag Chotaliya

tre stretch of the river but found no one. Water was not more than knee-deep at most of the sections and prima facie, it was unlikely that anyone could have been swept away or drowned. People also told us that an intox-

icated man was roaming around there and that he had walked away eventually. We abandoned the operation late in the evening," Hardik Gadhvi, station officer of ERC, said.

Gadhvi said that firemen of

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

THE GUJARAT Anti-Corruption

Bureau (ACB) booked a police sub-

inspector in Anand for allegedly

demanding Rs 1 lakh inbribe in

exchange of "not torturing" ac-

According to ACB officials, SI

Khambholai police station in

Anand was booked under sec-

tions of the Prevention of

us stating that in 2017, his son and

other persons were booked in an

"The complainant approached

Corruption Act on Saturday.

Chaudhary of

cused persons in a case.

Hasmukh

Places

Ahmedabad

ACB books sub-inspector

for 'demanding bribe'

Bedipara fire station of RMC had also joined the operation. Heavy rainfall was reported

from Devbhumi Dwarka. Jamnagar and Surendranagar districts in Saurashtra as well as from parts of Kutch district.

FIR under Indian Penal Code sec-

tions 183 and 184 for offering re-

sistance and obstructing a public

servant from lawfully taking up

the property. The complainant

claimed that after his son was ar-

rested, PSI Chaudhary, posted at

Khambholaj PS, demanded Rs 1

lakh in exchange of not beating up

his son in custody and later dis-

charging him from the case," said

an ACB official. "Chaudhary was

then transferred as reader in

deputy superintendent office in

Nadiad of Kheda. Today, we have

booked him under the Prevention

of Corruption Act after evidence

of malpractice was found against

him," said an ACB official.

Vivekananda advocated secularism, religion for common good, says CJI

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA advocated secularism, "analysed the dangers posed by meaningless and sectarian conflicts" and "believed that the true essence of religion was the common good". Chief Justice of India NV Ramana said Sunday.

Addressing an event to mark the 22nd Foundation Day Celebration of Vivekananda Institute of Human Excellence. Hyderabad, the CII said Swami Vivekananda's teachings have great relevance for all times to come. "Swami Vivekananda, in his address (to the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago, in 1893), propagated the idea of tolerance and universal acceptance. He analysed the dangers posed by the meaningless and sectarian conflicts in society to the nations and civilisations,"

Pointing out that "there is greater need today, in contemporary India, to pay heed to the words spoken by Swami Vivekananda as early as in 1893", CJI Ramana said the "he was prophetic. Long before the painful

against each account.

date of notice(s)/date of receipt of the said notice/s.

Loan Agreement No. /Name of the

LXSUR00317-180052412

Vinulhhai Bhurahhai Gohil &

LXANK00216-170044115

Nirmala Dhananjay Mourya &

Dhananjay Rajmangal Mourya

LXNAV00216-170037397

Ravishankar Rajendraprasad

Tripathi & Nirmalaber

Rajendraprasad Tripathi

LXADA00317-180065891

Tirathkumar Sheshnarayan Tiwari & Soniben Tirathkuma

Tiwari

LXANK00117-180066019

Bhausaheb Krushna Patil & Sunita Bhausaheb Patil

LXKAD00417-180068210

Ranjudevi Shambhuprasad

Patel & Sambhuprasad Jagadis Patel Bablukumar

Sambhuprasad Patel

LXSUR00417-180054191

Ganpat Harajibhai Rathod &

Dayaben Ganpatbhai Rathod

LXSUR00316-170035501

Vipinkumar Ashokkumar Singh

& Vipul Ashok Rajput

LXKAD00217-180062992

Nimuben Kanabhai Solanki

LXKAD00217-180056554

Sunil Bhanudas Vinakar &

Satishbhai Bhanudas Vinkar

Sindhuben Bhanudas Winka

LXMAH00116-170038157

Inayat Kasambhai Siraji &

Kasambhai Akbarali Shiraj

Jorabibi Kasambhai Shiraji

churning that took place in the subcontinent during the freedom struggle, resulting in framing of an egalitarian Constitution of India, he advocated secularism as if he foresaw the events to unfold. He firmly believed that the true essence of religion was the common good, and tolerance. Religion should be above superstitions and rigidities".

Swami Vivekananda's participation in the World Parliament of Religions "gave a respectable recognition to India which, at that time, was merely identified as one of the colonies. His address drew the world's attention to the ancient Indian philosophy of Vedanta. He popularised Practical Vedanta as it preached love, compassion, and equal respect for all", said the CII. Saying the ideals

Vivekananda should be instilled in today's youth, the CJI said, 'Young minds are usually the most reflective. Young hearts, the most reactive. These emotions can be often moulded to achieve greatness, but the greater challenge in this path is the ability to differentiate between right and wrong choices." History, he said, is witness to the power wielded by the youth.

Aspire Home Finance Corporation Limited

Motilal Oswal Tower, Rahimtullah Sayani Road, Opposite ST Depot, Prabhadevi, Mumbai-400025.

Email:-info@ahfcl.com CIN:-U65923MH2013PLC248741

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY/IES)

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd. under the

Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & in compliance of Rule 8(1) of Enforcement of Security

Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security

Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued demand notice/s on the date mentioned against each account calling

upon the respective borrower/s to repay the amount as mentioned against each account within 60 days from the

The borrower/s having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower/s and the public in general

that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise powers

conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned

The borrower/s in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any

dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd., for the amoun

and interest thereon as per loan agreement. The borrowers' attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of

8/09/2021

7/09/2021

8/09/2021

8/09/2021

7/09/2021

8/09/2021

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8/09/2021

8/09/2021

8/09/2021

7/09/2021

Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Demand Notice

11/07/2018

28/02/2019

888242/-

27/06/2018

for Rs. 765964/-

26/08/2019

26/09/2019

26/09/2019

26/09/2019

23/10/2019

507275/-

for Rs. 645037/-

15/11/2019

19/12/2019

1103916/-

18/01/2019

NCW, NCSC teams visit Mumbai rape victim

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 12

TWO SEPARATE delegations from the National Commission for Women (NCW) and National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on Sunday visited the family of the 32-year-old woman who died after being assaulted and raped in the city.

The victim's two daughters will get around Rs 18.5 lakh as compensation, and recommendations have been made by the NCW for their relocation to a completely different environment and for their rehabilitation, which includes sponsoring their education.

The NCSC, meanwhile, has asked the Maharashtra government to give them accommodation and a government job to the family.

NCW member Chandramukhi Devi and Ananya Singh, legal counsel, met the victim's mother and daughter. They also visited the crime spot, the police station concerned and Rajawadi hospital where the victim was admitted. and had a meeting with DGP Sanjay Pandey.

Description of the

Property/ies mortgaged

All The Piece And Parcel Of Immovable

Property Bearing Plot No. 109 In Situated At

Survey No. 360, Block No. 347, Shiv Nagar

Society Near Dada Bhagwan Temple O

Plot No 45 Shree Residency N.Ho 8 Motali, R.S.No 42/25-42/25 Paikit 42/23, Bh Sahyog

Nagar Nr Tata Motrs, Tal Ankleshwar Dis

Plot No 186vastu Pooja Residency Moje Haldhru, Kamrej, Surat 394150 Gujarat

Row House No.32, Type-A, Anurag Residency, Block No.292, 294, Nr Swrag Residency, B/H

Jolva Village, Jolva, Palsana, Surat, Gujarat

Plot No. 81/A, Khodiyar Nagar, Near Akshardham Society, Andada Road,

Nearchhapra Patiya, Andada, Ankleshwa

Plot No.A/89, Anurag Residency, Near

Aaradhna Lake, Jolva, Palsana Road, Surat

Flat No.211, Shivam Residency, Shiv Nagar

Kamrej-Vav Road, Dada, Kamrej, Surat,

Flat No 206, Shivam Residency, Near Gopal

Nagar Society, Kemraj, Surat, Gujarat

Block No. D, Flat No 29 & 30, 3rd Floor, Patel

Power Station, Sayan - Kathor Road, Velanja

Plot No 160, Vastu Pooja Residency, Near

Shiv Sagar Resideny, Haldharu, Kamraj, Surat, Gujarat - 394327

Plot No.- 31, Gokul Nagar, Nr. Govt. Godaun Jafrabad Road, Near. Doli No Pat, Rajula

ownship, B/H. Ranchhodji Mandir, Near Geb

Gujarat - 384327

Surat, Gujarat - 394150

Dist.-Amreli, Gujarat-365560

Knitting, technical textile, nero fabrics on display at Surat expo

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE SURAT, SEPTEMBER 12

THOUSANDS OF products from knitting industry, technical textiles and nero fabrics are on display at Weaveknitt 2021, threeday fabric exhibition, organised by the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SGCCI) at Surat International Exhibition and Convention Centre at Sarsana in Surat city.

Inaugurating the expo on Saturday, Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways and Surat city BIP MP Darshana Iardosh appealed to the industry representatives to take advantage of central government's Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes to develop "Make in India" and "Make in Surat" a brand. "The SGGCI had made a good

decision to start the exhibition on Ganesh Chaturti and this is the first edition of WeaveKnitt 2021. Many works are done under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi... I told the Counse General of the Republic of Indonesia in Mumbai, Agus Prihatin Saptono, to do a joint venture with the industries in Surat. The requirements should be worked out and Indonesia will

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

THE AHMEDABAD Cyber Crime

Cell has arrested two former

employees of a weight loss con-

sultancy service in the city for

stealing customers' data and

selling medicine stock worth Rs

12.5 lakh from the company.

Saptono, who was present at the event, said, "Indonesia is a

manufacturing hub of polyester fabrics, while India is the biggest in the cotton fabrics. The ties between both countries in textile industry sectors will definitely boost our economies." Adding that India is one of the

fastest growing markets for technical textiles, SGCCI president Ashish Gujarati said, "The global average growth is 4 per cent, whereas India's growth rate is at 14 per cent per year. The biggest issue is that the raw material used in the production of technical textiles such as high tenacity yarn of polyester, nylon and viscose, are not manufactured in India. Union Textile Ministry should look into this aspect of capacity building, and pursue the large manufacturers of yarn to concentrate on these

He added, "The Government of India has recently introduced BIS standards for different types of MMF (Man Made Fibre) yarns to be sold in India. The quality monitoring of the raw material of textile industry should be kept with the Textile Commissioner's office instead of handing it over to the BIS." Guiarati also requested the Union minister to set up a

Two ex-employees arrested for selling

medicines worth Rs 12.5 L from company

Pant and Divya Gohil were ar-

rested on charges of fraud after

their former employer Dr Detox.

a weight loss consultancy serv-

ice in Ahmedabad, lodged a com-

plaint stating that the two com-

mitted a fraud against them. Pant

worked as a clinic manager and

Gohil worked as a client manager

in the Dr Detox office, according

According to police, Priyanka

world-class Quality Certification Centre in Surat. Textile Ministry secretary

Upendra Singh said, "India is the the second large producer of cotton worldwide, as a result of which 6 lakh tonnes of cotton fabrics are manufactured in India and 6 lakh tonne of MMF (Man-Made Fibre). We have exports of 40 million US dollars, and we have been given a target to take it over to 100 million US dollars. The growth can be achieved by working seriously on the MMF and technical textiles. Surat is the hub of MMF and technical textiles and the industry people should take benefit of PLI scheme." Guiarat MSME commissioner Ranjeeth Kumar, who also attended the event, said, "In two years, the budget for MSME was doubled from Rs 750 to Rs 1,500 crore in the state. Most of the MSMEs are in Surat. Last week we did an MOU with Amazon."

Textile commissioner Roop Rashi Mahapatra said that the dig-

ital platform the country can enter the international market. "At present, we are export textiles to the US, West Asia, Bangladesh, etc. We receive around 60 per cent of proposals under different schemes from Guiarat, out of which 85 per cent are from Surat," Mahapatra

'The accused Priyanka Pant

worked as a clinic manager and

recently she submitted her resig-

nation, after which, she made a

profile of herself as weight loss

consultant on Instagram and up-

loaded pictures of the clients of

Dr Detox on the social media

handle," said a senior official of

"She then sought details of

clients, weight loss diet plan and

medicines' list from the client

manager Divya Gohil and the

duo under a conspiracy, sold the

medicines of the company to the

tune of Rs 12.5 lakh and got the

money deposited in their per-

sonal bank accounts, without

the knowledge of her former

employer. After the complaint

was registered at Ahmedabad

Cyber Crime police station, we

arrested the accused under

charges of fraud on Saturday

night," the official added.

Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell.

10,884 102 Amreli Anand 9,635 79 Aravalli 5,468 162 Banaskantha 13,659 118 Bharuch 11,449

Bhavnagar 21,713 301 2,217 42 Chhota Udepur 3,398 38 38 Dahod 9,590 Dang 866 18 82 Devbhoomi Dwarka 12,937 Gandhinagar 20,841 205 36,602 478 271 20,481 Junagadh 48 Kheda 10.393 Kutch 12,524 145 8,313 Mahisagar Mehsana 24,285 177 6,502 87 Morbi 5,978 15 Narmada 7,174 24 Navsari 11,742 70 **Panchmahal** 11,623 129 Patan

3,851

58,678

9,338

8,120

4,445

77,839

1,43,640

19

725

157

136

23

788

49

1,958

COVID CASE TRACKER

2,28,844 3,411

Valsad 6.240 Other states 148 Total

cases:

Cumulative discharge: 8,15,370

8,33,881 17 First dose takers till date

1,41,90,329

3,82,37,819

Porbandar

Sabarkantha

Surendranagar

Rajkot

Surat

Vadodara

10.082 Fully vaccinated till date

The Punjab State Federation of Cooperative Sugar Mills Ltd. Plot No. 53, Sector 54, Phase-2 (Opposite Bassi Cinema) SAS Nagar (Mohali). Ph.: 0172-2265653 email: sugarfedpunjab@gmail.com

SALUTE THE SOLDIER

Sep 1967. We, the Akhaura Tigers are proud of his bravery and

his act of heroism will always inspire the paltan to emulate the

example set by him. May the soul of this brave martyr rest in

Commanding Officer & All Ranks,

13 MECH INF (18 RAJPUT) AKHAURA TIGERS

SUGARFED PUNJAB

MARTYRDOM On 13th SEPTEMBER

SEPOY GOKAL SINGH, VrC

(Hero of Nathula Operations - 1967)

We salute and pay homage to our beloved and

gallant soldier Sepoy Gokal Singh, VrC, who

displayed exemplary valour and courage

while defending the nation against Chinese

aggression during the Nathula operations on 13

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online e-tenders are invited from prospective bidders for Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) basis for Supply, Erection and Commissioning of following project-

(1) New Ethanol Distillery Plant of 120 KLPD (alongwith slope fired coceneration plant of 5.65 MW Power in existing campus, construction of foundations, factory building (complete civil work etc.) and operation & maintenance for two years on turn-key basis at Gurdaspur Cooperative Sugar Mil.

The proposed bidding schedule along with detailed terms & conditions including the complete bid document are available on e-tender portal https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app. For participation in the above ebidding process the bidders shall have to get themselves registered with website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/nicgep/app and get user ID, Password, Class-2 & Class-3 Digital Signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering process. For any clarification/ difficulty regarding e-tendering process flow, enrollment please contact helpdesk of NIC on 0172-2970263 0172-2970284, 89810-10014, 98888-80311, 62808-59484 (Gurdaspur CSM) The undersigned reserve all rights of rejections! postpone of the tender without Sdl- Managing Director

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I Milan Hiten Dave S/O, Hitendra Dave R/o 1201, Carmel F, Godrej Garden City, Ahmedabad, 382470. have changed my name to Milan Hitendra Dave 0040584172-1

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Two killed after tiff over bidi in Morbi, say police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE RAJKOT, SEPTEMBER 12

TWO PERSONS were killed following a tiff allegedly over a bidi in Juna Jogadh village of Halvad taluka of Morbi district on Sunday afternoon, leading to tension in the village on the border of the Little Rann of Kutch.

"Prima facie, one person who was out grazing his livestock demanded a bidi from a passer-by, which the latter refused. The man who was herding his livestock hit the other man with a stick, killing him. On learning about the fight, some men from the village went to the spot and clubbed the man who was graz-

ing his livestock to death," said

of a minor tiff, we have deployed police in the village to prevent any untoward incident. Efforts are on to identify those involved in the murders,' Bharai added. Prakash Dekavadiya, inspec-

Radhika Bharai, deputy superin-

tendent of police of Morbi dis-

as Raghu Koli and Navghan Koli.

"They died on the spot. While

this seems to be a consequence

Those killed were identified

tor of Halvad police station, said that both the men killed were in their mid-forties and belonged to the same caste. "We are in the process of ascertaining facts... No untoward incident has been reported since then,' Dekavadiya said.

Ahmedabad

Authorized Officer, Place : Gujarat (Aspire Home Finance Corporation Ltd.)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021, AHMEDABAD, LATE CITY, 14 PAGES

JOURNALISM OF COURAGE **SINCE 1932**

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'In UP, Brahmins, Dalits face many issues. The way murders are happening... If someone complains, they face inquiry'

SATISH CHANDRA MISRA TIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY BSP; RAJYA SABHA MP PAGE 7

THE IDEAS PAGE

STONES OF SABARMATI

Earlier, ration

for poor went to those who said 'abba jaan': Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 12

SLAMMING PREVIOUS state governments for what he said was their "casteist and dynast mentality" and "politics of appeasement", UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath Sunday said that before 2017, those saying "abba jaan" used to digest ration meant for poor but now everyone benefitted equally from development under his administration.

Speaking at events to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate development projects in Kushinagar, the Chief Minister said that construction of the Ram temple at Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya started only when the BJP came to power at the Centre and in the state — and asked if the SP, BSP or Congress would have built the temple.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Adityanath said "political agenda", which was earlier limited to caste, faith, religion, place, language and familv. "As a result, people from every class are getting the benefits of development. Today, there is development of everyone and appeasement of none. Earlier, when there was politics of appeasement, there wasn't development but riots, corruption, anarchy, terrorism, oppression and injustice," he said.

"Today, you are getting ration. Were you getting this ration before 2017? Because back then, those saying 'abba jaan' used to digest the ration. Back then, the ration meant for Kushinagar used to reach Nepal and Bangladesh. Today, if someone tries to swallow ration for the poor, he will end up in jail. We are working with this commitment," Adityanath said.

"Earlier, those saying *'abba* igan' used to loot jobs meant for the poor... In the last 4.5 years, we have given jobs to 4.5 lakh youth. These women constables standing here got their appointment during this time. None of them CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 **TOP VACANCY FILLED IN A DAY**

First-time MLA Bhupendra Patel is BJP's surprise pick as Gujarat CM

Kadva Patidar leader will take oath today; thanks Modi, Amit Shah and Anandiben Patel

PARIMAL DABHI GANDHINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12

A DAY after the abrupt resignation of Vijay Rupani as Gujarat Chief Minister, with just 14 months to go for the state polls, the BJP Sunday sprang another surprise by picking first-time MLA Bhupendra Patel for the top job.

Party leaders told The Indian Express that 59-year-old Patel's name was proposed by Rupani at the BJP legislature party meeting and seconded by outgoing Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel, Bhupendra Patel, who represents Ahmedabad's Ghatlodia constituency, will take the oath of office Monday and is expected to announce the new Council of Ministers "in a day or two".

Following Sunday's decision, Patel staked claim to form the state government after meeting Governor Acharya Devavrata in the evening. An official release stated that the Governor has invited Patel to the Rai Bhavan for the swearing-in Monday afternoon. A BJP release said Union Home Minister Amit Shah will attend the ceremony.



Engineer, corporator, MLA in 2017 to CM: Swift rise for Patidar leader

RITU SHARMA AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

AMONG THE earliest congratulatory messages for Bhupendra Patel, who was named Gujarat's new Chief Minister on Sunday, was from the Vishwa Umiya Foundation, a body of Kadva Patidars. Patel's elevation to the top job -- he is the first from the Patidar sub-group to be Chief Minister -- is crucial to the BJP's plans to woo the community

that has over the years drifted away from the party.

In fact, Patel, 59, is one of the trustees of Sardardham, the Patidar community organisation that hosted the programme where Prime Minister Narendra Modi was chief guest on Saturday, after which Vijay Rupani quit his job.

Patel, under whose leadership the 2022 assembly elections will be fought, fought his first major election in 2010 as corporator from the Ahmedabad Municipal

Corporation (AMC). There too, he had a swift rise to the top post -he became standing committee chairperson in the AMC in his first stint as corporator.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY

New Gujarat CM Bhupendra

nagar Sunday. Nirmal Harindran

Patel (second from right) is

greeted by outgoing CM

Vijay Rupani in Gandhi-

Patel is a first-time MLA from Ghatlodia, the Assembly constituency vacated by former chief minister Anandiben Patel after she was appointed Madhya Pradesh Governor. In the 2017 Assembly elections, Patel defeated Congress candidate Shashikant Patel by over one

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



VARUN TO UP CM: **HIKE SUGARCANE** PRICES, DOUBLE PM-KISAN FUNDS



India acknowledges: Taliban hold positions of power, authority

SHUBHAJIT ROY NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

IN ITS first clear and official reference to the Taliban as a state actor, India acknowledged in a joint statement with Australia Sunday that the group holds "positions of power and authority across Afghanistan".

This reference is a step forward for the diplomatic establishment, but falls short of officially recognising the Taliban administration as the government of Afghanistan. Sources told The Indian Express that Sunday's formulation was arrived at after "much debate and deliberation" over the last week after the Taliban announced its Cabinet

On Saturday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had described the Taliban as the "dispensation" in Kabul during his remarks after the 2+2 talks with Australia involving Foreign and Defence ministers

Sunday's joint statement said: "(The) Ministers also expressed deep concern about the situation in Afghanistan. Ministers called for the Taliban to guarantee safe passage for foreign nationals and Afghans CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

EXPLAINED



TERROR THREAT **THAT PERSISTS** PAGE 10

WORLD

TALIBAN SAY WOMEN CAN STUDY IN UNIV **BUT CLASSES MUST BE SEGREGATED**

Al-Zawahiri appears in 9/11 video; no mention of takeover by Taliban

BEIRUT, SEPTEMBER 12

AL QAEDA leader Ayman al-Zawahiri appeared in a new video marking the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, months after rumours spread that he was dead.

The SITE Intelligence Group that monitors jihadist websites said the video was released Saturday. In it, al-Zawahiri said "Ierusalem will never be Judaized" and praised al-Qaeda attacks, including one that targeted Russian troops in Syria in January.

SITE said al-Zawahiri also noted the US military's withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Daylight killing of S-I by militant is

Not proof that he is still alive RUMOURS of Al-Zawa-

hiri's death have circulated since late last year. The video does not necessarily suggest a recent recording - even though it appeared online on the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, it made no mention of the Taliban's return to power in Kabul. He mentioned the US withdrawal, but that was decided back in February 2020 itself.

Haryana govt panel suggests re-defining the Aravallis to shrink protected area

SUKHBIR SIWACH CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

INSISTING THAT revenue records only identify 'Gair Mumkin Pahar (uncultivable hilly areas)' and make no mention of 'Aravalli', a high-level committee of the Haryana government has asked officials to identify the areas under Aravalli on the basis of a 1992 notification of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), which only covers the areas of the old Gurgaon district (currently Gurgaon and Nuh).

Environmentalists say that by that definition, the provision of the National Conservation Zone (NCZ), which places restrictions on construction activity. will not be applicable to Aravalli areas in Faridabad.

A state-level committee led by Haryana Principal Secretary (Town and Country Planning) A K Singh had met on August 9 "for ground-truthing of NCZ in Haryana Sub-Region of National Capital Region".

The Indian Express has learnt that at the meeting, some of the districts, while identifying areas under NCZ, considered areas



THE EDITORIAL PAGE

THE SHRINKING CM

BIP leadership replaces one

more chief minister, trend of

overweening high command

RELATED REPORTS

Patel belongs to the Kadva

sub-group of the influential

Patidar community, and is the first

Chief Minister from this segment.

Party leaders said he ticked most

of the boxes for the BJP ahead of

the 2022 Assembly elections for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

takes hold **PAGE**

PAGE 5

Environmentalists fear an unchecked real estate boom if protection is lifted. Archive

recorded as 'Gair Mumkin Pahar' in revenue records as Aravalli. The Faridabad District Level Sub Committee (DLSC) proposed 9.357 hectares, Mahendragarh 22,607 hectares and Palwal 3,369 hectares as NCZ.

While asking districts to review their recommendations keeping in view the 1992 notification by the Environment Ministry, the committee said, "It was observed that the MoFF&CC, being the only legally competent authority, has rightly, in its wisdom issued notification (in 1992)... for the then Gurgaon and Alwar districts only. Moreover, in case, the said Ministry at any stage considers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



SHAHID JUDGE MUMBAI. SEPTEMBER 12

THE SMILE on Emma Raducanu's face only got bigger as the chorus of Sweet Caroline blared across the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York. She joined in singing Britain's enduring sporting anthem as Union Jack-Union clad fans on the upper tiers swayed to the soundtrack reserved for their revered champions across sport. It was the most British celebration you could imagine to mark Raducanu's 6-

> Fernandez in the US Open final. It also ended a 44-year title drought. No Englishwoman had

4, 6-3 win over Canadian Leylah

won a tennis Major since Virginia Wade topped Wimbledon in 1977. It would take something spectacular, someone beyond anybody's wildest imagination, to break that streak. Raducanu, an 18year-old with barely any experience on the WTA Tour, fit that billing. Her biggest title until now had come at a Futures event at the Deccan Gymkhana courts of Pune in 2019 - she spent three weeks in India, even playing an ITF tournament in Solapur. The Cinderella story, though, was realised in the early hours on Sunday at tennis' grandest 23,000-seater.

