







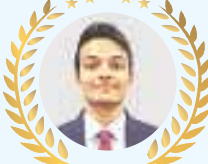




















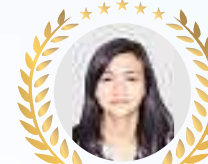



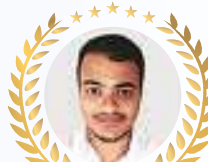
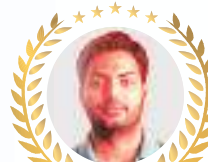






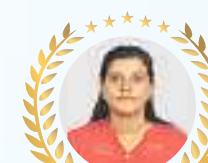




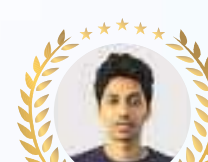









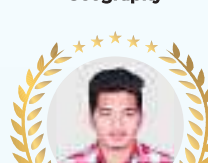
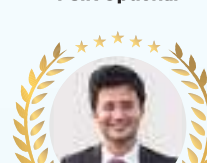
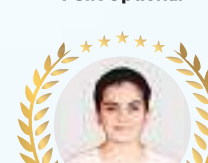

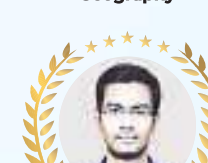
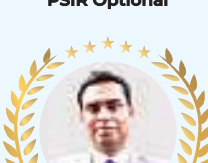

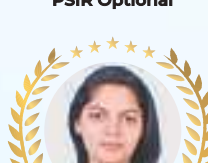

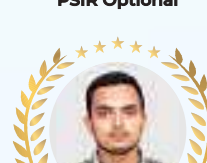
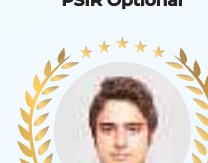
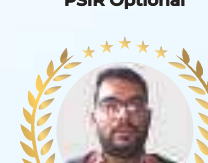
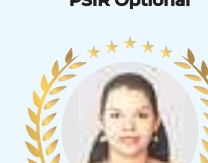


SHUBHRA RANJAN

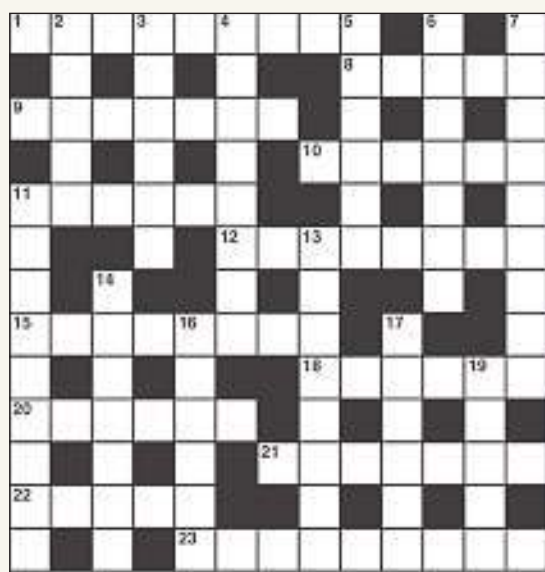
Always Ahead

CSE 2020 RESULT

Every 5th selected candidate in Top 300 is SRIAS student

 Satyam Gandhi AIR 10 PSIR Optional	 Mithun Premraj AIR 12 Geography	 Riya Dabi AIR 15 PSIR Optional	 Sadaf Choudhary AIR 23 PSIR Optional	 Krishan Kumar Singh AIR 24 PSIR Optional	 Vaibhav Rawat AIR 25 PSIR Optional	 Aparna Ramesh AIR 35 General Studies	 Sai Manasa Nc AIR 48 GS and PSIR Optional	 Nisha AIR 51 PSIR Optional	 Ahinsa Jain AIR 53 PSIR Optional
 Jayant Nahata AIR 56 PSIR Optional	 Veena S Suthan AIR 57 Geography	 Dheenah Dastageer AIR 63 Geography	 Laxman Tiwari AIR 71 PSIR Optional	 Kalpesh Kumar Sharma AIR 73 Essay	 Ishant Jaswal AIR 80 GS and PSIR Optional	 Kavali Meghana AIR 83 Sociology	 Aishwarya Singh AIR 97 PSIR Optional	 Ayush Gupta AIR 98 PSIR Optional	 Anmolam AIR 103 GS and PSIR Optional
 Nidhi Thakur AIR 109 Ethics	 Yatish R AIR 115 PSIR Optional	 Kartik Shrotriya AIR 124 Ethics	 Vivek Arya AIR 131 PSIR Optional	 Richa Kulkarni AIR 134 PSIR Optional	 Malini S AIR 135 Geography	 Vyom Bindal AIR 141 PSIR Optional	 Devi P AIR 143 Geography	 Minnu P M AIR 150 Geography	 Shrey Shashank AIR 151 PSIR Optional
 Rahul L Nair AIR 154 PSIR Optional	 Ritvik Srivastava AIR 155 PSIR Optional	 Neeharika Tomar AIR 161 PSIR Optional	 Satam Naomi Dasharath AIR 162 PSIR Optional	 Romil Singh Donk AIR 175 PSIR Optional	 Shreya Singhal AIR 176 PSIR Optional	 Walkhom Nydia Devi AIR 180 GS and PSIR Optional	 Salunkhe Gaurav Ravindra AIR 182 PSIR Optional	 Kankanala Rahul Reddy AIR 218 PSIR Optional	 Shashrek Ambardar AIR 221 PSIR Optional
 Ashutosh Shrivastava AIR 223 PSIR Optional	 Desal Tushar Uttam AIR 224 PSIR Optional	 Ashish AIR 226 PSIR Optional	 Prathamesh A. Rajeshirke AIR 236 PSIR Optional	 Abhishek Kumar Singh AIR 240 PSIR Optional	 Saahil Khare AIR 243 PSIR Optional	 Akshita Srivastava AIR 251 PSIR Optional	 Arjun K AIR 257 PSIR Optional	 Surya Pratap Singh AIR 258 PSIR Optional	 Nitish Rajora AIR 268 PSIR Optional
 Md Haris Sumair AIR 270 PSIR Optional	 Abhishek Vashishtha AIR 274 PSIR Optional	 Ahmed H. Choudhury AIR 283 PSIR Optional	 Abhilasha Kour AIR 292 PSIR Optional	 C B Rex AIR 293 Geography	 Arpit Chauhan AIR 297 PSIR Optional	 Alex Abraham P J AIR 299 Geography	 Aashish Madanlal Rawlani AIR 305 PSIR Optional	 Merlin C Das AIR 307 Geography	 Alfred Ov AIR 310 Geography
 Sara Ashraf AIR 316 PSIR Optional	 Shreya Tyagi AIR 319 PSIR Optional and Ethics	 Hirmani Meena AIR 323 PSIR Optional	 Sandhi Jain AIR 329 PSIR Optional	 Jayanti Jha AIR 330 PSIR Optional	 Kirandeep Kaur Sahota AIR 331 PSIR Optional	 Saurabh Yadav AIR 346 PSIR Optional	 Siva Raman N AIR 351 CSAT	 Soumith Raju K AIR 355 PSIR Optional	 Nitin Yadav AIR 363 Geography
 Richa Rathi AIR 365 PSIR Optional	 Arpita Ashok Thube AIR 383 PSIR Optional	 Sutaria Aayushi Pankaj AIR 404 PSIR Optional	 Bharat Singh AIR 405 PSIR Optional	 Sibin P AIR 408 Geography	 Varshitha Adepu AIR 413 PSIR Optional	 Amit Ranjan AIR 431 PSIR Optional	 Shivendra Pratap AIR 433 PSIR Optional	 Jayakrishnan V M AIR 444 Geography	 Faisal Raza AIR 447 PSIR Optional
 Pawar Omkar Madhukar AIR 455 PSIR Optional	 T Prateek Rao AIR 459 Ethics	 Dharmendra Kumar AIR 467 PSIR Optional	 Mithun Biswas AIR 487 PSIR Optional	 Surapati Prasanth Kumar AIR 498 PSIR Optional	 Waykos Abhijit J. AIR 501 PSIR Optional	 Musale Anuja Anant AIR 511 PSIR Optional	 Yadav Ranjit Mohan AIR 513 PSIR Optional	 Kulkarni Aniket Laxmikant AIR 517 PSIR Optional	 Jaya Sneh AIR 527 PSIR Optional
 Pranjal Prateek AIR 529 PSIR Optional	 Chandrashekhar Mehra AIR 543 PSIR Optional	 Ratan Jana AIR 548 PSIR Optional & Ethics	 Snehal Vasant Rao Dhokey AIR 564 PSIR Optional	 Muhammad Sahid AIR 597 Geography	 Pramod Aradhya H AIR 601 PSIR Optional	 Iqbal Rasool Dar AIR 611 PSIR Optional	 Deepak Gupta AIR 623 PSIR Optional	 Amritpal Singh AIR 639 PSIR Optional & Ethics	 Sayali Ashok Galkwad AIR 641 PSIR Optional

CROSSWORD 4547



- ACROSS**
- Not a properly constituted company? (9)
 - Quick to feel pain (5)
 - See 4 Down
 - Minister is to eat about six (6)
 - Pull down the tents and abscond (6)
 - Apt to be not on the level (8)
 - Figure of importance to American defence (8)
 - Material on which one flourishes (6)
 - Highly bred? (6)
 - Moving passage from 'Tristan' (7)
 - Act it so as to be understood (5)
 - Litter that may be picked up (9)
- DOWN**
- As well in the avenue (5)
 - Catch a parent out (6) and 9 Across: Business associate caught napping? (8,7)
 - Discovery means plea is changed (6)
 - Entails conspicuous change (7)
 - Turn up with a worker as escort (9)
 - Girlfriend peers around inside looking frantic (9)
 - Chat easily - or just the reverse (8)
 - China to rebuild ancient city (7)
 - They represent us - amen (6)
 - Where doctors acquire their bedside manner? (6)
 - The very best from France (5)

Solutions Crossword 4546: Across: 1 Section, 4 Arrow, 7 Rare, 8 Misleads, 10 Average out, 12 Etcher, 13 Cartel, 15 Interested, 18 Undraped, 19 Pale, 20 Timid, 21 Sameday, 22 Syria, 2 Currency, 3 Nailed, 4 All but a few, 5 Real, 6 Wastrel, 9 Take in hand, 11 Statuary, 12 Exhaust, 14 Recess, 16 Dread, 17 Adam.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLER WORDS

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

You reclaim your power by... what you were once taught to... - Bryant H. McGill (6, 4)

TVAEIO EMOPHN
 TGLUI IMNOGV

SOLUTION: OVAIVE, CULT, PHENOM, MOVING

SUDOKU 4609

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

5		3	2					
	2	1	7	6			4	
6					8	3		
4	9	2	7	3				
6	1			7	9			
2	5	9	8	6				
2	3						1	
7		3	4	8	5			
	5	2			7			

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4608

1	7	5	2	3	8	9	4	6
2	3	4	7	6	9	1	8	5
9	6	8	1	5	4	2	7	3
8	5	2	4	9	6	7	3	1
3	1	7	8	2	5	4	6	9
6	4	9	3	1	7	5	2	8
7	9	1	6	8	2	3	5	4
4	8	3	5	7	1	6	9	2
5	2	6	9	4	3	8	1	7

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0070740732-2

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0070745632-1

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PRINCIPAL
Date: 29th September, 2021

PROPERTY SOCIETY NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK

KANNAMWAR NAGAR DATTA NIWAS CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LIMITED situated on CTS No. 356 (PT), Building No. 75, Kannamwar Nagar No. 2, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai - 400083 invites offers from reputed Contractors / Construction firms who are interested in acquiring the Civil work Consisting of Earth work, PCC, RCC Pile Cap for Pile foundation & Civil Package for Superstructure including RCC work, Brickwork, Plaster, Water Proofing, Pavement, Compounding, Wall & other Misc. Civil works (CIVIL Package) for Construction of its proposed residential building consisting of Ground + 22 floors having Construction Area approximately 95276.15 Square Feet.

Tender documents will be available at the registered office of the society situated at Building No. 75, K. N. Datta Niwas CHS Ltd., Kannamwar Nagar No. 2, Vikhroli (E), Mumbai - 400083. For any further clarification please contact Shri. Bhanudas S. Chaudhari (Secretary) Mobile: 9167480956 / Shri. Vinayak S. Gawde (Chairman) Mobile: 9867557322. Sealed offers should be addressed & submitted along with all required documents physically or through courier to Email: dattaniwaschs175@gmail.com on or before 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Tender Cost: NIL (Tender document shall be available only after acceptance of company profile submitted by bidder along with letter of interest for Construction Contract addressed to, The Hon. Secretary, Kannamwar Nagar Datta Niwas Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd.) The Society reserves all the rights to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

Sd/-
Hon. Secretary
Kannamwar Nagar
Datta Niwas Co-operative
Housing Society Ltd.
Place : Mumbai
Date : 29/09/2021

RECRUITMENT

SITUATION VACANT

"GRADUATE Female
Candidates, Age: 30+ yrs. required for Finance Company @ Kandivali (East)".
"(Fixed Salary 12500 + 7000 Incentive)".
9967099921/ 8879692370.
0070754614-1

REQUIRED Manager, Sales Staff for Insurance & Investments Firm. K Panchal Investments, Unit No 41, New Modella Industrial Estate, Padwal Nagar, Wagle Estate, Thane W. 9820020880/ 9029166332.

0070755399-1
बोरीवली-प: प्रा. लि. कंपनीसाठी
TALLY - Account Assistant & Office Asst.-Admin पॉइजेंट.
9867751789.
0050184787-1

PART TIME JOB

Earn 20,000/ 60,000 per month, simple typing job from mobile sitting at home, daily salary, no target.
Contact: 9702935999/ 8879966888.
0070754924-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Bababhai Bhagabhai Patel is the absolute member of the **Trupti Bhavan CHS Ltd.** ("Society") and residents of the Flat bearing No. 913 in our Society, has reported to the Society that he has not in possession of his prior original title deed viz. 1. Agreement between original allottee of **MHADDA Mrs. W. B. Patel** and "Purchaser" Mr. Ravji K. Gada and 2. Mr. Ravji K. Gada as a "Vendor" and Mr. Shantaram G. Acharekar as the "Purchaser" as the same were lost/misplaced/not traceable along with the Original Share Certificate. Further to be noted that the other agreement with respect to the said flat i.e. Original Agreement between Mr. Shantaram G. Acharekar as the "Vendor" and Mr. Bababhai Bhagabhai Patel as the "Purchaser" are in the custody of the said member of the Society. All the persons claiming any interest in the flat and/or shares mentioned in the Schedule below or any part thereof by way of Sale, gift, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, possession, attachment or otherwise objections of any kind whatsoever in nature, shall hereby communicate to us at the Secretary, **Trupti Bhavan CHS Ltd., Building No. 37, New Siddharth Nagar, Road No. 16, Goregaon (West), Mumbai-400104** in writing with the documentary proof within 14 Days from the date hereof, failing which it shall be construed that such claim/objections are waived, abandoned and the Society will at their liberty to transfer the property as the same shall deemed to have clear & marketable title and after expiry of the aforesaid notice period, the Society will also be eligible to issue duplicate Share Certificate and the claims/objections, if any, received by the Society shall be dealt with in such a manner that it is provided under the bye-laws of the Society.

SCHEDULE
Flat No. 37/913, 3rd Floor, Trupti Bhavan CHS Ltd., New Siddharth Nagar, Goregaon (W), Mumbai-400104, Ward P/South, Village Goregaon Pahadi CTS No. 288, Original Share Certificate bearing No. 65 for 5 (Five) Shares bearing Nos. From 321 to 325 of Trupti Bhavan CHS Ltd.
Date: 29.09.2021
Place: Mumbai

For and on behalf of
Trupti Bhavan CHS Ltd.
Sd/-
(Hon. Secretary)
007075503-1-1

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

DADAR, Prabhadevi
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WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS
E-Tender Notice No. 04 2021-22 dated: 23.09.2021. Tender No. CE-CPOH-ADI-2021-22-07. Name of work: Overhauling of 12 sets (24 Tamping units) of tamping banks of Duomat/CSM, 04 Sets (08 tamping units) of Unimat 4S and 01 Set (04 tamping units) of 3-X (Tamping express) of Plasser make machine at CPOH/ADI. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 7,19,12,235.44/- EMD: ₹ 5,59,561/- (If Bidders not submit Bid security declaration). Date of Closing of tender: 22-10-2021 @ 11:00 Hrs. Date of Opening of tender: 22-10-2021 @ 11:15 Hrs. Date of uploading of tender on IREPS: 23-09-2021. ADI-12
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WESTERN RAILWAY

SETTING UP OF QUICK WATERING ARRANGEMENT
Divisional Railway Manager(WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008, invites E-tender as per details given as follows. Executive: DEN(Est/South)/MMCT. Tender Notice No.: BCT/21-22/204 dtd. 27.09.2021. Work & Location: Dadar (Mid town terminus):- Setting up of quick watering arrangement at platform no. 6 & 7. Approx. cost of work: ₹60,90,450.91. EMD: Bid security to be submitted in placed of EMD. Date & Time of submission : On 22.10.2021 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: On 22.10.2021 at 15.30 hrs. A Regarding detailed nature of work containing cost of tender document, EMD, eligibility criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in. Manual offer will not be considered. 0447
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WESTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum To Tender Notice No. W641/22/21/12 dated-27.09.2021. Make to be read as: From: Make-VANKOSHYD/Oil Air Technique/Hi-Force/BEMCO/ENERPAC/POWERTEAM/DURAPAC/REHOBOT. To: Make-VANKOSHYD/Oil Air Technique/Hi-Force/BEMCO/ENERPAC/POWERTEAM/DURAPAC/REHOBOT/AEROBOOM.
All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. For more details please visit our www.ireps.gov.in. 0448
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REGIONAL DIRECTOR
NSTI, MUMBAI

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

You should pay more attention to financial matters, but realise that personal possessions are not everything. If you are hatching a money-making scheme or plotting a sensible purchase, you have about twenty-four hours. That's unless you want to put things off until next week.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

Take control and get back in the driving-seat. Lunar alignments should give you the idea that with just a little effort, you will come a step closer to achieving a cherished dream. And if that doesn't work, perhaps someone you have always respected will give you the necessary nudge.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

If you are alternating between great enthusiasm and a feeling that life is all against you, you're doing something wrong. You may use the power of your mind to temper excitement with caution and qualify pessimism with hope. It's all a matter of finding the right balance.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You should be able to begin to relax and enjoy better social contacts. There is still a fair amount of tension, and it would be unrealistic to expect this to dissipate, but it shouldn't reduce the potential for pleasure. In fact, you will soon discover more ways to enjoy yourself.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

Over the next twenty-four hours you will find it difficult to compromise. However, if only for your own sake, there will be situations when it will be by far the most sensible thing to find a middle path. Just because somebody else is stuck in their ways, that is no reason for you not to change.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Take advantage of Venus' charming relationship with Jupiter to raise the romantic temperature. The only snag could be the tendency for your expectations to spiral out of control, which could mean they'll be impossible to satisfy. One good way to start is by meeting others' needs rather than your own.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

The romantic situation is dominated by secrecy. There is nothing wrong with keeping your feelings to yourself, for it may be that other people are just not ready to hear what you have to say. Be patient and give them all the time they need to catch up.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

You have done everything expected of you, and more. The pleasant news is that your horoscope is rapidly becoming very much more relaxed, and the only likely hitch could involve money, especially if other people are involved. Make sure you know who is paying.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Your emotional ambitions are being stirred. This means that your level of desire is going up, but the pressing question is whether your actual circumstances will allow your hopes to be satisfied. Perhaps you will be able to reach some of your goals, but leave others until later.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

The Moon's major impact today is enthusiastic and ambitious, which indicates that the world is generally a compatible place, and you should feel that you're on the right track. Relationships with children and younger relatives should improve, but do please take the initiative.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

Your plans will go well if you deal with fundamentals first. This means taking nothing and nobody for granted, and recognising that if a job is worth doing, it's worth doing yourself. The only question is whether you have enough time, so don't over-commit yourself.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Take your time and spend just as long as you need to make the right choices. It's important not to be hurried, especially where work is concerned. Make a point of developing overseas links, and getting in touch with people you've not seen for far too long.

The Indian EXPRESS

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021, MUMBAI, LATE CITY, 18 PAGES

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Relief and rescue operations in Latur. **ANOTHER REPORT P8**

Torrential rain, flood havoc in state, 8 dead

YOGESH NAIK, SHUBHANGI KHAPRE & VIVEK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI, NAGPUR, SEPTEMBER 28

AT LEAST eight persons died as torrential rain caused flood havoc across the Marathwada region of central Maharashtra and parts of the state's eastern region of Vidarbha.

Homes and fields were submerged, and the administration had to scramble to relocate families and livestock in a total of nine

badly affected districts as a depression caused by Cyclone Gulab, which made landfall on the east coast, dumped rain on Maharashtra, especially on the drought-prone Marathwada region.

The state government had to call in the NDRF for rescue operations. Government agencies rescued more than 300 people. Some districts of Vidarbha were also affected. A Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation spokesperson said that four people died when a bus bound from Nagpur to Nanded was swept off

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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MAHARASHTRA



ANIL PARAB APPEARS BEFORE ED
PAGE 8

Anti-infiltration op in Uri ends after 8 days, Pak militant captured

BASHARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 28

A 19-YEAR-OLD Pakistani militant was caught while his accomplice was killed in Uri sector on Sunday, eight days after they sneaked in by cutting the fence along the Line of Control (LoC), the Army said on Tuesday.

Major General Varinder Vats, Baramulla-based GOC of the 19th Infantry Division, said there



Army with seizures from the militants killed in Uri. **P71**

was an infiltration attempt by six militants on the night of September 18.

"After a firefight, four terrorists, who were on Pakistan's side of the fence, took advantage of the darkness and dense foliage and retreated towards Pakistan's side. The remaining two terrorists, who were in the process of crossing the fence, sneaked into the Indian side of the fence," he said.

"Once we realised this, additional forces were mobilised to catch the two terrorists... finally,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

CHANNI TO TALK TO SIDHU; CAPT SAYS TOLD YOU SO

Still sulking, Sidhu quits as Punjab Cong chief

Upset over portfolio allocations; a minister, office bearers too resign

KANCHAN VASDEV
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

DAYS AFTER he forced a change of guard in Punjab that saw Captain Amarinder Singh stepping down as Chief Minister, Navjot Singh Sidhu abruptly resigned Tuesday as president of the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee, plunging the party into uncertainty again in the run-up to the Assembly elections early next year.

Appointed PPCC chief on July 19, Sidhu resigned minutes after allocation of portfolios to ministers in the new government headed by Charanjit Singh Channi who succeeded Amarinder Singh as Chief Minister.

Sidhu's resignation was followed by that of minister Razia Sultana who quit "in solidarity" with him. Her husband, former DGP Mohammad Mustafa, is Sidhu's chief strategic adviser.

Others who resigned were Gulzarinder Chahal who stepped down as Punjab Congress treasurer and party state general secretaries Yoginder Dhingra and Gautam Seth.

The party high command, it is learnt, has rejected Sidhu's resignation and asked the state unit to sort out the issue. Channi has called a meeting of the Cabinet at 10 am Wednesday.

The rallying point of a revolt against Amarinder Singh in the



Rahul with Hardik Patel, Kanhaiya, Mevani Tuesday. **AICC office**

EXPLAINED When state polls are near

THE PUNJAB Congress is in crisis again, 10 days after the resignation of Amarinder Singh as CM. The pulls and pressures are being keenly watched by SAD and AAP. The uncertainty in the Congress comes at a time when Assembly elections in the state are barely months away.

MORE REPORTS PAGE 10

Punjab Congress, Sidhu managed to show him the door, but was not allowed to have his way thereafter.

In his resignation letter to AICC chief Sonia Gandhi, Sidhu wrote: "The collapse of man's character stems from the compromise corner. I can never compromise on Punjab's future and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Kanhaiya joins Cong, Mevani lends 'full support'

KRISHNA KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ON A day which saw the sudden resignation of Navjot Singh Sidhu as its Punjab unit chief, the Congress saw an infusion of new blood on Tuesday as former JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar joined the party while Independent Gujarat MLA and Dalit leader Jignesh Mevani said he extended "full support" and would contest the 2022 state elections on the Congress symbol.

While Mevani had announced on Saturday that he would join the Congress, he said today that it could result in his disqualification as MLA. "I cannot join the party formally, because I am an Independent MLA. It is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

SAKINAKA RAPE-MURDER CASE

Accused fought with victim as she left city without telling him: Chargesheet

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SPECIAL Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday submitted a 346-page chargesheet in the Dindoshi sessions court in the case of rape and murder of a 32-year-old woman in Sakinaka

early September 10. The chargesheet -- filed within 18 days -- as per police states that the arrested accused was "angry" with the victim because she had gone out of the city for 15 to 20 days and this reason led to the fight on the fateful day.

The Mumbai Police at a press conference on September 13 had

claimed that the accused and the victim in the Sakinaka murder case were known to each other and a financial dispute between them led to the sexual assault, which led to the woman's death. The chargesheet, however, does not make any reference to the financial dispute.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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WHEN NOOR JEHAN TOLD LATA MANGESHKAR SHE WOULD BE A GOOD SINGER

Happy Birthday Lata Mangeshkar. On Lata Mangeshkar's 92nd birthday, we look back at all those rare moments when the celebrated artiste opened up about her own voice and its influences

ENTERTAINMENT



BREAK POINT: 'A GREAT HEALING JOURNEY'

Tennis legends spoke about laying bare their lives in new web series

EXPLAINED



LANDSAT 9 — NASA'S 'NEW EYE IN THE SKY'

Will help scientists capture more details about our planet

EXPRESS AUDIO

How a UP village school was allowing caste discrimination

In today's episode of 3 Things, Asad Rehman joins host Snigdha Sharma to discuss SC students in a government school in UP's Mainpuri facing caste discrimination and how some Thakurs of the village have responded to the issue

FROM PAGE ONE

Kanhaiya

important that I am with this (Congress) ideology. The formality can happen in the future as well," he said.

Welcoming the duo, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said Kumar symbolised the "fight for freedom of expression in this country". "The way he fought against fundamentalism... (this) will enthuse the Congress cadre across the country," he said.

Venugopal said Mevani was "fighting for the same cause" as the Congress. "Through his activities, interventions, (he has) already proved that he also believes in the Congress ideology," he said.

He said the Congress would work with Kumar, Mevani and others "to defeat the fundamentalist, fascist forces which are ruling" the country.

However, the lateral induction is bound to raise concern among the Congress's youth cadre. Perhaps hinting at these apprehensions, Manish Tewari — who was Youth Congress president earlier and was among the 23 senior Congress leaders (G-23) who wrote to party president Sonia Gandhi a year ago seeking an overhaul — tweeted about Communist leaders joining the Congress.

While Tewari did not name anyone, Kumar was earlier a CPI member. "As speculation abounds about certain Communist leaders joining @INCIndia it perhaps may be instructive to revisit a 1973 book, 'Communists in Congress, Kumarmanglam's Thesis'. The more things change, the more they perhaps remain the same. I re-read it today."

The tweet also pointed to the concern among a section of Congress leaders that the Gandhi siblings are bending the party left.

Amid the criticism of the G-23 that the Congress needs to become more relevant, the import of these two young leaders seems like an attempt to co-opt two anti-BJP faces. While Mevani emerged as the face of the Dalit protests in Gujarat in the wake of the Una flogging incident, Kumar symbolised students' protests and their freedom to express themselves in campuses. Additionally, as a Dalit leader, Mevani will add to the party's attempts to reach out to the community.

Moreover, the Congress has been struggling in the duo's home states of Gujarat and Bihar. And several young leaders — Jyotiraditya Scindia, Sushmita Dev, Jitin Prasad and Priyanka Chaturvedi — have left the party in the last two years.

"Some people are trying to destroy the tradition of deliberation, culture, history, the present and future of the country... I read somewhere that you should choose your enemies, and you will make friends automatically. I have chosen the country's oldest and

most democratic (party). Many young people feel that if the Congress is not there, there won't be a country," said Kumar.

"When the Opposition is weak, the authorities adopt a dictatorial attitude," he said. "If the largest Opposition party, the biggest ship, is not saved, the smaller boats will not survive," he said.

Asked about leaving the CPI, Kumar said: "I was born into that party. My thinking, understanding capability is part of that training, and I am proud of that." But, he said, "it is prudent that you set aside the unhappiness, the disagreements between each other and save the village, because the country belongs to all." He added that the "question of left and right has become irrelevant".

Invoking Mahatma Gandhi, B R Ambedkar, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru, Ashfaqullah Khan and Bhagat Singh among others, Kumar said the conditions prevailing in the country now resemble the pre-1947 period.

"The story that started from Gujarat, that story has created such a riot in the country in the last 6-7 years, it is in front of us. As a nation, we are going through an unprecedented crisis," said Mevani.

Calling it an "attack on the Constitution, the idea of India, on the country's democracy," he said "Delhi and Nagpur" (RSS headquarters) were sowing "hatred and enmity between brothers", through "a well-thought conspiracy".

"In such a situation, not as a politician, but as an Indian citizen, what is my fundamental, foremost responsibility? The answer is that the country's Constitution, democracy and the idea of India has to be saved. And to do that, I have to stand with the Congress, which not only contributed to, but led the freedom fight," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said, "It is natural that any person, be it Kanhaiya Kumar or anyone else, if he has an ideology which is anti-India, then the first choice is Congress. The reason is simple: the Congress today, its leadership and ideology, is synonymous with divisive, anti-India politics."

Uri op ends

our troops got hold of them on the evening of September 25, when they were holed up in a nallah (stream). There was an encounter, and one of them was killed on the morning of September 26. His accomplice then pleaded with us to spare him... He was taken into custody," he said.

The captured militant has been identified as Ali Babar Patra, a resident of Okara in Pakistan's Punjab. According to Vats, Patra said he was told by his handlers to "drop a supply (of arms) in the

Still sulking, Sidhu quits as Punjab Cong chief

the agenda for welfare of Punjab. Therefore, I hereby resign as president of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee. Will continue to serve the Congress."

Razia, in her resignation letter, said she was resigning "in solidarity with Navjot Sidhu and millions of Congress workers in the state. I will continue to work for the party as worker in the best interest of Punjab". Razia's resignation came after Mustafa visited Patiala to urge Sidhu to withdraw his resignation.

Channi told the media: "We will talk to Sidhu sahib. He is our party president and a big leader. We will sort this out."

Soon after Sidhu's resignation, Channi said in a Twitter post, said: "I told you so... he is not a stable man and not fit for the border state of Punjab."

Sidhu, sources said, was upset with the party over the induction of Rana Gurjit Singh as a Cabinet minister — Rana had resigned from the Amarinder government in 2018 in the wake of allegations in a sand mining case. Sidhu was also said to be against

the appointment of APS Deol as defence lawyer of former DGP Smedh Singh Saini. Sidhu, sources said, wanted Deepinder Singh Patwalia named to the post, but his entry was blocked by some leaders in the Congress who said he used to be close to the late BJP leader Arun Jaitley.

Sources said Sidhu was also against the allocation of the Home portfolio to Deputy Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Randhawa. He insisted that since the Home department had traditionally remained with the CM, it should not be given to Randhawa. Earlier, he had put his foot down when the party considered making Randhawa the Chief Minister, taking the stand that a Jat Sikh should not be given the top job.

At that time, Sidhu left in a huff, exiting a hotel where he had met the committee led by AICC general secretary Harish Rawat. He was said to have set out for Delhi to hand over his resignation as PPCC chief. Within minutes, the party decided to have a

compromise candidate in Channi, following which Sidhu returned.

Sources said Sidhu had been sulking ever since the induction of Rana Gurjit Singh into the Cabinet. He was also protesting the dropping of PPCC working president Kuljit Singh Nagra.

On Sunday, he had left the oath-taking ceremony without meeting anyone. He was at his Patiala residence when the party sent Pargat Singh to placate him. That exercise continued all of Monday.

Sources said AICC leader Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had not called up Sidhu. He resigned within minutes of the allocation of portfolios.

He was also opposed to the allocation of the Public Works Department to Vijay Inder Singla. But Channi went ahead. Sidhu's camp is describing his resignation as a stand against "corruption".

On the choice of Rana Gurjit Singh as Cabinet minister, Sidhu's supporters said he was

very disappointed. "The party has been on the defensive from Day One over the appointment. His appointment made Amarinder look better... Look at the appointments in the last six days. What is the message that we are sending? It's as if the old group is back," one of his supporters said.

Meanwhile, Sukhpal Khaira, an AAP MLA who joined Congress recently, said Rana Gurjit should himself step down from the Cabinet. "If his (Sidhu's) suggestions are not paid heed to, he will not want to be a speechless president. We urge him to withdraw his resignation and request the high command to redress his grievances," Khaira said.

Several state Congress leaders, among them Kuljit Nagra, Inderbir Bularia, Razia Sultana and Kulwinder Danny, met Sidhu at his home in Patiala.

Pargat Singh, who also joined Sidhu at his home, said: "I have not resigned. I met Sidhu and urged him to withdraw his resignation."

area of Pattan". Vats said Patra was trained at Khyber camp, Garhi Habibullah.

"But when we go by the recoveries and modus operandi, it is quite possible that these infiltrating groups had come here for some kind of a strike which went beyond just a supply drop," he said.

Vats said the infiltration was not possible without Pakistan's help. "The infiltration attempt was made in the area of Salamabad nallah. It is the same nallah which saw infiltration in 2016, when a suicide attack at Uri garrison took place," he said.

"The infiltrating group was supported from Pakistan side by three porters, who had come till the LoC with the supplies... The movement of such a large group of people can't take place without the active complicity of Pakistan Army deployed on the other side," he said.

"What we have also seen is that there has been a lot of movement at launch pads across the LoC... It shows the desperation of Pakistan... the peace and stability in Kashmir is not to Pakistan's liking, there is desperation to send in terrorists to create disturbance and some kind of sensational strike," said Vats.