At a time when Brexit **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

caught on Srinagar CCTV camera

BASHAARAT MASOOD SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 12

A POLICE officer died of injuries shortly after he was shot at point-blank range by suspected militants in Srinagar on Sunday afternoon

Meer Arshad was a recent recruit in J&K Police and was serving his probation as a Sub-Inspector. His killing evoked strong criticism from the mainstream political parties in the Kashmir Valley.

Militants shot at and wounded Meer at Khanyar neighbourhood of old Srinagar city. CCTV camera footage of the incident showed a suspected militant appearing from behind Mir and opening fire at him from point-blank range using a pistol. As Meer falls down. the suspected militant escapes



The spot where J&K Police S-I Meer Arshad was critically injured in the attack on Sunday. Shuaib Masoodi

from the scene.

Meer was critically wounded in the shooting incident and was immediately taken to Sheri

Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) Srinagar where he died of his injuries. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

6 weeks to end tussle, AP, Odisha in tug of war over border villages

ride: from Pune title 2 yrs

ago to US Open crown

AISHWARYA MOHANTY KORAPUT, SEPTEMBER 12

ON A Wednesday afternoon, it's all quiet at the primary school in Phattuseneri village in Kotia gram panchayat in Koraput district. The school, with a map of Odisha on one of its walls, is shut — it is open only two days a week owing to the pandemic – but the students are away, at the nearby Telugu-medium Mandal

Parishad primary school. The Telugu-medium school, propped up by bamboo poles and an asbestos roof, came up five months ago. All around the temporary structure are banners posters announcing

schemes of the Andhra Pradesh government. As a group of children recite numbers in Telugu, the teacher. A Ganesha, says, "There are seven students enrolled in Class 1 in this school. The same students are enrolled in the Odia-medium school as well."

Phattuseneri is one of 21 villages in Kotia gram panchayat that lie at the centre of a longstanding border conflict between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

On August 31, the Supreme Court advised both the state governments to resolve the border dispute after Odisha filed a case of contempt in the apex court over Andhra's decision to conduct rural elections in six villages in the region. The bench of Justices AM

Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna granted both states six weeks to hold political discussions to resolve the dispute.

But on the ground, little has changed, with both states only intensifying their interventions through social schemes. Two weeks ago, a team from Andhra Pradesh arrived here and conducted bhumi puja for an anganwadi centre, an arogya centre, a farmers' hall and a panchayat office, besides carrying out a plantation drive. That prompted a team from Odisha to rush to the spot a day later.

It's this tug of war that has dominated the lives of people and officials in these parts.

In Phattuseneri, while elec-



At Phattuseneri, there are schemes announced by both the Odisha and Andhra governments. Aishwarya Mohanty

tricity is provided by the Andhra Pradesh, both the governments provide drinking water and make it a point to advertise the same through banners and hoardings on water tanks.

Around 5 km from Phattuseneri are two villages called Upra (Upper) Sembi and Tala (Lower) Sembi in Odia and Yeguva (Upper) Sembi and Takkuva (Lower) Sembi in Telugu — where some people have Aadhar cards from Odisha and the others from AP.

"Both the states have been fighting over this region. Often, development work gets stopped because of their tussle. At the end of the day, we are okay being part of whichever state that provides us better opportunities," says Pilku Tadingi, 27, of Upra Sembi village, speaking in Odia, His Aadhaar card idntifies him as being from Upra Sembi village, Koraput district, Odisha.

Three houses away, in the same village, is Tadanki Sriram, 26, whose Aadhaar card says he is a resident of Yeguva Sembi Sariki, Vizianagram district, AP. Around 12 km from here, in

Madkar village, each generation speaks a different language. Babula Tadingi, 18, a first generation learner, speaks Odia, one of the few who can. Others speak Kui, a language of the Kondh tribe. The younger children speak fluent Telugu, with many being enrolled in Telugu-medium residential schools in Salur.

Officials say contradictions also arise while identifying beneficiaries for government schemes. For instance, the Rana and Dora communities have tribal status in Andhra Pradesh, while they are in the OBC category in Odisha.

Apart from laying foundation stones for various projects, the AP government has also been conducting citizen redressal and veterinary camps, distributing land pattas and extending welfare schemes. The Koraput district administration has often resorted to barricading the border areas and deploying police officials to prohibit "unwarranted entries". **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

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Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Sr V. P at Toyota Kirloskar Motor, joins Nandagopal Rajan to discuss the future of EVs in the Indian market. From the automobile market's shift towards electrification to the issue of charging, the duo discuss all of it

FROM PAGE ONE

Taliban power

wanting to leave the country.' It said: "They reiterated calls on those in positions of power and authority across Afghanistan to adhere to counterterrorism commitments and human rights, in accordance with UN-

The UN Security Council Resolution 2593 -- issued on August 30 under India's monthlong presidency -- emphasised that Afghanistan must not allow its soil to be used for terrorismlinked activities.

In another unusual move by India, the joint statement outlined reports of violations of human rights. "They (the Ministers) noted reports of a rapid roll-back on women and girls' rights and access to services and public spaces, as well as targeted violence against women's rights defenders. In this regard, the Ministers reiterated their call for protection of rights of women and children and their full participation in public life," it said.

The statement sought "a broad-based and inclusive government" for "long term peace and stability in Afghanistan".

Flagging concerns on terrorism, it said that both sides "agreed to remain alert to the broader repercussions of the developments in Afghanistan for the ongoing terrorist threats around the world, and in our region". Apart from Jaishankar and Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne. the 2+2 talks involved Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his counterpart Peter Dutton.

Al-Zawahiri

years of war. It added that his comments do not necessarily indicate a recent recording, as the withdrawal agreement with the Taliban was signed in February 2020. Al-Zawahiri made no mention of the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan and the capital Kabul last month, SITE added.

Rumours have spread since late 2020 that al-Zawahiri had died from illness. Since then, there has been no video or proof of life, until Saturday.

'He could still be dead, though if so, it would have been at some point in or after Jan 2021," tweeted Rita Katz, SITE's director. Al-Zawahiri's speech was recorded in a 61-minute, 37-second video produced by the group's as-Sahab Media Foundation.

In recent years, al-Qaeda has faced competition in jihadi circles from its rival, the Islamic State group. IS rose to prominence by seizing large swaths of Iraq and Syria in 2014, declaring a 'caliphate' and extending affiliates to multiple countries across

IS's physical 'caliphate' was crushed in Iraq and Syria, though its militants are still active and carrying out attacks. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the shadowy leader of

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

12.09.21, PAGE 10

THE REPORT, 'Sign FTAs with US, EU to aid exporters: House panel to govt', was inadver-

tently repeated. The error is regretted.

CORRECTION

inadvertently included in the cover collage of the advertorial on Uttar Pradesh, which appeared on 12.09.21, produced by the marketing department of the newspaper

The error is deeply regretted and the image has been removed in all digital editions IS, was killed by US special forces in a raid in northwestern Syria in October 2019.

Al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian, became leader of al-Qaeda follow $ing\,the\,2011\,killing\,of\,Osama\,bin$ Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan, by US Navy SEALs.

Teen immigrant

policies are being polished, and in the week when the UK government threatened to turn migrant boats back to France, it took a teenager born in Canada to a Romanian father and a Chinese mother to place England on the sporting centre stage.

Raducanu's parents weren't in New York to witness the unprecedented title run due to Covid-related visa restrictions. But that allowed her mother to collect the 'Kent Player of the Year Award' at Bromley's local Sundridge Park tennis club on her behalf, while the youngster picked up her career's biggest

Both her parents work in finance, and her father is said to have once wanted to hire a different coach to help her practice each shot. He even practised with her on the street outside their home during the lockdown last year. The southeast London resident's immigrant background though doesn't do any justice to the odds she overcame o win the US Open.

Raducanu is currently ranked 150 in the world, which will now go up to 23 when the rankings are updated Monday. She's barely had any experience on the WTA Tour, having won just four of the seven matches on the regular tour. She first introduced herself as a Wild Card entrant in the Wimbledon main draw in June.

Ranked 338 in the world at

the time, she won three rounds comfortably -- claiming the scalps of former World No. 21 Sorana Cirstea and 2019 French finalist Marketa Vondrousova. She retired from the match in the fourth round after suffering from breathing problems. At that point, the then British women's No. 10 player's run promised to be no more than a storm-in-a-teacup episode. And she, too, was realistic of her chances at the US Open.

So much so that she prebooked a return flight to England once the qualification rounds were over. As it turned out, she overstayed by two weeks, becoming the first ever qualifier to win a Grand Slam title, doing it without dropping a set. She also became the lowest ranked player since the unranked Kim Clijsters (2009 US Open on comeback) to win the American Slam.

With it, Raducanu earned a cheque of a whopping USD 2.5 million. This, for a player who had till date won just USD 303,376, and the Futures event at Pune in 2019. Branding experts have estimated she could earn up to GBP 25 million in endorsements by next month.

And if it hadn't been clear before, the teenager's attention has now solely shifted towards tennis.

As a child, Raducanu had forays in go-karting, motocross, ballet, horse riding, tap dancing, and even table tennis during those annual trips to her mother's home in China's Shenyang. But her main priority -- according to people who knew her-- was academics.

"Everyone thinks I'm absolutely fanatic about my school results," the straight-A student said during Wimbledon, according to an AFP report. "They think I have such an inflated ego about it. Actually, I would say I have high standards of myself. That's helped me get to where I am in terms of tennis and also in terms

of school results." This focus of academics kept her from emerging as a big name on the junior tour, with a top ranking of 20. In fact, it was on the junior tour that she came across Fernandez once before their all-

First-time MLA Bhupendra Patel is BJP's surprise pick as Gujarat CM

which state party chief CR Paatil has set an ambitious target of winning all 182 seats. Most importantly, said a leader, Patel's elevation "bears the clear stamp of Prime Minister Narendra Modi". ``The party observers hadcome with the name of Bhupendra Patel as the next

> attended Sunday's meeting, said. Over the last two years, Modi was the chief guest at two major events held by the biggest Patidar organisations: a foundation ceremony in 2019 for a socio-religious complex by Vishv Umiya Foundation of Kadva Patidars, and the inauguration Saturday of a community building of Sardardham, which is run by Vishwa Patidar Samaj that includes Leuva and Kadva Patidars. Bhupendra Patel is a key member of both these organisations.

Chief Minister," the leader, who

Incidentally, Patel won his first Assembly election in 2017 from the seat that had been represented earlier by UP Governor Anandiben Patel who was replaced by Rupani as Chief Minister. The new Chief Minister is believed to be a close confidante of Anandiben Patel.

Speaking to reporters later, Bhupendra Patel thanked Modi. Shah and BJP chief JP Nadda "for putting their faith in me". "I also thank(Gujarat)party president CR Paatil and his team and Vijay Rupani and his team for putting their faith in me. And the blessings of honourable Anandiben have always been with me and will remain so," he said.

Patel said he did not have any inkling about his name being in contention for the CM's post, Asked about the Assembly elections next year, he said: "BJP is not a party that is in the habit of only doing election-oriented work. Every worker works for the people every day and will continue to do so.'

State party chief Paatil said there was "no discussion" on the post of Deputy CM. He said the party will decide on new roles for Rupani and Nitin Patel. Following Rupani's resigna-

teenage title clash Sunday. The

duo had played a second round

match at the 2018 Junior Girls

event at Wimbledon, with

At the US Open over the past

Raducanu picking up the win.

three weeks, Raducanu turned

quite a few heads, and left col-

leagues and fans impressed -- in-

cluding her greatest critic. "My

dad said to me 'you're even bet-

ter than I thought,' so that was re-

assuring. My dad's definitely

very tough to please but I man-

In 2018, the AP government

had provided Aadhaar cards and

initiated the construction of

roads in the region. In retaliation,

the same year, Odisha declared a

Rs 150-crore development pack-

age for the region. In mid-2019,

for the first time, all the villages in

the disputed region became ac-

cessible by road. In January, the

first ever mobile tower was set

up by the Odisha state govern-

ment in the area, followed by an

announcement the following

month that Kotia would be de-

veloped into a model panchayat.

been exercising jurisdiction in

the region since Odisha was

formed and our rule is clear that

in all these villages, our schemes,

development activities, and ad-

ditional support in terms of in-

frastructure and livelihood will

"Our claim is that we have

aged to do that," she said.

AP, Odisha

Supporters of CM Bhupendra Patel outside BJP headquarters in Gandhinagar on

Sunday; (below) BJP workers celebrate outside office of Bhupendra Patel in Ghatlodia



tion Saturday, the BJP's central parliamentary board had appointed Union ministers and senior leaders Narendra Singh Tomar and Pralhad Joshi as observers to oversee the election

of the new CM. Tomar and Joshi arrived in Gujarat early Sunday along with BIP national general secretary Tarun Chugh, a day after the party's national general secretary(organisation)BLSanthosh and state in-charge and Union Minister Bhupender Yadav had reached the state.

Sunday's meeting was attended by Rupani, Nitin Patel, party MLAs, MPs and top officebearers of the state unit including Paatil. Earlier, the names of

Kotia," Koraput District Collector

other hand, maintained that the

disputed villages are adminis-

tered by their state government

and the villagers also receive

benefits of various schemes by

But like most disputes, this

Prior to April 1, 1936, the vil-

lages of Kotia panchayat were

part of Jeypore princely state. In

1936, the Government of India

issued an order to create a sepa-

rate province on linguistic basis.

The order demarcated Odisha

from the erstwhile Madras pres-

idency, with the latter including

present-day Andhra Pradesh.

However, in 1942, the Madras

government contested the

boundary and appointed G S

Gilby to demarcate the two

states. In a joint survey of Odisha,

Bihar and Madhya Pradesh,

seven villages of Kotia gram pan-

chayat under Pottangi block

were recorded as revenue vil-

lages under Odisha. At the time

of the survey, 21 villages were left

out and not surveyed. At the time

of creation of the state of Andhra

Pradesh in 1955, the villages

were not surveyed by the Andhra

There has been no resolution

since then, with both states

claiming the area as part of their

Pradesh government either.

AP revenue officials, on the

Abdaal M Akhtar said.

the AP government.

one goes back a long way.

Paatil, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Gordhan Zadafia and Lakhshadweep administrator Praful Patel were floated as top contenders. Mandaviva and Zadafia are Leuva Patidars from the Saurashtra region, which has already been represented by several chief ministers.

"None of us had any inkling about Bhupendra Patel being the next CM, It was a surprise. This is a move to pacify the Patidar community," said a BJP MLA. "With this appointment, the party can neutralise the damage caused by disaffection in the community, which is our core

vote bank," said a party source. The party also hopes to win back votes it lost to AAP, especially in Surat where Arvind Kejriwal's party secured sizeable support from the Leuva Patidars who felt sidelined by the BJP and saw no point in voting for the Congress.

UP Governor Anandiben Patel took to Twitter to congratulate Patel and expressed the wish that "Gujarat achieves new heights of development under his experienced leadership".

Amit Shah posted a message for the new CM on social media and expressed confidence that, "under the guidance of Narendra Modi and vour (Patel's) leadership, Gujarat's continuous journey of development will get new energy and momentum".

Daylight killing

identified the militants responsible for the attack but refused to disclose their identities or affiliation. "He [Meer] was deputed to hospital for check-up of an accused person. When he was coming out of the hospital, he was shot at. He was immediately rushed to hospital but unfortunately he succumbed to injuries. It is very tragic loss for us, tragic loss for the family," DGP Dilbagh Singh told reporters on the sidelines of the wreath-laying cere-

mony of Meer. "The perpetrators of crime have been identified and they would be brought to justice," he said. GP Singh said there were around a dozen militant modules involved in such killings and all of them had been wiped out. He said it appears a new module has surfaced. "That too [the new module] has almost been identified," he said. He refused to name the militants involved in the attack or the militant outfit they are affiliated to, saying that "is not needed" at this point in time.

The mainstream political parties condemned the killing, calling it tragic and dastardly. "Sorry to hear about the death in the line of duty of Sub Inspector Arshad Mir of @JmuKmrPolice in a dastardly attack in the heart of Srinagar city. A young life with so

family...," tweeted former chief minister and National Conferen-

ce vice-president Omar Abdullah Former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti tweeted: "Saddened to hear about the death of J&K Police Sub Inspector Arshid Ahmad killed by militants at Khanyar today. May his soul rest in peace and condolences to his family.

Peoples Conference chairman Sajad Lone said: "SI Arshid Ahmed martyred. May Allah grant him Jannat. The terrorists have yet again made an addition to the army of orphans."

Patidar leader

lakh votes, considered to be the highest winning margin.

Patel began his political career from Memnagar Nagarpalika in Ahmedabad in the 1990s and served as president of the city civic body in 1999-2000 and 2004-06. Before contesting the corporation election, he also served as AMC school board vice chairman from 2008-10.

Patel's positions of power in Ahmedabad city covered the chief ministerial terms of Narendra Modi, Anandiben Patel and Vijay Rupani.

That Anandiben is among his mentors was clear when he told mediapersons after his appointment to the top post that "the blessings of (now Uttar Pradesh governor) Anandiben Patel have always been with me". He also J P Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Patel was chairman of AUDA

expressed gratitude towards PM

Narendra Modi, party president

(Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority) in 2015 and cleared major development projects in the Bopal-Ghuma area, which was under AUDA before its merger into the AMC in 2020. The fast-developing area on the outskirts of Ahmedabad is part of Amit Shah's constituency. Colleagues who have worked

with Patel in the AMC and AUDA talk of him as "a simple, grounded person with a noncontroversial image". "He is very straightforward and accessible. His ability to listen and give others the chance to speak shows he does not have any bias towards anyone," said one of his close associates from the AMC.

Following the delimitation of Ahmedabad, he fought the AMC election in 2010 from Thaltej ward. The first-time corporator was appointed standing committee chairman, a position he held for two terms from 2010 to 2015.

Sardardham vice-president Trikambhai Zalavadiya, who retired as deputy municipal commissioner from AMC in 2008, told The Indian Express, "Despite holding such important political positions, he sat in the last row during Saturday's event where the Prime Minister was the guest. Gujarat has got a low-profile, honest and hard-working CM."

R P Patel, president of Vishv Umiya Foundation, said, "During Vishy Umivadham's foundationstone-laying programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019, Bhupendrabhai, despite being a founder-trustee and MLA, undertook the responsibility of managing the parking. We feel very proud that the CM is from the Patidar community. As CM, now he is for every community.'

A civil engineer and member of the Gujarat Institute of Civil Engineers and Architects (GICEA), Patel has been in the real-estate business for 25 years.

"His real-estate business. Vihan Associates, has largely remained confined to Ahmedabad. Over the last 10 years, he has not been active in the construction business due to his involvement in politics and his role in the AMC and AUDA." said a leading realestate developer in Gujarat.

A resident of Shilaj, an upscale neighbourhood where Anandiben too has her residence, Patel's son and son-in-law too are in the construction business.

It was during Patel's term as chairman of the AMC standing committee that a major part of the Sabarmati riverfront project and the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) were completed, along with clearance for SVP Hospital, which was the second largest Covid hospital in the city at the peak of the pandemic.

Among his colleagues and friends, Patel is known to be Godfearing and religious. "He is a devout follower of Dada Bhagwan. That's the reason we call him Dada," said a former AMC official.

WITHINPUTSFROM **AVINASH NAIR**

Aravallis

it appropriate to include other districts also under Aravalli notification, then the same may be done by said authority...

A member of the committee, however, claimed that "its observations are not final yet". "As many as 2-3 more meetings will take place on the issue," the member told The Indian Express Sunday. Environmentalists have strongly objected to the committee's findings, saying it will only open up the region for construction activity. The Aravallis are spread across seven districts --Gurugram, Mewat, Faridabad, Palwal, Mahendragarh, Rewari and Bhiwani.

"If there are no Aravallis outside Gurgaon, were the orders of the Supreme Court for protection of Aravallis in 2002, 2004 and 2009 implemented in Faridabad by mistake?" wondered Chetan

Agarwal, an environmentalist. Another environmentalist who spoke on condition of anonymity said, "As of now, construction can be allowed only in half per cent of an area (0.5 acre in a 100-acre area) in the Aravallis but if these areas are brought out of the purview of the NCZ, there will be no such restrictions."

Terming as "faulty" the method of demarcation of Aravallis on the basis of revenue records. R P Balwan, a former IFS officer, said, "Revenue record pertains to cultivation of land and doesn't mention physical features. When no cultivation took place in the Aravallis ever, how will it find mention in revenue records? How can they deny the existence of the highest hill of Aravallis, Doshi Hill (Mahendragarh), on the basis of such a record?'

Yogi

had to bring any recommendation or pay any bribe. But they definitely teach a lesson to the Romeos saying 'abba jaan'," he said.

The Chief Minister said that unlike previous governments, where people from the "jungle party" used to enter SP and BSP and commit dacoity, law and order is strengthened today. "The jungle party is no more today. Criminals and rioters have disappeared. Every time Janmashtami used to be celebrated in Padrauna, there used to be riots. The rioters know what will happen to them. Their entire house-

hold will be on sale," he said. Slamming the BSP for declaring that they would not build any new park or memorial after coming to power, Adityanath said they got "scared" as they realised that the Ram temple would be "grand" and "most

beautiful". "Do you think that those who open fire on Ram devotees would have built the Ram temple? That those opening fire and conducting riots would have removed section 370 from Kashmir? That those supporting the Taliban would have abolished triple talaq? People of this state should never accept this casteist and dynast mentality. Remember, a scorpion will sting

At events organised in Kaptanganj and Sevrahi, the Chief Minister inaugurated projects worth Rs 420 crore. In Kaptanganj, he laid the foundation stone for 96 projects worth Rs 310 crore and inaugurated 11 projects worth Rs 14 crore. In Sevrahi, he laid the foundation and inaugurated 30 projects worth Rs 96 crore.

no matter where it is," he said.

"This is just a trailer for Kushinagar. A very important work is pending. On the next visit, I have to come to lay the foundation stone for a medical college. Kushinagar will get its own medical college. Now flights will also start from Kushinagar and I want the first flight from here to be international," he said.

Earlier, Adityanath visited Sant Kabir Nagar district where he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 122 development projects worth Rs 245 crore, including the building of a district prison for Rs 126 crore.

Addressing a gathering, he said: "We have converted the jails of the state into reform homes where the criminals are being given an opportunity to reform. The jails of UP are no more places of fun for criminals. There was a time when the powers used to be slaves of various mafia. Today, the bulldozer of our government runs over their houses.'

Adityanath said that the emphasis of his government is to ensure safety, dignity and self-reliance for women. He presented tailoring kits to five women under the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana.

 ${\tt Ahmedabad}$

be extended to the residents of much promise, another grieving

5 GUJARAT

'Committed partyman', say Rupani's Rajkot neighbours

GOPAL KATESHIYA RAJKOT SEPTEMBER 12

INCESSANT RAIN lashed Rajkot during the first half of the day on Sunday, when Prakash Society stood guiet and deserted, even as the state waited with bated breath to know the successor of Vijay Rupani, the most prominent

resident of this residential colony. The storm drenched a BJP flag hoisted at the chief minister's personal residence and forced neighbours to remain indoors. Occasional passers-by barely had time to cast glances at a Rangoon creeper-covered small gate to the CM's house. Doors of most of the houses in this middle-class neighbourhood on the posh Nirmala Convent Road were shut.

"Sir (Vijay Rupani) has not come here in a long while. But bahen (Rupani's wife Anjali) comes often. She was here till Tuesday and left that morning... no one from the family has come here since," one of the two policemen guarding the CM's residence said while seeking shelter in the porch of the row-house as it poured heavily.

"A typical Jain, he never meant harm to anyone nor did he commit any wrongs. But big boys have made their decision and he has to leave. This is not just a loss for our society or Raikot, but for the entire state. A good man is being shown the door," said Nayan Shah, an Ayurveda practitioner and Rupani's next-door neighbour for 30 years.

"Politicians from north and south Gujarat regions could never digest the fact that a man from Saurashtra had become the CM. Similar was the case when Keshubhai Patel became CM,"



Vijay Rupani's private residence at Prakash Society in Rajkot stays deserted on Sunday. Chirag Chotaliya

Before Rupani became the CM, it was normal for the Rupanis and the Shahs to occasionally meet over breakfast despite their hectic schedule. The Shahs have stored in their mobile phones photos of the CM attending their grandson's birthday do a couple of years ago.

"His simplicity can be gauged from the fact that in the past five years he never made the policemen ask anyone to remove a scooter or bike from the street," Shah said, adding he dialled Rupani on Sunday morning for a 'casual conversation".

"He must be feeling like a student who is made to believe that he has done poorly in an examination. So. I didn't broach the subject of his resignation. That is a subject to be discussed some

other day," said Shah. Vishal Sarvaiya, who lives across the street from Rupani's house, is concerned whether Rupani's exit would affect the development of Rajkot, "It was obvious that he had a soft corner for Rajkot. But now, I am afraid, development of the city will be affected," 37-year-old Sarvaiya, a businessman, said.

Shah's wife Kiran, who is secretary of BJP's Mahila Morcha for Ward No.10 in Raikot, said, "I wish they had been a little more considerate. It was Paryushan (the holy period for followers of Jainism). But I appreciate the way the BJP functions.'

Shah's daughter Meenal was quick to enlist infrastructure projects that were launched in Rajkot during Rupani's tenure as CM. "New airport, bus port, riverfront, AIIMS. Rajkot was getting the attention it deserved when he was the CM." she said.

The tranquillity continued even as rain abated later in the afternoon and the BJP announced Bhupendra Patel, an MLA from Ghatlodia in Ahmedabad, as Rupani's successor. "Rupani is a committed partyman. Whether he was given any post or not, he kept working for the party. He remains committed to the BJP even after stepping down as CM. This is the reason there is no assembly of any aggrieved supporters at his home today. How many such people are there in the state

Will not be ousted as long as people love me: Nitin Patel

Deputy CM Nitin Patel

Nirmal Harindran

leaves the BIP headquarters

thing. I told them (media) in the

morning that your job is to spec-

ulate, but the decision will be

whether I will be ousted now. I

want to state that till the time I

am in the hearts of the public,

karyakartas and voters, nobody

can oust me. I have served in the

opposition for a long time and have worked for the party for 30

Patel was in Mehsana to in-

augurate the newly made

"Kamal Path" road stretch con-

necting Mehsana-Radhanpur

highway to Modhera road, built

speculations of him becoming

the CM, Patel said, "I have already

stated that media has the right to speculate... but the decision is

always taken by the party. I am

delighted to say that my friend

When asked by reporters on

years," Patel added.

at Rs 62 crore.

taken by the party," said Patel. "I saw media stories about

in Gandhinagar on Sunday.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

OUTGOING DEPUTY Chief Minister Nitin Patel on Sunday said that as long as he receives the love of the people, he will not

Speaking at an event in Mehsana after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced Bhupendra Patel as Gujarat's new chief minister, Patel congratulated the successor of Vijay Rupani and dismissed media reports speculative of him being considered for the CM post.

In 2016, too, when Anandiben Patel resigned from the top post, Nitin Patel was among the front runner to be the CM, but then party president Amit Shah had his way go get Vijay Rupani as the CM.

In 2017, when Rupani was reelected as the chief minister, Nitin Patel expressed his displeasure openly over the allocation of portfolios and refused to take charge of the ones allotted to him. He took charge of them only after the intervention of the top party leadership and allocation of finance portfolio to him. On Sunday, too, there were speculations that Nitin Patel was unhappy over him not being selected as the CM.

"The new chief minister Bhupendra Patel is our friend, he is among us and he is a karyakarta like all of us. We have worked together in the past and his name has been chosen as the CM by the party. He is my friend, I have inaugurated his office, let anyone think anything about us. The media can speculate any-

comment on that as the chief minister will decide the new cabinet under the guidance of national leadership. Patel had courted

versy over his recent remarks that talks of Constitution and secularism will be there in India as long as Hindus are in majority and that it would be buried the day the population of Hindus decreases.

ceived any threats over the remarks, he said, "I have got sevunknown numbers..."

constituency Bhupendra Patel has been chosen as the new CM... I congratulate him for the same."

When asked about his role in the new cabinet, he said, "I can't

When asked whether he reeral threat calls from known and

Categories

is inconsequential if the CM is from Patidar community as the people want a leader who would isten to them."

VAIBHAVJHA

Ghatlodia

from Amit Shah.

AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 12

SOON AFTER the Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) announced first-time

MLA from Ahmedabad's

Bhupendra Patel, as the next chief

minister of Gujarat on Sunday,

Congress state unit claimed that

the "remote control (for power)"

has been given to Anandiben Patel

resign in 2016 in similar way Vijay Rupani did on Saturday.

Express, Congress leader Paresh

Dhanani, leader of opposition in

the Gujarat Assembly, said, "The

government in Gujarat will be remote-controlled like before... only

the power centre has shifted. Now

the remote is with Anandiben

Patel after it was taken from Amit

Shah. Only the face has changed

Shah might himself take the com-

mand of Gujarat but the kind of wound BJP gave to the people of

Gujarat through years of misrule

and Covid mismanagement in

which three lakh people died,

even Shah was scared to take

charge. That is why he has now

given the remote control to Anandiben," he added.

ing 59-year-old Bhupendra Patel,

a Patidar from Kadva community,

as the chief minister is seen as

BIP's efforts to woo the Patidar

voters ahead of assembly elec-

tions 2022, Dhanani said, "The BJP

has made Gujarat hollow from

within through years of misrule.

Now they are dependent on com-

munalism and casteism to sustain

munity can be used as a vote bank.

But now the public has seen

through their tactics. If there was

even one per cent chance that the BJP government in Gujarat could have been saved, Amit Shah

would have never given up his chance. They know that they are going to lose and that's why the

remote has been given to

Congress Committee Hardik Patel

said that the people of Gujarat

don't connect with Bhupendra

Patel as their chief minister as he

Speaking to The Indian Express, Patel said, "The letter of

appointment for this CM has

come from Delhi and the people

of Guiarat know this. They wanted

a chief minister who would con-

nect to them and listen to their is-

sues. I don't think this CM will be

successful as people will ulti-

pointment of Patel will have any

effect on Patidar votes in the 2022

Assembly elections, he said, "The

CM of Gujarat is a representative

of 6.5 crore people of the state and

not just the Patidar community. It

When asked whether the ap-

mately see him as a BJP face."

has been appointed by Delhi.

Patidar leader and working president of Gujarat Pradesh

Anandiben," he added.

"The BJP thinks Patidar com-

their political power.'

When asked whether choos-

"We initially thought Amit

but the problem persists."

Former chief minister of Gujarat, Anandiben Patel, had to

Speaking to The Indian

constituency,

In a statement to Bhupendra Patel, Hardik Patel stated, "I congratulate the newly elected chief minister of Gujarat, Bhupendra Patel. To hide its failures, the BJP has given you the responsibility just months before the 2022 Vidhan Sabha elections... However, your party in the past 25

vears was not able to work for health, education, women, youth, farmers and marginalised people, then how will you do that work in just one year? The people of Gujarat are asking you this."

Remote control given to Anandiben from Shah: Cong

"The BIP has chosen in you their last CM in Gujarat because the people have decided to keep anti-poor and anti-youth BJP out of power for the next 25 years in the state. Time has come not just for CM change but for an overhaul...." the statement added. Reacting on the announcem-

ent of new CM, state AAP president Gopal Italia said, "The people of Gujarat, who voted for the party, want to know from the BJP top party leaders, on what criteria the new chief minister has been selected... BJP should clarify, why senior leaders in the state Cabinet were sidelined. The BJP also should give reason to the public, why CM Vijay Rupani has been changed, as crores of rupees, were spent for his successful tenure."

Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti co convenor Dharmik Malaviya said, "We are happy that new CM is from Patidar community. We are hopeful that our demands with Rupani which were not fulfilled, will now be taken into consideration... He added, "We will in coming days meet new the CM and give our memorandum of demands to him."





E-AUCTIONS FOR BLACK TRAP

Mining blocks prospected with ultra-modern technology to ensure highest quality & quantity output

		AMRELI - BLACK TRA	P		
Sr. No.	Mineral Block Name	Village, Taluka, District	Area in (Ha)	Type of Land (Govt/Pvt)	Estimated Mineral Resources (in MT)
-1	Dahithara Black Trap Block-A	Dahithara, Lathi, Amreli	2.0234	Private	5,34,633

	DEVBHUMI DWARKA - BLACK TRAP				
Sr. No.	Mineral Block Name	Village, Taluka, District	Area in (Ha)	Type of Land (Govt/Pvt)	Estimated Mineral Resources (in MT)
1	Gunda Black Trap Black - I	Gunda, Bhanvad, Devbhumi Dwarka	1.2000	Govt.	3,36,000
2	Gunda Black Trap Black - 2	Gunda, Bhanvad, Devbhumi Dwarka	1.1000	Govt.	3,08,000

	JAMNAGAR - BLACK TRAP				
Sr. No.	Mineral Block Name	Village, Taluka, District	Area in (Ha)	Type of Land (Govt/Pvt)	Estimated Mineral Resources (in MT)
1	Bavdidad Black Trap Block - A	Bavdidad, Jamjodhpur, Jamnagar	1.0000	Govt.	2,70,630
2	Bavdidad Black Trap Block - B	Bavdidad, Jamjodhpur, Jamnagar	1.0000	Govt.	2,72,025
3	Seth Vadala Black Trap Block - I	Seth Vadala , Jamjodhpur, Jamnagar	1.0000	Govt.	2,69,660

The Government of Gujarat is committed to ensuring that mining in the state emerges as an attractive investment opportunity after the notification of Gujarat Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 2017.

> The Collectors of Amreli, Devbhumi Dwarka & Jamnagar have published a Notice Inviting Tender Ref. No. Geo/Minor/Block/BTP/AMR/03/2021-22/001, Geo/Minor/Block/BTP/DBD/11/2021-22/001 & Geo/Minor/Block/BTP/JMN/02/2021-22/001, Dtd. 12th August 2021 for the auction of 6 Black Trap Block. The details of the blocks are shared above.

- Obtain Class 3 Digital Signature
- Register on e-auction portal https://cgm-eauction.nprocure.com
- 3. Log-on to e-auction portal to download tender documents
- Submit your bid after Pre-Bid Meeting responses Participate in Stage 2 - Live e-auction after IPOs are opened





For further details visit us at www.cgm.gujarat.gov.in Block 15, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Sector-10 B, Gandhinagar - 382010, Gujarat. Tel: 079 23254151 | Email: commissioner-cgm@gujarat.gov.in



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Acknowledging accuracy, courage, credibility & fairness

E TENDER (NIT) - YEAR 2021-22 Vivekanand Medical Foundation & Research Centre, Latur, Maharashtra

invites Tenders for purchasing Medical Equipments as mentioned in the below table for Vivekanand Cancer Hospital. The tender Would be publish on 16th September, 2021 at 10 AM IST.

NOTICE FOR INVITATION OF

Sr. No.	Name of the Equipment	Required Quantity
1.	Urodynamic System	01
2.	Pneumatic Tube System	01
3.	Cystoscope, Ureterorenoscope, Nephroscope and TURP Set	01
4.	Camera Head and Ureteroscope	01

To view further details of the tender, interested bidders should visit https://mahatenders.gov.in.

Tender Submission would be online on https://mahatenders.gov.in and deadline to submit the Proposal is 7th October, 2021 at 2 PM IST.

Administrator Vivekanand Medical Foundation & Research Centre Last date for entries October 15, 2021

Print/Digital & Broadcast Hindi
 Regional Languages
 Uncovering India Invisible
 Business and Economic Journalism

Reporting on Arts, Culture and Entertainment
 Books (Non-Fiction)
 Foreign Correspondent Covering India

• Environment, Science and Technology Reporting • Reporting on Politics and Government • Sports Journalism • Investigative Reporting

Prakash Kardaley Memorial Award for Civic Journalism
 Photo Journalism

Entries are invited for the year 2020 only | To apply, log on to www.rngfoundation.com/awards

6 EXPRESS NETWORK

Estranged uncle, Tejashwi attend Chirag event to mark father Paswan's death anniversary

SANTOSH SINGH

PATNA, SEPTEMBER 12

LOK JANSHAKTI Party leader Chirag Paswan Sunday shared space with Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Prasad Yadav and estranged uncle Pashupati Kumar Paras at his event marking the first death anniversary of his father Ram Vilas Paswan. At the event, Chirag Paswan also read out a letter by Prime Minister Narendra Modi praising the former Union minister's contributions to Indian polity.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar skipped the event.

It was a family reunion of sorts for the vounger Paswan with almost all the members of the extended family gathering at the SK Puri residence.

Chirag Paswan also spent time with Opposition leader Yadav, who brought several RJD members along with him. Yadav has written to the Bihar Chief Minister seeking a life-size statue of Paswan in Patna.

The Jamui MP expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Modi for the letter and said he expected the same love and affection from him in the future.

The letter, written in Hindi, says: "The political history of independent India will always have a place for (Ram Vilas) Paswan ji. He rose from a very humble background and reached the top. But he always stayed rooted to the ground. Whenever I met him, he would share his experiences and express concern for the poor and the deprived."

The PM praised Paswan's contribution towards improving railway infrastructure and telephone connectivity and in giving momentum to reforms in mining and fertiliser sectors. "Paswan ji's life can teach many a lesson to youth and those who want to understand politics and serve the country by taking to politics," said the PM, recalling how Paswan was always accessible to party workers and would meet people with a smile.

An overwhelmed Chirag Paswan said: "PM has put the gist of my father's life in his words and has shown great respect for him. The PM's letter has given us a lot of strength in this

Meanwhile, sources said Union minister Paras may also organise a separate function in the future to commemorate the senior Paswan.

Jharkhand political feud gets messier: Marandi adviser is arrested for rape

ABHISHEK ANGAD RANCHI, SEPTEMBER 12

ACLOSE aide of BJP leader Babulal Marandi was arrested on Sunday morning for allegedly raping a 20year-old domestic help, top sources in Jharkhand Police said.

Days after he was booked on August 16 for committing the alleged crime at his residence in March 2020, Sunil Tiwary, political adviser to former chief minister Marandi, had told The Indian Express that he feared for his life, and that the FIR against him was "politically motivated".

Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police Surendra Jha declined to comment on Sunday. Tiwary's arrest is the latest episode in the messy ongoing political feud between the ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and opposition BJP.

The CBI has submitted a preliminary enquiry report in a case of alleged disproportionate assets against Chief Minister Hemant

Soren that has been taken up by the Lokpal. A case of rape against the chief minister is pending in Bombay High Court, and Tiwary has filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored probe in the matter.

The Soren government also came under criticism by the BJP recently after it decided to allot a room for namaaz in the Assembly. Protesting BJP leaders including Marandi and Rajya Sabha MP Deepak Prakash were lathicharged by police. Tiwary, who handled Marandi's social media outreach, came to the limelight after the former chief minister merged his Jharkhand Vikas Morcha (Prajatantrik) party with the BJP, and was chosen leader of the legislature party.
Tiwary had said earlier: "I do

what Babulalji asks me to do. I am his political adviser, and I filed the plea (in the Supreme Court) at his instance. The CM thinks that the complaint to the Lokpal of India on the alleged disproportionate

TOTAL

assets of the Soren family is my doing, which is not the case."

The Jharkhand Speaker had refused to give Leader of Opposition status to Marandi, and proceedings were initiated on the alleged violation of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution (the so-called anti-defection law) by Marandi after he merged his party with the BJP.

On May 3 this year, a woman police officer, Rupa Tirkey, died allegedly by suicide in Sahebganj district. Tirkey had been investigating a case against a person with links to one Pankaj Mishra, who is seen as being close to Chief Minister Soren, Supported by the BJP, Tirkey's family petitioned Jharkhand High Court seeking a CBI investigation into the case — and on September 2, the BJP hailed the court's decision granting the plea.

Days later, on September 9, the government decreed that Mayors of Jharkhand's nine municipal corporations cannot convene or set the agenda of meetings. In response, Asha Lakra, the BJP's Ranchi Mayor, called a press conference to allege that the Jharkhand Municipal Rules, 2011, were being violated.

All these incidents are seen as part of a larger political tussle between the BIP and JMM. However, the arrest of Tiwary has escalated the issue to a new level, sources on both sides said.

After the FIR against Tiwary was registered last month, Marandi told reporters that the government was "acting in a conspiracy, with malicious intent and irresponsibly...and the police has become a tool of the government". On the allegation of rape

against Soren, he told The Indian Express: "There was a video purportedly shot by the victim of the rape in which she allegedly said that her life may be in danger, and if something happened to her then I, Tiwary, and others would be responsible. I don't have anything to do with the woman, still my name was dragged into this... So I asked my adviser Tiwary to become an intervener in the ongoing case into the rape allegation against the CM in the Bombay High Court."

However, since the case in the Bombay High Court was moving slowly, he had advised Tiwary to file a petition in the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored probe by the CBI, Marandi had said. He alleged that the Soren government was "intolerant to any criticism", and that was "one of the reasons for the escalation of the problem".

JMM spokesperson Supriyo Bhattacharya rejected allegations that the action against Tiwary was politically motivated. "The police are doing their job. There is a case against Tiwary and it is for the court to decide on it. There is no political motivation or suppression of any dissent," he said.

The chief minister's media adviser Abhishek Prasad alias Pintu said: "There is an allegation and police are investigating... Let the law decide; not Babulal Marandiii... Why is there so much fear?"

G 23 should be a closed chapter now, says Moily

Favours induction of Prashant Kishor into Cong, says it is part of reforms

MANOJCG NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

IN A setback for the G23 grouping in the Congress, former law minister M Veerappa Moily, who was a signatory to the letter the leaders had written to party chief Sonia Gandhi last year, on Sunday said he "hates" the word G23 now and argued that some of the leaders are "misusing" the G23 by "keeping it alive" through meetings and

remarks in the media. Moily also favoured the induction of poll strategist Prashant Kishor into the Congress and said his entry is part of the reform measures that Gandhi is slowly unveiling.

Moily said the 23 senior leaders, including him, had written to Gandhi to reform the party and not to weaken the party. He said the exercise has fructified as Gandhi has begun initiating reforms in the party and the G 23 should now be a "closed chapter" and not "institutionalised".

The Indian Express contacted many leaders of the G 23 grouping but they refused to react. One leader said: "There has never been any institutional arrangement. G 23 was a name given by the media... because there were 23 signatories.... You can only dissolve and dismantle something which existed."

Moily said there is no such institution like G 23. "That time it [the letter] was [written] to initiate certain reform measures by Sonia Gandhi... and she is now taking that step. She has also held discussions with Prashant Kishor. She has reorganised the party in many places. She has taken decisions. So she is marching forward. What do you want? It [the letter] was not intended to change the leadership at the centre. No. She is a dynamic leader and led the party for 18-19 years. She is well experienced and now the interest she is taking will definitely lead to reforms which we desire.' "Then why should we again



M Veerappa Moily

and again pitch that idea. Let us stop it and allow her to take major decisions. Even for reforming the party, consulting Prashant Kishor...," he said.

Asked what reform measures Gandhi has taken, he said, "She has taken a number of measures...through AICC appointed some observers, appointed secretaries and also she is discussing with Prashant Kishor to reorganise the party and bring back real life into the party. That is why allow her... this is the time to strengthen her hands and not weaken her hands.'

When reminded that demands like constitution of the Central Parliamentary Board for "collective thinking" and election to the central election committee have not been met, he said, "What is important is to initiate steps to reorganise the party. I don't want to pick up one by one... points and say minus-plus. That is not our intention. She is taking initiative and I think it is taking good shape... I don't want to analyse each point. I know what it is. She has taken good initiative and definitely in a couple of months you

will see the results.' When pointed out that there were reports that some of the G 23 leaders were not happy at the prospect of Kishor joining the party, he said, "All of us are anxious to strengthen the hands of Sonia Gandhi. She is our leader and we are here to strengthen her hands. And we should stop talking about G 23.'

www.indianexpress.com

FULL REPORT ON

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE



NEW CASES: 30,799 ACTIVE CASES: 3,75,865

TOTAL VACCINATION: 73,82,07,378



TESTS TODAY: 15.60.937 | TOTAL TESTS: 54.33.66.766 WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 2.02% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 6.12%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

	CASES	CASES	POSITIVITY	VACCINATION
■ Kerala	20,240	2,22,736	16.59%	3,16,76,317
■Maharashtra	3,623	50,400	1.04%	6,76,90,046
■Tamil Nadu	1,608	16,473	1.01%	3,70,34,195
■ Andhra Prades	sh 1,190	15,110	2.24%	3,31,82,565
■Mizoram	1,089	12,060	12.07%	9,75,763

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS Z'YARIOT TOTAL WEEKLY

	DEATHS	DEATHS	CFR	CFR
■ Kerala	67	22,630	0.55%	0.56%
■Maharashtra	47	1,41,689	1.17%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	22	35,168	1.37%	1.35%
■ Karnataka	17	37,504	1.10%	1.27%
■ Andhra Pradesh	11	13,998	0.89%	0.70%

■ Kerala	67	22,630	0.55%	0.56%
■ Maharashtra	47	1,41,689	1.17%	2.19%
■ Tamil Nadu	22	35,168	1.37%	1.35%
■ Karnataka	17	37,504	1.10%	1.27%
■ Andhra Pradesh	11	13,998	0.89%	0.70%

UP man held for bid to 'convert neighbour'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW. SEPTEMBER 12

A 40-YEAR-OLD man in Mahoba district has been arrested under the state's anti-conversion law for allegedly attempting to convert his neighbour to Christianity by promising him monetary help, the police said on Sunday. Investigators said Ashish John was arrested on Saturday based on a complaint from his neighbour Sachin Dwivedi. The accused was produced before a local court and was sent to judicial custody Saturday, said Additional Superintendent of Police RK Gautam.

In his complaint, Dwivedi said that a month ago John gave him a drink after he told him about a persistent headache. Recently, when Dwivedi said the

drink did not help, John allegedly told him to adopt Christianity to get relief. The accused also allegedly told his neighbour that he would receive Rs 12,000 for starting a business, and gave him some books, said the police.

After Dwivedi filed a complaint, John was booked under sections 3 and 5 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion Law, 2020.

got first dose of vaccine: Govt **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

All adults in 6 states, UTs have

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

ALL ADULTS in Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Ladakh and Lakshadweep have received at least one dose of Covid vaccine as the cumulative jabs administered in the country crossed 74 crore on Sunday, the Union Health Ministry said. Over 52 lakh doses were ad-

ministered on Sunday, according to data from the CoWIN portal.

"Congratulations to these states and Union Territories for administering the first Covid-19 vaccine dose to 100 per cent of the adult population. Special appreciation for the health workers in these regions for their diligence and commitment," the office of Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya tweeted.

Along with the tweet, the office of the Union Health Minister



A Covid-19 vaccination drive for senior citizens, teachers and those above 45 at a Thane nursing home, Sunday. Deepak Joshi

put up a chart which stated that Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (6.26 lakh doses), Goa (11.83 lakh doses). Himachal Pradesh (55.74 lakh doses), Ladakh (1.97 lakh doses),

Lakshadweep (53,499 doses), and Sikkim (5.10 lakh doses) are the states and UTs with 100 per cent eligible population vaccinated with the first dose of the

bling of the PM-KISAN scheme

VARUN TELLS UP CM

Increase sugarcane prices, double PM-KISAN funds

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

A WEEK after extending support to the agitating farmers with his tweet, BJP MP Varun Gandhi has written to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath seeking various relief measures for farmers in the state and sought substantial increase in sugarcane prices, bonus on wheat and paddy, doubling the amount of PM-KISAN scheme and subsidy on diesel.

In his letter, which he posted on his Twitter handle, Gandhi suggested that the sugarcane

selling price should be increased to Rs 400 per quintal, from the current Rs 315 per quintal in Uttar Pradesh, Farmers, who have been in distress, should be given an additional bonus of Rs 200 per quintal above the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat and paddy, Gandhi said.

Sugarcane is mainly grown in western Uttar Pradesh, which is the epicentre of the farmers' protest in the state against the Centre's farm laws.

In the two-page letter to Aditvanath, the Pilibhit MP listed out the problems and demands of the farmers and also suggested the solutions.



BJP MP Varun Gandhi and **UP Chief Minister Yogi** Adityanath

Tagging the letter, the threeterm MP tweeted: "I hope issues of the sons of the soil will be heard.'

While the BJP government

Dive into fishery helps Bihar village net gains

in the state has claimed that it has cleared more than 80 per cent of dues to about 4.5 million sugar cane farmers. Gandhi pointed out that some dues were still unpaid. The state government has claimed that Rs 1,42,650 crore has been given to the farmers in the past four years.

On the day of the farmers'

protest rally last week, Gandhi had tweeted: "Lakhs of farmers have gathered in protest today, in Muzaffarnagar. They are our own flesh and blood. We need to start re-engaging with them in a respectful manner: understand their pain, their point of view and work with them in reaching common ground." The BJP MP also sought dou-

to Rs 12.000 per annum for farmers, with the state government contributing Rs 6,000 from its own funds. The scheme is an initiative of the Centre through which all farmers get up to Rs 6,000 per year as minimum income support. In his letter, Gandhi shared the concerns of the farmers over

the high charges of electricity and diesel price. He urged the Chief Minister to provide a subsidy of Rs 20 per litre on diesel to farmers and reduce the power prices with immediate effect.

Modi agreed to send four

Shahzadapur farmers along with

36 others to Andhra Pradesh for

already sent 26 batches of farm-

ers for training in Andhra

Pradesh. We were the 27th

"The Bihar government had

Over 60,000 families evicted from homes during pandemic: report

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

ATLEAST 61.257 families have lost their homes since March 2020 in at least 245 incidents of forced eviction drives across the country during the pandemic, according to a report by the Housing and Land Rights Network.

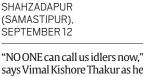
The report 'Forced Evictions in India in 2020: A Grave Human Rights Crisis During the Pandemic' records that 126 of these evictions took place from March 2020 to July 2021, and 119 from January 1 to July 21 2021. Some of the major evictions in 2021 it has recorded are the demolition of at least 12,000 homes in Faridabad's Khori Gaon by the Municipal Corporation of Faridabad, 300 houses in Ramesh Park by the Delhi Development Authority in Delhi in July, 450 homes in Mumbai's Chheda Nagar by the Mangrove conservation Cell in February, 200 houses in Mysuru by the Karnataka Slum Development Board in April, and 130 houses in Arumbakkam in



A slum demolition in Delhi this year. At least 245 incidents of forced eviction happened amid the pandemic.