The firing on the LoC over the last seven days has broken the unusual calm and almost zero infiltration of the last seven months. According to officials, there have been three infiltration attempts over the last week, and at least four

infiltrators, including three porters, have been killed.

Unlike the past, the militants chose the highly-guarded but relatively easy terrain of Uri border this time.

While the 10-day long operation in the Uri sector is over, villagers living in the area said they were not being allowed to move out of, or into, some of the villages close to the LoC.

Sakinaka

Arrested accused Mohan Chouhan, 45, and the woman knew each other for over a year, the police said. Chouhan was allegedly angry with the woman because she had gone out of the city for 15 to 20 days. This reason led to a fight between the two that night.

A CCTV camera right above the crime spot showed Chouhan and the woman meeting each other, and soon after the fight starts, where he is seen assaulting her on a footpath and putting her inside a tempo. The police said the CCTV camera does not show what went on inside the tempo but it lasted for six minutes. The accused allegedly inserted a weapon in her private part. A watchman who witnessed the incident informed the police, who rushed her to Rajawadi hospital where she died the next day.

Apart from this CCTV camera, the police have gone through footage of six-seven other cameras to ascertain

Chouhan's identity. They also recreated the scene of the crime, where Chouhan was made to walk on the footpath till the crime scene and his walk was video-recorded as part of forensic evidence. The forensic report on his blood-soaked clothes has also been submitted before the court. Police sources were silent on the murder weapon, saying some work related to it is pending and that they have not mentioned it in the chargesheet.

The statements of 77 people have been submitted in the chargesheet. The chargesheet was filed under sections 302 (murder), 376 (rape), 323 (causing hurt), 504 (intentional insult) of the IPC and 3 (1) W and 3 (2) A of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The SIT with around 10 officers and men was headed by ACP Jyotsna Rasam.

The incident, that took place on Ganesh Chaturthi, sparked massive outrage, leading to formation of Nirbhaya teams at each police station, who will now maintain a special list of all sexual offenders over the last five years among several other measures for women safety.

Rain havoc

an inundated culvert at a village in Yavatmal. Two injured passengers were rescued.

This is the third natural calamity to strike Maharashtra

after Cyclone Tauktae in May and the severe rain that caused floods and deadly landslides in Konkan and Western Maharashtra in July this year.

Heavy rain lashed all eight districts of Maharashtra over the last two days, filling up several dams in the region, as a result of which water had to be discharged from these catchments, causing flooding downstream. Rain continued to pour in the area through Tuesday.

All 18 gates of Manjara dam and 11 gates of Majalgaon dam, both located in Beed, had to be opened, resulting in water discharge of 78,397 cusecs and 80,534 cusecs, respectively. The water release caused flooding in Beed and adjoining Latur districts. In neighbouring Nanded, the water discharge from Vishnupuri dam was highest at 1,11,594 cusecs.

Irrigation department officials said that gates of other dams in the area, including Yeldari Lower Duhna, Upper Manar Vishnupur, Isapur, Dhalegaon, Tarugavhan, Mudgal, Muli, Digras, Anteshwar, Shankarrao Chavan Dam, Amudra, Belegaon and Bahalli were all opened.

In a state cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray asked all guardian ministers of affected districts to go on inspection tours. He has called another meeting of cabinet ministers and government

officials on Wednesday evening.

Water Resources Minister Jayantrao Patil, who was touring Beed district, said, "All eight districts of Maharashtra — Beed, Latur, Osmanabad, Jalna, Parbhani, Hingoli, Aurangabad, Nanded — are hit by the cyclone (Gulab). The heavy rain for the last 24 hours led to overflowing of dams, canals and rivers. We are closely monitoring the level of rain in the catchment areas of Jaikwadi dam."

Jaikwadi or Nathsagar, the largest irrigation project on the river Godavari in Pathan in Aurangabad district, was 84 per cent full.

Patil, who reviewed dam water levels across the state, said, "The water rise in Godavari river flowing through Nashik is a concern. We have directed the district collectors to relocate families along the river banks to safer destinations."

Nanded DIG Nisar Tamboli said, "Many areas are under water and all dams except Jayakwadi are full. The doors of all these dams are opened. If the flow increases at night, then Nanded may face flooding."

PWD Minister Ashok Chavan, who hails from Nanded, said, "The damage to Marathwada is extensive. There is damage to crops, roads, bridges and power supply network. The CM has called a meeting tomorrow (Wednesday) to assess the situation."

The damage to agricultural areas and houses is yet to be quantified, but government officials said the damage to the standing kharif soya crop was bound to be extensive. Livestock was also lost.

The Indian Air Force sent two helicopters, which airlifted one team each of the NDRF for rescue operations in Latur and Osmanabad districts.

In Sarsa village in Latur, the NDRF deployed boats and a helicopter for the rescue of 47 persons stranded on the banks or river Manjara, according to district administration officials.

Latur District Collector Prithviraj B P said, "At least 158 villages in the district were hit by the dam water discharge."

In addition, 16 people were rescued by an NDRF helicopter in Osmanabad.

Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Vijay Wadetiwar said, "Farmers are the worst hit by the cyclone. Their entire crop has been damaged. Apart from the state's compensation under NDRF norms, we will urge the Centre to provide adequate financial assistance."

Medical Education Minister and Latur Guardian Minister Amit Deshmukh said, "The irrigation department has discharged a lot of water from the dams and as a result, the fields

have gone under water. If the water level does not recede, there will be great damage to soyabean crop. We have asked the agriculture and revenue machinery to do the surveys immediately."

Deshmukh was touring Latur at night. He said that a complaint was received in Ahmedpur area in Latur of an unknown person getting washed away in floods and the authorities were verifying it.

Beed Guardian Minister Dhananjay Munde, who was also on a tour of his district, said the government would help the farmers.

Of the 11 districts in Vidarbha, the worst hit by the rain were Buldhana, Akola, Washim, Yavatmal and Chandrapur.

The Nanded-Nagpur bus (MH14 BT5018) was swept off after departing from Umardh for Nagpur. The driver decided to drive into the swollen nullah. "But the edges of the culvert were not visible due to overflowing water, resulting in the driver taking the bus down the culvert from the left side. The bus was then swept some distance by the strong water current and got stuck to a tree. There it got quickly filled up with water," said Yavatmal Superintendent of Police Dilip Bhujbal.

There were only six persons inside the bus, including the driver and conductor. While one passenger managed to escape, one other was pulled out to safety by a rescue team. The SP said the driver and conductor were among the four dead. Three bodies have been fished out of the nullah, and a fourth, that of the driver, had not yet been located.

The survivors are Sharad Fulmali, 28, and Subramaniam Suryanarayan Tokla, 48. The deceased whose bodies were recovered were bus conductor Bhimrao Nagarikar from Nagpur, Sheikh Ibrahim, 50, from Hyderabad and Indal Ramprasad Mahindra, 35, from Karol village in Pusad. Driver Suresh Surewar from Nagpur is yet to be traced.

The incident was captured on mobile phones by onlookers MSRTC managing director Shekhar Channe said the kin of passengers who had died would get Rs 10 lakh each.

Though areas in north Maharashtra including Nashik, Dhule and Nandurbar, and Konkan areas including Raigad, Thane, Palghar and Mumbai and its suburbs were also drenched, there were no reports of untoward incidents from these areas. In western Maharashtra, Pune and Solapur experienced heavy rain.

FULL REPORTS ON
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Boy wants to donate part of liver to father, HC directs govt to consider it

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

OBSERVING THAT a minor can donate organs in exceptional medical circumstances, the Delhi High Court has directed Delhi's health secretary to consider the request of a class 12 student, who will turn 18 on December 9, for donating a part of his liver to his ailing father.

Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) had earlier refused to grant permission to the boy who is now 17 years and nine months old.

There is a grave medical emergency in the present case and the petitioner is about to

turn 18 in two months, noted Justice Rekha Palli in the order Monday, while directing the healthy secretary, who is the final authority under the law in such cases, to decide within two days.

The minor's father is suffering from an advanced stage of liver failure and doctors have recommended immediate liver transplantation. However, the doctors have already rejected the offers made by two other members of the minor's family for donation on medical grounds, as per the petition.

Left with no other option, the minor himself had applied for the donation but the authorisation committee denied him the permission considering his age.

Five gangsters might try to escape, Delhi prisons on high security alert

JIGNASA SINHA NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

A SECURITY alert from agencies this week about five inmates trying to break out of jails has put Delhi Prisons authorities and police on high alert, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

It is suspected that five inmates from Tihar and Mandoli jails might escape in the coming week. Prison authorities received inputs in this regard, which they have shared with the Delhi Armed Police so security arrangements inside jails can be bolstered.

According to jail officials, all five inmates are local gangsters involved in multiple cases of robbery, murder, extortion, etc, and inputs suggest they might try to



Authorities increased deployment around cells. File

break out with help from their gang members.

Authorities have increased deployment around the cells and are monitoring the security through CCTVs round the clock. "We have informed Delhi Police and CRPF security personnel to help secure

all jails," confirmed a senior jail officer.

Four of the inmates are lodged in Tihar jail, and the fifth is in Mandoli. Movement of other inmates has been restricted around their cells and the jail officials are conducting regular checks to see if inmates aren't using phones or breaching security norms.

"It is also suspected that these inmates might try to go to the hospital or have a court appearance, where their associates could attack security personnel. We are trying to avoid such an incident. Delhi Armed Police — Third Battalion officials will help us. The movement of these inmates will be restricted for some time," said the officer.

Sandeep Goel, Director General (Delhi Prisons), refused to comment on the issue, calling it a

"security matter". However, a senior officer from the Delhi Armed Police confirmed the alert: "We received the names of five inmates and are doing everything we can. The arrangements inside jails are good and we believe that no such incident will take place."

The inputs came days after gangster Jitender Gogi was shot dead by two armed assailants inside Rohini court, where he was guarded by teams of the Third Battalion and Counter Intelligence. The Special Cell later arrested two men, one of whom works for gangster Tullu Tajpuriya, who is lodged in Mandoli jail. Interrogation revealed that the murder was planned from inside Mandoli and Tullu was in touch with the accused from his prison cell.

Ban on crackers in capital till Jan 1: DPCC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE DELHI Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has imposed a ban on bursting and sale of all types of firecrackers till January 1, 2022 in the capital.

District Magistrates and Deputy Commissioners of Police have been told to implement the directions, the DPCC order states.

"Several experts have indicated a possibility of another surge of Covid and large-scale celebrations by bursting of firecrackers will result not only in agglomeration of people, in violation of social distancing norms, but also would result in high level of air pollution leading to serious health issues in Delhi. Under the prevalent pandemic crisis situa-

tion, this is not favourable for the cause of larger community health given the possible high level of exposure to air pollutants leading to short and long term adverse health effects given the significant relationship between air pollution and respiratory infections," the DPCC order, issued by Member Secretary K S Jayachandran, states.

The DPCC also noted that a December 2020 order issued by the National Green Tribunal stated that there would be a ban on sale and use of all kinds of firecrackers during Covid in NCR and all cities/towns in the country where the ambient air quality falls under the 'poor' and above category.

Ahead of Diwali, the Delhi government had banned the storage, sale and use of all types of firecrackers earlier this month.

ADVERTORIAL

ATS gets custody of terror suspects till October 4

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THREE DAYS after the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) filed an application in the session court seeking custody of terror suspects Zakir Hussain Shaikh and Rizwan

Momin, the court on Monday granted it custody till October 4. The investigators claimed that fresh evidence and witnesses have emerged for which their custody is necessary. Shaikh and Momin were arrested on September 18 and 19, respectively. However, after two days in police remand, they were

sent to judicial custody. "As fresh evidence and witnesses have emerged in the case, we filed a fresh application seeking their remand and we were granted custody till October 4," said an investigator.

The two accused have been booked under stringent sections of Unlawful Activities Prevention

Act, 1967. They were arrested days after terror accused Jaan Mohamed Sheikh was apprehended by the Delhi Police special cell in connection to a terror module. However, ATS has said that it is yet to ascertain a link between the two and the terror module busted by the Delhi Police.

Cops hunt for man accused of killing wife

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

A MAN allegedly killed his wife and injured his mother-in-law after the two refused to join him in a fight he was having with his neighbours over drying clothes near his rented room in Virar (East) on Sunday night.


The police lodged an FIR on Monday and are on the lookout for accused Jagdish Gurav, who works in a private company selling train tickets outside Vasai station. The deceased has been identified as Supriya Gurav (28).

The incident took place around 9 pm in a flat owned by Supriya's mother Sushma Shetty (47), a domestic help, at Narendra Brahma complex. Since the death of Shetty's husband in 2020, Supriya,

Jagdish and their three children had been staying with her.

An officer said Jagdish picked up a fight with his neighbours because they were drying clothes outside the flat. "He asked the mother and daughter to join him in the fight. Supriya refused as she was busy with chores... Soon after, Jagdish returned and started abusing them. Shetty confronted him but he bashed her head against a wall," the officer added.

"Seeing this, Supriya pushed him away but Jagdish picked up a kitchen knife and stabbed her in the chest. When Shetty tried to stop him, he slashed her hand and fled," the officer said. The neighbours took the two to Siddhivinayak hospital. They were shifted to Sanjivani hospital, where Supriya was declared brought dead on arrival.



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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No.	Division	Brief Works Description	Estimated Cost (INR, Lakhs)	Cost of EMD (INR, Lakhs)	Prebid Meeting Date	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Bid Opening
AEML/DTPS/2021-22/08	Dahanu	HPT refurbishment	210.00	2.10	06.10.2021 14:30 Hrs	12.10.2021 16:00 Hrs	13.10.2021 16:00 Hrs
AEML/DTPS/2021-22/09	Dahanu	IPT inner casing refurbishment work	57.20	0.57	06.10.2021 14:30 Hrs	12.10.2021 16:00 Hrs	13.10.2021 16:00 Hrs
AEML/MTB/2021-22/11	Transmission	Construction of proposed 220/33kV BKC Substation along with Double Circuit 220kV Cable Connectivity between 220kV BKC and existing 220kV Chembur S/S	29686	200.00	11.10.2021 11:30 Hrs	01.11.2021 17:00 Hrs	02.11.2021 17:00 Hrs

All Materials & Services will be as per Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited Specifications / BOQ. All Prebid Meeting will be done electronically / telephonically due to Covid19 restrictions.

For details with respect of Service/ Material, Qualifying Requirement, Terms & Conditions, Services / Submission of Tender Documents, etc., please visit our web site - www.adanielectricity.com -> Tenders -> Open Tenders. The Tender document will be available on said link by 29th September 2021

Tenderer must submit their bids online / electronic submission. Vendor should visit the website www.adanielectricity.com for any Corrigendum / Amendments; no separate information regarding Corrigendum will be published in the newspapers.

Date: 29/09/2021

Central Procurement Group

Understanding the Benefits & Risks of Angioplasty and Stenting

Angioplasty and stenting has been effective in treating heart attack, stroke and gangrene. For patients suffering a heart attack or stroke, the procedure can save lives. Angioplasty and stenting can also improve the quality of your life by reducing angina and other symptoms of heart disease. But, like any medical procedure, angioplasty and stenting has risks, so it's important that you take the time to weigh the benefits and risks to decide if they are the right treatment for you.

Heart attacks and strokes are medical emergencies that should be treated as promptly as possible to prevent the death of heart muscle or brain tissue, which can lead to heart failure or brain damage, or even death. A patient who is having a heart attack or stroke has very little time to explore treatment options, but other conditions may not be as clear-cut. In those instances, you may want to review the benefits and risks listed below and take time to discuss them with your doctor and family.

Benefits of Angioplasty & Stenting

Treating blocked arteries with angioplasty and stenting:

- can save your life and reduce heart muscle damage during a heart attack by restoring blood flow to the heart
- may immediately relieve or at least reduce symptoms, such as chest pain, shortness of breath and fatigue, making you feel better and able to do more each day
- can reduce the risk of stroke
- can improve functioning of the kidneys
- can restore blood flow to the legs to prevent gangrene and eliminate the need for amputation

Some patients with blockage in their heart arteries clearly benefit more from open-heart surgery to restore blood flow to the heart. These patients have extensive blockage in all three major arteries or in an artery called the "left main." In comparison to open-heart surgery, angioplasty and stenting is less invasive than surgery because the clogged or blocked artery is accessed from a tiny incision in the upper leg or the wrist. Angioplasty and stenting may allow you to recover more quickly than you would from surgery, which can also mean less time in the hospital and returning to your regular activities more quickly.

Risks of Angioplasty & Stenting

Talk with your doctor about the risks of angioplasty and stenting. Many risks can be managed. For example, your physician may implant a drug-eluting stent rather than a bare metal stent to help prevent scar tissue from forming that could block the artery again. And you can greatly reduce the risk of blood clots by taking medication exactly as prescribed by your doctors. Your level of risk also depends on your personal circumstances, but it can include -

- bleeding or damage to the blood vessel where the catheter is inserted
- an allergic reaction to the contrast agent



Dr Nihar Mehta

M.D. MEDICINE | D.N.B. MEDICINE | D.N.B. CARDIOLOGY Jaslok Hospital & Research Center, 15, Pedder Road, IT Colony, Tardeo, Mumbai 400026.

- kidney injury due to the contrast agent
- rarely blood clotting or re-blockage inside the stent called stent thrombosis or restenosis respectively
- small risk of stroke or heart attack

Taking Care of Your Stent Requires Taking Your Medications

The greatest risks from a stent occur when patients do not take medications as prescribed. If you have a bare metal stent, then you will have to take medications for at least one month to prevent blood clots from forming in the stent. For drug-eluting stents, medication will be required for at least a year. With either type of stent you should take aspirin for the rest of your life.

Issued in Public Interest by
Dr Nihar Mehta on the occasion of commemoration of World Heart Day 2021. For heart disease related queries please contact patient helpline at +919529693067 / Email at: dr.niharmehta@gmail.com

Kalra Hospital: Charting New Paths of Excellence in Heart Care

ADVERTORIAL



A veteran cardiologist with over 4 decades of experience in heart care and surgeries, **Dr R. N. Kalra**, is the Medical Director and CEO R&D of Kalra Hospital, New Delhi. He along with his two sons, Dr Ankur Kalra and Dr Ankit Kalra, along with a team of vastly experienced specialists are taking forward the hospital to set new benchmarks clinical excellence. On World Heart Day, the father-sons trio share different aspects of heart care for the benefit of the readers with the Indian Express.



WORLD HEART DAY
SEPTEMBER 29

What is the significance of World Heart Day?

World Heart Day is celebrated every year to create awareness among the society about the rising heart disease in every country, especially the younger generation in India. It is an indication that the young population should be very careful about their diet, must not lead a sedentary life,

exercise regularly, keep their sugar and cholesterol levels under control and improve their lifestyle, including reducing time spent on mobile and social media. Follow the old saying, "Early to Bed and Early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise"!

How to ensure heart health and

seek aid in an emergency?

Once you turn 40 go for annual health check-up including heart functioning and get tested for lipid profile just to check and rule out any chances of being prone to heart disease. Many a times the symptoms of a heart attack re deceptive and surface as a bout of indigestion, pain in the jaw and in the back, suffocation or breathlessness.

Immediately put a sorbitrate under the tongue of the person or give them disprin dissolved in a glass of water to prevent clotting. They should be immediately rushed to the emergency for medical help so that the situation can be averted from worsening. Lives can be saved if people are a little alert and seek aid in the first 3-4 hours, called the Golden hours. High mortal-

ity rate in heart attack or heart failure happens when symptoms are ignored or there is delay in seeking medical attention. Most importantly, say a BIG NO to tobacco in any form, including smoking.

What is your World Heart Day message to all?

Keep your heart healthy by saying good-

bye to cigarette, don't get stressed, follow the right path in whatever profession you chose to be, include a 30 -minute walk in your daily routine, don't over eat, avoid alcohol or take the amount prescribed by the doctor. Be positive and increase the dose of love for everyone. Take care of your heart, be happy, spread happiness and stay healthy.



ANKUR KALRA
MD, FACP, FACC, FSCAI

Dr Ankur Kalra is Associate Professor of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Staff Interventional Cardiologist, Section of Invasive and Interventional Cardiology and Medical Director of Clinical Research, Section of Regional Cardiovascular Medicine Heart, Vascular, and Thoracic Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, US

Globally, what are the latest advancements in research on heart surgery, treatment and drugs?

Transcatheter heart valve therapies for treating heart valve diseases have revolutionized the management of our patients. The procedures are minimally invasive, catheter-based, and obviate the need for open heart surgery.

How has technology eased diagnosis, treatment and surgery in heart care?

Technology with regard to advent of advanced multi-modality imaging has enabled us to better prognosticate patients on their disease condition. It has also allowed for more sensitive screening for heart disease.

Harnessing the power of digitalization to improve awareness, prevention and management of CVD globally is the goal for World Heart Day 2021. Your message in this context, to the readers?

Digitalization has enabled improvement in health literacy and patient education by helping physicians share multifarious health literacy tools with patients to help them educate themselves and their loved ones about their disease condition.

The threat of the Covid pandemic still looms. How critical is it and according to you how should heart patients carry themselves in the new normal?

Yes, the danger from the Covid virus is here to stay for a while. Everyone, especially heart patients, should wear a mask when in a congested place because it provides protection of more than 80 percent. Also, get yourself vaccinated which provide more than 80 percent immunity from the virus. Those who are fully vaccinated need not wear a mask at home if there is enough space for maintaining distance. You can go out if you can maintain social distancing and its advisable to wear a mask to prevent transmission of the virus.

Why is it that we are not 100 percent safe despite the two doses of vaccinations?

Generally, for a mutation it takes around 800 years, but the Covid virus is mutating very fast, and there are at least 800 different kinds of corona viruses that we have seen during the pandemic. So, the vaccines can provide protection from around to 652-700 types of viruses. So, there is a small window or gap that still remains un-



DR ANKIT KALRA
MD (Medicine), Gold Medalist, DNB (Cardiology)

guarded from where a variant of the Corona virus can infect a person. Vaccination also significantly tones down the severity of the infection.

How did Covid virus impact heart patients?

A lot of problems were seen in patients who already had heart disease or who

were at a risk of developing heart disease, which largely showed tendency of blood clotting. The virus can decrease heart functions known as myocarditis where there is inflammation in all the valves of the heart. Another problem that was observed in was conduction abnormalities impacting the conduction system of the heart. People who were brought to the hospital with heart attacks were treated according to the standard procedure such as administering a blood thinner to prevent clotting in the arteries. Angioplasty was performed on such patients. Patients who came with myocarditis responded to steroids and those having conduction abnormalities, their condition improved as the Covid infection reduced.

Could you share about Heart care campaigns driven by Kalra Hospital?

We regularly conduct preventive check-ups and also organizing camps which helps in screening the community so that people who are at high risk or just developing symptoms of heart disease can be identified and we treat them to avoid further complications. New drugs are proving to be very effective in improving the function of the heart. Regu-

lar blood sugar, cholesterol and health check-ups must be done to pre-empt the onset of heart diseases. Those who have very low heart function must get checked up every three months and those who have already had a heart attack they should go for a check-up every six months.

What's your message to the healthcare fraternity and the public?

It is the responsibility of the entire community to help each other and prevent another wave of Covid from happening. It's important to keep your immunity levels high through balanced diet and exercise. Strictly follow social distancing and Covid safety protocols to prevent a repeat of the devastating conditions that we have gone through earlier. To the healthcare fraternity, I would advise them to be extra cautious by washing their hands more often and use double mask. After wearing the N95 mask and another one over it can reduce chances of infection to almost 99 percent. In the hospital wear PPE kits along with face shield and gloves as a safeguard against coming in contact with an infected patient and getting affected.

Medical officer, nurse suspended in Thane for administering wrong vaccine dose

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

A MEDICAL officer and a nurse attached with Kalwa hospital in Thane have been suspended for allegedly administering a wrong vaccine to a Thane resident.

Officials said that the two officials, deputed at Atkeshwar healthcare centre, administered an injection of anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) to a person who was at the centre to take a dose of Covishield on Monday.

The Thane Municipal Corporation identified the victim as Rajkumar Yadav.

"Immediately after entering, he saw medical health officer Dr. Rakhi Tawde and inquired about vaccines. Tawde, without seeing his case paper or asking which vaccine he was looking for, instructed him to stand in a queue where doses of anti-rabies vaccine were being given," said Additional Municipal Commissioner Sandeep Malvi, who issued the order of suspension on Tuesday.

Yadav accordingly sat in the queue of ARV, after which nurse Kirti Popere administered to him a dose of ARV without asking or checking his documents.

The incident came to light soon after the dose was administered, as Yadav inquired with the

8-year-old killed by relative over property dispute

Mumbai: A 46-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering an eight-year-old girl, a distant relative, by attacking her with a sickle over 10 times because he had a property dispute with her father in Dahanu, Palghar district, on Monday.

The incident took place in Ranshet, Wangpada village, in Dahanu. The arrested accused, Pramod Ghoshe, 46, attacked Varsha Ghoshe with a sickle. A person who saw Pramod attacking her tried to stop him but

65.44 lakh
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MAHARASHTRA

Active Cases	36,794
New Cases	2,844
Total Deaths	1,38,962
New Deaths	60
Quarantined	2,54 lakh
Tested	5.84 crore

7,42,007
TOTAL POSITIVE CASES IN MUMBAI

New Cases	394
Total Deaths	16,097
New Deaths	6

officials on duty there.

"He was told that Covishield was being administered in a school next to the centre, and owing to a misunderstanding and negligence by our staff, Yadav got a dose of ARV instead of Covishield," said Malvi.

On Tuesday, Malvi issued two orders suspending Tawde and Popere on grounds of dereliction of duty by both of them.

A senior official said that Yadav is stable and there were so far no side effects of the ARV injection.

Pramod attacked him too and fled from the spot.

The accused had a dispute over ancestral farm land with Varsha's father Suresh Ghoshe, who is his distant relative.

"The accused fled into a jungle near the crime spot. We traced and arrested him. The incident took place over a property dispute. He has been booked under section 302 of IPC for murder," said Govind Omase, senior police inspector of Dahanu police station. **ENS**

MALEGAON BLAST ANNIVERSARY TODAY

13 years on, trial against seven continues

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THIRTEEN YEARS since a terror attack at Malegaon, the trial against the seven accused in the case continues with 198 witnesses having deposed so far, and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) submitting that it is likely to examine over 60 more.

While the accused, including BJP MP Pragna Singh Thakur and Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, remained behind bars for nine years before being granted bail, the trial has now been expedited with a special court exclusively designated to hear the case on a daily basis.

On September 29, 2008, days before Eid, a blast at Bhiku Chowk in Malegaon had killed six persons and injured over 100. This was the second terror attack in the powerloom town. In 2006, four blasts in quick succession had killed 31 people. That case is be-

ing prosecuted by the NIA separately.

Unlike the 2006 case, where the Maharashtra Anti Terrorism Squad (ATS) arrested nine Muslim men claiming their involvement in the blast, the ATS then headed by Hemant Karkare claimed to have cracked the case with Thakur's arrest on October 23, within a month of the blast.

She was the first suspect to be arrested.

The ATS also alleged that intercepted calls had shown the involvement of two others - Purohit and retired Major Ramesh Upadhyay - claiming that the conspiracy was the handiwork of newly-formed right wing outfit Abhinav Bharat, floated by Purohit, towards establishing a Hindu Rashtra.

Purohit, who has denied the allegations, has said in one of his applications for discharge pending before the Bombay High Court



A blast at Bhiku Chowk killed six and injured over 100 people. File

that he was an intelligence officer who was on duty and had nothing to do with the blast. This contention also forms a crucial part of the trial.

Last February, when the trial in the 2008 attack began, witnesses included victims who suffered injuries. Some spoke of where they were around 9.35 pm when the explosion took place, some who found themselves at hospitals and others similarly in-

jured and shocked by the incident.

Special Public Prosecutor Avinash Rasal said that since one of the accused had refused that a blast had taken place, the NIA had to call victims and doctors who treated them or did postmortem on those who died, to prove that the deaths and injuries were caused by the explosion. Among the 198, nearly 115 are such witnesses.

Among the other witnesses who have deposed so far include those who were present as independent panchas during the arrest of the accused, house searches or seizures.

The NIA has also brought before court police officers, including those who initially filed the complaint at Malegaon, those involved in the probe, a few forensic experts and an official of the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad.

The central agency has also

examined a few witnesses pertaining to the golden-coloured LML Freedom motorcycle at the centre of the allegations against Thakur.

While the ATS had claimed that Thakur provided the motorcycle for the blast to wanted accused Ramji Kalsangra, the NIA - which took over the probe in 2011 - had said in its 2016 supplementary chargesheet that it was registered in her name but was not in her possession for over two years. The NIA's clean chit to Thakur was rejected by the special court, which directed that she face terror charges along with the six others. The agency has examined the manufacturer of the LML Freedom and a dealer. Others, including RTO officials, are yet to be examined.

In its supplementary chargesheet, the NIA has also recorded the statements of witnesses earlier probed by ATS.

Fill all potholes within three weeks, BMC chief orders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

FACING FLAK over the increasing number of potholes on city roads, Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal has directed officials to fill all potholes within three weeks. Chahal held a detailed review meeting on potholes and bad road patches on Tuesday.

Chahal has ordered assistant municipal commissioners and road engineers of wards to conduct daily morning visits to identify potholes in their areas. He also said potholes reported through the system should be repaired on the same day.

"In the next 24 hours, all road engineers should submit a report to assistant municipal commissioners with details of potholes in their wards and material and machinery required to fill them. Based on the report, ward officers will send their requirements of cold mix material and other equipment for filling potholes and the roads department should arrange material within two days," Chahal said in the meeting.

Acting on complaints that many road engineers are burdened with multiple works, the commissioner ordered the department to relieve road engineers from other works that are

not related to potholes. "For the next one month, these engineers should look after only road repair works," said Chahal, according to the BMC's press release.

According to data, 772-km of the city's road network classified as project roads and are under defect liability period (DLP). Contractors who maintain these roads have been asked to repair all potholes immediately. Potholes on the remaining 1,087-km road network will be filled by respective administrative wards.

Following backlash on potholes and bad patches, Mayor Kishori Pednekar had on Monday criticised the civic administration over the delay in filling potholes. In her visit to Kurla and Chembur, Pednekar had directed the administration to fix all potholes within 10 days. The BJP has targeted Shiv Sena and the civic administration on bad roads and described the mayor's visit as a publicity gimmick.

Since April, the civic body has filled more than 40,000 potholes, according to the BMC. As of September 28, the pothole tracking system has reported 945 potholes of which 456 have been filled. But residents and activists have slammed corporations for underreporting potholes. On many road stretches, commuters have reported long traffic jams due to potholes.

Shinde directs admin to set up temporary parking lots for heavy vehicles till potholes are repaired

VALLABH OZARKAR & JAYPRAKASH NAIDU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

DUE TO traffic jams on the approach roads leading into and out of Mumbai, Eknath Shinde, the Cabinet Minister of Urban Development and Public Works (Public Undertakings) and Guardian Minister of Thane district, has directed the administration to set up temporary parking lots for heavy vehicles to regulate flow of traffic till potholes are repaired within the next fortnight.

These parking lots will act as holding pens where heavy vehicles will get diverted by the police when they anticipate a traffic jam. Officials feel that regulating the flow of heavy vehicles could provide a much needed solution to frequent traffic jams that have clogged up highways leading to Delhi and Gujarat.

Over the past month, commuters travelling to Mumbai from Kalyan, Bhiwandi and Nashik and vice versa have had to face massive traffic jams between Kalyan Junction in Bhiwandi and Saket in Thane. The 15-km stretch in normal circumstances is covered in 15 minutes. But over the past few months, it has been taking up as much as two hours to cover this distance. Similar traffic congestion has been witnessed on Ghodbunder Road as well.

Temporary parking plazas will be set up at Navi Mumbai, Palghar and Padgha to regulate the vehi-



Potholes on Ghodbunder road. Deepak Joshi

cles coming and going to JNPT.

Officials said heavy monsoon has created potholes on the stretch and repair work was not possible due to the continuous downpour in these parts over the last few days.

Shinde had given officials a deadline of 15 days last week to sort out the pothole issue on these stretches. Many commuters who travel on this stretch have said they had curtailed their travel for the past fortnight due to the traffic situation.

Cabinet Minister Chhagan Bhujbal, who was travelling from Mumbai to Nashik, had also complained about this issue after he got stuck at Teen Haath Naka in Thane for over two hours.

Shinde had then announced the appointment of a task force

under the chairmanship of the District Collector to prevent such traffic jams due to potholes. The task force will have the power to inspect roads before the monsoon season and monitor the quality of repairs, as well as take action against contractors in case potholes come up on roads during the monsoon season, Shinde had said.

While instructing officials to complete the road repair work immediately, Shinde instructed the traffic police to ban heavy vehicles from entering Thane city between noon and 4 pm till the repair work is completed.

Four executive engineers were also suspended and now Shinde will hold the meeting on Wednesday regarding the execution of parking plaza.

While NIA and ATS have differed in their probes on certain aspects of the case, specifically on Thakur, both agencies are being represented by Rasal with the court ruling that ATS' assistance be sought whenever required since there can only be one prosecuting agency.

The previous prosecutor, Rohini Sallian, had told The Indian Express in 2015 that she had been asked "to go soft" in the case by an NIA officer.

Among those who have deposed so far, at least three have turned hostile. They included a witness linked to a financial transaction related to Abhinav Bharat. The person denied his earlier statement on Tuesday. Another witness who turned hostile had earlier said he attended a camp in 2008 in Panchmarhi, where the ATS had alleged Purohit gave a lecture on terrorism on religious lines. Special Judge Prashant R Sitre will continue to hear the case on Wednesday.

Uddhav calls officials today to discuss potholes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE STATE Cabinet on Tuesday discussed the issue of pothole-ridden roads and highways. Taking cognizance of the issue, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray will hold a meeting with senior officials on Wednesday evening.

The Bombay High Court on Friday had asked the Centre and Maharashtra government to be "serious" about the issue of potholes on the Mumbai-Nashik Expressway and other highways in Maharashtra.