July by the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board. Among the reasons for these have been encroachment clearance and city beautification drives, infrastructure projects, environment proj-

ects and forest protection. "Almost all incidents of eviction documented by HLRN from 1 January to 31 July 202138 have rendered low-income communities homeless at the peak of the pandemic. The widespread devastation caused by these demolitions during this public health emergency has resulted in the blatant violation of human rights of affected persons, including their right to life guaranteed by the Constitution of India. The destruction of people's housing at this time needs to be strongly denounced, with an immediate suspension of all planned demolitions and evictions," states the



SANTOSH SINGH

proudly shows off his pond where he farms fish. In his village of 60 households, discussions usually revolve around fish — be it the new fast-breeding varieties such as the Amur from Bhubaneswar or the favourites like Rohu and Katla. It was in this village,

Shehzadpur in Samastipur district, that the Nitish Kumar government started a pilot project for fisheries back over a decade ago. Now, it has turned into a nursery for prospective fish farmers.

Thakur is one of four farmers who initially helped sparked the fishery frenzy in the upper-caste Bhumihar village, also breaking a caste barrier along the way – the profession is associated with **Extremely Backward Classes** such as the Mallah or Nishad communities.



Thakur, along with Sunil Kumar, Kaushal Kishore Thakur and Chandrakant Thakur, dug up 19 ponds in a part of a vast stretch of low-lying flooded land in 2010. Under water for most of the year, the 120-acre area would remain unirrigated, only occasionally yielding paddy.

The state government started giving a 30 per cent subsidy (now 50 per cent) for digging one pond. More villagers dug up ponds and Shahzadapur became a pilot project of the state government.

For a village once stuck with unproductive land and accused of having "idlers", the turnaround has been stunning. Residents now cumulatively earn an average yearly profit of Rs 3 crore, said Thakur. At present, 40 residents own

60 ponds spread over the 100 acres. Ten other ponds are coming up. "We did not know this land could give us any return. The minimum profit per acre is Rs 2 lakh. The village farmers cu-



The flooded lowland that has been repurposed into a thriving fishery hub; and (above) the residents of Shehzadpur village

mulatively earn a profit of about

Rs 3 crore", said Thakur. The Bihar Chief Minister has long spoken about self-reliance in fish breeding. He visited the village in 2012 and spoke about the potential for fisheries in the

Kumar, another one of the four residents who first took up the profession, said the real boost came when some village residents met Sushil Kumar Modi, the then Deputy Chief Minister and Fisheries Minister.

He also remembers a jibe

with fish.

batch," said Kumar.

training in fisheries.

from a senior officer in the Bihar fisheries department who said they were simply going to idle about in posh hotels. "This hurt us immensely. We returned to the village with a resolve to do something," says Kumar as he shows this correspondent around his vast pond, teeming

The farmers get two fish varieties a year — Rohu and Katla, Local fish sellers who used to depend on Andhra Pradesh till a few years ago now only buy from the village. The fish breeders of Shahzadpur are now helping start fish farming other areas as well - 85 acres in Jhanjharpur (Madhubani), 15 acres in Hasanpur, 12 acres in Sarairanjan, 15 acres in Vidyapati Nagar (Samastipur) and 15 acres in Siwan.

TOEA EXCHANGE NEWSMAKERS IN THE NEWSROOM

SATISH CHANDRA MISRA, NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY, BSP; RAJYA SABHA MP

In UP, Brahmins, Dalits face many issues. The way murders are happening... If someone complains, they face inquiry

Misra defends BSP's Brahmin outreach and says party stands for sarv samaaj; insists BSP has been active and raising issues in Parliament and courts; and says that while the party is ready to back the Cong on issues, it will do so on its terms. The session was moderated by Chief of Bureau & Political Editor Ravish Tiwari

RAVISH TIWARI: After a long period of inactivity, the BSP has sounded the poll bugle in Uttar Pradesh with a series of public meetings. What prompted it?

It's not entirely correct to say that we started doing this suddenly. For the past one-and-a-half years, public meetings have not been possible because of the pandemic. Despite that, we managed to have 62 meetings in different districts, with at least 200 persons each. While the Brahmins came to my office, similar meetings were held at Behenji's (party chief Mayawati) place. The moment the Covid-19 cases dropped in UP, we began (our meetings). It's not that we were silent, the party has been working right up to the booth level, and we are determined to throw out the BJP government

RAVISH TIWARI: But you can be accused of launching your campaign with caste-based events?

We called it 'Prabuddha Sammelan (intellectuals' meetings)'. No doubt, in all my meetings, 90 per cent of the attendees were Brahmins, but there were others too. There were advocates, doctors, engineers... So it wasn't a 'iaatiyaad' event. In UP, Brahmins and Dalits are facing maximum issues. The way encounters and murders are happening... If someone complains, he faces inquiry. All these people who were suffering urged me to come out... They want 2007 to come back [the last time BSP came to power], they want the brotherhood of the Brahmin and Dalit communities to return. The social engineering... no one ever thought the communities could come together. We formed a majority government.

RAVISH TIWARI: What issues will you raise in the 2022 polls?

Law and order, development, atrocities on women, atrocities on caste lines... People are again talking about Mayawati's development work, how she handled law and order and did not even spare her own MP... Today one barely sees any development, we only see pages and pages of advertisements. (Mayawati) gave employment to people from all sections. Work on the first Delhi-Noida expressway was started in her time. An enquiry was placed on it after our term, and then the same government inaugurated it! The Congress, Samajwadi Party, everyone protested against the Jewar airport and today they are all batting for it... Work on Lucknow Metro was started in our time. We ensured the all-round development of 29,500 Ambedkar villages. About 29,000 new primary schools were opened; seven international-level universities were set up... She opened 23 new districts, which came with new roads, hospitals, colleges... She improved the electricity situation in UP... In our fiveyear term, there was one rape case. Today, we hear of one rape every two hours... So that is the difference. (Mayawati) has put the agenda on the table, and has promised to take UP where it should be... Today we are seeing Rs 300 crore being spent by people to propagate themselves. It is a sin. Teachers are going without salary, people are not getting pensions, and then you are mocking everyone by putting signboards saying that we are giving 5 kg grain each to 15 crore people. But the cost of the bag with photographs of BJP leaders is more than the foodgrains. Is that

LIZ MATHEW: The BJP has also been focussing on Dalit votes in UP, and the party's caste formula has worked so far. How will you consolidate your vote base in the face of such stiff

competition from the ruling party? Also, what do you make of the Bhim Army's influence

among Dalits in UP? All these people and parties are propped up by the BJP, whether it is him (Bhim Army chief Chandrashekhar Azad) or (AIMIM chief Asaduddin) Owaisi. They are hardly going to do any damage to us. They will lose their own seat if they contest an election there. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are behind Behenji like a rock, which ensured that we got 2.62 crore votes in the Lok Sabha elections in 2014. We got no seats but we were the third largest party even then and now too. So people from these castes know who has worked for them. If they are being spoken about now, it is only and only because of her (Mayawati). It is not

that she has built the Kanshiram Smarak

in Noida, but she has done tremendous

work for them... When BJP leaders visit

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You are mocking people with signboards that say we gave 5 kg grain to 15 cr people. But cost of the bag with photos of BJP leaders is more than the grains!

SHUBHAJIT ROY: The months of April

and May saw acute shortage of beds and oxygen and even political leaders like yourself couldn't hold the government accountable. Why should people trust you with their

Covid has put us all to shame. Let me tell you my own experience. I have helped at least 2,500 patients in getting treatment. For those one-and-a-half months, I literally did not sleep, trying to manage oxygen etc. We opened a campus for about 2,500-3,000 labourers who could not travel, and arranged for their food. But yes, we were not giving sound bites on TV about it; we were just doing our work. That's how our party is. The level of Covid mismanagement in UP is unimaginable. They (the government) started taking action against those who pointed out the mismanagement. We visited the ghats, the cremation areas, and were shocked to see that nearly 100 bodies were being burnt in a line. We even helped in arranging wood for some... Bodies were being washed away in the Ganga... Where did all the money allotted for Covid go? They were blaming the media for showing the bodies. But what the media was showing was less. We were seeing the scenes at hospitals. Many patients died of hunger.

VANDITA MISHRA: We have had many agitations in the recent past — student protests, anti-CAA protests, the farmer agitation, Dalit protests. However, the BSP has not been visible in any of these. People who are in jail today, facing sedition charges, UAPA, they are activists who do not belong to any party. For a party that speaks for the most marginalised, isn't this a

Our people have always been agitating, but in a different manner. We don't believe in tod-phod. During the Dalit agitations, we were present all over the country. Two of our people died in firing in Madhya Pradesh. In UP, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, over 100 of our people were put in jail... When it comes to cases of sedition, UAPA, we have been fighting for them in court, trying to ensure their release. We don't do danga-fasaad on streets. We don't stop trains, buses, de- $\underline{\mathsf{stroy}}\,\underline{\mathsf{government}}\,\underline{\mathsf{property}}.\,\mathsf{We}\,\underline{\mathsf{protested}}$ in Parliament for farmers. Our own members are farmers and they are protesting. When we form the government, we will look at all issues. Tomorrow if you write something, even you will not be spared. It's an undeclared Emergency

MANOJ CG: There is much talk of Opposition unity at the national level. Sharad Pawar talks about it, Mamata Banerjee too. Sonia Gandhi held a meeting. But the BSP is not very enthusiastic about these efforts. Even in Parliament, sometimes you attend joint Opposition meetings, sometimes you don't. The BSP remains absent when some crucial Bills are put to vote.

We are always with the Opposition, I have myself attended meetings. Whether it was the Congress government earlier, thinking on a matter... You spoke about Bengal... (in the Assembly election) they

were all fighting each other. Who was together? So we have to fight you electorally, you poach our MPs and MLAs, same as the BJP... we are not double-faced. We are clear about our stand.

any community live in fear. MANOJ CG: If the **Opposition comes** together and the

are restrictions when it comes to marry-

a coalition with anybody... Our party is No. 1 in UP right now, the BJP is No. 1 only on paper, in propaganda, because they have the money, the muscle. The reality is that the BJP MLAs are scared to even go to their areas, they even call their family members to meet them outside. If they visit, people gherao them, demand answers... The way people are suffering, be it due to Covid, or the farmers who are sitting on streets, dying...

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: In the past few years, as the BJP has gained in strength, it seems all parties are now looking for only the Hindu vote. Your party chief too was seen with a trishul recently. The BJP has been doing the same for years. Why would people come to you for this? And secondly, who will talk for the Muslims now,

The BSP's leader in the Vidhan Sabha is a Muslim, our party president for three years was a Muslim. He is looking after the party as a coordinator for elections in the state. We have at least three Muslims as

Our party always gives

tickets to Muslims; they

know it... Under BSP, UP

did not see riots, nor did

senior coordinators... Our party does not differentiate be-Muslims. It acts in the interest of sarvajan. Our party always gives tickets to Muslims, more than other parties... The Muslims know this very well. It is only under the BSP government that UP did

not see a single riot, nor did communities fight each other, or any community live under dehshat (fear). People lived together, there was bhaichara (brotherhood). So people know which party they should go with... Even in the Rajya Sabha, our leader is a Muslim, in the Vidhan Parishad, the leader is from the Scheduled Caste... As for you saying we have adopted the trishul, or started wearing malas (religious threads), we have always been doing it... it's in-built. We don't do dhong (pretence). Whether it is Goddess Parvati, Devi, Durga, or Lord Shiv or Ram... when I went to visit the Ram lalla (in Ayodhya), they asked what has Ram lalla got to do with the BSP? I have been there tens of times... They may talk Hindu, Hindu. We believe in taking everyone along... Left to them, they will finish Sanatan Dharma in

UP. Of the 1,500 Sanskrit colleges in the state, only 50% are left, because they never paid the funds... The bhoomi pujan was done in Ayodhya with much fanfare, spending Rs 200-250 crore on August 5,

2020. A year later, there is nothing there. I asked the sadhus there about it, they said, 'Didn't you see, 5 bricks were kept and prayers were offered to them. These were later immersed in the Saryu'... Come Diwali, they will claim a record in lighting diyas. Why

not spend the same money on the poor, give to teachers?

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY: But will you make concerns of Muslims a poll issue?

The concerns that they have are also our concerns. As I already said, whether it is Muslims, Dalits, any caste, we are working for everybody.

AVANEESH MISHRA: At the BSP's September 7 event (marking the end of the first phase of its Brahmin outreach), a lot of things that happened are usually seen on BJP platforms. The BJP sees it as an achievement of its politics.

You know that two days before our event, the BJP also organised a 'Prabuddha Sammelan (targeted at Brahmins)'. Before that, they were attacking us, saying one shouldn't hold events like this, it is wrong... Even the Samajwadi Party is holding such sammelans now... It's another matter that nobody is coming for those. So who is copying whom? They even kept the same name. And as for your claim that the September 7 event showed a changed BSP, rewind to June 9, 2005, when we had gone before the Brahmin samaj, the upper caste samaj, and brought the Dalits and them together. Mayawatiji was the chief guest at that event and it attracted close to 5 lakh people. Conch shells were blown even then, she was presented with a statue of Ganesha (like on September 7). Everyone knows what she said, holding that statue, 'Haathi nahin Ganesh hai, Brahma, Vishnu, Mahesh hai (Haathi or elephant is the poll symbol of the BSP)'... In our Prabuddha meetings across 75 districts, we have worked to remove their (BJP's) masks and, show their real faces.

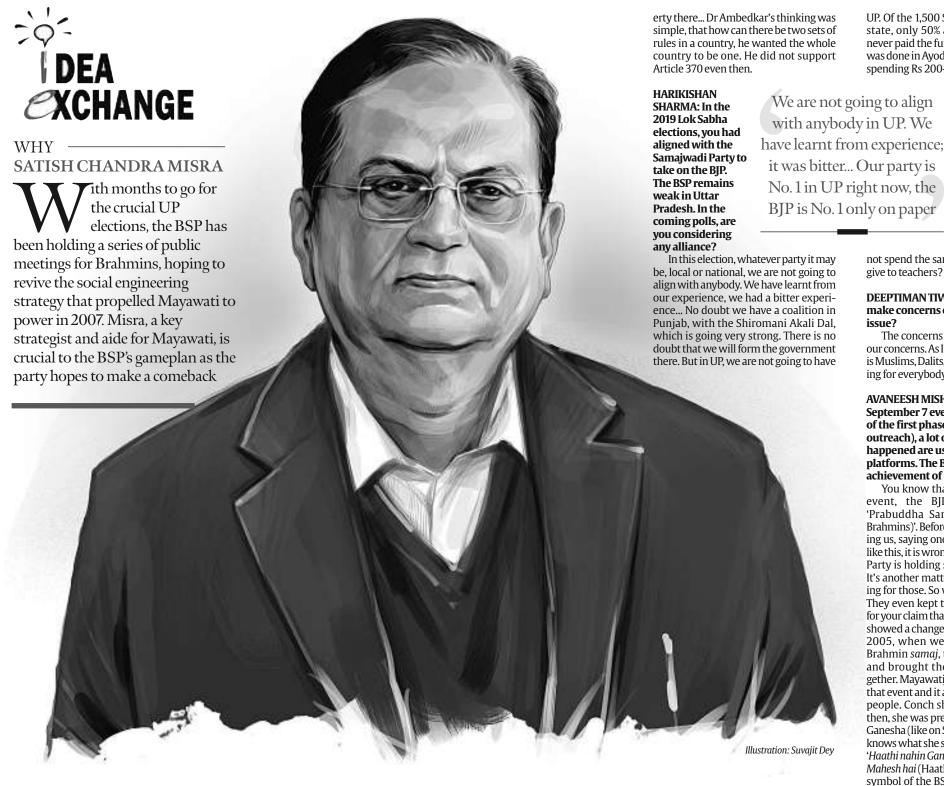
BHUPENDRA PANDEY: Mayawati has said that the BSP will not give tickets to any bahubali or leaders convicted in cases (in the context of Mukhtar Ansari). She has always been serious about issues concerning women. Your Mau MP Atul Rai is in jail on rape charges, and recently, both the victim and a witness immolated themselves before the Supreme Court. There has been no reaction from the BSP, nor has the party taken any action

...Maybe there are some details you do not know. There is a trial on in the court, where evidence emerged in police investigation that the two of them had tried to blackmail Rai using fraudulent means, including the false proof they had submitted. Police then filed an FIR against the two, and while the investigation was on and they were summoned before the court, they disappeared... The court then said that we have an accused (Rai) in jail, and evidence has now come that the charge against him might be fabricated, so they would have to appear... Then the two of them appeared before the Supreme Court and took that action. It's not like there was any pressure (from Rai), he continues to be in jail.

RAVISH TIWARI: Won't a triangular contest in UP, with the BSP not aligning with anyone, help the BJP? Secondly, who will be your main target: Narendra Modi or Yogi Adityanath?

This is an election for UP, not the country. On one side is Behenji and on the other side Yogiji. We are fighting this election to defeat the BJP. As for what other parties are doing, we are not concerned about that. We know we will uproot this government, like we removed the SP government in 2007. They had the outside support of the BJP. Everyone knows this well... as to who helped the SP form the government in 2003... The Supreme Court later ruled in our favour on this matter. So our fight at this time is against the BJP... I don't see any advantage to the BJP from a triangular contest. The BJP would earlier win 40-45 seats, it would again be reduced to the same... Whatever the number, they will definitely not make

Ahmedabad



(Dalit) homes, their food is taken from their own homes, they are just shown eating with them or washing their feet... But these people vote for Behenji. Why? It's because she doesn't indulge in these photo-ops. She has taken them out from their huts and given them pucca homes... Now, once again we are trying to revive the brotherhood between Brahmins and Dalits. We are a sarv samaaj party. We are reaching out to the neglected, whether

BHUPENDRA PANDEY: Why have there been so many suspensions and expulsions in the BSP recently, including of senior leaders such as Lalji Verma and Ram Achal Rajbhar?

We don't follow the philosophy that just because someone is a senior leader, or an MP or MLA, they should not face action for anti-party activity. We fielded Ramji Gautam for the Rajya Sabha polls. In the last minute, some of our party's MLAs supported the SP candidate. What can be a bigger anti-party activity? Who has made them big leaders? The party.

And so the party is most important. If you look at the careers of people whose names you are taking, you will see that they have been made zero-tohero by Mayawati. Over the years, many such people have come and gone in the BSP, and this time too, a lot of new

faces are coming.

side support, or the BJP now, you can see that. But our party takes its own decision on matters, whether something is in national or public interest, on what to oppose and what not. So when the Congress asks us to stand with them in the Opposition, we might oppose the same things and still not stand with them. There are reasons for this, there is a background. We supported them when we had 40-41 MPs altogether, but what did they do? Earlier, when Ashok Gehlot became the Chief Minister in Rajasthan, they took away six of our MLAs even when we were giving them outside support. They did the same this time... The party also did this in Himachal and a few other places... On the one hand, you do all these things to break the BSP, hurt it, and on the other you say that the BSP should stand with you at all times. So we will back them on issues, but on our terms... We are also a national party, one among five national political parties. We have to decide based on our

even when we were offering them out-

People know whom to back Congress is not the

one leading it, will the BSP join it? We have not once but several times been part of such unity bids, whether Karnataka or Bengal... But if you think that we will come with you everytime you say so, we can't do that, either in Parliament or outside. We have an independent identity of own... We have several times raised our voice against the BJP... To say that we have supported the BJP, say on Article 370 (abrogation)... We supported it after a proper decision, that this was in line with Dr Ambedkar's thinking. Even the BJP was surprised, it did not know we were going to support the move. The thinking was very reasonable - that while J&K has a small number of Muslims compared to the rest of the country, there

ing people from outside, owning prop-

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WORDLY WISE

ENGINEERING WITHOUT IMAGINATION SINKS TO A TRADE.

— HERBERT HOOVER

The Indian **EXPRESS**

∞ FOUNDED By ∞ Ramnath Goenka

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

SHRINKING THE CM

BJP central leadership replaces one more chief minister, trend of overweening high command takes hold

HE BJP HAS replaced yet another one of its chief ministers — the third in two months — before the end of his tenure, for reasons that are not officially stated but ostensibly have to do with balancing caste equations and containing antiincumbency. The party has chosen Bhupendra Patel, a low-profile legislator with no previous experience in government, as the new Gujarat CM, seemingly in a bid to assuage the politically powerful Patel community ahead of assembly polls in 2022. Vijay Rupani's poor record in Covid management — the Gujarat High Court had censured the government's functioning — and his inability to win over powerful social groups, may have gone against him. But his exit, in circumstances that are strikingly similar to his elevation to chief ministerial office in 2016, speaks of a larger trend in the BJP.

Political parties are prone to replacing MLAs in elections to dent anti-incumbency, but a change at the top is usually made when there is a threat of revolt by legislators. However, the BJP has visibly downsized the office of the chief minister in states where it runs the government — even assembly elections are fought in the name of the prime minister. The presidential mode of campaign in the general election, which has coincided with the rise of Narendra Modi in national politics in 2014, has percolated down to assembly elections. Gujarat, where Modi has also been the chief minister, is the best example of this trend: Votes are sought for Modi in elections at all levels — Rupani and the new CM, Bhupendra Patel, were not prominent in state politics until their elevation to the state's top office. After his ouster from office, Rupani compared the change of chief ministers to a relay race: "I was running. Now I will give the flag to someone else. (Now) he will run," he said. In Uttarakhand and Karnataka, where the BJP also recently replaced CMs, it similarly preferred legislators with limited influence to party veterans: For instance, in Karnataka, it opted for Basavaraj Bommai, who had joined the BJP only in 2008. In Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, the party did not highlight any state leader during assembly elections and sought votes by projecting Modi's leadership.

 $Ironically, this \ rise of a powerful party centre, reminiscent of the Congress \ high \ command$ under Indira and Rajiv Gandhi, is at variance with the federal approach the BJP had cultivated and nurtured under Atal Bihari Vajpayee and LK Advani. That had enabled the party to create a second line of leadership of charismatic politicians in the states. Many of them — Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Uma Bharti, Vasundhara Raje, Raman Singh, Yediyurappa, Kalyan Singh among others — led the party to success in their respective states, which can be said to have laid the ground for the BJP's spectacular growth under Modi and Amit Shah. The denial of autonomy to state units and agency to state leaders, the preference for faceless runners in a relay race over influential politicians, and the dependence on the high command for electoral outreach, are significant changes in the form and character of the new BJP.

IIT-PLUS

Their success as B-schools is a sign of a more expansive education vision taking root at premier engineering institutions

IX IITS ARE now among the top 20 management institutions in the country, some even outpacing reputed business schools such as IIM-Indore and IIM-Lucknow – proof that India's premier engineering schools are not content to remain just that. The signs of a more expansive vision of education, that looks beyond tech to embrace the world of humanities and law, arts and architecture, have been evident at the IITs for a while now. IIT-Kharagpur, for example, opened a medical college in 2018; over a decade earlier, it had set up a school of law focussed on intellectual property. The highest ranked IIT on the National Institute Ranking Framework in the management category, IIT Delhi, started offering MBA programmes in the late 1990s. Over the years, several IITs have gone on to offer courses in humanities, social science and literature as well, arguably in response to a growing realisation that an exclusively technical education can become a stunted one. The transformation has been slow and steady, at a pace decided by the IITs and on their own terms. But it signals an important, welcome change — it is increasingly hard to conceive of education, even professional education, in silos. Indeed, the IITs have been chipping away at a working model of interdisciplinary education, much in the mould of what the National Education Policy envisages a future university ought to be.

This success offers a lesson: Given adequate financial resources and the autonomy to decide their own trajectory, higher education institutions can build on their unique strengths to live up to the ambitious blueprints of policymakers. For example, what is giving the IITs momentum in challenging the best business schools is a focus on research. Where the IITs falter is an old, deep-rooted deficiency — gender diversity. Despite the introduction of supernumerary quotas to increase the intake of women, the IITs remain a largely male preserve – here, they are losing out to the IIMs, which do much better on the count of inclusivity.

For decades now, the IITs have defined success for lakhs of students barely out of school, ready to hurl themselves into rigorous hyper-competitive training to procure a seat at the elite institutions. Some of the features of this regime have been called into question, from the social bias that makes an IIT classroom predominantly male and upper-caste to the rigid walls between science and arts education. Not all of those guestions, especially on gender and caste inclusion, have found satisfactory answers. But a widening of the IIT canvas bodes well – for the larger education ecosystem.

Freeze Frame

EPUNNY



An aatmanirbharta challenge



Move to promote oil palm is welcome, but incentive structure that favours rice, wheat must change

ASHOK GULATI AND RITIKA JUNEJA

LAST WEEK, THE government announced the minimum support prices (MSP) of rabi crops for the marketing season 2022-23. The MSP for wheat is up by 2 per cent while that of rapeseed-mustard is up by 8.6 per cent, perhaps indicating that the government wants to focus more on edible oils/oilseeds than on wheat. This is the right approach given, on the one hand, the bulging stocks of wheat at home and the massive imports of edible oils on the other. But the profitability of MSP over the projected cost (A2+FL) is 100 per cent both in case of wheat as well as rapeseed-mustard. Given that the government has a massive procurement programme for wheat, but a very meagre one for rapeseed-mustard even when the prices rule below MSP, the relative incentive structure remains in favour of wheat. So, we doubt if farmers will switch from wheat to mustard in any meaningful manner to bridge the edible oil deficit.

In this context, it is important to note that Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently announced a Rs 11,000-crore National Edible Oil Mission-Oil Palm (NEOM-OP), as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. This is a bold step to augment domestic edible oil supplies, given that 60 per cent of the edible oil consumed in the country is imported - more than half of this is palm oil followed by soybean and sunflower. In FY 2020-21, edible oil imports touched \$ 11 billion or about Rs 80,000 crore (for 13.5 million tonnes). Despite these imports, edible oil inflation in July 2021 (on a year-on-year basis) was 32.5 per cent.

In this backdrop, the move to promote oil palm is a step in the right direction. It is the only crop that can give up to four tonnes of oil productivity per hectare under good farm practices. But it is a water-guzzling crop, loves humidity (requires 150 mm rainfall every month) and thrives best in areas with temperature between 20 and 33 degrees Celsius. The National Re-assessment Committee (2020) has identified 28 lakh hectares suitable for oil palm cultivation in the country – the actual area under oil palm cultivation, as of 2020, is only 3.5 lakh Achieving self-sufficiency in edible oil production through the other oilseeds complex would require about adding about 45 million hectares under oilseed cultivation. This is not possible without drastically cutting down the area under cereal crops. The best alternative is, therefore, to ensure proper care of palm oil crop, provide good planting material, better irrigation management, fertilisers and other inputs to raise productivity to four tonnes of oil/hectare.

hectares. A large potential is thus waiting to be tapped. Much of this (34 per cent) is in the Northeastern states, including Assam, followed by Andhra Pradesh (19 per cent) and Telangana (16 per cent).

NEOM-OP aims to bring an additional 6.5 lakh hectares under oil palm by 2025-26, of which 3.25 lakh hectares will be in the Northeast and the remaining in other parts of the country, most prominently in the irrigated tracts of Telangana. Thus, by 2025-26, the government hopes to cover an area of a million hectares under oil palm. We feel the government could have been bolder and attempted to cover 2 million hectares by 2025-26, given the huge deficit in edible oil production in the country. Achieving self-sufficiency in edible oil production through the other oilseeds complex would require adding about 45 million hectares under oilseed cultivation. This is not possible without drastically cutting down the area under cereal crops. The best alternative is, therefore, to ensure proper care of palm oil crop, provide good planting material, better irrigation management, fertilisers and other inputs to raise productivity

to four tonnes of oil/hectare. The NEOM-OP intends to focus on productivity and area expansion by supporting the farmers in the following ways: An input assistance of Rs 20,000-29000/ha for planting material, additional assistance of Rs 12,500/ha for four years to cover maintenance/opportunity costs of farmers, with no limits on acreage, a Rs 5-crore assistance to industries that plan to set up a five tonnes/hour processing unit, assistance of Rs $100\,lakh\,to\,seed\,gardens\,in\,the\,Northeast\,for$ 15 hectares (up to Rs 80 lakh in rest of India); and support for vermiculture, irrigation and farm mechanisation. This comprehensive assistance package will, hopefully, attract farmers as well as incentivise the industry to work with agriculturists and augment edible oil production in a globally competitive manner, thereby reducing the import bill.

A critical element of the strategy is the pricing formula for fresh fruit bunches (FFB) of oil palm. There will be no MSP, but the FFB price for farmers would be fixed at 14.3 per cent of average landed CPO price of the past five years, adjusted with the wholesale price index. This is the most critical part of the pricing policy and the formula needs to be carefully calibrated. However, the litmus test of pricing will be dovetailing it with the import tariff policy to protect the farmers in case landed prices fall below the cost of production. Recently, the effective duty on crude palm oil imports has been slashed against high global prices to 30.25 per cent (including agri-cess at 17.5 per cent and social welfare cess at 10 per cent). The effective duty on re $fined\ palm\ has\ been\ slashed\ to\ 41.25\ per\ cent.$ Duties on other edible oils, soya and sunflower, are in the same range. However, effective duty for rapeseed and cottonseed oils ranges from 38.5 per cent for crude and 49.5 per cent for refined oils. It's this high import duty, at a time when global edible oil prices have gone up by almost 70 per cent (y-o-y), that has caused high domestic inflation (32.5 per cent) in edible oils.

In its 2012 report, "Oil Palm: Pricing for Growth, Efficiency & Equity", the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommended that India should keep an import duty trigger at \$800/tonne - if the import price falls below \$800/tonne, the import tariff needs to go up in countercyclical manner. Thus, import duty needs to be in sync with rational domestic price policy. It is a necessary condition to give a fillip to aatmanirbharta in edible oils. But the sufficient condition would be revisiting the existing incentive structure that unduly favours rice, wheat and sugarcane through heavy subsidisation of power, fertilisers and open-ended procurement. The need is to devise a cropneutral incentive structure where cropping patterns are aligned with demand patterns, and the crops are produced in a globally com-

Gulati is Infosys Chair professor and Juneja is Consultant at ICRIER

THE SONGS OF SONALBEN

Through libraries and classrooms, Sonal Shukla opened new worlds for women

RAMU RAMANATHAN

WHEN I SPOTTED Sonal Shukla for the first $time in the \, 1980s, I \, thought \, she \, was \, the \, best$ singer in the world. A feisty woman all pumped up and hollering at the top of her voice during a protest in Mumbai. Around her were a ragtag army of women marchers. Her finest moment was the Forum Against Rape movement — spontaneously formed by 49 women who connected over an open letter signed by Upendra Baxi and three others about the injustice in the Mathura rape case judgment by the Supreme Court.

Sonalben was our Odetta (the voice – and what a voice — of the civil rights movement in the USA). Music was in her genes. She was the daughter of Ninu Mazumdar, the musical maestro who composed hundreds of Gujarati songs and ditties. She once told me, "We have truly no roots in the family's feudal past. No caste, no 'native place' to visit, no assets in Gujarat anywhere, no idols at home, no vrat and fasts, no rituals of any kind at home. Our father created musicals based on Sita, wrote stutis to Shiv and garbas of devis, but treated those sources as literature and not religion."

Unlike her siblings, Shukla inherited very little of the musical notes from her father. But that never deterred her. Sonalben sang her protest songs. Future activists like me joined the chorus. We were shaped by her.

A committed feminist, Shukla's focus in life — like Savitribai Phule — was "the empowerment of girls from deprived communities." Her favourite child was Vacha. Born in 1987, Vacha is a tiny library in a municipal

Her favourite child was Vacha. Born in 1987. Vacha is a tiny library in a municipal school in Santacruz which houses women's magazines and writing by women. The Vacha idea was simple. Ordinary young girls in bastis could access words and indeed ideas particularly work songs and work anecdotes — because they shape their lives better than high theory. Shukla and her team published books in which a girl asks: 'Is Chyavanprash only for boys?' or 'Why must boys not wash utensils?'

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boys not wash utensils?" Today, three decades later, Vacha has an outreach in more than 16 bastis in the city. Publishing books in which the hal-kishoris document their lives, the centres borrow heavily from Shukla's work in her formative years. The emphasis is on basic stuff: "The right to food; right to pee; right to complain; the right to walk or cycle on the streets of Mumbai with heads held high; and, the right to laugh.'

When I had asked her what that meant, she said, "We had mothers who told us our daughters are happy at your centre, but please instruct them not to laugh so much when they step out. Some man will then stop them from going there."

During the pandemic, her work carried on. She reported that the situation in the bastis was "frightening", with job losses and mounting inflation. Vacha ran classes for sixyear-olds in 2020 as schools shut down, and then for Class II students this year. Her forecast for this group of children was dire: "All over the country, millions of children between five and seven are likely to remain illiterate or semi-literate.'

Besides dialectics and daaru with the best minds of our generation (from Angela Davis and Tariq Ali and Praful Bidwai to Flavia Agnes), Shukla's weekly column in a Gujarati newspaper commanded respect from readers at a time when her Left politics had in some ways been eclipsed by right-wing gobbledygook. Be it her tributes to Dhiruben Patel and Ila Pathak or her analysis of women characters in Gujarati novelist Govardhanram Tripathi's works, she sang the song of sanity. She analysed Vile Parle, the part of the city in which she stayed most of her life. In fact, she had insights on everything, from secret nonvegetarian joints to rare harmonium players. From Marx to Gandhi.

She corrected me when I mentioned her fondness for Gandhi in a public programme. 'Gandhian education, though not always Gandhi, has been dear to me. Even today, I am trying to balance both in Vacha's scheme of social education in the *basti*s of Bombay."

By some standards, the planet has made progress when it comes to rights for women. And yet, four decades after the Mathura case, the question to ask is, if an Adivasi minor girl would be raped today, will we find the energy, force and commitment to raise our colective voices?

If only we had time for one more rousing

provocateur behind the murder of Lala Jagat

Narain. The chief secretary, Paramjit Singh,

gave enough indication about Bhindrawale

without naming him at a news conference.

He, however, neither accepted nor denied

direct questions about his role. He said ev-

idence now confirmed that the murder was

one of the few planned by "some elements

who were planning the elimination of some

persons with serious differences with the

The writer is a playwright and editor of PrintWeek



THE STATE GOVERNMENT-sponsored bandh in Tamil Nadu against the atrocities on Tamils in Sri Lanka was almost total and peaceful, barring a few incidents of stone throwing and obstruction of trains in some parts of the state. Except for some central services like post offices, ports, railways and Indian Airlines flights and some essential services like hospitals, chemists, milk supply and the press, all activity was paralysed in the state. State government offices, banks, shops, hospitals were closed. The roads wore a deserted look, except for a few private cars and taxis. A skeleton suburban service was, however, maintained. Chief Minister M G Ramachandran in a statement

Antulay's Successor EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE by the Congress (I) high command to settle the Maharashtra issue before the Prime Minister leaves for her tour abroad. Sources close to the party say that there are no two opinions in the party that A R Antulay has to go. The delay in the final decision is only because of the selection of his successor. Jagat Narain Murder

state for making the bandh a success.

CHINA DENIES

views they were expressing".

A CHINESE government spokesman denied all knowledge of a reported intrusion by Chinese troops into India's remote northwestern Ladakh territory.

THE PUNJAB GOVERNMENT suspects Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale to be the agent

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

THE IDEAS PAGE



C R Sasikumar

Stones of Sabarmati

Gandhi's Ashram is an abode of peace, a piece of history to be treasured.

The nation must respect its heritage, allow it to speak



YOGINDER K ALAGH

STONES SPEAK TO you, unless you are the Taliban destroying the Bamiyan Buddhas with barbaric vengeance. The recent decision to build new structures in the IIM-A, because the corridors are dark and cold, took me back to the mid-Sixties when I was teaching and finishing my thesis at the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia. One day, Louis Kahn called all of us — Indian students and teachers — to the School of Architecture. In his dramatic style, he stood in front of a silk curtain behind which we could see a light. He dramatically parted the curtain and we saw the model of the IIM-A. He asked: "First impression?"

I was in the first row and he asked me: "Do you know Ahmedabad?" I said: "Yes sir". He said: "So?" I blurted out: "It is very un-Indian." He was infuriated. "What do you mean?" he asked. I knew I was in a soup. I said, "Mine is a poor country. These give a sense of power." He looked at me, stammered and said: "No. It's a monastery." I retired hurt.

In Ahmedabad, the Sabarmati was once a river. Bapu's ashram was on its banks. When I had a headache on account of all my worldly care — running institutions from a relatively young age — I would go to Hriday Kunj, sit for a few minutes, see his spectacles, writing desk and slippers, feel he was mock-

ing me for trivialising life ("Look at my problems young man," his twinkling eyes said). I went to the river bank, sat for a while, felt happy again, walked back, ate puri/shak at the cafeteria and went back.

Then there were the riots in March 2002. Chuni Kaka (the Gandhian, Chuni Vaidya) called up to say that he and Narayan Desai were going on a silent march, with a black gag on their mouth, from the Kochrab Ashram to the Sabarmati Ashram, carrying a poster, "Ahmedabad wants peace". "Would you like to join?" Of course, I will, I said. My son joined too. We were around 40 people to begin with. Ahmedabad was still burning. We didn't have police protection. But people kept on joining and half way, at the Gujarat Vidyapith set up by Bapu, there were hundreds marching. Log saath aate gaye aur carvaan banta gaya. At the ashram, a message of peace was read out, in spite of my protest, in my name — and not Vaidya's or Desai's. It was reported the world over.

Many years later, I was to lead the Indian delegation to the first Indo-Pak Planning Commission meeting. At Takshila, the stones speak to you, although the official guide gave it an "Islamic" twist, ignoring my diplomatic demurring, which he dismissed as anti-Islamic propaganda. Later at Nalanda, the stones whispered the same stories.

Meanwhile, Bimal Patel, whose teacher, the American planner of Spanish origin, Manuel Castells, had once invited me to a select meeting of experts to brief the first Prime Minister of Spain after the fall of the Franco regime, gave me a lowdown on his plans for redevelopment of the riverfront. I told him not to plan with a 10-year flood history, and sure enough, crores of rupees of work were

washed away in the next monsoon flood.
During this briefing, I also muttered something about my friend, the architect Charles
Correa, and that he had not spoiled the
Ashram while redoing it. I shudder at the redevelopment now.

At INIT the stones speak to you in your

At JNU, the stones speak to you in your morning walk. The Aravalli ranges there are short of water. The Rohillas ran away because of thirst. I wasn't going to run away. So, I got satellite imagery to help us to decide where to dig for water. While planning the Sardar Sarovar dam, we had to dig the foundations to withstand a thousand-year flood.

And now they want to turn the room where Nehru stood up on the midnight of August 14, 1947 and addressed the world — "When the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom" — into a museum. There are such rooms in other countries. Nations treasure their heritage. We are the descendants of Pataliputra. My ancestors include Raja Porus, Prithviraj Chauhan, the persecuted Bahadur Shah Zafar. The Dandi March is my heritage.

The redevelopment of Gandhiji's birthplace in Porbandar destroyed its simple elegance. A few decades ago, a narrow road led to his three-storied brick-and-stone house. There was peace on each floor. You sat there, happy at the journey you had made. Now the gali is widened. The shops are gone. The house has been "redeveloped". It's sickening if you compare it with the earlier ambience.

We must learn to treasure the stones, each one of which will remind us of their "memory".

The writer is an economist and a former Union minister

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The establishment of a Taliban government in Kabul has underscored that far from reasserting its global supremacy, the US looks more vulnerable today; and that the echoes of 9/11 are still reverberating across the region — but will not stay there."

—THE GUARDIAN

It's still uphill

GDP is unlikely to reach pre-Covid level in ongoing quarter. But uptick in vaccinations could bridge the gap in second half of the year



Aditi Nayar

THE DISTORTED BASE of last year's restrictive nationwide lockdown has expectedly obscured the challenges wrought by the second wave of Covid-19 in India in the first quarter of the current financial year. India's real GDP has expanded by a recordhigh 20.1 per cent (year-on-year) in the first quarter on the low base. However, a more appropriate assessment of the real recovery can be achieved by looking through a pre-Covid lens — that is, comparing the first quarter of 2021-22 with the first quarter of 2019-20.

The impact of the second wave was a considerable 9.2 per cent compression in the real GDP relative to the pre-Covid level. Incidentally, the corresponding change displayed by other large economies over the same period ranged from a moderate contraction of 3.9 per cent for Italy to a stellar growth of 11.5 per cent for China. The US reported a rise of 2 per cent, benefitting from the earlier coverage of vaccines over a larger proportion of its population.

Coming back to the drivers of aggregate demand in India, both private consumption and investment trailed their pre-Covid levels in the first quarter of the ongoing year by 12 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. While farm demand remained resilient after a series of healthy harvests, the loss of employment and incomes in swathes of the non-farm rural and urban economy as well as higher medical and fuel expenses, contributed to the overall squeeze in private consumption. Investment plans were put on hold by the private sector amidst the second wave, even though government capital spending, especially that of the central government, put up a healthier performance even as government consumption spending exceeded the pre-Covid level by

a healthy 7.4 per cent in the first quarter. To examine this further, we analysed the performance of Centre and state finances in the first quarter, relative to that of the first quarter in 2019-20.

Let's first look at the fiscal metrics of the central government. The Centre's revenue expenditure rose by 7.8 per cent, led by non-subsidy spending. Moreover, its capital expenditure nearly doubled to Rs 1.1 trillion, from the muted Rs 0.6 trillion that had been recorded amidst the parliamentary elections and implementation of the model code of conduct.

Despite this, the Centre's fiscal deficit declined to a modest Rs 2.7 trillion from the pre-Covid level of Rs 4.3 trillion. This is due to an increase in its revenue receipts, benefitting from the upfronting of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) surplus of

around Rs 1 trillion to the first quarter of this year, from the second quarter of 2019-20, following a realignment in its accounting year to April-March in line with that of the Government of India. But, the Centre's overall gross tax revenues have also grown, with rises seen across the board — corporation tax, personal income tax, and excise duty collections.

The considerable rise of 47 per cent in the direct tax collections is at odds with the decline in the GDP in Q1 FY2022 relative to Q1 FY2020. A likely conclusion is that the formal/tax-paying portion of the non-agri economy has gained at the cost of the rest.

For the 19 major states whose data has been published by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), we observe a substantial increase in their revenue spending — Rs 4.9 trillion in the first quarter of 2021-22, relative to the pre-Covid level of Rs 4.3 trillion. This possibly reflects higher social sector spending amid the second wave of the pandemic. These states have also seen their capital spending exceed their pre-pandemic levels.

However, in contrast to the compression observed in the Centre's finances, these 19 states have seen their fiscal deficit nearly double to Rs 1.1 trillion this year, up from Rs 0.6 trillion the year before. This is because the states' combined revenue receipts in the quarter were only marginally higher than the pre-Covid level. This can be traced to lower tax devolution from the Centre (relative to pre-Covid levels) and the subdued taxes of the states.

The decline in states' own taxes, which are predominantly indirect in nature, broadly resonates with the contraction in private consumption this year as compared to its pre-Covid level. In particular, despite attractive home loan rates and cuts in stamp duty rates by some of the states, collections this year were substantially lower than pre-Covid levels, revealing the continued impact of the pandemic on states' finances. On the other hand, the lower tax devolution in the first quarter, in our view, only represents a timing mismatch, with the budgeted target for the current fiscal modestly higher than the actual devolution in 2019-20.

Looking ahead, GDP will have to grow by 8 per cent (year-on-year) in the ongoing quarter to equalise to the pre-Covid level. Our current forecasts suggest that a continued lag in demand for contact-intensive services may narrowly prevent this from being achieved.

However, the pace of Covid-19 vaccinations has been ramped up since mid-August — this offers the best conceivable insurance to dampen the potency of another wave. If the seven-day moving average of 7.3 million doses/day as of September 5 can be sustained, 64 per cent of adults will have received their second shot before the year draws to a close. This could impart a positive momentum to the economy, pushing it above the pre-Covid level in the second half of the year.

The writer is chief economist, ICRA

The way we write on Afghanistan

earlier ambience.

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Point of view of Indian writers mirrors Eurocentric ideas of war and empire

Swapna Kona Nayudu

IN THE AFTERMATH of the recent US withdrawal from Afghanistan, Fariba Nawa, an Afghan-American journalist, said in a tweet, "Congrats that you wrote a book and you have a few Afghan friends on the ground. And now you're a superstar because you embedded with the TB [the Taliban] or government forces. You were super brave. But you don't represent us. You don't have anything [to] lose. We do." Nawa was responding to writing on Afghanistan by non-Afghans, of scholarly or journalistic expertise from around the world. This damning indictment compels us to ask: What are the ethics of writing about Afghanistan from New Delhi? Of course, I use New Delhi as a signifier term rather than to indicate its precise location, to indicate writing sympathetic to an Indian point of view, reflective of the worlds of policymaking and the academe that often intersect, and have a shared readership.

Due to its longstanding imagery in Indian writing as a frontier state, Indian political writing on Afghanistan to a large extent has always been writing on war. This tendency was deepened by the world wars, which occasioned a closely entwined theorisation of war and empire by South Asian thinkers. The non-violent politics of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, and his Khilafat Movement in the 1920s, embodied that consciousness. Afghanistan was a central concern in an exciting tradition of anti-colonial thought and anti-imperial agitation, eclipsed in public memory by populist movements led by Gandhi, but, in actuality,

enacted through writing across the British Raj. If the distance between Delhi and Kabul in the 1920s and '30s is the distance between Gandhi and Bacha Khan, then that history of the takedown of empire should be a fertile source for writing.

Where is that history now and what role does it play in interpreting a contemporary war? And how is it that so much Indian writing disjoins the current political landscape of Afghanistan from the wider context of empire, in its British, Soviet or American iterations? Projects aimed at decolonising political writing have escaped their confines in academia and have gained considerable hold in popular writing. Yet, this present moment is perplexing because it seems that new critical approaches to war are being neglected precisely when they could be tools to evaluate the failure of and sudden abdication by a great power in India's immediate neighbourhood. How is it possible that mid-20th-century subcontinental writers mounted extraordinarily unforgiving critiques of the imperial project, but despite long strides in the state of the theoretical field. Indian writers now are sliding back into ways of thinking about war that are resolutely imperialist?

There are two overlapping explanations for this reversal — first, the subcontinental anti-imperial tradition has now been lost to the trickle-down, ironically from the West, of Eurocentric ideas about war and empire. The radical vocabulary of modern Indian anti-imperialist thought is eschewed in favour of dominant western so-

cial and political thought, especially on writings concerning war. Eurocentrism is rampant, in what the critical theorist of empire, Tarak Barkawi, calls "the unreflective assumption of the centrality of Europe, and latterly the West in human affairs". This sort of Eurocentric analysis is materialised in an enchantment with the consequences of the US occupation of Afghanistan for the occupying power.

Second, foreign policy analysis has become a weak substitute for responses to the imperialist, fascist and ultimately capitalist aspects of world order. There is no critique to be made if we remain shackled to the language of strategy, which is ultimately a militaristic language. Indeed, the urge to respond pragmatically goes against the notion that India and Afghanistan share an imperial past and are impaled by it in our statehood, even if not in equal measure. Profound insights have emerged on humanitarian projects in Afghanistan, and on the moral fortitude India should have shown once the US withdrew, but we need more thinking on the relationship between what is happening in Afghanistan now and the neoliberalism India has embraced for itself. To say that there is an intimate relation

between 21st-century neoliberalism of the stripe now seen globally, but rather starkly in India, and America going to war, is possibly now blasé. When the Afghan National Army fell so quickly to the Taliban this past month, it reminded me of the words of an American soldier in Iraq, 2002: "America

is not at war; the Marine Corps is at war. America is at the mall." The frailty of Afghan institutions and their impending fate must provoke in us a deeper consideration of how a South Asian state has had a disastrous decolonisation forced upon it, with those in power now an unmitigated consequence of the very imperial project that has been displaced.

After the 1960s, Indians have written little about wars that were not India's to fight. From the 1920s to the 1960s, in a long moment of dense internationalism, writing about Asia, Africa, Latin America meant writing about wars and empire. War writing has since slid into the domain of military history, which is important in its place. But we also need to disentangle the neoliberal militarism that makes war possible but also that becomes validated through war. If we are to write about war as a field where contestation between unequal powers escapes the civility of politics, then in India we only have to look back to our own not-so-distant encounters with empire that remain with us and are unceasing in the social and political effects they produce. Reengaging India's colonial past in service of the present moment may help us write the history of this war as that of Afghanistan's war, waged on Afghan soil and on the bodies of Afghan men,

The writer works on India's international relations and political thought at Harvard University Asia Center

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ILLEGITIMATE GOVT THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The gov-

ernment of the Taliban' (IE, September 10). A government that was installed through the force of violence is, ab initio, illegitimate and cannot acquire legitimacy through the band-aid solution of including women and even Hazaras. Therefore, governments across the globe ought not to keep barking up the wrong tree and instead, unitedly call for democratic elections in Afghanistan, to be supervised by external agencies of high integrity.

integrity. **Surendra Sundararajan,** Baroda

NOTHING NEW

THIS REFERS TO the article 'Deal with the new Kabul '(IE, September 10). We should avoid taking the Taliban at their words. Rather we need to judge them by their past heinous record. There seems to be nothing new in their world view. They can change their coat but not their theological beliefs. If our demonising the Taliban goes against our so-called national interests, our canonising them clashes squarely with our own concept of a plural and liberal society we are defending back home against many odds.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

CLIMATE PLAN

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The other shared crisis' (IE, September 10). India is home to 1.3 billion people, with the world's largest youth population and a huge section of aspirational middle-class that is driving the economy. India still has a sizable population under abject poverty. Its developmental needs are paramount, and cannot be compromised. The UN SDGs are already in sync

IDEAS ONLINE

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with India's developmental priorities. The country's National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change has been tasked to work on developing indigenous solutions to the issue of climate change, considering regional and local priorities and challenges. The global community is expected to acknowledge and support the "Indian solutions" to the problem of climate change.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Barasat

A COVER-UP

THIS REFERS TO the report, 'Eight years on, probe finds those killed were unarmed, not Maoists' (IE, Sept 10). Justice VK Agarwal, who inquired into the "encounter" in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh concluded that none of the eight people killed, including four minors, were Maoists. The report says that the security personnel "may have opened fire in panic", and it was "a mistake". This is plausible. But planting evidence to cover up the botched operation is deliberate. And this can't happen without the involvement of higher-ups. Sadly, this facet of the event only compounds the tragedy.

LR Murmu, Delhi

TERROR'S NEW AGE

The threat that persists



From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

HISTORY IS relevant and most important when it comes to ensuring a proper understanding of threats such as terrorism, which have a long-term impact. Hence, even though by September 2001 India had already been a victim of cross-border terrorism for years, 9/11 did denote a paradigmatic change in the practice of violence. More to the point, India's security establishment recognised early on that the attack had profound strategic implications.

Attacks on US, Mumbai

Already by the late 1980s, the broad sweep acquired by radical Islam had begun to be felt across the globe. The war against the Soviets in Afghanistan during this period gave it a new impetus, apart from producing new patters of terrorism derived from a mixture of religious fervour and fundamentalist aims. The Afghan Jihad of the '80s attracted volunteers from across the Islamic world, and among the volunteers was Osama bin Laden, for whom Afghanistan was a formative experience. It brought him into contact with Islamists from Egypt and Syria, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leader of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. The thought process of the new breed of terrorists was influenced by the teachings of the Egyptian Syed Qutub and the Palestinian Abdullah Azzam, together with the practical theology of Jalaluddin Haqqani. Two decades on, the broad shape of Islamist terrorism remains much the same, though there are many more variants today in existence.