Sources said that several Cabinet ministers expressed displeasure over the issue at the meeting by narrating their experiences. One Cabinet minister said the state is also being blamed for highways that are not under its control, like the Mumbai-Goa highway, sources said.

Thackeray said that a meeting of all concerned agencies will be held on Wednesday evening in which a decision may be taken on fixing the responsibility on engineers and on filling up potholes in a time-bound manner.

Leopard cub rescued by residents at Mumbai's Aarey Milk Colony

SANJANA BHALERAO
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

A LEOPARD cub believed to be about two months old was spotted and rescued by local residents from near the former Metro Car shed area in the Aarey Milk Colony on Tuesday evening.

The barking of dogs alerted the residents. On inspecting the area, close to where the Metro car shed was to be located on the path to Tapeshwar temple, they spotted the cub and alerted forest department officials, local police and volunteers.

But before anyone could arrive, the local people, fearing an attack on the cub by the dogs, moved it to safety in a basket, after sweeping the area for the adult leopard.

Forest officials have asked locals to be alert for a few days, as



The rescued cub is about two months old. Express

the mother is expected to be on the lookout for the cub in the same place. A veterinarian has also been asked to examine the cub.

The cub will be moved from the original location and taken to the rescue centre only if it is found to be requiring medical assistance.

The officers have installed cameras around the spot to monitor the cub's movement and ensure that he is not attacked by any animal. The officials are not rul-

ing out that the cub was left there by the mother.

Earlier this year, a leopard cub was found in a desolate godown in Powai. Initially, it was thought to have been abandoned by the mother. However, the camera trap in the area later revealed that the mother had dropped the young one off there for safekeeping. The cub sat there all day while its mother went out hunting, and returned to nurse it. Footage showed that its mother was visiting the cub regularly.

Court directs Wockhardt Hospital not to discharge Waze till today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

A SPECIAL court on Tuesday directed the private hospital in Mumbai, where dismissed police officer Sachin Waze is admitted, to not discharge him till Wednesday when a decision on his plea seeking temporary house custody for three months is decided.

On Tuesday, lawyer Rounak Naik moved a plea stating that Waze's family has been orally informed by the Wockhardt Hospital that he is ready to be discharged. The plea added that pending hearing on the application, the hospital should be directed not to discharge Waze in haste.

Waze, who was arrested by the NIA for his alleged involvement in the Ambani terror scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case, underwent a bypass surgery earlier this month. He has sought to be allowed to recover at home on the ground that there is a likelihood he will contract infection in jail due to its "unhygienic conditions" and overcrowding.

The NIA has opposed the plea stating that he may abscond and that the hospitals attached to Taloja Central Jail are equipped to take care of him.

Special Judge A T Wankhede said that a report is awaited from the hospital regarding the protective measures that have to be adopted after surgery. It added that considering this aspect, the hospital management be directed to not discharge Waze till Wednesday.

CHANDIGARH ADMINISTRATION
HOME DEPARTMENT
(FOOD & SUPPLIES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS & LEGAL METROLOGY)
NOTICE

Applications are invited for the following posts in the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission and District Consumer Redressal Commissions I & II, U.T. Chandigarh, in terms of sections 29 and 43 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 read with Consumer Protection (Qualification for appointment, method of recruitment, procedure of appointment, term of office, resignation and removal of the President and members of the State Consumer and District Commission) Rules, 2020:-

- 1) State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
 - Member - 02 posts vacant
- 2) District Commissions I & II
 - President District Commission-I - 01 post vacant
 - President District Commission-II - 01 post (vacancy to be occurred from 18.02.2022)

The detailed NOTICE in regard to appointment of the Members of State Dispute Redressal Commission and President, District Consumer Redressal Commissions, U.T. Chandigarh, and the "Application Form" is available on the website www.chdfood.gov.in. Interested eligible candidates may download the detailed notice including the eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions regarding vacancies and also the Application Form from the link www.chdfood.gov.in and submit the Application with the requisite documents in the office of the Joint Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Chandigarh Administration, U.T. Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh, latest by 13th October, 2021 by 5.00 p.m.

Joint Secretary (FS & CA),
For Secretary Food & Supplies & Consumer Affairs & Legal Metrology, Chandigarh Administration.

Ground Floor (Room No. 23), U.T. Secretariat Building, Sector 9, Chandigarh.

वृत्त विशेष

प्रधान मुद्रांक कार्यालय, मुंबई व प्रधान मुद्रांक कार्यालयामार्फत सुरू असलेले मा. उच्च न्यायालय, मुंबई येथील मुद्रांक विक्री केंद्र (काऊन्टर क्र. १) येथील मुद्रांक विक्री केंद्रावरील पदसिद्ध मुद्रांक विक्रेत्यांमार्फत विक्री करण्यात येणाऱ्या मुद्रांकांची नियमानुसार गुरुवार, दि. ३०.०९.२०२१ रोजी सहामाही पडताळणी करण्यात येणार आहे. सबब, प्रधान मुद्रांक कार्यालय व प्रधान मुद्रांक कार्यालयामार्फत सुरू असलेले मा. उच्च न्यायालय, मुंबई (काऊन्टर क्र. १) येथील मुद्रांक विक्री केंद्रामार्फत विक्री होणाऱ्या मुद्रांकांची विक्री गुरुवार दिनांक ३०.०९.२०२१ रोजी जनतेसाठी संपूर्ण दिवस बंद राहणार आहे.

तथापि, मुंबई विभागातील परवानाधारक मुद्रांक विक्रेत्यांकडील मुद्रांक विक्री सुरू राहणार आहे याची संबंधितांनी नोंद घ्यावी.

डीजीआयपीआर २०२१-२२/२१०९

NFSU
National Forensic Sciences University
(An Institution of National Importance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
[Advt. No.: NFSU/Admission-2/2021-22]

National Forensic Sciences University invites applications for the admissions in various courses at Gandhinagar, Goa, Tripura and Delhi Campus for the **Academic Year 2021-22.**

Programme	Campus and Approved Intake			
	Gandhinagar	Delhi	Goa	Tripura
B.Sc.-M.Sc. Forensic Science (5 year integrated)	-	-	40	40
M.Sc. Forensic Science (2 Years)	-	-	40	40
M.Sc. Digital Forensics & Information Security (2 Years)	-	-	40	40
M.Sc. Cyber Security (2 Years)	-	-	40	40
M.Sc. Forensic Dentistry	30	-	-	-
PG Diploma in Forensic Nursing	20	-	-	-
PG Diploma in Humanitarian Forensics	20	-	-	-
LLM (1 Year)	20	20	-	-
PG Diploma in Cyber Laws (1 Year)	20	20	-	-

The last date for online application is **25.10.2021** and the last date of receiving the hard copy of application is **30.10.2021**. Detailed advertisement including eligibility criteria, fees structure and online application form is available at University website (www.nfsu.ac.in).

INF/1161/21-22 **Executive Registrar**

NFSU
National Forensic Sciences University
(An Institution of National Importance
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India)

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
FOR TEACHING POSITIONS (Contractual)
[Advt. No.: NFSU/CR-FM/0921/2021/01]

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for contractual positions of Assistant Professor at various campuses of NFSU. The Closing date of submission of online application form is **20.10.2021** and the last date of receiving the hard copy is **25.10.2021**.

Detailed advertisement including subject disciplines, number of posts, eligibility criteria and online application form is available at University website (www.nfsu.ac.in/career).

INF/1160/21-22 **Executive Registrar**

DHFL CASE

HC refuses bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's wife, two daughters

'Such offences occurring in plenty, stultifying nation's growth, denting economy'

OMKAR GOKHALE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday refused bail to Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor's wife and two daughters booked in connection with the alleged multi-crore fraud in the DHFL money laundering case. The court also denied bail to Rajiv Anand, the former business head of Yes Bank.

A single judge bench of

Justice Bharati H Dangre was hearing pleas filed by Kapoor's wife Bindu and daughters Roshini and Radha Kapoor-Khanna. The three had challenged a special CBI court order that had rejected their bail pleas. The HC had reserved its verdict on September 23.

In their bail pleas before the HC - filed through advocate Archit Jaykar - the applicants have claimed that the special court "grossly erred" in observing that allegations against them

prima facie showed complicity with other co-accused in having fraudulently and dishonestly receiving loans as quid pro quo for favours shown by Yes Bank to DHFL.

Justice Dangre said in his order, "It is apparent that all the applicants are alleged to have indulged in commission of offences, which have resulted in serious dent to the financial health of the state as well as defrauding the public at large. Such offences are occurring in plenty

and have resulted in stultifying overall growth of the nation and also have caused tremendous impairment to the economy of the nation."

"These crimes are more heinous in nature as they intend to destroy the economic fabric and financial edifice of the state. They have the tendency to degrade and defy the faith of the public in a law and order situation as it tantamount to a serious blow to its economic/financial condition."

Javed Akhtar gets showcause notice on plaint by RSS member

Mumbai: A Thane court issued a showcause notice to poet-lyricist Javed Akhtar on a complaint by an RSS member over the former "drawing parallel" between RSS and Taliban in a TV interview earlier this month. The complainant said Akhtar had made defamatory remarks and was "well planned" to defame RSS and "discourage, disparage and misguide" people who have joined RSS.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Thane issued the show-cause notice to Akhtar asking him to respond before November 12.

The complainant said Akhtar, a former Rajya Sabha member, had said the goal of RSS is the same as that of Taliban "even after the highest democratically elected officebearers of Bharat like the incumbent president, vice-president, prime minister and several cabinet ministers... have been supporters and members of RSS".

He said Akhtar had made the comments "without proof" of even one member having acted "like Taliban". The complainant sought Re 1 as damages and compensation and a permanent injunction against making such statements. **ENS**

BODYBUILDER'S SUICIDE BID

HC grants interim protection from arrest to actor Sahil Khan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE BOMBAY High Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to actor and fitness enthusiast Sahil Khan in connection with a suicide attempt by Manoj Patil, a body-builder.

A single-judge bench of Justice Prakash D Naik was hearing Khan's anticipatory bail plea, which was filed after the sessions court denied him pre-arrest bail in the case.

Khan was named in the FIR filed by Oshiwara police on Friday in connection with a suicide attempt by Patil, who won the Indian Body Builders Federation (IBBF) Mr India title for best sports physique in 2016.

Patil had tried to end his life by taking an overdose of sleeping pills at his Oshiwara residence and was rushed to hospital where he is recovering. Khan, along with others, have been booked for pushing him to take the extreme step, an offi-

Advocate Rajiv Chavan for Khan said Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC cannot be applied as Patil is still alive

cer said. Advocate Rajiv Chavan for Khan argued that his client had no criminal antecedents and that the complaint lodged by Patil was false, bogus, motivated and registered with 'malafide' in view of past grudges.

Chavan told the court that section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the IPC is wrongly applied in the case and the same is arbitrary and it cannot be applied as Patil is still alive.

After the prosecution lawyer sought time to take instructions from the investigating officials, the HC adjourned the hearing to October 12 and granted interim protection in the event of arrest to Khan till then.

BJP leader alleges manipulation in nullah cleaning work by BMC

Mumbai: Ameet Satam, the BJP MLA from Andheri west, targeted the BMC on Tuesday for alleged manipulation in the percentage of work done in cleaning nullahs in the city. Satam said the BMC has spent more than Rs 950 crore on nullah desilting works across the city in the past 10 years, according to information he procured through RTI.

"In the past ten years, the civic body has spent Rs 1,000 crore on cleaning nullahs. But streets in Mumbai are still water-logged even after moderate rains. Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said 104 per cent of the cleaning project of nullahs was completed this year and last year it was 112 per cent. But there is no relief from floods in Mumbai," said Satam.

According to the data, on desilting of major nullahs, the BMC spent Rs 459.98 crore between 2010-11 and 2019-20, while on minor nullah desilting it spent Rs 338 crore and on Mithri river Rs 140 crore. Every year, the civic body awards contracts to clean nullahs just before monsoon. "Despite spending so much public money, the situation remains the same every year," he said. **ENS**

COVID-19 and Heart Patients - FAQs

Renowned Cardiac Surgeon Dr Naresh Trehan - Medanta explains how the virus affects heart patients and answers some of the most frequently asked questions:

Does Coronavirus affect Heart patients more severely? Are they more vulnerable to catching the Virus?

Compared with a Healthy Heart people with Heart conditions are at a greater risk of getting very sick (or dying) because of Coronavirus disease. Of these Heart conditions, some are at even higher risk, these include:

1. Heart failure
2. Heart transplant
3. Complex Adult congenital heart disease
4. Blockage of arteries and those with Angina
5. High pressure in arteries of the Lung (Pulmonary artery Hypertension)
6. Heart Rhythm irregularities
7. People who have been hospitalized with heart disease in the past 6 months

What kind of Lifestyle should Heart patients follow? Especially during the pandemic?

Remain Physically active and avoid sitting for prolonged hours at your desk to prevent heart diseases, take regular breaks and avoid sitting more than 10 hours a day at your desk.

Avoid stress and negative thoughts that have been experienced due to a multitude of problems in the Pandemic period, such as isolation due to Lockdown, work-from-home conditions. It is important to stay calm and be positive. Yoga and relaxation techniques along with deep breathing/pranayama can help maintain balance.

Retain communication with Family and Friends. Maintain stock of all your regular medications and take them on a regular basis as prescribed. Measure your weight daily and remain as close to your ideal body weight (between 18-5-24.9). This helps you to keep your diet in control.

How can one reduce the risk and prevent heart diseases?

- Follow the Simple 7:
1. Manage Blood pressure
 2. Control Cholesterol
 3. Reduce Blood sugar
 4. Stay Active
 5. Eat better
 6. Lose Weight
 7. Stop Smoking

With the ongoing Pandemic, what are the guidelines that you wish to give to Heart patients?

1. Do everything possible to avoid exposure to the coronavirus, and follow expert advice after vaccination. Staying home and away from other people you don't live with is critically important - especially if you are in your 60s or older.
2. Remain focused on the safety basics: wearing a mask when you're out,



Dr Naresh Trehan
Chairman and Managing Director,
Medanta - The Medicity, Gurgaon

hand-washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, not touching surfaces and cleaning surfaces diligently.

3. People with heart disease and cardiovascular risk factors to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
4. Stay in contact with your health care team, eat well, be physically active and take all your medications as prescribed, including ACE inhibitors and ARBs. (Make sure you have at least a 30-day supply of each of your medicines for heart disease.) If you aren't already doing so, make note of your symptoms each day so you can better manage your condition.
5. Remember to take your medications as prescribed, stay in contact with your health care team, and be sure to eat well and be physically active.
6. Stay well connected with Family and friends through Phone and Video calls and avoid getting socially isolated.
7. And be sure to seek emergency help right away if needed.

What should caregivers keep in mind while taking care of Heart patients during the Ongoing COVID 19 Pandemic?

Cardiac patients are at higher risk of complications if they get infected with the Coronavirus. This makes the role of caretaker complicated - especially when we are expected to live with coronavirus for some time to come. Helping a loved one is an incredibly rewarding experience but it comes with challenges.

1. About 25% of people who are infected with coronavirus show no symptoms but are still contagious. While as a caregiver you may feel fine, it is still possible to infect the vulnerable cardiac patient.
2. Observe utmost care from exposing

yourself to risk of infection from outside.

3. Taking extra precautions of masking, distancing and hand sanitization while handling a cardiac patient.
4. Keep adequate stock of regular medications, medical supplies and healthy foods.
5. Make sure to understand your patient's cardiac status and associated conditions, medication information and schedule, doctors' phone numbers.
6. If symptoms of COVID-19 appear (e.g., Fever, dry cough and Shortness of breath) seek help from the local doctor for advice.
7. Head to your nearest emergency room severe COVID-19 symptoms appear. These include - severe shortness of breath, low blood pressure, increased heart rate (Pulse rate above 100 bpm), dehydration, profound weakness, high fever.
8. Designate a backup caregiver

What are the challenges in treating COVID-19 patients with heart disease?

1. There can be a delay in the diagnosis of heart attacks (Acute coronary syndromes) because the symptoms of elevation of blood markers (Troponins) and even ECG may show abnormalities during COVID due to myocarditis.
2. Patients with CAD will be at an increased risk of Plaque rupture because of virally induced systemic inflammation.
3. There are pro-coagulant effects of systemic inflammation that may increase the likelihood of clotting in stents leading to higher chances of repeat attacks.
4. In confirmed Covid 19 patients with low-risk heart attacks, Clot busters should be used and Cardiac Catheterization used only as Rescue PCl.
5. Dedicated Infrastructure and processes are needed for the management of COVID in ACS.
6. Need dedicated Cardiac units with more than one Cath Lab. One of them needs to be dedicated to the management of suspected or confirmed COVID 19 cases with acute coronary syndromes.
7. Many drugs used to treat COVID-19 can have adverse cardiovascular effects. Commonly used Azithromycin and HCQS can lead to QT interval prolongation making people vulnerable to sudden cardiac death. Lopinavir-Ritonavir can lead to heart blocks. Tocilizumab can lead to hypertension.

Issued in Public Interest by



Pioneer in Financing Green Energy for Sustainable Development

Excerpts from the Chairman's Speech at the 34th Annual General Meeting held on 28th September 2021



Renewable Energy sector in India has emerged as a significant player in the grid connected power generation capacity. Renewable energy capacity in India has increased by 250% between 2014 and 2021. Today India stands at 4th position in the world in terms of installed RE capacity, 5th in solar power and 4th in wind power in terms of installed capacity. India has also enhanced its ambition to install 450 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030. If large hydro is included the installed RE capacity increases to 146 GW. As the economy grows, the electricity consumption is projected to reach 15,280 TWh in 2040 from 4,926 TWh in 2012.

Though our country lacks sufficient conventional energy resources compared to its required energy needs driven by huge population and rapidly increasing economy, India has been endowed with a wind power potential of around 695 GW at 120m above ground level and huge solar potential of about 748 GW assuming 3% of the waste land area to be covered by Solar PV modules. With vast potential in hydro sector being explored across states in the northeast, India highlights ~26% of the total installed capacity coming from Renewable Sources.

PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

The Gross Income of your Company increased to ₹2,658.63 Crore, registering a growth of 12.07% over the previous year's Gross Income of ₹2,372.38 Crore. The Profit Before Tax (PBT) increased to ₹569.52 Crore at the end of the FY 2020-21 showing a phenomenal increase of 136.20%, over the previous year's PBT of ₹241.11 Crore. Profit After Tax (PAT) increased to ₹346.41 Crore at the end of the FY 2020-21 registering an increase of 61.46% over the previous year's PAT of ₹214.55 Crore. Your Company's net worth now stands at ₹2,995.19 Crore. The Loan Book of IREDA, a NBFC, has grown from ₹23,548 Crore at the FY ending 2019-20 to ₹27,854 Crore at the FY ending 31st March 2021. There has been a net reduction in NPA by ~22% from 7.18% at the FY ending 2019-20 to 5.61% as on 31st March 2021.

Loan disbursement	Rs. 8,827 crores as against Rs. 8,785 crore during FY 2019-20. (Second highest)
Net worth	Rs. 2,995 crores as against Rs. 2,521 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 19%)
Profit Before Tax	Rs. 570 crores as against Rs. 241 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 136%) (All-time high)
Profit After Tax	Rs. 346 crores as against Rs. 215 crores during FY 2019-20 (up 61%)
NPAs	Reduction - from 7.18% last year to 5.61% (Reduction by 22%)
Loan Book	Rs. 27,854 crores as against Rs. 23,548 crores as on 31.03.2020 (up 18.29%) (Annual growth: 2nd highest ever)

The earning per share has increased from ₹2.73 for the FY ending March 2020 to ₹4.42 for the FY ending March 2021 which is an increase of ~62% over the previous year. In accordance with the DIPAM guidelines on Capital Restructuring, your Company is required to pay a minimum annual dividend of 30% of PAT or 5% of Net Worth, whichever is higher. However, for the FY 2020-21, your Company has obtained exemption from payment of dividend to maintain high exposure limits due to increased net worth.

Your Company has delivered another year of significant achievements showing significant progress in various facets during the year. The year witnessed impressive growth, with sanctioned and disbursed loans amounting to ₹11,001.30 Crore and ₹8,826.64 Crore respectively despite the global COVID-19 Pandemic. Cumulative sanctions and disbursements as on year-end stood at ₹96,601.19 Crore and ₹63,115.90 Crore respectively. In the coming years, your company will continuously endeavor to enhance value of all its stakeholders and maintaining sustainable growth.

Loans sanctioned during the year including co-financed projects/ take over loans would support capacity addition of 6965.82 MW as against 5673.48 MW in previous year. During the year, your Company mobilized funds amounting to ₹500 Crore from the Domestic Bond Market through Private Placement of Taxable Sub-ordinated Tier-II Bonds. These Bonds were issued with a maturity of 10 years with coupon rate of 7.74% p.a., your Company is a leading RE Financier, which contributes to the growth of RE expansion in the country.

POLICY AND OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

I would like to share with you, the following major initiatives undertaken by your Company during the year to meet the growth aspirations in our business operations.

- Introduction of "Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECCL)" in line



Shri Pradiip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA addressing the gathering on the occasion of opening of IREDA's branch office at Bhubaneswar, Odisha

with the special scheme to provide credit to eligible borrowers & 100% guarantee coverage for the GECCL assistance.

- Extension of "Scheme for Moratorium of Term Loan instalments" to mitigate the burden of debt servicing brought about by disruptions on account of the fall-out of the COVID-19.
- Introduction of "IREDA Policy framework for deferment of Interest Instalments and shifting of Repayment Schedule.
- Introduction of "Policy for granting of In-Principle Loan Sanction to Applicants".
- IREDA has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SJVN Limited and NHPC Limited, for providing technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects.
- Disbursement process, operations and financial procedures have been simplified and efficient. Credit appraisal process/mechanism has been strengthened by introducing dedicated financial concurrence teams.
- IREDA has started Quarterly Interactions with its Borrowers to understand the prevalent concerns and demonstrate your company's achievements and initiatives taken based on the market and industry feedback for regular improvement in operations, efficiencies and business development e.g. reduction in the applicable rates of interest, exposure norms, Delegation of Powers etc.
- Implementation of latest IT technology and systems including Office 365, Data Leak Protection and Information Protection systems, Installation of face recognition biometric attendance machines for contactless attendance and the ongoing process for Implementation of cloud-based ERP - Dynamics 365.
- To meet its commitment towards ease of doing business, during the FY 2020-21, your Company has opened its third branch office in Mumbai, being the financial capital to ensure ease of access and support to the customer, borrowers and other stakeholders.
- Further, post the closure of FY 2020-21, to explore the opportunities for promoting the use of Renewable Energy in the state, your Company has opened its fourth branch office in the country in Bhubaneswar, Odisha for the facilitation of its customer, borrowers, and other stakeholders.
- Post the closure of FY 2020-21, your Company signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Generation & Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO), for providing its professional expertise in Renewable energy project development, bid process management, implementation support and fund raising.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

IREDA aims at creating a sustainable ecosystem through its activities for the community and environment. In compliance with the requirement of the Companies Act, 2013, we have made a budgetary allocation of ₹7.27 Crore in the Financial Year 2020-21 for CSR activities. During the year, projects worth ₹9.02 Crore was sanctioned by IREDA towards a wide spectrum of activities including contribution to Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES) Fund and providing PPE Kits, Masks for Healthcare staff engaged in Hospitals/ Quarantine centers and COVID appropriate behavior promotional material in Balamrup and Chandauli Aspirational Districts to support the preventive measures to contain the spread of the pandemic.

IREDA has taken several initiatives to contain the first and second waves of COVID-19 & has constituted an exemplary 'COVID Care Response Team' which continuously took care of all those who

approached IREDA in critical phase including arranging and regular delivery of food and medicines, hospitalization, plasma donation, Oxygen Concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders etc.

Considering the ongoing pandemic, your company has contributed ₹7.50 Crore towards PM-CARES Fund for FY 2020-21. Your Company has spent ₹16.42 Crore during the FY 2020-21 on CSR activities for the projects which were completed/ongoing during the year. Your Company will continue to have its heart placed in meaningful community development in close integration with its business plans.

MOU RATINGS

The performance of your Company in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the Financial Year 2020-21 is expected to be "Excellent".



Shri Pradiip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA signing a MoU with Shri Rajesh Lakhoni, CMD, TANGEDCO for providing IREDA's techno-commercial expertise for RE development in Tamil Nadu

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

IREDA is committed towards optimizing the potential of its human capital by introducing conducive work policies that facilitate work life balance, thereby enabling our workforce to focus on achievement of Company's strategic goals by ensuring high level of productivity. Several In-House virtual training programs were facilitated for employees through lecture series and other focused development training programs. The focus of conducting the virtual programs was maintained in order to ensure specific skill development in line with the corporate goals. During the year, the Company achieved a total of 526 man-days of training.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, your Company honored all its commitments and were able to achieve this while following all safety guidelines, strict social distancing and minimizing our workforce in offices. The credit for this goes to the dedication of the team members which made this achievement possible. IREDA has taken several initiatives to contain the first and second waves of COVID-19 & has constituted an exemplary 'COVID Care Response Team' which continuously took care of COVID-19 positive employees and their family members. The Team helped employees and their family members by regularly counselling them and providing them all necessary support including regular delivery of food and medicines, hospitalization, plasma donation, Oxygen Concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders etc. The vaccination drive was also carried out for the safety of its employees.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The essence of Corporate Governance is about maintaining the right balance between economic, social, individual and community goals. Your Company believes that, good corporate governance is a way of life and the way we do our business, encompassing every day's activities and is enshrined as a part of our way of working. Your Company is focused on enhancement of long-term value creation for all its stakeholders without compromising on societal obligations, environment and regulatory compliances. Our actions are governed by our values and principles, which are reinforced at all levels of the organisation. These principles have been and will continue to be our guiding force in future.

FUTURE STRATEGIES

IREDA will continue its trajectory of registering growth, through innovation and repositioning in the ever-changing space. With an objective to set-up highly efficient domestic manufacturing capacity of Solar Modules of GW-scale and reduction in import dependence, Govt. of India has approved Production Linked Scheme through MNRE. Considering the commitment of IREDA towards the growth of RE sector, MNRE has designated your Company as the Implementing

Agency for the said scheme. The financial outlay for PLI over a five-year period is ₹4,500 Crore.

IREDA is in the process of setting up a debt fund (Fund) in the form of an Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) to tap large Institutional Investors viz. Pension funds, Insurance Funds, Environmental, Social and Governance Funds, etc. AIF will also help IREDA in financing new projects of those borrowers who are nearing the exposure limit. Further, your Company is also planning to do Asset-Based Securitization (ABS) by issuance of Pass-Through Certificates.

While your company is presently a debt listed company, it is fully geared up and working in the direction of getting equity listed and accordingly IREDA shall also come out with the IPO of fresh Equity shares and plans to make further issue of Green Bonds in the international & domestic market to garner capital for onward lending. Further, Hon'ble Finance Minister, in the budget announcement of February, 2021, had announced infusion of ₹1,500 Crore as Equity in your Company with which IREDA would be able to extend additional loan facility of ₹12,000 Crore and improve its capital adequacy which will help IREDA in borrowing at lower rate of interest, thus lowering the interest rates for developers. It would also help in financing of around 4,500 MW of RE projects worth ₹18,000 Crore to ₹19,000 Crore apart from generating an employment of 13,500 jobs per year and reduce emissions of 8.55 million tons of CO2.

IREDA is geared up towards five-fold growth in the loan book from ~₹28000 Crore ending March 2021 to ₹1.35 Lakh Crore ending March 2026.

Your Company plans to increase the revenue per employee from ~₹17 Crore in FY 2020-21 to ~₹55 Crore ending FY 2025-26. While your Company has sanctioned and disbursed loans to most of the RE Projects in the Southern Western and northern region of the country, time has come to expand the business towards development of RE projects in the Eastern and North Eastern region of India and hence, your Company plans to open multiple branch locations to ensure PAN-India Coverage.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to place on record my personal gratitude and your Company's grateful appreciation for the Government of India particularly the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy and Department of Public Enterprises. My sincere thanks also to other organs of the Government like NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Power, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and other Ministries / Departments of the Government of India, Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Reserve Bank of India, Department of Public Enterprises, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM), Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. & BSE Ltd. & other regulatory authorities for continuous support, guidance, co-operation and assistance. My distinct thanks to all investors, lenders, borrowers and customers including State Governments, State power utilities and private entrepreneurs in the Renewable Energy sector, for placing their trust in the Company.

I am thankful for the support and co-operation of international financial institutions.

I am indebted to the Board of Directors and the enthusiastic team of employees for their untiring commitment, efforts and their continuous involvement in achieving the goals of the Company.

My special thanks go to the International Financial Institutions, bankers, bond-holders, domestic financial institutions, investors and clients for the assistance and co-operation received.

In the end, I wish to express my gratitude to the members and stakeholders for their trust and support.

Thank You,

Pradiip Kumar Das
Chairman & Managing Director
DIN- 07448576

Dated: September 28, 2021
Place: New Delhi

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the AGM held on 28th September, 2021. For full text please visit www.ireda.in)



Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

Registered Office: 1st floor, Core 4A, East Court, India Habitat Centre, Lodi Road, New Delhi- 110003, Phone No. 011-24682206-19

Corporate Office: 3rd floor, Bhikaji Cama Place, August Kranti Bhawan, New Delhi-110066, Phone No. 011- 26714000-12

Website: www.ireda.in CIN: U05100DL1987G0002765

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8 MAHARASHTRA

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION POLLS

Cabinet ratifies 3-member ward system despite Cong opposition

VISHWAS WAGHMODE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

DESPITE THE Congress' insistence on having a two-member ward system, the state Cabinet on Tuesday ratified its decision of having a three-member ward system for the upcoming municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra. Last week, after the Cabinet decided to reintroduce a three-member ward system for all municipal corporations barring Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation in Mumbai, the state Congress had passed an unanimous resolution to limit the multi-member electoral panel to two instead of three.

Sources said that while confirming the minutes of the last Cabinet meeting, there was a discussion on Tuesday on whether to have a two-member ward system. A senior Congress minister spoke in its favour. However, it was decided to stick with last week's decision of having a three-member ward system for the municipal corporations, sources added.

Sources further said that Congress and NCP were in favour of having a two-member ward system but the Shiv Sena reportedly backed the three-member ward system, claiming that it would be politically beneficial for all Maha Vikas Aghadi allies. One of the views opposing the three-member ward-system was that it may benefit Opposition BJP in the state.

Sources in the government said that the decision is likely to benefit all three ruling parties - Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress - in the upcoming municipal corporation polls. In all, more than 10 municipal corporations will go to polls early next year.

Somaiya files police complaint against Mushrif in Kolhapur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

FORMER BJP MP Kirit Somaiya on Tuesday filed a complaint of cheating against Rural Development Minister Hasan Mushrif at Murud police station in Kolhapur's Kagal -- the constituency of the NCP leader.

"I filed a complaint of cheating against Mushrif. He has invested funds routed through shell companies in sugar mills," Somaiya told mediapersons.

Asked why he did not file the complaint in Mumbai, Somaiya said, "The sugar mills are based in Kolhapur. The complaint was lodged in the police station under whose jurisdiction the properties fall."

NCP, meanwhile, dismissed the development as a "political stunt". Minister Nawab Malik said, "Their strategy is to just malign our ministers' and party's image in public. But it will boomerang."

Non-communicable disease: BMC to survey risk, launch awareness drive

SANJANA BHALERAO
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

ON THE occasion of World Heart Day on Wednesday and nutrition month, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will undertake a scientific survey to find out how many people in the city are at risk of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, heart disease or stroke, and launch public awareness activities.

BMC has undertaken a WHO STEPS survey to derive data on Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases, under which teams will go from house to house and systematic data will be collected.

The Covid 19 pandemic revealed that people with diabetes and hypertension are at high risk of severe Covid infection. Executive Health Officer Dr Mangala Gomare said that during the pandemic, majority deaths (64.6%) were among patients with co-morbidities such



Rain lashes Mumbai suburbs, heavy showers likely in Madhya Maharashtra and Konkan

SANJANA BHALERAO
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

HEAVY RAIN lashed Mumbai suburbs on Tuesday but there was no major waterlogging and public transport services, including suburban trains, remained unaffected.

Under the influence of depression (remnant of Cyclone Gulab) that weakened into a well-marked low pressure area over western Vidarbha and its neighbourhood on Tuesday, heavy to very heavy rainfall with extremely heavy showers is very likely at isolated places in north Madhya Maharashtra and north Konkan on Wednesday. Heavy rainfall is also likely at isolated places over Marathwada on Wednesday.

According to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) district forecast and warning, Mumbai, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Pune, Kolhapur, Satara, Sangli, Solapur, Beed, Parbhani, Osmanabad, Latur, Nanded and Hingoli are under yellow alert, indicating thunderstorm accompanied by lightning



(Top) Cloudy Navi Mumbai sky on Tuesday; heavy rains lashed Thane district, leaving Mumbai flooded. Amit Chakravarty & Deepak Joshi

and gusty winds, with heavy rainfall at isolated places on Wednesday.

As per the 24 hours forecast issued at 2 pm on Tuesday, Mumbai city and suburbs are likely to get moderate rain, with heavy to very heavy rain in some areas and thunderstorms with wind speed reaching 30-40

km/hour at isolated places.

Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Nasik, Dhule and Nandurbar are likely to witness thunderstorms with lightning, gusty winds and very heavy rain at isolated places on Wednesday.

The IMD had issued an orange alert for Mumbai and its neighbourhood for Tuesday. In

nine hours ending at 5.30 pm on Tuesday, Mumbai has recorded 78.2 mm of rain, which falls in the heavy rainfall category.

Strong wind -- speed reaching 30-40 kmph gusting to 50 kmph -- is likely to prevail over western Vidarbha and adjoining districts of Marathwada and Madhya Maharashtra during the

next 24 hours and decrease thereafter.

Cyclone Gulab, which was turned into a deep depression after crossing the coast of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday evening, and a well-marked low pressure by Tuesday, could give birth to a fresh cyclone in the Arabian Sea.