September 11, 2001 alerted security experts and agencies to 'new-age terrorism'. Though it took many more years for them to understand that these terrorists belong to an altogether different genre of terrorism, differing both in structure and morphology from those of the past, the lessons had hit home. 'New-age terrorists' had, for instance, far greater transnational reach. The attack that took place in the United States had its ultimate command and control in Afghanistan, while the attackers came from several Arab states.

In the case of the 26/11 attacks in Mumbai, the ultimate command and control was in Pakistan: the controllers relied heavily on technology to manage every phase of the operation: the terrorists were trained by official agencies in Pakistan; and an American national was used to carry out reconnaissance of targets to be attacked. From India's viewpoint, employing violence indiscriminately as well as the concept of external sponsorship and support to non-





The beginning and the end of the war. The ticker under ABC studios on Times Square (left) broadcasts news about the US attack on Afghanistan in 2001; a Taliban times to the time tocheckpoint (right) in front of what used to be the US Embassy in Kabul on September 4, 2021. The New York Times

state actors, revealed a new cognitive map of

While September 11, 2001 helped to focus global attention on the reach and expanse of global jihad, November 26, 2008 was a direct wake-up call for India's security agencies. Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden emerged as the symbols of the new genus of terrorism following September 11, 2001, but what India realised with November 26, 2008, was that Pakistan had thrown down the gauntlet and would stop to nothing to achieve its ends. It had to, hence, gear up its efforts further to protect the Indian mainland.

Meanwhile, al-Qaeda continued to wax and wane, but of special interest to the Indian security establishment was al-Qaeda in the Indian subcontinent (AQIS). Of even greater interest to India's security planners was the impetus all this gave to al-Qaeda acolytes such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, both of which operated from Pakistan and had been responsible for several large-scale terror attacks in India.

Continuing ISIS threat

Following the elimination of Osama bin Laden in 2011, and as the al-Qaeda core weakened, the world and India confronted a new threat, ISIS. The theology of the new organisation was not very different from that of al-Qaeda, but it leaned more towards the nihilism of Syed Qutub. It also offered a vision of a new and exclusive brand of puritanical Islam. The ISIS idea of a new Caliphate also ignited the imagination of Muslim youth across the globe, and it proved to be a powerful magnet to attract volunteers to the cause.

The ability to proselytise over the Internet became a key propaganda weapon in the armoury of the ISIS, with several thousands be-

PART 2

LATER

9/11 and Indian politics

THE EXPERT

MK NARAYANAN was India's National Security Advisor from 2005 to 2010, a period during which India saw the July 11, 2006 and November 26, 2008 terrorist attacks on Mumbai, as well as the spate of jihadist bombings in towns and cities across India from 2006-10. Earlier in his career, Narayanan served as Director. Intelligence Bureau, and Special Advisor on Internal Security to the Prime Minister, Few others have seen the evolution of the security threat to India and the country's national response to it as closely as Narayanan. He also served as Governor of West Bengal from

ing recruited in this manner, Although India remained in the crosshairs of ISIS, and at various times ISIS claimed that parts of India were incorporated within the Islamic State of Khorasan, the activities of ISIS in India remained rather limited. It would not, however, be wise to underestimate the influence of the Islamic State in the region as a whole. Clear evidence of this was seen in the Easter Sunday bombings in Sri Lanka in 2015, for which the Islamic State has claimed responsibility, even as it was facing setbacks in Syria

Notwithstanding the above, both the al-Qaeda and Islamic State, as well as terror outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, continue to be active even though the numbers of violent incidents have come down as compared to the past. Afghanistan has been the main area of operation for the Islamic State following the setbacks in Syria and Iraq. The emergence of the Taliban as the de facto rulers of Afghanistan may see attempts on their part to check the activities of the ISIS, but to what extent is too early to surmise.

26/11: one of a kind

The 26/11 attack was one of a kind, and while prior to this Pakistan had been carrying out a series of terror strikes, some by the Lashkar, some by Jaish, and some by other terror groups almost all of which were sponsored by Pakistan, the magnitude of the Mumbai terror attack shook the security establishment.

26/11 provided direct evidence of the involvement of the Pakistani state in terror activities. The choice of targets in Mumbai had been made after careful reconnaissance carried out under the aegis of the ISI, and implemented by a group of 10 handpicked LeT terrorists who had been trained for several

weeks in Lahore and Karachi. The entire operation was masterminded by the ISI and the Pakistani establishment, with even telecommunications being controlled by an official of the establishment. Details of the plan formulated by the Pakistani deep state, which emerged from the computer of Zarar Shah, indicated that the LeT terrorists were to proceed by a mother ship from Karachi on the high seas, shift to a smaller sailing ship, and onto dinghies closer to land. After landing, the 10 terrorists were to split and proceed to their predetermined and previously reconnoitred targets. Seldom, if ever, in the annals of terrorism have there been instances of a government sponsoring an attack of this kind.

Lessons India learnt

The intelligence available was undoubtedly sketchy, and proper anticipation too, was missing. Both have since been addressed to a large extent.

The first responders reacted gallantly. Arrival of the elite National Security Guard (NSG) was, however, delayed due to lack of transport and other administrative pitfalls. Several steps have since been taken to overcome these lacunae. The Coast Guard mechanism to police India's long coastline has been strengthened and energised. Additions have been made to the number of NSG hubs. Better transport facilities for the NSG have been introduced. Intelligence coordination between the states and the central agencies has been strengthened.

While the good news is there has not been an attack anywhere on the scale of 9/11 in the US or 26/11 in India, the grim reality is that the ideology and the concept of nihilistic violence has not been eradicated. Confirmed figures about the number of Salafi jihadist fighters, worldwide and in our region, are not available but they run into several thousands including in our immediate neighbourhood. The Islamic State remains a potential threat. All this indicates that even though the terrorist threat may ebb and flow at times, terrorism remains an ever-present

An uncertain coalition

However tempting it might be to think that the Global "War on Terror" and the international response to Islamist terrorism greatly helped shape India's strategic relationships around the world, this is hardly the case. India often plays a lone hand in making the world understand the seriousness of the terrorist threat, and has had even less success in having individual terrorists like Hafiz Saeed designated as terrorists of international concern.

While many of the current Taliban leaders, including the acting prime minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, and some ministers like Sirajuddin Haqqani, have been included in the United Nations Security Council Terrorism List, India has had to wage a lone and uphill battle to include other names on the same terror list, despite providing enough evidence of their perfidy and terror links. The India-US nuclear deal of 2008 in fact, did far more to shape and strengthen India's new strategic relationship with the US. The deteriorating relations between the US and China, and India and China, have further contributed to the strengthening of India-US strategic relations.

What lies ahead

The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan, and the generally unsettled conditions in that country, are matters of deep concern to India for a variety of reasons. Important among them is that the current Taliban interim government includes quite a few internationally listed terrorists. This could possibly make it easier for forces inimical to India, such as Pakistan, to use Afghanistan as a base to wage major terrorist operations directed at key targets in India. One obvious target is Kashmir, which has been in the crosshairs of Pakistani terror groups for over three decades. It is now possible to envisage Pakistan as exploiting the opportunity to enlarge its areas of operation and the ambit of its targets well beyond Kashmir, given its relationship with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, India's 'terror watch' will as a result, need to be greatly enhanced.

The prognosis about a reduction in terrorism in the near future is distinctly unfavourable. The United Nations has a poor record in dealing with terrorism in any form, and does not give high priority to this subject. Any number of sponsored resolutions are likely to make little difference, and despite the Prime Minister seeking a universal definition of terrorism, it would appear that the fight against terrorism will largely continue to be fought by individual countries who are victims of such attacks. India must not lower its guard under any circumstances.

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CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose) 56,11,01,965 ■ First dose ■ Second dose 1,20,00,000 45,60,538 • 57,31,712 60,00,000 LAST 10 DAYS (daily) Sept 11 COVISHIELD **COVAXIN TOTAL DOSES** 88.2% 11.7% 73,82,07,378 (Sputnik V's **8,38,474** doses not represented in pie) DOSES ON SEPT 11 76,17,690 SEPT 10: 68,05,102 (1st doses: 46,98,307; 2nd: 21,06,795)

Note: The Sept 11 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 12

Why Battle of Saragarhi continues to inspire India & world, 124 yrs on

MANRAJ GREWAL SHARMA CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 12

SEPTEMBER 12 marks the 124th anniversary of the Battle of Saragarhi, which has inspired a armies, books and films both at home and abroad. A look at how it unfolded, and why it is considered one of the finest last stands in the military history of the world:

The battle

Saragarhi was the communication tower between Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan in North West Frontier Province, now in Pakistan. The forts were built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh but renamed by the British.

Although Saragarhi was usually manned by a platoon of 40 soldiers, on September 12, 1897 it was being held by only 21 soldiers from 36th Sikh (now 4 Sikh) and a non-combatant called Daad, a Pashtun who did odd jobs for the troops. They were pitted against over 8,000 Afridi and Orakzai tribals, but managed to hold the fort for seven hours. They fought till their last breath, killing 200 tribals and injuring 600.

In his book The 36th Sikhs in the Tirah Campaign 1897-98 - Saragarhi and the Defence of the Samana Forts, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh writes that these soldiers knew they were looking at certain death. "They could have surrendered, yet they didn't and displayed unparalleled bravery."

The attack & the isolation

Around 9 am that day, the sentry saw a large army of tribals marching towards the fort. He estimated their number between 8,000 and 15,000. The tribals wanted to isolate the two forts by cutting off the lines of communication between them.

Sepoy Gurmukh Singh, 23, sent a message to commanding officer Lt Col John Haughton: "Enemy approaching the main



Actor Randeep Hooda dressed as Hav. Ishar Singh poses with Singh's picture on the cover of Puniab CM Amarinder Singh's book in 2017. Express Archive

gate... need reinforcement." But the Pathans had cut off the supply route between Fort Lockhart and Saragarhi. Haughton radioed back, "Unable to break through, hold position". Sepoy Gurmukh Singh conveyed this message to platoon commander Havildar Ishar Singh. Fully aware of the consequences, he responded: "Understood."

Capt Jay Singh-Sohal, a British officer who made the film Saragarhi: The True Story, says: "The soldiers were not only outnumbered, they also had limited ammunition with around 400 rounds per man, one reason why Lt Col Haughton urged them to use their firepower carefully.

The men & the resistance

Havildar Ishar Singh, who led the troops, was in his early 40s when he was given independent command of the Saragarhi post. Amarinder Singh writes about him: "While he will always be remembered for his gallant conduct at Saragarhi, within the regiment they will also rue the loss of their best illicit liquor producer, and a man who 'borrowed' meat on hoof for his men, when short of rations, from a neighbouring unit without asking them."

Naik Gurmukh Singh, the signaller, was the youngest and Naik Lal Singh, 47, the oldest of the 22 men at Saragarhi. In his book, Amarinder Singh writes: "Naik Lal Singh, though severely injured, was lying on his bed. Although unable to move, he was conscious and able to fire his weapon, and is reported to have kept up a steady fire, killing more pathans, as did Gurmukh Singh and Sep/Swpr Daad."

Gurmukh continued to report the battle as it unfolded. And then finding the soldiers falling one by one, sent one final message: "Permission to join the battle, Sir." The response was in the affirmative.

In his book, Capt Amarinder calls Daad the 22nd soldier. He was from Nowshera, now in Pakistan. He was denied any honour although he too fought bravely, killing five men before being stabbed to death.

Remembering the fallen

In a departure from the tradition of not giving gallantry medals posthumously, Queen Victoria awarded the 21 soldiers leaving out the non-combatant — the Indian Order of Merit (comparable with the Victoria Cross) along with two marabas (50 acres) and Rs 500 each.

In 2017, the Punjab government decided to observe Saragarhi Day on September 12

Even today the Khyber Scouts regiment of the Pakistani army mounts a guard and salutes the Saragarhi memorial close to Fort Lockhart.

The British, who regained control of the fort after a few days, used burnt bricks of Saragarhi to build an obelisk to the martyrs. They commissioned gurdwaras at Amritsar and Ferozepur in their honour. Now, the Shiromani Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) has named a hall after Saragarhi.

Actor Akshay Kumar's film Kesari was based loosely on the battle.

New tech based on CRISPR to control growth of mosquitoes

LEVERAGING advancements in CRISPR-based genetic engineering, researchers have created a system that restrains populations of mosquitoes that infect millions each year with debilitating diseases. The "precisionguided sterile insect technique" (pgSIT), alters genes linked to male fertility-creating sterile offspring-and female flight in Aedes aegypti, the mosquito species



gunya and Zika, the University of California, San

responsible for

spreading dis-

eases includ-

ing dengue

fever, chikun-

Diego said in a press release. Details of the pgSIT have been de-

scribed in Nature Communications. The pgSIT uses CRISPR to sterilise male mosquitoes and render female mosquitoes (which spread disease) flightless. The system is self-limiting and is not predicted to persist or spread in the environment, two safety features that should enable acceptance for this technology, the release said.

The scientists say pgSIT eggs can be shipped to a location threatened by mosquito-borne disease or developed at an on-site facility that could produce the eggs for nearby deployment. Once the pgSIT eggs are released in the wild, sterile pgSIT males will emerge and eventually mate with females, driving down the wild population as needed. Source: UC San Diego

Villagers Flee Amid Wildfire

People fled their homes in six more Andalusian towns and villages on Sunday as Spain sent in a military unit to help tackle blazes raging close to a Costa del Sol resort. A wildfire fanned by strong winds has now driven out close to 2,000 people and killed one emergency worker since it erupted on Wednesday in the mountainous Sierra Bermeja above Estepona, a popular tourist spot.



FRANCE

Socialist Paris mayor enters race for French presidency

PARIS MAYOR Anne Hidalgo said Sunday she would run for president in 2022 on a Socialist ticket, though polls indicate she has little chance of mounting a serious challenge unless she can unite the fragmented left. Hidalgo, who became the first woman to run the French capital in 2014 and is among the few senior left-wing politicians to emerge from President Emmanuel Macron's 2017 redrawing of the political landscape unscathed, is polling at about 8% in April's first round. Macron and farright leader Marine Le Pen are polling at between 20% and 24%. "Knowing the seriousness of our times and to give hope to our lives, I have decided to be candidate for the French presidency," she

NORWAY

Norwegians begin voting in election centred on oil

NORWEGIANS WENT to the polls on Sunday for the first of two days of voting in a parliamentary election dominated by the widening gap between rich and poor, climate change and how the oil-producing nation should adapt to the energy transition. Opinion polls show the opposition Labour party on course to replace the Conservativeled coalition of Prime Minister Erna Solberg. The man projected to become PM after the Sept. 12-13 ballot, Labour leader Jonas Gahr Stoere, has pledged to address inequality by offering income families and hiking rates for the rich. **REUTERS**

PHILIPPINES Strong typhoon cuts power, causes flooding

SEVERAL COMMUNITIES remain flooded and without power after a strong typhoon battered the Philippines' northernmost islands, the authorities said on Sunday, displacing thousands of people. Typhoon Chanthu, which at one point was categorised by the Philippine weather bureau as a category 5 storm, has weakened after powering into the northernmost region, including the Batanes island group, on Saturday, the weather bureau said. "It's one of the strongest typhoons I've felt," said Dennis Ballesteros Valdez, a resident of Sabtang. REUTERS



BANGLADESH SCHOOLS REOPEN

Teachers welcome students with roses at a school in Dhaka on Sunday, Bangladesh has reopened schools and other educational institutions after 543 days of closure as its virus situation eases and more people are vaccinated. Almost 97% of the country's teachers and staff have been vaccinated, the government said. Wearing masks, students arrived Sunday morning at schools that were decorated with balloons and ribbons. Reuters

UK ditches plan for vaccine passports

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUTHORITIES IN Britain have decided not to require vaccine passports for entry into nightclubs and other crowded events in England, Britain's health secretary said Sunday, reversing course amid opposition from some of the Conservative government's supporters in Parliament.

Health Minister Sajid Javid said the government has shelved the idea of vaccine passports for now but could reconsider the decision if Covid-19 cases rise exponentially once again.

"We've looked at it properly and whilst we should keep it in reserve as a potential option, I'm pleased to say that we will not be going ahead with plans for vaccine passports," Javid told the BBC. The U-turn came just days af-

ter both the government's vaccines minister and the culture secretary suggested that vaccine passports would still be necessary, despite growing opposition from lawmakers. Other European nations are

using similar documents showing peoples' vaccination status as a way to re-open society — although the rules vary widely. Each of Germany's 16 states has slightly different rules on what is required,

Criticism from all quarters

THE UK government's plan to require a vaccine passport has come under severe criticism from many within the ruling Conservative party itself, as well as from the Opposition and from trade associations. People in the UK are generally not required carry around identification documents, and the requirement for a vaccine passport to enter pubs or other crowded venues has been seen by critics as a violation of rights, as well as a move that could further hurt performers and the nightlife industry which have already suffered great losses amid the pandemic.

but in general, people are required to show a negative test, vaccine or recovery certificate before being allowed to participate in indoor dining, drinking or dancing.

Passes are required in France when frequenting bars, cafes, restaurants, museums and other places where the public gathers and for long-distance travel on buses, trains and planes

Japan passes 50% vaccination rate, may ease limits in November

ASSOCIATED PRESS TOKYO, SEPTEMBER 12

JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT says more than 50% of the population has been fully vaccinated.

Japan's vaccine rollouts began in mid-February, months behind many wealthy countries due to its lengthy clinical testing requirement and approval process. Inoculations for elderly patients, which started in April, were also slowed by supply shortages of imported vaccines, but the pace picked up in late May and has since achieved 1 million doses per day.

Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura, who is in charge of Covid measures, told NHK public TV's weekly talk show Sunday that about 60% of the population is expected to be fully vaccinated by the end of September, on par with current levels in Europe.

The government is studying a roadmap for easing restrictions around November when a large majority of the population is expected to be fully vaccinated.

The progress of vaccinations has helped reduce serious cases and deaths among older people, but infections from virus variants spread explosively in August among vounger generations still largely unvaccinated, severely straining health care systems.

Taliban say women can study in gender-segregated universities **KATHY GANNON**

KABUL, SEPTEMBER 12

WOMEN IN Afghanistan can continue to study in universities, including at post-graduate levels, but classrooms will be gender-segregated and Islamic dress is compulsory, the higher education minister in the new Taliban government said Sunday.

The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, laid out the new policies at a news conference, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government. On Saturday, the Taliban had raised their flag over the presidential palace, signaling the start of the work of the new government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from their first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. However, women have been banned from sports and the Taliban have used violence in recent days against women protesters demanding equal rights.

Haggani said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory face coverings. Gender segregation will also be enforced, he said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said. "We will not allow co-education."

Haqqani said the subjects being taught would also be reviewed. While he did not elaborate, he said he wanted graduates of Afghanistan's universities to be competitive with university graduates in the region and the rest of the world.

Taliban banned music and art during their previous time in power. This time, TV has remained and news channels still show women presenters, but the Taliban messaging has been erratic. AP



Quandary at UN: Who speaks for Myanmar and Afghanistan?

RICK GLADSTONE SEPTEMBER 12

MYANMAR'S BRUTAL military coup and the Taliban's triumphal return to power in Afghanistan are among the crises confronting the United Nations as it convenes its annual General

Myanmar But Afghanistan present a further conundrum for the world's biggest diplomatic gathering: Who is the rightful representative of each country?

Assembly this coming week.

The Myanmar junta, which seized power in February and has been widely condemned for a deadly crackdown on opponents, has sought to replace the UN ambassador of the deposed government with a junta loyalist. The Taliban, the violent, ex-

tremist Islamic movement that retook power last month after the American-backed Afghan government collapsed, is also expected to seek diplomatic representation, replacing an ambassador appointed just a few months earlier with one of its own.

The idea that a Myanmar putschist or a Taliban militant on

FBI releases declassified document

a terrorism watch list could become a credentialed UN envoy

may sound dumbfounding. But

theoretically it is possible — if the

government that person repre-

sents is deemed legitimate in the

litical systems, from parliamen-

tary democracies to monarchies

to dictatorships, have long

worked at the 193-member

United Nations, the one place in

the world where even govern-

ments that reject each other's

ideologies enjoy some measure

of equal standing. Still, there are

standards to verify the legitimacy

of both the envoy and the gov-

each country at the United

Nations falls to the Credentials

Verifying who represents

ernment he or she represents.

Envoys from all kinds of po-

eyes of the United Nations.

Committee, a nine-member group appointed at the beginning of each year's General Assembly. Its work is normally routine, checking each envoy's bona fides to ensure compliance

Ghulam M Isaczai

was appointed UN envoy by the

previous Afghan

government. Reuters

with procedural rules. The process gets more complicated when the legitimacy of the envoy's government is at issue, and disputes sometimes are referred to the General Assembly.

"It seems this year's Credentials Committee will be called upon to consider not just one, but two, questions of government legitimacy," Rebecca Barber, an Australian research fellow at the University of Queensland, wrote in the Blog of the European Journal of International Law.

Iran to let IAEA service nuclear monitoring cameras following talks

REUTERS DUBAI, SEPTEMBER 12

IRAN IS to allow the UN nuclear watchdog to service monitoring cameras at Iranian nuclear sites after talks on Sunday with IAEA head Rafael Grossi, according to the head of Iran's atomic energy body and a joint statement. The talks with International

Atomic Energy Agency chief Grossi were aimed at easing a standoff between Tehran and the West just as it threatens to escalate and scupper negotiations on reviving the Iran nuclear deal.

The IAEA said this week that there had been no progress on two key issues: explaining uranium traces found at old, undeclared sites and getting urgent ac-



IAEA chief Rafael Grossi meets Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation head Mohammad Eslami, in **Tehran on Sunday.** Reuters

cess to monitoring equipment so the agency can continue to keep track of parts of Iran's nuclear programme as per the 2015 deal.

"We agreed over the replacement of the memory cards of agency's cameras,'

Mohammad Eslami, who heads the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI), was quoted as saying by state media.

"IAEA's inspectors are permitted to service the identified equipment and replace their storage media which will be kept under the joint IAEA and AEOI seals in the Islamic Republic of Iran." the nuclear bodies said in a joint statement.

The IAEA told member states in reports this week that there had been no progress on two central issues: explaining uranium traces found at several old, undeclared sites and getting urgent access to some monitoring equipment so the agency can continue to keep track of parts of Iran's nuclear programme as provided for by the 2015 deal.



THE FBI released a newly declassified document late Saturday describing connections that the agency examined between the hijackers and the Saudi government in the years since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, although it contained no conclusive evidence about whether the kingdom played a role in the attacks.

The 16-page report, which was issued hours after President Joe Biden arrived at the World Trade Center memorial in New York, is the first document to be released since the President last week moved to declassify materials that for years have remained secret.

Families of the Sept. 11 victims have long pushed for a deeper in-



The document was disclosed hours after Biden visited the Sept 11 memorial in New York on Saturday, NYT

vestigation into any possible role the Saudi government had in the attacks. Biden instructed the Justice Department and federal agencies in recent days to release declassified documents over the next six months after a group of hundreds of affected people - including survivors, emergency medical workers and victims' relmorial event at ground zero this vear if he did not move to disclose some of those documents.

The document, which was heavily redacted, describes an interview conducted in November 2015 with a Saudi man, identified only as PII, who was applying for American citizenship. He detailed his work at the country's consulate in Los Angeles and shared anecdotes about his personal interactions with embassy leadership. The document also summarises his contact with people who investigators said had provided "significant logistic support" to two of the hijackers.

Some members of the commission that investigated the 2001 attacks believed that if the Saudi government had any role in the plot, it was likely to have involved consular officials.

But the document released on Saturday provided no new conclusive evidence about the Saudi government's role.

Speculation around the possible Saudi role increased over the years because of the government's refusal to declassify 28 pages of a 2002 congressional inquiry into the Sept. 11 attacks that specifically addressed possible connections between the kingdom and the terrorist plot.

The document was finally released in 2016, and it detailed numerous suspicious meetings between Saudi officials and the Sept. 11 hijackers, and checks from Saudi royals to operatives in contact with the hijackers. It was also an unflattering picture of the kingdom's efforts to thwart American operations against Al Qaeda in the years before the attacks.

ARMIN LASCHET, MERKEL'S PARTY'S CANDIDATE FOR CHANCELLOR, SEEMS TO BE DRAGGING THE PARTY DOWN WITH HIM

Germany's election was his to lose, and he might just do that

MELISSA EDDY

FRANKFURT AN DER ODER, SEPTEMBER 12

HIS PARTY is the biggest in Germany. It has won all but three elections since 1950, including the past four. Its departing chancellor is more popular than any politician in the country. And German voters crave stability and continuity.

Armin Laschet, the conservative Christian Democratic Union party's candidate for chancellor, should be riding high. The race to replace Angela Merkel was his to lose.

So far, he appears to be doing just that.

Weeks before Germans vote on Sept. 26 in their most important election in a generation one that will produce a chancellor who is not Merkel for the first time in 16 years — Laschet is sinking, and he is pulling his party down with him.

The race is still close enough, and Germany's coalition politics so unpredictable, that it would be dangerous to dismiss the conservative candidate. But after recent polls showed Laschet's party dropping to record lows - of 20 per cent to 22 per cent support his position is so dire that even some Christian Democrats have wondered aloud whether they picked the wrong candidate.

More broadly, Laschet's campaign has prompted queasiness among conservatives who fear they could be seeing a weakness in the party's appeal that has been disguised for years by Merkel's own popularity and is now exacerbated by her inability to groom a replacement.