The IMD on Monday said that the current system will be given a new name if the wind speed touches 68 km/hour. If this happens, it will only be the third such instance since 1996 when a cyclone, after making landfall, would further strengthen and re-emerge as a fresh system of the cyclone category in the north Indian Ocean region.

The IMD in its Tuesday afternoon bulletin said, "It (well-marked low pressure) is likely to move northwestwards and weaken gradually during the next 24 hours. The system is likely to emerge into the northeast Arabian Sea and adjoining Gujarat coast around September 30 and there is a likelihood for the system to further intensify into a depression over the northeast Arabian Sea during the subsequent 24 hours."

Shiv Sena MP Gawali, aide gained control of public trust unlawfully by forging documents, ED tells court

SADAF MODAK
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE ENFORCEMENT Directorate (ED) on Tuesday told a special court that Shiv Sena MP Bhavana Gawali and her aide Saeed Khan gained control of a public trust unlawfully by forging documents.

Khan was arrested by the ED and produced before the court, which sent him to the central agency's custody till October 1. His lawyer said that they were being targeted as the government in Maharashtra is of a different "political colour" than the Union government.

In the remand plea submitted by Special Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar, it was al-

leged that a public trust by the name of Mahila Utkarsha Pratishthan, working on education in Washim and Yavatmal districts, was converted into a company by the same name under Section 3 of the Companies Act.

The ED claimed that due to the conversion of the trust to a company, its previous trustees were removed and three directors - Gawali, her mother Shalinitai and Khan - were appointed.

"...it is clear that the said transformation of the trust to Section 8 company by submitting fake/forged documents to Registrar of Companies (RoC) was done to grab the assets of the trust for personal usage in various ways by Saeed Khan and his associates," the ED said in its

remand plea, claiming that the trust had underlying assets of Rs 69 crore.

The ED further said that in 2019, an affidavit signed by all board members of the trust was prepared and a special resolution was sent to the RoC to convert it into a company. A no objection certificate (NOC) was also claimed to have been issued by the bank from which money was borrowed by the trust as well as from the charity commissioner's office.

The agency claimed that during its probe with the bank, charity commissioner's office and other directors and trustees of the trust, it was found that these documents, including stamps and signatures of authorities, were forged.

"While an NOC is claimed to have been received from the assistant charity commissioner in 2019, his statement to the ED revealed that the application by the trust is still pending for approval," Venegaonkar told the court.

The ED also said that Khan had played an active role in creating the documents and getting the company registered. It sought his custodial interrogation on the ground that he had not cooperated with the probe, especially on aspects of cash transactions of the trust. The agency has alleged that withdrawal of funds from the trust's bank account was done only on Gawali's directions and that multiple cash deposits, followed by withdrawals, were seen in the

transactions. The ED claimed that these were only book entries with no physical cash being moved as a means of "layering" money done on Gawali's instructions.

Lawyer Sajal Yadav, representing Khan, said that ED was given a mandate where the chairperson, who had originally got an FIR lodged regarding misappropriation of funds of Rs 18.18 crore, was named as an accused.

Without naming Gawali who was the chairperson, Yadav said the decision to convert the trust into a company was taken to bring greater transparency and accountability. He added that there was no vesting of assets with the directors and no dividend to be received from the

Anil Parab quizzed by ED for 8 hours

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

SHIV SENA leader and Transport Minister Anil Parab on Tuesday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) after being served summons by the central agency.

Parab, who reached the ED office at 11 am, left around 7 pm. "Based on the summons I had received, I came to the ED office. I have answered all questions that were asked. The ED is an authority and it is my responsibility to respond to it and not to any individual. I will definitely cooperate in future as well," Parab told mediapersons after coming out of the ED office.

In the morning, Sena workers had gathered at Parab's residence in Bandra (East) to show solidarity.

Last week, the ED had issued summons asking Parab to appear before it on Tuesday. Earlier as well, it had issued summons to Parab but the minister had sought 14 days from the agency citing his pre-scheduled public engagements.

The ED is investigating Parab on the basis of statements given by dismissed Mumbai Police officer Sachin Waze, who has been arrested in the Ambani terror scare and Mansukh Hiran murder case. These statements are a part of the ED prosecution complaint filed against the personal assistant and personal secretary of former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh.

Waze in his statement has claimed that Parab received crores as bribe from deputy regional transport officer Bajrang Kharmate for transfers of 10 police officers in Mumbai last year.



Anil Parab addresses the media in Mumbai on Tuesday. Ganesh Shirsekar

Earlier, the ED had questioned Kharmate and also searched a few places in Pune and Nagpur linked to him after his name cropped up during its probe on Deshmukh. The agency has also recorded statements of witnesses against Kharmate and Parab.

Deshmukh is being investigated by the ED in connection with an alleged bribery, corruption and money laundering case.

The ED has alleged that Deshmukh, while acting as the home minister, "received illegal gratification of approximately Rs 4.7 crore in cash from various orchestra bar owners" through Waze.

According to the ED, of this, Rs 4.18 crore was deposited in cash with four Delhi-based shell companies - Reliable Finance Corporation Private Limited, VA Realcon Private Limited, Utsav Securities Private Limited and Sital Leasing and Finance Private Limited.

These firms subsequently donated the entire money to Shri Sai Shikshan Sansthan Trust, a charitable trust headed by Deshmukh and his family.

Ahmednagar & Pune districts hit by foot and mouth disease

PARTHA SARATHI
BISWAS
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 28

PUNE AND AHMEDNAGAR districts have become the epicentre for the most recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Maharashtra. So far, over 530 animals have been infected and 80 have died, mostly because of the delay in the second cycle of vaccination against the infection.

The state Animal Husbandry Department has now started vaccination on mission mode to control the present outbreak. As per norms, 16,896 animals which reside within the 5-km radius of infected animals will be vaccinated at the earliest, said Dr VV Limaye, joint commissioner and head of the Institute of Veterinary Biological Products.

The central government coordinates special vaccination drives against the fatal viral disease, which affects hoofed animals, twice a year. The first round of vaccination takes place in September and October and the second round is done after six months. The central government provides the vaccines while the state government carries out the drive.

The current outbreak is centred around Pune and Ahmednagar, with the talukas of Indapur, Ahmednagar, Parner and Nevasa emerging as 'hotspots' of the infection. Due to compromised immunity, infected animals become susceptible to haemorrhagic septicaemia and other diseases, ultimately succumbing to them.

According to Animal Husbandry Department officials, the current outbreak is much more severe than the one last year, and is mainly due to the delay in the second round of vaccination this year. India had reported seven outbreaks last year, with 105 animals being infected. A total of three animals had died of health issues linked to foot and mouth disease in 2020.

Foreign nationals filling gap in narcotics supply, 'kitchen labs' used to make drugs: NCB

MOHAMED THAYER
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

"KITCHEN LABORATORIES" used by foreign nationals to make drugs in their own houses are fast becoming a prime source of synthetic drugs supply in the city after narcotics supply took a hit, as per the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

The central anti-drug agency said that with the neutralisation of 12 prominent local drug supply networks, several foreign nationals have filled the gap to supply narcotics. The agency is now focused on these foreign nationals who operate in a "guerrilla manner", with around 28 of them arrested in raids in the past five months.

An official said that following the recent arrests of some Nigerian nationals, they found "digital evidence" that the nar-

cotics being supplied by them was made at their own residence.

The official said that usually synthetic drugs like mephedrone and meth were made in factories on the outskirts of the city, and there have been raids against these laboratories and factories in the past few months by several agencies, which has hit the supply networks. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence last month busted a factory at Rasayani in Raigad, from where 256 kg of ketamine was seized.

"In some of these cases we have found drug suppliers sourcing these synthetic drugs from Gujarat, Indore or Hyderabad. Agencies have however been apprehending some of these drugs as well. Hence, several foreign nationals have started manufacturing drugs on a small scale at their own residences, in what is called 'kitchen laboratories',"

the official said.

The official said that since these people are not trained in manufacturing the drugs, the product is more dangerous. The gangs usually have a chemist termed as a "doctor" who makes these drugs in factories.

The official said that in the past two years, a total of 12 gangs that comprised local drug supply chains were busted by the NCB. He said they neutralized the Iqbal Kaskar network, whereby narcotics were smuggled from across the border in J&K, the south-Mumbai based network of Chinku Pathan, Feroz Batata and his son Shadaab who controlled the western suburbs, Babloo Patri who controlled the eastern suburbs among others.

The official said that the gap in the drug supply network was filled by gangs of foreign nationals. Arresting foreign nationals is more complicated as they are more violent than lo-

cal gangs, he said, and several NCB officials sustained injuries while carrying out raids. Foreign nationals also tear up their passports and do not reveal their home address, making it difficult to get further leads, the official added.

Officials said that in order to evade the NCB, foreign nationals supply narcotics to clients in moving vehicles, whereby both the peddler and purchaser move parallel to each other in two vehicles while exchanging drugs and money.

Further, the peddlers mainly operate from forested areas that have an escape route. The official said that a client has to come to the forest, and if the peddlers see any extra person they jump into the water and flee.

Over the past few years, they have settled in Mira-Bhayandar, Vasai-Virar and more recently Navi Mumbai areas, the official added.

9 EXPRESS NETWORK

BRIEFLY

MAHARASHTRA

Astrosat, India's maiden space observatory, turns 6

Pune: Astrosat, India's maiden space-based observatory, has completed six years of successful operations in space. Launched by ISRO on September 28, 2015, Astrosat has not only outperformed expectations of a five-year mission but also continues to remain operational till date. This multi-wavelength observatory, conceived in the 1990s, saw the collaboration of scientists from ISRO, Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Raman Research Institute, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Physical Research Laboratory. Following its success, the scientific community is in the process of putting together a successive mission with advanced instruments, works for which are presently underway. **ENS**

WEST BENGAL

8 arrested for heckling Dilip Ghosh, get bail

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police on Tuesday registered a suo motu case in connection with the heckling of BJP leader Dilip Ghosh in the Jadubabu Bazar area of Bhabanipur Assembly constituency the previous day. They also arrested eight people but all of them received bail, said officials. Suspected TMC workers heckled Ghosh on the last day of campaigning for the September 30 bypoll in which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is up against BJP's Priyanka Tibrewal. Following the melee, Ghosh's security officer was seen whipping out a pistol. However, a local TMC leader alleged that Ghosh had first pushed a TMC worker. **ENS**

UTTAR PRADESH

Minor chained: father, madrasa owner arrested

Lucknow: Aligarh police on Monday arrested a madrasa owner and the father of a minor boy who they found chained at the institution. The father was arrested after he confessed that he asked his boy to be kept in chains as he used to run away from the madrasa. Sleuths also invoked multiple sections of the Juvenile Justice Act against the accused. Additional Superintendant of Police, City, Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said the madrasa owner along with the boy's father were produced on Tuesday before a local court which sent them to judicial custody. **ENS**



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari reviewing work on the Zojila and Z D Morh tunnels, in Baltal, Jammu and Kashmir, Tuesday. **PTI**

Expect Zojila tunnel to be ready before 2024 polls, says Gadkari

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
BALTAL, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT wants its showpiece infrastructure project in Kashmir, the Zojila tunnel, to be inaugurated before 2024 general elections, asking the contractor to speed up work by about three years.

"They are supposed to complete it by September 2026. I have asked them to finish it by December 2023 so that the Prime Minister can inaugurate it before Republic Day of 2024. It's a challenge I know, but I'm confident they can do it on time," Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said during an inspection of the Zojila tunnel's West portal in Baltal in Kashmir Tuesday.

The 14.5 km Zojila tunnel,

which will be Asia's longest bi-direction tunnel at a height of more than 11,500 feet, will provide all-weather, perennial connectivity between Kashmir and Ladakh. From the strategic point of view, the tunnel, being built at a cost of more than Rs 4,600 crore, is a critical asset for the armed forces.

Gadkari gave the instruction on early completion to Krishna Reddy, managing director of Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited, who accompanied the minister to the tunnel. "This does not mean that we will compromise with quality. True, building something like this in the Himalayas is not easy. But I'm sure they can do it," Gadkari said.

Connectivity is one of the areas the NDA government has been working on in its efforts to win over the people and overhaul

the socio-economic condition of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the two Union Territories carved out of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state. There are plans for 20 tunnels in Jammu and Kashmir and 11 tunnels in Ladakh. Road projects worth around Rs 1 lakh crore are currently in progress in the region.

Gadkari said there are plans to pump in projects worth another Rs 1 lakh crore by 2024.

The Zojila tunnel itself will get an upgrade, as plans are afoot to build an escape tunnel along the main tunnel, which will increase the cost. Currently, it is a single-tube tunnel. Gadkari said the paper-work is in process in his ministry. Through the tunnel, the travel time will be reduced from the current 3.5 hours through the pass to a 15-min drive, as per official estimates.

IAS officer in 'video of conversion', UP orders SIT probe

MANISH SAHU
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

TWO DAYS after purported video clips of an IAS officer, Mohammad Iftikharuddin, talking about spreading Islam to every home, were circulated on social media, the Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday ordered an inquiry by a special investigation team.

Iftikharuddin, a 1985-batch IAS officer, is currently chairman of the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation. The video clips are reported to be from 2014-17, when he was posted as Kanpur divisional commissioner.

In one of the purported video clips, Iftikharuddin is seen sitting with a group of men, apparently clerics, and is heard saying that it is their duty to spread Islam to every home. He purportedly talks about establishing Islam supremacy across the world.

In another purported video clip, he is seen sitting while another speaker talks about a person who converted to Islam and the merits of conversion.

The video clips are reported to be taken at the camp office-cum-official residence of the official when he was the Kanpur divisional commissioner.

Iftikharuddin did not respond to calls on Tuesday.



IAS officer Mohammad Iftikharuddin

In a tweet, the state home department said the government has formed a two-member SIT to look into the matter and submit a report in seven days. CB-CID Director General GL Meena will head the team, which includes ADG (Kanpur) Bhanu Bhaskar.

On Monday evening, Kanpur Police Commissioner Asim Kumar Arun had ordered an inquiry after the video clips went viral in the city.

According to a PTI report, UP Minister of Law and Justice Brajesh Pathak said the government had taken cognizance of the videos and given instructions for investigation. The place where the IAS officer is sitting seems to be government property, which is not at all appropriate legally or constitutionally, he said.

The state government is particularly strict on the matter of religious conversion, Pathak said. "We have even made a strict law regarding that. We will take strict action against anyone who tries to convert people using force or any kind of lure," he said. **—WITHPTI**

Pune's weekly Covid positivity rate drops, but still higher than state average

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 28

THE COVID-19 positivity rate in Pune district has dropped to 3.37 per cent in the week September 21-27 as against the previous week when it stood at 5.04 per cent. According to a new analysis, weekly trends show that there has been a nearly four per cent decline from August 31 to September 6 when the rate was around 6.5 per cent.

Across the state too, there has been a dip in the Covid-19 positivity rate last week when the positivity rate stood at 2.11 per cent as compared to the previous week when it was 2.46 per cent.

In nine districts, positivity rate was still higher than the state's weekly average. These include Pune, Ahmednagar (4.27 per cent), Sindhudurg (4.04 per cent), Palghar (3.39 per cent), Nashik (2.78 per cent), Osmanabad (2.72 per cent), Sangli (2.54 per cent), Satara (2.36 per cent), and Ratnagiri (2.36 per cent).

According to the report, in the last week, Ahmednagar and Pune accounted for 21 per cent each of the total Covid-19 cases in Maharashtra while Mumbai accounted for 14 per cent.

Take up campaign to impart info on climate change to farmers: PM

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon academicians, agricultural scientists and institutions to start a campaign to impart information to farmers on climate change, which is a huge challenge for agriculture.

Launching 35 crop varieties with special traits to address climate change and malnutrition, the Prime Minister said, "Climate change is a huge challenge not only for agriculture, but for our entire ecosystem. Climate change greatly affects our fish production, animal health and productivity."

Due to climate change, new types of pests, diseases, epidemics are emerging, which not only pose a threat to people, but also affect livestock and crops, he

said. Intensive and continued research on these aspects is necessary, he said, adding that when science, government and society work together, results are better.

"Today I will ask all academicians, agricultural scientists and institutions to set your goals for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Start a 75-day campaign. Take up the campaign for change by adopting 75 villages. Spread awareness in 75 schools and engage each school in some work," the Prime Minister said, addressing a gathering through video conference.

"Our efforts will save the country's agriculture from climate change. It will also ensure prosperity of the farmer and the health security of the country," he said.

The Prime Minister said he made a similar request to Olympic champions to spread awareness on malnutrition. "I urged every athlete to attend at least 75

schools in the coming year or two and talk to students about nutrition, sports and physical exercise."

The crop varieties, which the Prime Minister launched on Tuesday, have been developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to "address the twin challenges of climate change and malnutrition."

The Prime Minister said that 1,300 such seed varieties have been developed in recent years and, in this series, 35 crop varieties were being launched.

These new varieties are not only capable of dealing with many types of weather challenges, they are also more nutritious, Modi said. On the occasion, the Prime Minister also inaugurated the newly constructed campus of National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Raipur, and distributed the Green Campus Award to four agricultural universities.

PM Modi chairs meeting of Council of Ministers

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Union Council of Ministers wherein presentations were made on focussed implementation and monitoring of various projects.

Sources aware of the development said the presentation was made by Union ministers Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Piyush Goyal, followed by a sort of free-wheeling discussion on how the implementation of the projects and the government schemes can be further enhanced and improved. **PTI**

Firebrands in grand old party Mevani gets a party, Cong a face, but will the twain meet?

LEENA MISRA & VAIBHAV JHA
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

FIREBRAND DALIT leader Jignesh Mevani was in the need for a party. And having left AAP in 2016, perhaps there were few options in Gujarat for the Independent MLA backed by the Congress other than the grand old party.

But if the 41-year-old needs the Congress at a time when the BJP seems again resurgent in a state that it has ruled for decades, the party needs voices and faces like Mevani if Rahul Gandhi has to carry through his ambitions to "rebuild the Congress". His entry into the Congress was facilitated by the other youth leader of the party in the state and its working president, Hardik Patel. The date chosen was the birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, whom Mevani calls his hero.

Mevani represents the reserved constituency of Vadgam in Banaskantha, but he belongs to neighbouring Mehsana, the district that is also home to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As a journalist, he worked for *Abhiyaan*, a fortnightly Gujarati magazine, in Mumbai, and was a member of the late lawyer-activist Mukul Sinha's organisation Jan Sanghar Manch, that fought for victims of the 2002 riots.

As a lawyer his petition seeking allocation of surplus government land to landless Dalits under the Gujarat Agriculture Land Ceiling Act is before the High

Court. An aide says he backs causes that the Congress has long stopped being associated with. "He can sit on a dharna demanding registration of beneficiaries under the MNGREGA, or mechanised cleaning of sewers." He was recently seen at a protest by employees of Ford Motors, which is shutting its manufacturing plant in Sanand.

Mevani said while had offered to resign as MLA to formally join the Congress, Rahul had told him not to hurt his voters. "It is just a matter of a few months when I could contest again on a Congress ticket," he told *The Indian Express*.

Apart from bringing some fire into the ranks of the Congress, Mevani's induction is also a factor of caste calculations—both for the coming elections in Uttar Pradesh and later Gujarat.

In 2015 the Congress had wrested most of the local bodies from the BJP on account of the Patidar disenchantment with the BJP due to the quota agitation led by Hardik. In 2017, it gave the BJP a scare in the Assembly elections by winning 77 of the 182 seats, with the BJP reduced to 99—its lowest tally since 1995. However, in March, the Congress fared badly in the local body polls, with Arvind Kejriwal's AAP and Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM reaping benefits of the anti-BJP sentiment of the Patidars and the anti-Congress sentiment of the Muslims, respectively.

The state unit though is watching the entry of Mevani, seen to be a Rahul import, warily.

'FIRST RESPONDERS FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT TO BE SET UP IN 350 DISTRICTS'

Working on mapping Brahmaputra flood plains: Shah

New Delhi: The government is working on a programme to set up disaster management volunteers in 350 districts of the country as first responders and mapping the Brahmaputra flood plains to create artificial lakes to mitigate the annual floods in Assam, Home Minister Amit Shah said Tuesday.

Speaking at an event to commemorate the 17th Formation Day of the NDMA, Shah said: "No matter how much hard work we put into formulating responses and preparing plans, there will never be a time that NDRF and SDRF respond immediately to a disaster. If we need a response within seconds, it can only be

done by the people. Only trained Aapada Mitra (volunteers) in every village can achieve this."

Aapada Mitra is a programme to identify suitable individuals in disaster-prone regions who can be trained to be first responders in times of natural disasters. It is being implemented in 30-flood prone districts across 25 states.

"However, this experiment is on a very small scale at the moment. So we are going to implement this programme in 350 disaster-prone districts in the country," Shah said.

He said the government was also using satellite imagery and data to build roads and rail networks in a way that natural waterways are not obstructed. **ENS**

Row as WII director keeps MSc, PhD courses 'in abeyance'

SHIVNARAYAN RAJPUROHIT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

FOR THE first time since its recognition by Saurashtra University in 1988, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Uttarakhand—a Centre of Excellence under the Environment Ministry—could not schedule its customary 7-km trek to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve for the new batch of 20 MSc (Wildlife) students as part of its orientation tour.

At the centre of the row is WII director Dhananjai Mohan's "unilateral" decision on September 13 to keep its recognition for MSc and PhD programmes conferred by the university "in abeyance till further clarification was obtained from UGC". WII faculty members said the issue was never dis-

cussed in the last meeting of the governing board—the top-decision making body of the institute—in May 2020.

What triggered the move was an audit by the CAG in February 2019, which objected to the WII's tie-up with a non-Uttarakhand university. On the UGC guidelines for "affiliation", Mohan asserted that he could not risk students' future with multiple interpretations of the law. Mohan has said that as per UGC guidelines, an institute has to be "affiliated" with a university in the same state, but Saurashtra University has argued that WII is exempted because it is a "specialised research institute".

"The university's Act, ratified by the UGC, grants itself power to 'recognise' an institute outside the state in special cases," said Girish Bhimani, dean of Saurashtra University's Science Department.

WII alumni and researchers have sought the intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav to "prevent the imminent closure of WII's publicly-funded MSc and PhD programs, and get these reinstated". A petition signed by the alumni and researchers, alleging a threat to the "conservation agenda of the nation", will soon be submitted to Modi and Yadav.

The petition also takes umbrage to the neglect of the WII's governing board. "As per the best of our knowledge, we would like to bring your attention to the fact that these decisions to suspend the academic programs in association with Saurashtra University have been taken without informing or consulting the governing council at WII," it claims.

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

A start-up becomes a support system for Jharkhand farmers

ABHISHEK ANGAD
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AJIT MANJHI, 31, worked for the last 10 years as a migrant labourer. When the pandemic struck, he returned to his home in Jharkhand's Bokaro district in May 2020 and decided to farm on three acres of his land. Around 150 km away, in Khunti district, a group of 10 farmers is expecting its 500 quintals of harvested ginger to fetch at least Rs 7/ per kg more than the market price.

Common to both is a Jharkhand-based start-up that has been working over the last four years in the state to build a support system for farmers. Currently operating from 12 districts, KissanPro caters to the needs of more than 10,000 farmers—providing them with assistance in



A KissanPro team holds a meeting with farmers in Ranchi's Kanke block.

planning the crop, soil testing, drip irrigation management, immediate tips on WhatsApp, cheaper seeds and fertilizers, and better prices for their produce.

KissanPro co-founder Pankaj Roy makes it clear it is a "for-profit" business, "but not at the cost of exploiting farmers". "We are connected to a few institu-

tional buyers and are helping farmers get a better price. This is where we also earn, as of now," says Roy.

The Indian Express spoke to at least ten farmers using KissanPro and none of them is currently trading their produce on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), a pan-India electronic trading portal.

Experts say the sector has huge opportunities for businesses, but needs proper production planning. MS Yadav, Director of the Centre of Agribusiness Management, Birs Agricultural University, says, "Middlemen lure farmers initially and later they don't give them good money. On e-Nam only 25-30 per cent of the farmers are registered and that too they use sparingly."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

POST-POLL VIOLENCE CASES

SC notice to Centre on Bengal plea over HC order for CBI probe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SUPREME COURT on Wednesday issued notice to the Centre on a plea by the West Bengal government challenging the Calcutta High Court's order directing a CBI probe into post-poll violence in the state following the TMC's victory in the recent Assembly polls.

"On the face of it, we find out that you have made out a case for issuance of notice. Let us see what they have to say. We will hear it in one go when the other side is also there," a bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Aniruddha Bose told senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared

for the West Bengal government.

The court, which fixed the next hearing for October 7, however, declined to pass any interim order.

"CBI is carrying on (an) investigation. Your Lordships should say that it should be subject to the outcome of this court's order," Sibal submitted. The bench replied, "That is always there. We don't need to say." Sibal then said the court should say no fresh cases should be registered. But the bench told him that "in one week nothing will happen".

Seeking some interim relief, Sibal pointed out that the CBI is issuing notices to police officers in the state. But Justice Saran responded that the court will look into the matter on October 7.

Behind exit: Capt out, he wanted more say in govt

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

CLAIMING THAT it has got a "positive response" from the ground after choosing Charanjit Singh Channi as Chief Minister, the Congress high command was keen not to let Navjot Singh Sidhu remote-control the government in Punjab. This was cited by sources as one of the reasons behind Sidhu's surprising resignation as state unit chief of the Congress.

The high command is said to have stood by Channi even as Sidhu tried to have his way in appointments to senior administrative posts, selection of ministers and allocation of portfolios.

Congress leaders familiar with the developments in Punjab pointed out that though Sidhu had his say in some of the crucial decisions post Captain Amarinder Singh's resignation from the top post, he was "angry and upset" that his suggestions were ignored in the appointment of some top officials.

Sidhu, sources said, didn't want Rana Gurjit Singh, who resigned from the Amarinder Cabinet in 2018 in the wake of allegations in a sand mining case, to be inducted into Channi's Cabinet. He was also said to be against the appointment of APS Deol as Advocate General and wanted Deepinder Singh Patwalia named to the post. In both instances, Sidhu didn't have his way.

"He wanted to remote-control the government. But some of his suggestions indicated that he would get into revenge politics against those whom he does not like, which includes the former CM. The Congress party does not believe in revenge politics or politics of vindictiveness. So, the leadership had to keep his suggestions aside," said a party leader.

Sources said Sidhu, whose appointment as PCC chief was pushed by the Gandhis, espe-

cially Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, had vehemently opposed the CM candidature of Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, though he had an overwhelming support from MLAs. Sidhu also opposed the allocation of the Home portfolio to Randhawa and the appointment of P O Soni as deputy chief minister (since he is from his turf of Amritsar). A party leader said Sidhu had threatened to resign several times while the new appointments were happening.

Sources said the party high command has received "positive" feedback on its appointment of a Dalit chief minister and there is a growing realisation that Channi could be an "asset" in the assembly election, coming up early next year. So undermining him to let Sidhu prevail could be counter-productive, sources said.

"Channi surprised everyone with his energy and enthusiasm after his appointment. The party has to rally behind him and support him," said a party MP. Sources said that for now, the national leadership does not fear that Sidhu's sudden exit will make it difficult for Channi in the Congress legislative party or the government. Sidhu's failure to muster an overwhelming support from party MLAs, despite his proximity to the Gandhis, was evident during the discussions with MLAs while the search for a replacement for Amarinder Singh was on, they said.

"There seems to be no immediate threat to the new Chief Minister or the party government as of now. The only trouble is if Sidhu manages to mobilise a good share of MLAs to show the high command that he has their support, which is unlikely to happen now," said a source in the party, adding that the Gandhis, while "shocked" by Sidhu's sudden move on Tuesday afternoon, are unlikely to back him for the "extreme step he has taken" because "he did not even leave room for talks".

Sources said Sidhu, whose appointment as PCC chief was pushed by the Gandhis, espe-

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

Before he quit PPCC post, Sidhu was alienated

KAMALDEEP SINGH BRAR
AMRITSAR, SEPTEMBER 28

EVEN THOUGH Navjot Singh Sidhu surprised everybody with his sudden resignation from post of Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee president on Tuesday afternoon, he has been at the receiving end of several surprises since Amarinder Singh's resignation as chief minister.

Sidhu had spearheaded the campaign to topple Amarinder Singh. However, he could not gain from this move politically, after formation of the new Congress government with Charanjit Singh Channi as CM. Sidhu had played a key role in convincing the Congress high command to replace Amarinder Singh.

The reality turned out to be completely different as Sidhu found his rivals in Amritsar City more powerful with Channi as CM than they were during Amarinder's government.

Sidhu was last seen in public during Channi's first visit to Amritsar as CM on Wednesday.

Amritsar Central MLA Om Parkash Soni, who had almost defeated Sidhu in the 2009 parliamentary elections and has been in a legal tussle with him, became the Deputy Chief Minister in the new government. Soni was always seen in Amarinder's camp till the latter's resignation.

Amritsar West MLA Raj Kumar Verka, who is also a Amarinder Singh confidant, occupied a cabinet position through Dalit quota in the new government under the Dalit CM. Many within the Congress were surprised at this move, as Verka is known to have publicly opposed Sidhu.

Many Congress MLAs had come to support Sidhu against Amarinder Singh. However, most only stood by him to seek Amarinder's removal. They revised their politics as soon as Amarinder was gone and new equations emerged after the appointment of Channi. There was no obligation to stand by Sidhu on their part, even though his critics had become cabinet ministers.



Punjab Congress Bhawan in Chandigarh Tuesday, after Sidhu's resignation. Kamleshwar Singh

Sidhu 'unstable', 'shifty': Amarinder grabs his 'I told you so' moment

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, SEPTEMBER 28

AMONG THE tranche of political critics that took on Navjot Singh Sidhu after his resignation, the first one from Congress was former CM Amarinder Singh.

Apart from calling Sidhu and "unstable" man, Amarinder, in a statement, further termed the resignation "sheer drama", adding that it showed that Sidhu was preparing the ground to quit the Congress and join hands with someone other party in the run-up to the state Assembly polls.

"I had been saying all along that this man is unstable and dangerous, and cannot be entrusted with the task of running Punjab," the Singh said, adding that Sidhu had also proved to be absolutely incompetent during his stint as a minister in his government.

Singh was quick to post his first reaction in a tweet after Sidhu stepped down. "I told you so... he is not a stable man and not fit for the border state of Punjab," the former CM tweeted.

Amarinder, who is in Delhi on a personal visit, said that by resigning within two months of taking over as the PPCC chief, Sidhu



Former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh arrives at Delhi airport. Prem Nath Pandey

had once again exhibited his "shifty" character. "I have known this boy since his childhood and he has been a loner and can never be a team player," said Amarinder. When asked if he would back former PPCC chief, Sunil Jakhar, for the job, Amarinder said, "He (Jakhar) is very competent and had performed exceedingly well as the party chief".

On Sidhu's resignation, Jakhar tweeted: "It's just not cricket! What stands compromised in this entire 'episode' is the faith reposed in the (outgoing ?) PCC President by the Congress Leadership. No amount of grand standing can justify this breach of trust placing his benefactors in a peculiar predicament."

Amid census calls, data show nearly half of rural homes OBC

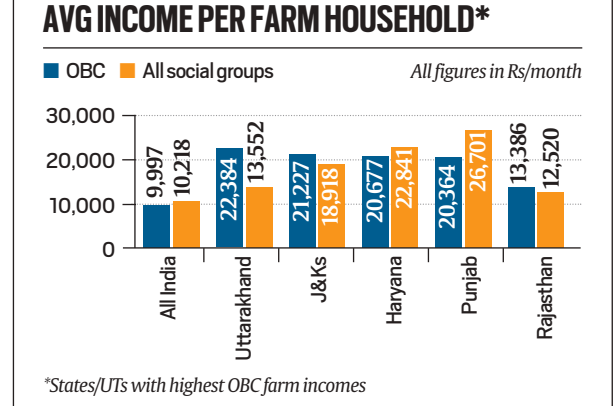
HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

AMID CALLS for a caste census come findings that 44.4 percent of 17.24 crore rural households in the country are from Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and that OBC households are in a majority across rural areas of seven states — Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh — which together send 235 Lok Sabha members to Parliament.

The data is part of Situation Assessment of Agricultural Households and Land Holdings of Households in Rural India, 2019, a survey conducted by the National Statistical Office of the Ministry of Programme Implementation and Statistics, whose results were released earlier this month. The data is for agricultural year 2018-19 — the agriculture year in India is from July to June the following year.

The data shows that of an estimated 17.24 crore rural households, 44.4% were OBCs; 21.6% Scheduled Castes (SC); 12.3% Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 21.7% other social groups. Of the total rural households, 9.3 crore or 54% are agricultural households.

The highest proportion of rural OBC households is in Tamil Nadu (67.7%) and the lowest in Nagaland (0.2%). Apart from Tamil Nadu, in six states — Bihar (58.1%), Telangana (57.4%), Uttar Pradesh (56.3%), Kerala (55.2%), Karnataka (51.6%), Chhattisgarh (51.4%) — OBC households ac-



count for more than half of the rural households. These states are politically crucial as they account for 235 members in the 543-member Lok Sabha.

Besides, four states — Rajasthan (46.8%), Andhra Pradesh (45.8%), Gujarat (45.4%) and Sikkim (45%) — have a higher share of rural OBC households than the all-India figure of 44.4%. In all, 17 states — Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Manipur, Odisha, Haryana, Assam, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, West Bengal, Tripura, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland — have a lower share of rural OBCs households when compared to the national average.

The survey findings show that out of the estimated 9.3 crore agricultural households, 45.8% are OBCs; 15.9% SCs; 14.2% STs and 24.1% from other social groups. The survey also provides data on average monthly income (based on 'paid out expenses' approach) per agricultural household. While the average monthly income of a farm household at the all-India level stood at Rs 10,218 during agriculture year 2018-19, it was lower for OBC agricultural households (Rs 9,977), SC households (Rs 8,142), ST households (Rs 8,979). Agricultural households of 'Other Social Groups', however, recorded an average monthly income of Rs 12,806.

For states, the average monthly income per agricultural household in the OBC category ranged between Rs 5,009 and Rs 22,384 during agriculture year 2018-19. Of the 23 states, for which the income data is available, Uttarakhand recorded the highest average monthly income per OBC agricultural household, while Odisha (Rs 5,009) was at the bottom.

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Faleiro to be inducted in TMC today

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 28

A DAY after he resigned from the Congress and from his seat as the MLA of Navelim in South Goa, former Goa chief minister Luizinho Faleiro arrived in Kolkata on Tuesday. Faleiro and about a dozen other leaders from Goa are set to be inducted in the All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Wednesday.

Those who are expected to

join the TMC on Wednesday with Faleiro include Konkani writer N Shivdas, a Sahitya Akademy award winner, former Goa Congress General Secretary Yatish Naik, former Goa Congress secretary Mario Pinto, former Maharashtra Gomantak Party MLA Lavu Mamedar.

Faleiro, a seven-time MLA and former AICC general secretary, submitted his resignation to the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly on Tuesday and also resigned from the primary mem-

bership of the Congress. In his resignation letter, submitted to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Faleiro wrote that the party's Goa unit had become a "cruel parody of what the Congress stands for".

He wrote: "Led by a coterie of leaders who prioritise personal gains over the responsibility we owe to our people, we have utterly failed to be an effective opposition. I see absolutely no hope or even the will to prevent the collapse of the party..."

As rural Net project lags, IT Ministry's CSC seeks to buy out PSU

AASHISH ARYAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

IN AN unusual proposal involving two State-owned entities, the Common Services Centres (CSC) of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has proposed buying a controlling stake in Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which comes under the Communications Ministry's Department of Telecommunications (DoT), sources in the know of the development said.

CSC is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) of the IT Ministry, as part of which centres in rural areas provide various government services such as the making of PAN and Aadhaar card, registration for passport services, and payment of electricity and other bills. BBNL, on the other hand, is an SPV of the Communications Ministry and was formed for the smooth implementation of BharatNet, the Central government's flagship scheme to provide Internet connectivity to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country.

In the proposal sent directly to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) earlier this year, CSC is learnt to have explicitly cited inefficiencies in the working of

In its official response, CSC denied having 'written any letter to the PMO on the subject', while BBNL said it was 'not aware of any such letter written by CSC'

BBNL as well as in the implementation of the BharatNet project as the reason behind its proposal. It has also said that for the timely completion of the rural Internet connectivity project, CSC must be "allowed to run BBNL with controlling stake", a source said. The Indian Express has seen a copy of the proposal sent by CSC to the PMO.

In its official response, CSC denied having "written any letter to the PMO on the subject", while BBNL said it was "not aware of any such letter written by CSC" and therefore would not like to comment on the development. A mail seeking the PMO's response to the proposal did not elicit any response till the time of going to press.

This, however, is not the first time that CSC and BBNL have found themselves at odds

with each other, especially with regard to the implementation of BharatNet.

In May 2020, BBNL Chairman and Managing Director Sarvesh Singh had written to the Universal Services Obligation Fund (USOF), alleging that CSC had violated a tripartite agreement by shifting equipment used for last-mile internet connectivity without informing BBNL and that this would be a hindrance in providing non-discriminatory access to all telecom and internet service providers.

On its part, CSC had defended its move to shift equipment, alleging that in most cases, the equipment for last-mile connectivity was kept by BBNL at places where there was hardly any power connectivity or security.

Senior officials from the IT Ministry had then said that CSC's move was only aimed at ensuring continuous connectivity, which was being hampered since, at times, the equipment — kept mostly in panchayat buildings or municipal schools — would be locked up by caretakers, who would switch off the electricity mains and leave for the night. Later, in August 2020, the two agencies agreed to bury the hatchet and work together on finishing the

pending projects of BharatNet.

In July this year, however, the state units of BBNL, in their reports to DoT, complained about the "substandard" work done by CSC on the last-mile internet connectivity project, which prompted DoT to write to CSC and ask them to correct the faults in the project as soon as possible.

The BharatNet project, which initially began as the National Optical Fibre Network in October 2011, has faced multiple implementation problems to date, with several missed deadlines. In July this year, the Centre changed its approach, with the Union Cabinet approving a proposal to rope in the private sector to complete the pending work on BharatNet.

The implementation of BharatNet under PPP mode is estimated to cost Rs 29,432 crore, of which the government will spend Rs 19,041 crore as viability gap funding. The government had then said that the PPP model will initially be launched in Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

One dead in late night police raid at Gorakhpur hotel, 6 suspended

ASAD REHMAN
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 28

A 38-YEAR-OLD property dealer from Kanpur died after he was allegedly assaulted by policemen who entered his hotel room in Gorakhpur in the early hours of Tuesday claiming to be looking for criminals.

Six policemen, including the Station House Officer of Ramgarhal police station, have been suspended though police are yet to lodge a case.

While police claimed that Gupta died after a fall in the hotel room, the victim's wife submitted a complaint to the Gorakhpur Superintendent of Police alleging that policemen misbehaved with her husband and, when he objected to their behaviour, "he was assaulted, resulting in serious injuries and his death."

In a statement, Gorakhpur SP Vipin Tada said, "During a check for criminals, police from Ramgarhal police station went to a hotel. Three suspected youths from different cities were staying in one of the rooms. When the police team went there with the hotel manager, in panic, one of the men in the room fell and injured himself. After this, our men got him admitted to a hospital, where he was treated. He died during



Property dealer's kin say he was assaulted

treatment at BRD Hospital. A panel of doctors will do a post-mortem. An investigation will be carried out to find out why the three men were here."

Speaking to The Indian Express on Tuesday evening, Gupta's wife Meenakshi said, "My husband had gone to Gorakhpur for some work. He booked a room in a hotel with two others who were meeting my husband on business. They later told me that my husband was beaten very badly by the policemen."

"I too spoke to him and he said that he has to disconnect the call. He was in a state of panic. He then called my nephew and told him that police are torturing him and taking him to Ramgarhal police station," added Meenakshi, who lived with Gupta and their four-year-old son Aviraj in Kanpur's Barra area. Meenakshi said that despite her complaint, police were yet to lodge a case.

Speaking to reporters in Gorakhpur, Harveer Singh, 31, a resident of Mewat in Haryana, who was in the hotel room with

Gupta, said, "Three of us — Manish Kumar Gupta, Pradeep Kumar and I were staying at Krishna Palace Hotel. Around 12.30 am, the doorbell rang and there were five-six policemen and the boy who worked at the hotel reception. They asked us for our IDs and Gupta asked them why they wanted our IDs so late at night. They started checking my luggage and when I objected, they threatened to arrest me and started slapping me. They dragged me outside and near the lift, I saw them dragging Guptaji. He was bleeding from his mouth. We told them we had come to meet our friend Chandan Sainiji, who was with us 20 minutes before the policemen came. They took Chandan's number from me and confirmed our version with him. Then, they took Gupta ji to some hospital where doctors told them he was serious."

The other occupant of the room, Pradeep Kumar, 34, a resident of Sector 48 in Gurgaon, said that while the policemen were in the room, Gupta called his wife and a relative, informing them about what was happening. "The policemen then slapped Harveer and pushed him out of the room. Harveer heard a loud thud behind him and saw Manish lying on the floor, with blood oozing from his mouth. Police then took Manish to Mansi Hospital. Since he was crit-

ical, he was referred to BRD Medical College." Kumar said he runs an event management business in Gurgaon.

Gorakhpur SP Tada said six policemen, including Inspector of Ramgarhal police station Jagat Narayan Singh, have been suspended. "The suspensions were made in connection with the death. The whole incident will be probed by SP North (Manoj Kumar Awasti)," he said.

Gorakhpur (range) DIG J Ravinder Goud told The Indian Express, "A special drive to carry out checks in hotels, dhabas, etc. was on Monday night. At the (Krishna Palace) hotel, one of the men in the rooms collapsed and became unconscious. He was taken to the hospital, but he couldn't survive. No case has been lodged in the matter yet. The preliminary statement of the hotel caretaker has been taken, and he said the same thing — that the man collapsed." Asking for a murder case to be lodged against the six policemen who "killed my husband", Meenakshi said, "I want a fair investigation. I know the police can't do that. All six policemen should be booked for murder. Who is going to raise my son? I appeal to Yogi and Modiji to help us get justice," she said.

INQUIRY FROM PAVNEET CHADHA, NEW DELHI

Andhra cites quality, starts taking over aided schools and colleges

SREENIVAS JANYALA
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 28

IT IS the end of the road for government-aided private educational institutions in Andhra Pradesh. More than 90 per cent of aided degree colleges have been taken over by the state, and will now be run as government institutions.

The process of attaching grant-in-aid institutions and their staff was started on Monday by the Commissioner of Collegiate Education and Director of School Education.

Education Minister Adim-

ulapu Suresh said employees hired on contract by the grant-in-aid institutions would be redeployed and absorbed in colleges and schools where they were required.

Suresh told The Indian Express that the government had given three options to these institutions: voluntarily withdraw from grant-in-aid benefits; hand over their assets to the government; or run the institutions as private bodies.

A good number of institutions have given up their grant-in-aid status and handed over their staff, while a few have agreed to give up their assets as

well, the minister said. Institutions that do not accept any of these options will lose their recognition.

"The government's intention is to provide quality education to students without their families being burdened. Although welfare schemes such as Amma Vodi, Vidya Deevana, and Vasati Deevana are being provided even to those studying in grant-in-aid institutions, enrollment has not increased. Many are taking government benefits but are not maintaining good standards of teaching," Suresh said.

The committee set up by the government had recommended



A renovated government school in Andhra. Express

taking over all grant-in-aid educational institutions. Of the 133 degree colleges, 125 — almost 93 per cent — have so far surrendered their grant-in-aid status, and assigned staff to the government, officials said. At least seven institutions have agreed to hand over their assets to the government as well. Similarly, 103 out of 122 junior colleges — 84 per cent — have given up their grant-in-aid status; five have voluntarily given their assets to the government along with their staff.

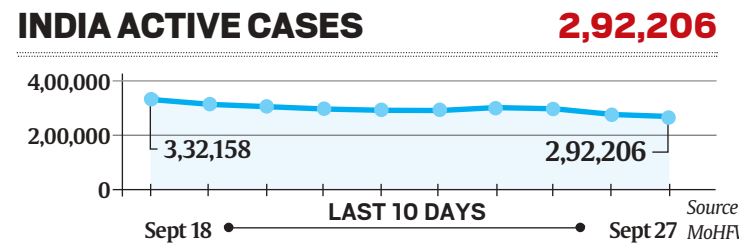
And 1,276 grant-in-aid schools have agreed to give up their status; 100 will give their assets to the government. The

education department will run them as government schools, and none of them will be shut, the minister assured.

Suresh said the problems of teachers hired on contract were being considered as well, and the government would take steps to secure their jobs. A committee had been set up to study the possibilities, and contracted teachers need not worry because the government was committed to strengthening these institutions, he said. Several academics and teachers, however, feel that the government is taking away their option to choose between government and private schools and colleges.

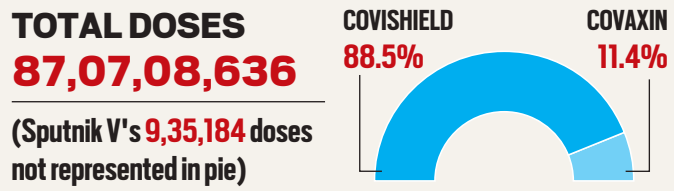
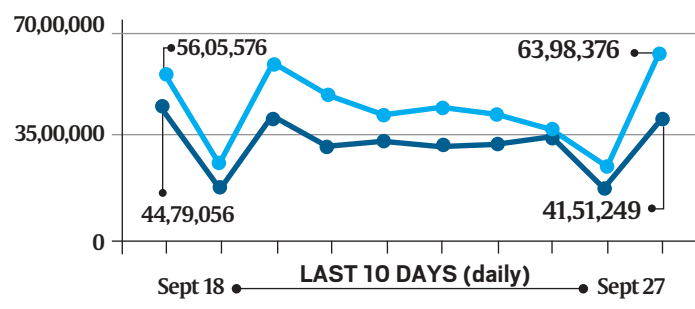
"Government-aided private educational institutions have a good name and recognition; many of them are quite reputed. Parents and teachers are disappointed that this option is being taken away. Government can stop grants to institutions that are purely for profiteering, but allow the reputed ones that maintain good standards," Member of Legislative Council from the teachers' constituency K Narasimha Reddy said.

Mohammed Nazir of the AP Private Teachers' Association said that despite the government's assurances, hundreds of teachers may lose their jobs.



CORONAVIRUS DASHBOARD

TOTAL VACCINATED IN INDIA (at least one dose)
63,96,14,662



DOSES ON SEPT 27 **1,05,49,625**
SEPT 26: 40,77,484 (1ST DOSE: 23,85,201; 2ND: 16,92,283)

Note: The Sept 27 figures in these graphs are based on the government updates on Sept 28. Source: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, updated at 11 pm on Sept 28

The burden of climate change on children born today

IN A STUDY published in the journal *Science*, researchers have found that children born today will be hit much harder by extreme climate events than today's adults. During his or her lifetime, a child born in 2021 is likely to experience on average twice as many wildfires, two to three times more droughts, almost three times more river floods and crop failures and about seven times more heat waves compared to a person who is, say, 60 years old today, the researchers have found.

under the Paris Climate Agreement, this effect could be limited to 22%, which is just seven percentage points more than the global land area that is affected today.

The release quoted lead author of the study, Wim Thiery from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, as saying: "We even have strong reasons to think that our calculations underestimate the actual increases that young people will face."

In terms of experiencing droughts, heatwaves, river floods and crop failures, people under the age of 40 today will live what the researchers call "an unprecedented life".

The release quoted Postdam Institute for Climate Impact Research scientist Katja Frieler, who is coordinating ISIMIP and is a co-author of the study, as saying: "The good news: we can indeed take much of the climate burden from our children's shoulders if we limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by phasing out fossil fuel use. If we increase climate protection from current emission reduction pledges and get in line with a 1.5-degree target, we will reduce young people's potential exposure to extreme events on average by 24% globally. For North America it's minus 26%, for Europe and Central Asia minus 28%, and in the Middle East and North Africa even minus 39%. This is a huge opportunity."



NEW RESEARCH

The study is based on data from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). A press release issued by the Postdam Institute for Climate Impact Research said that under a scenario of current "insufficient" climate policies, dangerous extreme heatwave events, which affect about 15% of the global land area today, could triple to 46% by the end of this century. However, if countries are able to follow through with their climate policies as decided

mate burden from our children's shoulders if we limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius by phasing out fossil fuel use. If we increase climate protection from current emission reduction pledges and get in line with a 1.5-degree target, we will reduce young people's potential exposure to extreme events on average by 24% globally. For North America it's minus 26%, for Europe and Central Asia minus 28%, and in the Middle East and North Africa even minus 39%. This is a huge opportunity."

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

Digital Health ID and you

The newly launched Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission will involve a unique health ID for every citizen. How will it help you get treatment at hospitals across the country, and how can you register?

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ON MONDAY, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), saying it has the "potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's healthcare facilities". The flagship digital initiative involves the creation of not just a unique health ID for every citizen, but also a digital healthcare professionals and facilities registry.

What is the unique health ID, and how does one get it?

If a person wants to be part of the ABDM, she must create a health ID, which is a randomly generated 14-digit number. The ID will be broadly used for three purposes: unique identification, authentication, and threading of the beneficiary's health records, only with their informed consent, across multiple systems and stakeholders.

One can get a health ID by self-registration on the portal or by downloading the ABDM Health Records app on one's mobile. Additionally, one can also request the creation of a health ID at a participating health facility, which may include government or private hospitals, community health centres, and wellness centres of the government across India.

The beneficiary will also have to set up a Personal Health Records (PHR) address for consent management, and for future sharing of health records.

What is a PHR address?

It is a simple self-declared username, which the beneficiary is required to sign into a Health Information Exchange and Consent Manager (HIE-CM). Each health ID will require linkage to a consent manager to enable sharing of health records data.

An HIE-CM is an application that enables sharing and linking of personal health records for a user. At present, one can use the health ID to sign up on the HIE-CM; the National Health Authority (NHA), however, says multiple consent managers are likely to be available for patients to choose from in the near future.

What does one need to register for a health ID?

Currently, ABDM supports health ID creation via mobile or Aadhaar. The official web-



The unique health ID will be a randomly generated 14-digit number. An applicant can register with her Aadhaar number or mobile number. National Digital Health Mission

site states that ABDM will soon roll out features that will support health ID creation with a PAN card or a driving licence. For health ID creation through mobile or Aadhaar, the beneficiary will be asked to share details on name, year of birth, gender, address, mobile number/Aadhaar.

Is Aadhaar mandatory?

No, it is voluntary. One can use one's mobile number for registration, without Aadhaar.

Can I use my Aadhaar number if it is not linked to my mobile number?

If the beneficiary chooses the option of using her Aadhaar number, an OTP will be sent to the mobile number linked to the Aadhaar. However, if she has not linked it to her mobile, the beneficiary has to visit the nearest facility and opt for biometric authentication using Aadhaar number. After successful authentication, she will get her health ID at the participating facility.

Are personal health records secure?

The NHA says ABDM does not store any of the beneficiary health records. The records are stored with healthcare information providers as per their "retention policies", and are "shared" over the ABDM network "with encryption mechanisms" only after the beneficiary express consent.

Can I delete my health ID and exit the platform?

Yes, the NHA says ABDM, supports such a feature. Two options are available: a user can permanently delete or temporarily deactivate her health ID.

On deletion, the unique health ID will be permanently deleted, along with all demographic details. The beneficiary will not be able to retrieve any information tagged to that health ID in the future, and will never be able to access ABDM applications or any health records over the ABDM network with the deleted ID.

On deactivation, the beneficiary will lose access to all ABDM applications only for the period of deactivation. Until she reactivates her health ID, she will not be able to share the ID at any health facility or share health records over the ABDM network.

What facilities are available to beneficiaries?

You can access your digital health records right from admission through treatment and discharge. Second, you can access and link your personal health records with your health ID to create a longitudinal health history.

What other features will be rolled out?

Upcoming new features will enable access to verified doctors across the country. The ben-

eficiary can create a health ID for her child, and digital health records right from birth. Third, she can add a nominee to access her health ID and view or help manage the personal health records. Also, there will be much inclusive access, with the health ID available to people who don't have phones, using assisted methods.

How do private players get associated with a government digital ID?

The NHA has launched the NDHM Sandbox: a digital architecture that allows helps private players to be part of the National Digital Health Ecosystem as health information providers or health information users.

The private player sends a request to NHA to test its system with the Sandbox environment. The NHA then gives the private player a key to access the Sandbox environment and the health ID application programming interface (API). The private player then has to create a Sandbox health ID, integrate its software with the API; and register the software to test link records and process health data consent requests. Once the system is tested, the system will ask for a demo to the NHA to move forward. After a successful demo, the NHA certifies and empanels the private hospital.

Why is this initiative significant?

As the Prime Minister highlighted on Monday, the initiative has the potential to "increase the ease of living" along with "simplifying the procedures in hospitals".

At present, the use of digital health ID in hospitals is currently limited to only one hospital or to a single group, and mostly concentrated in large private chains. The new initiative will bring the entire ecosystem on a single platform.

For instance, if a patient is getting treated at AIIMS, Delhi, and wants to move to another hospital in a different city, and if that hospital is also on the centralised ecosystem, the patient does not have to carry physical health records or files of several years of treatment, as the medical history is readily available.

The system also makes it easier to find doctors and specialists nearest to you. Currently, many patients rely on recommendations from family and friends for medical consultation, but now the new platform will tell the patient who to reach out to, and who is the nearest. Also, labs and drug stores will be easily identified for better tests using the new platform.

Anti-defection law, for independent legislators

CHAKSHUROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

JIGNESH MEWANI, an independent MLA from Gujarat, has said he has joined the Congress "in spirit" as he could not formally do so, having been elected as an independent.

The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, popularly known as the anti-defection law, specifies the circumstances under which changing of political parties by legislators invites action under the law. It includes situations in which an independent MLA, too, joins a party after the election.

The 3 scenarios

The law covers three scenarios with respect to shifting of political parties by an MP or an MLA. The first is when a member elected on the ticket of a political party "voluntarily gives up" membership of such a party or votes in the House against the wishes of the party. The second is when a legislator who has won his or her seat as an independent candidate joins a political party after the election.

In both these instances, the legislator loses the seat in the legislature on changing (or joining) a party.

The third scenario relates to nominated MPs. In their case, the law gives them six months to join a political party, after being nominated. If they join a party after such time, they stand to lose their seat in the House.

Covering independents

In 1969, a committee chaired by Home Minister Y B Chavan examined the issue of defection. It observed that after the 1967 general elections, defections changed the political scene in India: 176 of 376 independent legislators later joined a political party. However, the committee did not recommend any action against independent legislators. A member disagreed with the committee on the issue of independents and wanted them disqualified if they joined a political party.

In the absence of a recommendation on this issue by the Chavan committee, the initial attempts at creating the anti-defection law (1969, 1973) did not cover independent legislators joining political parties. The next legisla-



Jignesh Mevani with Rahul Gandhi at AIICC HQ in New Delhi. AIICC

tive attempt, in 1978, allowed independent and nominated legislators to join a political party once. But when the Constitution was amended in 1985, independent legislators were prevented from joining a political party and nom-

inated legislators were given six months' time.

Disqualification

Under the anti-defection law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature. The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made.

As a result, Speakers of legislatures have sometimes acted very quickly or have delayed the decision for years — and have been accused of political bias in both situations. Last year, the Supreme Court observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in three months' time.

In West Bengal, a disqualification petition against Mukul Roy, BJP MLA now back in the Trinamool Congress, has been pending with the Assembly Speaker since June 17. On Tuesday, the Calcutta High Court referred to the Supreme Court order, observed that the three-month window has now passed, and directed the Speaker to decide on the petition against Roy by October 7.

Chakshu Roy is head of outreach at PRS Legislative Research



(Above and left) The 434-km Srinagar-Leh road connecting the Kashmir valley with Ladakh is snowed out at the 3,530-metre Zojila pass for four to six months every year. Shuaib Masoodi/Archive

KASHMIR TO LADAKH, ALL YEAR ROUND

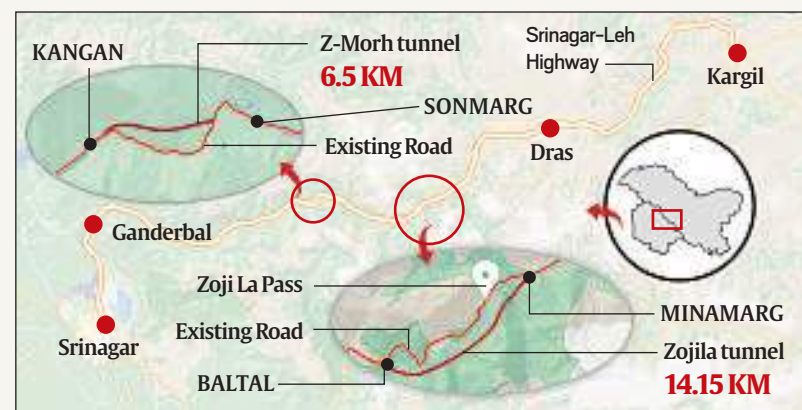
Government is pushing to complete the massive Zojila tunnel, its showpiece infra project in Kashmir and Ladakh, before Republic Day, 2024. Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari inspected the west portal of the tunnel in Baltal on Tuesday.



LONGEST ROAD TUNNEL

At 14.15 km, the Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel, and Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel. A connecting tunnel from Z-Morh on NH1 to the Zojila tunnel will be built in the Zojila Ghats between Sonmarg and Kargil. The work on the entire 33-km span is divided into two divisions.

The first part involves development and expansion of the 18.475-km highway between Z-Morh to Zojila. A 3-km stretch will be expanded; the rest will be newly de-



veloped. The highway will have 2 twin-tube tunnels, 5 bridges, and 2 snow galleries.

The second part is building the 14.15-km Zojila tunnel itself — 9.5 m wide, 7.57 m high, 2 lanes, in shape of a horseshoe.

In addition, a 2,350-m concrete 'cut and cover' tunnel will be built, along with

3 ventilation caverns/shafts. Works also include construction of portals, control buildings, ventilation buildings and muck disposables along the route.

TWO UTs CLOSER TOGETHER

When complete, the Zojila tunnel will



At Baltal on Tuesday. PTI

allow travel between Srinagar and Ladakh throughout the year. The distance from Baltal to Minamarg will come down to 13 km from the present 40 km, travel time is expected to be cut by an hour and a half, and the journey is expected to be less strenuous. The project is expected to lead to integrated development of both Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR



The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

A CLICK AWAY

Digital health mission is much-needed. Challenges of language of communication, privacy, doctor shortage must be addressed

INSTEAD OF CARRYING their medical records in polythene bags, Indians will be able to use IT-enabled tools to share prescriptions, blood test reports and X-ray diagnostics with doctors, irrespective of where they were generated. That's the thinking behind the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday. It involves the creation of a unique health ID for every citizen and a digital registry that aims to facilitate seamless interactions between healthcare experts. This is a much-needed intervention given that management of chronic diseases has become a critical public health challenge in the past 15 years. Data portability could expedite the treatment of the critically ill, especially those who suffer from more than one ailment. The severity of Covid-19 effects amongst those with comorbidities has highlighted the need for a repository that alerts a doctor to a patient's medical history at the click of a computer mouse. In the long run, the creation of a health record system could improve public health monitoring and advance evidence-based policymaking. The attainment of these objectives will, however, depend on the manner in which policymakers navigate challenges that stem from the long-standing failings of the Indian healthcare sector. It will also require them to be mindful of the ethical issues germane to the use of digital data.

Globally, the trust with e-health innovations has been a mixed one. The UK's National Health Service was one of the first to deploy a digital system to make patients' records accessible to doctors across the country. The programme did not earn the trust of doctors and failed to adequately address issues related to data confidentiality. Aborted in 2011, the project is regarded as amongst the most expensive failures in IT history. In the US and Australia, where digital healthcare has enjoyed a relatively better outing, the creation of a patient and physician-centric e-healthcare ecosystem remains a work in progress. The US medical system has witnessed regular debates on what must be jotted down in hospital records and prescriptions. The task of data entry — a lot of which might not always be relevant to clinical care — has added to the American doctor's burden and is seen by experts as one of the major reasons for the high rate of physician burnout in the country. Evolving a language of communication in the digital health ecosystem could pose unforeseen problems in India given the country's diversity and its chronic shortage of doctors, especially in public health centres — the main source of medical care for a vast number of people in the country. Poor internet speeds could make data entry an onerous proposition for the rural healthcare provider.

The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission gives patients the option to choose the records they want to share. However, given the asymmetrical relations between health service providers — doctors, hospitals, pharma and insurance companies — and the absence of a data protection law, breaching of patient confidentiality cannot be ruled out. In the coming months and years, policymakers will be watched for how they address these challenges.

PICTURING LABOUR

Regularly available, credible data on formal and informal work force is needed to inform policy, plug the gaps

ON MONDAY, THE Ministry of Labour and Employment released the findings of the new Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the first quarter of the ongoing financial year. As most labour market data in India comes with a considerable lag, making it too late for any meaningful input in policymaking, the new survey is a welcome step towards filling the information void that surrounds the labour market. Regularly available, high quality, credible labour market data forms a valuable input. It provides policymakers not only a sense of the extent of labour market distress during periods of economic upheaval, but also an understanding of the effectiveness of government policies.

The quarterly survey provides data on employment in nine non-farm sectors of the economy — namely manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation and restaurants, information technology/business process outsourcing and financial services. These nine sectors account for roughly 85 per cent of total employment in units employing 10 or more workers. According to this survey, organised sector employment stood at 3.08 crore during April-June 2021, up from 2.37 crore in 2013-14. This translates to an annual growth rate of just 3.3 per cent. While most sectors saw a rise in employment during this period, employment in trade, and accommodation and restaurants — sectors that are more likely to have been hit by the pandemic — was down by 25 per cent and 13 per cent respectively. In fact, as per the survey, employment actually fell in 27 per cent of the establishments due to the pandemic. However, the survey also says, during the period of the national lockdown last year (March 25-June 30, 2020), 81 per cent of workers received full wages, 16 per cent received reduced wages, while 3 per cent were denied wages. How this demand-side snapshot provided by an establishment-based survey reconciles with supply-side data from household surveys remains to be seen.

As the QES covers only establishments with at least 10 workers, it provides data essentially on the formal economy. Considering that informal workers (with no written contracts, and benefits) account for roughly 90 per cent of the labour force in India, the QES thus provides only a partial glimpse of the labour market. Only when data on the unorganised sector (establishments employing nine or less workers) is captured — this forms the second part of the framework of the labour bureau's establishment-based surveys — will a more comprehensive picture of the labour market emerge.

UP IN SMOKE

New research contradicts earlier findings on smoking and Covid-19. Smokers, everywhere, lose a silver lining

S PARE A THOUGHT for the smokers. Last year, at the height of the first wave of the pandemic, researchers — first in France, later in China and India — published studies that seemed to indicate smokers were at less risk of contracting Covid, and when they did, experienced less severe symptoms. In France, there was reportedly a rush on tobaccoists by non-smokers hoping to get a little extra protection. For smokers everywhere, here, at last, was a justification — as much for themselves as for those they have been shunned by for the smell and cloud of carcinogens they spread — to take another drag. Now, unfortunately, they have been robbed of the only silver lining that pierced the haze and the tar all too briefly.

A recent study in England has collated observational and genetic data on Covid-19 and tobacco use and found that compared to those who had never smoked, smokers were about 80 per cent more likely to be hospitalised after contracting the virus. A section of scientists has questioned the earlier studies, claiming that some of the researchers had ties to the tobacco industry.

Not surprisingly, the disappointment among tobacco addicts is palpable. Unlike other substances — alcohol, marijuana and more notorious narcotics — smoking doesn't really get you high. The social cost for the addiction is hardly commensurate to the pleasure — train and plane journeys have you jonesing, you're shunned to dark corners outside bars and sometimes, even from your own homes to service the need without bothering others. All this, while it burns a huge hole in your pocket and you slowly but surely watch your health deteriorate. From France, the birthplace of existentialism, there was hope that smoking had a purpose. From England, the birthplace of utilitarianism, that hope has been taken away.

Enlarging a window

Four geopolitical developments present India with opportunities that outweigh risks



SHYAM SARAN

A NUMBER OF important developments has taken place over the past several weeks. They may appear disconnected but in fact add up to a significant shift in regional and global geopolitics.

One, the withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan and the complete takeover of the country by the Taliban; two, significant domestic political changes in China, including the ideological and regulatory assault against its dynamic private high-tech companies and now its real estate companies. This has heightened risk perception among international business and industry who have hitherto seen China as a huge commercial opportunity.

Three, the announcement of the Australia-UK and US (AUKUS) alliance which represents a major departure in US strategy by its commitment to enable Australia to join a handful of countries with nuclear submarines. The alliance reflects a clear strategic choice by Australia that it will be firmly on the US side of the fence despite its considerable economic and commercial equities in China; and four, the convening of the foundation (India, Australia, Japan and the US) Quad physical summit in Washington, reflecting a major step towards its formalisation as an influential grouping in the Indo-Pacific going beyond security.

These four developments, taken together, present India with both risks but also with opportunities. It is my sense that the opportunities outweigh the risks.

The Afghan situation is a setback for India in the short run. The political capital and economic presence it had built up in the country over the past two decades has been substantially eroded. The Taliban government is dominated by more headline and pro-Pakistani elements. They will help deliver on the Pakistani agenda of preventing a revival of Indian diplomatic presence and developmental activity in Afghanistan.

In the longer run, it seems unlikely that the Taliban will give up its obscurantist and extremist agenda. This may lead to domestic inter-ethnic and sectarian conflict. The unwillingness of the Taliban to cut its links with various jihadi groups, including those targeting Afghanistan's neighbours, may re-

duce regional and international fears over cross-border terrorism. This would deny both Pakistan and China the anticipated payoff from the US withdrawal.

India's response should be to bide its time, strengthen its defences against an uptick in cross-border terrorism, keep its faith with the ordinary people of Afghanistan, provide shelter to those who have sought refuge and join in any international effort to deliver humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

Domestic political change in China is taking an ideological and populist direction. The country's vibrant private sector is being reined in while the State Owned Enterprises (SOE) are back in a central role. After the tech sector, it is the large real estate sector which is facing regulatory assault. This is leading to deepening concern among foreign investors, including those who have long been champions of long-term engagement with China. It is not coincidental that while in Washington, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had meetings with the CEOs of Blackstone and Qualcomm, both of which are heavily invested in China but are reconsidering their exposure there. If India plays its cards well, this time round there could be significant capital and technology flows from the US, Japan and Europe diverted towards India because it offers scale comparable to China.

Since India has benign partnerships with the US, Japan and Europe, there are no political constraints on such flows. The constraints are policy unpredictability, regulatory rigidities and bureaucratic red tape in India. Some of these issues are being addressed, such as dropping of retrospective taxation. But there is still a long way to go. In this context, India should consider rejoining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). In addition, applying to join the more ambitious Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) would signal India's determination to play itself back into the centre of the Asian economy. India should also revive its application to join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the third economic pillar of the regional economy. Some bold initiatives are required

to take advantage of the window of opportunity that has opened. It is a narrow window with a very short shelf life. If grasped with both hands, then it could deliver double-digit growth for India for the next two or three decades. This will shrink the asymmetry of power with China and expand India's diplomatic options.

The AUKUS and progress made by the Quad serve to raise the level of deterrence against China. To the extent that China becomes more preoccupied with threats on its eastern flank, it could move to reduce tensions on its western flank, chiefly with India. Whether this is possible requires careful probing through continued engagement with China at different levels. This is a diplomatic challenge which we are well equipped to handle. The AUKUS is useful since it has now become the core of the US's Indo-Pacific strategy. China will be more focused on its activities. The Quad now represents, from the Chinese perspective, a second order threat. This suits us since we are not ready to embrace a full-fledged military alliance which will constrain our room for manoeuvre.