In 2018, she announced her personally chosen successor, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a moderate centrist. But even with Merkel's support, Kramp-Karrenbauer had trouble stepping out of the chancellor's shadow and building her own base. She quit in 2020 as leader of the conservatives, leaving the door open for Laschet.



Armin Laschet at a party meeting in Nuremberg. Reuters

Laschet had long boasted that if he could run Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, where he has

been governor since 2017, he could run the country. But then extraordinary flooding this summer called even that credential into question, exposing flaws in his environmental policies and disaster management.

The biggest problem for Laschet is that he has not been able to convince voters that he can do the job like Merkel," said Julia Reuschenbach, a political scientist at the University of Bonn.

She cited images of him laughing as the German president, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, made a somber speech after devastating flash floods that killed 180 people, and posing before a mound of trash to make a statement of his own. "He comes across as uncertain, flippant and unprofessional," Reuschenbach said

In recent weeks, Laschet has

seen his individual popularity drop below that of his Social Democratic rival, Olaf Scholz, while support for Laschet's party has been in a free fall since late July.

The situation is so dire that

Merkel, who had said she wanted to stay out of the race, is now intervening and trying to rally voters for Laschet.

"Let's be honest: It is tight. It will be very tight in the coming weeks," Markus Söder, the head of the conservatives' Bavarian branch, the Christian Social Union, and a formal rival, said at a rally on Aug 20 that was meant to propel

Laschet's campaign into a final, in-

tense stretch. "It is no longer a

question of how we could govern,

Söder openly challenged Laschet this year for the chance to succeed the chancellor, and he still

but possibly of whether."

Germans elect parties, not a chancellor candidate. But over the course of Merkel's four terms in office, her party has enjoyed the socalled chancellor bonus, meaning the willingness of voters to effec-

enjoys a higher popularity rating

among Germans than Laschet's.

tively cast a ballot for consistency. Although Merkel remains Germany's most popular politician, her recent attempts to drum up support for Laschet have failed to turn his fortunes around, partly because they have appeared last-

minute and halfhearted.

FPIs pump in ₹7.605 cr in Sep so far

Post SC nudge, govt appoints

31 members to NCLT, ITAT

4,541 corporate insolvency cases

that were ongoing at the end of

Iune had crossed the 270-day

threshold. The bankruptcy law re-

quires that corporate insolvency

proceedings be completed within

330 days, including a 60 day al-

lowance for litigation. Cases that

do not vield a successful resolution

are required to be sent for liquida-

appointments by September 13.

The Bench had said it expected

Benches of the NCLT deal with

matters pertaining to company

law as well as bankruptcy resolu-

tion while the ITAT deals with ap-

peals related to income tax mat-

ters. The industry has flagged

concerns about long pending va-

cancies at the NCLT as a key reason

behind delays in bankruptcy res-

olution under the Insolvency and

The Standing Committee on

Finance had also called out the

government on the impact of va-

cancies at the NCLT, which is also

operating without a full-time

president, and the NCLAT, which

Bankruptcy Code.

tion barring exceptional cases.

the next date of hearing.

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have pumped in a net of Rs 7,605 crore in September so far. As per data from depositories, overseas investors invested Rs 4,385 crore into equities and Rs 3,220 crore in the debt segment during September 1-9. PTI

COS TRANSFORMING TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS INTO CONNECTIVITY TOOLS

Big Tech recasts 'wearables': Privacy concerns may draw regulatory glare

PRANAV MUKUL

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

WHILE LAUNCHING Ray-Ban Stories - smart glasses for which Facebook partnered with the eyewear brand - the social networking giant's CEO Mark Zuckerberg alluded to the product being an "important step" towards a time when "phones are no longer a central part of our lives". As companies both in the internet and consumer electronics space attempt to harness the wearables technology, the next port of call could seemingly be augmented reality and virtual reality.

In itself, Ray-Ban Stories is a pair of normal wayfarers equipped with a camera, microphone, a set of speakers, and storage and connectivity modules, the product is a part of Facebook's larger plan of building glasses that augment the world visually and aurally. In September last year, the company had unveiled Project Aria, a research project to help Facebook build the "first generation of wearable augmented reality devices". Facebook is also working on prototype of neural wristbands that would work along with the AR glasses to translate subtle neural signals into actions using electromyography.

ditions of traditional products hold the promise to change how internet is used, they come with a huge set of privacy concerns. Some of the initial reviews of Ray-Ban Stories have shown other people failing to realise that the glasses are recording, despite a feature being built in to specifically prevent this. As the use of these products proliferate, it becomes even more imperative to have a data privacy framework in place, which is currently absent in India

This need was also made evident when just a day after its launch the new Facebook-Ray-Ban product invited attention from the data protection authority in Italy. which has sought clarifications to assess whether the smart-glasses are compliant with privacy laws. The Italian authority said it wanted to be informed on measures Facebook has put in place to protect people occasionally filmed, in particular children, as well as on systems adopted to make data collected anonymous and features of the voice assistant connected to the glasses. Reuters reported.

But Facebook is not the only company working in this direction. Augmented reality per se in limited spaces has only limited usecases. For example, how Microsoft has introduced a "together

JNPT in Mumbai. File

longer to receive payment for

exported goods. Exporters

noted that shipments that

How can the government

Exporters are calling on

the government to regulate

the export of empty contain-

ers. Experts said some coun-

tries were willing to pay a

premium for empty contain-

ers and that this was further

adding to the container

shortage. They have asked

the government to curb the

export of empty containers

at all Indian ports in line with

a move by the Kolkata port to

restrict the number of empty

cases permitted to be ex-

ported to 100 per vessel for a

www.indianexpress.com

Full report on

three-month period.

help address this issue?

used to take 45 days are now taking 75-

90 days, leading to

2-3 months of delay

in payments that

are causing liquidity

crunch, particularly

for small exporters.

NEED FOR PRIVACY LAW

■ As the use of these products proliferate, it becomes even more imperative to have a data privacy framework in place, which is currently absent in India.

mode"as an addition to Teams, which displays all the participants in a call together in a virtual space instead of the grid of boxes that Teams and Zoom offer currently. However, when clubbed with wearables, a digital, three-dimensional laver of the world is created on these devices that would let the users interact with the various aspects of the world digitally as one does today with a smartphone.

Tech companies, for years now, have been working on integrating the connecting device as closely as possible with the human body. And the ideas for this have been coming from the fashion industry. The story of most popular wearable connectivity device — smartwatches - shows the appetite for adaptation to such devices. "India's smartwatch market is in a boom phase as more and more people

are trying out smartwatches be-

Smartwatches are now replacing traditional watches and complementing smartphone usage as well," said Counterpoint Research Senior Research Analyst Anshika Jain. In 2016, when Google launched its VR headsets Daydream View, it specifically observed the need for wearable devices to be fashion oriented rather than being bulky electronic items and constructed its products using lightweight cloth and foam material. In 2017, Nokia Bell Labs announced a partnership with Belgian FashionTech designer Jasna Rokegem to design sentient garments that would "act as a smart fashionable augmented skin".

In the eyewear technology space, too, a number of players have attempted and tried to gain some ground building upon their existing products. Google was the first big-tech company to bring out Google Glass — a futuristic looking pair of eyeglasses promised to give its users an immersive connected experience. Google Glass was available for retail purchase in 2014 but was shortly discontinued. Among the reasons for its failure was a \$1500-price tag (Facebook's Ray-Ban Stories will be sold at \$299), and a range of privacy and hacking concerns from users.

Amazon has launched a pair of

of products called Echo Frames in 2019. The company launched a second-generation of the smart audio glasses equipped with its digital assistant Alexa earlier this year. Florida-based Magic Leap, a startup backed by Google, AT&T and NTT DoCoMo, released a headset in 2018 that cost \$2,300. but which basically failed to live up to the pre-release functionality claims, with the result that only a few thousand units being up being sold, according to tech-news website The Information.

In a 2019 report, PwC predicted that AR and VR have the potential to add \$1.5 trillion to the world economy by 2030, by catalysing productivity gains in areas including health care, engineering, product development, logistics, retail and entertainment while Goldman Sachs forecasts that the market for such technology to be worth \$95billion by 2025.

Last year, India's largest telecom firm Reliance Jio announced a new Mixed Reality solution, called lio Glass. The company stated that the new Jio Glass was designed for teachers and students to enable 3D virtual rooms and conduct holographic classes via the Jio Mixed Reality service in real-time. Apart from this, they can also be used to perform virtual meetings.

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU The appointments to NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12 the NCLT are for 5 years or until the member THE GOVERNMENT has appointed 31 members to the reaches 65 while that to Benches of the National Company the ITAT are for 4 years Law Tribunal (NCLT) and the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or until the members (ITAT) after the Supreme Court reach the age of 67

cancies immediately The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of eight judicial and 10 technical members to the NCLT as well as six judicial members and seven accountant members to the ITAT, according to a communication by the Department of Personnel and Training on Saturday.

urged the government to fill va-

The Bench noted that it did not want a confrontation with the government on this issue. The appointments to the NCLT are for five vears or until the member reaches the age of 65 while appointments to the ITAT are for 4 years or until the members reach the age of 67.

The Supreme Court had called out the government last week, saying the government had 'emasculated" tribunals, such as the NCLT, by not appointing members. The court noted that a "criticalsituation has arisen" due to the vacancies at the NCLT and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) with respect to the completion of corporate bankruptcy proceedings.

Seventy five per cent of the

Chairperson.

"There is no respect for the judgments of this court, that is what we are feeling. There is testing the patience of the court...," Chief Justice of India NV Ramana, heading a three-judge Bench with Justices L Nageswara Rao and DY Chandrachud, told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Andhra High Court judge

PTI adds

Justice Telaprolu Rajani, Bombay High Court Retired (Rtd) Judge Justice Pradeep Narhari Deshmukh, Madras High Court Retd Judge Justice S Ramathilagam and District Court Judge Deep Chandra Joshi are among those appointed judicial members to the NCLT. The newly-appointed technical members include Principal Commissioner of Income Tax Aiai Das Mehrotra, Retd NHPC CMD Balraj Joshi, Retd Ministry of Panchayati Raj Secretary Rahul Prasad Bhatnagar, Retd Principal Director General of Income Tax Subrata Kumar Dash, Retd Department of Consumer Affairs Secretary Avinash K Srivastava and Retd SBI Chief General Manager Shree Prakash Singh.

Six judicial members have been named to ITAT. They are advocates Sonjoy Sarma, S Seethalakshmi and TR Senthil Kumar, Additional District & Sessions **Judges Shatin Goval and Anubhav** Sharma, and Law Officer in SBI Manomohan Das, PTI reported.

SECTOR WATCH GLOBAL SHIPPING

How is container crunch sinking international trade?

KARUNJITSINGH NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE GOVERNMENT is in talks with exporters to help them deal with an international container shortage that has led to freight rates rising by over 300 per cent in the past year for key shipping routes.

Why is there an international container shortage?

Experts said the reduction in the number of shipping vessels op-EXPLAINE erating as a result of the pandemic have led to fewer empty containers being picked up, leaving many cases in inland depots and stuck at ports

for long durations. Long waiting times at key ports, such as those in the US due to congestion, are also contributing to lengthening turnaround time for containers. A sustained global economic recovery has added to the impetus to trade. The lack of availability of containers and the faster-than-expected recovery in international trade has pushed up freight rates

How is the container shortage impacting Indian exporters? Indian exporters are facing

major delays in their shipments and consequent liquidity issues as they have to wait



second quarter of this fiscal has been significantly improved, though cost of doing business is rising, according to a survey by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

Hike in production costs, industry respondents attributed to, primarily high fixed costs, higher overhead costs for ensuring safety protocols, and a drastic reduction in volumes due to lockdown, as per Ficci's latest quarterly survey (Q2) on manufacturing

Lower capacity utilisation, high freight charges and other



logistic costs, increased cost of raw materials, power cost, and high-interest rates also factors for the hike

Methodology Responses have been drawn from over 300 manufacturing units from both large and SME segments with a combined annual turnover of over 2.7 lakh crore

68% MENTIONED THAT THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO HIRE ADDITIONAL **WORKFORCE IN THE NEXT THREE MONTHS**

After experiencing subdued Q1, the outlook seems to have improved significantly in Q2

High percentage of respondents experiencing the rising cost of doing business and production

Around 58% of participants are expecting a rise in their outbound shipments during the second quarter



Vaccination is the medicine to boost economy, says FM "Today, through to think about the availability of

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI. SEPTEMBER 12

FINANCE MINISTER Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said vaccination was the only medicine to boost the economy as it allows people to conduct businesses regularly or farmers to carry out farming activity.

"Vaccination programme has been going on smoothly in the $country\, and\, so\, far\, 73\, crore\, people$ have already received jabs free of charge. Today, through vaccination programme, people were able to conduct business, traders were able to procure products to run businesses, (thereby) boosting economy, or farmers were able to third wave (of the Covid-19 virus). do farming...So, vaccination is the

vaccination programme, people were able to conduct business, traders were able to procure products to run businesses, (thereby) boosting economy"

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN FINANCE MINISTER

only medicine (to combat the virus, to boost economy)...," she said. Sitharaman made those comments while delivering an address at the centenary celebrations of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Sunday.

"All our prayers are not for a Suppose, if it occurs, then one has tal, does it have an ICU and even if there is an ICU, does it have an oxygen support? For all these questions, the Ministry announced a scheme allowing hospitals to ramp up expansion when there was huge impact in the country caused by the second wave (of Covid-19)," she said. Sitharaman said hospitals lo-

hospitals, even if there is an hospi-

cated in rural areas were able to take up expansion work by availing the schemes announced by the Ministry, including the "viability gap funding" scheme.

She also said banks, including private sector, should embrace digitisation towards ensuring that government schemes reach the

poor, WITHPTI

Zomato to pull

'GDP to expand 10% this fiscal; sustaining 7-8% growth key challenge'

New Delhi: The economy is expected to grow around 10 per cent during the current financial year on the likelihood of fewer Covidlinked supply disruptions and buoyancy in the global economy, said Poonam Gupta, director general of think-tank NCAER.

The real challenge, however, would be to sustain a growth rate of 7-8 per cent in years to come, she said.

"We could see annual growth in the ballpark range of about 10 per cent. The reasons for this perceived optimism are: fewer supply disruptions; increased pentup demand in the traditional and contact-intensive services; and a buoyant global economy.

"Even so, if two pandemic years are taken together, there would be a very small net growth.

In other words, the economy at the end of 2021-22 would be only slightly larger than at the end of 2019-20," Gupta said.

Gupta is the first woman director general of NCAER, Before joining the think-tank, she was the lead economist at the World Bank. She was also the Reserve Bank of India Chair Professor at NIPFP, and a Professor of Macroeconomics at ICRIER.

On the challenges being faced by the Indian economy, she said the first one is to recover from the impact of Covid and the second is to sustain post-Covid growth rates of at least 7-8 per cent.

India has done rather well during the Covid pandemic, primarily because of the rapid pace of vaccination, Gupta said. PTI

POSSIBLE BARRIERS

number of barriers to the

changes. Apple could ask

order, which is set to take

THERE COULD be a

mandated App Store

temporarily block the

another judge to

effect in 90 days.

Air India transfer of assets to SPV to be TDS, TCS exempt

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

THE GOVERNMENT has exempted taxes on transfer of assets by Air India to SPV Air India Assets Holding Ltd, a move aimed at facilitating strategic disinvestment of the national carrier.

As a precursor to Air India sale, the government in 2019 had set up a special purpose vehicle, Air India Assets Holding Ltd (AIAHL), for transfer of debt and non-core assets of the Air India group.

In a set of notifications, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has said that no TDS shall be deducted under section 194Q in case of transfer of goods by Air India Ltd to AIAHL.

Also, no TDS shall be de-



Air India flight at Mumbai airport. File

ducted under section 194-IA of I-T Act on payments made to Air India for transfer of immovable property to AIAHL.

The CBDT also said that Air India would not be considered as 'seller' for the purposes of deduction of TCS for with regard to transfer of goods by it to AIAHL.

It said that transfer of capital asset under plan approved by central government from Air regarded as transfer for the purpose of income tax.

Last week, the CBDT had allowed new owners of erstwhile public sector companies to carry forward losses and set it off against future profits.

This is an effort towards making disinvestment deals of ailing state-owned firms more attractive for strategic investors.

The government is seeking to sell 100 per cent of its stake in the state-owned national airline, including Air India's 100 per cent shareholding in AI Express Ltd and 50 per cent in Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd.

The strategic sale has reached the crucial phase with the September 15 being the last date for putting in financial bids by potential buyers. WITHPTI

fect in 90 days. And both compa-

plug on grocery delivery service from Sept 17 **ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 12

ZOMATO HAS decided to stop its grocery delivery service from September 17 on account of gaps in order fulfillment leading to poor customer experience, marking its exit from the segment for the second time since last year.

The company also said that it believes that its investment in Grofers will generate better outcomes for its shareholders than inhouse grocery efforts.

A Zomato spokesperson said, 'We have decided to shut down our grocery pilot ... Grofers has found high quality product market fit in 10 minute grocery and we believe our investment in the firm will generate better outcomes."

BRIEFLY —

I-T refunds of ₹70,120 cr

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Sunday said it has issued refunds of over Rs 70,120 crore till September 6 this year.

'Release of DA, DR arrears'

New Delhi: Bharatiya Pensioners Manch (BMS) has sought intervention of the Prime Minister for release of DA and DR arrears for central government staff and pensioners at the earliest. PTI

A nick to Apple's profits could be windfall for app developers **JACK NICAS&**

KELLEN BROWNING SAN FRANCISCO, SEPT 12 APPLE HAS taken to calling its

iPhone App Store an "economic miracle," and it has pointed to developers like Zach Shakked as proof. Shakked created an iPhone app that helps companies find trending hashtags on social media. Over the past 12 months, his sales have topped \$5 million.

But one of Shakked's largest expenses is paying a cut to the world's richest company. In his case, Apple took nearly \$1.5 million-its fee for letting him run his app on its devices.

he could soon keep at least some of that money. On Friday, a federal judge ordered Apple to allow developers to steer their customers off their iPhone apps to pay for their goods or services, which Apple had banned. That is big news for developers like Shakked, because sales completed outside Apple's payment systems are not subject to its commission of up to

"It finally feels like the small guys got a win," Shakked, 25, said. 'There's a sense of justice.'

The ruling in Apple's yearlong legal fight with Epic Games, maker of the popular video game Fortnite, set off celebrations

among app developers. From oneperson startups to Fortune 500 companies, they have long complained about paying hefty cuts of

their businesses to Apple. The impact of the decision will be most felt by the smallest devel-



Apple store, New York. Reuters

"It's a very big deal," said Denys

Zhadanov, a board member at Readdle. The court fight has often been framed as a battle between industry heavyweights: Apple, which is worth \$2.5 trillion, versus

Epic, a far smaller company but still one of the few app makers capable of taking on the Silicon Valley titan. Friday's verdict is not expected to be a big hit to Apple's bottom line. In fact, the company declared victory, since Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, of US District Court for the Northern District of California, ruled that Epic had failed to prove that Apple had a monopoly in the mobile gaming market — which would have had a much more serious consequence.

There could be a number of barriers to the mandated App Store changes. Apple could ask another judge to temporarily block the order, which is set to take ef-

nies could appeal the ruling, a process that could take several years. Apple could also restrict how developers direct customers off their apps to complete transactions, including by making them list Apple's payment system as an option and barring them from offering discounts for customers who don't pay via Apple. Such discounts may be necessary to persuade customers to take the extra steps to open a web browser and enter their credit card information, versus simply tapping a button and paying via Apple.

Nevertheless, the tide may be starting to turn against Apple's tight control over its App Store.

Korea have forced Apple to tweak how it manages the store, and regulators and lawmakers around the world are also considering measures to curb the company's influence. Match Group, maker of dating

apps Tinder and Hinge, is on track to pay Apple and Google - which controls a similar app store for phones that run its Android software – more than \$500 million in commissions this year, the company's single largest expense, said Gary Swidler, Match's finance chief. The company was already considering ways to use Friday's ruling to cut down that bill as much as possible, he said. NYT

Ricciardo wins Italian GP as Verstappen, Hamilton crash



Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton crash out. Reuters

ASSOCIATED PRESS MONZA, SEPTEMBER 12

CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER Max Verstappen and defending champion Lewis Hamilton crashed out of the Italian Grand Prix, which was won by McLaren's Daniel Ricciardo on Sunday.

It was McLaren's first win in nearly nine years, since Jenson Button took the chequered flag in Brazil in 2012. It was also Ricciardo's first win since Monaco in 2018. He finished 1.747 seconds ahead of teammate Lando Norris and 4.921 ahead of Valtteri Bottas, who turned in a strong performance after starting from the back of the grid after a penalty for taking a new engine.

But the biggest talking point of the race came on lap 26. Hamilton had pitted from the lead and returned to the track just in front of Verstappen. The Red Bull driver tried to come up the inside on a turn as the seventime champion defended his position.

As the two made contact, Verstappen's car catapulted on to the top of the Mercedes as both slid into the gravel. The protective halo ring at the front of F1 car cockpits may have saved Hamilton from serious injury. "That's what you get when you don't leave the space," said a furious Verstappen over team radio.

Both drivers were able to walk away from their cars though Hamilton took a long time getting out of his, only clambering out after Verstappen had long gone.

The stewards will investigate the incident after the race. Ricciardo won the race after a brilliant start allowed the Australian driver to pass Verstappen who started from pole position at turn one.

Behind them Hamilton, who started fourth, managed to pass Lando Norris. But he then attempted to try and get around the outside of Verstappen heading into the second chicane and was instead forced off across the grass, allowing Norris to regain his place. "He (Verstappen) pushed me wide!' Hamilton exclaimed over team radio.

Hamilton was then held up by Norris and

ON THE PODIUM

1. Ricciardo (McLaren) 1:21:54.365 2. Norris (McLaren) +1.747 seconds 3. Bottas (Mercedes)

DRIVERS' STANDINGS: 1. Max Verstappen (Red Bull Racing) 226.5 points, 2. Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) 221.5, 3. Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) 126, 4. Lando Norris (McLaren) 114, 5. Sergio Perez (Red Bull Racing) 108

could only watch in frustration as Ricciardo and Verstappen stretched their advantage lap by lap. Ricciardo was first to pit, on lap 23, and came out seventh. Verstappen was struggling with his tires and stopped on the following lap.

But a botched pit stop that lasted 11.1 seconds saw him come out in 10th and, to make matters worse for the Dutch driver, Hamilton had in the meantime passed Norris to take the lead. But disaster struck for both drivers shortly afterward.

Daruvala finishes 5th

India's Jehan Daruvala missed out on podium, settling for a fifth place finish in the Feature Race of Formula 2 here on Sunday. Daruvala, who had sealed his second Formula 2 win with a dominating drive in the second sprint race on Saturday, was sluggish from second and clocked 56:41.936.

Oscar Piastri clinched a dominant first Feature Race win, beating Guanyu Zhou to extend his Championship lead. Piastri had been unable to convert pole in the previous round at Silverstone, losing out to Zhou when the lights went out but looked to have learned from the experience and completed the opening lap at the front.

Jumping from third to second off the line, Zhou kept the pressure on throughout the race but was unable to find a way past his title rival.

Biennial WC: Wenger's proposal that has split the football world

MIHIR VASAVDA SEPTEMBER 12

ASIA AND Africa on one side. Europe and South America on the other.

Some of the game's legends on one side. A few current stars on the other.

At the centre of the incoming storm is FIFA. Feeling the threat of being swept aside is UEFA, the body that controls the game in Europe, the nerve centre of world football.

When coaching great Arsene Wenger proposed the idea of having a World Cup every two years, one wonders if he had imagined that it would split the football world in such a dramatic fashion. On the face of it, this seems like a straightforward debate. But scratch the surface and multiple layers emerge, the most crucial being the enduring power struggle between FIFA and UEFA.

Money matters

FIFA and Wenger, while proposing this idea, said the fans would be more interested in watching 'meaningful' matches, which might be true given that more than a billion people watched the 2018 World Cup final between France and Croatia. They've also claimed that the players would

like more chances to play in a World Cup. Critics, however, have constantly pointed at a third element, which they allege is the main motive behind this move. "All about money," Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp said recently. FIFA raised approximately \$6 billion in rev-

enue from the 2018 World Cup. This money was generated by selling broadcast rights, tickets and sponsorship. FIFA hopes that instead of having just one World Cup in four years, conducting two during the same period would double its income.

Power struggle

This is where the clash of power between FIFA and UEFA takes place. FIFA, as the Financial Times noted, is 'challenging clubs and leagues' for a larger share of profits as the sport continues to grow. The world body's president, Gianni Infantino, is trying to do so by increasing the number of teams in the World Cup from 32 to 48 and also expanding the Club World Cup.

The UEFA, trying to protect its own financial interests, sees this as a threat to its own competitions for the simple reason that more international matches will directly eat into European club competitions – continental and domestic – thus impacting their revenue.

A World Cup every two years would also have a cascading effect on the continental



Arsene Wenger believes a World Cup every two years will give more players a chance to play in it. Reuters

championships like the Euros, which is currently held between two World Cups. According to Wenger's proposal, the Euros will have to change the year when it is held and thus, each season will conclude with a big-ticket event in June. As Reuters explained: 'For example, in 2028 there would be a World

Cup. In 2029, there would be a European Championship (and similar continental competitions around the world) then in 2030 there would be the next World Cup.'