This scenario could change, rapidly. China has given up the expectation that it could unify Taiwan through peaceful and political means, including through closer economic integration. The "one country two systems" model in Hong Kong which was on offer to Taiwan, has lost its credibility after the recent crackdown on civil liberties in Hong Kong. China may advance its forcible takeover of Taiwan before the AUKUS gets consolidated. The nuclear submarines for Australia may not be built and deployed for several years. We may, therefore, be entering a period of enhanced uncertainty and danger in the Indo-Pacific. India should not be caught off guard. Failure of deterrence in the Indo-Pacific will have consequences beyond the region and change the geopolitical context for India.

For now, let us focus on what we can do to advance India's economic prospects, for which the times are unexpectedly more propitious.

The writer is former foreign secretary and senior fellow, CPR

THE ATLANTIC NIÑO EFFECT

Monsoon forecasters need to factor in its role in rainfall deficits



RAGHU MURTUGUDDE

LAST MONTH, farmers from Madhya Pradesh threatened to take IMD to court for the inaccurate monsoon forecast this year. A question was also raised in Parliament about whether the Arctic warming had led to an erratic monsoon this year.

The onset of monsoon 2021 began on June 3, almost on time but subsequently, rainfall deficit of up to 30 per cent were seen in Kerala, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeast and Odisha. The rest of the country is barely normal with deficit being less than 20 per cent.

There is no El Niño brewing in the Pacific. Instead, a return of the La Niña is forecasted by most models for later this year. Considering that 2020 was also a La Niña year, one would expect monsoon 2021 to be above normal. The Arctic can affect late-season rainfall and September has seen slightly above normal rain across India. But what can explain the deficits thus far this season?

It is El Niño's little cousin in the Atlantic, known as the Atlantic Niño, or the Atlantic Zonal Mode. Every few years, from June to August, there is a warming in the eastern equatorial Atlantic, which does not get as much attention as its big brother El Niño. In 2021, Atlantic Niño has made an appearance. Sea surface temperatures in the eastern Atlantic have remained more than a degree higher than normal this summer.

Its impact on the monsoon has been

known since 2014 when a study led by INCOIS showed that the number of low-pressure systems is greatly reduced by the Atlantic Niño, leading to deficit monsoons. IITM Pune researchers have shown that the IMD prediction system is deficient in predicting the Atlantic Niño and, therefore, its effect on the Indian monsoon. Monsoon 2021 is a clear example of this missed link.

This year has seen a sharply lower number of low-pressure systems, which contribute up to 60 per cent of the seasonal total rainfall over the core monsoon zone.

Monsoon predictions are a monumental challenge, especially when it comes to the spatial distribution and the northward migration of the monsoon trough. Forecast models tend to rely heavily on El Niño for monsoon predictions. But only about 50 per cent of the dry years are explained by El Niño. How can monsoons be predicted during non-El Niño years? Clearly, Atlantic Niño is a significant player in monsoon evolution and models and forecasters must pay attention to this Atlantic teleconnection.

Low-pressure systems or LPSs originate in the northern Bay of Bengal and are three-10 times more in number during the active period of the monsoon.

The Atlantic and Indian Oceans are not directly connected in the tropics via the ocean. The Atlantic Niño affects the mon-

soon by producing atmospheric waves, which propagate into the Indian Ocean. These waves affect air temperatures over the Indian Ocean and influence the land-ocean thermal contrast as well as LPSs. The biggest rainfall deficits from the Atlantic Niño tend to occur over the Western Ghats and the core monsoon zone. The deficit patterns are a tell-tale sign of the Atlantic Niño influence.

Overall, monsoon prediction skill has gone up in the IMD but even a 70 per cent accuracy means the forecasts will be wrong 30 per cent of the time.

Many of the Atlantic Niños occur during non-El Niño years and this offers a window of opportunity to increase forecast skills based on the accurate prediction of the Atlantic Niño. Indian scientists from INCOIS have argued that the Atlantic Niño is in fact predictable up to three months in advance.

The next version of the forecast system will hopefully be able to capture this predictability.

No forecasts will ever be 100 per cent accurate. Farmers are well aware of that and will continue to brave the risks every single cropping season. Climate scientists are also aware of the monsoon prediction challenge and they will continue to try to improve monsoon forecasts.

The writer is professor, CMNS-Atmospheric & Oceanic Science, University of Maryland

SEPTEMBER 29, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

IMF LOAN

INDIA'S APPLICATION FOR \$ 5 billion in SDRs will be considered by the executive body of the International Monetary Fund on November 9, the fund's managing director Jacques de Larosiere told Finance Minister R Venkataraman. The staff has more or less agreed on the terms. It is rarely that the terms agreed on by the country and managing director are altered by the board. It is assumed that whatever be the public stance of the USA and whatever the US treasury officials might be leaking to the press, in actual practice there will be no problems. Venkataraman told officials that he cannot disclose the conditions to the

press before they are placed before Parliament.

ILLEGAL ARREST

TWO BIHAR YOUTHS arrested nine days ago for an alleged conspiracy to kill the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi were ordered released on bail by metropolitan magistrate Jaswant Singh who observed that their very arrest "appears to be illegal". The magistrate, however, directed that the two suspects be produced before a Bihar court on September 30 in connection with a dacoity case. Delhi police brought Kameshwar Prasad Singh and Ganesh Dutt from Hajipur to the capital on September 16.

PM TALKS PEACE

PRIME MINISTER INDIRA Gandhi has warned of the dangers posed by the revival of Cold War postures in India's immediate neighbourhood. She was referring to the massive acquisition of arms by Pakistan. She regretted that in a world rich with natural resources and with significant scientific discoveries, the vast knowledge was put to destructive purposes.

PILOT ENGINES

A PILOT ENGINE will precede all express and mail trains half-an-hour before their departure during the night in Punjab.



Learning from the farmers

Ten months of a tenacious movement has stalled erosion of democracy, enabled a new coalition. Going beyond ideas of productivity and subsidies, it must plant a new idea of Indian agriculture



A R VASAVI

MARKING 10 MONTHS since the start of the farmers' movement against the three draconian Farm Acts, demonstrations were held all over India, including the heart of the farmers' movement outside Delhi. In their tenacity, outreach and representation, the agitating farmers and the movement signal not only a historic moment for agrarian India but have also laid out several lessons for us.

Far from the Marxian maxim that dismisses their mobilising capacities and considers them to be a "sack of potatoes", the farmers have combined forces to challenge the state and its depredations against them and the nation. The movement now seeks to address not only issues of agricultural policy but also that of the decline of democratic structures and processes. The conduct of the Kisan Sansad (farmers' parliament) will long be recognised for the content, process and decorum with which farmers and others made arguments and presentations. It may not be out of place to record that the farmers' movement has stalled the erosion of democracy in India.

In ignoring their demands and then deploying punitive, violent and anti-democratic strategies against the farmers, the state has highlighted its devaluation of agriculture and agriculturists. That the current body of elected representatives does not represent the interests of the majority, that is the farmers, is explicit in the blatant disregard and violation of farmers' interests and demands. In sum, the failure to address farmers' grievances will be the hallmark of the failure of the NDA government.

Barring a few newspapers and television channels, the mainstream media has not only blocked out news and updates of the movement but has resorted to spreading disinformation and calumny against the movement. The media has largely succumbed to the dictates of the state and corporate interests and has failed in its democratic responsibilities. In deploying their own media to disseminate information and to represent themselves, the farmers have not only become media-savvy but have indicated that sharing information and open communication are key to democratic movements.

The strategies that the farmers' movement has evolved are based on principles of non-violence and non-cooperation. It has shown the capacity to be well-organised and collaborate across several domains and actors. The movement has engaged in humanitarian acts that highlight and celebrate not only the Sikh practice of *sewa* or service but also bring to the fore the leaders' abilities to uphold the principles of peace and tolerance even during times of distress and violence.

Either ignored or invisibilised until now, women who are the backbone of India's agriculture have been given voice, agency and visibility through the movement. This gain will go a long way in addressing the gender bias that has been built into rural culture and the agrarian economy. The nation may now see the emergence of some young women



C R Sasikumar

farm leaders on both the regional and national political stages.

The farmers' movement has articulated and strengthened a new coalition that now consists of farmers, workers, students, Dalits, and civil society members. Years of fragmenting political-economic agendas have not seen the emergence of broad-based interest groups forming coalitions. The farmers' movement has broken this insulation, and future collaborations and sharing of concerns are possibilities.

Urban middle-class and elite indifference to farmers' issues continues. The silos that the urban middle and upper classes live in, the biased mainstream media, and the assured supply of food and other resources have ensured this. Only further exposure of these classes to the overall iniquitous and anti-rural and anti-agricultural political economies of the nation may help overcome their biases. It is this class of citizens that needs to be better engaged with so that they also become supporters of the farmers' movement.

The farmers' movement has received global media attention and also interest from the marginalised small farmers of the US, the green farming community of Europe and other countries. Its ability to challenge the hegemony of corporate agriculture or agribusiness and to find a way forward on its own terms will be closely watched and studied. The possibility of the farmers' movement to evolve and institute an alternative to corporatised agriculture or agri-business, both

The current impasse between the farmers' movement and the central government of India indicates the need to re-assign agricultural issues to state level and to return agriculture to its constitutional status as a state subject in the federal system. Building on this, it is time for all policymakers and farmers to recognise that neither populist policies nor submission to corporate interests, such as the three Farm Acts, will resolve the extant and deep problems that beset rural and agrarian India.

national and global, will be key.

The current impasse between the farmers' movement and the central government indicates the need to re-assign agricultural issues to state level and to return agriculture to its constitutional status as a state subject in the federal system. Building on this, it is time for all policymakers and farmers to recognise that neither populist policies nor submission to corporate interests, such as the three Farm Acts, will resolve the deep problems that beset rural and agrarian India. The first step towards doing this is for Parliament to declare all three Farm Acts as null and void.

Finally, in extending the strength, tenacity, and vision that the farm leaders have developed in engaging with and sustaining this long and important movement, they must also articulate and promote detailed alternative visions and ideas for agriculture. No longer can the existing system of state-based subsidies or corporate and purely market-oriented approaches do. Going beyond the norms of productivity and subsidies, new imaginaries that focus on seeing the rural and the agricultural as sites to realise social justice, ecological sustainability, economic stability and political representation will be required. In all of these, farmers and farm leaders must commit to new possibilities in which the rights of farmers as citizens — and not as supplicants or subjects — are recognised.

The writer is a social anthropologist working with the Punarchith Collective in Karnataka

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The daily grind of a largely secular and materialist age — and a digital revolution which has made it far harder to switch off from the world — seems to have conferred a certain cachet on silence, spirituality and solitude." —THE GUARDIAN

BJP's Patel conundrum

Revamped Gujarat ministry neither takes care of electoral arithmetic nor addresses socio-economic problems. It provides opportunity for Opposition



SHARIK LALIWALA AND CHRISTOPHE JAFFRELOT

THE SUDDEN CHANGE in Gujarat's politics, brought about by the appointment of Bhupendra Patel as the state's CM, is reminiscent of the political scientist Rob Jenkins's term for India's economic liberalisation process — "reform by stealth". This ministerial formation indicates the centralisation of power in the BJP that has left senior leaders furious and upset. However, this "governance by stealth" approach, with a largely inexperienced ministry, does little to control the damage done to BJP's image due to the mismanagement of the state's public health system during the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic. More importantly, with the state election scheduled in late 2022, it neither takes care of electoral arithmetic nor addresses the socio-economic problems in the region.

To begin with, the party has reinforced the status quo in terms of caste. From the mid-1990s, when the BJP came to power in Gujarat, the dominant castes — Patels, Brahmins, Banias, and Rajputs — with less than 30 per cent share in the state's population have held at least two-thirds of the cabinet portfolios. According to the Ashoka University-Sciences Po SPINPER dataset, in the minister of state positions, their share has remained between 43 and 67 per cent. In the 1990s, most CMs were Patels, and despite the removal of one of their own, Keshubhai Patel, from the post of CM, the Patels continued to occupy at least 30 per cent of the cabinet portfolios in the 2000s and 2010s. This time, too, 60 per cent of the cabinet ministers are from the dominant castes. The powerful ministries are with the dominant castes. For example, two Brahmin ministers are in charge of finance, revenue, energy and petrochemical departments, whereas a Bania-Jain and Patels (including the CM) control the influential security portfolios (like home), agriculture, industries, mines and minerals, ports, Narmada, and education, to name a few. Barring one OBC minister, all OBC-SC-ST ministers have been allotted departments with low budgets such as social justice and rights, welfare of SC/ST and women.

The status quo may not revive the BJP's waning appeal amongst Patels, a committed core group of BJP voters that has begun to shift to the Congress in rural areas and, of late, to the Aam Aadmi Party in the urban, lower-middle-class peripheries. Their approach to viewing the Patel problem purely from the lens of representation is faulty. This group has always had more MLAs and ministers than their population share. Even at their lowest in 1985, they contributed 17 per cent of Gujarat's legislators, a few percentage points higher than their population estimated at 12 per cent in the last caste census of 1931. Patels have contributed at least one-quarter of the party's MLAs, sometimes reaching as high as one-third, since the 1990s. Just before the

Patel movement for their inclusion in the OBC quota found articulation, the community's representation peaked with 51 MLAs in the state after the 2012 election.

The Patel conundrum — a problem that afflicts the larger rural side of Gujarat and other states — is symptomatic of dwindling incomes and youth unemployment. In their paper on peasant society in Gujarat, anthropologists Alice Tilche and Edward Simpson argue that "the hierarchy [in rural Gujarat's marriage market] once ordered by land and agricultural adroitness has been replaced by a league of nations [through migration to places like US, UK, Canada] and graded shades of white collars." On this crucial socio-economic front, not only does the BJP fail to enact concrete policies but its representation argument too is flawed: The party has come to like a certain kind of Patel, the one who is urban and industrialist. The appointment of Bhupendra Patel, a real estate businessperson who headed the two most influential urban bodies of Gujarat (Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and the city's urban development authority), as CM merely confirms the capture of the Gujarati state by urban elites.

Indeed, this "governance by stealth" approach instead of weakening the Opposition might provide them with an opportunity to organise the deprived castes and classes in rural areas through a narrative on Gujarat's faltering socio-economic record. This strategy proved beneficial to the Congress and its allies in the 2017 assembly election: They won 59 of the state's rural constituencies that have less than 25 per cent urban areas — a strike rate of over 65 per cent. But, in semi-urban and urban seats, this strike rate was under 25 per cent where the opposition alliance won just 22 of the 91 seats. However, a division of labour on rural-urban lines between the Congress and AAP might remedy these dramatically contrasting electoral prospects, as AAP has gained some appeal amongst qualified but underpaid youths in Gujarati cities, especially Surat.

But to go by the signals from the outgoing senior ministers, the BJP will concentrate on the agenda of Hindu supremacy for the 2022 election, without addressing the state's poor socio-economic track record. In the last few years, the party has strengthened laws that make interfaith marriages and property sale between Hindus and Muslims in urban Gujarat nearly impossible (although the new amendments to these laws have been stayed by the High Court). For example, the outgoing deputy CM, Nitin Patel, remarked that "this country's laws, Constitution are secure only until Hindus are in a majority." Just a day before his resignation, former CM Vijay Rupani listed "the law to save cows from slaughter" and "stop love jihad" as his government's achievements, after earlier having promised to contest the HC stay on the anti-conversion law in the Supreme Court. Can the BJP rely on identity politics and ignore socio-economic issues again in 2022?

Laliwala is an independent scholar on politics and history of Gujarat; Jaffrelot is senior research fellow at CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS, Paris, and professor of Indian Politics and Sociology at King's India Institute, London

Make hydrogen in India

R&D investments can help tap potential of this 'green' energy alternative



SOMIT DASGUPTA

HYDROGEN IS THE latest buzzword when it comes to dealing with energy issues, especially climate change. There is now increasing realisation that in order to meet the Paris target of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, one will have to shift the focus to more difficult options like hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), and direct carbon capture. Unless we adopt these new technologies, we will not be able to take care of "hard-to-abate" sectors like the industrial sector, buildings, aviation, and shipping. When we say hydrogen, we mean "green" hydrogen which is derived through electrolysis of water using renewable sources like solar, wind and biomass for generating electricity. Hydrogen from fossil fuels (called "brown" or "grey" hydrogen depending upon whether it is coal or gas, respectively) is anyway being produced all over the world. India produces hydrogen using natural gas. The third form is "blue" hydrogen, produced from fossil fuels, but a part of the carbon is absorbed using CCUS technology. Today, less than 1 per cent of the world's hydrogen is "green".

Hydrogen from fossil fuels costs between \$1 to \$2 per kg whereas "green" hydrogen today costs between \$4 to \$6 per kg. It is expected that green hydrogen will become competitive to fossil fuel-based hydrogen by about 2030. This will happen because the cost of electrolyzers is expected to go down over time and also it is hoped that their efficiency will im-

prove. Demand for "green" hydrogen is going to multiply and in the case of India alone, TERI has estimated that demand for "green" hydrogen will go up from 6 million tonnes today to about 50 mt by 2050. The current world demand, incidentally, is about 70 mt.

While our need for "green" hydrogen is imperative if we want to meet our Paris targets, the path for production and utilisation of this form of hydrogen is arduous. First, after converting electricity to hydrogen, shipping it, storing it, and then converting back to electricity, the delivered energy can be below 30 per cent of what was the initial electricity input. One would, therefore, need huge amounts of electricity from renewable sources which is going to put pressure on land.

The second issue is regarding the transportation of hydrogen. While hydrogen has a very high energy content per unit of mass compared to natural gas, its energy density is low per unit of volume. This means that one would need huge containers to transport hydrogen (as compared to, let's say, ammonia) having equivalent energy content. It's possible to convert hydrogen to liquid form to facilitate transportation, but then it has to be cooled to minus 253 degrees Celsius and then reconverted which would require a lot of energy. Alternatively, it can be converted to hydrogen-based fuels before transportation, but this will again require additional energy.

If we use electricity from the grid, which

at least in the case of India is fossil fuel-based, then the entire purpose of producing green hydrogen, which is to lower carbon emissions, is lost. One can, of course, use pipelines for transportation, even existing pipelines where we can blend it with natural gas. There are, however, limits as to the distance hydrogen can be transported through pipelines. Today, about 85 per cent of the "green" hydrogen that is produced is done so "on-site" so that transportation problems are taken care of.

Third, hydrogen can be used in various sectors but there are limitations in certain sectors. While the best suited is the industrial sector (mainly steel, ammonia and refineries), its use in transport and power is somewhat restricted since it has to compete with batteries. Hydrogen, however, can be used in heavy duty, long-distance transportation because batteries have low energy-to-weight ratios and they take a long time to charge compared to fuel cells. For smaller distances, battery-charged vehicles are the most viable option economically. The best use of hydrogen in the power sector is for storage. Hydrogen-based storage is ideal for inter-seasonal storage, that is, storage over several weeks/months to take care of the lean months of renewable generation.

Finally, not all countries will find it economically viable to produce "green" hydrogen at home. The International Energy Agency has in its 2021 report cited the example of Japan which would be better off importing "green"

hydrogen from Australia. Production is most suited for those countries which have high gas prices and low cost of renewable generation. Going by this, India is ideally placed for making "green" hydrogen domestically. For the Persian Gulf countries, which have low gas prices, it would be prudent to go in for gas-based "green" hydrogen and then apply CCUS to reduce the carbon footprints. So each country will have to chart out its own course depending on its ground realities.

India has the advantage of producing cheap electricity from renewable sources and thus, we have the potential of becoming hydrogen exporters and should not lose this opportunity as we have lost in the case of solar cells and batteries. We need to draw up a road map for "green" hydrogen and also bear in mind that we have to make huge investments in research and development to lower the cost of electrolyzers and make India a manufacturing hub. Additionally, we need to incentivise the private sector to move towards "green" hydrogen. A lot of work will also be required to lay down standards for large-scale use of hydrogen besides framing safety regulations. Hopefully, the recently announced Hydrogen Mission will swing into action immediately and finalise the next course of action after consulting all stakeholders.

The writer is senior visiting fellow, ICRIER and former member (economic & commercial) CEA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ALIENATING CITIZENS

THIS REFERS TO the article 'The doctrine of hate' (IE, September 28). The condemnable incidents in Darrang district are to be viewed as part of the long list of state-sponsored alienation of certain sections of the society. Instead of providing employment opportunities to its citizens, the Assam government, under the garb of eviction, has made homeless and jobless an entire village. No democratic regime can afford to treat its citizens in this manner.

Pritam Singh, Jaipur

STRONGER TOGETHER

THIS REFERS TO the article 'The Cs of the Quad' (IE, September 28). The strengths and weaknesses of the Quad grouping lies in the complementarities of its members. American research prowess, Australia's supply chain resilience, Japan's funding and India's cheap labour and market can be a great combination for the new world order post the pandemic. But parochial views of nationalism, manifesting as the hesitation to transfer technology etc., can diminish cooperation. Building enough trust for implementation of the Quad's goals is the key to leveraging the strengths of the grouping to their fullest.

Anjali Bhavana, Thiruvananthapuram

UNSEEMLY REMARKS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'A hollow

roar' (IE, September 28). When a DM in Haryana can order the police to break the heads of the farmers to prevent them from crossing barricades, Tripura CM Biplab Kumar Deb's exhortation to the bureaucracy to not be afraid of contempt of court charges cannot be far behind. Of late, the executive's attempts to belittle, bypass and even cultivate the judiciary are grabbing the headlines.

Tarsem Singh, Mahilpur

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'A hollow roar' (IE, September 28). The shocking statement of the Tripura CM is but another instance of the testing of democracy in the country. His disdain for the judiciary has brought to the surface the underlying tensions between the executive and the judiciary. His words also reflect a feeling that having a majority makes them accountable to no one. Such incidents are regrettable and the party leadership must act immediately.

Hemant Contractor, Pune

FEEDING INDIANS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial 'Grain diplomacy' (IE, September 27). Only efficient logistics can reveal the true measure of foodgrain available for grain diplomacy, helping to avoid another vaccine diplomacy-like gaffe. We must help neighbouring nations in distress but must we do so at the cost of hungry Indians? One must remember that charity begins at home.

Raja Bandopadhyay, Vadodara

Issue instructions on promotion quota for disabled: SC to govt

New Delhi: The SC Tuesday asked the Centre to issue instructions in four months to give reservation in promotions to persons with disabilities. A bench headed by Justice L Nageswara Rao asked government to issue instructions "at the earliest and not later than four months", in accordance with the provisions of Section 34 of Right of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The direction came on an application filed by the Centre seeking clarification in the court's January 14, 2020 judgment in which it said persons with disabilities have a right to reservation in promotions. The government had sought clarification regarding computation of vacancies. **ENS**

Moral policing: 5 Bajrang Dal men held for harassing medical students in Karnataka

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, SEPTEMBER 28

FIVE MEMBERS of the Bajrang Dal were arrested for allegedly harassing and manhandling a group of medical students in another incident of moral policing reported from coastal Karnataka.

A senior police officer identified the accused as Preetham Shetty, Arshith, Srinivas, Rakesh and Abhishek.

A case was registered under IPC sections 341 (wrongful restraint), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 504 (intentional

insult). According to police sources, the incident took place Sunday evening where six second-year MBBS students were driving back from Malpe beach.

The accused stopped their car at Surathkal checkpoint, asked their names and questioned the women for "being in the company of Muslims".

The activists then proceeded to manhandle the students, when traffic inspector Sharif — who happened to be at the spot — defused the situation and sent them away.

A case was registered and the accused were arrested

later. Mangaluru Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar said the complainants stated they were returning from a picnic and did not know who the attackers were.

They asked the students' names and attacked them.

While the accused claimed that some of the youths were harassing women in the vehicle, a probe revealed that the complainants' claims represented the true version of events, he said.

This is the fifth incident of moral policing reported recently in the state.

Pratham CEO gets Yidan Prize for Edu Development

New Delhi: Pratham CEO Dr Rukmini Banerji is this year's recipient of the prestigious Yidan Prize for Education Development for her work on improving children's learning levels. The Yidan Prize is awarded by Yidan Prize Foundation — a global philanthropic education foundation working on change in education — and nine people have received it since its inception in 2016. The other prize it awards is Yidan Prize for Education Research, which has been given to Professor Eric A. Hanushek, Paul and Jean Hanna Senior Fellow, Professor, Hoover Institution of Stanford University. **ENS**

Almost 25% of adult population vaccinated

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

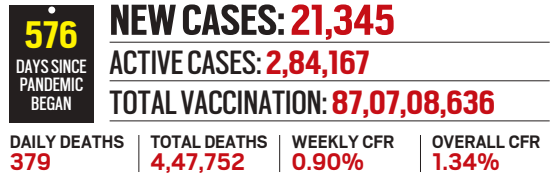
MORE THAN eight months after it rolled out the Covid-19 vaccination drive, India on Tuesday completed administering both doses of the vaccine to almost 25% of the estimated adult population.

According to provisional data, more than 53 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Tuesday, taking the cumulative number to 87.59 crore. With Tuesday's vaccinations, 68% of the estimated adult population has received their first dose and 24.61% are fully vaccinated.

Almost a quarter of the adult population being fully vaccinated has significant public health implications. Data shows that vaccine effectiveness in preventing death enhances after the second dose, offering near-total protection (97.5%) against severity and death.

"It is clear that among the tools we are using in our fight against the pandemic, it is the vaccine tool, which is the most significant shield that is protecting us from death. It is also clear that if you give two doses there is near total protection against serious disease and death. This will change the scenario very dramatically," Dr V K Paul, head of India's Covid-19 task force, had earlier said.

TRACKING THE SECOND SURGE



TESTS TODAY: 15,08,581 | TOTAL TESTS: 56,72,38,612
WEEKLY POSITIVITY: 1.79% | OVERALL POSITIVITY: 5.94%

STATES REPORTING MOST CASES

STATE	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	WEEKLY POSITIVITY	TOTAL VACCINATION
■ Kerala	11,196	1,49,852	15.11%	3,51,74,863
■ Maharashtra	2,844	36,794	1.51%	7,93,78,463
■ Mizoram	1,846	15,254	16.48%	11,13,653
■ Tamil Nadu	1,630	17,231	1.09%	4,64,08,275
■ Andhra Pradesh	771	11,912	2.06%	3,97,36,489

STATES REPORTING MOST DEATHS

STATE	TODAY'S DEATHS	TOTAL DEATHS	WEEKLY CFR	OVERALL CFR
■ Kerala	149	24,889	0.60%	0.56%
■ Haryana	64	9,874	71.74%	1.28%
■ Maharashtra	64	1,42,535	3.46%	2.19%
■ Karnataka	17	37,763	1.92%	1.27%
■ Tamil Nadu	17	35,526	1.31%	1.35%

Note: Data as on Sept. 28; vaccination numbers as of Sept. 27. Deaths include those caused by comorbidities.

Interrupted by cancer 4 yrs ago, doctor goes on to win gold medal

Chennai: A 28-year-old who got a lease of life after undergoing a robotic colorectal surgery for low rectal cancer four years ago has finished her post-graduation in medicine -- and won a gold medal.

"She was diagnosed with very low rectal cancer in 2017 when she was 24, just as she was about to join her medical post-graduation. She was apprehensive that even with treatment, her medical dreams would come to an abrupt halt," said Dr Venkatesh Munikrishnan, consultant col-

orectal and robotic surgeon, The Apollo Institute of Colorectal Surgery, Chennai.

"This is because conventional surgery for colorectal cancer leaves patients with a colostomy, that is, a surgically created opening in the body that routes bowel waste away into an external colostomy bag. It was then that she approached us with the hope that we could offer her a solution that would let her continue her studies and live a normal life. We did not let her down," Dr Munikrishnan said.

Gujarat minister: Challenges made opportunities to revive tourism

Vadodara: Emphasising on making Gujarat an "all-round" tourism hub, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said that the state converted the challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic into opportunities to revive the travel and tourism industry.

Speaking at the Gujarat Travel and Tourism Excellence Award in Gandhinagar on September 25, Patel said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's concept of integrating festivals with tourism has helped Gujarat in becoming a tourism hotspot.

Patel, along with Tourism Minister Purnesh Modi, Minister of State for Tourism Arvind Raiyani, Tourism

Secretary Harit Shukla and Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited Managing Director Jenu Devan, gave away awards in 26 categories.

Addressing the gathering, Patel said, "The global pandemic has hit hard the travel and tourism sector but Gujarat has converted the challenges into opportunities to revive this sector. Gujarat is the only state in India with the maximum variety of tourist spots... ranging from desert and beach tourism to religious and spiritual tourism, adventure and border tourism to heritage tourism... It also has the world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity."

HC to Speaker: Decide on plea for Mukul Roy disqualification

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Tuesday directed Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee to inform it by October 7 his decision on a petition seeking the disqualification of Mukul Roy as MLA since he joined TMC after being elected on a BJP ticket.

On July 17, Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari had petitioned the Speaker to disqualify Roy from the Assembly, claiming he had defected to the TMC. The following month, BJP MLA Ambika Roy moved the HC challenging Roy's election as the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and prayed for nomination of an Opposition member

Three LS, 30 assembly seats to go for bypolls on Oct 30: EC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

BYPOLLS TO three Lok Sabha seats and 30 assembly constituencies spread across 14 states will be held on October 30, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday. The counting of votes will take place on November 2.

The seats where Lok Sabha by-elections will be held are Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Mandi in Himachal Pradesh and Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh.

In all three constituencies, the sitting Lok Sabha members had died.

The Mandi Lok Sabha seat fell vacant after the death of Ramswaroop Sharma (BJP) at his Delhi residence in March this year.

The by-election to the Khandwa parliamentary constituency was necessitated following the death of BJP member Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan.

Mohan Delkar, an Independent Lok Sabha member from Dadra and Nagar Haveli, was found dead in a Mumbai hotel in February, necessitating the by-polls.

The assembly bypolls will be held in 30 seats spread across 14 states.

Five of these seats are in Assam, four are in West Bengal, three each are in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, two each are in Bihar, Karnataka and Rajasthan and one each is in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland and Telangana.

UTTARAKHAND: 'FORCED MIGRATION', POPULATION CONTROL MOVES

Cong MLA accuses govt of communal polarisation moves for polls, BJP denies

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 28

WITH THE BJP government in Uttarakhand considering a population control law and issuing a note to top officials to take precautionary measures to check instances of "forced migration" due to a "demographic imbalance" in some areas that could lead to communal disturbance, Opposition Congress on Tuesday

said these moves were aimed at communal polarisation ahead of the Assembly elections.

A day after *The Indian Express* reported that the state government was examining Uttar Pradesh's draft population control to prepare one for the state, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, when asked about the move, told reporters: "The government is doing its home work... will tell you once it completes."

Congress MLA from Mangalore

in Haridwar district, Qazi Mohd Nizamuddin, termed the government moves as an attempt to cover up its failures on basic public issues.

"The BJP government failed to deliver in five years and to hide its failures, it is making an attempt of communal polarization in elections by raising such issues," he said. "Instead of speaking about migration of people from villages in hills, they are talking about another migration [of Hindus]." He

said he never saw any communal violence in his constituency, which has 38 per cent Muslim population.

When asked about forced land deals and migration due to fear, DGP Ashok Kumar said he has not received any such complaint yet. "SPs in the districts have been directed to follow the orders of the Home Department," the DGP said, referring to last week's order for constitution of district-level committees to check any such in-

stance. Denying the allegations, BJP spokesperson Shadab Shams said: "BJP is not trying any polarization."

On the "forced migration" issue, he said, "The Congress itself started this debate by demanding a strict land law and alleging that people from other states were buying properties in Uttarakhand and disturbing its local culture. When another person too wrote to the government about it, the state government decided to

check who are these people coming here and purchasing properties. This move is not against any particular community... The BJP will contest the elections by highlighting its development works."

He was referring to BJP leader Ajendra Ajay's letter to the Chief Minister demanding to notify the hill areas in the state as special zone, and bring in special provisions for sale and purchase of land to maintain its "sanctity, spiritual and cultural shape".

'Nobody is against English; we want to ensure language does not become a barrier to talent'

A year after the government announced a new National Education Policy, Education Secretary Amit Khare discusses what is changing, the focus on learning rather than teaching, and the road to holistic implementation of the policy



On ensuring holistic implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP)

Many state governments have already begun implementing various provisions of the NEP in their universities and schools, and in skill development centres. It is a continuum and focuses on a life of learning; it is not focused so much on teaching, rather it is focused on learning.

One important aspect that has been in the pipeline is the National Education Technology Forum. A task force has already been constituted. The future is going to be technology. Of course, technology is not going to replace the teachers. The importance of teachers in teaching and learning, the personal interactions that we have in the classrooms or in the playgrounds — that will continue to have its importance, but given the large population, the size of the cohort, the age group in which we have to impart education, and given the fact that many new learnings have to come even while we are working... Earlier concepts that we earn a degree and then go out for work are also changing. New skills or new knowledge have to be learnt over the years, and all that will come through technology. The Technology Forum will try to bring that synergy among various platforms of school, higher education, skill development, and ministries, and also the state governments. So state government teachers, central government, we have to look at education as one holistic trend rather than looking at it in terms of the regulatory structures. There are forms of governance; education as such will remain the same.

The second important work in progress is the Education Commission of India, which will bring in a new regulatory structure. Instead of multiple regulators, there will be a single regulator and the focus will be more on self-regulation rather than inspection and enforcement from the central or the state government. Of course, this will require parliamentary approval, and will take a little time.

On Tamil Nadu's announcement that it will not implement the NEP

In the last meeting we had, held immediately after the policy was announced, which was before



Education Secretary Amit Khare in conversation on Zoom with National Education Editor Ritika Chopra.

AUDIENCE QUESTIONS

On Acts that will have to be amended to fully implement the NEP

These amendments should have come this year, but for the difficult (pandemic) situation. Hopefully by next year, some of these amendments will be part of the Higher Education Commission. We have a draft, but instead of going before the Cabinet or to Parliament, we have decided that we would prefer a wider consultation with state governments and stakeholders. This will be not only for central and state government institutions, but also for private institutions. It is only after the consultation that we would like to go to Parliament.

the Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, all the state governments had given their consent to the policy, with some local requirements. So overall, no state has as yet gone for a new policy of its own. By and large it is the same policy — some tweaking at the local level, they can have. The policy is one which empowers students, and I don't think any state, any institution, will say don't empower students. All states, all universities, all IITs, cannot do it immediately. They will have to do it in phases. That phasing has to be done by the states or institutions.

On undoing the damage caused by the pandemic to school education

Sometimes when we think of digital education, we start thinking about the Internet. Internet is one of the mediums, but there is another, which we consider our strength — 34 educational channels — and there is a third one, which is radio. One will have to devise an optimum mix of these me-

On underprivileged students who are returning to school

As schools reopen, those who are outside the system have to be brought back into the system through a bridge course. And that bridging is possible today by various courses of NIUS, by having the bridging system at different levels. Even earlier, this system of bridge courses was there, but it will be required on a much larger scale to bridge this gap, not only for those who were in school and could not attend because of the pandemic, but also for those who have dropped out altogether.

dia. There are areas in this country where the Internet is not available continuously, but they are served by satellite TV. In fact, last year, 12 channels were allotted specifically to schools, and one channel per class was introduced. All India Radio is also giving time to the states to have their educational programmes on radio, because some places may not have even television, but have access to radio. In fact, FM radio can be heard even on Android mobiles. So we should not focus only on one, the Internet. If we have a mix of all three, depending on the geographical location and the income group we are catering to, that would be the ideal thing.

On the gap in education created on account of many students being left behind

The NIPUN Bharat programme focuses on literacy and numeracy. Even before the pandemic, there was a concern that learning levels in our schools were low. So this foundation for literacy

and numeracy will really help in improving those skills, not only among those who are already in school in some class, but also those who are out of school; they can take the help of those programmes and, through the NIUS or some bridging method, they can come back to school. The system we have devised for higher education in the form of an academic bank of credit, the architecture for the digital learning system — even children out of the education system can be brought back through this academic bank of credit. Their prior learning can be recognised, and then they can proceed further either for skilling or for their higher secondary, or even higher education.

On implementing the NEP when the education budget has taken a cut

There are two parts to this: one is the budget, and the other is the resources. With my experience of the last three decades, I can say the two are not the same. Many a time we allocate money, and the actual work or the actual output is much less, because the synergy is not there. To give a small example, we spend about Rs 1,500 crore a year on technology. The same TV channel can be used even for higher education or for engineering or for school, or even for a cultural programme. If you bring synergy among them, the same resources can be utilised better. Take higher educational institutions. The same infrastructure may not be for the purpose of higher education or school education, but a school can be utilised in the evening for skilling. This type of resource pooling will actually have more value for money. For higher education, the budget was reduced primarily because some of the capital work which was going on for various IITs is in the completion phase, so when we talk of a cut, it is actually with reference to the pre-

vious year. I am not saying more funds are not required, but more than funds, what is required is the approach in utilising those resources.

On funds for implementing NEP in future

In school education, yes, we would definitely require funds. In higher education, there is a provision for the National Research Foundation, which is a work in progress. Various approvals have been taken by the Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, and major funding for research will now be through the NRF. So, while you may not see that amount in the budget of higher education, those funds will flow to the universities, and it will be a dedicated fund for research. And research does not mean only scientific research; it will also include the social sciences. This is a work in progress; it has been announced by the Finance Minister in this year's Budget, and it is now in the final stages.

On introducing multi-lingual higher education

One thing we should be very clear about — what the Prime Minister has also mentioned in his address earlier — is that nobody is against English. It is not that English has to be replaced with some other language; what we want is to ensure that language should not become a barrier to talent. What we should be looking at in this system is the talent. Knowledge of a subject is more important than the knowledge of a language. Who knows, another 20-30 years down the line, the entire medium of communication may be through some computer programme, or could be a mind reader from your side to mine — the concept of different languages may not even be there.

Many people who leave courses in the first year are finding it difficult to understand the courses in English, so that is where we wish to have this intervention. One of the IITs has informed me that after JEE Advanced, they will be bringing the online course in the regional language. What happens is that in the classroom the discussion could be in English, but the same thing could be understood a little later by the student in a regional language.

The important thing is there is no language-specific seat allocation. There is no such provision in the Constitution, and that is not the purpose. The purpose is to ensure that the students who are otherwise talented should not get deprived because they are not proficient in English, especially students who come from the rural background.

TRANSCRIBED BY MEHRGILL
(Edited excerpts)
VIDEO: youtube.com/hDmH8K09PV4



GOLD

₹45,080



RUPEE

₹74.06



OIL

\$76.89



SILVER

₹58,961

Crude oil (Indian basket) as of September 27

SENSEX: 59,667.60 ▼ 410.28 (0.68%) NIFTY: 17,748.60 ▼ 106.50 (0.60%) NIKKEI: 30,183.96 ▼ 56.10 HANG SENG: 24,500.39 ▲ 291.61 FTSE: 7,061.60 ▼ 1.80 DAX: 15,428.09 ▼ 145.79

International market data till 1900 IST

SECTOR WATCH
IMPORT-EXPORT

Why is the govt pushing for cos to update IEC?

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT is set to start deactivating Import-Export Codes (IECs) for firms that have not given updated information to the government starting October 6. This move is part of efforts to remove IECs of "front organisations" such as the one allegedly connected to the importer of the 2,988 kg of heroin that was confiscated at the Mundra port, and is currently being investigated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).

What are the update requirements for IEC?

Earlier this year, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) amended IEC rules to require all firms engaged in import or export to update their details every year between the April-June period. The DGFT later extended the timeline for firms to update details this year till the end of August, based on requests by industry. The IEC granted by the DGFT is mandatory for any firm engaging in exports or imports.

How is this move connected to the heroin seizure at the Mundra port?

The heroin seized by the DRI was found in a consignment classified as "semi-processed talc stones" imported by Aashi Trading Company. The company had also imported a consignment officially declared as "semi-

The move is part of efforts to remove IECs of "front organisations" such as the one allegedly connected to the importer of the 2,988 kg of heroin that was confiscated at the Mundra port

processed talc stones" in June. Government sources said they did not immediately have details of the company available with them. However, the company records were not available with the Registrar of Companies on the website of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA). The company could, however, be registered as a sole proprietorship with the MCA as the Ministry does not publish details of such companies. A government official said the move to deactivate IECs that have not been updated was also aimed at cleaning up the IEC of firms such as Aashi Trading Company. "We don't have their emails or phone numbers, there are people who got IECs 20 years back," said the official, noting that the removal of such IECs would be part of the clean up effort by the government. In the first phase of deactivations of IEC, the DGFT is set to deactivate the IECs of firms that have not updated information with the government since the beginning of 2005.

ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPT TO BE NOTIFIED AS A SECURITY

Sebi sets stage for spot gold trading on bourses, silver ETFs

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has paved the way for spot trading of gold in stock exchanges. Under its proposal, an instrument representing gold called 'Electronic Gold Receipt' (EGR) shall be notified as a security. Corporate entities registered with Sebi as vault managers will accept deposits of gold, store them and create these EGRs.

These EGRs will have trading, clearing and settlement features of other securities such as stock options and stock futures. Any recognised stock exchange can launch EGR trading. Investors can continue to hold EGRs in perpetuity if they so wish. They also have the option of withdrawing the underlying gold from vaults on surrendering these EGRs. To cut costs, Sebi has made these EGRs fungible i.e. an EGR created by one vault manager can be redeemed at any other vault manager.

Further, in a bid to bolster the start-up ecosystem, the Sebi board

'WILL LOOK INTO SONY-ZEEL DEAL IF VIOLATION'



Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi along with members in Mumbai on Wednesday. Pradip Das

Mumbai: Sebi Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the regulator will look into the merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd and Sony Pictures Networks India if there is any violation. "We can't specify timeline for social stock exchange but will coordinate with government to take it ahead," he added. ENS

has relaxed the framework for superior voting (SR) shares for tech companies. This class of shares allows promoters or founders to retain control of their company even after selling ordinary shares to new investors. Companies are now allowed to file for an IPO three months after issuing SR shares to promoters, compared to 6 months earlier. Moreover, SR shareholders can be part of a promoter group having a net worth of less than Rs

1,000 crore, a relaxation from Rs 500 crore earlier. The regulator has also focused on corporate governance norms by tightening related party transactions (RPTs). Sebi has expanded the definition of related parties to include all persons and entities that are part of the promoter group irrespective of their actual shareholding. It has also classified persons and entities holding 20 percent or more shares during the immediately preced-

ing financial year as a related party. From April 2023, this threshold will be lowered to 10 percent. It added firms should take approval of shareholders if the size of the related party transaction crosses a certain threshold; the said threshold is the lower of Rs 1000 crore or 10 percent of the annual consolidated turnover of the company.

Sebi has rationalised its delisting and mergers & acquisition regulations. Under the new framework, an acquirer wanting to delist the target firm must propose a higher price for delisting with a suitable premium over the open offer price. If the response to the open offer leads to 90 percent shares being acquired, all shareholders tendering shares shall be paid the same delisting price. If the response leads to the delisting threshold of 90 percent not being met, all shareholders who tender their shares shall be paid the same takeover price.

The board has also okayed the issuance of silver exchange traded funds and the setting up of social bourses. It has approved an Investor Charter, too.

'Higher mobility in some cities drives up biz resumption index'

Higher mobility scores in Hyderabad and Pune took business resumption activity index to a new high for the week ended Sunday, said Nomura

The Nomura India Business Resumption Index (NIBRI), which compared activity for a particular week against the pre-pandemic level of March 2020, came at 105 for the week ended Sunday, as against 100.5 in the previous reporting week

'ABERRATION' The brokerage, however, said this is an "aberration" led by a sharp rise in Apple driving data, and masks an otherwise modest business resumption

The rise was primarily due to a sharp 18 percentage point (PP)



spike in the Apple driving index over the week, which reflects higher traffic localised in the cities of Hyderabad and Pune

THE GOOGLE workplace index rose by 3.4 PP & the retail & recreation index fell by 0.1 PP

AFTER THREE consecutive weeks of contraction, power demand registered tepid growth of 0.8 per cent as compared to the previous week

If one were to exclude the rise in Apple driving index, the NIBRI has risen by a modest 2 PP, it said Source: Nomura/PTI

The upcoming festive season in Q4 2021 and the release of the arrears of 'dearness allowance' for public sector employees, should support consumption, although supply-side bottlenecks may weigh on near-term manufacturing growth

BRIEFLY

Wall St falls

New York/London: Wall Street indexes sharply dropped on Tuesday as weak consumer confidence data deepened concerns over slowing US economic growth. At 10:38 am ET, the Dow was down 361.68 points, or 1.04 percent, at 34,507.69. Meanwhile, Brent dipped after topping \$80 per barrel for the first time in nearly 3 years. REUTERS

Flight crew tests

New Delhi: Flight crew members and air traffic controllers will be tested by their employers for psychoactive substances from January 31 next year, as per DGCA rules.

Videocon case

New Delhi: Sebi on Tuesday imposed fines totalling Rs 75 lakh on Venugopal Dhoot and two other entities for insider trading activities.

IndiGo codeshare

New Delhi: American Airlines and IndiGo announced that they have entered into a codeshare agreement which allows the former to sell seats on the Indian carrier's flights operating on 29 routes.

IGL connections

New Delhi: Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IGL) gave out 3.1 lakh new piped natural gas connections to households in the Capital and adjoining cities in 2020-21 despite the fiscal being impacted by Covid curbs, chairman Arun Kumar Singh said. PTI

Powell questioned

Washington: US Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell faced heated questions from senators criticising its trading guidelines, financial regulation and diversity efforts. Speaking to members of US Senate Banking Committee, he vowed to improve policies where needed. REUTERS

Textiles PLI seeks to incentivise MMF fabric, apparel production

KARUNJIT SINGH
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE GOVERNMENT has notified the Rs 10,683-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, specifically aimed at boosting the production of man-made fibre (MMF) fabric, MMF apparel and technical textiles.

Product lines being incentivised by the scheme

The scheme is incentivising production of 14 categories of

MMF fabrics, 10 categories of technical textiles and MMF apparel. The MMF fabrics for which production is being incentivised include woven fabrics containing nylon, polyester and other man-made fibres. Technical textiles that are set to be covered under the scheme include defence textiles such as bullet proof vests, fighter aircraft and submarine clothing and tents, mobile textiles such as safety airbags and tyre cords and protective textiles such as personal protective equipment and fire retardant fabrics and clothing. The

Producers eligible for incentives under the scheme

The first phase will be open to producers that invest at least Rs 300 crore in plant, machinery, gear and civil work (excluding land and administrative building cost). Such producers will receive incentives under the scheme once they achieve a turnover of at least Rs 600 crore. In the second phase, producers investing Rs 100 crore and generating a turnover of at least Rs 200 crore will receive incentives.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

Adani Group buys 10% in Grameen eStore

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

ADANI GROUP has acquired a 10 percent stake in government promoted CSC SPV's e-commerce subsidiary CSC Grameen eStore.

CSC SPV Managing Director Dinesh Tyagi said the association

with Adani Group will help meet the financial requirements of village-level entrepreneurs (VLE), who manage e-stores that provide groceries, consumer durables, automobiles etc in rural areas and small towns.

When contacted, Adani Capital MD and CEO Gaurav Gupta said the government through the CSC

network has played a pivotal role in making available products and services to every Indian, even in the remotest areas.

The government holds a golden share in the CSCSPV, while banking companies are major investors in the organisation with Punjab National Bank holding the majority stake.

NCLT allows Future group to hold shareholder meetings to sell assets to RIL

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has allowed Future Group firms to hold meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek approval for sale of assets to Reliance Retail Ltd.

"The National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench has passed an order allowing the company to hold meetings of its shareholders and creditors to seek approval for the scheme," Future Retail said in a filing. "The NCLT has rejected the intervention application filed by Amazon. The order was pronounced in open court today and a copy thereof is awaited," it said. The NCLT has asked the firm for a suitable date for the extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders and creditors. ENS

China energy crunch triggers shutdowns, pleas for more coal

REUTERS
SHANGHAI, SEPTEMBER 28

CHINA FACES mounting pressure to ramp up coal imports and ensure supplies to keep lights on, factories open and water flowing as a severe power crunch roils the northeastern industrial heartland. With electricity shortages sparked by coal shortages crippling large sections of industry, the governor of Jilin province, one of the hardest-hit in the world's no.2 economy, called for a surge in coal imports, while a power company association said supply was being expanded "at any cost".

For the second straight day, the main state grid operator sought to

Britain looks to calm fuel panic

London: Britain's transport minister pleaded with motorists on Tuesday to stop filling up old water bottles with fuel at gas stations after panic buying left pumps dry across major cities and prompted the government to put the army on standby. REUTERS

reassure customers, saying it would work to guarantee coal supply and strictly control power use by high-energy consuming and polluting sectors, and ensure power supply to residents.

FM bats for social protection at UN meet 'Cos in fintech space should ensure safety, data privacy'

ENSECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

FINANCIAL MEASURES such as Direct Benefit Transfer-enabled Jan Dhan Yojana, Aadhaar biometric identification, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said social protection should have digitisation of public financial management systems at the core of the design. She also urged the UN that post-pandemic policies must provide for adequate recognition of the mental wellbeing of vulnerable sections.

Speaking at the UN's high-level discussion on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication, Sitharaman also said insights from behavioural economics can be leveraged in onboarding those workers who are currently not covered under the formal security net.

"One key principle underpinning the post-pandemic recovery with policies integrating health and social protection is the institutional recognition of mental wellbeing of vulnerable sections through psychosocial support.



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. via Twitter

Future policies must adequately provide for this imperative," she said in her virtual address.

The comprehensive social protection system envisaged to be created under the proposed global accelerator for jobs and social protection should have digitalisation of public financial management systems at the core of the design, she said.

"In India, the DBT method enabled Jandhan, the Aadhaar biometric identification and mobile trinity helped during the pandemic in rolling out social protection measures without any delays," she added.

COMPANIES OPERATING in the fintech space should ensure that there is no compromise on safety and data privacy to earn the trust of clients in a growing space, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

Addressing the Global FinTech Fest 2021, Sitharaman said that the value of digital transactions had jumped to Rs 61 lakh crore between January and August 2021, compared to Rs 4 lakh crore and Rs 2 lakh crore in 2020 and the year before, respectively.

"Safety of client data, is something which I think is the backbone to bringing trust. Unless my data is safeguarded well I

wouldn't want to get into a scheme of things. So that is the guiding principle," the finance minister said, adding that the fintech adoption rate in India stood at 87 percent compared to the global average of 64 percent.

Earlier in the day during the event, WhatsApp India head, Bhishik Bose, announced that the company's pilot "to enable people to sign up for micro pensions from HDFC Pensions and their partner, pinBox" was now live on the platform. Addressing the event during a separate webinar, Bose said that WhatsApp API was helping services across segments delivery mobile-first solutions.

The company has also focused on expanding financial inclusion, Bose said.

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune - 411 007.

TENDER NOTICE NO. 06/2021-2022
Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) regarding work for the Construction Phase of the Indian Contribution to Software Packages and Allied Services of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA)
Eoi Document Fee: Rs. 11,800/-
For detailed Eoi and for downloading please visit website:
<http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1>

SBI
Marketing & Communications Department, 9th Floor, State Bank Bhavan
Madam Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO: SBI/M&C/2021-22/02
Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Empanelment as Printer Agencies for SBI. For details, please visit 'Procurement News' at <https://www.sbi.co.in> and <https://bank.sbi>
Commencement of download of RFP: from 29.09.2021.
Last date and time for submission of bids: 25.10.2021 up to 15:00 hrs.
Place: Mumbai
Date: 29.09.2021
sd/-
Deputy General Manager (M&C)

GUJARAT UNIVERSITY
AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT
E-Tender Notice
Online tenders are invited by the Registrar, Gujarat University for Printing and Supply of Answer Book and Brown Sticker of various examinations. Details specification, eligibility criteria, other terms & condition are available on www.nprocure.com or www.gujaratuniversity.ac.in
Date: 29/09/2021 Registrar

DELHI JAL BORD: DELHI SARKAR
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV
O.H.T.O. I. A. Ph-II: OPPOSITE GOVIND PURI: NEW DELHI-20.
e-mail: eesouthiv498@gmail.com/Tel. 011-26388976
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"
Press N.I.T. No: 34 SIV (2021-22)

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Desilting of 900/1200/1600 mm dia S/L & raising / tracing of manholes from RUB Pul Pahladpur to Mathura Road, near MCIE under EE(South)-IV (Re-invited)	48,43,326/-	2021_DJB_206810_1 24.09.2021	14.10.2021 up to 3.00 pm

Further details in this regard may be seen at (<https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>)
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/- (Rajeev Kumar Gupta)
Adv. No. J.S.V. 441/2021-22 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) IV

TOP OF THE WORLD



Alexei Navalny

RUSSIA

New case against jailed Kremlin critic Navalny

RUSSIA'S INVESTIGATIVE Committee has launched a new criminal case against jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny and his allies, the committee said in a statement on Tuesday. The committee said it was investigating Navalny on suspicion of setting up an "extremist group" together with his associates. A Russian court has already outlawed Navalny's anti-corruption foundation as extremist and he himself is in prison for parole violations. Navalny, 45, is widely regarded as Russian President Vladimir Putin's most popular opponent in Russia. Navalny was flown to Germany for medical treatment after being poisoned in Siberia in August 2020 with what Western experts concluded was the military nerve agent Novichok. **REUTERS**

JAPAN

Govt to lift all Covid emergency steps nationwide

JAPAN'S GOVERNMENT announced Tuesday that the coronavirus state of emergency will end this week to help rejuvenate the economy as infections slow. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said the emergency will end Thursday and virus restrictions will be eased gradually "in order to resume daily lives despite the presence of the virus." He said the government will create more temporary Covid-19 treatment facilities and continue vaccinations to prepare for any future resurgence. "Our fight against the coronavirus is now entering a new phase," Suga said. "Finally, we can see social and economic activities starting to normalise." **AP**

NORTH KOREA

Short-range missile fired into sea in latest test

NORTH KOREA fired a short-range missile into the sea early Tuesday, its neighboring countries said, in the latest weapon tests by North Korea that has raised questions about the sincerity of its recent offer for talks with South Korea. In an emergency National Security Council meeting, the South Korean government expressed regret over what it called "a short-range missile launch" by the North. **AP**

TOP PENTAGON OFFICIALS ADMIT TO MISJUDGING AFGHAN ARMY'S FRAGILITY

US military leaders testify in Congress, say favoured keeping troops in Afghanistan

Top general says al-Qaeda, IS affiliate could mount threat to US from Afghanistan in 12-36 months

ROBERT BURNS & LOLITA C. BALDOR
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

IN THEIR first congressional testimony on the tumultuous final months of America's longest war, top US military officers on Tuesday acknowledged misjudging the fragility of Afghanistan's army and said they believed the US should have kept at least several thousand troops in the country to prevent a rapid takeover by the Taliban.

Without saying what advice he had given President Joe Biden last spring when Biden was considering whether to keep any troops in Afghanistan, Gen. Mark Milley told the Senate Armed Services Committee it was his personal opinion that at least 2,500 were needed to guard against a collapse of the Kabul government.

Gen. Frank McKenzie, who as head of Central Command had overseen the final months of the US war, said he agreed with Milley's assessment. He also declined to say what he had recommended to Biden.

Republican Senator Tom Cotton asked Milley why he did not choose to resign after his advice was rejected.

Milley, who was appointed to his position as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff by President Donald Trump and retained by Biden, said it was his responsibility to provide the commander in chief with his best advice.



(From left) Commander of the US Central Command General Kenneth McKenzie, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrive to testify at the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. **AP**

We must remember that the Taliban was and remains a terrorist organization and they still have not broken ties with al-Qaeda. I have no illusions who we are dealing with.

— GENERAL MARK MILLEY
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF OF THE U.S.

are generals. And it would be an incredible act of political defiance for a commissioned officer to resign just because my advice was not taken."

Testifying alongside Milley and McKenzie, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin defended the military's execution of a frantic airlift from Kabul and asserted it will be "difficult but absolutely possible" to contain future threats from Afghanistan without troops on the ground. Under questioning, he, too, declined to say what advice he had given Biden about whether to make a full troop withdrawal.

Milley cited "a very real possibility" that al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group's

ability to provide the commander in chief with his best advice.

"The President doesn't have to agree with that advice," Milley said. "He doesn't have to make those decisions just because we

are generals. And it would be an incredible act of political defiance for a commissioned officer to resign just because my advice was not taken."

Testifying alongside Milley and McKenzie, Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin defended the military's execution of a frantic airlift from Kabul and asserted it will be "difficult but absolutely possible" to contain future threats from Afghanistan without troops on the ground. Under questioning, he, too, declined to say what advice he had given Biden about whether to make a full troop withdrawal.

Milley cited "a very real possibility" that al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group's

MILLEY DEFENDS CALLS TO CHINA UNDER TRUMP

Washington: The top US military officer told Congress on Tuesday that he knew former President Donald Trump wasn't planning to attack China and that it was his job to reassure the Chinese of that fact in the phone calls that have triggered outrage from some lawmakers. Gen Mark Milley defended two calls he made to his Chinese counterpart, saying he was responding to "concerning intelligence" that China was worried about a US attack. **AP**

Afghanistan affiliate could reconstitute in Afghanistan under Taliban rule and present a terrorist threat to the United States in the next 12 to 36 months.

It was al-Qaeda's use of Afghanistan as a base from which to plan and execute its attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, that triggered the US invasion of Afghanistan a month later.

"And we must remember that the Taliban was and remains a terrorist organisation and they still have not broken ties with al-Qaeda," Milley said. "I have no illusions who we are dealing with. It remains to be seen whether or not the Taliban can consolidate power or if the country will further fracture into civil war." **AP**

Some indication came on Saturday, when Taliban killed four alleged kidnappers and hung their bodies in public squares in Herat.

Taliban chancellor bars women from Kabul University

CORA ENGELBRECHT & SHARIF HASSAN
SEPTEMBER 28

TIGHTENING THE Taliban's restrictions on women, the group's new chancellor for Kabul University announced Monday that women would be indefinitely barred from the institution either as instructors or students.

"I give you my words as chancellor of Kabul University," Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat said on Twitter on Monday. "As long as a real Islamic environment is

not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first."

The new university policy echoes the Taliban's first time in power, in the 1990s, when women were only allowed in public if accompanied by a male relative and would be beaten for disobeying, and were kept from school entirely.

Some female staff members, who have worked in relative freedom over the past two decades, pushed back against the new decree, questioning the idea that the Taliban had a monopoly on defin-



Women at Kabul University's education centre earlier this month. **AP**

ing the Islamic faith.

"In this holy place, there was nothing un-Islamic," one female lecturer said, speaking on condi-

tion of anonymity out of fear of reprisal, as did several others interviewed by *The New York Times*. "Presidents, teachers, engineers and even mullahs are trained here and gifted to society," she said. "Kabul University is the home to the nation of Afghanistan."

In the days after the Taliban seized power in August, officials went to pains to insist that this time would be better for women, who would be allowed to study, work and even participate in government.

But none of that has happened. Taliban leaders recently

named an all-male Cabinet. The new government has also prohibited women from returning to the workplace, citing security concerns, though officials have described that as temporary. (The original Taliban movement did that as well in its early days in 1990s, but never followed up.)

Two weeks ago, the Taliban replaced the president of Kabul University, the country's premier college, with Ghairat, a 34-year-old devotee of the movement who has referred to the country's schools as "centres for prostitution." **NYT**

Panel finds 80 alleged abuse cases tied to WHO's Congo work

MARIA CHENG & AL-HADJI KUDRA MALIRO
BENI, SEPTEMBER 28

TWENTY-ONE WORKERS for the World Health Organisation in Congo have been accused of sexually abusing people during a Ebola outbreak, a WHO-commissioned panel said Tuesday in a report that identified 83 alleged perpetrators connected to the 2018-2020 mission.

The panel released its findings months after an Associated Press investigation found senior WHO management was informed of multiple abuse claims in 2019 but failed to stop the harassment and even promoted one of the managers involved.

"This is the biggest finding of

sexual abuse perpetrated during a single UN initiative in one area or one country during the time-bound period of a UN response effort," said Paula Donovan, co-director of the Code Blue Campaign, which is campaigning to end sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers.

Panel member Malick Coulibaly said investigators uncovered a total of nine rape allegations. The women interviewed said their attackers used no birth control, resulting in some pregnancies. Some women said their rapists had forced them to have abortions, Coulibaly said.

The youngest of the alleged victims, identified in the report only as "Jolianne" is believed to be 13. **AP**

Swedish police suspect foul play in apartment building blast

JARI TANNER
HELSINKI, SEPTEMBER 28

A POWERFUL explosion rocked a Swedish apartment building early Tuesday in Gothenburg, injuring up to 20 people, setting off multiple fires and forcing the evacuation of hundreds. Police said they suspect the blast may have been caused by an explosive device.

The explosion took place just before 5am in the Annedal district in Gothenburg, Sweden's second-largest city. Fires spread to several apartments, and fire department crews were still working to extinguish the flames mid-morning.

Jon Pile, operations manager at the greater Gothenburg rescue service, said the blast prompted some people to jump out of their windows to escape. Police spokesman Thomas



After an explosion hit an apartment building in Annedal, Gothenburg, Sweden, on Tuesday. **Reuters**

Fuxborg said the cause of the explosion was not yet known, but he told Swedish broadcaster TV4 that investigators think foul play might have been involved. They are looking into whether any tenants might have been targeted, he said. "We suspect that someone

might have placed something that has exploded," Fuxborg said. Sahlgrenska University Hospital spokeswoman Ingrid Frederiksson said 16 people were taken to Goteborg's main hospital. Four people had serious injuries, she said. **AP**

R Kelly convicted on all counts after yrs of accusations

TROY CLOSSON
SEPTEMBER 28

R KELLY, the multiplatinum R&B artist whose musical legacy became intertwined with dozens of accusations of sexual abuse, was found guilty Monday of serving as the ringleader of a decadeslong scheme to recruit women and underage girls for sex.

The jury in New York deliberated for about nine hours before convicting the singer of all nine counts against him, including racketeering and eight violations of an anti-sex-trafficking law known as the Mann Act.

The decision represents the first criminal punishment against Kelly despite a trail of allegations of misconduct that extends for



A protest outside R. Kelly's studio in 2019. **AP**

more than a quarter-century.

Kelly, 54, once one of the biggest names in popular music, now faces the possibility of life in prison.

Jacquelyn M. Kasulis, the acting US attorney in Brooklyn, New

York, told reporters that the verdict sent a powerful message to men like Kelly.

She thanked the 11 men and women who accused him of misconduct at the trial.

"No one deserves what they

experienced at his hands or the threats and harassment they faced in telling the truth about what happened to them. We hope that today's verdict brings some measure of comfort and closure," Kasulis said.

As he left the courtroom Monday, one of Kelly's lawyers said his defence team would consider an appeal.

"Of course we are disappointed in the verdict," the lawyer, Deveraux L. Cannick, said. "I am even more disappointed in the prosecution for bringing this case," he said, adding that it was "replete with inconsistencies."

The trial marked a significant milestone, as women and men took the stand against the singer to accuse Kelly of sexual abuse for the first time, including sev-

eral who had never shared their accounts publicly.

On Monday, several women who said Kelly had abused them praised his conviction as a decades-in-the-making rebuke of the singer and a meaningful validation of the stories of his victims.

"Today, my voice was heard," Jerhonda Pace wrote on Instagram. Pace became the first accuser to ever testify against Kelly at a criminal trial when she took the stand last month.

The prosecution called 45 witnesses during the trial, but the criminal charges against the singer hinged on accusations related to six women, five of whom testified (the sixth, singer Aaliyah, died in a plane crash in 2001). Four other women and two men also took the stand as accusers. **NYT**

China faces public backlash over govt's move to restrict abortions

KJM VARMA
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 28

THE CHINESE government's move to reduce the rate of abortions needed for "non-medical reasons" has resulted in public backlash, with many seeing this as an intrusive measure meant to raise the country's sagging birthrate as part of its three-child policy, according to a media report.

China's central Cabinet, called the State Council, on Monday said it will "reduce the rate of abortions needed for non-medical reasons", as part of its efforts to improve women's health, according to a series of new guidelines addressing issues related to women and children in the

US Congressional report: Pakistan home to 12 foreign terrorist groups

5 of them focus on India, says report

LALIT KJHA
WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 28

PAKISTAN IS home to at least 12 groups designated as "foreign terrorist organisations" by the US, including five of them being India-centric like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), according to the latest Congressional report on terrorism.

US officials have identified Pakistan as a base of operations or target for numerous armed and non-state militant groups, some of which have existed since the 1980s, the independent Congressional Research Service (CRS) said in the report.

The report, "Terrorist and Other Militant Groups in Pakistan", released by the bipartisan research wing of US Congress on the eve of the historic Quad summit hosted by US President Joe Biden at the White House last week, said that these groups operating in Pakistan can be broadly categorised into five types — globally-oriented, Afghanistan-oriented, India- and Kashmir-oriented, domestically oriented, and sectarian (anti-Shia).

The Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was formed in the late 1980s in Pakistan and designated as a foreign terrorist organisation (FTO) in 2001. "LeT was responsible for major 2008 attacks in Mumbai, India, as well as numerous other high-profile attacks," the CRS said.

Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) was founded in 2000 by Kashmiri militant leader Masood Azhar and was designated as an FTO in 2001. Along with LeT, it was responsible for the 2001 attack on the Indian parliament, among other attacks, it said.

JeM also has openly declared war on the United States, it noted. Harakat-ul Jihad Islami (HUJI) was formed in 1980 in Afghanistan to fight the Soviet



The report was released on the eve of last week's Quad summit hosted by Joe Biden

army and was designated as an FTO in 2010. After 1989, it redirected its efforts toward India, although it did supply fighters to the Afghan Taliban. "With an unknown strength, HUJI today operates in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh and India, and seeks annexation of Kashmir into Pakistan," the report said.

Finally, Hizb-ul Mujahideen (HM) was formed in 1989 and designated as an FTO in 2017. It is one of the largest and oldest militant groups operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Among other terrorist groups operating from Pakistan are Al Qaeda, CRS said, adding that it has operated primarily from the former Federally Administered Tribal Areas and in the megacity of Karachi, as well as in Afghanistan. It has since 2011 been led by Ayman al-Zawahiri and reportedly maintains supportive ties with many of the groups inside the country.

CRS said according to the US State Department's Country Reports on Terrorism 2019, Pakistan has "continued to serve as a safe haven for certain regionally focused terrorist groups", and has "allowed groups targeting Afghanistan... as well as groups targeting India... to operate from its territory".

Pakistan has been long accused of providing safe haven and support to militants. **PTI**

Pak court sentences school principal to death for blasphemy

M ZULQERNAIN
LAHORE, SEPTEMBER 28

A PAKISTANI court here has sentenced to death a school principal for committing blasphemy.

The district and sessions court on Monday handed down the death sentence to Salma Tanvir, principal of a private school in Nishtar Colony, and imposed a fine of PKR 5,000 (\$29) on her.

Additional district and sessions Judge Mansoor Ahmad observed in the verdict that Tanvir committed blasphemy by denying that Prophet Muhammad was not the last prophet of Islam.

Lahore police in 2013 had registered a blasphemy case against Tanvir on the complaint of a local cleric. She was accused of denying the finality of Prophet Muhammad and claimed herself to be the Prophet of Islam.

Tanvir's counsel Muhammad

Ramzan argued that her client was "unsound minded person" and the court should have taken the fact into account.

However, a report by a medical board of the Punjab Institute of Mental Health submitted to court by the prosecution said "the suspect was fit to stand trial as she was not mentally deranged".

Pakistan's controversial blasphemy laws and their prescribed punishments are considered extremely severe. At least 1,472 people were charged under the blasphemy law in Pakistan since 1987.