Domino effect This would, in turn, have an

impact on all other competitions. FIFA has not yet made clear what happens in an Olympic year, or what happens if the World Cup is to be held in a country where the only option is to play the tournament in winter, as is the case with Qatar 2022. Not just football, a major football tournament every summer – and a World Cup every two years - would eat into the market for other summer sports, something which World Athletics president Sebastian Coe underlined last week. "I can see no good reason for it. There may be vested interests here but the summer sports are protective about the landscape as it's hard enough for them as it is to grab space in the traditional or digital media. A biennial World Cup will inevitably start clashing with the Olympic Games too," Coe was quoted as saying by The Guardian.

European boycott?

Amidst all this lack of clarity, UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin has threatened a boycott. "We can decide not to play in it. As far as I know, the South Americans are on the same page. So good luck with a World Cup like that," Ceferin told The Times.

Europe and South America, the only confederations who have been vocal against the idea, have a total of 65 votes between them, If Asia, Africa and the Americas vote in favour of the idea, none of the voices against the proposal would matter

The South American confederation hasn't publicly spoken about a boycott yet, but has also opposed the idea. However, if Europe does as Ceferin has threatened – a far-fetched scenario at the moment but a situation that could escalate any time - it would take all the sheen away from the World Cup. given that European teams have won all but one edition since 1998 and also have the highest representation in the semifinals.

So far, only Asia and Africa - the two confederations that rely heavily on FIFA money - have openly backed the idea. Or to be precise, just a handful of Asian countries - Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Maldives – that have not come close to qualifying for the World Cup, Saudi Arabia set the ball rolling in this debate by formally putting forward this proposal at a FIFA Congress this year.

Divided opinion

There's a split among players and managers as well. Last week, several of the game's legends gathered in Oatar and backed the idea, "If you ask Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo if they would love to have more opportunities to win the World Cup, I'm sure they'd say yes," Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldo said at a press conference on Friday.

Messi and Cristiano haven't spoken on the issue. But Gareth Bale, one of the stars of this generation, did not seem too enthused. "I don't like every two years. I feel it loses that bit of history. The fact it's over four years, and it's a long time until the next one, makes it that bit more prestigious," Bale was quoted as saving by Reuters. Eventually, it won't matter what players, managers, administrators, fans or the media feel about this. The final decision will be taken by the 211 FIFA member nations. Infantino, it is reported, is keen to hold a vote in December this year. And the split in the football world might not be good news for those who aren't fans of the biennial World Cup.

Europe and South America, the only confederations who have been vocal against the idea, have a total of 65 votes between them. If Asia, Africa and the Americas vote in favour of the idea, none of the voices against the proposal would matter.

Football team manager hacked to death inside Bengaluru stadium

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 12

A 27-YEAR-OLD history-sheeter, who also

managed a football team, was hacked to death at the Bengaluru football stadium on Sunday evening. The deceased has

been identified as Aravind Kumar (in pic). According to the police, the incident took place at around 4 pm when

four or five assailants barged into the ground and chased Aravind before killing him inside a changing room for referees in the main stadium. Players and spectators were shocked to

see a man being chased by armed men on the ground. The incident took place minutes before the start of an A Division football game for women in the main stadium.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) M N Anucheth said Aravind was managing a local team and had come to play in a 6-aside tournament at the BBMP ground opposite KSFA Bengaluru football stadium.

"At about 4 pm, four to five persons surrounded and assaulted him. He then fled from the spot and entered the main KSFA football stadium located opposite the BBMP ground. He went inside a referee's room and locked himself in. The accused persons then broke the door and hacked him to death using deadly weapons," police said.

A case of murder has been registered at the Ashok Nagar police station and two teams have been formed to identify and nab the accused. Police said gang rivalry was the motive

behind the murder and Aravind was a history-sheeter at the Bharathi Nagar police station in east Bengaluru.

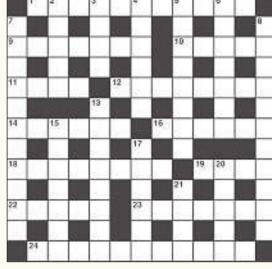
Army Red hold Gokulam

Kalyani: Defending champions Gokulam Kerala were held to a 2-2 draw by Army Red in their opening match of the Durand Cup football tournament here on Sunday.

Gokulam scored through Rahim Osumanu (9th minute) and Sharif Mohammad (70th) while P Jain (30th) and Bikash Thapa (43rd) found the target for Army Red.

The Malabarians started on a positive note, courtesy a spectacular long-range goal from Ghanaian Rahim Osumanu but failed to capitalize in the later stages. Gokulam Kerala goalkeeper Rakshit Dagar got injured after a collision with Army Red's Mukesh Kumar and he was replaced by PA Ajmal.

CROSSWORD 4533



- 1 Lose one's grip and decide to take no further action
- 9 Hurried so curry is spoilt 10 A fabulous writer takes a
- retrospective pose (5) 11 It flows out of line (4) 12 An event for wine people
- 14 Decline with little hesitation 16 Impressionist Renoir reproduction?
- 18 Close of play 19 I study Russian art
- 22 Not the best man to take care of
- horses (5) 23 Hear Thai wraps chopped lamb dish(7)
- 24 No more stars for stargazers

- 2 Country river a Russian river
- 3 Ring up Winnie (4) 4 Call attention to 24-hour period of prosperity
- 5 Crazy people eat them with cheese (8)
- 6 Keep us up to the mark
- 7 Admit the account needs information (11) 8 It pays an actor to keep them up
- 13 He likes to make things better
- for an anagrammatist
- 15 Disport around the photographer's equipment
- 17 Some insult angers the ruler
- 20 Seat of learning? (5) 21 I'm a leader of Muslims

Solutions Crossword 4532: Across: 1 Bumper, 4 Crossbow, 9 Rarest, 10 Wayfarer, 12 Nuts, 13 Relay, 14 Race, 17 Short circuit, 20 Posted abroad, 23 Ache, 24 Faint, 25 Skye, 28 Appendix, 29 Humane, 30 Indigent, 31 Zealot. **Down**: 1 Baroness, 2 Marathon, 3 Easy, 5 Road accident, 6 Soft, 7 Barsac, 8 Warren, 11 Registration, 15 Stood, 16 Limbo, 18 Cocktail, 19 Adherent, 21 Salami, 22 Shaped, 26 Snug, 27 Ruse

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis





CALVIN & HOBBES by Bill Watterson







MARVIN by Tom Armstrong







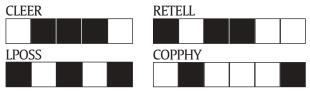
3 8 6 7 5

9 8

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 first man gets the ___, the second man gets the ___. - Andrew Carnegie (6.,5)

RETELL



Answer: The first man gets the **oyster**, the second man gets the **shell**. - Andrew Carnegie SOLUTION: CREEL, SLOPS, TELLER, CHOPPY

Difficulty Level 5s Instructions To solve a Sudoku puzzle,

DOK DOK

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every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the

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

	3	l		3			Z	
1	4		6		5		8	3
	7						1	
5	8		3		7		9	6
-	2	П		4			3	
			8		1		П	
		7				6		
								=

SUDOKU 4592 1 7 4 2 6 5 3 9 8 9 7 3 6 8 5 8 4 1 3 9 5 6 8 7 9 2 4 1 3 7 4 3 5 1 6 SOLUTION 9 2 6 8 7 5 4 8 1 7 3 5 4 2 6 9 4 5 6 1 2 9 8 3 7

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) Don't be slow in

DAY TODAY

coming forward, for you deserve to be number one. And neither is there any need to pursue a conventional course If you follow a hunch then you might find that you reach your

destination by a very different

and much quicker route. TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

You can afford to be quite laid back today, but if you're right in the middle of a professional wrangle or any dispute with authority, check up on the legal angle and ask whatever questions are necessary to get to the right answer. Don't worry about

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You might believe

what other people think, that's

that money is the most important thing in the world, but you'd be wrong. It's the law that matters most, and you need to be absolutely and perfectly sure of your rights as soon as possible. And then there's a little question of justice and that's your real goal.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23) When the

circumstances demand, you can always call on your legendary compassion, and it's extremely likely that others will look for your sympathy today. However, in spite of first appearances, the best remedy may be no more taxing than a nice chat with a close friend.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23) There is a narrow

line to be drawn between keeping your emotional defences up, which is

desirable, and cutting other people out, which is not. It's all a matter of being kind to yourself, but maintaining a proper balance all round. acknowledging partners' very

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept. 23)

It looks as if this might be a very busy week, which is one good reason to take

things slowly and conserve your energy today. But, then, it could be the case that, while your plans change frequently, you don't actually achieve a great deal. A child or younger relation requires reassurance

BY PETER VIDAL LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

If you sense that

you're about to hit

an emotional turning-point, you're right, which is why this particular time is so vital for making sure that your emotional foundations are firm. You must convince other people that you know what you're doing and that you

can succeed.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) Some people say that life is what happens when we are busy

making plans. And right now it's difficult to say what's around the next corner. Your best policy is to ready for last minute changes and welcome any opportunity to try out something totally new and different.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22) You may look back on previous financial blunders and wonder how

vou were ever so naive. However, according to one of those strange laws of fate, the moment you dwell on the past. someone will take advantage of you again. Focus on everything that's good and things must get better.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20) The Moon is making its presence felt



at home. Always be flexible, for the moment you lapse into old habits, your actions will rebound on you. And that would never do.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) Everything that



rehearsal for the coming upheavals and opportunities. Make sure you have all plots and schemes thoroughly worked out in your own mind before going public.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) You are still living an



cumulative result of everything that takes place this week should be to give you a sort of inward glow. You should believe in yourself, even when other people can't grasp what you're doing.

BRIEFLY ——

Intermakes 1st misstep in title defence with draw

Rome: Inter Milan made the first misstep of its Serie A title defense with a 2-2 draw at Sampdoria on Sunday. The result left the Nerazzurri two points behind Napoli, which extended its perfect start with a 2-1 win over Juventus on Saturday. With nine goals in its opening three matches, Inter has not had trouble scoring after Romelu Lukaku's departure to Chelsea. Barella, a key member of the Italy squad that won the European Championship, has provided assists in all three of Inter's matches this season. But the team missed reliable center back Alessandro Bastoni, who was out with a left thigh injury that he picked up on international duty with Italy. It remains unclear if Bastoni will return in time for Inter's Champions League opener against Real Madrid on Wednesday at the San Siro.

Asghar Afghan slams Paine in letter over T20 WC comments

Kabul: Former Afghanistan captain Asghar Afghan has slammed Australia Test skipper Tim Paine for his comments that the war-torn country looks impossible to play in the upcoming T20 World Cup, asking him not to "deliver aggressive statements without knowing the circumstances".In an open letter to Paine, Afghan said that his country's team has the right to play not only in the upcoming T20 World Cup but in all ICC organized organized tournaments/events in accordance with the rules and regulations. Soon after forming the interim government, the Taliban banned women from playing cricket or any others sports, casting doubts over Afghanistan men's Test status. As per ICC rules, all Test playing nations must have a women's team as well.

Winner disqualified for wearing wrong shoes for marathon

Vienna: Ethiopia's Derara Hurisa was disqualified for wearing the wrong shoes after winning the Vienna Marathon on Sunday. The 24-yearold Hurisa crossed the line first by three seconds but was later told he had been disqualified because the soles of his shoes were 1 centimeter (0.4 inches) thicker than the maximum 4 centimeters allowed. Organizers said Hurisa had registered another shoe that met race rules, but switched to the shoes he had used in training to run the actual marathon. "I can't say at the moment why he didn't run in the shoes that were specified in the form," race coordinator Johannes Langer said. Leonard Langat of Kenya, who had originally finished second, in 2 hours, 9 minutes, 25 seconds, was declared the winner.

I JUST WANT TO SAY THAT I HOPE I CAN BE AS STRONG AND AS RESILIENT AS NEW YORK HAS BEEN THE LAST 20 YEARS

LEYLAH FERNANDEZ, after losing the US Open final to Emma Raducanu on September 11

Cinderella story

Main draw qualifier Emma Raducanu wins the US Open final 6-4, 6-3 beating fellow teen Leylah Fernandez

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 12

WE ADAPT quickly. It's part of the human spirit, whether we are teenage tennis stars or the people who line up and take a seat to watch them in the world's biggest tennis stadium.

Two weeks ago, the vast majority of us had never heard of Leylah Fernandez or Emma Raducanu. Fernandez had never been past the third round in a major tournament and had struggled to find her best form in recent weeks. Raducanu joined the tour in earnest only this summer and had to make it through the off-Broadway qualifying tournament to secure a spot in the U.S. Open.

But by Saturday, when Fernandez, 19, and Raducanu. 18. took to the court for one of the most unlikely Grand Slam finals, we already had a connection. They had boldly worked through the women's draw during this special U.S. Open, which was full of communion between the players and the public after all the distancing of the last year and a half.

By Saturday, those who had been following their unexpected progress already knew about their strengths, their multicultural backgrounds and even their quirks: Fernandez's jig behind the baseline before walking forward to serve, Raducanu's habit of blowing on her fingers between points as if to cool off a very hot

But what was most striking Saturday was how quickly both unseeded players adjusted to this grand occasion, calmly giving thoughtful prematch television interviews, walking past Billie Jean King's quote on the tunnel wall, which says that "pressure is a privilege," and then walking past King herself as they emerged into the lateafternoon sunshine for the biggest opportunity of their short careers. It was all new, but you would not have known it once the ball was in play, as both attacked their groundstrokes and did their best to seize the occasion even after having nearly two full days to think about the occasion once they had won their semifinals.

After the introductions, Fernandez ripped a backhand crosscourt winner on the opening point. Raducanu later pounded a backhand winner of her own to hold serve and win the opening game. Raducanu and Fernandez both held firm, extending rallies with their quickness and defensive skills on the move, smartly sending lobs high into the atmosphere when cornered. But just as impressively, they finished points with authority when they had created the space to go for winners.

Their styles contrast in some ways. The lefthanded Fernandez uses more spin and enjoys deploying the drop shot. Her technique is more artisanal than textbook, with her hands often far apart on the grip on a two-handed backhand as she improvises on the fly.

The right-handed Raducanu favors more direct power and has fabulous fundamentals that allow her to control the ball even while swinging ferociously. She has a knack for making the tricky shot look smooth and an ability to run around her backhand in a flash and rip an inside-out forehand that Roger Federer could relate to.

But Fernandez and Raducanu are very contemporary tennis talents in their ability to sus-

Raducanu's first Grand Slam title has come in her second appearance in the main draw. No other woman in the Open era has played fewer majors before winning one.

tain pace and consistency from low body positions, their knees often touching the court as they counterpunch. Some of their extended rallies were spectacular Saturday as they exchanged backhand bolts with nary a grunt, their sneakers squeaking on the hard court.

Only Raducanu would get that great satisfaction, and although the score of 6-4, 6-3 will look fairly lopsided in the history books, anyone who watched will know that the match was much more tenuous than that.

"These two young women are a gift to tennis, an absolute gift," Andy Roddick, the 2003 U.S. Open men's champion, wrote in a post on Twitter. Roddick was right to shine a light on both players on Saturday. Fernandez is not yet a Grand Slam champion, but she is a world-class fighter who walks between points with the steely determination of someone on her way to break up a bar brawl.

She and her family have sacrificed plenty for her tennis career, and after losing a back-and-forth first set, Fernandez had every reason to still believe in her chances. She upset three players ranked in the top five - Naomi Osaka, Elina Svitolina and Aryna Sabalenka - as well as Angelique Kerber, a former No. 1 in resurgent form. Fernandez had beaten them all in three sets, so when Raducanu took a 5-2 lead in the second set but was unable to convert her first two match points on Fernandez's serve, Fernandez grinned as if she knew something that nobody else yet suspected.

Why should she not have believed in another comeback? But when she got a break point in the next game, she had to wait to play it as Raducanu, who had scraped her left knee while sliding for a shot, took an injury timeout to clean up trickling blood and have the wound

The stoppage was well within the rules, but in this thinker's sport of ebbs and flows, it may have made the difference. Raducanu said she was concerned about losing her rhythm, as well. But it was Fernandez who expressed displeasure about the long pause to officials and then pushed a forehand long. Raducanu then saved a second break point with a leaping tap of an overhead.

She was back to deuce with Arthur Ashe Stadium abuzz and presumably most of Britain wide awake, as the match was broadcast in prime time in Raducanu's home country.

This time, she did not flinch, surprising Fernandez with a fine serve down the T that gave her command of the rally and brought her a third match point.

She mulled her options, tossed the ball high and smacked an ace to become the first qualifier in the long history of tennis to win a Grand

In 10 matches, she never lost a set. "I never thought I would see it, so I'm in shock," said King, who watched from the stands as Raducanu dropped her racket and fell to the court, her hands covering her face.



 $Before the final, Raducanu's \ return \ points \ win \ percentage \ was \ 52 \ per \ cent, which \ was \ second \ among \ all \ players \ at \ the \ US \ Open. \ \textit{APT} \ and \ another \ another$

Method to Raducanu's glorious madness

SHAHIDJUDGE SEPTEMBER 12

THE FIRST all-teenage Grand Slam final since 1999 showcased carefree, risk-taking strokes mixed with graceful technique, impressive composure, and with Emma Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez involved, a whole lot of

Eventually, it was 18-year-old Raducanu who prevailed 6-4, 6-3 over the 19-year-old Canadian in what had been an improbable, but not undeserved, US Open run for both players. The Brit became the first woman from her country to win a Grand Slam title since Virginia Wade took the 1977

Wimbledon crown. She became the first-ever qualifier to reach a Major final, let alone winning it. And the World No. 150 became the lowest-ever ranked US Open champion - the unranked Kim Clijsters won in 2009. Raducanu is projected to climb to the World No. 23 rank on Monday. She went from being a qualifier to a champion without dropping a set. But the longest match she played in the tournament, the final lasting an hour and 51 minutes, wasn't just about mindless ball-striking. Here's how the final was won.

Targeting backhand, then forehand, then

In the opening exchanges, it was clear that Raducanu had come with a plan to target the left-handed Fernandez's backhand. Even if it

meant taking risks over the higher part of the net, Raducanu would whack the ball to Fernandez's right whenever possible. The ploy worked for a while as Fernandez could not unleash her angled forehand strokes as often as she would have liked.

By the sixth game though, the Canadian had started to anticipate Raducanu's shots. So, the Brit changed tactics and began hitting to

the Fernandez forehand. As the match progressed, she'd vary the direction of her shots and keep the Canadian guessing.

The Righty Serve

Left-handers tend to have an advantage against right-handers not used to facing southpaws that's arguably what helped Fernandez beat defending champion Naomi Osaka in the third round. The 'lefty' serve - an angled delivery from the ad-court deep into

the backhand side of a right-hander - draws the opponent out of position. However, Raducanu proved that the righthander serving with a heavy angle into a lefty's

backhand could also be advantageous. Raducanu's early strategy in the match was to aim at Fernandez's backhand. It was something that continued to bother Fernandez. The Brit would often serve wide from the deuce-

court, and then down the T from the ad-court. But she would still throw in a few serves the other way around. Crucially, two points away from the title, with Raducanu serving for the match at 5-3, deuce, she served down the T, and on match point, hit her second ace wide.

Big returns of serve

Before the final, Raducanu's return points win percentage was 52 per cent, second among all players at the US Open. She continued to return with relish against Fernandez as

She won 38 of 78 receiving points (49 per cent) in the match (22 of 46 in the first set and 16 of 32 in the second).

The most important returns she made, though, came in the sixth game of the second set. She started the game off with a powerful backhand down the line return winner, and hit another big return to set up the point that was killed off with a forehand winner to go 0-30 up. At 30-40, there was an element of luck involved. Fernandez got hold of a strong first serve that drew a weak and short return. As the Canadian stepped up to slot home, Raducanu guessed right and hit a forehand winner to go 4-2 up - the break that decided the match.

Better numbers

Raducanu finished the match with 22 winners and 25 unforced errors. Fernandez scored 18 winners but had 26 unforced errors. Crucially for Fernandez, her first serve percentage was low - she hit only 45 of her 78 first serves in (58 per cent), and could win just 25 of them (56 per cent). Comparatively, Raducanu made 48 of 70 first serves in (69 per cent), and won 32 points on the first serve (67 per cent).

The Canadian faced 18 break points, saving 14 of them. Raducanu faced nine break points but was broken only twice.

Boxing's absurd summer gets a Trump injection

KEVIN DRAPER SEPTEMBER 12

IN A single zany sentence, this is how the once-promising summer of boxing ended: Triller, a social video app that is a much less popular version of TikTok, put on a pay-perview fight between a 58-year-old Evander Holyfield (who hasn't fought in a decade) and a 44-year-old mixed martial artist, Vitor Belfort - and paid former President Donald Trump and Donald Trump Jr. to serve as live commentators, all on the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The result of the (legally) professional fight is mostly beside the point - Belfort won by a technical knockout in the first round, after the referee stopped the bout because of how clear it was that Holyfield never should have been allowed into the ring - but it served to underscore what could have been.

Earlier this year, Triller won the right to promote Teófimo López's lightweight title defense against George Kambosos Jr. The app paid more than \$6 million for the privilege, after the fight went to an open bid because López and his promoter, Top Rank, could not agree on a deal

Triller had burst onto the boxing scene last winter, with an exhibition fight between Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. Internet celebrity Jake Paul knocked out a former NBA player, Nate Robinson, on the undercard, and rappers Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa and French Montana all performed



Former MMA star Vitor Belfort, left, knocks down Evander Holyfield during the first round of a boxing match. AP

between fights.

An optimist could see an evolution in how boxing was being presented: a brash entrant aiming to attract a new type - and a new generation - of fans to a sport that has been the subject of a thousand obituaries.

The López-Kambosos fight, then, was Triller's chance to show that it was serious. That its foray into boxing was not just an expensive, attention-grabbing marketing strategy for its app - though it was definitely that - and that its flashy presentation would work for real fights, too, and that it had figured out something that traditional promoters like Top Rank

and Golden Boy Promotions had not. As if to punctuate its seriousness, on June 1, Triller announced that it had hired Boxing Hall of Fame announcer Jim

Triller did not reveal how much it had paid Donald Trump, though Ryan Kavanaugh said he was negotiating with Barack Obama to commentate on a future event.

Lampley to call the fight. Cast aspersions on Triller all you want, but Lampley calling a López title bout is a strong way to present a legitimate draw.

Alas, that announcement would be the high point.

The fight, scheduled for June 19, was pushed back to August after López tested positive for the coronavirus. It was moved again, to September, onto the same card featuring Oscar De La Hoya - who has not fought since George W. Bush was president fighting Belfort.

But that date did not work out - in theory, López will now fight in October - and then, last week, De La Hoya was hospitalized with the coronavirus, in what he said was a breakthrough infection.

No 45's appearance

On a week's notice, Holyfield stepped in to fight Belfort instead. The bout, originally to take place in Los Angeles, was moved across the country to Florida after the California State Athletic Commission refused to sanction it - even as an exhibition. (In Florida, it counted as a pro fight.)

But we are not done yet. On Tuesday,

Triller announced that Trump and Trump Jr. would commentate the fight. The next day, Lampley, objecting to the presence of the Trumps even though they were to be on a separate commentating stream, pulled out.

That is how Triller's big summer showcase, to be voiced by Lampley, became three hours of Trump recalling different boxers he'd known and been friends with, before two depressing top bouts, both over in the first round, each of which featured one washed-up fighter beating another.

"They say there is a lot of people watching," the former president said with a smile between fights. "I can't imagine why." The night was one of Trump's highest-profile, and lengthiest, public appearances since leaving office, and a fairly rare event in light of his suspension from a number of social media sites.

Triller did not reveal how much it had paid Trump, though Ryan Kavanaugh, whose company owns a majority stake in the app, said he was negotiating with Barack Obama to commentate on a future boxing match,

That was a clear bid for publicity, and perhaps a bipartisan hedge in advance of Saturday's fights, which featured such sights as former UFC fighter Tito Ortiz - a vocal Trump supporter who resigned from the city council of Huntington Beach, California, after drawing ire for his antimask and anti-vaccination stances - walking to the ring waving a "thin blue line" flag.

Ortiz was knocked out a minute into the first round by another former UFC fighter, Anderson Silva.

Harvey Elliott's injury sours Liverpool win over Leeds

REUTERS SEPTEMBER 12

MOHAMED SALAH's 100th Premier League goal helped Liverpool cruise to a 3-0 victory at 10-man Leeds United on Sunday in a match that was marred by teenager Harvey Elliott suffering a dislocated ankle.

After a lightning-fast start to the game, Salah became the 30th player to join the Premier League's 100-goal club in the 20th minute, tapping home from close range from a Trent Alexander-Arnold cross.

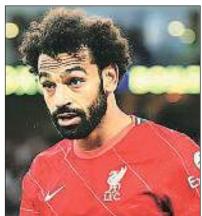
The visitors missed a host of chances to make it 2-0 in the first half, before Fabinho made one count early in the second period to put Juergen Klopp's side on course for three points in West Yorkshire. There was a worrying sight later in the

half as Elliott needed lengthy treatment on the pitch following a tackle from Leeds' Pascal Struijk, with the hosts' substitute shown a straight red card for the challenge by the referee.

Elliott was taken off on a stretcher, receiving applause from Leeds fans as he was taken down the touchline.

"It is his ankle. I heard it was dislocated and they couldn't put it back and he is now in hospital," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said.

Liverpool regained their composure to add a stoppage-time third through Sadio Mane to put the seal on a victory that



Mohamed Salah became the 30th player to join the Premier League's 100-goal club.

LEEDS UNITED 0-3 LIVERPOOL Mohamed Salah 20 Fabinho 50' Lingard 90+2' Sadio Mane 90+2'

moved them above Manchester City into third in the standings, while Leeds sit 17th without a win from four league matches this season.

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