People accused of blasphemy are usually deprived of the right to a counsel of their choice as most lawyers refuse to take up such sensitive cases.

The blasphemy laws are colonial-era legislation but they were amended by former dictator General Ziaul Haq which increased the severity of prescribed punishments. **PTI**



The move has been seen as an intrusive measure meant to raise the country's sagging birthrate. **Reuters file**

world's most populous nation.

Though lowering the high abortion rate, — largely driven by a preference for boys over girls — has been the government policy for decades, the Council's statement drew public attention im-

mediately and was seen by many as restricting women's rights amid an official drive to boost population growth to address the country's ageing population.

The policy was criticised by the public as a new form of government interference in people's private family life, after the notorious forced abortions during the implementation of the decades-old one-child policy, the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* reported on Tuesday.

Last month, China's national legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) formally endorsed the three-child policy mooted by the ruling Communist Party, in a major policy shift to prevent a steep decline in birth rates in the country. **PTI**

Taranjeet scorches track, bounces back after accident

Three years after breaking collarbone when a car hit her outside JLN stadium, 19-year-old sprinter wins 100 metres gold in Under-23 championships

ANDREW AMSAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

EVERY TIME sprinter Taranjeet Kaur steps out of the gates of the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, dread fills her heart. It was in 2018 that she was hit by a car about 50 metres from the main gate, leaving her motionless by a pavement. For the next 15 minutes, Taranjeet stared at a group of on-lookers as none of them approached to help. "An archery coach recognised me and rushed me to the hospital. My collarbone was broken in three. I couldn't carry out my daily chores without assistance for the next three months and I was almost certain my career would end," recalls Taranjeet.

On Tuesday, almost three years later at the same venue, the 19-year-old won the 100m title with 11.54s on the clock at the ongoing U-23 Nationals. Daneshwari of Karnataka (11.66s) and Nithya Gandhe (11.90s) took the next two spots. Taranjeet returned later in the evening to top her heats in the 200m.

Taranjeet's sensational post-accident comeback is due in no small part to India's greatest wrestler Sushil Kumar.

Life-changing advice

When Taranjeet returned to the tracks after six months of rehabilitation, she realised that every month away from the tracks took her years back in terms of performance.

"Girls who I used to beat with ease earlier were miles ahead of me. It took me 40 seconds to complete 200m (Taranjeet's best is 23s). I would sit and weep after practice. I had lost all hope again," she recalls.

Just when she was about to hang up her spikes, Taranjeet received a pep talk from Sushil at North Delhi's Chhatrasal Stadium.

"I was crying and Sushil sir saw me. He asked me why I was weeping? I told him about my accident and how I am not able to regain my form. I asked if he couldn't see the support bandages I was wearing. He said no. He said he couldn't see it," says Taranjeet.

Sushil's answer left young Taranjeet perplexed. She couldn't understand why the double Olympic medallist refused to acknowledge the bandages.

"He told me that if I believed that the badges weren't there then it wouldn't affect me. He consoled me and encouraged me to



Taranjeet Kaur, 19, on way to winning gold with a timing of 11.54s at the ongoing U-23 Nationals at the JLN Stadium in New Delhi. Andrew Amsan

fight harder," says Taranjeet.

Sushil asked the youngest to wipe her tears and stand up. "He said 'let me welcome you to a new start' and clapped for me."

The few minutes of interaction with Sushil changed Taranjeet's life forever. "This is a second life for me. If Sushil sir hadn't spoken to me that day I wouldn't have been here today. I am certain of that."

Dragged into running

Taranjeet took up athletics as a 13-year-old with only one goal in mind: to cut down on her weight. She weighed 75kg when she decided to walk into the Chhatrasal Stadium to meet athletics coach Sunita Rai.

"On the first day, I cried after running just one round. I couldn't. But Sunita ma'am encouraged me and motivated me. Initially, she tied a rope around another athlete's hip and mine. I was literally dragged into running," says Taranjeet.

Coach Sunita says she saw a spark in the teenager and took her under her wing, de-

spite Taranjeet being "unfit for athletics".

"I knew there was something special about this girl. The first thing I noticed was that she was very strong. I had a feeling she would do something on the circuit and that is why I decided to coach her despite her weight troubles," says Sunita.

Taranjeet's gold-winning run of 11.50s on the recently concluded Open Nationals in Warangal was her personal best.

The Delhi runner won the 100 and 200 double at U-20 Federation Cup earlier this year as well. She was naturally delighted on winning back-to-back national golds but the discomfort in the shoulder area still hampers her performance. "When the workload increases, it hurts," she says.

But with renewed vigour and steel-like resilience, Taranjeet feels nothing can stop her from breaking idol Dutee Chand's 100m mark of 11.7s. "I met her once and told her that I would like to be like her. She told me 'don't aspire to be like me but become better than me. Become a Taranjeet,'" she says.

'For the first time in India, I had a feeling of being ignored purposefully'

NITIN SHARMA
SEPTEMBER 28

Indian women's boxing's high-performance director Raffaele Bergamasco has decided to return to Italy, a day after receiving a two-month extension. Bergamasco believes the short contract extension — which comes after 45 days of no communication from BFI and Sports Authority of India (SAI) regarding his future — isn't conducive to the preparations and roadmap for Paris 2024, and he will look for other options if he's not informed by next month. Excerpts:

As of now, BFI is only offering a two-month extension to you. What has been the communication like with SAI or BFI in this regard?

Firstly, the extension is for two months until 30th November 2021, as I received it yesterday through a mail from SAI. A coach has to plan the entire Olympic cycle and take decisions based on it for the build-up competitions. How can you expect me to give my 100 per cent when you know that the contract is only for 2 months. Also, all the important tournaments like AIBA World Championship and Asian Under-22 Championships are lined up for this December, and with the present scenario, I will not be able to stay until then.

I don't understand what is going to change in these two months that will affect the review process of my past and present performances, which couldn't have been done in the past 45 days since my return from Tokyo? But now I forgive and move on to my next journey back home.

So you are leaving for Italy and have no idea about returning? What if BFI or SAI don't decide till next month's nationals? Will you look for other options?

I made repeated attempts to make BFI and SAI understand my situation. If they cannot make the decision until next month's national then it's their problem. If they do not inform me by next month, I will surely look for other options. However, I feel sad to leave India as I had planned to continue work if they had extended the contract until Paris 2024.

How has the last one month been for you, waiting for the decision?

TIRUPATI SMART CITY CORPORATION LIMITED
TIRUPATI (A.P.)
EMAIL: tscc@tirupatismartcity.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati invites online bids from interested and eligible bidders to participate for e-procurement vide IFB No.06/21 (Call & 2) to 27/21/22/Smart City, 70, 30th Floor, 150/151, Projects 20/21 & 03/150/151, Projects 21/22 of 10 works. Bidders are advised to visit e-procurement market place at <https://www.tntenders.gov.in> from 08.10.2021 to download the tender documents and detailed instructions. For any assistance regarding participation in the tender contact, Superintending Engineer, TSCL, email: tscl@tscl.com; tscl@tscl.com. The duly completed documents have to submit tender on online and manually be considered.

All other details including any extension, clarifications, amendments, corrigendum, addendum etc. will be posted on the above mentioned website only and shall not be published in any other source. The TSCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tender Offers in part or full without assigning any reasons therefor.

Sd/-
SH. SRINIVASA P.S., I.L.S., Managing Director, Tirupati Smart City Corporation Limited, Tirupati



Women's boxing high performance director Raffaele Bergamasco with Mary Kom

"I made repeated attempts to make BFI and SAI understand my situation. If they cannot make the decision until next month's national then it's their problem. If they do not inform me by next month, I will surely look for other options."

RAFFAELE BERGAMASCO

I've had a tough time since I arrived in India on September 3, after a small vacation after the Olympics. I had no clue about what I am expected to do next. I wrote to BFI and SAI a couple of times but was given no concrete reply from them regarding my extension and future scope of work. For the first time in India, I had a feeling of being ignored purposefully and then I heard from newspapers about BFI hiring a new coach but to date, there is no clear stand from them on these matters.

What prompted you to return to Italy and have you communicated this to the BFI?

The very fact to offer an extension to an Olympic medal-winning coach is very unprofessional. I believe in face-to-face communication. BFI has asked SAI for two months' time for reviewing the performance of foreign coaches. I feel that if after 45 days after the Olympics if they still want two months for evaluation then it will be difficult for me to

work towards Paris 2024. In a situation, where the administrative delays will consume important preparation time and can have serious effects on future performances. I am within the four walls of the hostel at the Indira Gandhi Stadium since September 3rd and have no work. BFI and SAI could have utilised me immediately upon my return to India for grassroots development if they had any definite plans. After asking for three weeks, when I decided to go back home they sent me news about the extension.

Was this trip to Italy planned suddenly or did you plan to visit home after the Olympics? You could have gone home straight from Tokyo as there was no national camp. But then you decided to come back to India.

I had planned a face-to-face meeting with BFI officials to discuss the future contract and roadmap to Paris 2024. To make them well-versed with the difficulties that may arise in future and find solutions to ensure a smooth training and maintain consistent results. However, the meeting didn't take place and I learned about the proposed extension of two months from newspapers.

In Tokyo, India won the first Olympic medal in boxing since 2012, and other women boxers like Pooja Rani and Simranjit Kaur were close to winning a medal. How do you see the medal now after this delay?

Even I do not have an answer to this and it's not like I have not written to the SAI and BFI. But they have no concrete plans and answer to my present situation. They just wanted to push time by getting a two-month extension which I don't deserve after working hard for the past four years.

You stayed away from your family including your wife, who had to undergo cancer treatment, to be with the Indian boxing team.

It's always challenging to balance personal life and professional commitment. Sport teaches us team spirit and I always believed in my team, gave my 100 per cent and so we had good results. Obviously, I had to sacrifice by staying away from my wife who needed me the most during her treatment.

Women's Team chess: India beat Spain

The Indian team secured its first win in the FIDE World Women's Team Chess Championship by beating Spain 2.5-1.5 in the second pool match Sitges, Spain. After drawing 2-2 against Azerbaijan in the first round, the Indian women rode on R Vaishali's win over Sabrina Vega Gutierrez to post a victory in the second Pool A match on Monday night. The team's No.1 player D Harika drew against Ana Matnadze as did Bhakti Kulkarni and Mary Ann Gomes against their respective opponents. Vaishali pulled off a 47-move win over Gutierrez in a Sicilian Four Knights Variation game to provide the crucial point for India. PTI

Usyk eyes unification fight after Joshua rematch

REUTERS
KYIV, SEPTEMBER 29

NEWLY CROWNED world heavyweight boxing champion Oleksandr Usyk expects a rematch against Anthony Joshua in February or March and has his sights on a title unification bout, his team said on Tuesday.

The Ukrainian defeated Joshua in a boxing masterclass at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London on Saturday in front of 67,000 fans, earning a unanimous points decision to take his British rival's WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO belts, read more

WBC heavyweight champion Tyson Fury of Britain faces American Deontay Wilder in Las Vegas next month in the third of three fights between the two.

"We can talk about the unification of all the belts only after Tyson Fury will have a boxing match again Deontay Wilder, and they determine the champion, and after our re-match with Anthony (Joshua)," Usyk told a news conference in Kyiv.

"Of course, I would like very much to have this unification match."

A former undisputed cruiser-weight world champion and Olympic gold medallist, the 34-year-old Usyk was contesting only his third professional heavyweight fight. He follows in the footsteps of compatriots Wladimir and Vitali Klitschko who dominated the division from 2004-15. Speaking alongside Usyk, his promoter Alexander Krassyuk said a rematch between Usyk and Joshua would probably take place in February or March. "As for the rematch: the rematch was written in our contract and it is now activated by Joshua's side," he said. "And I remember when we were talking to Oleksandr about the rematch, he wasn't upset."

THE NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY
Karwa Dam Road, Bhopal - 462044 (M.P.)

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION (2021-22)

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for admission in the prescribed application form for admission to both Full Time & Part Time:

1. Ph. D. in Law; 2. Ph. D. (Inter-disciplinary); and 3. Ph. D. in Cyber Law and Information Security.

Teaching Assistantship may be provided to non-JRF candidates after completion of their course work for two years. For more details candidates may read the prospectus and apply for the admission by visiting website www.nliu.ac.in.

M.P. Madhyam/102104/2021

REGISTRAR

TATA CAPITAL HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
Regd. Office:- 11th Floor, Tower A, Peninsula Business Park, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013. CIN No. U67190MH2008PLC187552

POSSESSION NOTICE (FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)
(As per Rule 8(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and 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 a demand notice dated as below calling upon the Borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The borrower, having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, in particular and the public, in general, that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules.

The borrower, in particular, and the public in general, are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the TATA Capital Housing Finance Limited, for an amount referred to below along with interest thereon and penal interest, charges, costs etc. from date of demand notice.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Loan A/c No.	Name of Obligor(s)/ Legal Heir(s)/ Legal Representative(s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Date of Symbolic Possession
1.	9460913	Mr. Dilip Jadhav (Borrower) & Mrs. Vandana Jadhav (Co-Borrower)	02.06.2021 & Rs. 11,81,577/- as on 31.05.2021	24.09.2021
2.	9260131 & 9429394	Mrs. Gita Jalindar Jadhav (Borrower) & Mr. Jalindar Jadhav (Co-Borrower)	02.06.2021 & Rs. 11,73,983/- as on 31.05.2021	24.09.2021
3.	9294229 & 9446229	Mrs. Parvatibai Pandurang Avhad (Borrower) & Mr. Pandurang Vitthal Avhad (Co-Borrower)	21.06.2021 & Rs. 8,97,119/- as on 21.06.2021	24.09.2021

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties: Schedule-A: All that Piece and parcel of Plot of land measuring 4550.00 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Gut No. 52/1, village Wadgaon (Kolhat), Taluka and District Aurangabad. Boundaries of the property/Land :- East: Land of Same Gut Number, West: Land of Bhimputra Sahakar Sansitna, North: Land given to CIDCO in the same Gut Number. South: 18.00 Mtr Wide Road. Schedule -B: Flat No. 14, on Third Floor, Wing-5, B-Type Building admeasuring 34.996 Sq. Mtrs. carpet area 36.125 Sq. Mtrs. built up area in condominium known as SARA AKRUTI Phase -I, constructed on the afore said land admeasuring 4550.00 Sq. Mtrs. situated at Gut No. 52/1, village Wadgaon (Kolhat), Taluka and District Aurangabad with in the registration Sub-registrar office Aurangabad. Bounded as below: East: Flat No.11, West: Side Marginal Space, North: Flat No. 13 wing 06, South: Flat No. 13 wing 05

Description of the Secured Assets/Immovable Properties: Schedule-A: All the part and parcel of the Property bearing Land Gut No. 54, admeasuring 1 H 30 R, Akr Rs. 22.18, situated at Wadgaon (Kolhat), Tq. & Dist. Aurangabad. Boundaries of the Property / land : Towards East: Gut No. 54, Towards West: Gut No. 53, 54, 57, Towards South: 24 Mtrs. Wide Road, Towards North: Land from Gut No. 56. Schedule-B Flat No. 08 on Still First Floor, Wing 02 E Type Building admeasuring Carpet area 33.393 Sq. Mtrs. Built up area 34.722 Sq. MTRs. As per the building permission in the said condominium known "SARA SARTHAK", construction on Land Gut No. 54, admeasuring 1 H 30 R, situated at village Wadgaon Kolkati, Tq. & Dist. Aurangabad within the registration sub-registrar office, Aurangabad and the same is Bounded as below : Towards East: Flat No. 09 Wing 02, Towards West: Approach, Towards North: Flat No. 07 Wing 01, Towards South: Flat No. 07 Wing 02.

Date: 24-09-2021 Sd/- Authorized Officer
Place: Aurangabad For Tata Capital Housing Finance Limited

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम चाईबासा।
:: शुद्धि -पत्र ::

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 854 दिनांक 09.09.2021 द्वारा आमंत्रित निविदा (e-procurement) notice no **RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/06/2021-22** के समूह संख्या 01 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से रद्द किया जाता है, जिसका PR No. 253013 West Singhbhum) 21-22#D है।

अन्व शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी। ह०/-
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,
१० सिंहभूम चाईबासा

PR 254030 West Singhbhum(21-22)D

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Public Health Institute, Sheshadri Road, Opp S.J.P College, K.R Circle, Bengaluru - 560001. Email: ad.kdsws@gmail.com, md.ksmscl@gmail.com
No: KSMSCL/EQPT/GHJ/TND/35/2021-22 Date: 28/09/2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1) Tender Notification No. KSMSCL/EQPT/GHJ/TND/35/2021-22 (IND-845) dated 28/09/2021. Nation wide short term Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender: 1) Tender for Supply and installation of PICU Equipments for General Hospital Jayanagar. The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system.

Details regarding specification, EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information is available through website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 28/09/2021. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/-
Managing Director, KSMSCL, Bengaluru

DIPRIDDU/JA/17/2021-22
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask Follow Physical Distancing Maintain Hand Hygiene

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
जलपथ प्रमंडल, रौंकी
(डैम साईड, धुन्वी)

शुद्धि पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक-651 दिनांक-21.09.2021 द्वारा आमंत्रित e Tender Inviting Notice No-WRD/WWD/RANCH-02/2021-22 एवं PR No-253677 Water Resource(21-22)#D द्वारा प्रकाशित e Tender Notice में अपरिहार्य कारणों से Date of publication of e-Tender on website & Last date of submission of bid की तिथि में निम्न संशोधन किया जाता है:-

Sl. No.	Description	Period
1	Date of publication of e-Tender on website	28-09-2021 at 12:15 PM
2	Last date of submission of bid	18-10-2021 up to 5:00 PM

शेष नियम एवं शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी। कार्यपालक अभियंता,
जलपथ प्रमंडल, रौंकी

PR 254062 Water Resource(21-22).D

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University
(Established by Government of Maharashtra and Governed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University Act No. XXIX of 2014)
Vidyavihar, Lonere-Raigad-402 103 (Maharashtra)

AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) for 2021-22 Appointment/Advertisement

DR. Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere (MS) established by Government of Maharashtra. The university is inviting applications for Full Time Ph.D. under AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) in Engineering & Technology for A.Y. 2021-22. The details about scheme, vacancy, eligibility and application procedure are available at www.dbatu.ac.in.

All further communication in this regard will be only through University web site and registered e-mails ids of the applicants.

Important dates for online applications :
Starting date for submission of online application : **29th September 2021.**
Closing date for submission of online application : **13th October 2021.**

Sd/-
(Dr. B. F. Jogi)
Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE MISSION DIRECTOR:: AMRUT ASSAM
DISPUR, GUWAHATI-6
NO. TP/AMRUT/3/2021/22
SHORT e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE/ INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) No. 2 of 2021

The undersigned re-invites bid online (2nd call) through e-Procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from Govt. registered class I A Contractor of APWD/APHD or similar equivalent class of Govt. registered contractor in 2 (two) bid system for the following work under AMRUT.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of Works	Bid Security	Cost of Bid document and Bid processing fee	Period of completion
1	Construction, testing, commissioning of Elevated Service Reservoir (ESR) of Capacity 2700 Cum of Staging Height 16M with Boundary Wall and Road including all allied works, Distribution Pipeline and House Service Connections & Water Meter Installations for Phase-2 Part of Silchar Town (24X7) Water supply Project, all complete, including Two (2) months Trial run after commissioning.	Rs. 18,76,22,919/-	@ 2% of value of work	Rs. 20,000.00	15 months

All other relevant information and the detailed Bid Documents shall be available in website www.assamtenders.gov.in and can be viewed from 01.10.2021 up to 15.00 hr. of 19.10.2021. Bid is to be submitted through online and in no case manual bid shall be entertained.

Sd/-
Mission Director
AMRUT, Assam

Janasanyog No. 1523/21

The Usual Suspects

Mumbai Indians keep play-off hopes alive with end-overs blitz against Punjab Kings

SYNOPSIS: Hardik the blazing finisher completes the job after Pollard the crafty bowler sets it up

SANDIP G
SEPTEMBER 28

For the umpteenth time in their history, Mumbai Indians grabbed a match from the jaws of defeat, just as Punjab Kings snatched defeat from the brink of victory. In the end, Mumbai was more desperate for the win — one that kept them in the play-off hunt.

The blazing finisher

Just four overs remained for Mumbai Indians to blast 40 runs on a sluggish surface to beat Punjab Kings and keep their play-off hopes afloat. Hardik Pandya, until then, had looked laboured and lacklustre, his shots lacking punch and his feet rebelling against his mind's designs. But, as the well-worn cliché goes, it takes just a shot, or a ball, to retrieve the lost touch, or tattered morale.

Hardik had to wait for the 18th ball he faced. The ball after he had copped a blow from Mohammed Shami, he backed away and sledgehammered a shot through midwicket. A blow so powerful that Shami looked crestfallen. Touch reignited, Hardik flicked the next ball, all bottom-hand and whirring wrists, beyond the walls of the city. A short so majestic that Shami looked stupefied. From thereon, it was evident that no matter how hard Punjab would try to force a win, even if they threw everything they had at Mumbai, stopping Hardik, or Mumbai, was impossible.

Eventually, and irresistibly, Mumbai hauled the target with an over in the bank. Hardik providing the finishing touches with 16 runs off Shami's last over. Soon after Shami has struck him on the body, he had queried out of genuine concern if he was alright, but in the end Hardik would have to ask his India colleague whether his onslaught had left him tattered. It's the destruction Hardik could wreak — at one stage, he was 12 off 16, he ended up with 40 off 30.

Not to forget Kieron Pollard, whose six and four in the 18th over bowled by Arshdeep Singh were critical in the context of the game, as well as his match-changing bowling cameo.

Crafty Pollard

Pollard the bowler is antithetical to Pollard the batsman. Pollard the batsman is all smouldering violence. Biff, blast, bludgeon, he does to any ball in his hitting arc, which extends from extra cover to mid-wicket. A T20 strike rate of 154 testifies. Pollard, the bowler, though is different. Grind, graft, grate he does to get his wickets. That it took him 500 T20 games to complete 300 wickets attests.

Of late, the West Indian has been a reluctant bowler — he had bowled just 55 balls this IPL season before Tuesday's game. Maybe, at 38, he needs to preserve his shoulders for the hacks and heaves. But the slow, low wicket of Abu Dhabi was irresistible — the sort of wicket on which his cutters and floaters could be rewarding. It indeed turned out to be the case.

Just after the Powerplay, Pollard trundled in. These days, his run-up is a stroll — he could walk his run-up and still produce as much pace. But the accuracy, sharpness and smarts remain. Twice he illustrated the amalgam of these understated virtues that had started in most of his triple century of wickets.

He knew his fellow Caribbean Chris Gayle inside out. What he likes and what he dislikes. Gayle likes pace. He loves width. Pollard gave him neither. He fired one into his body — angling away from him a touch, good-length on middle-stump. Gayle, prematurely, opened up, took out his front leg, looking to unfurl a short-arm pull over long-on. But Pollard had dropped a few yards of his pace on this ball (from late 120 kph to 115 kph) so



Hardik Pandya's quickfire 40 runs from 30 balls came with four boundaries and two sixes. [ipl20.com](#)

POINTS TABLE

	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
CSK	10	8	2	+1.069	16
DC	11	8	3	+0.562	16
RCB	10	6	4	-0.359	12
KKR	11	5	6	+0.363	10
MI	11	5	6	-0.453	10
PBKS	11	4	7	-0.288	8
RR	10	4	6	-0.369	8
SRH	10	2	8	-0.501	4

Ashwin-Morgan verbal war could have T20 WC sequel

SANDIP G
SEPTEMBER 28

AT A time when the sports-world is lamenting about too much camaraderie between players there barges in incidents that reaffirms the faith that there's still a lot of emotional overload and heat-of-the-moment flare-up.

Like the one that brewed between KKR skipper Eoin Morgan and DC spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Tuesday. Ashwin, eventually, had the last laugh over Morgan.

More appropriately, the last word, literally and metaphorically. As soon as he twinkled out the KKR captain's wicket with a brisk off-break, caught at slip, he charged towards the embarrassed Irishman like a man possessed, his eyes red with rage, and kept shrieking "C'mon, C'mon, C'mon", like a boxer who had felled the opponent on the court, but mockingly challenging him to get up again so that he could knock him down again.

Ashwin sometimes do celebrates wildly, usually in the longest format and especially if the dismissal involves an elaborate set-up, but not after a two-ball-two-trick play in a T20 game. But there was a backstory. Morgan and Ashwin were almost on each other's throat soon after Ashwin was caught in the deep in the last over of Delhi Capitals' innings.

Morgan first came as a pacifier to resolve a heated exchange between Ashwin and Tim Southee, but something snapped in Morgan and morphed into an aggressor. Finally, Ashwin's state-mate and KKR keeper Dinesh Karthik had to separate



The trigger for the flare-up apparently was the extra run Ashwin had taken on the last ball of the 19th over. [Twitter](#)

them.

But Ashwin kept staring back intermittently at Morgan and the KKR huddle, even as he walked back to the pavilion, muttering something to himself.

The trigger for the flare-up apparently was the extra run Ashwin had stolen off the last ball of the 19th over. The ball had stuck Rishabh Pant's arm and ricocheted away. Ashwin sensed an opportunity to scamper a single, which he did.

Some of the KKR fielders had then protested—Ashwin yet again was in a sportsmanship issue (after the widely-debated Mankading the year before and involving an England bowler).

Morgan had then tweeted: "can't believe what I'm seeing!! @IPL Terrible example to set for young kids coming through. In time I think Ashwin will regret that."

There could be a sequel too. Wait for the World Cup.

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

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

I'm not superstitious



Dhawan gave up his lucky charm for stand-in opener Steve Smith.

Even if he was uncomfortable within, Shikhar Dhawan carried a stoic approach to the crease. Cricketers can be naturally superstitious people, luck playing a big factor in the game being their reason. Dhawan's superstition is to play second fiddle and allow his opening partner to take first strike. He considers this his lucky charm like Mohinder Amarnath and Steve Waugh's red handkerchiefs, Lasith Malinga's ball kiss or Anil Kumble inevitably handing over his cap and

sweater to Sachin Tendulkar before coming on to bowl. Against Kolkata Knight Riders, however, Dhawan had to eschew his preference and take first strike.

His regular opening partner at Delhi Capitals, Prithvi Shaw, was out injured and Steve Smith was put in a makeshift role. Not that the change did any harm to Dhawan. On his way to a 20-ball 24, he reclaimed the Orange Cap from Sanju Samson, getting an LBW reprieve on umpire's call on 22 even.

Chaku's cheekiness

"Don't be over-smart and pompous!" was DK's advise to Varun Chakravarthy. Dinesh Karthik wasn't too chuffed after Varun Chakravarthy slipped in a full toss, perhaps attempting to experiment with something.

Karthik piped up, "your job is 4 overs 10 runs or 12 runs (Naalu-Pathu, Naalu-panintu daan un velai!").

He then added an interesting remark, "Overaaa thenavathu venaam!" Thenavathu literally means pompous or oversmart; in this context it perhaps means don't be too cheeky and casual.

Chakravarthy had a sheepish smile as he turned back to bowl. Just before that ball, Karthik had given detailed guidelines on how to bowl to Rishabh Pant.

"Maathi adika Maathaana, normal aa podu" (He won't switch hit, you can bowl normally). And then came that full toss. A single that took Pant off strike.

Not sure what Varun was trying but Karthik interpreted it as being a touch too casual perhaps.

The Gri-mace man

Back in the day, being the tallest and heaviest on the junior circuit, Saurabh Tiwary was known as Bhim in the dressing room. Size wasn't the only inspiration for the nickname, Bhim's valour in epic battles was also a factor. It was his unbeaten game-changing knock in the under-19 World Cup semi-final against New Zealand that took India in the final, which they went on to win.

Those were the days of Dhoni Mania, and Tiwary, the Jamshedpur born big-hitting batsman with straight hair, had no option. He had to be the Next Dhoni. But even Dhoni lookalike toughie Bhims are vulnerable. So when bowler Arshdeep Singh's throw, intended for the stump, hits Tiwary's box, the batsman falls like a log. It's a situation that triggers sympathy and smiles.

Even Tiwary seemed amused while he winced in pain. After a long medical break, Bhim got up to hit the next ball for a four. His 45 from 37 balls showed that once in a while Bhim does a Dhoni.

The agape Saffers

Because it was two South Africans with jaws wide agape, you could believe it was the usual 'cricketing souls leaving the body' at the latest catastrophe that strikes players from that part of the world. Except, it was only a pair of shocked jaws from both. Ravi Bishnoi's last delivery was full and outside off and saw Quinton de Kock open his mouth for a gaspful of air before lofting it on a nice pivot.

Aiden Markram in the outfield saw the skier dipping down to his right faster than he liked, and dived desperately for what would've been a sensational catch. Instead it was a dreadfully unlucky drop as Markram scampered a good distance for the ball to graze his outstretched fingers and plopp out, tumbling away to a

four. All through this slowly playing out punishment Markram had his heart in his open mouth. They say it's a quick burst of extra oxygen to help deal with startling events, but Markram's visage opened like a crab-cracker chasing the slippery catch.

Meanwhile the bowler, the unfortunate Bishnoi who snares batters with his crab-limbed run-up, and has been taking catches with an un-cleared unfazed face, stayed assiduously zip-lipped, not betraying his disappointment at the dropped catch.



Narine helps Knights make Capital gains

SYNOPSIS: KKR's chokehold suffocates DC. Narine bowls a worldie

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
SEPTEMBER 28

FIVE DOT balls brought about a well-set Shubman Gill's dismissal and a wicket-aided for Kagiso Rabada. Then, Ravichandran Ashwin made one hang a bit more in the air and spin away to settle the score with Eoin Morgan. The two had got into a heated exchange after Ashwin was dismissed during the Delhi Capitals' innings. The latter bellowed a 'come on' in the Kolkata Knight Riders captain's face after getting his man.

KKR's run rate suddenly slipped below six runs per over, but chasing 128 for victory they basically needed two good overs from thereon. Nitish Rana hit two sixes in a Lalit Yadav over and although the excellent Avesh Khan (3/13) saw off Dinesh Karthik, Sunil Narine laid into Rabada with two sixes and a four to take his team to a three-wicket victory, which consolidated KKR's position in the top four.

Rishabh Pant's bowling selections — not us-



KKR's Sunil Narine returned with figures of 2/18 from his four overs and earned the scalp of Shreyas Iyer. [xipl20.com](#)

ing Anrich Nortje's pace straightaway against Narine and using up his spinners early — were questionable. At the same time, the DC skipper didn't have enough runs to defend.

The Sharjah sticky dog, or sandy-dog based on one's preference, was an antidote to DC's cricketing style. The ball never came on to the bat and the slowness of the pitch took the sting out of their fast bowlers. The Powerplay was the key for DC to build the platform for a big total. Without Prithvi Shaw, out injured, they missed aggression upfront. Steve Smith's conventional cricket held up one end, but it didn't put the KKR bowlers under much pressure. Shreyas Iyer could have raised the tempo, but Narine had reserved a beauty for him.

Only 39 runs were scored in the Powerplay. DC reached 50 in 8.2 overs, their slowest in this year's IPL. Three figures came up in 16.3 overs. The DC innings didn't have a single six. It's another matter that the Sharjah pitch requires improvement ahead of the upcoming T20 World Cup, but attributing DC's crawl to a slow surface only would be disrespectful to the KKR bowlers and Morgan's fine captaincy.

Narine was at his vintage best. Venkatesh Iyer has been a revelation. Only five months ago, he was languishing in obscurity. Now he is making his presence felt as a medium pacer also. Morgan was confident enough to give Iyer an over at the

death, as the bowler returned with figures of 2/29 from four overs.

DC's innings started to regress from the 13th over after Smith got out for 39. They needed someone to bat through, something that Rana (36 not out) did for KKR later. In the next three overs following Smith's departure, DC added just 17 runs for three more wickets. That was where the game was lost.

Narine's worldie

Six metres from the popping crease, length-wise, and around 90 kmph in speed; that had been the recipe for success for spinners on this pitch. Through his 2/18 from four overs, Narine rolled back the years. It was important from KKR's point of view to remove Shreyas Iyer, arguably the best player against spin on either side, early. Narine bowled a worldie to clean him up. The ball drifted away before breaking back, catching Iyer in two minds.

BRIEF SCORES: Delhi Capitals 127/9 in 20 overs (R Pant 39, S Smith 39; L Ferguson 2/10, S Narine 2/18, V Iyer 2/28) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 130/7 in 18.2 overs. (N Rana 36 not out, S Gill 30; A Khan 3/13) by 3 wickets.

Simultaneous evening games to finish league stage

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE LAST day of the league stage of the IPL will have two matches played simultaneously at different venues after the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) agreed to a request from official broadcaster Star India. The Indian Express understands that the matter was discussed during an IPL Governing Council meeting a few days ago before receiving the nod.

Hence, on the last day of the league stage of the ongoing season, instead of one afternoon match and one evening game, two matches will be held at the same time in the evening at two venues. The rationale behind Star's request is the lower TRP of afternoon games.

"In a first for the IPL, the last two league matches before the VIVO IPL 2021 Playoffs will be played concurrently. On the last day of the league stage (08.10.2021) of the ongoing season, instead of having one afternoon match and one evening match, two matches (SRH v MI and RCB v DC) will be played si-

multaneously at 7.30 PM IST (6.00 PM GST)," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a press release.

A BCCI official revealed that broadcasters aren't getting high TRP (Television Rating Points) for afternoon matches.

"The official broadcaster had asked the BCCI whether they can have two games simultaneously in two different venues. The broadcasters have informed us that TRP for afternoon games is less compared to evening games. As Star has multiple channels under their banner, they can provide live telecast of two games smoothly. So, BCCI has agreed to the request," the board official told The Indian Express.

It is learnt that the BCCI will take feedback from Star about the TRP generated by the two games. As the board is planning to have two new IPL teams next year, this could help it to conduct more games in fewer days. Afternoon games make it tough for the players given the harsh Indian summer.

"This could help us in our scheduling going ahead, as two new teams means more games. The BCCI will decide if such norms can be continued ahead," the official added.